



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 15TH, 2025

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

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- Does anyone have any expertise in CANVA, I have a fire prevention project that needs some expertise, my email is in the header.
- Sponsors are already starting to line up for the Spring 2025 Conference being held in Lake George in April. Sponsors at any level are welcome.
- We are inviting you to our next CAFDA General Membership Meeting, at Clifton Park FD, Thursday March 6th, 2025. Dinner will be served prior to the meeting. Zoom Link at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86355286782?pwd=4GU7L2xTk6ud3uNRIJhwWGUTet1I5s.1>
- Page 14 Officer's Reception 2025, Saturday March 8th at the Century House Restaurant, make your reservation now, a legal fire district expense!!
- **PLEASE Go to page 10 and voice your support for fire sprinklers in 1 & 2 family homes and Townhomes!!!**

CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

OSC APPROVED COMMISSIONER TRAINING, LOCAL CLASSES

Hope your elections went well and congratulations to the winners and losers, the winners for their future contributions and to the losers for your past contributions, many times it's a thankless job.

Local Training for New/Appointed/Reappointed Commissioners will be held in the following locations by CAFDA:

- **Saratoga County, CLIFTON PARK FIRE DISTRICT: Saturday, March 1, 2025** Snow Date: Sunday, March 2, 2024
- **Fulton County, BERKSHIRE FIRE DISTRICT: Saturday, March 29, 2025** Snow Date: Sunday, March 30, 2024
- **Warren County, WARRENSBURG FIRE DISTRICT: Saturday, April 5, 2025** Snow Date: Sunday, April 6, 2024

Classes begin at 8am and end at approximately 3pm. Continental Breakfast and Lunch are included.

\$85 per attendee for Member Districts and \$95 per person for non-member districts.



THIS QR CODE TAKES YOU TO THE CAFDA WEBSITE FOR REGISTRATION

PLANNING FOR CAFDA CONFERENCE '25 - LAKE GEORGE

The Education Committee has been hard at work on the 2025 Conference to be held in April at the Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George. Topics have all been determined and sponsors are lining up to attend. We are excited to announce that vendors and participants will be in the Conference Center Carriage House, for displays and cocktail hour.

Save the dates for April 10-11-12, 2025 & see you there. Schedule and Registration at the end of this Bulletin.

Upcoming CAFDA Educational Event for Fire District Officials

WHEN: Thursday March 13th and Friday March 14th, 2025

WHAT: Fire District Financial Training, Presented by the NYS-Office of the State Comptroller

WHERE: 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

Bills are being Introduced for the 2025/26 Legislative Session check the latest ScoreCard and keep up with pending legislation.

Issues of United Concern 2025

- Posted to The CAFDA web site at CAFDA.net

Governor Hochul Unveils Proposals to Support First Responders

- Posted to The CAFDA web site at CAFDA.net

WHEN YOU SEE ** IT'S A RECOMMENDED READ!!

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

Advocacy Quick Tips

- 1) Know your legislator's district/state. Politicians want to know how policy will impact their constituents.
- 2) Have an agenda and prioritize your message points. Time with legislators is extremely valuable.
- 3) Keep your message simple and concise. Focus on delivering your key message points.
- 4) Provide specific examples, data, or anecdotes to support your message. Tell a real story.
- 5) When you don't know the answer to a question, admit it and promise to look into it and get back to them.
- 6) Be a good listener, even if a legislator disagrees with aspects of your position.
- 7) Know specifically what you are asking for on each message point before you go into the meeting.
- 8) Don't move from one message point to the next before making your "ask."
- 9) Take notes so that NVFC staff can follow up on commitments and questions that arise.
- 10) Leave the interview on a high note. Summarize key points in a positive manner.

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

Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:

Financial Training by the Office of the State Comptroller – Specifically for Fire District Officials

Thursday March 13 and Friday March 14, 2025 At **Fulton Montgomery Community College**, the Alan House, co-sponsored by Mohawk Fire District, consult our website at CAFDA.net for more information.

Tuesday March 25 and Wednesday March 26, 2025 At **Brighton Fire District, Monroe County**, co-sponsored by the Monroe County Fire District Officer's Association, consult our website at CAFDA.net for more information.

****NYS, OSC Audit, Cuddebackville Fire District – Board Oversight**

BACKGROUND

The District, served by the Cuddebackville Fire Department (fire department) provides fire protection and emergency services to the Town of Deerpark in Orange County.

The elected three-member Board, with an average tenure of 11 years, governs the District and is responsible for its overall financial management and safeguarding resources.

The **elected Treasurer** is the chief fiscal officer and is responsible for receiving, disbursing, transferring and accounting for all District funds and preparing periodic financial reports.

Audit Objective

Determine whether the Cuddebackville Fire District (District) Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) provided adequate oversight of the District's financial operations and properly audited claims.

KEY FINDINGS

The Board did not provide adequate oversight of the District's financial operations or properly audit claims. As a result, the Board hindered their ability to make informed financial decisions. Complete, accurate and reliable accounting records were not maintained. For example, the December 31, 2022 ending bank statement balances differed from the ending cash balances in the accounting records by \$638,485. The Board also used unrealistic budgetary estimates that resulted in annual operating deficits and a declining fund balance. The Board did not:

- Ensure the Treasurer maintained complete and accurate accounting records.
- Request or receive regular financial reports.
- Ensure claims were properly audited prior to payment.
- Conduct required annual audits for 2020 through 2023. Although the Board paid a CPA \$6,750 to conduct the 2019 and 2020 audits, the CPA did not complete the 2020 audit and has possession of the District's financial records. The Board was unaware the audit was not completed and took no action, until our audit, to follow up with the CPA.
- Ensure the required Annual Financial Reports (AFRs) for 2020 through 2023 were filed.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit report contains 13 recommendations to help the Board and District officials improve oversight of the District's financial operations.

The Board should:

1. Segregate the duties of the Treasurer or implement mitigating controls to monitor the work of the Treasurer .
2. Establish policies to address financial operations, including controls for wire and intra-bank transfers, online banking, fund balance, and capital assets .
3. Ensure the Treasurer is properly trained in accounting software, record keeping and accounting .
4. Ensure an annual external audit or a Board audit of the Treasurer's records is performed .
5. **Ensure the Treasurer prepares and files the District's delinquent AFRs for the 2020 through 2023 fiscal years and files all subsequent AFRs with OSC within 60 days of the close of the fiscal year .**
6. Perform a thorough audit of all claims before payments are made, ensuring that the claims have sufficient supporting documentation, are mathematically correct, are valid and legal District expenditures, sales tax is not being charged, and there is evidence that goods and services have been received, the District's purchasing policy are followed, and sufficient appropriations are available to pay the claims

- 7 . Consider discontinuing the use of debit cards .
- 8 . Train members on how to make tax exempt purchases .
- 9 . Adopt budgeted revenues and appropriations that reflect the District’s operating needs based on historic trends and expected revenues and expenditures .
- 10 . Develop multiyear financial and capital plans to provide a framework for preparing future budgets and managing the financing of future capital needs .
- 11 . Adopt a written fund balance policy that establishes a reasonable level of fund balance to be maintained to meet the District’s financial needs .

The Treasurer should:

- 12 . Maintain complete and accurate accounting records and provide monthly Treasurer Reports and annual financial reports to the Board, including budget-to-actual reports, for use in monitoring District operations .
- 13 . Prepare monthly bank reconciliations and provide them to the Board .

READ THE FULL REPORT FROM OSC HERE:

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/state-agencies/audits/2025/pdf/cuddebackville-fire-district-2024-94.pdf>

STEP INTO THE CHIEF’S OFFICE

**How To Manage The Vocal Minority

Advice to live by.

Trevor Frodge

Every fire department has them – the whiners, the ones who cry over everything, the complainers, the dissenters. They are the firefighters or officers who are never satisfied no matter the circumstances. They are doom and gloom. And they are absolutely fundamental to every organization.

I am in no way suggesting that the hard-chargers, the firefighters who are constantly grinding and pushing forward, should take a 180-degree turn to an attitude of constant dissent. Not at all. Rather, I am stating that the existence of the dissenters, the ones in back, pulling the other direction, can actually help the department achieve excellence. Let me explain.

NEW SCHOOL MEETS OLD SCHOOL

When I was a newly promoted company officer, I quickly witnessed this dichotomy in my firehouse. I supervised two senior firefighters – mentors of mine who had more than 20 years of experience each and had definitely earned their reputations and titles. These two guys were great operators, great paramedics and would do anything you asked of them – and nothing more. They simply did not want to partake in the “new way of doing things” that I was bringing to the table, something they had seen time and time again given their tenure. I also had two new firefighters. They were hard-chargers who wanted to be involved in lots of projects. Both were fitness gurus, knowledgeable in their firemanship tradecraft and growing in excellence.

This led to a dilemma: How do I maximize the potential of each firefighter under my charge? This question led me to realize the importance of dissention within the group.

As I took charge of my company, I laid out my expectations and asked for their goals regarding their growth within the company and organization.

I had a meeting with my two junior firefighters where I explained that I was there to help them in every possible way, that I would have their backs when it came to critical decision-making, and that they should feel empowered to invest deeply in the fire service.

