



Capital Area Fire District's Association  
*THE WEEKLY CAFDA*

# BULLETIN

August, 2nd, 2025

Editor, Tom Rinaldi, [Tom@rinaldi1.com](mailto:Tom@rinaldi1.com)  
Serving the fire service community since 2004

## CAPITAL SHORTS:

- The State Comptroller has announced that the Tax Cap will remain at 2% for 2026.
- See the latest update from Dave Denniston on the OSHA Emergency Response standard in the OSHA Supplement.
- CityReporter, a leading provider of digital inspection and code enforcement solutions for municipalities and fire departments, is proud to announce the launch of its new free webinar series, "Understanding the Fire Code." Go to the following link for Episodes <https://cityreporter.webinargeek.com/understanding-the-fire-code-building-and-occupant-safety>

- Coming up, Day at the Races, join us at historic Saratoga raceway for a relaxing day.

## STUFF FOR YOUR BENEFIT, NEED TO KNOW!

[WWW.CAFDA.NET](http://WWW.CAFDA.NET)

**DAY AT THE RACES FRIDAY AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>**, lunch, snacks, permitted beverages included 11:00 am entry, tickets at "will call", fire district officials including Chiefs invited, bring a guest along, enjoy the day. Gates open at 11am. Reservations should be emailed to [secretary@cafda.net](mailto:secretary@cafda.net).

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** Thursday September 11th, in person or Zoom in. 7PM.

**SAVE THE DATE: CAFDA FALL TRAINING SEMINAR**, Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> at Verday Fire Department

CAFDA is happy to announce the dates for **Conference '26** in historic Lake George, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 plan on joining us.

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](mailto:SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET)

Financial issues should be addressed to: [TREASURER@CAFDA.NET](mailto:TREASURER@CAFDA.NET)

**WHEN YOU SEE \*\* IT'S A RECOMMENDED READ, TAKE THE TIME TO INFORM YOURSELF!!**

CAFDA is happy to announce the dates for Conference '26 in historic Lake George, April, 9th, 10th and 11th, plan on joining us.

## THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

### Legislative Commentary

To see what the fire service accomplished during this legislative session go to the following LINK:

<https://cafda.net/what-did-the-fire-service-accomplish-during-the-2025-legislative-session/>

Now that the legislature is out of session, the ScoreCard will be reviewed for activity monthly.

## THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

## **Washington Watch from the Congressional Fire Service Caucus**

President Ronald Reagan once said, “A government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we’ll ever see on this earth!” Up until recently, I would say that President Reagan was right: federal programs do not generally go away. Maybe their funding is reduced, but very seldom do you see a program or an agency completely eliminated. That is until recently. **Whether good or bad, we are witnessing some interesting events occurring in Washington, DC, with federal programs in the crosshairs of the Trump Administration.**

**The latest concern for public safety is the future of certain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs. A recent CNN article reported** that FEMA is considering draconian cuts to homeland security grant funding. One program specifically cited in the article is the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI). This program provides approximately \$500 million, annually, in grants to major cities to prepare for catastrophic emergencies. If you think shutting down the grant is just a pipe dream for fiscal conservatives, think again. The Administration has already shut down the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, a program CFSI advocated for that distributed millions to states and local communities to prepare for natural disasters.

The question everyone must be able to answer is: **why should the federal government send billions of grant dollars to states and local communities to fund public safety programs?** You need to come up with a compelling reason that you can share with your federal legislators. Twenty-four years ago, the tragic events of 9/11 provided that answer. *But that was 24 years ago.*

Approximately 30 current members of Congress were elected prior to 9/11. That includes members of the House and Senate. **Only 30 members of Congress were in office to vote on the original legislation that authorized the Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant program.** We are always working in DC to share national-level justifications for funding based on current threats and needs across the country, but you as constituents need to put a local spin on your message.

Think about it, but not for too long. We have all heard of the adage, “the squeaky wheel gets the grease.” **Develop that message now and share it with your legislators while they are in the throes of the FY2026 appropriations process and home for August recess.** There is a reason why you have earned the moniker of first responder. You know that reason, but that does not mean your members of Congress do.

If you need information to help you develop a message you can share with your members while they are home for recess during the month of August, be sure to **visit the [CFSI Action Center](#).** Here, you will find **easy information on how to reach out to Congress, what to say, quick materials to download and send along, and much more.**

If you have any questions about this process, please email [update@cfsi.org](mailto:update@cfsi.org). We will respond quickly with the information you need to help us communicate the message about programs that benefit you and your colleagues.

**[EDITOR’S NOTE: I’M CERTAINLY ALL FOR FUNDING COMING FROM WASHINGTON RATHER THAN GOING TO WASHINGTON. BUT WE SERIOUSLY NEED TO ASK OURSELVES WILL THE AFG PREVENT OR MITIGATE ANOTHER 9-11 TYPE ATTACK? WHILE WE’RE AT IT, DO THESE PROGRAMS EXIST TO HELP THE RECIPIENTS OR DO THEY EVELOVE INTO PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO CREATE AN EXPANDED BEAUCREACY TO EMPLOY PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON? LET’S BE HONEST. AS A RESPONDER TO 9-11 I OFTEN WONDER WHAT FUNDING A PIECE OF APPARATUS IN UPPER PODUNK HAS TO DO WITH ELIMINATING TERRORISM?]**

## **FIRE DISTRICT FINANCES**

### **Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:**

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

## **Follow Up on the LOSAP Audit of the Roosevelt Fire District**

### **OSC Audit Focuses on LOSAP Asset Management**

Tony Hill, Firefly Administration

Here is a link to the latest audit from the Office of the State Comptroller that focuses on LOSAP: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/audits/fire-district/2025/07/18/roosevelt-fire-district-length-service-award-program-2025m-40>

Before we give our insight into this audit, we'd like to state that the purpose of this post is to help other LOSAP sponsors learn from the findings, not to criticize this or any particular District that is the subject of an audit. One of the findings in this Report was that the District properly awarded points – while that is a positive outcome for this District, there isn't much more to say. However, the overall theme of regular monitoring of the LOSAP asset management is a topic worth exploring in more detail.

*This is the first time that the OSC has commented on the management of the LOSAP assets.* Readers of our blog will know this is something we have been anticipating since the OSC implemented the requirements of GASB Statement 84 into the Annual Financial Report (AFR), which now considers LOSAP assets as part of the general fund. With this change, we felt it was inevitable that LOSAP audits would shift from primarily focusing on the awarding of points to the financial operations. The first of these financial-focused LOSAP audits was in December 2023. We commented on that audit here: [Blog Post: 2024 01 17](#).

*One of the two Key Recommendations in the report was to “Ensure that the District obtains an annual audit of the LOSAP, or in the alternative, include LOSAP disclosure notes in the District’s annual audit.”* The delay in the completion of the annual audit appeared to be the statutory path OSC could use to emphasize the importance of monitoring LOSAP asset management.

In reading the Audit Report, it feels as if the OSC is trying to bring attention to a very important process without getting too much into the weeds or making specific recommendations that are outside the current statutory framework. *Generally, the purpose of an OSC audit is to determine if a municipality or government agency is following the statute and their own policies, thereby ensuring taxpayer dollars are used most effectively.* To that point, the annual LOSAP audit is the only statutorily required review of the fiscal condition of a LOSAP. While Firefly clients receive the benefit of our services that supplement the audit by providing annual independent review and analysis of the asset performance, that is not a statutory role of the actuary. Therefore, it seems that the OSC's only available recommendation was to make sure the annual audit is completed and filed in time. Beyond that, we think there are some implications in the Report that are worth exploring.

The Report makes clear that the OSC views the annual LOSAP audit as an important opportunity for a board to monitor the performance of the LOSAP assets. Here are few highlights from the Report regarding the monitoring of the LOSAP assets:

- Effective monitoring of the LOSAP assets is essential to the financial stability of the plan.
- The board of the sponsor has a responsibility to diligently monitor the LOSAP assets.
- Regular monitoring of investment performance is crucial to helping ensure that the LOSAP assets are managed prudently and in alignment with long-term goals. [Firefly note: one of which is the actuarial assumed rate of return!]
- Monitoring may include reviewing the asset allocation, risk management strategies, and performance benchmarks – all of which should be done with the assistance of the LOSAP investment manager.

It is tempting to try and read between the lines or draw conclusions that are not specifically stated in the Report. The words “prudent” and “regular” are subjective, and the Report mainly drives home the importance of regular monitoring and prudent management without a lot of additional details. While the OSC commented on the negative performance of the assets in 2022 and the impact the loss had on future contributions, there was no specific statement by the OSC that this District failed to manage or monitor the assets prudently. Instead, the OSC pointed to the fact that timely completed audits could have facilitated more effective monitoring of the LOSAP assets. However, the District's response was clear that it had already been investigating alternative asset managers before the OSC auditors arrived, indicating a level of monitoring was already occurring.

