




Capital Area Fire District's Association
THE WEEKLY CAFDA

BULLETIN

June 14, 2025

Editor, Tom Rinaldi, Tom@rinaldi1.com
Serving the fire service community since 2004

CAPITAL SHORTS:

- CAFDA is happy to announce the dates for **Conference '26** in historic Lake George, April, 9th, 10th and 11th, 2026 plan on joining us.
- **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.
-  **Grant Alert: FY24 SAFER & FP&S Programs**
Application period ends July 3rd.
- Anker Innovations is recalling over 1 million of its power banks after the company says it received 19 reports of fires and explosions caused by the items. There have

been 11 reports of property damage totaling over \$60,700, says Anker.

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

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

Firefighter Stipend Program Expanded For Wildfire Training

Cassie Abel

The New York Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend program has been expanded to reimburse \$250 per student in costs related to basic wildland fire suppression training, according to the Governor's office. The reimbursement, however, is limited to a first-time completion of the course.

The training covers wildland firefighting responsibilities, fire behavior, weather and other factors related to wildland firefighting. According to the governor, the trainings will be led by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and are designed to give new firefighters the skills needed when tackling wildfires.

The stipend program also includes reimbursements for interior and exterior firefighting and fire officer

trainings. For more information on the program or to apply, [visit the state's website](http://www.dhse.ny.gov/new-york-state-volunteer-firefighter-stipend-program);

<https://www.dhse.ny.gov/new-york-state-volunteer-firefighter-stipend-program>

Legislative Commentary

It's almost over for the 2025 Session.

- EMS Billing has been extended 5 more years, provisioned in the Budget Bill.
- S688A/A5619A The property tax break has been amended, to *permit* municipalities to adopt a local law or ordinance to allow unremarried spouses of volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers with between two and five years of service, who are killed in the line of duty, to continue receiving pre-existing property tax exemptions.
- S8011/A8275 & S7852/A8276 The Heart and Lung bills passed in both chambers and have both been extended for another 5 years to 2030.
- S8409/A8657 statewide volunteer firefighter/ambulance worker property tax exemption intended to replace the numerous local bills authorizing such exemptions in various localities. Chapter 670 sets those local exemption bills to expire in 2025. This bill extends the local bills until 2028 to allow municipalities that have not adopted a local law to replace them.
- S779/A596 increases the number of members on the state fire prevention and building code council from sixteen to seventeen with the addition of the commissioner of agriculture.
- S4157/A112 repeals section 3403 of the insurance law relating to anti-arson applications. Recognizing that the reason that this law was originally enacted no longer exists.
- S31/A34 requires the thruway authority to issue emergency services permits to ambulance and fire vehicles, which would exempt such vehicles from paying tolls while engaged in an emergency operation.
- S4328/A3343 permits a municipality to enact, adopt, or enforce any ordinance, resolution, or regulation permitting the imposition of fines on alarm system companies solely for false alarms resulting from deficiencies in the alarm system, errors by the alarm system company, or mistakes made by the central monitoring station.
- S1515/A2177A the purpose of this legislation is to remove emergency medical services from the tax cap for local municipalities in order to support local ems services.
- S2703/A3790 Requires that a written report be submitted to the governor and legislature, on or before February fifteenth of each year, on firefighter training activities. Such report shall include at least the following information: the minimum training hours allocated on a county-by-county basis, the training hours requested by each county, any unfulfilled training hour requests, [and] the number of hours used by each county on a county-by-county basis, and a statewide total of the number of hours allocated to each firefighter. *Such report shall also identify the fire department or district providing the training including the number of hours of training and the type of training for each firefighter. In addition, such report shall also list the names of those firefighters qualified to do interior firefighting.* The written report shall be prominently posted on the division of homeland security and emergency services website no later than March first of each year.
- S2748/A8485 this legislation will establish a statewide program where veterans or discharged military personnel are encouraged to volunteer ("vets to vollies") in their local fire department or ems agency.
- S801/A2400 this chapter amendment requires the state fire prevention and building code council to promulgate standards that would require new buildings with new parking to have electric vehicle charging infrastructure and charging stations.
- S737/A440 changes instances of the term moped to limited use motorcycle in relation to lithium-ion battery safety.
- S5848/A247 requires the state fire administrator to make available a specialized electric vehicle emergency response training program.

Note that most of the bills that have passed both chambers now have to go to the Governor's office for signature. Continue to monitor the ScoreCard for updates.

- President Donald Trump has directed the creation of a single wildland firefighting program, shifting thousands from the U.S. Forest Service to a new agency under the Interior Department
- Jeremy Greenberg, who leads FEMA's National Response Coordination Center, submitted his resignation on June 11 and will officially leave the agency in two weeks, just as the 2025 hurricane season begins to ramp up.
- U.S. Forest Service is asking as many as 1,400 employees who left the agency in recent months to help fight wildfires this summer. The Trump administration said firefighters were exempt from job cuts, but it is believed that thousands of employees with firefighting training took buyouts and early retirements.