I also had a meeting with my two senior firefighters and explained the same things, with one small caveat. I told them that at some point in the future, I would have a grandiose plan to fix something that likely didn’t need fixing, and that I needed them to dissent. I explained that we could not have blind allegiance, and given their experience, I needed to hear when I had a bad idea. I went further and told them I wouldn’t take their dissention personally. Yes, I was the officer and sometimes they just had to follow orders. But on noncritical decisions, I wanted different viewpoints so we could grow together. It worked amazingly.

10-80-10

Fast-forward to my new role as the training chief, where I see dissention on a larger scale. I refer to the firefighters who are always complaining as the vocal minority. I’ve been told that in any organization, roughly 10% of employees will go

along with whatever you say just because they like you. We could take 20% pay cuts, reduce staffing and get rid of benefits, and they would shrug and say, “Well, that makes sense.”

On the other hand, 10% of employees will fight any and all changes. They could receive 20% pay raises, unlimited time off, no mandatory overtime and a bar of gold, and they would complain that they have to carry the gold bar. This is the vocal minority.

The other 80% of firefighters are split: 40% for change and growth, 40% against. The constant struggle for many administrators, chief officers and company officers is how to get buy-in from the change-resistant 40%. And remember, the vocal minority is actively campaigning against you to get the other 40% to their side, too.

Despite the overwhelming frustration of this ongoing invisible battle, when the vocal minority speaks, they hold incredible influence. To combat this, you must remain above reproach and ensure that what you are selling, teaching or implementing has been well-vetted.

This is where dissent comes in. When you have trusted peers who can look objectively at your ideas and plans and point out the flaws and issues for your correction, you can be truly unstoppable. Then, when the vocal minority brings up a “flaw” in your plan, you can respond comfortably and casually knowing that it has already been discovered and accounted for.

The vocal minority typically thrives on emotion over facts because they are often passionate about their positions regarding the fire service. In my experience, they do believe in the fire service and growth – they just want to do it their way. The vocal minority may have institutional knowledge, or they may be completely wrong. In either case, it is important to listen to them. If we shut them down or silence them, we’re likely to fuel the vocal minority and allow them to win over our 40% supporters.

Rather, if we listen intently, answer honestly, remain humble, and clearly articulate our positions and ideas, we gain their 40% and reduce the vocal minority’s credibility. It is a game of politics and strategy: chess rather than checkers. This game may affect the future of your organization or lead to a policy change or shift in how we’ve done things. But if you’re a hard-charger who wants to make the fire service better, you need everyone to be on board – or at least a big enough majority to silence the haters.

THE HELPFUL ROADBLOCK

The vocal minority is a headache-inducing, blood pressure-raising force that will always exist. Their purpose is to be a roadblock, and that roadblock forces you to pause, consider your positions, ensure they are fully vetted and fact-checked and then determine how to navigate the blockage. It takes hard conversations, patience, grace and trust – a trust that will likely never be reciprocated. But over time, the minority grows smaller, the majority grows bigger, and growth occurs. Officers must embrace dissent, for we cannot have blind robots running the fire department. Instead, we must hear the opinions of others, consider their positions relative to ours, stay true to our values and beliefs, avoid condoning constant negativity, and work to make the vocal minority a quiet whisper while we push forward toward greatness. Hard-chargers always have a target on their backs because they are in the front of the pack. Keep going.

THE ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

We are having trouble finding interested and qualified candidates, within our fire district, to run for the office of Treasurer. We are considering advertising the position in our local newspaper. If we do not find any qualified candidates prior to election time, is there a provision for allowing someone from outside the fire district to run for election?

Section 174 (4) of the Town Law (T.L.) provides a process for appointing someone as treasurer from outside the fire district if there is no one within the fire district who is qualified and capable of performing the duties of the position of treasurer. Unfortunately that authority does not extend to elected treasurers who by statute must be residents of the fire district. Following the process set forth in Section 176 (2-a.) of the T.L. the Board of Fire Commissioners may wish to give consideration to the changing of the position of treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position in the future which would then allow you to follow the process in Section 174(4) of the T.L.

OUR CHANGING FIRE SERVICE –CHALLENGES & POSITIVE IDEAS. LEARNING FROM OTHERS

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Nothing but Challenges this week.

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

Grocery Store Fire Sparks Call For Community Support

A recent fire at the Wilson Lakeside market left behind major damage. It took firefighters two hours to control the flames. Pat Daul is president of the Wilson Fire Company in Niagara County. His company is staffed by volunteer firefighters. He said that support from neighboring fire departments played a huge role in battling flames. Daul is asking for more support for the fire company from the people it serves in Wilson. "In New York State, the volunteer services are short on manpower," Daul said. "We need volunteers. We need people to come and help us put out fires that start up in the community." Volunteer fire departments across New York will hold open houses in April to recruit more firefighters.

FDNY Says Blocked Hydrants Hampered Efforts at Fatal Fire

"There's no doubt that the two cars that were parked on the hydrants have slowed down our members from engaging in firefighting tactics," said FDNY Commissioner Robert Tucker said.

*****Communities Shift To All-Career Fire Departments As Volunteer Numbers Decline***

IAFF.COM

Cypress-Fairbanks (Cy-Fair), a suburb of Houston, Texas, is one of the state's fastest-growing. Between 2015 and 2020, rapid development brought an influx of residents—and a growing demand for emergency services. Now, the Cy-Fair Fire Department is expanding to meet the needs of the booming population. By 2019, call volume had skyrocketed to 40,000 a year, and the all-volunteer fire department couldn't keep up. Recognizing the need for change, the Harris County Emergency Services District 9 board of commissioners – the governing body of the Cy-Fair Fire Department – and fire fighters began exploring solutions. The two groups made a plan to convert into an all-career fire department in order to provide adequate service to the community. In 2021, fire fighters formed Cy-Fair Local 5248 to ensure they had a seat at the table as expansion plans moved forward.

This shift reflects a broader trend. Rural areas and smaller towns are seeing the same challenges as Cypress-Fairbanks, with volunteers numbers dwindling nationwide and firefighting becoming more complex.

In 2020, the NFPA reported approximately 676,900 volunteer fire fighters, a six percent decrease from the previous year and the lowest number ever recorded. Since 1984, the same data shows volunteers have decreased by 25 percent, while the U.S. population has grown by 40 percent.

The Cy-Fair Fire Department is only part-way through its long-range plan, but it is going well.

"We worked together to *develop a 10-year department expansion plan to add career fire fighters and more fire stations,*" said Christopher Filmore, Cy-Fair Local 5248 president. "Today, we have 350 full-time fire fighters and about 75 volunteers and 35 part-timers."

Right away, fire fighters noticed they were able to respond to emergencies more effectively and efficiently. "Responding directly out of the fire houses means we can get to each emergency faster," said Filmore. "And that means we can often contain the fires to the rooms they started in instead of arriving to a structure that is already fully involved."

In Maumee, Ohio, the amount of emergency calls has been on the rise as the number of available volunteers went down. *According to the fire department, it was losing volunteers, in part, to the surrounding career department that could provide a more consistent income.*

"Simply put, we did not have enough fire fighters and paramedics to respond to the number of calls coming in," said Sam Johnson, president of Maumee Local 4536. "We needed to be able to deliver around-the-clock coverage. ***The paid-on-call model no longer meeting the needs of our citizens.***"

Accordingly, the city and Maumee Local 4536 worked together to pass a property tax levy last November. The levy will generate \$2.9 million for the city specifically for fire division staffing, costing the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$16 per month. *(\$192.00 Annually with the understanding that it will only go up.)*

[Two People, Dog Found Dead after Fire in Vacant Sacramento Structure](#)

Darrell Smith, The Sacramento Bee

Two people were *found dead inside a vacant office building* that caught fire in midtown Sacramento early Tuesday. Sacramento Fire Department firefighters discovered their bodies and a dog that also died inside the building in the 1000 block of 19th Street. *All three were found in an office space inside the vacant building.*

[From First Responder Grants](#)

Well, we figured 2025 would be a wild ride, and we are not disappointed.

As grant updates come along, we'll be sharing opportunities with you whether they're at the Federal, state, corporate, or nonprofit levels.

For Federal grants, yup, there's some dust flying right now. That's exactly what we expected.

What does that mean for your grant goals?

It means keep 'em at the ready.

As things settle down and programs open, you don't want to be on the sidelines. You want to be in the game.

Stay the course on prepping your grant ideas, assessing your agency's needs, and seeing what programs you'll want to apply for.

Grants are out there. The question is, will you be trying for them... or will someone else get to take your place?

YOUR APPARATUS MAINTENANCE

[Troubleshooting Wet Cell Battery and Charging Systems](#)

Steve Shupert

We rely on wet cell batteries to provide ignition power for so many machines, from generators to staff cars, medics, and standby generators. This often-neglected piece of equipment can save us or let us down.

This can be problematic in emergency services because equipment may sit for long periods of time, and the batteries can lose power. On many systems, there is no pull cord backup, which puts all the starting responsibility on the battery's ability to do its job and your ability to make sure it is ready to perform. Research and keep handy the specifications and maintenance recommendations for your batteries.

There are several crucial parameters used to test the health of a flooded/AGM battery. The most common are: voltage testing, load testing, and an internal resistance test. The most accurate way to determine if a battery has gone bad and overall battery health would be to use all three tests: voltage, load, and resistance.

