



CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

JANUARY 11, 2025

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

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- Its Firefighter Cancer Awareness month, clean your gear, clean your apparatus, clean yourself and be aware, if you suspect something – say something don't let it go!!
- Any new OSHA information IS PRECEDED BY THE **RED ARROW, time is running out.** See the request for data in the OSHA Supplement. **THE END IS NEAR, FILL OUT THE DATA FORM AND SUBMIT IT!!**
- **Next Friday, January 17th, 2025** is the end date for public comment related to the public hearing on the proposed OSHA standard for response personnel. Address comments or documentation to OSHA.emergency.response@dol.com
- 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.

CAFDA NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

WWW.CAFDA.NET

[Best Of Luck To All Those Elected for the Coming Year](#)

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:

- **Rensselaer County, AVERILL PARK FIRE DISTRICT:** Saturday, February 1, 2025 Snow Date: Sunday, February 2, 2025
- **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 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. Mark your Calendar for April 10-11-12, 2025 & see you there. More details to be released soon.

[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

Nothing this week

THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

Bills are Starting to be Introduced for the 2025/26 Legislative Session

With the new year comes a new legislative session that will span a two-year period. All bills were extinguished at the end of 2024 with any previous legislation to be reintroduced will be renumbered. A new ScoreCard will be developed and updated regularly. Half of the Legislature's six-month session is spent negotiating the state budget, which sets the state's spending plan and major policy changes and is due by April 1st. That leaves only a few months to debate other legislation — last year, the session timed out on hundreds of last-minute legislative items. Lawmakers have set an ambitious agenda for 2025, introducing legislation they hope will stem population loss, lower the cost of living and bring the state closer to meeting its climate mandates that many have said are unattainable. Which are counter productive since climate mandates will increase the cost of living through higher energy costs. With their energy focused in other areas the NYS Fire Service will be eating cake, or perhaps just the crumbs.

Issues of United Concern 2025

The NYS Fire Service Alliance kicked off the 2025 legislative season today by meeting in Troy to discuss the issues of united concern. In attendance were Districts, Chiefs, FASNY, Fire Police, Coordinators and a number of other interested parties including CAFDA and our fire service lobbyists. The following are legislative items for the coming session:

Top Five:

- Make permanent Heart and Lung presumptions
- Adoption of Residential Sprinklers in the State Building Code (Lobby to insure that sprinkler provisions currently in the ICC Building Code remain there)
- Amend the VFBL regulations to insure parity with payments made to workers compensation recipients for volunteer firefighters.
- Increase the income tax credit to \$800 annually, and if possible include ability to collect on the property tax incentive for recruitment and retention.
- Make permanent the EMS cost recovery provisions

Also Discussed:

- Recovery of 54g funding to support local government code enforcement efforts, former funding was folded in with State Funding in the General Fund. (These funds come from the insurance industry)
- Amend the mental hygiene law in support of the "First Responder Peer Support Act"
- Designate EMS as an "Essential" Service and expand the benefits available to EMS personnel and set standards for EMS.
- Create the local option for the AHJ to provide pay per call stipends for volunteer firefighters with the needed amendments to VFBL to allow pay per call without penalty.
- Cancer coverage relief by having the State pay for the cost of coverage
- Exempt the Fire/EMS services from the EV mandates set by the state.
- Continued focus on illegal conversions which circumvent the requirements of the Building Codes.

- NYS retirement credit for employees who volunteer as fire or EMS members. For example 1 year of credit for every 5 years as a volunteer with a maximum of 3 years additional credit.
- Secure a sales tax exemption for home use life safety products such as detectors or extinguishers.
- Phase out PPE containing PFAS chemicals.
- Redirect 911 fees to the local government directly instead of to the State General Funds and then a subsequent grant program. These funds are needed to fund NEXT-GEN 911 upgrades.

IF NOTHING ELSE READ THE ARTICLES PRECEDED BY **

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

Waiting and Watching the developments within the new administration.

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:

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

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

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.org 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.org for more information.

Latest OSC Audits

Main-Transit Fire Department – Credit Cards

BACKGROUND

The Department is a not-for-profit organization that provides fire protection services to the Town of Amherst in Erie County.

The Department has volunteer members and is governed by its bylaws and an elected seven-member Board of Directors (Board). The Board consists of a President, Chief and five Directors. The Board also elects a Chairman of the Board (Chairman), who assists with the Board’s administrative functions.

The Board is responsible for the Department’s financial activities. The President is responsible for enforcing the bylaws, rules and regulations. The Treasurer and the Financial Secretary assist the Board with its financial responsibilities by updating financial records, processing payments and generating financial reports

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Determine whether the Main-Transit Fire Department (Department) officials’ credit card purchases were supported and for proper Department purposes.

KEY FINDINGS

Of the credit card purchases totaling \$216,961 that we examined, purchases totaling \$70,042 were not adequately supported, and \$62,903 in discretionary purchases did not follow any specific guidelines.