The OSC did provide examples of what a LOSAP sponsor should do to monitor the LOSAP assets (as described in the final bullet point above). To assist in developing an effective monitoring process, we suggest LOSAP sponsors consider the following:

1. Request that the investment manager provide monthly statements detailing the securities/investments held at month end, interest/dividends earned, gain/loss in the value of the assets, as well as any fees or benefits that were paid during the month. Although monthly is preferred, quarterly would be acceptable.
2. Request that periodic reports be sent from the investment manager stating the rate of return earned on the LOSAP assets. Quarterly would be best, but semi-annually or annually would be acceptable. Ideally, these reports would include returns during the past quarter, year-to-date, and from the beginning of the relationship with the investment manager. They should also include information on agreed-upon benchmarks or other goals to measure performance relative to those goals.
3. Request monthly reports on the benefits paid during the month. The report should include names, amounts, and taxes withheld (if any). This may be provided by the third-party administrator if the investment manager is not responsible for processing distributions.
4. The treasurer should review and reconcile the investment statements and include the activity with the monthly report to the board (or at least quarterly). [Remember that the LOSAP assets are now part of the general fund, so they should be reconciled and reported to the Board like other general funds.](#)
5. Review the assets with the investment manager at least annually.
6. Adopt a LOSAP investment policy (sometimes referred to as an Investment Policy Statement or IPS) and review that policy with the investment manager to ensure that the current asset allocation is in compliance with the policy.
7. Request feedback from the external CPA after the annual LOSAP audit process.

Implementing some or all of these best practices should give the LOSAP sponsor the information it needs to regularly monitor the LOSAP assets. Additionally, this information will also then be available to the external CPA when performing the LOSAP audit, allowing for a more complete review and better insights.

[Finally, the other key recommendation in this Audit Report was about complying with the procurement policies and procedures.](#) Firefly does not offer any advice or guidance on compliance with procurement policies, and we suggest contacting your attorney for guidance on these types of policies.

## STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

### **\*\*How To Get The Most Out Of Your AAR**

Linda Willing

It wasn't that long ago that an after-action review (AAR) was something that happened informally and spontaneously, if at all. Of course, members who responded to an emergency call would talk about it, but there was no structure for these discussions until the U.S. Army began formal AARs in the 1970s and other organizations followed. Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) was also introduced in fire departments around the same time.

These two processes have significant differences. An AAR can be either informal discussions among a crew or more formal within a larger response group, while CISD is usually a more structured process that often includes mental health professionals.

### **WHEN, WHERE, WHY AND HOW TO CONDUCT AARS**

Informal AARs can take less than an hour and are usually facilitated by a company officer after an incident. Crew discussions about the size-up and response, the flow of communications and interoperability, and where the incident response excelled or fell short are excellent learning opportunities for individuals and teams — *when handled well*.

That last caveat is key. AARs must be skillfully facilitated or they can be a waste of time and, in some cases, do more harm than good. This is particularly true when AARs are done in a more formal setting.

I remember an AAR that was done on my department after a difficult fire that included one fatality and many rescues. The structure was an older apartment building with no built-in fire suppression systems. The incident

commander of the fire was the facilitator of the AAR. He began the session by congratulating everyone that this difficult incident only resulted in one fatality — the person who had accidentally started the fire.

Beginning the session with a positive note was appropriate. But then there was a long pause, and it was clear that the facilitator was not looking for any other kind of feedback or questions from those present. When one company officer asked how the water supply had been managed — it had been confusing at the scene — the IC/facilitator immediately became defensive and accused that person of not securing their own water supply. That response had the effect of silencing everyone in the room. The session ended soon after, with no useful learning taking place.

A big part of the failure of that AAR and others like it was the lack of preparation on the part of the facilitator. The officer had never been trained in how to manage that kind of discussion and was not able to differentiate between his role as AAR facilitator and as the incident commander of the fire.

During formal AAR sessions, it can work better to have a neutral third party facilitate the discussion rather than someone who has a personal interest in how the incident is evaluated. Anyone who fills this role, whether it be someone who was present at the incident or not, needs to have some training in how to act as a facilitator — how to ask non-biased questions, how to listen effectively, and how to guide discussions in a way that leads to productive outcomes rather than blame.

Every AAR should begin with clear focus and intention:

- What are you trying to accomplish during the session?
- What are the desired outcomes?
- How much time will you commit to the process?

A brief introduction by the facilitator about these goals can help everyone to begin the session on the same page.

Additionally, AARs need to be timely — soon enough after the incident that details are still fresh in people's minds. In some cases, doing an informal review before leaving the scene or immediately after returning to the station is appropriate. In other instances, it can be better to allow a little time to intervene, especially if other priorities (getting the engine back in service, decon after an incident) cause crewmembers to be impatient with the process and suppress any real concerns in the interest of hurrying it along.

All company officers should receive some training in facilitation skills, which is beneficial even beyond AARs. Similarly, all firefighters should have some basic orientation to the AAR process before ever actually participating in one.

### **START TRAINING NOW TO LEAD AARS**

The AAR process is an opportunity for tremendous learning and development on both an individual and crew level. Effective facilitation skills are key to the process and should be fostered long before it is needed in a formal setting.

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### **Webinar: Fire Apparatus Operator Liability**

Join Curt Varone as he examines litigation data and raises awareness on criminal charges brought against fire apparatus operator.

**Date:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Duration:** 1 Hour

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

[https://endeavor.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=FH\\_WC\\_VectorSolutions\\_08052025](https://endeavor.dragonforms.com/loading.do?omedasite=FH_WC_VectorSolutions_08052025)

***A certificate of attendance will be offered.***

Operating emergency vehicles is one of the biggest areas of fire service liability. This webinar will focus on lawsuits brought against fire departments and firefighters personally for apparatus accidents. Fire chief and attorney Curt Varone will also examine the most common criminal charges brought against apparatus operators, including manslaughter, reckless driving, DUI, speeding, and red light/stop sign violations — the factors which are often overlooked in apparatus crashes. Whether you're an engineer, on the promotion list or an officer/chief, this session will review litigation data and examine numerous case studies to help you



understand the important issues you could face the next time the bells ring and how to prevent them. Bring your questions to the live session on Aug. 5

## STEP INTO THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Are the rules regarding LOSAP programs determined by each fire district or dictated by the state. For example, our current program does not allow for a fully vested and former member under the age of 62 to roll their balance over to an IRA and we would like to offer that as an option. We currently have 15 former members who are vested in the program and we have to continue to report on these accounts. Can we change the rule locally to allow distributions for vested former members?

*LOSAP programs are governed by State and Federal Statutes. There is no statutory authority to roll vested LOSAP benefits into an individual's IRA. LOSAP plans are not considered to be a qualified pension plan.*

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.

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

### POSITIVE OUTCOMES

#### MO Fire Department to Refurbish Midmount Platform Truck for \$750K

Jonathan Miller

The Chillicothe (MO) Fire Department's Sutphen aerial midmount platform truck was shipped to Alabama recently for a remount.

A remount involves transferring the aerial ladder assembly (including the turntable, ladder, and associated hydraulics) from an older, potentially worn-out or damaged chassis, to a new, modern chassis. This process essentially gives the fire department a "new" aerial truck with updated technology and performance while reusing the existing aerial device.

A fire official said the truck was originally scheduled to be sent to Alabama in the fall, but Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus had an opening to begin working on the truck now, which means the truck could be returned to Chillicothe in early 2026, the report said.

A total refurbishment of the truck will cost about \$750,000, according to the report. A fire official said the cost to replace that truck would be in the \$2 million to \$2.5 million range and would take 3-4 years to receive the truck once the order is placed.

Chillicothe has a smaller aerial ladder truck and, if needed, can call on neighboring communities to bring their equipment to assist, the report said.

#### Fishers Fire District's Board Of Commissioners Delays Vote On Controversial Dissolution

VICTOR, N.Y. (WROC) — After months of heated discussion and public outcry, the Board of Commissioners for the Fishers Fire District has decided to hold off on a vote to dissolve the agency, after a packed meeting Wednesday night.

The debate stems from a proposal introduced earlier this year to dissolve the district by the end of summer, citing "future financial instability" as the primary concern. District officials say anticipated rising operational costs and the increased taxes needed to sustain the department are unsustainable in its current form.

If the plan moves forward, the Town of Victor would assume ownership of the district's fire stations and equipment. The responsibility of providing fire protection to the two-thirds of the town currently served by the Fishers Fire District would also fall to the town.

Victor Town Supervisor Jack Marren has previously requested the board delay the dissolution deadline from August to the end of the year, giving the town more time to plan a transition. Marren said Victor would explore partnerships with neighboring fire departments and the Victor Farmington Ambulance to ensure continued emergency coverage.