BATTERY CHARGING

To correct a low-voltage condition, you should charge the battery. Battery charging reverses the chemical process that occurs when a battery discharges, hopefully restoring the battery back to its original condition. During charging, electrical energy is converted into chemical energy and stored in the battery. Connect the positive and negative clamps to the battery (clean the terminals) in a well-ventilated area. How long to charge depends on how much charge is left in the battery. There are long, slow trickle charges and quick/boost charging—it depends on time and your battery. They all work if your battery is in good condition. You can use a smart automatic charger to prevent overcharging. The battery can be installed while charging.

Bulk charging is what you may do when you try to start your machine and the battery is dead. A 12-VDC battery bulk charge voltage should be about 14 VDC. This is the fastest method to bring the battery back to life. Some limitations include battery age, temperature, and battery condition. Refer to the specific battery specifications for how long to apply this high-voltage charge. You could damage the battery—literally boil out the electrolyte solution, causing excessive internal pressure inside the battery and causing it to overheat and swell.

Trickle/float charging is also known as maintenance charging. Voltage is 13+ VDC to maintain the battery's voltage, without overcharging. It allows for minor energy draw of small loads. Thirteen to 14 VDC is about what an alternator/voltage regulator applies to the battery in normal operations.

To apply a charger, refer to the following:

- Battery voltage should be a minimum of 12 VDC. If not, apply a battery charger. It may take four to 24 hours to bring it up to this voltage.
- Clean battery terminals.
- Check fuses.
- If still low on voltage after charging, consider desulfating (reconditioning the battery). See below.
- If voltage is okay, start the engine and recheck the voltage. If it is below 13 VDC, consider the regulator/rectifier/ alternator.
- The battery can read 12 VDC and still not be strong enough to crank the engine. Checking the battery voltage while trying to start the engine (battery under load conditions) may help with your troubleshooting.

SIMPLE LOAD TEST FOR A 12-VDC BATTERY

Sometimes the battery powering the ignition will seem weak or just crank over slowly. So, is the problem with the battery, the charging system, the engine, or something else? To determine if the battery is on its last leg, it is easy to perform a load test.

Battery load testers work by applying a load and monitoring the voltage response of the battery. This enables the device to identify how much power is left in the battery.

Using your multimeter set to read DC voltage, place the black negative lead on the minus or negative lead of the battery and the red lead on the plus or positive battery terminal. The voltage should be at least 12.5 VDC. If it is below this reading, place the battery on a battery charger to see if the chemical action can be restored, then reinstall the battery and try again. If the voltage fails to rise after charging, replace the battery.

If the meter reads 12.5 VDC (or so), crank the engine over while monitoring battery voltage; if it fails to start or the reading drops lower (10 VDC), replace the battery (this is the “simple” load test). If the meter reads higher, with the engine running, likely around 13+ VDC, the charging system is working too. If it isn’t, test the charger circuit further. It is likely a poor electrical connection, or the voltage regulator, or the alternator if equipped. Always mark the date you put the battery in service. Of course, make sure your electrical connections are bright and tight.

BATTERY LOAD TESTER

Battery testers work by applying a load and monitoring the voltage and current of the battery. The load is a resistor in the tester simulating a momentary heavy draw of current from the battery. Attach the cables to battery terminals, push the test button, and read the meter.

DIGITAL BATTERY TESTER AND INTERNAL RESISTANCE/COLD CRANKING AMPS

Traditionally, to test these two parameters required some expensive tools and the firefighter doing some electrical calculations. However, by using a digital battery tester, they are easily accomplished.

Internal resistance is a measure of the battery’s ability to deliver current. When the internal resistance is low, the battery can provide the amount of current it was designed to do. However, a battery with high internal resistance will perform poorly.

Use a digital battery tester to complete this test. Simple to operate, it will measure several parameters of the battery’s condition. You need to know the battery’s rated voltage and cold cranking amps (CCA) to set the tester up. This tester will calculate and display the battery’s internal resistance. Look up the battery specifications online or record the internal resistance on the day of purchase to compare. Avoid extremes in temperature when testing.

Associated with internal resistance is the battery’s CCA. The CCA is a rating that measures a battery’s ability to sustain voltage and current under heavy load, such as cranking an engine to start in cold weather. CCA measures the number of amps a fully charged battery can provide at 0°F for 30 seconds before dropping below 7.2 volts. A higher CCA rating indicates that the battery can deliver more power to crank the engine, even in freezing conditions.

WET CELL BATTERY FILLING

If the battery is labeled “Maintenance Free,” it is sealed, and you cannot check the electrolyte level. If the battery is hot or swollen, replace it. Clean the top of the battery off. Check the electrolyte level by removing the caps and placing them upside down to ensure the underside of the caps is not contaminated. Wear eye and hand protection at a minimum to protect yourself from the battery acid. If the water (electrolyte) level is below the vent well, top it off with distilled/deionized water.

Check the electrolyte level every three months. Do not use tap water—it contains minerals that can degrade battery performance. Do not overfill. You do not have to add the sulfuric acid; only water is consumed by the battery. Do not

charge a battery unless the water level is full. During charging, hydrogen and oxygen gas is given off. Charge in a well-vented area.

ABSORBED GLASS MATTE OR “AGM BATTERY”

An AGM battery uses a separator consisting of fiberglass between the plate and wrappers to hold the electrolyte in its place with capillary action. Combining the lead plates, electrolyte, and fiber glass separation fibers in a confined space, AGM batteries create a “physical bond” by way of capillary action. Similar to how water creeps up a towel when it is put in a bathtub, this capillary action holds the liquid inside the glass matting, making the AGM Battery “spillproof” if it is ever exposed.

Because of the tight packing of an AGM battery, it is also the most impact-resistant and boasts the least internal resistance. The lower internal resistance increases the output voltage, decreases charging time, and reduces losses to heat as power flows through the system.

AGM batteries are maintenance-free. AGM batteries recombine the gases produced internally, back into liquid. This recombination makes the AGM battery maintenance-free—no acid leaks, no mess while charging, no corrosion on surrounding parts. You plug in these batteries and walk away. AGM batteries can do anything that flooded (wet) and GEL batteries do.

HYDROMETER

A hydrometer is a bulb or teardrop syringe tool that will suck a sample of the electrolyte from the cell. It is used to determine each cell’s state of health by measuring the specific gravity of the electrolyte (its weight compared with water). Remember that water will sit on top of the acid, so if you are using a hydrometer to test the electrolyte, do so after charging. The bubbles emitted during charging mix the solution.

The specific gravity value indicates how well the cell is working. For example, a reading between 1.274 and 1.239 indicates a 100-75% charge, while a reading under 1.200 indicates a discharged cell. However, the recommended full-charge reading can vary by battery, so check the manufacturer’s data for the specific gravity it recommends.

BATTERY TERMINAL CORROSION

Neutralize any buildup on battery terminals, and keep them clean to extend the life of your battery. Apply a coating of anticorrosion protection. A white, fluffy substance or buildup of sulfate or sulfide on the positive terminal can indicate pending battery failure. Keep the top of the battery cleaned off.

DESULFATING A BATTERY

Sulfation can reduce the battery’s ability to hold a charge and is a leading cause of early battery failure. Sulfation occurs when lead from the battery’s plates combines with the battery’s electrolyte to create lead sulfate crystals. Signs of a sulfated battery include the following:

- The battery doesn’t hold a charge.
- The battery dies sooner than expected.
- Poor performance, slow to crank engine, dim headlights, etc.

Batteries develop sulfation each time they are used (discharged/recharged). If they are overcharged, undercharged, or left discharged—even for a day or two—cells can sulfate. Even when a battery is stored fully charged, sulfate will form unless a desulfating battery charger is used.

A desulfator, also known as a reconditioning charger, can reverse sulfation by using a 24-hour cycle of high-voltage, high-frequency pulses to break down the sulfate deposits and return them to solution. This can restore the battery’s performance to almost new condition. However, it’s important to act quickly before the sulfate hardens and becomes difficult or impossible to recover. It can take days to restore a heavily sulfated battery.

Store batteries in a cool, dry place that’s protected from the elements. Avoid storing discharged/dead batteries; recycle them.

+ FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

*IN 2025 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED **10** FIRE FIGHTER LODD’S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

In 2024 we experienced 64 LODDs reported nationally.!

DOES'NT HAVE TO BE A FATALITY-JUST A DIBILITATING INJURY, YOU JUST NEVER KNOW!

- Binghamton, New York: Structure fire collapse kills one firefighter and injures two. Our sympathies to the families and friends of firefighter John Gaudet of the Binghamton Fire Department. May he rest in peace.
- A Providence RI firefighter suffered minor injuries when he got pinned between a fire engine stuck in the snow and a car alongside the engine.
- A least six firefighters and 11 plant workers sustained injuries that were deemed minor at an industrial plant explosion in Saegertown, PA.

BUILDING CODE ISSUES AND REPORTED FIRE FATALITIES

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 FOR 2025	
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	7
Last fire death 2/6/25 Colonie, Albany, Co. Under Investigation	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	23
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	141
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 TX/13
	#2 CA&PA/12
	#3 AL/9
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2025: 308 2046 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
Week 6 of 2025, fire has claimed on an average 29.5 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 1&2 family dwellings.	

Do Your Part to Support Sprinklers in 1 & 2 Family Homes + Townhomes!!!

