



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

BULLETIN

July 19th, 2025

Editor, Tom Rinaldi, 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.
- FASNY offers a valuable benefit to student volunteers through the Higher Education Learning Plan (FASNY HELP). This program provides up to 100% tuition reimbursement (up to \$1,500 per semester) for active volunteer firefighters attending a New York State college or taking online courses through Empire State College. Students in any field of study are eligible. Participation is limited to 100 students per semester on a first-come, first-served basis. The next deadline to apply is October 15.
- More on the dissolution of the Fishers Fire District by the Board of Fire Commissioners here at this link:

<https://www.fishersfd.org/news.cfm?story=3584>

- If you're attending the FASNY convention, Aug. 7 – 9 in Hauppauge, stop by the ESIP / Penflex booth to say Hello ! For this year's convention, we've partnered with Fire Districts Mutual to provide some great food from Little Porky's Place food truck for the "Tailgate for Heroes" event during the convention at the Hyatt Regency Long Island. See the attached flyer. Please feel free to pass this email along to your fellow firefighters & first responders that will be attending the convention, and we look forward to seeing you on Long Island !
- See the latest update on the OSHA Emergency Response standard in the OSHA Supplement.

STUFF FOR YOUR BENEFIT, NEED TO KNOW!

WWW.CAFDA.NET

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

Day at the Races *Friday August 8th, lunch, snacks, permitted beverages included 11:00 am entry, tickets at "will call"*

SAVE THE DATE: CAFDA FALL TRAINING SEMINAR, *Saturday November 1st at Verdoz Fire Department*

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

Financial issues should be addressed to: 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:

THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON WATCH FROM The Congressional Fire Service Institute

📌 **Fire Sprinkler Tax Incentives Included in Tax Bill.** On July 4, 2025, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act was signed into law and included tax incentives for fire sprinklers. Specifically, the fire sprinklers continue to remain eligible as Section 179 property and the size of the deduction was increased. In addition, fire sprinklers remain eligible as Qualified Improvement Property (QIP) and the bill brought back 100% bonus depreciation for QIP properties for a period of time. To learn more, [check out this fact sheet from the National Fire Sprinkler Association!](#)

Big Beautiful Bill (BBB)

Congress passed this legislation last week and President Trump signed it on July 4th. There are two important changes in the House and Senate versions of the BBB that will greatly benefit the fire sprinkler industry:

- They more than doubled the size of the 179 deductions. Small and now medium-sized businesses will be able to fully expense up to \$2.5 million instead of the current maximum of \$1.3 million. This could allow a property owner to retrofit almost 500,000 square foot property and fully deduct the cost.
- The bill reinstates 100 percent bonus depreciation for QIP properties for the tax years 2025-2030. The bill also reinstates bonus depreciation but does not sunset the provision, so this change is now permanent. As before there is no limit on the amount a property owner can now fully expense.

📌 **Appropriations Markups Continue.** Appropriations season is in full swing as the House and Senate Appropriations Committees work through their markup calendar. This is a critical part of the annual appropriations process as it allows the public to see what has been proposed for the funding levels for federal agencies and programs. CFSI also looks to see how the levels match up with what we have requested for fire service priorities so we can adjust our advocacy strategy. To learn more about the markup process, see our infographic below.

To date, the markups have more or less reflected decent outcomes for fire service priorities, but critical bills have yet to be marked up including the Senate version of the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, which includes funding for AFG, SAFER, and USFA. Neither chamber has marked up their Labor-HHS bill, which funds health priorities including the National Firefighter Registry for cancer, Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program (FFFIPP), and more.

Bill Would Make Assaults On First Responders A Federal Crime

A new proposed bill honoring fallen Kansas City firefighter new proposed bill honoring fallen Kansas City firefighter/paramedic Graham Hoffman aims to protect first responders from violence.

Hoffman, a three-year veteran of the Kansas City Fire Department, died after being stabbed by a patient during an ambulance transport on April 27.

The [Graham Hoffman Act](#), introduced by Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), would make any assault on a police officer, firefighter or EMS provider a federal crime.

“Graham Hoffman was a courageous firefighter/paramedic whose life was tragically cut short at the hands of a known criminal who had been released from custody shortly before the attack,” Schmitt said in a statement. “This tragic loss underscores the urgent need to protect our first responders, who put their lives on the line to serve our communities.”

Legislators hope the bill will serve as a deterrent to anyone considering violence against a public safety professional.

“First responders put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe, and they deserve our protection when they answer the call to help others,” Hassan said in a statement. “This bill honors the memory of fallen heroes by holding criminals that attack those who serve and protect our communities fully

accountable for their crimes and sending a clear message that targeting and attacking first responders will not be tolerated.”

FIRE DISTRICT FINANCES

Local Government and School Accountability Contact Information:

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

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

Former Sheridan Park Fire Company Treasurer Admits Guilt In \$446K Theft, Agrees To Repay Funds

A Depew man has admitted to stealing funds from a local fire company. James Hoffman, 41, pleaded guilty to one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree (Class “C” Felony) and one count of Repeated Failure to File Personal Income and Earnings Taxes (Class “E” Felony) for stealing funds from the Sheridan Park Fire Company in the Town of Tonawanda.

According to Erie County DA Mike Keane’s office, between January 1, 2019 and January 31, 2025, Hoffman stole \$446,118 while working as the treasurer for the fire company. He committed the theft by making unauthorized cash withdrawals from the fire company’s bank accounts and failed to deposit fundraiser proceeds. The DA’s office says that the stolen funds were used to support Hoffman’s gambling habit.

“This defendant abused his position as treasurer to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars from a fire company that helps and protects the residents of Tonawanda,” Keane said in a press release. The company was alerted to the incidents in January of 2025 after a vendor reported that a check from an unpaid invoice was rejected for insufficient funds, according to the DA’s office.

The DA’s office says that Hoffman has turned over \$55,000 to his defense attorney which will be provided to the fire company. Hoffman has agreed to pay the remaining balance of \$391,118 to the company, he also has agreed to pay \$26,706 to the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance.

Hoffman did not file his personal income taxes from 2021 to 2024, and pleaded guilty for failure to file personal income and earnings, with intent to avoid payment for more than three consecutive taxable years. Hoffman faces a maximum of 15 years in prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on October 6, 2025. “He knowingly violated the trust placed in him by firefighters, dedicated volunteers, and the community,” said Keane.

STEP INTO THE CHIEF’S OFFICE

A Fire Chief’s Guide To Advancing Your Department With Purpose And Maturity

Brycen Garrison

Every firefighter and leader in the fire service is driven by a deep passion for the job — a calling to serve. This passion is the fuel that energizes us through long shifts, intense training and life-threatening emergencies. But as essential as passion is, effective leadership requires balancing that zeal with measurable impact and strategic investment. In other words, it’s not enough to be passionate; we must ensure our passion leads to positive outcomes and the wise use of resources.

Passion without direction can become a wildfire — energetic but unfocused. A true leader channels personal and team passion toward the department’s mission. This means setting clear goals for community safety and internal growth, then harnessing everyone’s enthusiasm to achieve those goals. We continually ask: *Are our efforts making a tangible difference?* Passion makes us run into the fire, but impact is measured by lives saved, incidents reduced and a stronger community. Leaders balance daily excitement with long-term vision, ensuring every training, outreach or response moves the needle forward in service quality.