Hundreds of concerned residents, first responders, and elected officials gathered for a public hearing in Fishers Tuesday night, voicing their strong opposition to the proposal.

"It's all fun and games with these commissioners until someone gets hurt," one resident warned.

Jason Zona, a fire captain from Niagara Falls, addressed the board directly.

"I know what operational costs for fire services look like around the state — and it's a small price to pay for the safety of residents," Zona said.

Many residents echoed his sentiments, calling the move "negligent" and "despicable."

"The services of the first responders who put their lives on the line for us shouldn't be the first on the chopping block. I don't think you really are trying to save the district money. Maybe just yourselves."

Opponents of the proposal voiced fears of slower emergency response times and reduced resources for large-scale incidents if the district were to dissolve.

Still, a small portion of attendees supported the proposal, agreeing with the board's financial concerns.

"I believe they know what they're saying with the future costs, and we're trying to take that problem on now rather than later," one resident said.

Following the meeting, which lasted nearly three hours, board members confirmed to News 8 they will not be voting Tuesday. The letter cited that the fire district's tax levy has tripled since 2015 and reiterated that the Town of Victor remains obligated to provide emergency services to its residents.

The board said it believes dissolving the district now would prevent greater financial burdens later.

A date on the final vote on the matter has not yet been announced.

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT FINANCIAL IMPACTS IN THE FUTURE, IN OTHER WORDS THEY DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONES RAISING TAXES. BUT THOSE FIRE DISTRICTS TAKING UP THE SLACK MAY HAVE TO RAISE TAXES, SAVING THE RESIDENTS NOTHING BUT THEY GET REDUCED SERVICE. NOT A GOOD RESOLUTION. EDUCATE YOUR RESIDENTS AS TO WHAT YOU DO, HOW YOU DO IT AND WHAT IT TAKES, NO OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICE HAS VOLUNTEERS DOING SUCH A DANGEROUS JOB!!]**

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## **FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES**

### **St. Paul Cyberattack: Firefighters Unable to Use Computers in Rigs**

St. Paul police and firefighters are still responding to 911 calls during a [cyberattack in the city](#), but they don't have all the technology they're accustomed to. But because the city took a precautionary "complete network shut down" of its Wi-Fi and Internet-based systems, officers can't use the laptops stationed in their squad cars. Follow-up information about an incident that, in normal circumstances, would be relayed via those laptops now needs to be dispatched to officers.

The same is the case for the fire department's response, said Assistant Fire Chief Jeramiah Melquist. Firefighters are also not able to use the computers in their rigs, and they're getting information verbally dispatched to them. The phones at fire department headquarters aren't working; people who have non-emergency questions or requests can email at a published address.

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### **Indiana Fire Department Files for Bankruptcy Under Chapter 11**

Curt Varone

It doesn't happen very often, so when it does, it's rather significant. A fire company in Indiana has filed for bankruptcy.

On July 22, 2025, the Utica Township Fire Department, Inc., doing business as New Chapel Fire & EMS, filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11, Subchapter V, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code is typically used by businesses to restructure debt while continuing operations. Subchapter V, enacted under the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019, streamlines the process for qualifying small businesses with less than \$3,024,725 in non-contingent, liquidated debts (adjusted

periodically for inflation). It allows the debtor to retain control of operations while proposing a reorganization plan without needing creditor approval, provided it meets statutory requirements.

According to the petition, the fire company estimates between \$1 million and \$10 million in assets and liabilities, with secured debts totaling \$643,147.49 and no listed unsecured debts as of the filing date. The department lists \$1,073,589.99 in assets—most of which consist of apparatus, vehicles, and accounts receivable. *The petition also reflects ongoing disputes with the Utica Township Fire Protection District and references potential insurance claims related to alleged mismanagement by former leadership.*

In addition to operating as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation (501(c)(3)), the fire company reports 20 executory contracts, including leases for office and equipment storage, and multiple insurance policies.

*The filing marks an important procedural and financial moment, not just for the department but also for the local government entities and creditors involved. As this case unfolds, it may also offer broader lessons for other fire departments navigating financial and operational pressures, particularly those operating in hybrid public-private governance models.[such as a fire protection district.]*

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## **Henderson Ambulance Service In Serious Trouble**

Mark Mason Jr.

(Jefferson County) Henderson's ambulance service is on the brink of collapse, says Henderson Fire District staff. Members are saying the service is in serious trouble.

"We are asking the public, where do we want to go from here," said Eric Anderson, operations coordinator and paramedic for the district. Anderson says he's been on call 24/7 for Henderson's Volunteer Ambulance Service for the last 15 years. He says that in that time, it has responded to 98.5 percent of emergency calls in its area.

But Anderson is retiring next August, and finding another volunteer capable of putting in that amount of time has proven difficult.

That puts the service at a crossroads. Anderson says, worst case scenario, there isn't an ambulance service in Henderson anymore, and another emergency service would take Henderson emergency calls.

"Turning over this town to some other agency, unless they are planning to staff an ambulance here in Henderson, is going to mean longer wait times for an ambulance," he said.

Longer wait times as they're seeing more emergency calls. Last year, Henderson Ambulance responded to around 250 calls. They're expecting that number to be close to 300 by the end of this year.

Anderson says the best case scenario is the Henderson Fire District, which collects a tax on properties, hires paid EMTs and staff, a more expensive option, but one he says ensures continued speedy emergency services.

"I want to see Henderson Ambulance continue to exist, and continue to offer excellence to the residents of the town of Henderson," he said.

Henderson Ambulance is asking for community input on this. There will be a public meeting on July 29 at 6 p.m. here at the fire hall. They'll have more information on what choices are being considered. All Henderson residents are urged to come.

## **RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT**



### **NVFC Webinar – Fire Up Your Recruitment Game: Harnessing Digital Tools for Recruitment Success**

**Thursday, Aug 7, 2025 02:00 PM**

In today's challenging recruitment landscape, volunteer fire departments face unprecedented hurdles in attracting and retaining dedicated volunteers. In this webinar, presenter Katie Bulla will discuss a variety of free and cheap online tools that can significantly simplify recruitment efforts and the application process. Harness the technology of today to overcome the recruitment challenges of our times, ensuring your department continues to serve the community effectively. Learn how these digital solutions can help you



bridge the gap between potential volunteers and your department's needs, ultimately strengthening your team and ensuring the safety of your community.

**REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wWLe0KGBRyGp4PZ6O5K3cA#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wWLe0KGBRyGp4PZ6O5K3cA#/registration)

## ***FIREFIGHTER HEALTH & SAFETY; PROTECTING OUR OWN***

# 49

### ***LINE OF DUTY FIREFIGHTER DEATHS FOR 2025***

***In 2024 we experienced 64 LODDs reported nationally.!***

#### ***\*\*Managing Risk in the Volunteer Fire Department: Concepts, Methods, and Practices***

Joe Nedder

*Managing Risk in the Volunteer Fire Department: Concepts, Methods, and Practices* is for all members of the volunteer fire service from the newest recruit to the most experienced chief officer or 40 year veteran. In it we address traditional risk management, but we also talk about all the other aspects of risk we expose ourselves to on a daily basis and how we can reduce or eliminate those risks. Risk [management](#) can be a complicated and intimidating subject. For this book I avoid discussion of community risk assessment and other aspects of the prescribed risk management models. A review and discussion of all aspects of risk management would cause this book to be more than double the size. I wanted to make this book easy to read and to understand. My ultimate goal is to get you to buy into the risk management concepts presented here, realizing that they can and do make a difference. We focus on responding to fires and other emergencies. I believe that once we in the volunteer service have a better handle and working model on reducing risk to ourselves, we can look to expand our scope.

To begin with, let's look at who we are, as volunteers, in the big scheme of things. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), volunteers represent about 70% of all the firefighters in the United States. It is in communities with populations of 10,000 or less that the vast majority of volunteers are found. Regardless of the size of the community to protect, we must be ready and able to do our job. Part of that job is protecting ourselves. Volunteers fight the same dangers as those who are full-time firefighters protecting their communities. Fire does not discriminate and neither does risk. To me what this means is that if I want to be a firefighter, I must be a firefighter. We must learn to do our jobs well and limit risks by doing the right thing and working smarter. Many times while teaching, students ask me why we need to know this stuff because "we are only volunteers!" In my opinion, a statement like that is a put-down and insult to our noble service. We are not "only" anything. We are firefighters. This is, of course, if we have the skills and knowledge to do our jobs safely and effectively. I have learned that there are two types of people on the fireground: firefighters and civilians dressed as firefighters. I would hope that on every fireground there are only firefighters, but if not, then use this book to help fix things.