- *Although the Board approved the credit card bills for payment, it did not ensure that the related voucher packets had adequate supporting documentation to confirm the expenses were appropriate.* As a result, 273 purchases were missing invoices or receipts. For example, a credit card statement had three automatic payment transactions totaling \$1,125 for cable Internet service, cell phone services and car washes. However, the cardholder did not provide invoices or receipts for these transactions.
- *The Board did not establish written policies or procedures to clarify the types of discretionary spending (meals, entertainment or gifts) that were appropriate. As a result, 353 purchases may not have been for proper Department purposes.* For example, two gift cards totaling \$1,200 and a smart watch for \$350 were purchased as gifts. No invoice or receipt was provided to support the purchases, and there was no evidence to indicate that the Board approved the specific purchases before they were made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit report includes five recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the Department's credit card practices. Department officials disagreed with certain aspects of our findings and recommendations but indicated they have initiated corrective action. Appendix B includes our comments on issues raised in the Department's response.

FULL AUDIT REPORT HERE:

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2024/pdf/main-transit-fire-department-2024-77a.pdf>

Main-Transit Fire Department – Banquet Hall Disbursements And Collections

BACKGROUND

The Department is a not-for-profit organization that provides fire protection services to the Town of Amherst in Erie County.

The Department has volunteer members (members) and is governed by its bylaws and an elected seven-member Board. The Board consists of a President, Chief and five Directors. The Board also elects a Chairman of the Board (Chairman), who assists with the Board's administrative functions.

The Board is responsible for the Department's financial activities. The Board appointed a manager who reports to the Board and is responsible for the operations of the Department's banquet hall. The manager is a Board member and is compensated for managing the banquet hall.

The manager's duties included handling inquiries for banquet hall rentals; executing rental agreements; collecting, recording and depositing rental fees; issuing disbursements; and preparing and presenting annual banquet hall rental revenue and expense reports to the Board.

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Determine whether the Main-Transit Fire Department (Department) banquet manager (manager) made proper disbursements that were adequately supported, reported and recorded and properly deposited and reported collections.

KEY FINDINGS

The manager made proper and supported disbursements from January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. However, the manager's duties were not segregated, and he did not maintain prenumbered contracts, prenumbered receipts or another suitable record to demonstrate amounts of collections due to the Department. Without adequate documentation and controls, the Office of the State Comptroller's auditors and Department officials could not verify whether all the banquet hall rental revenues were accurately collected and deposited.

The manager:

- Booked all rentals, collected and deposited all rental fees, issued refunds and disbursed funds for all rental hall purchases and operating expenses.
- *Calculated his own compensation and prepared and signed his compensation checks without a Board member or Department official confirming the payment was supported and accurate.*
- *Never publicly disclosed his involvement with the banquet hall or this conflict of interest as required by New York State General Municipal Law (GML) Section 209-ee.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit report includes 10 recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the Department's disbursement and collection practices. Department officials disagreed with certain aspects of our findings and recommendations but indicated they have initiated corrective action. Appendix B includes our comments on issues raised in the Department's response.

FULL REPORT AT THIS LINK:

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2024/pdf/main-transit-fire-department-2024-86.pdf>

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

Change Starts At The Top: Company Officers Can't Solve Systemic Issues

Linda Willing

A recent discrimination lawsuit filed by a female firefighter included a substantial list of complaints against her department. She said there was a frat party atmosphere in the station and sexually inappropriate behavior. She also said she was the target of malicious actions by individuals. [The lawsuit further states that station facilities were not inclusive, especially with regard to access to showers, and that the department did not provide uniforms or PPE that fit.](#)

When such conditions exist, they are always bad, but they are not all the same. While all of them may be linked to cultural norms and organizational policy, some of them can be addressed at a local level, even by a company officer. For example, inappropriate or harassing behavior in the station can and should be shut down immediately by the officer in charge. It is an officer's job to set clear standards and hold people accountable for meeting those standards.

But the last two items on the list of complaints are different. [Facility design and access to equipment are systemic, institutional issues that go beyond of the scope of authority of a single station officer.](#) Making change in these areas requires decisions at the top level of the organization, and sometimes even beyond.

SLOW VS. SWIFT CHANGE

When women were first hired as firefighters, facilities were inadequate to accommodate them. There was one common dorm and one common bathroom, including showers and lockers, for the all-male workforce. The first women hired had to make-do – changing clothes in closets; always being the last person to shower, if they were able to shower at all at work; and sleeping in open dorms that did not provide any level of privacy that might have been preferred by all individuals.

Modifying facilities is expensive and time-consuming. Many fire departments stalled with committing to this process and are only now creating stations that meet the needs of all firefighters. Even at those departments that have made full commitment to updating station design, everyone recognizes that such changes cannot happen overnight.

That is not the case for the last item on the list, providing PPE that fits.

MANUFACTURERS SQUASH YOUR EXCUSES

When I became a firefighter over 40 years ago, there was no such thing as PPE designed specifically for women. Even custom-made bunker gear was designed on a pattern based on male body types. Getting gear such as gloves and boots that really fit was never resolved in my nearly 20-year career. There were no boots or gloves in women's sizes and no manufacturers that were designing any equipment with women in mind.

[That is not the situation today. At least six manufacturers now design PPE specifically for women. So why is it still a problem for women firefighters to get gear that fits them?](#)

It might seem like a hassle to order gear specifically for only a few people. Maybe there is even a minor cost differential. Smaller departments might specify these as reasons not to make the effort. Even larger departments have cited the lack of access or the need to make large minimum orders as a reason why women-specific gear cannot be provided.