Equally important is investment, not just in terms of budget or equipment but also investing time and resources in our people and our processes. A fire chief must be both a guardian of the budget and a mentor to the organization. For example, channeling passion into investing in training programs yields prepared firefighters who perform safely and effectively. Allocating funds to modernize equipment or facilities shows that we value our team’s safety and our community’s well-being. Every investment decision, from purchasing

new gear to spending an extra hour coaching a rookie, should align with our passion for excellence *and* produce meaningful impact.

Striking this balance is a daily exercise. One might feel compelled to say “yes” to every new idea fueled by enthusiasm — a new specialized unit, another community event, an extra rescue tool — because our appetite to do more is strong. But unbridled expansion can strain personnel and budgets. Thus, we weigh passion against impact:

- Which initiatives will yield the greatest benefit for those we serve?
- Where should we invest our limited time and money for the maximum improvement in safety and service?

By filtering our ideas through the lens of impact and sustainability, we ensure our fire service remains both passionate and prudent.

Bottom line: Balancing passion, impact and investment is about *intentional leadership*. It’s encouraging fiery dedication in our crews while keeping one foot on the ground to guide that fire in productive ways. It’s about loving the job immensely but loving the outcome for our community even more. When we get this balance right, our passion becomes more than emotion — it becomes a force for measurable good backed by smart investments in our people and our mission. But leadership doesn’t stop there. The next challenge is managing the fire service’s inherent appetite for more — and ensuring that hunger is focused, healthy and sustainable.

THE APPETITE FOR MORE

One hallmark of great firefighters and leaders is their appetite for more — more knowledge, more challenges, more ways to serve. After we achieve one goal, we immediately begin looking to the next hill to climb. This hunger is healthy; it keeps our organization from growing complacent and drives continuous improvement. However, like any appetite, it needs to be managed and nourished properly.

In the fire service, having an appetite for more means never being fully satisfied with the status quo. We ask questions like, “*What’s next for our department?*” or “*How can we improve our response times, training or community outreach?*” This mindset has led us to implement innovative training programs and pursue advanced certifications. It’s what pushes a firefighter to enroll in that next course or a captain to try a novel approach to crew development. Curiosity and ambition feed progress, ensuring that both individuals and the organization keep growing. I’ve always encouraged my team to embrace that restless drive to improve, because today’s “good” can always become tomorrow’s “better.”

However, an unchecked appetite can lead to burnout or mission-drift. Leaders must temper the desire for more with reflection. We need to celebrate how far we’ve come, even as we reach for the next rung. For instance, if a department continuously adds new programs or protocols without assessing effectiveness, the result can be overextension. “More” is only beneficial when it aligns with our core mission and values. We are now at a point where we can pause our team after a major project, whether it’s implementing new equipment or completing a strategic planning initiative, and debrief thoroughly. We digest the lessons learned before taking another bite. This reflection ensures that our hunger for improvement builds on success rather than simply piling on new initiatives indiscriminately.

One practical way to manage appetite is to set incremental goals that lead toward a big vision. Rather than trying to overhaul everything at once, which sometimes must be done, we tackle one improvement at a time. For example, we might focus this quarter on improving apparatus maintenance routines. Next quarter, our target could shift to enhancing inter-agency communication. Each achievement builds the appetite for the next, creating a steady diet of progress. This approach keeps the team motivated — they see frequent wins, without overwhelming them by attempting to “eat the elephant” in one sitting.

Additionally, leaders must feed member appetite with opportunities and support. If you have eager firefighters who want to contribute more, find constructive outlets for them. Assign them research projects on new technology or involve them in community risk reduction events. In my experience, firefighters who are given room to explore their ideas and passions tend to thrive and often bring back valuable insights to the department. This creates a culture where the appetite for more isn’t just an individual trait but a shared value in the organization.

GROWING UP TOGETHER: THE CALL FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MATURITY

As a fire department evolves, there comes a point when both its people and its processes must “grow up together.” This is the call for organizational maturity — a stage beyond foundational development, where we solidify our identity, refine our operations and cement our values in everything we do. It’s a natural progression — just as a probie firefighter matures into a seasoned veteran over years, a young organization must also transition into a more structured, resilient entity.

Growing up together means that everyone in the organization participates in its maturation. When I reflect on the Brighton Fire Rescue District’s journey, I see how shared experiences — tough calls, budget challenges, new station openings, personnel changes — have helped form our collective character. Each challenge required us to develop new procedures or improve old ones. For example, rapid population growth in our district forced us to formalize our strategic planning and adopt more sophisticated incident command systems. Those changes weren’t always easy, but going through the growing pains *together* made us stronger and more unified. We learned to lean on each other, all of us understanding that maturity is a team effort.

Organizational maturity shows in how we handle adversity and change. An immature department might resist new protocols or be rattled by a single bad incident or public criticism. A mature department, by contrast, has established trusted systems, communication channels, and a culture of continuous improvement that allows it to navigate storms with stability. For instance, early in my career, a communications breakdown at a multi-agency incident taught us the hard way that our interoperability plans were lacking. As we grew, we instituted regular joint drills and clearer operational guidelines, hallmarks of a maturing organization that proactively addresses weaknesses. Now, when big challenges hit, we respond with much more cohesion and confidence. We have playbooks and contingency plans, but more importantly, we have a mature mindset: *Stay calm, work the problem, take care of our people, and learn from the experience.*

A key aspect of growing up as an organization is defining our values and “the way we do business,” then living that consistently. In a department’s infancy, you’re often writing SOPs from scratch and experimenting with different approaches. As we matured, we identified what worked best and embraced it as standard. For example, we clarified our promotional processes to be merit-based and transparent, moving away from any ad-hoc practices. We developed mentorship programs for new officers, so the leadership philosophy would be passed down and not reinvented with each promotion. These steps might sound procedural, but they greatly enhance fairness, trust and professionalism — signs of an organization coming of age.

Crucially, organizational maturity doesn’t mean becoming rigid or complacent. Just as a wise adult remains capable of learning, a mature fire department stays adaptable and humble. We acknowledge that we don’t have all the answers and remain open to innovation. However, maturity does bring a certain steadiness — the highs and lows even out, and core principles guide decision-making rather than impulse or tradition alone. For Brighton Fire, our guiding principle is that *“we exist to positively impact those we serve.”* At every maturity level, that stayed constant, but as we grew, we found ever more effective and organized ways to fulfill that mission.

Ultimately, *growing up together* means our firefighters, officers and civilian staff evolve in step with the organization’s needs. We invest in professional development, expecting a higher degree of expertise and leadership from each other as time goes on. We also celebrate the history and journey we’ve shared. That perspective instills pride and a sense of responsibility: Those who came before laid the groundwork, and it’s on us to continue maturing for those who will follow. Our community, too, can see the difference in how we present ourselves, how we engage with them, and the level of service we deliver. It’s the natural, admirable progression of a department that has truly “grown up” in sync, with everyone contributing to an organization that is visionary, stable and service-oriented.

GRACE, GRATITUDE AND THE HEART OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

At the heart of effective fire service leadership lies a spirit of servant leadership — putting others before self, leading with humility, and serving with compassion. In my journey, I’ve learned that two qualities fuel this style of leadership: grace and gratitude. As we conclude this discussion on passion, growth and maturity, it’s fitting to focus on the personal virtues that bind it all together. A leader can be passionate, ambitious and seasoned, but without grace and gratitude, they will not truly connect with or inspire those they lead.

Grace in leadership is about showing understanding and kindness, even under pressure. In a profession as intense as ours, people will make mistakes — a firefighter might err on a call or a new policy rollout might

falter. Leading with grace means we correct and guide without humiliating; we maintain professionalism without losing empathy.