Dear Fire Service Member,

One of NYS Fire Service Alliance’s highest priorities is increasing fire safety and fire prevention – these efforts save the lives of those we have all sworn to protect and make our jobs and working environments safer for all of us as firefighters. On February 28th, the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council will be meeting in Albany to consider adoption of the newest version of the International Codes Council’s (ICC) model building code. This model building code is updated by the ICC every three years and once again, as it has since 2009, the latest ICC model code includes a requirement of lifesaving fire sprinklers in one- and two-family homes and townhouses. The state Codes Council will be once again considering whether to keep this important sprinkler requirement in their adoption of updates to the state’s building and fire codes. And while the Codes Council has moved in the past to remove the residential sprinkler provisions during the code adoption process (over FASNY’s objections), we believe this year the sprinkler provisions have a real chance of being adopted.

We **NEED YOUR HELP** in advising the Governor and the members of the state Code Council that as volunteer firefighters, we strongly support sprinklers in one and two-family homes and townhouses – they save lives, make conditions safer for us on our arrival at the scene of a house fire and they minimize property damage to the area of fire origin. Please click below to send a letter of support to the Governor and the Codes Council on this important issue.

The NYS Fire Service Alliance has been engaged in an ongoing public education campaign via the news media on this issue. We have also compiled a Fact Sheet on home fire sprinklers. Please take a moment and visit [FASNY Advocates for Residential Sprinklers in Building Code Updates | FASNY](#) to learn more about these efforts and to gather additional facts on the importance of home fire sprinklers.

Thank you for your time and your support.

GO TO THIS LINK TO SEND YOUR SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

<https://firefightersassociationofthestateofnewyork.cmail20.com/t/y-l-cxhutl-ikjuyhjliy-j/>

NY Charter School Cited Again for Tampering with Fire Safety Equipment

Jon Moss, Syracuse.com

A Syracuse charter school recently forced to close for nearly two weeks after high carbon monoxide levels has been hit with a new set of code violations, including for tampering with fire safety equipment.

The Syracuse Academy of Science High School at 1001 Park Ave. was cited Wednesday for tampering with a combination smoke and carbon monoxide detector, according to Capt. Phillip Vogt, a fire department spokesperson. Firefighters made the discovery when they were called to the school at about 3 p.m. Tuesday for a carbon monoxide detector that was ringing, Vogt said.

Crews quickly determined there was no carbon monoxide issue, he said. The detector may have been activated by burning food.

Crews found the detector had several pieces of tape covering openings that lead to its sensors, Vogt said. School staff had taken it off its spot on the wall in the school kitchen and put it on a desk, he said. A different detector had been placed on the wall.

The school was cited twice under two separate New York state building codes for tampering with a life-safety device and failing to maintain a life-safety system, Vogt said. It was also cited for violating Syracuse's property conservation code.

School officials said in a statement Wednesday that the person who tampered with the detector was a food service contractor, acting "contrary to earlier directives."

"We are reemphasizing our safety protocols with the contractor to ensure such an action does not happen again," the statement said.

The high school was closed for nearly two weeks last month after the high carbon monoxide levels sent five people to a hospital. The high levels of the colorless, odorless gas were caused by a food warmer in the kitchen, school officials previously said.

Firefighters detected the gas when they responded to a call for a man found in cardiac arrest at the school. Brian Deforge, a janitor cleaning the school overnight Jan. 7, was found in the cafeteria by school employees. He had died. Several code violations were issued at the time, including for removing or tampering with fire safety equipment and that the school building was unfit for human occupancy. Online records show the code violations were marked resolved.

City officials have declined to say why those code violations were issued or what work was done to correct them. Syracuse police continue to investigate Deforge's death. No cause of death has been released.

MD Advocates Push for More Regulation of Gas Tubing Product Linked to LODD

Ceoli Jacoby, The Frederick News-Post

The widow of Frederick County Battalion Chief Joshua Laird and elected officials from Frederick County are continuing their push for stronger regulations on a common building material linked to the local firefighter's death in the line of duty.

Corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) is a thin flexible piping material that is used to carry fuel gases such as liquid petroleum and propane through residences and commercial buildings.

When lightning strikes a building containing CSST, electricity can sometimes flow between the material and nearby metal objects, creating sparks or “arcing.”

This can lead to perforations in the tubing that allow gas to escape, adding fuel to a potential fire.

When it comes to fire protection, some kinds of CSST are safer than others.

A 2022 Maryland law named for Joshua Laird and Nathan Flynn — another firefighter from Howard County who died fighting a CSST-related fire — required the use of arc-resistant CSST in the construction of a new gas piping system, the replacement of an existing gas line or a renovation of more than half a property.

With arc-resistant CSST, the inner layer of tubing is covered with a conductive jacket that can help diffuse the energy generated by a lightning strike, making failures less likely.

State Sen. Karen Lewis Young (D-Frederick) told the Senate committee on Education, Energy and the Environment during a hearing on Thursday that the minimum standard for arc-resistant CSST is the ability to withstand 4.5 coulombs of electrical arcing charge.

However, Lewis Young said, the average lightning strike is between 15 and 24 coulombs.

“This means that even arc-resistant CSST is highly vulnerable to malfunction and higher safety standards are needed,” she said.

NEW LEGISLATION

SB175, sponsored by Lewis Young and Sen. Benjamin Brooks (D-Baltimore County), would prohibit the sale, transfer or distribution of CSST that has not been proven through testing to withstand at least 36 coulombs of electrical arcing.

It would also require the governing body of every Maryland county and Baltimore city to collect records of CSST installations showing that the materials used in each one meet the 36-coulomb requirement.

A person who violates the law could be fined up to \$1,000.

The 36-coulomb requirement is based on the LC1027 testing criteria approved in 2011 by the International Code Council, an organization that develops model codes and standards for use by the building trades.

Earlier versions of the bill, including two cross-filed bills that did not advance out of committee during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session, specifically referenced the LC1027 testing criteria.

The reference to the LC1027 testing criteria was removed from SB175 after some expressed concerns that only certain manufacturers of CSST would be able to meet it.

Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater in 2024 and 2025 listed new safety standards for CSST among her priorities for the state legislature.

“As local and state government, we truly have a responsibility to our constituents — including our first responders — to adopt laws and policies that ensure the safety of our communities,” Fitzwater said during the hearing on Thursday.

Sara Laird, the widow of Joshua Laird, said on Thursday that the reason there have not been more CSST-related fatalities in Maryland is not because of a lack of opportunity, but because of the work that first responders like her late husband do in fighting fires.

“My daughters and I will carry this loss with us forever,” Sara Laird said. “My oldest will graduate from high school in a few months with a picture of her dad hanging from her cap. My youngest will get her [learner’s] permit next month, but it will be [Frederick County Fire Chief Tom Coe] and her father’s coworkers that are teaching her how to drive.”

Laird said that “almost every industry” in the United States has had to evolve to meet new safety standards and implored state lawmakers on Thursday to compel CSST manufacturers to “do better” through legislation.

Howard County Fire and Rescue Capt. Craig Matthews said he helped investigate the line-of-duty deaths of both Flynn and Joshua Laird. He said he has personally seen instances of even arc-resistant CSST failing and leading to fires.

Matthews stressed how difficult it is to walk a firefighter’s widow through the scene of a house fire where her husband died, “all because of a faulty product.”

“I don’t want to do this again,” he said.

INDUSTRY PUSHBACK AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

Several representatives of CSST manufacturers spoke in opposition to the bill on Thursday, arguing that the 36-coulomb requirement it promotes is unnecessary and out-of-step with the industry’s consensus standards.

Lisa Reiheld, an International Code Council staffer who focuses on the plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas codes, urged the Senate committee on Thursday to “trust the process that we have in place.”

Reiheld said the International Fuel Gas Code, from which the 4.5-coulomb requirement is derived, is updated every three years.

She said the International Code Council is currently in the process of amending the International Fuel Gas Code, but could not answer a question from Sen. Katie Fry Hester (D-Howard and Montgomery) about whether any testing is being done to verify that the current safety standards for CSST are sufficient.

Michael Fleming, the chief plumbing inspector for Frederick County, said that even if the updated International Fuel Gas Code includes heightened safety standards for CSST, the state of Maryland would not adopt the updated code until 2033 “at the earliest.”

“During that time, this unsafe product will continue to be available for purchase by consumers, putting lives at risk,” Fleming said.

Jonathan Sargeant, the manager of codes and standards for the CSST manufacturer OmegaFlex, said the current 4.5-coulomb requirement is “based on rigorous lightning testing and forensic analysis of perforated CSST.”

“Without a test procedure, the 36-coulomb number is meaningless,” he said.

William Castelli, speaking on behalf of Ward Manufacturing, said that players in the industry are “constantly evolving their products, making them safer.”

Instead of adopting the 36-coulomb requirement, Castelli argued, Maryland should pursue an outright ban on non-arc-resistant CSST, which some manufacturers have already begun to phase out on their own.

The 2022 Flynn and Laird Act stopped short of banning the sale, distribution and transfer of non-arc-resistant CSST. It also did not include any penalties for people who use the material improperly.

In an interview after the bill hearing on Thursday, Lewis Young agreed that the loophole in the 2022 law should be closed and said there was room for compromise on the precise number of coulombs CSST sold, transferred and distributed in Maryland should be required to withstand.