While it may have been true in the past that a minimum order would be required, that is no longer the case with the major manufacturers I recently contacted. The ability to order even one set of custom designed gear was confirmed by direct phone contact with turnout gear companies.

Yet women firefighters are still using PPE that was not designed for them and does not fit them properly. This is not only uncomfortable, it's dangerous, as ill-fitting gear can create real hazards, including restricted mobility and coverage gaps that could lead to burns or other toxic exposures.

CHANGE STARTS AT THE TOP

When efforts are not made to provide an individual firefighter with adequate protective gear, that is a statement, whether organizational leaders consciously intend it or not. There was a time when no options existed for providing this gear. That is not the case anymore. Women didn't complain about such things for a long time, trying to avoid the appearance that they were demanding special treatment. [But having gear that fits is an essential right and an organizational necessity, for both personal safety and effectiveness of the overall mission.](#)

Organizations often dedicate resources to addressing discrimination at an individual level, such as providing classes on appropriate behavior or empowering company officers to initiate discipline when professional standards are violated. This is important, but there are some issues that can only be remedied from the top down. [Providing safe protective gear to all members should be at the top of that list.](#)

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

[Fla. Chief Names Firefighters Placed On Leave After Fire Truck, Train Collision](#)

Shira Moolten-South Florida Sun Sentinel

Four Delray Beach Fire Rescue employees, including top brass, have been placed on administrative leave with pay after a Brightline train smashed into a fire truck last Saturday.

Assistant Chief Kevin Green, Division Chief Todd Lynch, Captain Brian Fiorey, and Driver Engineer David Wyatt are all on leave "pending the results of an internal administrative investigation to determine if City and Fire Rescue policies and procedures were followed," Fire Chief Ronald Martin said in a statement.

"This action is consistent with City policy and a procedural step as we review the facts," the statement continued. "The administrative investigation is necessary to ensure accountability and uphold the trust of our community."

Green and Lynch are listed on the Delray Beach Fire Rescue website under "senior staff." The work histories and salaries of the four men were unavailable late Friday.

Ted White, a spokesperson for Delray Beach Fire Rescue, said that not all of those on leave were in the fire truck that day but did not provide further details. Martin's statement did not elaborate on why the people listed are specifically under investigation.

The announcement came nearly a week after the Delray Beach Fire Rescue truck crashed with a Brightline train on Dec. 28 in the city's downtown.

Three firefighters and 12 Brightline passengers were hospitalized after the crash. The train passengers had minor injuries. Two of the firefighters had serious injuries but were stable immediately following the crash. Their conditions as of late Friday were unavailable.

Shortly after the crash, Brightline released a video showing the truck on the tracks and saying Fire Rescue was at fault. "The truck is in the wrong lane, driving around cars that are stopped at the lowered gate," Brightline said after the crash in a statement to the South Florida Sun Sentinel.

The city of Delray Beach still has not responded to questions over whether the fire truck was responding to an emergency. Martin said the day of the crash that a "concurrent call" was out at the time of the crash but did not say if they were on their way to the call or leaving from it. The city has also not released 911 calls or body worn camera footage of the collision's aftermath, citing the open investigation.

"All public safety agencies carry an immense responsibility," Martin said in Friday's statement. "I remain fully committed to learning from this incident, strengthening our procedures, and ensuring our firefighters have the training and resources needed to protect Delray Beach safely and effectively.

This is the time to examine where we might have fallen short in the past and make the tough decisions needed to ensure we don't continue to do so. I am committed to implementing meaningful changes to strengthen our operations and taking the necessary steps to uphold the integrity of our department."

[Driver's License Policies Questioned after Delray Beach, FL, Aerial, Train Crash](#)

Shira Moolten, Angie DiMichele – Miami Herald

A violent crash between a Delray Beach Fire Rescue ladder truck and a Brightline train prompted an investigation into the status of firefighters' driver's licenses and has led to growing tension among city officials about transparency.

Fire Chief Ronald Martin has been criticized by his own employees following his decision to release the names of four people currently on paid administrative leave due to the Dec. 28 crash, which the fire department union blasted as the

“optics and appearances” of transparency. But multiple elected officials made it clear at Tuesday night’s commission meeting that they are facing mounting pressure from the public for more answers.

The employees on leave are two senior staff members Assistant Chief Kevin Green and Division Chief Todd Lynch, as well as Captain Brian Fiorey, hired in 2005, and Driver Engineer David Wyatt, hired in 2002.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel on Tuesday evening obtained through a public records request the letters they received on Jan. 3, notifying them of being placed on leave. The letters from Martin to Green and Lynch said they were on leave pending an investigation of “information that was recently brought to (Martin’s) attention,” and that the investigation will focus on “the review of the driving record of City employee, David Wyatt, received on May 10, 2024.”

One day earlier, Martin issued a general order sent to all fire rescue personnel on Jan. 2 titled “Driver’s License Requirements,” directing that “any organizational member whose Driver’s License is suspended, invalidated, or expired shall notify the Deputy Fire Chief through their chain of command within 24 hours of such occurrence.”

EAST FISHKILL, NY FD LOST \$550K IN FIGHT WITH FIRE APPARATUS BUILDER

After receiving pressure from all angles, the East Fishkill Fire District has revealed how much taxpayer money it lost in a battle over a fire truck the district found to be defective.