I recall an incident early in my chief tenure where a crew's decision at a fire scene didn't align with our standard tactics. Instead of a public reprimand, we held a private after-action review. It was approached with grace: *What led you to that decision? Here's what we can learn.* The result was improved training and a crew that felt supported rather than shamed. Grace turns mistakes into teachable moments and conflict into growth opportunities. It requires self-control — the ability to temper one's frustration or ego — in service of a positive outcome. A leader armed with grace fosters loyalty and a culture where people strive to improve, rather than hide errors, because they know their leaders seek to understand before judging.

Hand-in-hand with grace is gratitude. Being a grateful leader means constantly appreciating the team and resources we have and expressing that appreciation. I make it a point to thank our firefighters and staff frequently, not just in formal ceremonies or award banquets but also in day-to-day interactions. A simple "thank you for your hard work today" after a tough call or a note to the training division acknowledging their months of effort preparing a new academy class, goes a long way. This isn't just about politeness; it's strategic for morale. When people feel valued, they invest even more of their heart into the mission.

Gratitude also keeps leaders grounded. It reminds us that any success is a team success, built on countless contributions. I am profoundly grateful to have served alongside brave men and women who often do the extraordinary on ordinary days. Keeping that at the forefront prevents the "commanding leader" mentality and nurtures the "servant leader" mindset.

Servant leadership manifests in several ways in our fire service — mentoring others, listening actively and empowering our members. A servant leader doesn't seek to be the hero of every story; they seek to make everyone a hero in their own role. For example, when new ideas emerge from the ranks, a servant leader eagerly gives credit and lets those originators take the lead in implementation. I've seen firefighters conceive a new team, community risk reduction program, and others, and, given trust and ownership, turn them into a hugely successful initiative. The leader's role was simply to remove obstacles and cheer them on. This approach shows grace (trusting others with responsibility) and gratitude (acknowledging their talent and initiative). It also ties back to our theme of investment — we invest authority and trust in our people and reap the rewards of innovation and engagement.

Moreover, servant leadership extends grace to the community we serve. We treat the public with patience and empathy, recognizing that every 911 call is someone's worst day. Whether it's a false alarm or a massive structure fire, the compassion and respect we show to citizens leave a lasting impact. We lead our teams to be ambassadors of goodwill. I often express gratitude to our community, through open houses, social media or one-on-one conversations, for their support and trust. This two-way street of gratitude strengthens the bond between the fire department and the public. It reminds the community that behind our badges and helmets are neighbors who deeply care about them.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Grace, gratitude and servant leadership encompass the leadership legacy we should all strive to leave. As fire service leaders, when we lead with grace, we cultivate an environment of respect and continuous learning. When we lead with gratitude, we build a culture of positivity and mutual appreciation. These qualities elevate our passion into purpose, our appetite for improvement into achievable progress, and our organizational maturity into genuine excellence. Servant leadership is ultimately about heart — the heart to serve others first, to lift them up, and to guide with wisdom and compassion rather than authority alone. My sincere hope is that every chapter of our journey — every firehouse meal, every training drill, every emergency response — is imbued with these values. They are the steady flames that light our way, ensuring that as we serve, we also inspire, and as we lead, we also love the people and community we are privileged to serve.

Environmental Law Alert: New York State Provides Relief to Airports, Fire Training Sites and Landfills Contaminated with PFAS Chemicals

Hancock Estabrook LLP, Syracuse, NY

As part of the Budget Bill passed in May, the State of New York enacted an important expansion of the municipal exemptions for airports and *fire training sites* owned or operated by municipalities, public corporations, or *fire districts at which foam containing [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)] chemicals were used pursuant to law*. Additionally, landfills owned and operated by a municipality or public corporation are now eligible for the municipal exemption.

These important exemptions aim to alleviate the significant financial burden on municipalities, public corporations and fire districts facing potential Superfund liability for expensive remediation activities due to historical PFAS use at these facilities.

The legislation also requires the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to “establish interim generic PFAS soil and groundwater testing guidance to inform the development of cleanup objectives until the department of health establishes maximum contaminant, notification, or action levels for any PFAS chemical” by January 1, 2027.

New York has taken significant steps to regulate the use of PFAS in firefighting foam, also known as Class B firefighting foam. The law, codified under New York General Business Law § 391-u, prohibits the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of firefighting foams containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals in the State. The prohibition specifically applies to the discharge or use of such foams for training purposes.

New York State has banned the sale of firefighter gear containing PFAS chemicals as of 2028. Going forward, municipalities, public corporations and fire districts should review their operations and replace PFAS-containing foams with FFF concentrates. Proper disposal is required, with manufacturers offering recalls and reimbursement.

Prioritize purchasing PFAS-free PPE before the 2028 ban and stay informed by monitoring guidance from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) and NYSDEC.

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

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

Brentwood FD vs. Ramos Battle Continues

The fire chief in Long Island’s largest Latino community allegedly stormed into a local lawmaker’s office and dared his staff to “call ICE” — days after the pol accused him of aiding migrant crackdowns.

Democratic state Assemblyman Phil Ramos apparently sparked the showdown when he accused Brentwood’s fire officials last week of aiding the feds in their local immigration raids, with ICE spotted setting up a makeshift base in the parking lot of one of the department’s fire stations.

Ramos' public chastising then allegedly led Brentwood Fire Chief Bryant Figueroa to storm the politician's office Thursday night.

The pol said Figueroa was "trespassing" and trying to intimidate him by barging into his private office uninvited and daring staff to call law enforcement and the feds as they tried to stop him.

"Chief Bryant Figueroa stormed into my office unannounced, ignoring repeated instructions from my staff not to go beyond the public space — instead, he trespassed and entered my private office," Ramos said in a statement.

"When asked to leave and told again that he was not allowed in that part of the office, he responded defiantly with the words: 'Then call the police. Call ICE.' "

Ramos said Figueroa "forcibly entered" his private office and slammed an envelope on his desk containing the department's revocation of the lawmaker's honorary "chief" title along with notice that his name will be removed from the walls of the East Brentwood Fire House in Suffolk County.

"Rather than standing with us during a difficult time, your words and actions have fueled public mistrust and endangered the safety and reputation of those who serve selflessly and without political motive," said the fire chief's letter, which was obtained by The Post.

"We expect our community leaders, especially those we have honored with the title of Honorary Chief, to stand shoulder to shoulder with us in times of crisis and controversy—not to cast blame or sow division. Your recent conduct does not reflect the values we uphold or the brotherhood and sisterhood we share in the fire service."

Brentwood Fire did not respond to a request for comment on the chief's alleged storming of Ramos' office.

The department previously denied any knowledge or allowance of ICE's operations to take place in its parking lot. A now-viral video shows masked agents and unmarked cars recently setting up shop at the fire house.

Despite the department's and firefighters' denial, Ramos has remained unconvinced and insisted that leaders such as Figueroa gave ICE the green light to operate out of the parking lot.

Just days before the chief's alleged office storming, Ramos led a protest outside the fire house that ICE was spotted at.

Ramos, a former police officer who once sued his own department for civil-rights violations, said the fire department's leadership is "out of touch with the diverse community it serves" — and accused Figueroa of crossing the line from professional disagreement into personal retaliation.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: IF COOLER HEADS WOULD PREVAIL AND THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL COUNSEL WOULD STEP UP IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FD BUILDING AND PARKING LOT ARE PUBLIC PROPERTY AND GOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS ARE APPROPRIATELY CONDUCTED AS LONG AS THEY DON'T INTERFERE WITH THE MISSION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, YOU ARE ADVISED NOT TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHO USED THE FACILITY UNLESS THERE IS A POLICY IN PLACE. BETTER TREAD LIGHTLY ON THIS ONE.]