She floated the idea of reducing the requirement to 24 coulombs — the upper end of the average charge delivered by a lightning strike and “a heck of a lot better” than the industry standard of 4.5 coulombs.

The Senate committee on Education, Energy and the Environment has yet to vote on SB175. If the bill gets a favorable report from the committee, it would advance to the Senate floor for a second reading followed by a final vote.

A cross-filed bill sponsored by Del. Dana Stein, HB222, has also yet to make it out of committee. Stein was also a sponsor of the 2024 version of the bill and of the 2022 Flynn and Laird Act.

Lewis Young was optimistic on Thursday about the Senate committee’s appetite for heightened safety standards on CSST and said it was still early enough in the legislative session to make progress on the issue.

“We need to find a way to have the product actually meet the threat,” she said.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY & THE FIRE SERVICE

After the Moss Landing Battery Fire, Should CA Limit Where Battery Storage Plants Can Be Built?

Paul Rogers, Bay Area News

A business park in South San Jose. Jack London Square in Oakland. The San Diego waterfront. Next door to a high school in Santa Barbara County.

Across California, large battery storage plants are being planned and constructed in dozens of locations at a pace faster than anywhere else in the United States. They are a critical part of the state’s plans to expand renewable energy, by storing electricity that solar farms and wind turbines generate to use later when the sun isn’t shining and the wind isn’t blowing.

But now, after a massive fire last month at one of the largest battery storage plants in the world — [*Moss Landing in Monterey County — caused the evacuation of 1,200 people, closed Highway 1 for three days, and released toxic heavy metals over the surrounding landscape, some leaders are urging new limits to keep the fast-growing technology away from populated areas.*](#)

There are now 187 battery storage plants in California — up from just 17 in 2019, according to the California Energy Commission. Battery storage has increased 1,340% in the past six years in California, from 928 megawatts in 2019 to 13,391 megawatts today. A megawatt is enough electricity to run 750 homes.

“We need these facilities,” said Assemblywoman Dawn Addis, a Democrat from Morro Bay, where voters in November rejected an oceanfront battery storage plant. “But we need to build trust when it comes to our clean energy future. We want to be careful about siting and make sure we aren’t putting schoolchildren, local business owners and residents at risk.”

Addis, whose district includes Moss Landing, has introduced a bill in the state Legislature that would ban new battery storage plants within 3,200 feet of homes, schools, businesses and hospitals. Under her bill, AB 303, new ones also would be prohibited in the state’s coastal zone, on earthquake faults, prime farmland, wetlands, hazardous waste sites, and in very high fire hazard severity zones on Cal Fire maps.

The bill also would block battery storage plants from being fast-tracked for approval in 270 days by state officials at the California Energy Commission, even if local cities and counties oppose the projects. Those rules were put into place in 2022 when Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill to speed the pace of renewable energy in California. So far, six projects have applied. None have yet been approved.

Addis is receiving pushback from the renewable energy industry, labor unions and some other Democrats.

“We share the goal of wanting an incident like Moss Landing never to happen again,” said Alex Jackson, California director of the American Clean Power Association, an industry group. “We just disagree on the approach. This bill is focused on making it more difficult to site new facilities. That’s not where we should be focused.”

Jackson and other industry leaders say the Moss Landing plant is unique. The battery storage plant was built in 2019 when the technology was in its infancy, constructed in a huge concrete warehouse that housed a former 1950s-era PG&E oil and gas-burning power plant. The lithium-ion batteries were stacked, and made of older chemistry using nickel, manganese and cobalt, which can cause runaway fires when ignited.

Newer plants, he noted, use lithium-iron-phosphate batteries, which are less prone to fires. The units are often arranged outside and housed in individual metal containers, each roughly the size of an 18-wheel trailer, so if a fire starts, the chances of it spreading are very low.

Jackson said in the wake of the Moss Landing fire, the state should review the older battery plants instead of blocking new ones that are needed to meet increasing electricity demands as more people drive electric vehicles and artificial intelligence requires more data centers.

“We don’t have to choose between clean energy and community safety,” he said. “The technology is proven. It’s safe. The appropriate response is to take a look at some of those legacy facilities that are not representative of state-of-the-art.”

One challenge is the lightning-fast pace at which battery storage is spreading throughout the state. No state agency keeps a public list showing how many more are planned, where, and when they are expected to be built.

But a review by the Bay Area News Group of a U.S. Department of Energy database of all planned energy projects nationwide found at least 96 new battery storage plants are under construction in California or planned to be built by 2027.

They include the 75-megawatt Hummingbird project at 6321 San Ignacio Ave. in South San Jose, near Highways 85 and 101. Approved by San Jose officials, it is being constructed by esVolta, a Newport Beach company, to store electricity for PG&E. It is scheduled to open next month.

Another is planned near Jack London Square in Oakland. Vistra Energy, the Texas company that owns the Moss Landing plant, also owns an aging Dynegy power plant at 50 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The company has been planning for several years to build a 43-megawatt battery plant on the site by May 2027.

The largest under construction in the state is the 275-megawatt Kola Energy Center eight miles east of Livermore, on Patterson Pass Road. It is scheduled to open this summer.

To the south, the Painter Energy Storage Project in Santa Barbara County is being built across the street from Carpinteria High School. In San Diego, there are multiple plants being planned and built inland, and one, called the Peregrine Energy Storage Plant, is under construction one mile south of Petco Park.

Local officials near Moss Landing say more limits on new plants are needed.

“Moss Landing was approved because we were promised it was going to be safe,” said Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church. “That promise couldn’t be fulfilled. If people want to be concerned about health and safety in their neighborhoods, what’s wrong with that?”

The fire has put environmental groups, who have supported battery technology, and their legislative champions, in a tough spot.

State Sen. John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, is the former secretary of natural resources under Gov. Jerry Brown. He said he has serious concerns with the Addis bill. New technology is better than Moss Landing's, he said, and the state should focus on older plants rather than limiting new ones.

"We have three goals here," Laird said. "To keep the lights on, to move off fossil fuels, and to be safe in doing it. We just can't sacrifice one for the other. We have to meet all three."

NYC Is Playing With Fire: Staten Island BP Blasts City for Allowing an Excessive Amount of Battery Energy Storage

Jessica Jones-Gorman – Staten Island Advance, N.Y.

After residents voiced their concerns about the construction of a new battery energy storage site (BESS) in a residential section of Manor Heights, launching an online petition to halt its progress, Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella is calling out city officials for allowing a disproportionate amount of the facilities to be erected in the borough.

"New York City is playing with fire allowing these BESS sites to be constructed in residential neighborhoods like these," Fossella noted during a press conference on Monday morning, standing on the corner of Manor Road and Tillman Street where the site will soon be erected. "[Developers] are building here because the land is cheaper, and we have more of it – and New York City is allowing it. We're willing to take our fair share, but this goes way beyond fair share."

Fossella was flanked by several area residents and eclipsed by the noise of at least five utility trucks, which had already begun work at the corner – although it is unclear if that work was related to BESS construction.

"We're calling for a moratorium on these units until safety protocols are in place," Fossella continued. "I've met with a range of representatives from different regulatory agencies and asked them if these sites should be allowed on residential streets. They've all said no."

Fossella spoke about a BESS proliferation in the borough – more than a dozen sites are already in the works with several more in the pipeline – comparing the unwanted structures to the Fresh Kills Landfill – which received as much as 29,000 tons of trash per day during its peak operation in the 1980s, ultimately closing in March of 2001.

"We sued the city to close the landfill based on that fair share provision," Fossella said. "We shouldered that burden for too long. And in a way this is reminiscent of Fresh Kills. Why should the borough that only has 5% to 6% of the city's population have to house all these sites?"

Located across from The Manor Restaurant and A&C Superette and Salumeria, the Manor Heights BESS site is spaced approximately 10 feet away from a block of semi-attached homes. Valerie Vislocky, who lives on Tillman Street, launched a petition last week on [Change.org](https://www.change.org) to halt its construction. She has already gathered over 800 signatures.

"As concerned residents of Staten Island, N.Y., we urge you to join us in demanding an immediate halt to the setup and installation of the lithium battery sites (BESS)," stated the petition. "This petition is personal to all of us who call this community our home, because we understand the potential dangers associated with such a facility located so close to our residences. The community was not made aware of this site being built until last minute, and we do not approve."

Developers and green energy proponents tout the lithium-ion structures — which started popping up in several NYC neighborhoods in 2022 — as quiet neighbors that are a necessary agent for renewable change. They are designed to remove pressure from the city's stressed grid, using rechargeable batteries to store electrical energy from various sources, and then releasing that stored energy when needed.

But over the past two years, borough residents and local officials have voiced their concerns about the structures. Community Boards voted against their proximity to bakeries and storefronts; elected officials issued a moratorium on BESS applications filed within residential districts. In one instance, an energy developer retracted plans to place batteries in a Bulls Head church parking lot.

Now, in the wake of a toxic, days-long fire at a battery energy storage system in Moss Landing, California, Staten Island residents are once again speaking up.

NineDot Energy, the company which is developing the site, said it does not minimize those concerns, and offered the following statement to clarify which safety measures have already been taken:

"The FDNY has examined the site and has no safety concerns. The city and the International Fire Code require a distance of 10 feet between any battery and a building — which this project abides by."