Risk management. Risk/benefit analysis. Situational awareness. Risk a little to save a little. Risk a lot to save a lot. Had enough? I joined the volunteer service in 1977 and actively served for almost 37 years. I continue to teach and provide resources to the fire service, much of which is focused on us volunteers. During much of that time, like so many of us, I really did not understand what the words "risk management" meant, why they were important, and frankly had little interest in spending any time on the subject. I wanted to fight fires, not worry about risk! However, as time progressed, the nature and science of fire got more intense. I got wiser and began to think about the risks that I was taking and how they could affect me. But even then it took many, many years to actually understand the problems, danger, and liabilities I was exposed to. I started to read more about risk, began going to the annual Fire Engineering's FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference), and attended many classes, trying to broaden my knowledge and be the best I could be.

In these 40+ years I have seen, participated in, or heard of many actions or lack of actions that have been either very close calls or caused injury or death. In general, very little risk management was applied. In

reading reports from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in discussion with many other volunteers, and in applying my life lessons, it has become quite apparent that the vast majority do not fully understand risk management, what our risks are, or how we can reduce risk to our members. The reasons vary, however I feel the top reasons are complacency and complexity. Complacency has been a plague for many. It is internally bred, intentionally or unintentionally, and many members have no idea about what dangers they truly face. The fact that “they never had a problem” is used to block something new, and any call for reason or acceptance of the increased dangers we face are ignored or shouted down. Add to this complexity. So many pick up an article or book on risk management and find themselves in a sea of intellectualism. For many this is not a bad thing, but for others the theories and concepts make no sense or lack application. Many see risk management as something for the city departments or larger jobs. I think the subject needs to be presented in basic and simple terms. I’m not saying we are not capable of understanding complexity or intellectualism, but let’s face it, most of us want the facts presented in an easy and useful manner, and in a way that will be easy to present to our membership to get buy-in!

Managing risk is one of the most important yet frequently ignored fireground management skills for the volunteer service. It is further compounded in our volunteer fire service by a lack of understanding and training in a risk management system; why we need it, how it works, and how to use it. How often have we seen firefighters taking risks that are not necessary? Yes, firefighting is a risky and dangerous job, but it should be a calculated risk! Volunteers put a lot on the line every time they respond, whether it be to a structure fire, brush fire, or vehicle accident. This book discusses what is risk today. It explores why and how it is different from the risks of 20 years ago. It challenges you to accept that the risks have never been higher, and that volunteers are being injured or dying every year. The book presents a different risk management process and shows specific actions that we as volunteers can take to reduce and manage the risks we are exposed to. We also examine other risk management techniques not thought of in the traditional sense.

The four steps of a risk management system are as follows:

**Step 1:** Develop situational awareness of the incident.

**Step 2:** Identify the dangers and risks and how they affect us.

**Step 3:** Think about how to control or eliminate the dangers and risks identified and how to reduce the risks to firefighters.

**Step 4:** Maintain an ongoing evaluation of what is happening.

This excerpt looks at step 3—controlling or eliminating dangers and risks. I always suggest that first we go back to the very beginning, before the next fire or call, and start with pre-incident questions. We examine something different, something that most do not think of as pre-incident: How has your organization performed at past fires and incidents? When teaching I like to ask my students, “If I observed one of your fire scenes, what would I see?” A proactive leader must ask honest questions about how that organization operates and performs. How do you really operate at a fire or incident? You must accept only honest answers, because fooling yourself is a very foolish and dangerous game to play! The answers give you a true assessment of your organization’s abilities, strengths, and weaknesses, along with what needs to be fixed or improved. The answers help you to realize what is done in accordance with safe practice and what needs to change. Our good and bad habits affect what happens on the fireground. The bad habits and practices work against you always, while the accepted or safe practices help you with your risk management. As we go through this next segment I provide some direction and questions you need to ask to better understand how you operate. The answers will assist you as you begin controlling the dangers.

Let’s look at three key operational observations:

1. Do we have the proper equipment?
2. Do we have the proper knowledge?
3. Are our personnel adequately protected?

Start, as suggested, with past incidents. After you have gained that honest knowledge you have to decide if there is room for improvement or if you are doing everything perfectly. Choose, but choose wisely. With your past incident knowledge, review the fire or incident before you right now and ask the same three questions as they pertain to what is happening right now:

1. Do we use the proper hose/nozzle configurations?
2. How is your fireground communications and radio use?
3. Do your company officers use a thermal imaging camera (TIC) when they make entry?

Let's look at the first question: Selecting the correct line is a critical first step in any fire attack. Yet how many departments on arrival, regardless of the fire and what they know or don't know about the fire and the given situation, still pull a preconnected 1¾" line? Why does this happen? I think it is back to the standard answers, "That's what we always do" or "That's the way we do it here." Not good answers, and it shows a lack of understanding of what dangers different fires expose us to. Every fire is different. House fire, mill fire, car fire? The 1¾" line is not the answer every time. We are talking about trying to control or eliminate the dangers we are exposed to and that means looking at the fire situation and determining the correct line to pull! When you look at and consider what size hose to advance, you need to understand possible fire flows and how to estimate them. The National Fire Academy (NFA) has a simple formula for residential structure fires: length × width divided by 3 = needed gallons per minute at 100% involvement. For example, you have a 50 × 30 single-story house. So, 50 × 30 = 1,500 divided by 3 = 500 gpm at 100%. If 25% of the structure is involved (a bedroom for example), you would need 125 gpm (25% of the 500). If it is a two-story home, then take the 500 gpm and double it to 1,000 gpm. This is an easy-to-use formula that will get you into the ballpark. Besides the NFA formula there is the Iowa formula. The NFPA has their own formula and it is contained in the NFPA 1142, *Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Firefighting*. The formula is very involved and is specific to building types, sizes, contents, etc. but it will help you to determine what exactly you should have for a water delivery rate.

NFPA 1410, *Standard on Training for Emergency Scene Operations* is a great tool to develop training drills that will measure your department's performance.

Another very important component of the hose configuration is selecting the correct nozzle. The hose and nozzle configuration you select is critical in supplying the gpm's expected. In my years of visiting many departments and teaching, I have seen some hose/nozzle configurations that showed a lack of knowledge on the department's part. Here are two real examples:

**Example 1.** The department had decided that all this talk about using smooth bore nozzles was a good idea. So, they took their 2½" combination play pipe nozzle, removed the combination tip, and then went into the back room where they stored all sorts of old tips from bygone days! They found a ¾" tip (118 gpm @ 50 psi), which they put on the 2½" play pipe. Friends, we all should know that when you pull a 2½" hose you are expecting a flow of 250 to 360 gpm. But, when it comes to smooth bore pipes, we need to remember that size matters. A 1½" tip is designed to deliver 265 gpm, while a ¾" orifice (the one they had lying around and decided to use) will deliver around 118 gpm. What this means is that you are stretching and pulling a 2½" line thinking you have a good large flow when in reality you are not even flowing half of what you think! We need to know and understand tip sizes, gpm's, and nozzle tip pressures. Obviously, they did not possess the proper knowledge to know this.

**Example 2.** This department had some of their 1¾" attack line fitted with old 1½" constant flow nozzles. They did not understand or realize that the numbers stamped on the stem indicated flow. In this case the number was 60, so they were initiating a fire attack with a 1¾" hose line, capable of delivering 150 to 180 gpm (with the correct nozzle!), but in this case the 60 indicated the nozzle flow was 60 gpm. This is not in any way a safe flow for fire attack.

Gallons per minute matter. Examine your hose and nozzle configurations and make sure they are a proper match and do the job you are expecting. Most nozzle manufacturers can supply you with a chart that shows you the actual nozzle flow when operated at a different nozzle pressures. These are a good resource. Determine what you might need for water on hand and plan for it either with hydrants, tankers, or a combination of both.

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

- A 35-year volunteer veteran of the Plainville, Connecticut Fire Department was killed while at the scene of a house fire on Sunday morning. State police said 60-year-old volunteer firefighter Raymond "R"y" Moreau was working on scene and was standing outside the home near a fire apparatus when a piece of the fire truck broke free and hit Moreau. According to state police, the piece of the fire truck caused catastrophic injuries to his legs. He was transported to the Hospital of Central Connecticut in New Britain, where he died in surgery.
- A Murdo 37-year-old firefighter died in a rollover crash while responding to a 1,200 acre grass fire, according to officials in South Dakota. The firefighter was in a 1989 Ford Tender when the vehicle left the roadway and rolled. The firefighter, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected from the truck and pronounced dead at the scene.
- Renzo Reginato, an El Cariso, CA Hotshot firefighter out of Southern California's Cleveland National Forest, suffered serious spinal injuries when a tree unexpectedly fell, striking Renzo and two of his crewmates. He was airlifted to Mercy Medical Center in Redding, California, where he underwent emergency orthopedic and neurosurgical procedures. Renzo now faces a long and difficult road to recovery, supported closely by his fiancée and family."
- Spotting fire coming from the roof of the building, some firefighters went inside while others launched an attack from a ladder truck. The interior operation was halted after a partial roof collapse occurred, and Toledo, Ohio firefighters were hit by debris. Two of the firefighters were transported to a hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

### **FIRE APPARATUS ACCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK**

- A High Point, North Carolina Fire Department truck was involved in an accident on Friday that saw it run off the road and strike several parked vehicles at a Triad car dealership. The Engine with lights and siren was traveling west on Eastchester Drive when it "encountered another vehicle in its lane of travel." To avoid hitting the car, the fire truck ran off the road and into the parking lot of Vann York Chevrolet Buick GMC, hitting several vehicles before it came to a stop.