Fire district officials provided documents indicating they lost more than \$550,000 in their fight with the truck’s manufacturer, Louisiana-based Ferrara Fire Apparatus, Inc.

According to a bill of sale, the district paid Ferrara \$1,002,351.00 for a 100-foot RMP fire truck in 2014.

Soon after, firefighters noticed defects, including a ladder that would collapse without warning.

[*The fire district sued Ferrara and eventually agreed in 2020 to sell the truck back but keep the price secret in a settlement agreement with Ferrara.*](#)

The district denied initial requests by Assembly Member AJ Beephan late last year for the transaction details. Then came additional pressure.

[*At Beephan’s request, the New York State Committee on Open Government issued an opinion stating that information must be publicly disclosed.*](#)

The fire district’s Facebook followers demanded in posts to see the figure.

[*The fire district relented, sharing documents showing the district sold the truck back to Ferrara and Ferrara’s retail partner for \\$600,000, for a loss of about \\$400,000 in taxpayer funds.*](#)

“The clear goal was transparency,” Beephan said in a Zoom interview Thursday. “And I’m thankful the department disclosed these numbers to the public.”

[*The fire district also shared its attorney’s ledger report, which states that about \\$157,000 was spent on legal counsel during the dispute with Ferrara.*](#)

The district said on social media that to avoid spending even more taxpayer dollars, it agreed to settle and take the loss.

“The sellback price is what it is,” Beephan said. “I think the manufacturer made out [better] in this scenario.”

Following News 12’s coverage of the million-dollar truck, taxpayers said Ferrara’s business practices should be looked into.

“The manufacturer should probably do the right thing and give the taxpayers back their money,” East Fishkill resident Tim Kramer said.

“We have a great fire department in East Fishkill,” resident Jose Lopez said. “It’s a shame the community was ripped off, and something should definitely be done about it.”

[*In the settlement agreement, Ferrara denies the fire district’s claims that the truck was defective.*](#)

News 12 has placed several calls and sent several emails recently to Ferrara seeking responses to residents’ complaints about the settlement. Ferrara has not responded.

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

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

One Manpower Pool’: Fire Departments Come Together

Gage Kilborne

LAFARGEVILLE, New York (WWNY) - The Town of Orleans Fire District, Jefferson County, is creating a new structure among its three fire departments to provide more manpower for calls and to be more cost-efficient.

When it comes to running a fire station, one of the things you need is enough manpower to answer calls. But what happens if you do not have enough people?

This has been the problem for the three fire departments in the Town of Orleans Fire District, which led to a new structure.

“We really just need to come together and combine all three into one pool, one manpower pool,” said Board of Fireman Commissioners Chairman Brian Reome.

The three departments are LaFargeville, Fishers Landing, and Wellesley Island.

The communal pool can also help the district financially, as the fire departments can then share equipment.

“You can have one purchasing agent that can purchase the gear and equipment for one department versus all three trying to do their own,” said Reome.

The fire trucks at each department will be rebranded as the Town of Orleans Fire District. While the three departments will work together, the district still wants the departments to keep their identity.

“We do want to keep the identity of each fire company. There’s a lot of history there and that history is something that people need to be proud of,” said Reome.

Restructuring the fire district is not something new. Reome says it’s already happened to other districts in this area like the Brownville Fire District which has been under this new format for the past 10 years.

To follow this new structure, the three departments will all be put on the same dispatch tones. “It won’t be too bad because we are going to stay with Wellesley Island’s tones. So LaFargeville and Fishers Landing pagers will be getting all on Wellesley Island’s tones,” said Michael Cantatore, Town of Orleans Fire District chief.

The district is planning to fully launch its new structure next week once all the logistics are ironed out.

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

Protecting Fire Investigators From Carcinogens

Fire investigators play a critical role in determining the origin and cause of fires via scene examination, scene reconstruction and collection of evidence, among other practices. However, in doing so, they regularly are exposed to dangerous carcinogens that are present in post-fire environments. Like firefighters, these professionals are at a high risk of occupational exposure to harmful substances, which can lead to long-term health issues, including cancer.

Although awareness about protecting firefighters has increased significantly, it’s crucial to extend similar protections to fire investigators to safeguard their health and well-being.

When materials burn, they release a complex mixture of toxic chemicals and carcinogens into the air. Benzene, formaldehyde, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), asbestos and other substances are common in post-fire environments. These carcinogens settle on surfaces, debris and even investigative tools.

Fire investigators often work in close proximity to these substances. Even after the fire is extinguished, the dangers remain in the air, soot and ash that fire investigators encounter.

Protecting fire investigators from carcinogens is essential but often overlooked. By adopting comprehensive protective measures, including the use of PPE, decon protocols and limiting time on scene, fire investigators can reduce their risk of exposure to harmful substances significantly. With institutional support, proper training and a commitment to best practices, fire investigators can continue to perform their critical duties while safeguarding their long-term health and well-being.

Drone Collides with Firefighting Aircraft over Palisades Fire

A drone collided with a firefighting aircraft flying over the Palisades fire on Thursday, the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement.

The aircraft landed safely and the incident will be investigated, an FAA official said.