NineDot also noted that the FDNY has "examined and tested the BESS technology used on this site [Tesla Megapacks] and determined the technology is safe for use in NYC, in large part because of the several layers of safety redundancy, which prevent so-called 'thermal runaway' [i.e., a fire spreading from one cell or module to another]."

Referencing the [Change.org](https://www.change.org) petition, the representative noted that "the FDNY's warnings regarding lithium-ion batteries that are referenced in a petition were with regard to e-mobility devices, a different technology which, sadly, in New York has been completely unregulated until recently."

The rep also referred to a 2023 BESS fire in Warwick, New York, stating:

“[It] resulted in no injuries, and the Governor’s Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group concluded that there were absolutely no hazardous materials either in the air or in the water as a result. It’s also worth noting that the Warwick site used a battery technology which is not approved for use by the FDNY in New York.”

Still, Tillman Street residents want the site stopped.

“Our community already faces numerous challenges, and adding a potentially hazardous facility right next door only exacerbates these concerns,” the [Change.org](#) petition noted. “We believe that safety should always be prioritized over convenience or profit.” Ben D’Amato, Land Uses chair for Community Board 2, told attendees at the press conference that a meeting will be held on Feb. 18 at the Joan and Allan Bernikow JCC located at 1466 Manor Road to discuss the site. A representative from NineDot Energy is scheduled to attend and field questions.

Research Corner: Lithium-Ion Battery Heat Release Rate and Explosion Hazards

Dan Madrzykowski, Nathaniel Sauer

Lithium-ion (li-ion) batteries are everywhere. They are in personal electronics, power tools, micro-mobility devices, electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems (ESS). Researchers around the globe have been working to characterize the hazards that are generated from li-ion batteries during a thermal runaway. The hazards range from chemical and thermal exposures to explosions. One of the common types of li-ion batteries that’s in use is the 18650 cell. These cells are cylindrical in shape and are 18 mm (0.71 inches) in diameter and 65 mm (2.56 inches) long. They can be based on different li-ion chemistries, such as lithium nickel cobalt aluminum oxides (NCA) and lithium iron phosphate (LFP). The NCA 18650 battery is used widely and has a nominal voltage of 3.7 volts, 3.5 ampere-hours (Ah) and 12.95 watt-hours (Wh).

A single 18650 battery cell can be found as the power source for personal electronics, such as a vape pen and a shaver. Three 18650 batteries might be used to power lights, speakers and toys. Six cells might be used to power a laptop computer. Ten 18650 cells commonly are used as the energy source for power tools, such as drills and saws. Battery packs that have dozens of cells are used to power micro-mobility devices, such as stand-up scooters. Larger battery packs that have as many as 100 cells are used to power lawn equipment, such as lawnmowers. Battery packs that have 136–150 cells can be found powering sit-on scooters.

HRR OF NCA 18650 BATTERY CELLS

Table 1 provides a range of peak heat release rates (HRR) for NCA 18650 cells that were overheated to cause a thermal runaway. The cells that were tested were at 100 percent state of charge.

Except for the single-cell version, the peak HRRs in Table 1 were measured for the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) by UL Solutions, and the values are rounded up to the nearest 5 kW. As noted, there isn’t a linear relationship between the number of batteries and the peak HRR. This is a function of the propagation of thermal runaway within the battery pack arrangement. The thermal propagation is affected by many factors, including the arrangement and orientation of the cells, how many cells are involved in initiating thermal runaway and the type of enclosure.

Figure 1 shows the 10-cell battery pack arrangement during its peak HRR. Most of the cells are involved in off-gassing and burning at the time that the photograph was taken. Figure 2 shows the 152-cell configuration near its peak HRR; many of the cells hadn’t yet vented and burned.

THERMAL RUNAWAY EFFLUENT GASES

Although the HRR rate is one hazard from a li-ion battery thermal runaway that the fire service and the public must be aware of, as noted above, the potential for an explosion that’s generated by the thermal runaway effluent gases (TREG) is another.

In the HRR examples that are described above, the gases that vented out of the batteries during thermal runaway quickly ignited and burned off. As explained by Adam Barowy et al in “Explosion protection for prompt and delayed deflagrations in containerized lithium-ion battery energy storage systems” (Journal of Loss Prevention in the Process Industries, Volume 80, December 2022), the TREG from the NCA battery chemistry is composed mainly of hydrogen (33 percent), carbon monoxide (36 percent), carbon dioxide (22 percent) and methane (9 percent). Each 18650 cell can generate approximately 8 liters of TREG. If this TREG accumulates in an enclosed space, an explosion can occur.

EXPLOSION HAZARD STUDY

To examine li-ion battery explosion hazards, a residential garage was selected, given that such a premises is a location where li-ion batteries might be commonly stored, charged or used. The li-ion batteries could be in power tools, scooters, EVs or energy storage devices. (For a full description of these experiments and the resulting data, see doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2024.132818. To learn more about FSRI’s battery safety study, see fsri.org/research/impact-batteries-fire-dynamics.)

Experiments were performed at an outdoor explosives test site. The enclosure was designed to represent an attached residential two-car garage. (This research effort followed a U.S. Department of Energy project that demonstrated that releases of TREG from a residential ESS could create deflagration hazards. In that project, U.S. Census Bureau data was analyzed, and it was determined that the most common North American house that was built in the past 40 years typically was constructed as a tract house, which includes an attached two-car garage. This style of construction employs lightweight platform construction combined with wood-stud framing.)

The interior walls and ceiling of the test-site garage were finished with 0.625-inch-thick Type X gypsum wallboard. Wallboard seams were sealed with paper tape and joint compound.

Adjacent rooms were constructed on the rear and to one side of the garage to represent the structural reinforcement that normally is provided by the remainder of the house.

The structure was anchored to a concrete pad. A 16 x 7-foot steel overhead door was installed at the front of the garage, and a 30 x 80-inch steel-over-polystyrene core, 20-minute fire-rated interior door was installed in the center of the opposite wall.

Based on the composition and amount of TREG that's generated by an NCA 18650 cell, bags were filled with simulated TREG, with volumes that spanned amounts that potentially are generated by a battery pack for a handheld power tool (124 liters of gas) through to a battery pack for a large piece of lawn equipment or a sit-on scooter (1,238 liters of gas). Once the bags were filled with the appropriate mixture and amount of hydrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and methane, the bag was ignited remotely, which set off the explosion.

OBSERVED DAMAGE

Throughout the series of experiment, cosmetic and structural damage to the structure occurred. The damage was repaired between experiments. The garage door served as a pressure relief panel. Figure 3 shows the garage door being blown off of the garage test prop by the gas that could be generated by a 100-cell (or larger) battery pack.

A range of damage was observed during testing. Even when damage wasn't structurally critical, it compromised the fire resistance of the wall and ceiling assemblies that were between the garage and the attached house. In the event of a prolonged fire post-deflagration, the designed fire resistance of the garage space no longer would prevent spread into the residential space as intended.

Cracking of the sealed joints between drywall panels was observed in almost all experiments. In the case of the explosion that represented the 100-cell battery pack, in addition to the overhead garage door being blown off, some of the wall studs were cracked, and the interior door and latch were damaged.

The range of overpressures for gas volumes representing a 10-cell–100-cell battery pack was approximately 0.25 psi (1.7 kPa)–0.9 psi (6.3 kPa).

ANOTHER SIZE-UP CONCERN

Firefighters have experienced li-ion battery explosions in apartments, garages, battery ESS and EVs. The research demonstrates the amount of energy and overpressure that can be produced during such an event. Therefore, large li-ion batteries are yet another fuel package for firefighters to consider as part of their ongoing size-up. Furthermore, firefighters should reconsider standing in front of a garage door that might have hot li-ion batteries on the other side (see "CO Firefighters Narrowly Escape Blast When Water Hits Battery").

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Hosted by: Sullivan County Recruitment and Retention Task Force


COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course designed to challenge firefighters to critically assess their professionalism, training, and readiness in life-saving situations. The course encourages participants to engage in honest self-reflection, evaluate systemic issues, and confront complacency within their departments. Through interactive discussions and scenario-based activities, attendees will explore the importance of setting high standards, embracing continuous training, and addressing gaps in professionalism. The goal is to inspire a shift from minimum standards to a culture of excellence, ensuring that firefighters are truly prepared for the critical responsibility of protecting the public.

Presented by:

<p>CHIEF BRIAN SOLLER has been an active volunteer for the last 30+ years. He currently serves as chief of the Rock Hill Fire Department (Sullivan County, NY) and for the past 20 years has been a New York state fire instructor assigned to Sullivan County, NY as well as the special operations branch. Soller also served as chief of the the Monticello Fire Department from 2001-2002.</p>	<p>CHIEF NATE ROUTLEDGE is originally from Bournemouth, U.K. He began pursuing his lifelong goal of joining the fire service with the Roscoe Rockland Fire Department (Sullivan County, NY) where he now serves as chief. Routledge currently works as a firefighter/EMT with the Monticello Joint Fire District and also serves as a state fire instructor assigned to Sullivan County, NY.</p>
---	---

REGISTRATION:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/SULLIVANSELFREFLECTION](https://tinyurl.com/sullivanselfreflection)



2025 Seminar Series, Short-Handed Firefighting

34 years ago, this class was developed by Firefighter Andrew A. Fredericks. At that time, the fire service was starting to suffer from a shortage of members, especially but not limited to the volunteer ranks. Today, as we all know, departments across the nation have experienced a large drop-off in membership. With today's hotter, faster-moving fires, it is imperative that we get on the road ASAP and are ready to mount an aggressive interior attack – especially where life-saving attempts must be carried out. This class will look at new apparatus and equipment designed to make our jobs less labor-intensive. In many places, where it used to take one or maybe two departments to handle the job at a single-family residence, now up to six departments are necessary due our diminished ranks. We must protect our residents and, just as important, our members and make sure everyone goes home.