## **FIRE APPARATUS**

### **Apparatus Purchasing: Defend Your Specifications**

Bill Adams

I made the following statements in the May 2025 "FA Viewpoints" column: "Can you explain in detail to the mayor or town board everything written in the specification? If not, you may lose their support. If you can't prove or even understand what you've written, you shouldn't have written it." These statements warrant further discussion.

It doesn't matter whether a generic (open) or proprietary purchasing specification was written. It is irrelevant if a fire department, dealer, or consultant penned the document. There's no accusation that a document was poorly written. It is immaterial if it favors a preferred manufacturer or dealer or if it explicitly eliminates a certain product. It is the purchaser's prerogative regardless of appropriateness or legality.

#### **EXPANDING THE VIEWPOINTS STATEMENTS**

If questioned by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ), the apparatus purchasing committee (APC) or its designee should be able to justify the specification's requirements. In layman's terms, you should be able to explain exactly what was written. *If asked why an item was specified, be prepared to answer in plain English.* Specificity is paramount in writing technical purchasing specifications. It is essential that the document fully particularizes the apparatus desired. There should be no doubt or questions in the minds of dealers and manufacturers (OEMs) about what the purchaser wants. Fire departments and dealers usually speak the same language. The AHJ may not. Be prepared to defend yourself.

#### **NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA)**

NFPA 1900, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances*, Section 3.2.2\* defines the AHJ as: "An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment,

materials, an installation or a procedure.” It and its explanatory material in Appendix A, Section A.3.2.2 can be confusing, especially when complicated by commentators.

As an example, a slang expression I often use refers to the AHJ as “the people who authorize and sign the check for a fire truck.” However, paraphrasing Section A.3.2.2, the NFPA says the AHJ might also be an individual or entity responsible to ensure compliance. In most political subdivisions, the APC is the fire chief’s agent. The chief then *could be* considered the AHJ ensuring compliance—yet does not formally authorize the purchase or actually sign the check. Chiefs are usually answerable to a governing body—the ultimate AHJ that authorizes actual payment. Confused yet? Accountability is seldom questioned unless “something bad happens” as a result of noncompliance.

### CHANGING TIMES

Fire department purchases may no longer be approved *carte blanche* in political subdivisions. Nonfirematically oriented residents might be elected to and even compose the majorities on governing bodies such as city councils, village boards, and fire commissions. Some might not know or care about the differences between fire trucks and garbage trucks.

If taxpayer-elected representatives are in foul fiscal moods, it’s best not to communicate with them in terminology they don’t understand. Embarrassing them is not a good idea. Be capable of factually answering every question posed concerning your specifications. Sixty fire department members may vote for a set of purchasing specifications that’s unanimously approved by the APC. But, three out of five members of a governing board can torpedo the project.

### PREPLAN

Firematic hazards such as the “big one” on Main Street or a train derailment at the end of town are not the only perils fire departments face. Forethought should be given to possible negative AHJ reactions when it is asked to appropriate funds for a new fire truck. Some elected AHJ members take seriously their obligation of being caretakers of taxpayers’ monies. Reelection could be contingent on public perception of how responsibly they disburse funds. Voters might hold them accountable if they do not fairly compare and evaluate bids received. Don’t confuse, aggravate, or insult them by not knowing your own specifications.

Fire districts and small villages may have current or former firematic personnel sitting on their respective boards. That can be very problematic for an APC. Specifying something different than what they personally purchased in the past can be challenging. Be prepared. *Don’t embarrass any board members by giving condescending answers because the other board members may come to the rescue.*

### OPEN FORUMS

Most political subdivisions are legally bound to hold open meetings unless personnel matters are discussed. In times of fiscal uncertainty or political turmoil, the public may turn out in droves to voice their opinions. AHJ members usually can play to their audience. An APC or the fire chief might have to respond to and convince a room full of people rather than just the AHJ.

### NIGHTMARE QUESTIONS

A fictitious election resulted in Literal Lucy, Tightwad Tim, and Engineering Ed being elected to the five-member board. They have no firematic experience. Lucy takes every word at face value. Subtle and hidden meanings are not acceptable. Tim has deep pockets and argues about everything. Ed, a technocrat, believes there must always be verifiable scientific or mechanical reasoning for everything. Each board member was given the proposed apparatus specification to review.

At the next public meeting, the fire chief and APC chairman gave their formal presentation asking the board for their approval. Everything went downhill. Things can also quickly go south in closed meetings. Online, I accessed “real” purchasing specifications political subdivisions promulgated for a pumper. Specification requirements are in quotes. Following each are questions Lucy, Tim, or Ed might ask.

“Pump Module & Material: The pump module shall be a self-supported structure mounted independently from the body and chassis cab. The design must allow normal frame deflection without imposing stress on the pump module structure or side running boards. The pump module shall be securely mounted to the chassis frame rails. The pump module shall be a welded framework utilizing structural aluminum components properly braced to withstand the rigors of chassis frame flex.” Lucy: Define being securely mounted to the frame. Tim:



Are different types of structural aluminum components available? Ed: You must specify module component thicknesses and sizes so we can compare bids.

"Drains/Bleeder: All lines shall drain through the master drain valve or shall be equipped with individual drain valves, easily accessible, and labeled. Drain/bleeder valves shall be located at the bottom of the side pump module panels. All drains and bleeders shall discharge below the running boards." Lucy: Define easily accessible. Tim: Is there a cost difference if the lines go through the master drain or are individually piped? Ed: Are the drains on the interior or exterior of the pump panel?

"Auxiliary Engine Cooler: An auxiliary cooler or heat exchanger shall be installed in the engine compartment between the engine and the chassis radiator. The cooler shall permit the use of water from the pump for cooling the engine. The cooling shall be done without mixing engine and pump water." Ed: What size lines are required between the pump and engine? Are shut-off valves required? Lucy: What's the difference between an auxiliary cooler and a heat exchanger? Tim: Any cost difference between them?

"Pump Mounts: Extra heavy duty pump mounting brackets shall be furnished." Lucy: Is there a difference between heavy duty and extra heavy duty? Ed: What material is used? What thickness are the brackets? Tim: How many brackets are required?

"Undercoating: The apparatus shall undergo a two-step undercoating process." Ed: What is the undercoating material? Lucy: What does two-step mean? Tim: Do one-step and two-step undercoating processes cost the same? Same warranty for both?

"Warranties: The following shall be provided: General Standard Warranty, Body Structure Standard Warranty, Electrical Standard Warranty, Plumbing and Piping Standard Warranty, Water Tank Standard Lifetime Warranty, Paint and Finish Standard Warranty, and Fire Pump Standard Warranty." Lucy: Are all the standard warranties for the same duration? Tim: Who pays if the truck has to return to the factory for warranty repairs? Ed: Are warranties prorated?

"Front Bumper Extension: The front bumper shall be extended to meet or exceed 24.00 inches ahead of the cab." Tim: Does it cost more to exceed 24 inches? Lucy: Why would you have to extend the bumper? Ed: Do you need extra reinforcement to extend it?

"Cab Interior Door Trim: The inner door panel surfaces shall be painted with a durable finish." Lucy: What is a durable finish? Ed: Is there a product number or description for it? Tim: Would treadplate be cheaper?

"Running Board Steps: The driver and officer running board steps shall be fabricated of 3/16-inch treadplate. The outside edge on each step shall be fabricated with a double break, return flange. The steps shall be rigidly reinforced with a heavy duty support structure." Ed: Define the heavy duty support structure. Tim: Is the treadplate aluminum or steel? Lucy: Should rigidly reinforced be described?

"Officer Side Hinged Pump Access Door: The officer's side pump panel shall be split and vertically hinged to provide complete access to the pump and plumbing on the officer's side of the pump enclosure. The panels shall be equipped with stainless steel hinges and secured with push-type locks to hold the panels closed. The drains located on the officer's side panel shall be fastened to the lower panel, which shall be stationary. Stainless steel machine screws and lock washers shall be used to hold these panels in position. The panels shall be easily removable to provide complete access to the pump for major service." Lucy: How large are the access doors? Tim: Is one door cheaper? Ed: What material are the doors and panels?