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

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

On Monday, July 7, 2025, Mayor Mike Stammel had the honor of joining Rensselaer City School District Superintendent Joseph Kardash to officially sign an agreement launching our brand-new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fire Science Program — a groundbreaking partnership between the City of Rensselaer and our school district.

This initiative is a major step forward in preparing our students for real-world careers while supporting our local fire departments and emergency services. Through this program, students will gain hands-on experience

with actual firefighting gear and equipment and will get a real taste of what it's like to serve on the front lines of public safety.

In addition to the technical training, the program reinforces vital academic skills in English, math, and science, giving students a well-rounded education that connects directly to future employment opportunities. Participants will also have the chance to earn certifications and learn directly from professionals working in the field.

FL Leads the Way With a High-Tech 911 System That Improves Emergency Response

Freida Frisaro, AP

When an emergency happens in Collier County, Florida, the 911 calls go to one of the most high-tech communications centers in the U.S., where callers can send text and video from the scene to dispatchers.

Moving to what's known as an NG911 — or Next Generation 911 — system is a journey Sheriff Kevin Rambosk and Bob Finney, the county's director of communication, have been on for much of the past decade.

It's a long way from Feb. 16, 1968, when Alabama's then-House Speaker Rankin Fite made the nation's very first 911 call in Haleyville, Alabama, on a bright red, rotary-style landline telephone. That ceremonial call came just 35 days after AT&T announced plans to use 911 as a nationwide emergency number.

Today, most calls to 911 originate with cellphones, with dispatchers in upgraded centers using geo tracking to get accurate geographic locations from callers.

But the response time in an emergency depends on the type of technology being used at any of the 6,000 emergency communications centers in the U.S. that receive 911 calls. There is no uniform emergency system in the U.S., so individual cities, counties, states or geographic regions are responsible for operating their own 911 call centers.

While some states have fully updated to NG911 systems, others are still using legacy 911 systems that rely on antiquated equipment.

"We're just reminded in these last two weeks, with the flooding in Texas, just how important the work of 911 is," said Michael Martin, CEO of RapidSOS, which provides infrastructure that passes critical data to emergency centers across the United States.

THE FUTURE IS NOW FOR 911

The Collier County Sheriff's Office covers 911 calls from an area of about 2,030 square miles (5,258 square kilometers) that stretches from sandy beaches at the southernmost tip of the Gulf Coast on Florida's peninsula inland to the Everglades.

It's a region that has been ravaged by hurricanes this century, including Hurricane Irma in 2017 and Hurricanes Ian and Milton most recently.

That's why Sheriff Rambosk wanted a high-tech emergency operations center.

"We just believe that when we can reduce the response time using technology, it will improve safety and survivability of those calling in," said Rambosk, who has been sheriff since 2009. "And that's really what we're all about, keeping people safe and rescuing them when they need it."

Today 61 full-time employees and three part-timers staff two emergency operations centers around the clock. They rely on data that RapidSOS collects from connected buildings, devices, vehicles and even smart watches to send first responders to emergency scenes. The baseline data is provide free of charge to all 911 centers, Martin said.

MIXING TECHNOLOGY WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

As Hurricane Helene was tracking toward north Florida last September, forecasters were predicting it could hit Tallahassee as a major Category 3 storm. Officials in Leon County, which serves the state's Capitol and nearby counties on legacy 911 equipment, reached out to Collier County, some 430 miles (692 kilometers) to the southeast, to see if they could take over emergency calls if the storm knocked their center out.

Helene moved to the east of Tallahassee, but Collier County was prepared to help if needed.

"Because of the partnership with Rapid SOS, they were able to create a map to where not only did we see our own calls, but we could see exactly where the calls were coming in Tallahassee," Finney said.

Collier County has also partnered with Charleston, South Carolina, as a backup 911 center. Each region is fully prepared to take on 911 calls for the other in case their emergency system goes down for any reason.

It's a similar story in North Carolina, where legislation in 2017 helped establish funding for a next generation 911 system, said Pokey Harris, who serves as president of the National Association of State 911 Administrators and executive director of the North Carolina 911 Board.

Harris said Hurricane Helene provided validation for the upgraded system by being able to direct 911 calls from areas that were devastated by the storm to other parts of North Carolina that were not affected.

"During Helene, if a citizen could reach a dial tone, even though their local 911 center may have been impacted because of infrastructure devastation, another center somewhere in the state could answer their call," Harris said.

NO FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NEXT-GENERATION SYSTEMS

Next Generation 911 systems aren't cheap.

"There has been no federal funding for 911," Martin, of RapidSOS said. "It has been in various draft formats as long as I've been doing this and it's never gotten through Congress."

There is also no federal oversight of 911, he said.

"It's really quite remarkable how well 911 works despite those challenges," Martin said. "I think it's a testament to the people of 911, not the technology."

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

Potts Camp, MS, Firefighters Learn on Social Media They've Been Shut Down

Susan Nicols

After 51 years of providing fire service, Potts Camp volunteer firefighters learned through social media last week that they were being shut down.

Also, Potts Camp Fire Department was ordered to vacate the premises and turn in all city equipment.

Upon hearing the news, fire officials lashed out about the Marshall County Board of Supervisors' decision to not renew their contract.

"We are stepping away not because we want to, but because we are being pushed out by political games, backroom decisions, and personal agendas," they posted on Facebook.

Later, however, they released another statement: "... We know that everyone involved ultimately wants what's best for the safety and well-being of our residents, even if we may not have agreed with how those decisions came about."

Residents will now be served by Potts Camp Fire-Rescue, a new department that county officials say will have 30 people. However, right now there is only one certified firefighter, according to a volunteer who was sidelined.

Potts Camp firefighters added: "To our community: thank you for standing by us over the years. Your support has meant more than words can say. Though this chapter is closing, we are proud of the legacy we've built together—and we hope our service has made a lasting, positive impact."

IAFF Points Fingers after Deadly Fall River, MA, Assisted Living Facility Fire

Luis Fieldman

The union representing Fall River firefighters directly called on the city's mayor to increase staffing levels the day after a deadly blaze at an assisted living facility killed nine and hospitalized nearly 30 on Sunday night.

"The mayor can decide tonight to staff this company, this city properly," Edward Kelly, the president of the International Association of Firefighters, said during a press conference Monday afternoon.

Kelly said that out of the 10 companies with the Fall River Fire Department, only two are staffed at the national standard of four firefighters.

The other eight are staffed with three firefighters, and Kelly said the inadequate staffing levels affected the response to the fire Sunday night.

"Last night, had they been staffed properly up to national standards, there would have been eight more firefighters affecting rescues here last night," Kelly said. "There's no doubt that would have made a difference in the amount of people that we lost to this terrible fire last night."

He added, "Lives would have been saved if the Fall River Fire Department was adequately staffed."

A spokesperson for Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan said he would release a statement in response on Tuesday.

There are nine companies in neighboring New Bedford, each staffed with four firefighters, according to Kelly. Off-duty firefighters came to the rescue Sunday night, some of whom did not have adequate equipment, such as breathing apparatus or personal protective equipment, he said

"Yet [they] put their lives at risk, kicked doors in, rescued people, but unfortunately, it just wasn't enough," Kelly said. "That's wrong. Fall River and the people who live here deserve better."

A fire broke out at about 9:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Gabriel House Assisted Living Residence, which drew nearly 50 firefighters to the scene and left a vulnerable population calling for help from their windows.