Tariffs' Fire Service Impacts: What We Know So Far

Chris McLoone

It doesn't feel that long ago (2018) that *Fire Apparatus & Emergency Equipment* tackled the topic of potential tariffs and their impact on the fire service. Many times, our thoughts immediately moved toward fire apparatus and how tariffs would impact their costs and production. Given the current context of lead times and costs for fire trucks, it's natural to do the same thing now as the Trump Administration announces a variety of tariffs at different levels. But, it's important to remember that many other fire truck components and tools we use regularly could be affected.

Currently, given how often the narrative changes, it's difficult to pin down what, if any, impacts fire service suppliers are experiencing regarding various tariffs, especially the recently announced tariffs on steel and aluminum that went into effect on June 4.

Paul Darley, CEO of Darley, says that tariffs have not impacted the company's supply chain significantly. "We try to use USA manufacturers and suppliers wherever possible," he states.

According to a statement from the REV Fire Group, "All our manufacturing facilities are in the United States, most of our sales are in the US, and our raw materials and other inputs are in large part sourced in the US. Since the tariffs were announced, REV Group's supply chain team has been working diligently with our suppliers to gain a greater understanding of their financial impacts. Suppliers have been broadly cooperative, though select suppliers have revealed opportunism in leveraging these circumstances to increase pricing unauthentically."

John Pfeifer, president, chief executive officer, and director, Oshkosh Corp., parent company of Pierce Manufacturing, explained at its Q1 earnings call that nearly all of what the company sells is built in the United States, and the company has a broad US production footprint. The company is proactively working with its supply chain, which is global, to mitigate potential impacts from tariffs. It also is not experiencing any supply chain disruptions or reductions in demand due to tariffs

Impacts to customers, for Darley, are expected to affect export sales. "The primary impact is on our export sales, which in some years, can account for up to 50% of our fire pump sales," he says. The bottom line is that suppliers are working to limit tariff effects on customers. "About 15% of our suppliers are imposing tariffs price increases on us," says Darley. "So far, we have not passed along any of these price increases on to our customers."

And, the REV Fire Group spokesman says, "The REV Group's supply chain team continues to negotiate and mitigate exposure, while enacting offsets to neutralize the impacts, on behalf of our valued fire departments." Fire departments should contact their fire apparatus and equipment vendors for more specific information.

IAFF Backs Tax Cuts on Overtime Found in Trump Megabill

Dan Landrigan

The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) has endorsed the tax provisions in President Trump's proposed "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," according to the New York Post.

Key elements of the bill praised by the IAFF include the elimination of federal taxes on qualified overtime pay for individuals earning under \$160,000 and an increase in the state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000, phasing out for incomes above \$500,000.

“President Trump respects the contributions IAFF members make to our country and recognizes the importance of ensuring these brave men and women can keep more of their hard-earned money,” the Post quoted IAFF President Edward Kelly saying.

The legislation also proposes extending components of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, raising senior deductions by \$4,000, and includes provisions for enhanced border security and defense spending.

The House narrowly passed the bill, which is now under Senate review. If amended and approved, it will return to the House before potentially reaching President Trump’s desk for signing by July 4.

Notably, the IAFF remained neutral during the 2024 presidential election, declining to endorse either candidate.

FEMA Phaseout to Begin After Hurricane Season

Skylar Woodhouse, Lauren Rosenthal and Brian K. Sullivan – Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump said his team will move forward with winding down much of the Federal Emergency Management Agency — but not until after a hurricane season that some projections show could be particularly deadly.

“We’re going to do it much differently,” Trump said Tuesday at the White House, adding that he would like to see FEMA largely eliminated “after the hurricane season.”

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said the administration would create a council “over the next couple of months” to envision the future of the agency under her department.

“It will empower governors to go out and respond to emergency situations,” Noem said, standing beside Trump.

The move would “make sure that the taxpayers are only fulfilling the need to which is appropriate, and that people are responsible to respond to their own people closest to home,” Noem added.

Any such change would represent a dramatic overhaul to federal disaster assistance, which currently includes both grants to state governments and direct payments to disaster survivors. FEMA also deploys staff and infrastructure for immediate and longer-term, on-the-ground response.

“If a certain state, as an example, gets hit by a hurricane or tonight, that’s what the governor — you know, the governor should be able to handle it,” Trump said. “And frankly, if they can’t handle it the aftermath, then maybe they shouldn’t be governor.”

In the last four months, FEMA has fired about 200 people and offered voluntary exit programs and early retirements across the agency. At least 1,000 of the agency’s roughly 22,000 employees have indicated interest.

FEMA has also begun scaling back its financial support to state governments, shutting down a billion-dollar grant initiative to fund projects meant to curb future disaster damage and attempting to freeze more than \$2.2 billion in other grants.