Mike Healy has been a member of the Rockland County fire service for 54 years, serving with the Blauvelt F.D. for 14 years, followed by the Central Nyack F.D. for 40 years. He has served as a chief for three terms. Healy is currently

the coordinator of education for the Rockland County Fire Training Center. **Jeff Daniels** is a 23-year fire service veteran. He served with the Air National Guard as a crash rescue firefighter for 17 years and was a member of the West Haverstraw Volunteer F.D. for 14 years. In 2002, he was hired as a NYS DMNA firefighter and served for over four years before being appointed to the FDNY. Daniels was assigned to Ladder Co. 39 for 12 years and was later an instructor for the FDNY Fire Academy. Currently, he is a member of Squad 61. He also teaches at the Rockland County Fire Training Center.

Coming to These Counties in 2025 (7:00 p.m. Starting Time):

- Albany (February 24)** • Cortland (October 28) • Erie (October 8) • **Fulton (September 9)** • **Herkimer (April 14)**
- Jefferson (October 15) • Monroe (September 30) • Nassau (November 5) • Niagara (March 12)
- Oneida (September 24) • Onondaga (February 18) • Orange (April 29) • Otsego (September 15)
- **Rensselaer (October 20)** • Rockland (April 23) • St. Lawrence (March 24) • Steuben (February 12) • Suffolk (April 2)
- Westchester (September 3) • Wyoming (March 4)

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

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/2025seminarseries>

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

May, Friday the 16th through Sunday May 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 at the following LINK: <https://fasny.com/training/1st-annual-firetraining-symposium/>



ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Coming Attractions:

- Mini Summit in White Plains, Sonesta Hotel, **Friday March 28 & Saturday 29 2025**
- **October 2-4, 2025, Thursday - Saturday**, Annual Meeting and Vendor Expo at the Saratoga Hilton and City Center, Saratoga Springs
- **October 8-10, 2026**, Annual Meeting and Vendor Expo at the Saratoga Hilton and City Center, Saratoga Springs



Regional Hands-On Training – Fire Behavior From the Outside

Two-Hour Program Overview

Understanding fire behavior and building construction as it relates to the fire service is arguably the most important

aspect of our job. In this program, firefighters will observe changes in fire behavior from the outside while typical fireground actions are simulated. Firefighters will recognize the vast difference in fire dynamics with the synthetic fuels used in homes today versus the fuel the fire service is using in training towers. This two-hour training includes a classroom presentation, followed by an interactive demonstration using a 10-square-foot dollhouse prop. The unit provides a safe, inexpensive way to discuss fireground strategies/tactics to improve firefighter safety and victim survivability.

Course Prerequisites (or Equivalent)

None

PPE Requirements

None. Members of the fire suppression team designated by the host agency must wear OSHA compliant full PPE with SCBA.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Programs are open to host organization's members and invited guests only.

Monday March 3, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Rockland County

Host: Hillcrest Fire Company/Moleston Fire District

Monday April 28, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

Sullivan County

Host: Roscoe Rockland Fire Department

How to Host a Program in Your Region

Complete and submit a [Regional Hands-On Training – Fire Behavior From the Outside Request Form](#), which outlines all host responsibilities. This course can be delivered on any day of the week at any time and is ideal for a fire department drill. Training will be provided in New York state only. Programs will be scheduled throughout the year based on availability of NYSAFC instructors. [Email](#) NYSAFC with questions regarding Hands-On Training.



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

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

HAPPEN'N IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast

March 16th at the Gansevoort Fire Station 1870 Route 32N, Gansevoort, NY

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET! , Eggs made to order, omelets, pancakes, French Toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits with sausage and gravy, Fried Potatoes, toast, cereal, milk, coffee and orange juice. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors & military, \$8 children 6-12.

ALSO: April 20th, May 18th, and June 15th. The fire company thanks you for your support!!

Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast

All You Can Eat: Sunday **April 6, 2025** from 8 til 11:30, all you can eat, eggs, bacon, toast, sausage, pancakes, OJ, Coffee, Hot Chocolate \$10 adults, \$6 children 6-13, Guest Appearance by the Easter Bunny

LAUGH OUT LOUD!!

The Laws of Life:

Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President, Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner, Stillwater Fire District

1st Vice President, John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent Fire District

2nd Vice President, Ellen Martin, Deputy Treasurer Clifton Park Fire District

DIRECTORS:

Les Bonesteel Commissioner Burnt Hills/Saratoga,

Fred Richards Commissioner Harmony Corners/Saratoga,

Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga,

Ed Woehrle Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady

Art Hunsinger, Ex-Officio Member Clifton Park Fire District

APPOINTEES

Secretary Molly Jenkins, Region 1 Director, Assoc of Fire Districts, NYS

Treasurer: Tony Hill

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

Chaplain: Fred Richards, Commissioner, Harmony Corners Fire District

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

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

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

CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

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

518-407-5020

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

Long Way to Travel? Zoom into the General Membership Meetings!

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

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

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

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

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

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

We want to thank all of our Business Partners for renewing their partnership for 2025. You are invited to our monthly membership meeting and to any of our social events..

LEGAL SERVICES



The D'Amato Law Group LLP
Gregory Serio, Partner
Alyssa B. Snyder, Partner
111 Washington Ave Suite 600
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John Caputo
Marketing Manager
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Pearl River, NY 10965
845.8855 X7011
Cell 631.601.5305
jcaputo@fdmny.com
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Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney
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Anthony Hill ahill@fireflyadmin.com
President (518) 687-1400 (office)
www.fireflyadmin.com (518) 937-6174 (cell)



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Manager of Business Development & Accts
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nmeeker@penflexinc.com

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Kyle Brengel, Managing Partner
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kbregel@gblyn.com*



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Robert V. Gramuglia, CPA

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Email: rgramuglia@BGCPA.net



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AND CPAs

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Queensbury Office 518-792-6595

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

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

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF CAFDA!

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/>

CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATES!

CAFDA has been busy, and 2025 is shaping up to be a great year!

COMMISSIONER TRAINING

AVERILL PARK FIRE DISTRICT	Saturday, February 1, 2025	Snow Date: Sunday, February 2, 2025
CLIFTON PARK FIRE DISTRICT	Saturday, March 1, 2025	Snow Date: Sunday, March 2, 2025
BERKSHIRE FIRE DISTRICT	Saturday, March 29, 2025	Snow Date: Sunday, March 30, 2025
WARRENSBURG FIRE DISTRICT	Saturday, April 5, 2025	Snow Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS	Fulton-Montgomery Community College 2025 2805 State Hgwy. 67, Johnstown	Thurs-Fri. March 13-14,
FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS	Brighton Fire District 2025 3100 East Avenue, Rochester	Tues-Wed. March 25-26,
CAFDA CONFERENCE	Fort William Henry Hotel & 2025 Conference Center, Lake George	Thurs-Sat. April 10-12,

SOCIAL EVENTS

OFFICER INSTALLATION DINNER

Century House, Latham

Saturday, March 8, 2025

DAY AT THE RACES!

Saratoga Race Course, Saratoga Springs

Friday, August 8, 2025

MEETINGS – CLIFTON PARK FIRE DISTRICT & ZOOM

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 4, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 8, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2025



FOR MORE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Website

www.CAFDA.net



Capital Area Fire Districts Association

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

Secretary@cafda.net

Treasurer@cafda.net

Invites you to attend

The Annual Officers' Reception

When: *Saturday March 8, 2025*

Where: *The Century House
997 New Loudon Road
Latham, NY 12110
518-785-0834*

Time: *5:00PM to 9:00PM*

Fee: *\$75 for an Individual or \$120 for a Couple*

Note: The cost is a legal Fire District expense

Attire: *Business Casual*

RSVP: *March 1, 2025*

The Officers' Reception is a great opportunity to network, discuss common issues with other local fire district officials and representatives from across New York State. You will enjoy a fabulous buffet dinner, complimentary beverages and entertainment throughout the evening.

(CUT HERE and submit with payment)

Please make Checks payable and mail to: **CAFDA**

PO Box 242

East Schodack, NY 12063

Please print clearly:

Name of Fire District

Reservations: Officer with Guest *x \$120 =*

Single *x \$75 =*

Total Enclosed

Please print the names of those attending:

www.cafda.net



FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13 -
FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2025**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

CAFDA, together with our friends from Mohawk Fire District, are again partnering with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) to bring you this Fire District focused event!