The Gabriel House opened in 1999 and has a total of 100 units, according to a state website.

Fall River Fire Chief Jeffrey Bacon described rescue efforts as "super labor-intensive and man-power intensive" due to the mobility issues for many of the residents.

The first firefighters at the scene saw flames coming out of the front doors and multiple residents were hanging out of the window, screaming for help, Bacon said.

Authorities identified seven of the nine victims of the fire on Monday afternoon.

Residents of the facility also spoke with MassLive on Monday. One said, "I just opened the window and I yelled, 'Help, help, help.'"

The origin and cause of the fire remain under investigation by state and local authorities. The cause does not appear to be suspicious at this time, the Bristol District Attorney's Office said.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: WOULD YOUR DEPARTMENT HAVE ADEQUATE STAFFING TO DEAL WITH THIS HIGH INTENSITY RESCUE SITUATION? BE HONEST!!]

FOLLOW UP STORY:

Charlie McKenna, masslive.com

FALL RIVER, Mass. — The union representing Fall River's firefighters and city officials reached an agreement to increase the fire department's staff, a major point of contention in the wake of a deadly fire that killed nine people at an assisted living facility.

At a press conference Wednesday afternoon at City Hall, Mayor Paul Coogan said the city intended to increase the number of fire engines fully staffed at the national standard of four firefighters per truck. The department typically staffs just two of its ten fire engines at that standard, but Coogan said the agreement will increase the number to six.

That means Fall River will bring on 15 to 20 firefighters in the next two years, Fire Chief Jeffrey Bacon said at the press conference. In the short term, while those firefighters are hired and trained, the new staffing level will be covered by overtime.

With the new agreement, which Coogan said represented an increase of about \$1.5 million to the city's budget, a minimum of 38 firefighters will work each shift, Bacon said. On Sunday night, that would have meant three more firefighters able to respond to the scene when the fire broke out, throwing ladders and rescuing trapped residents.

"We think this is a very positive step in the right direction," Coogan said.

The city intends to work with the union to get to the point where all 10 engines are staffed at the minimum standard of four firefighters per truck, Coogan said.

Thieves Break Into PA Fire Company, Steal \$50K Worth of Rescue Tools

Jonathan Miller

The Christiana (PA) Fire Company announced July 9, 2025, that two individuals in separate vehicles broke into Station 52 and stole rescue tools valued at more than \$50,000. This is an open police investigation.

Here's the press release the fire company issued:

At 3:23 a.m. Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Station 52, two individuals in separate vehicles entered the parking lot and proceeded to break through the front door. Unfortunately, vital rescue tools valued at more than \$50,000 were stolen in this effort. The vehicles were last seen traveling south on PA Route 41 at the intersection of PA Route 10 in Cochranville, PA, heading toward the Kennett Square/Avondale area. At the time of the incident, the station was unstaffed, and the building was secured as expected. No personnel were present at the time of the incident.

The equipment was out of service for a very short period (mutual aid covered) so that law enforcement could conduct its initial investigation. We did not receive any calls for emergency assistance during this time, and we were 100% available for dispatch directly after this task.

Per law enforcement, this is an emerging criminal trend on a larger scale where criminals will use these tools to commit further crimes such as cutting into stolen ATM machines, so they are asking our residents and business owner/operators to stay vigilant and notify them of any suspicious behavior. If you see something suspicious, please report it.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS MAKES THE CASE OF CAMERAS, AT LEAST IN THE APPARATUS BAYS WHERE THE GREATEST VALUE IS.]

Understanding Today's Fire Apparatus Lead Times

It is no secret that lead times for fire apparatus are currently at levels the fire service has rarely seen. There was a time that when an order was placed, a department could expect its new rig to arrive in 12 to 18 months. In recent years, that has changed, but there is no one event that can be considered the root cause. Rather, the delays currently experienced across the industry are, in general, the cumulative result of several factors.

MULTIPLE DRIVERS

The Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA) collects high-level, anonymized data available exclusively to members that provide insights into historical trends. FAMA's Board approved the specific release of annual data to help demonstrate the magnitude of recent industry trends.

The lead times for custom fire apparatus are already generally longer than other commercial vehicle manufacturing industries because of custom engineering, lower volume, and high-variability manufacturing processes. Many fire apparatus are customized to meet the specific needs of the communities they will serve. The already longer lead times are magnified when booked orders surge over a short period of time and exceed the industry capacity, which is what started to occur after the pandemic.

In 2022, demand increased to exceed the typical supply by 45% while production fell by 9%—because of labor and supply chain disruptions that resulted from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Apparatus purchasing committees and fire apparatus manufacturer representatives could not travel for in-person meetings as the pandemic began, which resulted in delays in research, spec writing, and associated approvals—although these circumstances improved as virtual technologies like Zoom helped connect OEMs and their customers during the pandemic. On top of this, stimulus funding became available, and many municipalities allocated some of those funds to help update aging apparatus fleets—updates that were curtailed during the pandemic—which exacerbated the already higher levels of incoming orders and created a sharp surge in demand.

As meeting and travel restrictions relaxed, many municipalities recognized that lead times were increasing and accelerated their ordering cycles to ensure future availability. This understandable response added to the surge in booked orders and compounded the already challenging lead time concerns.

Graph 1 shows that from 2022 forward, the past 12 to 18 months of booked and shipped orders are moving toward more typical levels.

WHAT ABOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN?

The supply chain disruptions that occurred as the world emerged from the COVID-19 Pandemic are well-documented. Fire apparatus comprise numerous components, typically numbering in the thousands, many of which are critical to production schedules. Even a minor disruption can impact delivery schedules.

Manufacturers source many of the components used in fire apparatus domestically. However, labor availability, transportation arrangements, and other factors can still adversely impact delivery schedules.

Supply chains have largely recovered from the past several years' disruptions. Although the industry has implemented a range of steps to handle supply interruptions, typical of any market, a combination of factors could arise and cause further disruptions. Many FAMA members have implemented a number of steps to address supply chain challenges, including developing secondary suppliers—especially for critical components—and carrying additional inventory to bridge potential interruptions where necessary.

Still, the recent introduction of tariffs could disrupt supply chains. At present, it appears that the impact is largely around costing, but it is possible that ongoing tariffs will affect key raw material availability, including aluminum.

LEAD TIME REALITIES

Current lead times are difficult for customers and manufacturers. Once customers have made a commitment, and funds have been allocated, fire departments understandably want to take delivery of their fire apparatus as soon as possible. Manufacturers, likewise, want to deliver a truck in a time frame that makes customers happy.

Currently, FAMA data suggest that the industry is moving toward more normal lead times. Booked orders are trending toward the historical average, and shipped orders have now recovered above the historical average. At the same time, manufacturers have identified capacity improvements that include plant expansions, new manufacturing equipment, and streamlined processes—with many manufacturers taking action on these improvements.

FAMA members that have implemented these improvements report that the investments are beginning to yield results. That said, plant expansions, new equipment, and new processes take time to implement—often several years. If disruptive influences do not return, FAMA data suggest that these initiatives are yielding results, and lead times will continue to normalize over the next twenty-four months.

THE REALITY OF CHOICE

No fire apparatus manufacturer was left untouched by these conditions. FAMA has approximately 135 member companies that manufacture fire apparatus or components for them with production facilities in the United States and Canada. Approximately 55 of those 135 members manufacture fire apparatus. The majority of these members are smaller companies, many of which are family-owned and -operated.