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

Ex-Rolling Fork, KY, Fire Chief Indicted for Using Public Money

Susan Nicol

A grand jury in Nelson County has indicted the former Rolling Fork fire chief for using department funds for himself. John Skaggs, released on bail, was charged with abusing public trust less than \$10,000, misconduct and theft, according to WLKY.

He also is accused of using a taxpayer-funded gas card to buy fuel for his personal vehicle and took money from the City of New Haven. Skaggs was suspended in January and has since resigned.

STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE

****Never Walk Past A Problem You Can Help Solve**

Brycen Garrison

We are trained to recognize threats and take action – quickly, decisively and often under immense pressure. But in leadership, the most effective moves often happen before a problem becomes urgent. *The best leaders don't just react to challenges. They anticipate them, prepare for them and solve them before they grow.*

With this in mind, let's address a powerful leadership mantra: Never walk past a problem you can help solve. It's about teaching yourself and your team to work with foresight, clarity and intention, because when we operate with this mindset, we stop running from fire to fire and start building a sustainable vision for the long-term health of the organization.

SOLVE TOMORROW'S PROBLEMS TODAY

There are always challenges on the horizon, issues waiting just out of view. If you're only focused on what's in front of you today, you're already behind. That's the paradox of leadership: solving today's problems is often just survival. To lead well, you need to be working on tomorrow's problems.

"Tomorrow" might mean five years from now or it might mean literally mean tomorrow. It's not about the timeline; it's about mindset. Being prepared for what's next keeps your organization from constantly operating in a state of triage. It frees up your people to grow, to innovate and to focus on what actually moves your department forward.

Whether it's a minor oversight that can snowball into something bigger or a slow-building trend that requires a major investment, leaders must develop the discipline of acting early. If you know a challenge is coming, you should prepare a strategy that's in place long before the challenge lands on your doorstep.

FROM THE FIREGROUND TO THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

This principle applies at every level of the organization. It could be something large, like planning for a new fire station. If your community is growing – and you're paying attention – you know where the demand is headed. With a bit of data, long-range vision and strategic property acquisition, you can have the infrastructure ready when needed, not after your response times have already suffered.

It could also be something as small as noticing a tool left on the ground. You stop, pick it up and put it back. That one moment prevents an injury, a workers' comp claim, a gap in staffing and all the cascading effects that follow. *One second of attention avoids weeks or months of headaches.*

Big or small, the problems we see today are often the seeds of bigger issues tomorrow. Solving them early is not only practical, it's leadership in its purest form.

ACTIVITY ISN'T THE SAME AS PROGRESS

There's another trap we fall into as leaders: the cult of busyness. We convince ourselves we're doing meaningful work because our calendars are full and our phones won't stop ringing. *But "busy" doesn't always mean "productive." In fact, the word busy often masks a lack of focus.*

Every time we say we're busy, we get a little dopamine hit – a momentary rush that feels like accomplishment. But if the activity isn't aligned with our purpose or vision, it's just motion without direction.

Remove *busy* from your vocabulary. Replace it with *intentional*. Replace it with *focused*. *The goal isn't to look like you're working hard; it's to actually move your organization forward in a meaningful way.*

VISION FIRST, STRATEGY ALWAYS

Everything you do today should align with your vision for tomorrow. As a leader, you need to know what you're trying to accomplish – and every small decision should point in that direction. That means having a clear vision, then making sure the little things you do today are building toward it.

Teach your team to see this too. Help them recognize the connection between everyday choices and long-term outcomes. *Show them what it means to act with foresight, not just urgency.*

And when something catches you off guard, as it inevitably will, pause, regroup, clarify what needs to be done, and refocus on the mission. Leadership isn't about perfection. It's about being ready. It's about making progress. And it's about helping others do the same.

So never walk past a problem you can help solve. That small act of leadership may be the first step in solving a much bigger one tomorrow.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Fire Law: Managing Disciplinary Challenges in the Fire Service

Rome, New York June 18-19, 2025 Hosted by the Rome Fire Department

This 2-day program is intended for chiefs and fire officers who may have to investigate misconduct by firefighters, as well as union representatives who may need to advise members during an internal investigation. HR professionals and attorneys who represent fire departments and firefighter unions will also benefit from the program. The course looks at the causes for disciplinary problems and explains proven methods for conducting a fair and impartial investigation. Learn how to organize and conduct an investigation, interview witnesses, preserve evidence, and find the truth while respecting the honorable service that firefighters provide. The course will also train union reps in how to recognize and challenge poorly done investigations, provide an introduction to the professional standards concept, and look at the strategic steps that fire service leaders need to consider when addressing disciplinary issues. Due process, Weingarten, and Garrity are covered along with the impact of civil service, collective bargaining and firefighter bill of rights laws. The program incorporates numerous case studies pulled from today's headlines.