“It’s a federal crime, punishable by up to 12 months in prison, to interfere with firefighting efforts on public lands,” the statement said. “Additionally, the FAA can impose a civil penalty of up to \$75,000 against any drone pilot who interferes with wildfire suppression, law enforcement or emergency response operations” during a temporary flight restriction.

“We hit a drone this afternoon — first one,” said L.A. County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone. “Our Super Scooper hit a small drone.”

He said the incident occurred over the Palisades fire Thursday. He didn’t have details on who was flying the drone, but said the drone was destroyed and the Super Scooper — a massive fixed-wing plane that can drop large amounts of water — was damaged.

“It put a hole in the wing,” he said. “It’s grounded now.”

Marrone said the FBI is now planning to come to the area with what he called “aerial armor” to make sure no further drones can fly in the firefighting area.

As the world waits to see the full impact of fires on the Los Angeles landscape, several drone pilots have flown to capture images despite a temporary flight restriction issued by the FAA.

In a separate statement released Thursday, the FAA warned against flying drones near the wildfires. It pointed to a temporary flight restriction issued for wide swaths of airspace blanketing Los Angeles.

Still, several people posted what appeared to be drone photos and videos of the restricted areas online. Among the first were still images of a devastated neighborhood in Pacific Palisades. The photographer has since taken his photos down, but they spread far and wide on the web, becoming some of the signature images of the Palisades fire.

The backlash was swift: Fellow photographers and drone experts flooded the photographer’s other Instagram posts with comments.

“Bro that drone shot is going viral ... what were you thinking??” cinematographer Nathan Furniss wrote on Instagram.

“Please don’t fly your drone around active fires, it’s dangerous enough as is,” wrote a drone enthusiast commenter.

“regards, all low level operators.”

“Abhorrent to be flouting @faa rules and flying a drone over an active rescue site,” wrote Gary Chittick, a photographer from Scotland. “Shameful and good to see everyone across social media calling it out. No matter what you delete, the evidence is there.”

A popular thread on the r/drones subreddit included dozens of comments chiding the photographer. The photographer did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Drone pilots can apply for waivers to fly in the restricted airspace, but the FAA said no such waivers had been granted as of Thursday afternoon.

An FAA spokesperson told The Times that they spoke with Los Angeles County Fire Department officials, and “due to the number of manned firefighting aircraft in the airspace they are currently not able to accommodate drone flights within the TFR,” referencing the restricted airspace.

As the fires across the Southland continue, at least one other photographer followed suit. An Instagram account under the name Sikora posted a viral video of apparent drone video of the Sunset fire in the Hollywood Hills on Wednesday night. He, too, was chided by commenters.

“FYI, this is incredibly irresponsible to be flying your drone for ‘epic’ shots near a working wildfire, not to mention a federal crime,” commented cinematographer Tim Sarquis. “Your drone can hamper firefighting efforts. If your drone is up, firefighting aircraft can’t fly. As a professional, licensed drone op, it’s flights like this that give us a bad name and hamper our ability to fly legitimately.”

That photographer also did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile, a Turkish state media organization that partners with Reuters posted apparent drone videos in the fire zones Wednesday.

As of Thursday, drone flight restrictions near the wildfires in the Los Angeles area had been extended until Jan. 23.

FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

*IN 2025 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED **1** 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!

- A veteran Orange County Fire Authority engineer Kevin Skinner suffered cardiac arrest and died after searching for any residents during a kitchen fire at a Laguna Niguel home early Sunday morning, Jan. 5 officials said.
- William “Bill” Foster, a pioneer and icon in the fire industry and one of the four founders of Spartan Fire Chassis (formerly Spartan Motors), passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, surrounded by his family. Many of



you have interacted with Bill at State Chiefs over the years.

- 25 year old Honolulu firefighter dead after the collapse of a 2 story residential building. Six people were taken to the hospital: one firefighter in critical condition, and five other firefighters and one civilian in serious condition. **[RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS WILL ALSO SAVE THE LIVES OF FIREFIGHTERS, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!!]**
- 25 year old female firefighter suffered a serious head injury with battling the Pacific Palisades fire.
- The air packs and gear melted as Houston firefighters encountered a flashover while trapped in a burning apartment on the morning of January 7th. They were transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital for treatment where they were awake and alert.

****NIOSH Cites Factors in St. Louis Firefighter LODD**

Susan Nicol

Much to be learned from these after-action reports!!

On Jan. 13, 2022, St. Louis Firefighter Benjamin Polson answered his final alarm.

He was killed in a collapse while conducting a search during a fire in an abandoned, derelict house.

Following a probe that involved interviews with firefighters who were at the scene, NIOSH investigators determined a number of factors contributed to the fatal incident.

Among the issues cited include:

- **Personnel staffing**
- **Professional development for acting fire officers**
- **Speed of the incident development, and the resulting impact on critical factors that are part of a risk/benefit analysis**
- **Derelict high-risk structure, susceptible to rapid fire spread and structural collapse**
- **Situational awareness at the task, tactical, and strategic levels**
- **Incident management, including risk assessment and management**
- **Mayday operations**
- **Communication equipment and procedures.**

Investigators determined that Polson and another firefighter assigned to the truck had extinguished a fire on the first floor and proceeded to the second to check for possible victims.