"Water Tank: The water tank shall have a capacity of 900 gallons or more, constructed from polypropylene material, with a lifetime warranty." Lucy: Why not just specify a minimum size? Tim: Do we pay extra for more than 900 gallons? Ed: Do you need extra supports for more than 900 gallons?

"Rear Step Tapered Corner: The rear step will be fabricated from 3/16-inch treadplate and will be rigidly reinforced. The rear step will extend past the rear edge of the body and will be 100 inches wide with tapered corners." Ed: What is gained by tapering the corners? Tim: Isn't tapering expensive? Lucy: I'm asking what rigidly reinforced means again.

"Hosebed Cover-Treadplate Cover with Fixed Center: A treadplate hosebed cover shall be mounted to the side body flanges, utilizing a full-length stainless-steel hinge on each side. The cover shall be constructed of 3/16-inch treadplate with an aluminum extrusion frame. The cover shall be supported by a fixed center partition which shall be 1½ inches higher than the side body flanges to allow for water runoff. The handles shall be provided at the rear for lifting. Both gas springs and cables or electric lifts shall be provided to hold open the doors. The switches shall be provided on each side cover, which shall be tied to the 'Do Not Move Apparatus

When Light Is On’ warning light in the cab. A hinged access door shall be provided over the water tank fill tower area allowing access to the fill tower when the hosebed cover is closed. The access door shall be hinged to the front to prevent the door from opening when the apparatus is in motion. The underside of the treadplate hosebed cover shall be sanded.” Ed: If the covers are used for firefighters to load hose, do they require the same nonslip standing surface requirements you have in other sections? Lucy: How much weight can they support? Tim: It says they can be manually or electrically operated. Is there a difference in price? Rubber stamping fire department purchasing requests may be a thing of the past. Economic uncertainty might influence AHJ members in deciding whether or not to approve a purchasing specification. Alienating them might also. Aggravated AHJ members scrutinizing specifications now might later demand careful comparison and evaluation of proposals received. Don’t embarrass yourself. The last thing a fire department wants to hear is, “You wrote the spec—now defend it.”

## 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	46
Last fire death 7/29/25 Lackawanna, Erie Co. Male 4 & Female 28	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	78
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	628
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/49
	#2 NY/46
	#3 IL & TX/36
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2025: <b>1272</b>	
2046 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
<b>Week 31 of 2025, fire has claimed on an average 41 lives PER WEEK.</b>	
Both the states of Maryland and California as well as Wash. DC require sprinklers in 1&2 family dwellings.	
According to realtors and builders only old homes burn, so sprinklers are not needed in new homes: so when does a new home become an old home?	

### **\*\*Tenn. City Approves Single-Stair Apartment Buildings With Fire Service Input**

Ellen Gerst, Chattanooga Times Free Press

Chattanooga will allow multifamily buildings to be built with just one staircase, rather than two.

Council members voted Tuesday to take advantage of a state law passed last year that creates an exception to the International Building Code.

Council chair Jenny Hill of North Chattanooga introduced the measure in June. We’re looking at opportunities to build more what people would call ‘missing middle’ kind of structures,” she told council members at a June 17 meeting. The missing middle typically refers to denser, smaller housing units — including smaller apartment

buildings or cottage-style houses. They can add density while blending into the character of an existing neighborhood, Hill said.

"In my district, for example, along Forest Avenue, Tremont, Mississippi, there are multiple different buildings that are four, five, six units that just go right along with the rest of the single-family neighborhood," Hill said. "Typically, a single-stair building can fit on a regular urban lot."

***The new single stair ordinance will allow developers to build up to five stories with a single stairway, with a maximum of four units per floor.*** The state's maximum allowance is six stories on a single stair.

The city's ordinance didn't adopt the state maximum due to safety concerns, Director of Housing Finance Hanneke van Deursen said.

"That came out of conversations with our Land Development Office and Fire Office, and it has to do with what the Fire Department felt comfortable they could rescue people from," van Deursen said by phone. "The height of the ladders, the size of the trucks."

***The new rules also require sprinklers to be installed in each unit, Hill said, after an ordinance passed recently had loosened sprinkler requirements for smaller multiunit buildings.***

*Adding sprinklers can cost as much as \$30,000 per unit, Hill said.*

***"So this may not actually increase low-cost building," she said, "but it will allow us to build smaller-format buildings in the city of Chattanooga and also add one additional unit per floor."***

When a North Shore apartment building had to evacuate in December because of a fire that started in its parking garage, most residents were rescued from windows, not the stairwell, Hill said. Eliminating the need for a second stairway also enables more windows to be built, potentially allowing more bedrooms in each unit, Hill said.

After the state began allowing those buildings in 2024, cities including Jackson, Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville have adopted single-stair ordinances, local architect Matt Lyle said.

They were once only championed on the fringe of architecture, Lyle said, but have become more common in recent years. Some architects are totally in favor of single-stair housing as an affordability tool, while others oppose it out of safety concerns, he said. **[EDITORS NOTE: SURE, THE ARCHITECTS ARE NOT AROUND WHEN THE FIRE OCCURS, NOR ARE THEY EVER HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AFTERMATH. NEITHER ARE THE POLITICIANS THAT PASS LAWS FOR FRIVOLOUS BULL SHIT REASONS.]**

Seattle's building code has allowed single-stair buildings since the 1970s, Lyle said. The council that oversees the International Building Code (which only applies to the U.S. and Canada ) has indicated it won't adopt single-stair regulations until enough places adopt them locally, said Lyle, who also sits on Hamilton County's Planning Commission.

Worldwide, there seems to be no correlation between single-stair buildings and fire danger, he said. Switzerland, which allows single-stair buildings of any height, has the lowest average fire deaths of any country, while the U.S., where they're highly restricted, is around the middle of the pack, Lyle said. **[EDITORS NOTE: IF THERE IS A FIRE AND OR A FATALITY SWITZERLAND HOLDS PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE, MOST PLACES IN US DON'T]**

"The majority of the world is building higher buildings around a single stair than this," he said by phone.

***The stairways in those buildings will have to be pressurized, according to the ordinance, which prevents smoke from a fire inside a unit from rushing into the stairwell, according to the ordinance.***

Lyle said he sees the buildings as another tool in Chattanooga's affordable housing toolbox, like incentives for affordable housing also passed by the council Tuesday.

"I don't think we're going to probably see a flood of this project type, similarly to when the accessory dwelling units were added to the zoning ordinance a few years ago," Lyle said.

In the U.S., where land and lumber were more abundant than in Europe, it was easier and quicker to build wooden structures that were prone to burning, Hill said. The two-stair requirement came as a way to make it easier for residents to escape if a building caught fire.

"We've gotten a lot better at building buildings that don't burn down," she told council members. **[EDITOR'S NOTE: ARE YOU THAT FUCKING CLUELESS THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE A STATEMENT LIKE THIS, WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN?]** "There's not the volume of concern that there once was, because of a combination of how we build and our firefighting techniques." **[EDITOR'S NOTE: THAT'S IF YOU PROPERLY STAFF AND EQUIP YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT, WHICH MOST CITIES ARE NOT DOING.]**

The city rules will also limit how far a unit's door can be from the stairway — a maximum of 20 feet. "When people think of single stair they think, 'Oh, there's only one way to get out,' but it does not compromise people's ability to exit the building," council member Dennis Clark of Cherokee Woods said at Tuesday's meeting.

It's expensive to build stairways, van Deursen said, and developers don't make money on that part of a building. Only having to build one stairway increases how much of the building is actually being used, she said. "In a large multifamily building with apartments on both sides of the hallway, like 80% of your square footage is leasable," she said. "And with a single stair, you're more at 90%. So less money spent on stuff that isn't people's houses."

It's also a good way to encourage infill development, which builds in already-developed areas like downtown Chattanooga.

"It really is a story about expanding housing choice and moving regulatory barriers, van Deursen said.

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: LIKE MOM USED TO SAY, ITS ALL GREAT UNTIL SOMEBODY GETS HURT, WE ARE STICKING OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN BUILDINGS WITH ONE WAY OUT OTHER THAN JUMPING OUT THE WINDOW. CLUELESSNESS ABOUNDS.]**

## **GREEN TECHNOLOGY & THE FIRE SERVICE**

### **Lithium-Ion Battery Explosion Sparks Car Fire In Cumberland County**

A lithium-ion battery explosion sparked a car fire in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania according to the Upper Allen Fire Department. Crews were called to the car fire in the Bumble Bee Hollow neighborhood in Upper Allen Township on Sunday. Firefighters quickly responded and were able to control the situation, officials said. According to the fire department, the blaze was caused by a lithium-ion battery from a backpack vacuum that had exploded inside the car. The car's interior was significantly damaged and burned. "This is a good reminder to always handle and store lithium-ion batteries safely, as they can pose a fire risk if damaged or overheated," the Upper Allen Fire Department said.