Instructor: Curt Varone, JD, EFO

Course Location: Mohawk Valley Community College Rome Campus 1101 Floyd Ave., Rome, NY 13440

Tuition: \$375.00 per person, this is a valid fire district expense.

Return to: curtvarone@gmail.com Checks payable to: Fire Law Group, LLC, 55 Azalea Ave, Exeter, RI, 02822 If paying by Purchase Order, copy of PO must be included

REGISTER: Register Online at

<http://ezregister.com/events/41610/> Or complete below and forward with remittance

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

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

Lack of Certified Members Closes Darby Township Fire Station

David Bjorkgren

The Goodwill Fire Company in ² Pennsylvania was placed out of service Thursday because its all-volunteer membership is no longer able to respond to service calls with fully trained and certified operators and engineers.

That's according to a Darby Township press release.

The move is temporary until adequately trained and certified staff are available to respond to service calls, writes Pete Bannan for the *Daily Times*.

It came on the recommendation of Township Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Marshal Jim Childs.

An engine and a ladder truck from the station at 719 W. Cooke Ave. were removed Tuesday evening "out of an abundance of caution," according to the press release.

The move was protested by Goodwill members who said the equipment belonged to the fire company.

The vehicles were taken to a location controlled by the township until the viability of the Goodwill Fire Company was determined, according to the release.

The township has mutual aid agreements in place for fire and emergency response with surrounding municipalities, as well as the Darby Township Fire Company No. 4, which is located within the township.

The Briarcliffe Fire Company in Darby Township closed in 2022 over racist remarks from members recorded during consolidation discussions.

SPECIFYING NEW APPARATUS? NEED TO KNOW

****Specifying a New Apparatus: Don't Waste Money on Unnecessary Items**

Jeffrey D. Gaskin

Consider this: An apparatus committee convenes for the first of what will be numerous meetings to assemble specifications for a new apparatus. It was made clear to the committee that costs for new apparatus are at an all-time high and that the committee members absolutely must keep the cost of the department's new apparatus as reasonable as possible. Historically, the volunteer side of the fire service has more flexibility when it comes to the matter of budgeting. However, with the cost for funding public safety these days, that's situation is changing. This isn't an easy directive to follow, given the complexity of today's apparatus. How does an apparatus committee accomplish this task?

MULTIPLE CONSIDERATIONS

It often is at least 15–20 years that passed since a piece of apparatus that's to be replaced was put into service at a department. In what ways have the various aspects of the fire protection district changed over those couple of decades?

Don't downplay the importance of the answer to this question. Districts change over such a period of time, sometimes more than apparatus committee members realize.

Next, move to the apparatus that's being replaced. My recommendation is that all of the members of the committee do this on their own, because each of them will have different answers to questions.

- What on the apparatus works and what doesn't for the department's current operations?
- What functions/features/components must be carried forward to the new apparatus?
- What functions/features/components shouldn't be carried forward to the new apparatus?
- What is lacking on the current apparatus that must be incorporated into the new apparatus?

Be brutally honest going through these steps. The answers to all of these questions are going to have a big effect on developing a specification that serves the needs of the protection district today and throughout the life of the vehicle.

STAY FOCUSED

Multiple apparatus salespeople/representatives will (or should) visit to discuss their company's products and offerings. These meetings can be a valuable source of information. Exploit that.

Two different classifications of items will become apparent quickly: needs and wants. Needs are features and components that should be included in the apparatus. Wants are things that somebody desires but have little value operationally and add to the overall cost of the vehicle. Some committee members will pitch their wants as "needs."

How do apparatus committee members navigate through this process successfully? Understand your responsibilities. From the sales side, this is a business. Make no mistake about that. Salespeople are friendly, engaging and knowledgeable about their product, as it should be. However, their responsibilities and loyalties are to their dealership, also as it should be. The members of the apparatus committee must remember that they also are in a business transaction and, therefore, must maintain a professional relationship with all of the people who are involved from the beginning of the process to its end. That said, the committee is spending taxpayer dollars and, therefore, is involved in a legal process that has protocols and procedures that are detailed in state, county and local procurement laws.

Staying on point is difficult. As they move through the specification development process, apparatus committee members can do several things to ensure that their department gets the apparatus that serves its needs and to assist in keeping costs from running away. Keep in mind that every decision that the apparatus

committee makes and every line that its members put into a specification have a cost associated with them. Furthermore, every decision can create a domino effect on other factors.

Looking back on budgeting, municipalities that are served by volunteer departments tend to be more lenient on their department than municipalities that are served by career departments are on theirs, but that creates challenges. Below are the most common ones that I encounter. Although volunteer departments certainly don't have the market cornered on these items, experience has taught me that these challenges are more prevalent with volunteer departments and can affect the cost of new apparatus significantly.

'THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN'

This viewpoint isn't limited to any one aspect of a piece of apparatus, and it's something that many apparatus committees seem to latch onto.

There are times when it's appropriate to consider the reasons to hold on to some department traditions, but planning the functional and operational aspects of new apparatus isn't one of those times.