FAMA has the most comprehensive data set in the industry. These data are collected anonymously; however, they point to trends that broadly affect the entire industry regardless of whether a member company is a small, private, or family-owned operation or a larger publicly traded or private equity entity. The data show that no single fire apparatus manufacturer, or group of manufacturers under common ownership, dominates the industry. With 55 fire apparatus manufacturers within FAMA, there is significant choice available to the entire fire service community.

Although FAMA cannot comment on individual members' operations, general market dynamics suggest that member companies strive to differentiate themselves to both attract and retain customers. Currently, this includes—to the extent possible—using a variety of strategies to reduce costs and lead times.

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

FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

IN 2025 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED 44 FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S

According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com*

In 2024 we experienced 64 LODDs reported nationally.!

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

- North Andover Fire Department. North Andover, MA. On May 29, 2025, Firefighter Deschenes responded to multiple calls during his shift. After returning home later that evening, Firefighter Deschenes experienced chest pain and went to the emergency room at approximately 10:00 p.m. He suffered a heart attack that night while at the hospital. Medical professionals were unable to resuscitate him, and he was pronounced deceased.
- A Sacramento firefighter was hospitalized in serious condition Monday night after being assaulted during a medical call in North Sacramento.
- Beauregard, Louisiana Fire Protection District Firefighter Jonathan Ashworth, 23, was killed when his vehicle struck a tree while responding for an EMS call.
- The East Branch, New York Fire Department (Delaware Co.) announces the Line of Duty Death of 3rd Assistant Chief Jason McGlone who died of injuries sustained in a MVC while responding to a car crash on Route 30 on Thursday, July 17th 2025. In a heartbreaking series of events, a fellow firefighter said McGlone's truck became tangled in a low-hanging wire. The wire caused a short circuit that interfered with communications and McGlone was electrocuted while exiting the vehicle, officials said. Despite immediate CPR efforts, he could not be revived.
- Fire Coordinator/Civil Defense Director Walter G. Morrison, 46. Otsego County Emergency Services. New York Walter G. Morrison died from a heart attack at a barn fire. Morrison was past Chief of the Fly Creek Fire Department, a member of the Board of Directors of the Central New York Fireman's Association, and a former Secretary of State Fire Service Council.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK

- There was a fatal crash in Richland County (Columbia SC) involving a responding fire apparatus. Reports are that the crash happened when Columbia-Richland Engine 11 apparently struck a Nissan attempting to make a left turn in the median into a private driveway. The firetruck was traveling north with lights and siren activated. The passenger in the Nissan died on the scene. The driver and all Firefighters were hurt and transported to the hospital. The fire apparatus' lights and sirens were on at the time of the crash, Highway Patrol confirmed-and they were responding to a dwelling fire.

FIRE APPARATUS

Refurbish or Replace? That Is the Question

Ray Sajdak and Scott Poulton

With extended lead times—often ranging from 24 to 48 months—and limited funding, many departments are opting for refurbishment as a more cost-effective solution to meet their operational needs. But, is it the right choice for your department? This article explores the challenges departments face in making this decision, examining lead times, costs, and how refurbishment can extend the life of a fire apparatus.

THE EVOLVING STANDARDS FOR REFURBISHING FIRE APPARATUS

In 2024, a significant change in fire apparatus standards occurred with the "Emergency Response and Responder Safety Document Consolidation Plan." National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1912, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Refurbishing*, is no longer a standalone document. Instead, it has been integrated into the newly consolidated NFPA 1910, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Firefighting Vessels*. This new standard incorporates

NFPA 1911, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles*; 1925, *Standard on Marine Fire-Fighting Vessels*; and 1071, *Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technician Professional Qualifications*, to focus on the inspection, maintenance, and retirement of fire vehicles. Although this article focuses primarily on fire apparatus refurbishment, understanding these updated regulations is essential when considering how to handle an aging apparatus.

REFURBISHING A 2006 SEAGRAVE PUMPER, FOR EXAMPLE

Imagine this scenario: The chief of the XYZ Fire Department has just been informed that funding for a new replacement engine has been cut from the town's budget. Faced with this unexpected challenge, the chief must now explore a more budget-friendly solution—refurbishment.

The truck committee initially considered several factors when specifying the needs for a new engine, including vehicle safety, operational efficiency, and technology upgrades. These same factors now apply to refurbishment decisions, with particular attention to the condition of the apparatus's "good bones"—the frame, drivetrain, pump, and body. After conducting an extensive inspection of the 2006 Seagrave pumper, it was determined that the rig had a solid drivetrain and a good frame, though there was minor corrosion along the body and frame rails.

The department outlined a scope of repairs that would extend the life of the vehicle by another five to 10 years. After receiving proposals from three contractors, the department awarded a refurbishment contract. Several weeks into the breakdown and inspections, it was confirmed that the scope of repairs was accurate, and no unexpected costs had emerged, *even avoiding the need to use the department's 30% contingency fund.*

TWO LEVELS OF REFURBISHMENT

NFPA 1910 defines two main levels of refurbishment: Level I and Level II.

Chapter 3.3.194.1* states that **Level I refurbishing is "the assembly of a new fire apparatus by the use of a new chassis frame, driving and crew compartment, front axle, steering and suspension components, and the use of either new components or components from an existing apparatus for the remainder of the apparatus."** If components like the drivetrain remain unchanged, they must be thoroughly inspected for damage, wear, and stress cracks. Chapter 30.1 says that fire apparatus refurbished to Level I standards shall meet the requirements of the applicable chapter of NFPA 1900, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances*, unless specified otherwise in Chapter 30.

Chapter 3.3.194.2* states that **Level II refurbishing is "the upgrade of major components or systems of a fire apparatus with components or systems that comply with the applicable standards in effect at the time the original apparatus was manufactured."** Chapter 31.1* states that all new or upgraded components used in Level II refurbishing shall meet the requirements of the applicable chapters of NFPA 1900, unless otherwise specified in Chapter 31.

Both levels have distinct advantages and challenges, and the choice between the two depends on the extent of the necessary repairs and the department's goals.

THE PROS OF REFURBISHING

When considering refurbishment over replacement, the most influential factor for most departments is budget. Here are several compelling advantages of refurbishment:

- Refurbishing an apparatus is typically much more affordable than purchasing a new one.
- Departments with limited funding can extend the lifespan of their apparatus without breaking the bank.
- Refurbishment allows departments to delay the cost of replacement, keeping finances more flexible for other needs.
- Refurbishment upgrades outdated components, improving the vehicle's overall performance and reliability.
- Enhanced technology integration, from improved pumps to modern safety features, reduces the risk of breakdowns and operational delays.

Refurbishment upgrades outdated components, improving the vehicle's overall performance and reliability.

- Departments can tailor refurbishments to meet their specific operational needs, upgrading features that may have been unavailable when the apparatus was first built.
- Valuable equipment can be retained, particularly in cases where replacing it would be too costly or difficult.
- Refurbishment projects typically take three to six months, allowing departments to get their vehicles back on the road relatively quickly, compared with the extended waiting periods for new builds.

THE CONS OF REFURBISHING

While there are many advantages, refurbishment also has its drawbacks, including the following:

- Even after refurbishment, the vehicle's lifespan is finite, and it may not be a long-term solution for growing or evolving departments.
- *There's always the potential for unforeseen structural or mechanical problems to arise during refurbishment, leading to unexpected costs. Thus, a contingency plan/budget.*
- Even with upgrades, refurbished apparatus may not be able to incorporate the latest technology and features available in new vehicles.
- Integrating new technology with older components can be difficult, potentially leading to issues with compatibility and compliance with newer safety standards.
- The quality of refurbishment work can vary depending on the contractor, and departments may lack experience in evaluating refurbishment options and contractors.