### **Suit Filed after Deadly Cambria County, PA, Fire Blamed on Prosthetic Arm**

Joshua Byers, the Tribune-Democrat

Survivors of a deadly 2023 house fire in Westmont Borough filed a civil suit Thursday in Allegheny County court against several companies they say are responsible for the blaze.

The lawsuit was filed by Philadelphia law firm Saltz Mongeluzzi Bendesky on behalf of Katherine Jeanjaquet-Kohan – individually and as administratrix for her deceased children Vindemiatrix Kohan and Grant Jeanjaquet – and of Hailey Jeanjaquet, Tyler Skovensky and a minor child.

According to court documents, the lawsuit was brought against defendants Liberating Technologies Inc.; College Park; Coapt LLC; Oticon Inc.; Ossur Americas Inc.; Union Orthotics & Prosthetics Co.; De La Torre Orthotics & Prosthetics Co.; Thunder Power RC; Advance Energy Inc.; and four John Does.

The family's lawsuit blames a myoelectric arm, known as a Boston Digital arm, and its lithium batteries for the blaze.

"The defendants knew or should have known that the subject myoelectric arm and/or its component parts including the battery and battery management system were defective, dangerous and unsafe," the 174-page complaint said.

Skovensky was fitted for the prosthetic after a 2018 work accident and had owned the myoelectric arm since April 2019.

The suit alleges that the arm and component parts were manufactured, distributed, sold and supplied by the defendants and that Skovensky would "receive repairs, maintenance, service and fitting" for the arm from the defendants at both a Pittsburgh location and a Johnstown location.

Skovensky allegedly plugged the arm in to charge in a first-floor home office on the evening of July 25, 2023, before going to bed, and the prosthetic and/or component parts caught fire hours later, according to court documents.

The fire broke out around 2:30 a.m. July 26, 2023, at the home on the 200 block of Fayette Street in Old Westmont. At the time, Grant Jeanjaquet, 22, was asleep on the first floor, while the rest of the family was on the second floor.

According to the suit, when the fire was noticed, Hailey Jeanjaquet, her younger sibling, Skovensky and the family dog were able to exit the home through a window, but were trapped on a porch roof until emergency crews arrived.

Firefighters rescued Jeanjaquet-Kohan from the second floor, and found Kohan, 14, unresponsive on the same floor and extracted her.

Grant Jeanjaquet was found trapped between a couch and an exterior wall. He died at the scene, according to court documents, and Kohan died from her injuries July 29, 2023, at a Pittsburgh hospital.

The lawsuit alleges the fire was caused by a defect related to the myoelectric arm, "including but not limited to the design, manufacture, warnings and/or information" provided with the product.

As a result of the incident, the survivors have "suffered serious, disabling and permanent personal injuries," court documents said. The lawsuit demands a jury trial and the plaintiffs are seeking compensatory damages in excess of \$50,000 from each defendant.

Since the filing Thursday, the defendants have not responded, the Allegheny County court system shows.

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### **\*\*CO Fire Department Warns Against Buying Extinguishers for Lithium-Ion Battery Fires**

Chris Bolin – Greeley Tribune, Colo

A type of fire extinguisher marketed online for use on fires involving lithium-ion batteries does not meet national safety standards, Greeley firefighters warn.

Class "L" fire extinguishers have not undergone the testing required to be listed as approved extinguishers by the National Fire Protection Association, according to a Facebook post by the Greeley Fire Department.

The department also does not recommend purchasing lithium-ion battery containment bags, which contain an extinguisher, gloves, goggles and a containment bag for extinguishing the fire and disposing of debris after. The containment bags do not contain the appropriate type or amount of protection for handling lithium-ion battery fires.

Lithium-ion batteries are rechargeable and commonly found in cellphones, laptops, power tools, robot vacuums, e-cigarettes and electric vehicles.

If faced with a lithium-ion battery fire, the department strongly encourages residents to immediately evacuate and call 911. Exposure to the fire and smoke from lithium-ion battery fires can be hazardous to health without protective equipment, especially with how long they take to extinguish and clean up, the post states.

Lithium-ion battery fires can erupt for a number of reasons, including damage to the battery or exposure to extreme temperatures, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Along with the toxins released during the fire, lithium-ion batteries come with an increased risk of exploding.

The National Fire Protection Association gives a few tips for staying safe around while using lithium-ion batteries:

- \* Purchase batteries that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab.
- \* Stop charging the battery once it is full.
- \* Use only the charging equipment supplied with the device.
- \* Stop using the device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling or change in color.
- \* Have all repairs done by a qualified professional.

## **RECRUITMENT IS EVERYONE'S JOB**

### **Lancaster County, PA, Departments Ask Lawmakers for Firefighter Recruitment Help**

Jade Campos

Lancaster County first responders want greater collaboration with their communities and school districts to grow the ranks of young recruits and address declining membership at local fire departments and police stations.



East Hempfield Township fire Chief John Kottmyer told a panel of state legislators during a Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing in West Earl Township on Wednesday that recruitment tactics haven't changed much since he began volunteering decades ago. Strategies need to modernize to attract younger people, he said, as membership numbers dwindle. "It's kind of a different era, a different time, and I think we need to look at some of the ways that we're thinking about recruitment or retention," Kottmyer said. "How do we keep these people?"

Lancaster County's problem is not unique. First responders across Pennsylvania and the nation have struggled to recruit new members, particularly in volunteer fire companies, for years.

A 2018 report by the state House of Representatives found that the number of volunteer firefighters statewide fell by about 260,000 over 40 years. Many local fire officials attribute the sharp decline to the long hours that come with volunteerism due to intensive training and fundraising.

## **YOUTH PROGRAMS**

Jamie Rohrer, chief of East Petersburg Fire Company, encouraged legislators in attendance, including county lawmaker Sen. James Malone, to put more money into public safety education programs. He said volunteer fire companies like his can't afford to do the heavy lifting on their own.

"Once (youth) get a little bit of the emergency services in their blood, it catches on quick," Rohrer said.

A bill currently circulating in the Senate, co-sponsored by Lehigh Valley Sen. Nick Miller, chair of the Democratic Policy Committee, would provide more funding to community colleges for public safety training.

*Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner Thomas Cook said his office is engaged with 28 school districts across the state to implement public safety training programs that have proven successful.* Similar programs are likely to start up in other districts in the future, he said. Cook encouraged first responders to be active in their communities to promote interest.

Jerry Ozog, public safety specialist for the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors, said successful community collaborations happen when school districts work directly with fire departments. The Senate committee expressed interest in aiding those discussions.

A study by the International Association of Chiefs of Police last year found that 70% of agencies surveyed reported more difficulties recruiting officers compared to five years ago. Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Chief Josh Kilgore attributed the low numbers of prospects to a negative perception of policing and called on state officials to publicly support their local police.

Like firefighters, Kilgore said, police officers want to reach people when they are young. He said it's necessary for police to have a presence in schools so children can develop a positive relationship with them.

Malone, who represents the northern half of Lancaster County and is a member of the Senate committee, said he supports more state funding for public safety recruitment. He said a social media ad campaign funded by the state, suggested by Rohrer, could be a possible solution to target young people.

In a phone interview Tuesday, Republican state Rep. David Zimmerman, whose district includes West Earl Township, said more state dollars should support recruitment programs that target young people. *He praised Garden Spot Fire Rescue's annual summer camp cadet program, which introduces children aged 10 to 14 to fire services.* Zimmerman said he volunteered with Blue Ball Fire Company as a teenager, which later merged with New Holland Liberty Fire Company to create Garden Spot.

Pennsylvania State Police also host an annual camp cadet program for Lancaster County children to learn about law enforcement.

## **REGIONAL SOLUTIONS**

Officials Wednesday also emphasized the need for different agencies and municipalities to work together to improve recruitment rates.

Kilgore praised the regional police model, saying it saves money for local governments and attracts new members. A regional police department is bigger than a municipal police force, he said, and can offer more desirable benefits, including career development opportunities.

Lancaster County currently has three regional police departments.

Ephrata police Chief Chris McKim said contracted police services, when a police department agrees to provide coverage to surrounding municipalities, offers a similar benefit. The state needs to offer more incentives to

encourage regional contracts, he said. Ephrata covers the borough, Ephrata Township, West Cocalico Township and Adamstown Borough.

*Kottmyer said regionalization could be the future for volunteer fire companies, too, to share equipment and costs as fire trucks become more expensive. Several local fire companies have merged in recent years, a process West Hempfield Township and Mountville Borough are currently undergoing.*

"We have to figure out a better model and a better way to do this, and it's not just buy and buy and buy," Kottmyer said.

## STUFF FOR YOUR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS!



### **New York Yankees Firefighter Appreciation Special**

Join the **New York Yankees** at Yankee Stadium as they show their appreciation to the dedicated members of the fire and emergency services!