What the department protects, how many members turn out to respond, how and on what the members train, and the amount and types of responses all change. Along with those changes are the changes in and capabilities of apparatus. Is a two-stage fire pump being specified because the department always had one? The department might not need one with today's single-stage pumps and diesel motors. Two-stage pumps are more expensive than a single-stage version. Further, two-stage pumps have more internal moving parts and require more maintenance, and pump operators need a higher level of training. So, not only does the specification of a two-stage pump cost more initially, it costs more every year that a department owns that pumper. Extrapolate that mindset over the entire vehicle.

MUTUAL AID

It isn't an apparatus committee's responsibility to design and equip new apparatus or to spend taxpayer dollars to protect another community. The committee's responsibility is to design and specify apparatus for its department's protection area. That said, this changes when a signed intermunicipal agreement for shared services is in place.

WHAT IF ...?

An apparatus committee can "what if" itself into countless situations, and this has cost may fire departments lots of money, with no real return on investment and plenty of headaches.

You must understand and accept that a department never can prepare for every incident that it will encounter.

Along those lines, if an incident is unusually large and/or complex, one piece of apparatus probably won't make a difference operationally or in the outcome.

Say an apparatus committee insists on a Type B foam system that delivers 3 percent concentration at 1,000 gpm. Why? "We have a tire wholesaler who has a warehouse in town that's stacked floor-to-ceiling with tires." Getting past the fact that tires are a Class A fire, the committee offers up a second reason: "The train yard has a diesel repair shop on the property." OK, but does the railroad have a Type B foam on the property for the department's use? "No, we asked them to do that, but they refused."

The "what ifs" could go on for pages and include stories about hugely oversize electric generators that are used to power certain buildings in a power failure. There might be more foam stories and discussion about complex HRT systems on heavy rescues and items on tool lists that are questionable. All of this doesn't address the operational challenges.

What's more, the department relies on its county's training center to supply the additional foam for "what if" scenarios. It takes 60–90 minutes to reach a scene, and they can make foam at maximum flow for 2 minutes and 20 seconds.

Be realistic about what's requested on apparatus and whether it can be supported operationally. Unless all of the secondary requirements that are needed for the "what if" scenario to be successfully managed and mitigated are considered and planned, putting a "what if" into operation and supporting that operation until the completion of the incident probably won't be possible.

THREE AREAS OF LIGHTING

Operational lighting (headlights, turn signals, marker lights, cab interior lights and all other Department of Transportation (DOT)-required lighting) is the first area of apparatus lighting. As the purchaser, a department has options as to the make and model of different fixtures as long as they meet DOT requirements. More time and energy is spent on the second area of apparatus lighting—emergency lights—than on any other part of the apparatus.

Is a \$ 7,000 light bar needed? Backed up by two minibars over the cab crew doors?

How many lights must be on each side of the apparatus? Is the back of the apparatus so well-lit that drivers who arrive after the new apparatus is on scene are blinded?

Educate yourself. Take the lighting supplier catalogs away from members or members who want everything that's in the book.

The third area of apparatus lighting is scene lighting. It has improved in the past several years and took a giant leap with LED lights.

Do product research. Several lighting manufacturers make excellent products that are competitively priced and are backed by good warranty programs.

Recently, I compared two competitors' models of a particular 12-volt scene light. There was about a 1,600-lumen difference between the two fixtures. The level of output of the fixtures was negligible. What wasn't negligible was the \$1,800 per fixture price difference between the least expensive and most expensive fixture. Specify two of the more expensive fixtures on each side of a vehicle and two on the back and a committee costs its department \$10,800.

TRENDS IN APPARATUS

The blackout package has been one of the biggest trends over the past few years. Put another way, it's a fad, and fads fade. In addition, like so many other decisions, specifying a blackout package might have unintended consequences. A blackout package weighs about 0.75 lbs./sq. ft. when applied at a thickness of 1/8 inch.

BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

Does the department need that 15-liter motor on the new apparatus? It might for certain applications in the fire service, but those applications are more exceptions than the rule.

That 15-liter motor weighs about 1,000 lbs. more than its 12-liter cousin. That's a big load difference on the front axle of the apparatus.

Is the 8- or 10-man cab still being considered despite the fact that it rarely, if ever, is full?

Each of the considerations that are noted above are expensive. Furthermore, any one of them could push a specification into heavier axles, bigger brakes and bigger tires because of the weight that's added to the vehicle. Besides adding even more to the cost of the apparatus, the additional weight can change the way that the vehicle drives.

IN THE KNOW

Review the department's responses over the past 20 years, so the types and quantities of calls are known. Specify and build to what's needed to serve and support the department's operations.

FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!

*IN 2025 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED **37** FIRE FIGHTER LODD'S*

*According to FirefighterCloseCalls.com**

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

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A FATALITY-JUST A DIBILITATING INJURY, YOU JUST NEVER KNOW!