Topics to Include:

- Duties/Responsibilities of Fire District Officials
- Governmental Accounting Overview
- Policies & Procedures
- Understanding Financial Reports
- Multi-Year Capital/Financial Planning & Budgeting
- Fraud Prevention & Detection
- AFR and Common Filing Errors
- Common OSC Audit Findings
- Municipal Accounting Software
- Q&A with the OSC Staff

**This Training is Not Just for
Fire District Treasurers!**

***ALL COMMISSIONERS and
OFFICERS are INVITED and
ENCOURAGED to ATTEND!***

**Join OSC Thursday after the
last session for a social mixer,
great conversation & lite fare!**

**Take Advantage of this Unique
Opportunity to ask OSC Questions!!!**

Event Location:

Allen House located at
Fulton-Montgomery Community College
2805 State Highway 67, Johnstown

Conveniently located approx. 8 miles off
Exits 27 or 28 of the NYS Thruway

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CAFDA

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East Schodack, NY 12063

www.CAFDA.net

Secretary@CAFDA.net



FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25 -
WEDNESDAY MARCH 26, 2025**

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY!

Join CAFDA and our friends from Monroe County and Brighton Fire District for a second chance at Financial Training with the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC)!

Topics to Include:

- Duties/Responsibilities of Fire District Officials
- Governmental Accounting Overview
- Policies & Procedures
- Understanding Financial Reports
- Multi-Year Capital/Financial Planning & Budgeting
- Fraud Prevention & Detection
- AFR and Common Filing Errors
- Common OSC Audit Findings
- Municipal Accounting Software
- Q&A with the OSC Staff

**This Training is Not Just for
Fire District Treasurers!**

***ALL COMMISSIONERS and
OFFICERS are INVITED and
ENCOURAGED to ATTEND!***

**Join OSC Tuesday after the
last session for a social
mixer, great conversation &
lite fare!**

**Take Advantage of this Unique
Opportunity to ask OSC
Questions!!!**

Event Location:

Brighton Fire District
3100 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14610

Need Overnight Accommodations?

Hampton Inn, Rochester-Penfield
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Reservations: by phone 585-249-0601
or online at:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?cityhocr=ROCPNHX&arrivalDate=2025-03-24&departureDate=2025-03-26&groupCode=CHH902&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>

(ENTIRE URL must be copied/pasted to work properly)

CAFDA

P.O. Box 242
East Schodack, NY 12063
www.CAFDA.net
Secretary@CAFDA.net

CAFDA Conference Attendee Registration Form

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

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

For payment inquiries, please contact Treasurer@cafda.net



Conference Attendee

Name/Title: _____

Fire Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Attendee Conference Registration (Check One):

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

Guest Meal Registration, if applicable (Check One):

Guest Name: _____

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

OSHA INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

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**

TIME SENSITIVE PLEASE SEND PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 12TH



As you are aware, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been working on a proposed Emergency Response Standard. Due to its harsh economic and administrative burdens, this proposed standard would be very damaging to the volunteer fire service and potentially cause many departments to close if adopted in its current form.

Next week the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions committee will be holding a confirmation hearing for Secretary of Labor Nominee Lori Chavez Deremer. If confirmed, Chavez Deremer will oversee OSHA. As the Senate prepares for this hearing, it is important for Congress to be reminded of the potential damaging impact of this proposed standard. Please tell your representatives to oppose the adoption of OSHA's proposed Emergency Response Standard via the link below.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AND SENTORS AT THIS LINK:

<https://www.votervoice.net/NVFC/Campaigns/121321/Respond>

[EDITOR'S NOTE: I DON'T THINK I'LL HAVE TO WORRY TOO MUCH ALL MY REPRESENTATIVES ARE DEMOCRATS...LOL]

[Facebook Post from Dave Denniston 1/21/25](#)

As we awake this morning, the flags, the moon, and the glass are half full. Late yesterday an executive order was put in place to pause any proposed legislation and no new orders can be put in place until the current administration approves them. This is a huge win.

So why half full you ask? While this is a pause, it is not a removal of the proposed rule. We now must switch our focus from OSHA and back to our elected officials and the new administration. It will be imperative that we hit the opportunity full force.

Please collect your thoughts, dig out your old letters, testimonies, and ideas and be ready to share them with your elected officials. This next step is as important as anything we have done so far.

Without all your efforts and hard work to date, this new rule would be in place today. Your voices slowed this down enough to get us to this opportunity. This was 100% grassroots to get us this far. We now have the opportunity to help craft a new rule that is economically and technically feasible that we can live with.

My friends the fight is not over, it has just begun. It's halftime of the championship game. Time to regroup and come out ready to play and come out victorious! We will begin calling plays as soon as this halftime show is over. Warm up my friends, it's almost time to take the field again.

[Public Hearing After Action Comments](#)

Dave Denniston

As we conclude the informal hearing on the proposed 1910.156 standard, I wanted to recap what has stood out to me from all the comments.

1. The proposal was drafted in a vacuum without equal representation of all of, or the majority of, emergency responders.
2. Almost all expressed that the current standard was outdated and warranted changes.
3. All agreed that responder safety was a major concern.
4. Strong opposition was voiced as to the technical and economic feasibility of the proposal.
5. There were mixed feelings as to if volunteers should be exempt or not.
6. Despite claims that the proposal was flexible in nature, most felt it was too rigid and designed as a one size fits all solution and that it shouldn't be
7. Emergency services are delivered in a vastly different nature and organizations function at various levels across the country.
8. That workplace response agencies and community response agencies are not the same.
9. That the delivery of emergency services would be severely impacted by the proposal as written.
10. **Outside of the unions, consultants, and those that wanted to weaponize the standard to demand more money from municipalities, no one came forward to say the proposal as written was the best option available.**

HERE ARE WHAT I SEE AS THE CHALLENGES MOVING AHEAD.

1. OSHA has invested a lot of time and money into the process to date. They will be looking to save face and not blow this up.
2. Changes to the existing standard are needed and warranted.
3. Exempting volunteers entirely will be difficult at best because of combination departments, definitions of volunteers, different laws in different states, the reduction of volunteer numbers across the country.
4. Only exempting volunteers will still have major financial impacts on our economy and municipalities that have any career staff.
5. The appointment for Secretary of Labor is known to be pro-labor and unions.
6. ***Even if we get a political "stay" on this for now, when the political landscape changes back in 2 to 4 years, we will be fitting this battle all over again.***
7. ***OSHA has now repeatedly asked for data and input to ideas of what would work and be acceptable.***
8. Any solution will have pain for some and there is no way to keep everyone completely happy here.
9. ***This is not just going to go away.***

So please hear me out. In an effort to come up with a workable solution, I have taken the proposal rule and made some substantial edits. I am proposing a standalone standard that only applies to first response agencies (fire departments and ambulances). I have removed the incorporated NFPA standards and made them as reference material. I have adjusted the wording to put more power back in the hands of the AHJ. I have made it much cleaner and easier to read and understand. While there will still be some lift for local organizations and some pain points, I truly believe these edits would make it workable for the majority of organizations across our diverse country. ***I believe if we are not willing to be part of the solution, we are in fact part of the problem.***

Please read my attached draft version and see if you think this is something we can live with. If it is (with any suggested edits) I would like to do a mass distribution of this and see if we can get enough support for it to give OSHA a way out and help improve the safety of our responders at the same time. I ask you to view this with an open mind and only object to portions that you feel would cause major disruption to your organization.

Folks, we asked OSHA to listen, and they are listening. Our elected officials repeatedly said we needed to work with OSHA to find a solution. This is a solution. While the courts may provide us with some relief, that will be a lengthy and time-consuming process with no guarantee for success. I have read this draft for the 4th time and do not see anything here now that I could not live with as a compromise.

<https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/OSHA-1910.156-Denniston-Edits-Clean-Version.docx>

[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.]

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.

****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.**

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>

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS LINK:

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

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

Landing Page with Resources

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

NVFC LANDING PAGE LINK HERE:

<https://gma5qspab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001L6aLm-Ax7THBUrMdNSMphNIFj1WWWXRRzYxdUshoNVzVUkCq2FlyoxhE-AybLw8OnamjN0BiBpzyC-pPzLiiYEvhxQ9sAxH0UIN-rMeW-UojESKwKkPDdMRzXK8VXBP-Sh4YQDWc0PJekSA9BGQCOh6Io AGJ2vqw1b4iSBqWLS=&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhqekGbW4yjkuTH862UfuVJahY7fFHeGl qUJw==&ch=lefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xIkZP-JITscwLK8iGsQ==>

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

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

Meeting with NYS-DOL/PESH

Dave Denniston Writes: We had a great meeting with PESH at the end of last week. They are willing to work with us, but admit that their hands are tied some. The NY PESH Officials have stated we have to get in front of OSHA and get a seat at the table. They could not stress enough that the head of OSHA needs to know our names and concerns.

I have also been contacted by one of our congressional friends that said they are behind us, but we have to get in front of OSHA and a seat at the table. They fear legal options are our only other remedy. NVFC is looking at that angle now.

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

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

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.

LINK TO THE PROPOSED OSHA STANDARD, NO FLUFF:

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

Here are the links for the resources as Dave promised:

1. [Webinar: Emergency Response Rule | Oshaedne](#)
 2. [OSHA's NEW Proposed Rule 1910.156 Emergency Response rule on Vimeo](#)
 3. [Microsoft PowerPoint - 1910.156 Webinar 1-31-2024 draft 2.pptx \(oshaedne.com\)](#)
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OSHA PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE BRIGADE STANDARD COMPLETE TEXT: <https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ER-NPRM-Unofficial-WORD-VERSION.docx>

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