Firefighters on an engine "who were not aware that members of T-13 had entered the original fire building, then noticed a 1¾" hoseline from T-13 going into the front door of the original fire building. They decided that they would use that hoseline for the Side Delta exposure as they did not see any point of it being used on the original fire building given the significant volume of fire and the operations towards it would be defensive, investigators wrote.

Polson was trapped when the area above the second floor collapsed while the other firefighter was pushed back down the stairs to the landing between the two floors.

Dispatchers reported hearing an open mic from Polson's portable radio with no response.

His fellow firefighters met crews at the front door and told them what happened.

A captain immediately transmitted "E-24A, firefighter trapped inside the building, give me a second alarm with the second squad."

About 45 minutes later, firefighters found Polson's body.

NIOSH issued recommendations:

- Ensure formal written guidance and leadership oversight is available and utilized for personnel staffing
- Develop and utilize a professional development program for acting fire officers that includes competency verification at the appropriate level(s) of responsibility
- **When completing a risk/benefit analysis, evaluate the speed at which an incident is developing and how the speed may impact critical incident factors**
- **Develop and implement a High-Risk Building Management Program (HRBMP)**
- Develop and utilize a professional development program for situational awareness and ensure that effective situational awareness is utilized at all emergency incidents
- Utilize formal guidance for incident management which incorporates risk assessment and management principles
- **Consistently utilize formal guidance for calling, responding to, and managing a Mayday**
- Take necessary actions to address the five critical elements for effective fireground communications: professional development, necessary equipment, ability to function in varying environments, written guidance, and effective leadership at all levels.

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	2
Last fire death 1/9/25, Lindenhurst, Suffolk Co. Female unk age	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	2
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	33
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 LA/ 7
	#2 AL & IA/ 4
	#3 MO & CA/ 3
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2025: 59	
2046 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
We are in Week 2 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.	

GREEN TECHNOLOGY & THE FIRE SERVICE

Hobby Shop Fire in Onset Massachusetts

The fire that caused major damage to a hobby shop and a nearby business on 1/5/25 most likely started with lithium-ion batteries, said Onset Fire Chief Jeffrey R. Osswald and State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine.

“Lithium-ion batteries power many of the devices we use every day,” said Chief Osswald. “The fire damage and heavy, toxic smoke from this incident demonstrate just how serious we all have to be about battery safety.”

FIRE SERVICE EDUCATION SO THAT OTHERS MAY LEARN



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>



Company Officers Leadership Training 2025

NYSAFC's [Company Officers Leadership Training \(COLT\)](#) is a two-day leadership development program for current and aspiring company officers featuring the lectures:

- “**Leadership, Mentoring, and Succession Planning**” with Deputy Assistant Chief (Ret.) **John Norman** (FDNY)
- “**Liability, Immunity, and Indemnity – A Practical Understanding of Three Legal Concepts for Fire Officers**” with Attorneys **Terence Hannigan** (Hannigan Law Firm) & **Mark Butler** (Law Offices of Mark Butler)
- “**Leggo My Ego**” with Captain **Joe DiFabio** (Syracuse F.D.) & Lieutenant/Chief **Paul Haynes** (Syracuse F.D./East Syracuse F.D.)

2025 Sites:

Fulton County – January 17-18 Friday/Saturday, Berkshire Fire District, Gloversville

Registration (per person):

\$200 – NYS AFC members • \$225 – non-members

Pre-registration is encouraged. On-site registration will be accepted if space permits.

REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://ygc8ha5ab.cc.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e_HCLWepJUYQIRASURG1xPPJKm64CN8NMvAmhmislTERuBKNCPiKwIPBf5-PHB6hGNEdF9ZQoclZ0lDqjile2an6-nl-fhdnwMFsJmsm8Zayv35i0gNA4mE12KWl_sl2PU97gDnT0HrnEYQU0MRsMuGlTDyNrvB3qFmyRbhewg=&c=j_VPsmE5V9vffC-r_2S8C4gmXhoVnfVagiAnRXrpqZRvqmmJUUYKmg==&ch=avJNQy1vwn6rKcav6zlrjbSYy1W1SLzkKgwOAeeeZmUh7c782_o07g==

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

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

Fort William Henry, Lake George, NY

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

More information to come.

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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 NYS AFC instructors. [Email](#) NYS AFC 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

Sunday **February 9th** 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.

Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast

All You Can Eat: Sunday **February 2nd** from 8 til 11, all you can eat, eggs, bacon, toast, sausage, pancakes, OJ, Coffee, Hot Chocolate \$10 adults, \$6 children 6-13

LAUGH OUT LOUD!!

At a wedding reception, someone yelled: "All married people, please stand next to the one person that has made your life worth living." The bartender was almost crushed to death.

Could not resist this one from personal experience:

One way to find out if you are old is to fall down in front of a group of people. If they laugh, you're still young, if they panic and start running toward you, you're old!!

THINGS YOU NEED TO BE AWARE OF

Virtual Reality Training for the Fire Service

Mike Novak

Virtual reality (VR) has arrived in the fire service as a transformative tool for enhancing training effectiveness and realism. Immersing students in a virtual environment that's a familiar setting, such as a building that's in their response

district or a tank car, is a valuable way to develop the skills that are needed to be successful while commanding and functioning on scene.