- Chicago Firefighter Suffers Paralysis at Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. Just after he jumped off a boat to start the swimming portion of the race, another person leapt and landed on Chicago Firefighter/Paramedic Jose Perez's head. Post-surgery, Jose has been in the intensive care unit at the hospital for the week since and has regained limited mobility in his limbs but still cannot feel his wrists, hands or fingers. The next goal is to get out of the ICU and into a rehabilitation center, but it could be a long process.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Debra Ann Cole, 40 South Portland Fire Department in South Portland, Maine. Firefighter/Paramedic Cole collapsed in the station while on duty and after having run at least one emergency call during the shift. Her collapse was not witnessed but was overheard and she was tended to immediately by the rest of her crew. Firefighter/Paramedic Cole was transported to Maine Medical Center in Portland, where she was treated and underwent almost 11 hours of surgery. Firefighter/Paramedic Cole succumbed to her injury at approximately 1630 hours the following day. The cause of death was listed as a stroke.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK

- A weekend crash has temporarily left the Twin Falls Fire Department with one less engine. Just after 2 p.m., Engine No. 2 was responding to a call, according to a Twin Falls County deputy on scene. The fire truck was driving down the center lane with its sirens blaring. The deputy said a northbound blue Dodge Challenger then attempted to merge into the center lane. The two vehicles crashed and came to rest in the southbound lanes. No one was injured, deputies on the scene cited the driver of the Challenger for failing to yield to the fire truck.
- An SUV caught fire after crashing into the back of a Philadelphia ladder truck. Firefighters quickly hit the flames and treated the civilian, who was transported for minor injuries.
- Separate crashes involving an ambulance, a fire truck and a police cruiser left Manchester responders injured Wednesday. Two paramedics were trapped in their AMR ambulance that flipped onto its side after colliding with a car while responding to an emergency, WMUR reported. Later, a Manchester fire truck was involved in a crash with a car near the intersection of Merrimack and Chestnut streets.
- The driver of the car was taken to the hospital for treatment.

NIOSH Issues Advisory on SCBA Facepiece Lens Failures

NIOSH has released an advisory regarding thermal degradation and failure of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) facepiece lenses, specifically those certified to the 2007 or earlier edition of the NFPA 1981 standard. These older lenses have been shown to fail under high heat conditions, leading to severe deformation and potential firefighter injury. Fire departments are urged to upgrade to SCBAs certified to the 2013 or newer standard and to report any failures or performance issues in accordance with NFPA 1852. Read the advisory [here](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2025-116/pdfs/2025-116.pdf). <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2025-116/pdfs/2025-116.pdf>

Reporting Adverse Conditions Involving Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – Thermal Degradation and Failure of Facepiece Lens

NIOSH continues to identify instances where certain facepiece lens materials on self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fail before other components of the firefighter's SCBA and personal protective equipment ensemble.

Since 2009, several Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program reports have identified the severe thermal degradation and failure of SCBA facepiece lenses which led to holes, melting, and other deformities. The SCBAs in these incidents were approved by NIOSH and certified as meeting the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1981 standard on Open-circuit SCBA for Emergency Services, 2007 edition by a third-party certification body. NIOSH is the approval body for respiratory protective devices under the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 42 CFR 84 and applicable Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Statement of Standards. A third-party certification body assesses the additional requirements and associated signaling devices covered by NFPA standards.

WHAT FIRE DEPARTMENTS CAN DO 

- Recognize that that SCBA facepiece lenses meeting the 2007 or earlier edition of NFPA 1981 will undergo thermal degradation when exposed to intense heat faster than lenses meeting the 2013 or later editions.
- Understand that the tests added to the 2013 edition of NFPA 1981 increase SCBA facepiece lens integrity.
- Upgrade or replace current SCBAs to meet the 2013 or more recent edition of the NFPA 1981 standard.
- Report any conditions involving an SCBA or SCBA components that lead to failure, near-failure, or a significant degradation of performance according to the relevant edition of NFPA 1852.

BUYING NEW EQUIPMENT? NEED TO KNOW

What's Available in Portable Water Tanks and Associated Equipment

Alan M. Petrillo

Jay Claeys, president of Husky Portable Containment, says Husky makes a number of portable water tank models, with its core product being square folding frame tanks. "We make them in sizes from 500 gallons to 5,000 gallons, but the most popular sizes are in the 2,100- to 3,000-gallon range," Claeys notes. "We make the tanks with either steel or aluminum frames, with aluminum frames having radiused corners to prevent abrasion of the ropes and making up about 80% of sales."

Claeys says that Husky offers three types of tank liners, with the standard version having 22-ounce vinyl sidewalls and a 28-ounce vinyl floor; a heavier model that has 30-ounce sidewalls and floor; and an Ultimate liner made of Exlon™, a 22-ounce-per-square-yard material. "Our patent pending manufacturing process allows us to use one continuous piece of material for the side panel, which is then welded to our Husky®-Duty floor material," he points out. "We also install solid brass grommets in a tight pattern that alleviates any liner drooping at the frame."