Ultimately, each department must assess its unique needs and budget before making a decision on refurbishing a rig. *Refurbishment may be the ideal solution for smaller departments with limited funding, minimal usage, and low call volumes, provided the apparatus has a solid maintenance record.* Departments must consider the vehicle's condition and reliability and the department's long-term needs when determining whether refurbishment or replacement is the best option. Consider the department's projected growth and evolving operational needs over the next decade and ensure any choice made aligns with the department's goals for performance and public service.

Whether you choose to refurbish or replace, it's crucial to make an informed decision based on the unique needs of your department. *Both options have their merits, but the decision should always center on safety, reliability, and the long-term operational success of your fire department.*

****Get It Fixed: Apparatus Repairs That Require Your Attention, Yesterday**

Bruce Bjorge

How many of us have seen something that's not right and thought to ourselves, "I'll get to that later" but never do?

Despite working in a field where attention to detail is a key safety consideration, you can walk into virtually any fire station and spot all those little things that are getting missed or not being addressed as they should be – in a timely manner for the safety and efficiency of all involved.

For example, how many times have you walked into an apparatus bay and noticed that the valve for the hose used to wash the truck is leaking? No big deal, right? At least not until a member of your crew or a visitor slips on the water and sprains an ankle or breaks a leg.

That's when the entire crew faces some tough questions like, "who knew about this?" and "why didn't anyone do something about it?" Both fair questions.

How about the windshield wiper that's starting to leave streaks, but we defer the maintenance on it until it's so bad that we basically can't see out the windshield while responding to a house fire with people trapped inside in a driving rainstorm. What about the brakes on the apparatus that have been pulling to the left? They seem to be getting worse but aren't quite "bad enough" for the hassle to take it out of service for the shop to get it fixed.

GET PROACTIVE ABOUT WINDSHIELD WIPERS AND BRAKES

Unfortunately, no one is exempt from making these decisions or falling into these mental pitfalls. We all do it from time to time. So, the question becomes, how do we prevent these scenarios from playing out to the point that they compromise our work or put lives in danger?

First, we must decide that the issue is a true safety concern and something we must proactively seek to correct as soon as a problem is detected. When we run across the leaky hose, don't walk by it; grab a wrench and try and fix it. If you can't do that easily, then follow your procedure for getting it reported and corrected by those who are qualified and responsible for affecting the repair. We shouldn't wait for someone to get hurt to have the motivation to get it fixed. Hospital bills and lawsuits cannot be our motivation to act. Doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do should be the motivation.

Let's take the windshield wiper example. Windshield wipers are a known wear item on every vehicle. Most of us are simply not in the habit of changing a windshield wiper on a regular interval – but we should be. This is how we adopt a proactive mindset with maintenance. But we also shouldn't wait to change the wiper based on a set date on the calendar, like if the wiper is delaminating on the arm and leaves more dirt and water on the windshield than it wipes away. We need them to work when it really counts. If we don't, we increase the risk of a crash, putting firefighters and others in danger, not to mention necessitating additional resources to cover two incidents instead of the original one – all this because of a \$20 part that should have been replaced weeks, if not months, earlier when everyone started noticing the dirty windshield and streaky lines.

Now, let's talk about brakes. They are a big deal. Despite the improvements in design and durability that come with modern fire apparatus, brakes still wear out or fail to adjust automatically, not to mention the "driver issues," like overdriving the apparatus for its design, that can contribute to a significant event, like a crash.

Everyone on the apparatus is responsible for speaking up when they see something, hear something or smell something involving overheated, damaged or worn-out brakes. Any of these issues could easily be an indicator of a significant mechanical issue that necessitates taking the apparatus out of service. Have the courage to speak up about such issues, even when doing so results in needing to transfer to a reserve apparatus or having to call for aid from your neighbors until repairs can be completed.

If you report this to a supervisor and they suggest that you ride it out for a while, you need to ask yourself if that is the right course of action. Remember, not handling this issue can make the difference between answering the next call, helping a member of your community when they need you most, and your ability to return home safely to your family at the end of the shift. So do the right thing, and if people try to defer maintenance for any reason, escalate the issue until the correct action is taken. The stakes are too high not to.

STAY VIGILANT

So, the next time you walk into your own fire station or someone else's, look for water leaks on the floor, worn windshield wipers, or excessive brake dust on the rims of the apparatus. But also check out the proper storage of the SCBA, tools secured in the compartments, and tire tread. Stay vigilant about regular maintenance to ensure your crew remains mission ready.

Remember, when you discover something wrong, get it fixed – now

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	44
Last fire death 7/8/25 Hopewell, Ontario, Co. Female, 70	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	76
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	599
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/48
	#2 NY/44
	#3 IL/36
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2025: 1218	
2046 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
Week 28 of 2025, fire has claimed on an average 42 lives PER WEEK.	
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?	

GREEN TECHNOLOGY & THE FIRE SERVICE

Mass. Firefighter Invents Tool To Make EV Fires Safer To Extinguish

Sarah Roebuck

HINGHAM, Mass. — As electric vehicles become more common, so do the challenges facing firefighters called to respond when these cars catch fire. One Massachusetts firefighter is helping departments across the state tackle the problem with a new invention aimed at making electric vehicle (EV) fires safer and more manageable.

Hingham Firefighter Ryan Twombly saw firsthand how dangerous and time-consuming EV fires can be, **WCVB reports**. Traditional tactics often leave firefighters dangerously close to burning batteries for extended periods. “What I saw was firefighters were way too exposed to the hazard. And we were in the hazard zone for way too long,” Twombly told WCVB. “And [I] said, ‘You know what? We don’t need to be tilting the car. We need to have something to slide underneath the vehicle and suppress the hazard from a distance.’”

Twombly’s solution: a 40-inch metal pipe, outfitted with hose attachments on each end and slits running along one side — designed to work like a heavy-duty lawn sprinkler. Firefighters can slide the device, a **tactical thermal reducing cylinder** (TTRC), underneath a burning EV and direct water right to the vehicle’s battery, cooling it more efficiently and reducing the risk of injury. The invention eliminates the need to tip a vehicle on its side to get water to the battery.

The device is now equipped on all of Hingham’s fire engines and has been adopted by more than a dozen other fire departments across Massachusetts. Most recently, Waltham firefighters put Twombly’s tool to the test when they were called to extinguish a fire in an electric Jeep.

SEE DEMONSTRATION ON YOU TUBE HERE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obTJwqXrHhU&t=14s>

STUFF FOR YOUR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS!



FARMEDIC Series: Logging Hazards, ESIP WEBINAR SERIES

Logging is the forgotten agriculture industry. We will discuss logging hazards ranging from backyard tree felling to the logging industry and what the First Responder should be aware of.

Wednesday July 16th at 7PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=891b292a53&e=781e9a2c81>

We all handle chainsaws at one time or another!!



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>

National Fire Protection Association Webinar

A Comprehensive View of Renewable Energy Installations Through the Lens of the Electrical Cycle of Safety

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

12:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

1 hour

REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:

https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/4893775/4727F8AA54981A958884C7D552CF3CFD?partnerref=email&utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email0344&utm_content=webi&order_src=e811



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

Aug. 7 at 2pm ET

Presenter: Katie Bulla



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

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, thanks.