Although some accept modern technology, others still are skeptical and need convincing. My experience in modernizing simulation training has been extremely rewarding. I am optimistic that with more understanding and hands-on experience using VR, skeptics can become believers.

BUY-IN

Training officers and a department's fire instructor cadre generally are the ones who bring new ideas to a department. Often, a new idea is met with resistance or opposition because of the competition for budget dollars. Furthermore, decision-makers are by nature risk-averse, and VR simulation might seem less of a critical need and more of a video game pastime to the ill-informed.

To create buy-in, decision-makers must understand how VR simulation enhances hands-on training. VR isn't a replacement for hands-on training, but it does require one's hands and the completion of tasks.

Just like hands-on training, simulations provide a means to develop skills through repetition. The difference is that VR simulation training can take place virtually anywhere, across jurisdictions, and allow units to remain in their response district. Scheduled hands-on training might be at risk of cancellation because of weather; VR simulations allow for delivery through rain, sleet or snow. VR simulations are tools that help to develop such skills as hazard recognition, decision-making, communication, adherence to standard operating guidelines and standard operating procedures, and equipment familiarization. When viewed through this lens, VR simulations can become a more accepted form of fire service training.

IMPLEMENTATION

Simulations in the fire service are ranked routinely as the most engaging and fun training. The use of simulators and props has been used widely for years in emergency vehicle driving, forcible entry and incident command training. *VR allows firefighters to engage in realistic, immersive training scenarios that replicate various emergencies, such as structure fires, hazmat incidents, command and control, and rescue operations.* This immersion helps trainees to experience the intensity and urgency of real-life situations *without the associated risks of injury and exposure to toxins.* Schools and colleges now use VR to immerse students in real-world simulations to help to educate and prepare them for the workforce. I was fortunate to be on a team that brought 2D simulations to fire service training at The University of Missouri's Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI). The original course, "Simulations for the First-Arriving Officer," helped to prepare first-arriving officers to make initial fireground decisions. Since the initial program, MU FRTI transitioned to using VR to immerse students in a more realistic environment. The positive student reviews show that VR is an effective means to prepare fire officers to make procedural-based decisions that lead to positive outcomes.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

I have found that students who are unfamiliar with gaming controls are reluctant to participate and normally become spectators. However, when they are immersed in a VR environment, their reluctance to participate diminishes. That said, individuals adapt to simulation training at varying rates based on their preferred learning styles. Some might thrive in immersive environments, while others might need more time to adjust. Users who have experience in gaming or other interactive technologies might find the transition to VR easier than those who are less familiar with such environments. *I have found that once a student dons the headset, distractions, such as a smartphone, are eliminated, which allows the student to be fully involved in the scenario.*

Of course, the goal of training firefighters is to improve job performance. Immersing students in a simulation that imitates a real-life environment allows for a more realistic atmosphere. Students then use the visual cues to make fireground decisions, communicate orders to other students and then analyze the results.

Furthermore, VR training systems provide instant feedback on performance, which helps students to identify areas for improvement. Understanding and effectively using this feedback can enhance the learning curve. The ability to replay scenarios allows firefighters to learn from those scenarios and refine their techniques, to promote a culture of continuous improvement.

Learning in VR also can involve collaboration with peers, presenting a social element. Working together in virtual environments enhances teamwork skills.

APPLICATIONS

The uses of VR in fire service training are endless. Training for incident command, communications, fireground operations and hazmat response are obvious applications for immersive simulations. Here are four less obvious opportunities:

Firefighter recruitment. *Departments can set up VR stations at career fairs and public events, to offer potential candidates a chance to experience the job of a firefighter.* Using VR as a firefighter recruitment tool can be highly effective in attracting potential candidates, engaging them and providing realistic experiences that highlight the challenges and excitement of the profession.

Behavioral health. *Utilizing VR to prepare firefighters for the psychological aspects of their jobs is showing promise.* Simulations can help firefighters to develop coping strategies and resilience, to address mental health challenges that exist within the fire service. Future VR training might incorporate built-in debriefing tools, to allow firefighters to reflect on their experiences and emotions in a safe environment, to promote mental well-being.

Multidiscipline. *Multi-user VR scenarios can facilitate collaborative training exercises that involve multiple agencies (fire, police, EMS) that work together in a variety of environments.* Training environments that involve medical emergencies, hazmat incidents and active-shooter scenarios can improve interagency communication and coordination during real-life emergencies.

Community involvement. *Leveraging VR to engage the community by simulating fire safety education scenarios allows members of the public to understand how to respond to emergencies, thus enhancing community preparedness.*

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The future of VR in the fire service is poised for significant growth and innovation, driven by advancements in technology, changing training needs, and a greater emphasis on safety and efficiency. Here are three ideas regarding the future of VR in the fire service:

Technology advancements. As technology improves, simulations will become even more realistic, incorporating advanced graphics, physics and environmental effects. This will allow firefighters to train in increasingly complex and lifelike scenarios, such as multistory building fires and large-scale disasters. Future VR training likely will include adaptive scenarios in which environmental variables change in real time, to challenge firefighters to think and react quickly to evolving situations.

Augmented reality. The combination of VR with augmented reality (AR) technologies could enhance training and operational capabilities. For example, AR could overlay critical information in real time during VR simulations, to help firefighters to understand the environment better and to make informed decisions.