Husky's folding water tanks include patented Easy Lift Handles, Claeys says, which are grab handles welded to the floor of the tank in a zigzag fashion and also a Quick-Release dump gate on the side of the tank, where releasing two D rings and a flip latch allows the tank to drain in under 30 seconds.

Claeys says Husky also makes a Skinny Tank™ between 8 and 9 feet wide and 14 to 17 feet long that is often used on a two-lane road with a ditch on either side so it can be set up in one lane for drafting and leave the second lane open for traffic as well as Leading Edge Tanks®, 1,500- to 3,500-gallon units that range from 10 feet 3 inches square to 14 feet 3 inches square with additional hinges that allow each tank to fold to 8 feet wide and its respective length. All Husky portable water tanks can be fitted with a drafting flange kit flange that bolts to the frame with a male connection inside the tank for a low-level strainer and a female fitting outside the tank for a hard suction.

Husky also makes Helicopter Tanks in 72- and 134-gallon models that are 40-ounce reinforced PVC, Aluminum Quick Assemble AQUA tanks from 100 to 3,000 gallons that snap together quickly and fit in a bag for compact storage and SelfSupporting water tanks, commonly called onion or pumpkin tanks, that are often used in wildland firefighting for dipping and snorkeling by helicopters or used as dump tanks in water shuttle operations.

Keith Niebur, chief operating officer at FOL-DA-TANK®, says his company's most popular model is a square folding frame tank that's available in sizes holding from 600 gallons to 5,000 gallons. "We also make custom size portable tanks to fit in specific areas where they are designed to be stored on a truck, like a compartment at the rear of the vehicle," Niebur observes. "But, the majority of departments opt for portable tanks that are stored in manual or Zico® portable tank racks."

Niebur says departments have the choice of aluminum or steel frames but that aluminum is the most popular because of its weight advantage and corrosion resistance. "We offer three liner choices for our tanks," he says, "22-ounce vinyl, 28-ounce vinyl, or 22-ounce high performance rubber (HPR), which is easier to fold in cold weather."

FOL-DA-TANK also makes two types of Single Lane Tanks® (SLT) in three sizes of 2,000-, 2,500-, and 3,000-gallon capacities. "The SLT is a must for narrow rural roads that have little or no shoulder," Niebur notes.

"FOLD-DA-TANK also makes the SLT Max™, which is a narrow-footprint single-lane tank with an expandable bladder that, when folded, still fits in a manual or Zico tank rack.

The company's ROL-LA-TANK® TYPE 1 X is a lightweight tank that can be assembled by one person and is designed to provide temporary storage of liquids in remote areas, while the company's Quick Assemble Double High Tank® can be transported by helicopter or truck into remote areas.

Niebur notes that popular accessories used on portable water tanks include supply line holders; low-level strainers; a flange- mount plate and inner/outer flange kit; and a Float Dock® Strainer that allows firefighters to use water in farm ponds or streams, both shallow and deep, by working below scum and debris but above sand and muck.

Craig Heider, president and owner of Syntex Industries, notes that Syntex's standard square portable tank is its most popular model, especially in 2,100-, 2,500-, and 3,000-gallon sizes. "The majority of them are ordered with 1-inch square aluminum tubing frames with a 22-ounce liner, grab handles on the floor, a discharge chute, and pinchless safety hinges," Heider points out.

He says that all of Syntex's vinyl seams are electronically welded, not sewn, to provide a strong, watertight seam with great strength and durability, and that the material has been tested to withstand temperatures from 178°F to -40°F. Heider adds, "The three grab handles that aid in the draining process are standard on all our tanks and are made from the same heavy duty vinyl and glued to the water tank."

Heider says that Syntex also specializes in custom sizes and designs, including slim tanks, oblong tanks, and other customized shapes. "We have made portable tanks with two discharge chutes and even some with four discharge chutes, one in each corner of the tank," he notes.

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	40
Last fire death 5/31/25 Goshen, Orange Co. Male 12, 17, & 50	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	67
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	529
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/47
	#2 NY/40
	#3 IL/33
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2025: 1058	
2046 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
Week 23 of 2025, fire has claimed on an average 46 lives PER WEEK, perhaps OSHA should examine that death toll.	
Both the states of Maryland and California as well as Wash. DC require sprinklers in 1&2 family dwellings.	

GREEN TECHNOLOGY & THE FIRE SERVICE

Held over so everyone has a chance to read:

The Fire Protection Research Foundation and the Fire Safety Research Institute Issue Notice Around Potential Hazard Involving Fire Blankets Used for Electric Vehicle Fire Suppression Efforts with Battery Involvement

Key Takeaways:

- Experiments conducted by both organizations have demonstrated a potential explosion hazard when fire blankets are used during electric vehicle (EV) fire suppression efforts when there is battery involvement.
- When flaming is eliminated by the fire blanket, the ongoing accumulation of flammable gases released by continued thermal runaway in the battery pack presents a potential explosion risk.
- The experiments reinforce the need for continued research on EV firefighting tactics.