GENERAL INTEREST

Firefighters, Let Your Citizens Know What You Do

William Quinn

To paraphrase the words of Bob Dylan, “You got to serve somebody.... you may be a district or you may be a town... you got to serve somebody.”

Every fire department serves somebody: The citizens in your area, a mayor and council, a board of commissioners, or the people who you want to attend your fundraising bingo and pancake breakfasts. These are the people who we need support from through the year, especially at budget time or district voting time. If we want their support, we must start with letting them know, honestly, what we do each day and night. The information can be obtained from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), attendance sheets, and the like. *Even small fire departments expend staff hours responding to calls, maintaining equipment and training. Add these hours up and let the people know.*

In this day of Instagram, Facebook, the Internet, and so forth. disseminating this information can be done very quickly. *At my small volunteer fire department, I send the information/article monthly, but one of our members posts on Facebook and our website more frequently.* Some of our citizens may not be tech savvy, so they may have to be reached by old-fashioned newspaper articles and or a department or community newsletter.

We must, however, recognize our audience. Start by putting words together. We cannot use fire service jargon like “We knocked the fire,” “We made a [grab](#),” or “We popped the door.” We are not aiming this info at other firefighters. There is a time for that, but not when we are trying to inform the public, our constituents. Remember, we are serving them. I use a few key phrases when I write articles for my small volunteer fire department, which we then submit to our small community newspaper. This outlet serves our town and the mutual aid surrounding towns.

INCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

Let them know who is in charge. Start the article by stating something like:

THE ANYTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT ANSWERS 24 CALLS DURING DECEMBER 2024

Under the command of Fire Chief Robert Zimmerman, the Anytown Fire Department was called 24 times for emergency assistance during the month of December 2024. Chief Zimmerman reports that none of the calls turned out to be a serious fire in Anytown.

Or add:

On the morning of August 17, a serious fire broke out in the kitchen of an Anytown residence. Anytown fire crews assisted by the Smithtown and Jonesville fire departments responded quickly and extinguished the fire, containing it to the area where it started. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation. A dumpster fire also occurred in the parking lot of a commercial business; this was quickly extinguished. The 24 emergency calls and two work/maintenance sessions and two training drills required over 270 hours of volunteer time.

A word of caution: if you did experience a serious fire, be very careful what you release to the newspaper/Instagram/Facebook, etc. But let them know.

If you were called to assist the neighboring communities under mutual aid, state that.

The Anytown Fire Department was called out of town for five incidents to assist the Smithtown Fire Department on three occasions, the Jonesville fire department once, and on one incident at the scene of a serious structure fire in Acmetown.

We all go out on smells-and-bells calls, but do not downplay what we do at these calls. Let the readers know that we still check the buildings, etc.

Automatic fire alarms were received ten times in December. Although no fires existed at any of these incidents, a full fire department response is required. Firefighters check the entire building to determine if an actual fire exists. A variety of problems caused these automatic alarms: two times the alarms were set off by cooking. A detector malfunction caused one response. Workers in buildings unintentionally set off alarms on four incidents. And at three calls, fire alarm pull stations were unintentionally activated.

Also, with natural gas calls and carbon monoxide (CO) incidents, we serve the homeowner/occupant.

Three times the fire department responded to investigate incidents involving natural gas. At these calls, fire crews respond and check the area or building with meters. At one of the calls, fire crews found slight gas readings. At two calls no readings were found. Anytown Fire Department standard procedures dictate these incidents are turned over to All County Gas Company technicians for further investigation.

Two carbon monoxide (CO) calls were received. Readers are reminded that CO is an odorless and colorless gas caused by malfunctioning heating or cooking equipment. It can be lethal at high levels. Again, each of these

calls require a full fire department response. Fire crews check the entire building with meters. No CO readings were found at these incidents. As with natural gas incidents, these occupancies are turned over to All County gas technicians for further investigation

The public should be informed about any other calls, regardless of what service you provide, including EMS, hazmat, vehicle extrication, etc.

FIRE PREVENTION MESSAGING

The article can also include a fire prevention message:

The Anytown Fire Department and Fire Prevention Bureau urge residents to start off the new year thinking about fire safety. Citizens are reminded that smoke detectors are very important for your safety. Install one on every level of the home. Also, have a fire escape plan for your particular home; the plan must show at least two ways out of every room. Practice exit drills with your family. Crawl low in smoke. If a door is hot, do not open it—use the secondary exit. Have a meeting place outside your home, make sure everyone is out, do not go back inside for any reason. Call the fire department, from outside the home, call 911.

or

The Anytown Fire Department and Fire Prevention Bureau would like to remind readers that the autumn season is in full swing. We all would like a few more weeks of warm weather, but the leaves are starting to fall off the trees and need to be raked to the curb. The Anytown Department of Public Works does a great job picking up the leaves, but they do stay on the streets for a period of time. Firefighters urge residents never to park on these leaf piles. Many car fires have started by heat from mufflers and catalytic converters on cars igniting these leaf piles. The fire then extends to the cars, resulting in a family car being destroyed.

Be sure to let the readers know who is submitting the article. Example: “This article was submitted by the Anytown fire department. For Emergencies, call 911.” Include a business non-emergency phone number, the website address, Facebook page, etc.

Every fire department, large or small depends on the people we serve for support. They should know what we do. Remember, you are addressing civilians, so avoid fire service jargon. This is one way we can let them know what we do and why we need their support.

NOTE: The above names have been changed to protect...

I would like to thank [Anthony Avillo](#), [Steve Marsar](#), and [Jerry Knapp](#) for assistance with this article.

LAUGH OUT LOUD!!

I don't know about you, but I will never be OK with donut shops cutting a hole in my donut and then charging people separately for the same hole they robbed me of in the first place. My complaint for the week!!!

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Greenfield Fire District is Hiring

The Greenfield Fire District is looking for a professional and highly-motivated person to perform a wide variety of functions relating to the material needs and possessions of the Greenfield Fire District. Must have good organization and communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, and be flexible with work hours when necessary. Prior experience preferred and all candidates must have a clean driver's license. Individuals residing within Fire District Boundaries preferred. Employment application and job description can be found on the district website at www.greenfieldfd.org. Applications, or cover letters & resumes, will be accepted until the position is filled, and should be sent to Joyce Petkus, District Administrator via email at jpetkus@greenfieldfd.org or regular mail to Greenfield Fire District, P.O. Box 103 Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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

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

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Fred Richards Commissioner Harmony Corners/Saratoga,

Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga,

Ed Woehrle Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady

Art Hunsinger, Ex-Officio Member Clifton Park Fire District

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

Treasurer: Tony Hill

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

Chaplain: Fred Richards, Commissioner, Harmony Corners Fire District

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

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

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

CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063

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

518-407-5020

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

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

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

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.CAFDA.NET

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

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

FIRE SERVICE LEGAL SERVICES



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Alyssa B. Snyder, Partner
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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 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://cafdanet.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	Fort William Henry Hotel & Conference Center, Lake George — Thurs-Sat. April 10-12, 2025
ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR	Verdoy Fire District — Saturday, November 1, 2025 — 988 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham

SOCIAL EVENTS

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

MEETINGS – CLIFTON PARK FIRE DISTRICT & ZOOM

General Membership Meeting	Saturday, January 4, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, February 13, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Wednesday March 5, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, April 3, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, May 8, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, June 12, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting	Thursday, August 14, 2025



General Membership Meeting	Thursday, September 11, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, October 9, 2025
General Membership Meeting	Thursday, November 13, 2025

FOR MORE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Website	www.CAFDA.net
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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. By working together, we can help build a fire service that will serve us well for years to come.