Introducing artificial intelligence (AI) into scenarios allows a more responsive and intelligent training environment, providing realistic challenges that adapt based on a trainee's performance and decision-making.

Analytics. The use of data analytics in VR training will allow departments to track and analyze performance metrics, to provide insights into individual and team effectiveness. These data can inform training programs and help to identify areas for improvement. Leveraging analytics will enable customized training experiences that are tailored to individual needs, to ensure that firefighters focus on areas that require the most attention.

BOTH, NOT ONE OR THE OTHER

Both VR and hands-on training have distinct advantages and challenges. A blended approach that combines the strengths of both methods often is the most effective strategy.

As technology advances, the integration of VR into training programs likely *VR can serve as a complementary tool to enhance hands-on training by providing additional practice opportunities, safety and scenario variability, while hands-on training remains essential for developing the physical skills and team dynamics that are necessary for effective firefighting.* will become more prevalent, which will allow the fire service to maximize the benefits of both training methods.

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

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

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

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

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

What are the duties and responsibilities of a Commissioner?

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

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

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

½ Tables available at no charge at Workshop '24, Sat November 2nd at Verdoj, FD

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.CAFDA.NET

We invite our business partners to submit educational information to be included in this Bulletin for district commissioners and chief officers
If you have information on new products you wish to showcase or is educational and informative for fire districts, please submit it and we will use it in this Bulletin under the appropriate heading.

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

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 76 members in 10 counties? Individuals, fire district associations, fire protection districts and Village departments are all eligible for membership.

Annual dues (January 1st to December 31st) shall be as follows and shall be based on the annual budget of the Fire District/Organization;

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

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

Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee

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

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

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

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

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,

ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOPVerdoy Fire District
2025 988 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham

Saturday, November 1,

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**



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

Need Overnight Accommodations?

Holiday Inn

308 N. Comrie Ave., Johnstown

Reservations: 1-800-HOLIDAY

or Direct at 518-762-4686

Group Code: FDO

Block Name: CAFDA Fire District
Officials Training

CAFDA

P.O. Box 242

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

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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
950 Panorama Trail S., Rochester
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

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**



It's the Final Stretch!

The **January 17th** deadline to add your public comment to the post-hearing docket is rapidly approaching. We need your support in making sure we are on the record with information to guide OSHA before they close the record and move forward. Your comments and sharing your information will help them make an informed decision to improve the current proposed rule and make it something that can be effective and not over-burden and degrade our service delivery to our communities.

Here's what we are looking for you to share:

- Number of Members
- Number of paid, part-time, and volunteer members
- Population served
- Area served
- Annual budget
- How much of the budget is fixed costs that you have no control over
- Call volume and call types
- Any final concerns you want to share about the current proposed rule

This is our last chance to influence OSHA to do the right thing instead of throwing a complex, burdensome set of rules at us. We have two different ways for you to help us out!

Let us do the heavy lifting for you! Fill out the form and we'll include your data into our report being submitted on January 17th.

PLEASE NOTE: We need this data no later than January 15th.

[Click HERE FOR THE FORM](#)

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=j0odRJI5ak2WcGcs-NA-NZLMyd59ye9NtBCvS1vDHABUN0tHRUVXS1IMVFNPUeTtQOFIQLhDWkNaSiQLQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl>

EASY TO DO WILL TAKE YOU 2 MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE FORM!!

OR

Submit your comments directly to OSHA by filing your comment.

To file your own comment, visit the OSHA Portal. You will need to click on the Open for Comments button first. Once you've clicked there, locate the Memorandum Reopening the Comment Period and click Comment.

[Click HERE FOR THE OSHA PORTAL](#)

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket/OSHA-2007-0073/document?withinCommentPeriod=true>

[Recent E-mail from OSHA](#)

Good morning,

Everyone here at OSHA would like to thank all of the people who participated in the Emergency Response public hearing, which ended on December 4. Your testimony has provided OSHA with valuable insights and points of view that will be critical in helping us continue through the rulemaking process.

Finalizing the daily hearing transcripts is underway, and we anticipate that they will be uploaded to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) in the coming weeks, following review and approval by the Chief Administrative Law Judge.

In the meantime, the docket is open for submission of post-hearing comments at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). OSHA welcomes and encourages any additional comments, information and data from hearing participants and members of the public, which can be submitted until **docket closure on January 17, 2025**.

Thanks, and have a wonderful day!!
The OSHA Emergency Response team

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>

I look forward to your feedback. Time is of the essence here as the deadline for post hearing comments will come soon.

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)

<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](https://cafda.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NYCOMNYSACAOTjointletter.pdf)

Open the Document at This Link:

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

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT THIS LINK:

<https://www.votervoicenet.com/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-AybLw8OnamjNOBiBpzyC-pPzLiiYEvhxQ9sAxHOUIN-rMeW-UojESKwKkPDdMRzXK8VXBP-Sh4YQDWc0PJekSA9BGQCOh6lo_AGJ2vqW1b4iSBqWLS=&c=LauWWHLcf9ha42GymhgekGbw4yjkUth862UfuVJahY7fFHeGl_qUJw==&ch=lefmM7sGv75CYvgpTK9dENyqA1Rv5PwzXZ1xkZP-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)

<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_9GtqnbySa-WTKII-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 \(oshaedne.com\)](#)

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>