This [special event](#) runs from **September 5-7** (vs. the Toronto Blue Jays) and on **September 9** and **September 11** (vs. the Detroit Tigers).

All purchased tickets will include a \$15 meal and beverage voucher, and a Yankees firefighter trucker hat.

Questions? [Email](#) Jess Tragale, New York Yankees Account Executive, Group Sales & Service, for assistance!

**LEARN MORE AND PURCHASE TICKETS AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

<https://www.gofevo.com/group/Firefighterappreciation33?ref=Tragale>



### **Webinar - Fire Up Your Recruitment Game: Harnessing Digital Tools for Recruitment Success**

**Aug. 7 at 2pm ET**

**Presenter:** Katie Bulla

Katie Bulla is the office manager at Burtonsville (MD) Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD), where she handles everything from membership records to process improvements that keep the department running behind the scenes. Before that, she overhauled BVFD's recruitment efforts, helping bring in new volunteers and making the onboarding process more efficient. With a background in creative design and community engagement, Katie is all about building systems that actually work and supporting the people who keep them going.



### **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):**

Cortland (October 28) • Erie (October 8) • **Fulton (September 9)** • 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) • Suffolk (April 2) • Westchester (September 3)

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

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

## **ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Coming Attractions:

- **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



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

LINK TO THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM: [https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/featured\\_courses](https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/featured_courses)

## **NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

### **Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast**

The fire company thanks you for your support!! Breakfast will resume in September.

### **Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast**

See you in October when we start up again. Thank you for your support!

### **Asking for a Friend**

**Help needed**, is there a District/Company that accepts EMS applicants only. What are your requirements for those members that respond to EMS calls only, but are still considered firefighters for VFBL or LOSAP purposes? Contact me at my email address, asking for a friend. If you have a written policy and are willing to share please send to [tom@rinaldi1.com](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com), thanks.

## **GENERAL INTEREST**

### **'Don't Make It Worse': The Importance Of Proportional Response On And Off The Fireground**

Linda Willing

There is a general rule in the fire service: Don't make it worse than it already is.

Firefighters understand the importance of proportional response in a technical sense. You don't use a deck gun on a trash can fire and you don't take a booster line into a fully involved structure. But organizations may lose sight of this concept when it comes to responding to other kinds of incidents.

A couple examples come to mind. Three years ago, [one citizen complaint about a firefighter washing his personal vehicle at the station led to a formal fraud investigation](#). More recently, a photo posted online of [firefighters wearing Trump masks in uniform at the station resulted in discipline](#).

In the latter case, was it inappropriate for the officer to go along with wearing masks in the station? Probably. Was it stupid for them to post that photo online? Definitely. Organizations can and should have policies in place that create guidelines and consequences for such activities. In this case, there was a policy in place that prohibited political activity on city property, although others have made the argument that wearing the likeness of the elected president does not constitute political activity.

This kind of argument can go on indefinitely. However, while follow-up is warranted in this case, it hardly rises to the level of crisis. Counsel the members about the policy; tell them not to do it again. It's a dumpster fire. Don't put a master stream on it.

On the other end of the spectrum is the recent [collision between a fire truck and a commuter train](#) that resulted in more than 10 injuries and the destruction of the \$2+ million apparatus. The fire vehicle had driven around stopped cars at a gated railroad crossing and around the lowered gate before being hit by the speeding train. The subsequent investigation resulted in a minor traffic ticket for the driver of the truck and no consequences for any higher-level officer, including the person on the rig who apparently approved of or ordered the decision to cross the tracks ahead of the train.

Each of these cases have nuances that are not available in news stories. There is always history and aggravating or mitigating factors, and every incident needs to be dealt with individually. But in every case, the response should be proportional to the actual incident or event.

The problem with disproportional response is that it often makes the situation worse than it already is. When organizations underreact, it can give tacit permission for inappropriate behavior and create distrust both within and outside of the organization. Organizational reputations may be damaged by the actions of a few. There is no accountability and situations can needlessly escalate. Safety can be affected. Members will lose faith that leaders will make decisions in a fair and professional way.

Overreacting is a waste of resources. One can only imagine how much time, money and energy were spent on the carwash fraud investigation. Overreaction also has the effect of damaging trust and morale and potentially turning members against one another. It can undermine faith in leadership and its priorities, especially if response to incidents is not consistent.

Actions have consequences, but those consequences need to be fair, consistent and proportional to what has occurred. When that response skews too far in either direction, problems are not solved and may be made worse.

If you bring too little to a fire, the structure burns down and potentially involves others. If you bring too much, you end up destroying something needlessly. Either way, damage is done. The same is true when responding to incidents beyond the emergency scene.

**LAUGH OUT LOUD!!**

**I have to admit it, sometimes I get road rage walking behind people at the grocery store!**

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None at this time that we are aware of.

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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.**



# CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

Business Partner Applications Available At: [WWW.CAFDA.NET](http://WWW.CAFDA.NET)

*We invite our business partners to submit educational information to be included in this Bulletin for district commissioners and chief officers*

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

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*The Weekly Capital Bulletin is reaching well over **650+** subscribed fire district members and now other members of the fire service on a regular basis. This is a service of CAFDA through the effort of Tom Rinaldi who can be reached at [tom@rinaldi1.com](mailto:tom@rinaldi1.com) for comments and content contributions are always welcome.*

### BECOME A MEMBER OF CAFDA!

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

#### **MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CAFDA)**

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 100 members in 14 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 — Thurs-Fri. March 13-14, 2025 — 2805 State Hwy. 67, Johnstown
FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS	Brighton Fire District — Tues-Wed. March 25-26, 2025 — 3100 East Avenue, Rochester
CAFDA CONFERENCE	<b>Fort William Henry Hotel &amp; Conference Center, Lake George</b> — <b>Thurs-Sat. April 10-12, 2025</b>
<b>ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR</b>	<b>Verdoy Fire District</b> — <b>Saturday, November 1, 2025</b> — 988 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham

### SOCIAL EVENTS

OFFICER INSTALLATION DINNER	Century House, Latham — Saturday, March 8, 2025
<b>ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES!</b>	<b>Saratoga Race Course, Saratoga Springs</b> — <b>Friday, August 8, 2025</b>

### MEETINGS – CLIFTON PARK FIRE DISTRICT & ZOOM

General Membership Meeting	Saturday, January 4, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, February 13, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Wednesday March 5, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, April 3, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, May 8, 2025
General Membership Meeting	<b>Thursday, June 12, 2025</b>
<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	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	<b>www.CAFDA.net</b>
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# 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*

By Dave Denniston NVFC OSHA 1910.156 Taskforce Chair

The NVFC continues to meet with the IAFC and IAFF as we wait for next steps from the Department of Labor and OSHA. There have been significant changes in leadership at these organizations. We are under the belief that they continue to digest the large volume of information and feedback offered during the process and are modifying the proposed standard into something that is much more agreeable. The proposed standard as written does not work for anyone, volunteer, combination, or career departments. All three organizations agree significant changes are needed from the proposal. *We anticipate that they will craft a new standard that is technically and economically feasible using what is referred to as logical outgrowth from the process.* The representatives from the IAFC, NVFC, and IAFF all agree that the best of all worlds would be to remove the NFPA standards by reference, bring a lot of the regulations back to the control of the home state and authority having jurisdiction, and make logical requirements that will help protect our first responders. We continue to monitor progress and are ready to pursue the next steps if the process does not yield a document that we can all live with. *We have also voiced our opposition to a pure exemption of volunteer firefighters as we feel that the move would be counterproductive and further divide the two major factions of our emergency services.* We have long fought for parity in items such as presumptive heart, cancer coverage, workers compensation benefits, equal representation, and firefighter safety. To simply exempt the volunteer fire service would be a huge disservice to these initiatives and leave combination departments in an extremely awkward, if not unmanageable situation. It would also be extremely difficult for municipalities to manage with two different sets of rules.

The three organizations are also hard at work building resources to support emergency services organizations moving forward. These resources include training, sample emergency action plans, risk management plans, community assessment forms, sample policies, and advocacy materials. The right tools will aid everything from a small rural volunteer department with a \$50K budget all the way up to the large municipal all-career city department, and everything in-between. We are very excited by the working relationship being built by these national organizations and all involved in the process feel we are seeing ground-breaking results. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, we encourage you to reach out and get involved in the discussions. I can be reached at 607-423-1636 or [ddenniston@afdsny.org](mailto:ddenniston@afdsny.org). By working together, we can help build a fire service that will serve us well for years to come.

[Link to Dave Denniston's Article Re: OSHA in the NYSAFC News](https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/blog_home.asp?Display=147)

[https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/blog\\_home.asp?Display=147](https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/blog_home.asp?Display=147)