May 30, 2025 (QUINCY, MA. & COLUMBIA, MD.) - The Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF), the research affiliate of NFPA, and the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), part of UL Research Institutes, today issued a notice about a potential explosion hazard when fire blankets are used during electric vehicle fire suppression efforts with battery involvement.

- During experiments involving the use of electric vehicle fire blankets to suppress an EV fire with battery involvement, it was observed that the deployment of a fire blanket eliminated flaming by denying oxygen to the vehicle and the battery fire.
- While the flaming was eliminated, battery thermal runaway propagation continued after blanket deployment, which resulted in the continued release and accumulation of flammable battery gases into the volume under the blanket
- In some of the experiments, this accumulation of flammable gases under the blankets presented an explosion risk to firefighters operating near the vehicle.
- The risk of an explosion can be increased when re-introducing air into an oxygen-depleted accumulation of unburned flammable battery gases.

FPRF is conducting research to improve the safety of firefighters responding to electric vehicle (EV) fires and incidents by assessing current firefighting tactics and tools used by the fire service to manage EV incidents and the impact of suppression activities on managing re-ignition risks. Recent experiments for the **Assessment of EV Firefighting Tactics, Tools and the Impact on Stranded Energy** research project were conducted to assess the ability of four firefighting tactics to suppress and establish control of fire incidents involving standalone electric vehicle battery packs and full electric vehicles with confirmed battery pack fire involvement: standard hose stream application – water only; standard hose stream application – with injected agent; electric vehicle fire blankets; and firefighting appliances. Analysis of the data from FPRF experiments is underway. Preliminary results will be presented at the annual NFPA Conference and Expo on June 16, 2025 in Las Vegas and the full analysis will be provided in FPRF's forthcoming research report, which will be publicly available this fall at nfpa.org/foundation.

FSRI is conducting research to improve understanding of hazards generated by electric vehicle battery fires and to enable the development of firefighting tactics for effective electric vehicle fire control. Recent experiments for the **Fire Safety of Batteries and Electric Vehicles** research project were conducted to evaluate the capability of standard hose stream application, water application with an under-vehicle nozzle, and an electric vehicle fire blanket, to suppress and establish control of a burning electric vehicle with confirmed battery pack fire involvement. Analysis of the video and data from FSRI experiments is underway and will be addressed in detail in FSRI's forthcoming electric vehicle research report, which will be available at fsri.org.

Fire at SEPTA Bus Lot Was Caused by Electric Batteries That Have Ignited Before

Ximena Conde, The Philadelphia Inquirer

A fire that enveloped 40 decommissioned SEPTA buses Thursday is believed to have started with a bus battery in a Proterra electric bus, according to SEPTA. A fire department spokesperson confirmed that the Fire Marshal's Office determined a battery to be the cause of the blaze, but referred additional questions to the transit agency. The electrical fire started with a lithium-ion battery, which is only found on the Proterra buses in the lot, said SEPTA spokesperson Andrew Busch. On Thursday, SEPTA General Manager Scott Sauer had already said he wanted to find a way to get the buses off-site. "We have to get them off of our property and away from the potential where we could have an incident like this that could have been far worse," he said. Busch confirmed Friday that Sauer directed staff to "expedite buses off the property." That's because it's not the first time that Proterra-made electric bus batteries have caused havoc for SEPTA.

A battery power pack in a sidelined electric bus ignited inside SEPTA's Southern Bus Depot in November 2022, occupying Philadelphia fire crews for hours and [halting the transit agency's efforts to build a green fleet](#).

Though no one was injured and there was no major impact to the morning commute, the three-alarm blaze had SEPTA employees and emergency workers scrambling as they worked to quickly tow decommissioned buses out of the tightly packed grid where the fire was spreading. First responders said they also had to take down fences to bring hoses within reach of the fire.

Proterra filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in August 2023 as it was facing lawsuits from some transit agencies over problems with zero-emission buses they had ordered from the company.

Electric Scooter Blamed in Fire That Killed Four in France

Four people were killed in an "extremely violent" blaze seemingly caused by a battery-powered electric scooter that tore through a 10-story housing block in Reims, the capital of France's Champagne region, authorities said Saturday. A 13-year-old jumped to his death from the 4th-floor apartment where the fire started in the early hours of Friday and a burned body found inside is believed to be that of his older brother, aged 15, said Reims prosecutor François Schneider.

An 87-year-old woman and her 59-year-old son who lived on the 8th floor suffocated to death in the smoke, he said. Two people were seriously injured, including the dead boys' stepfather who was badly burned, and 26 others were treated in hospital for lighter injuries, he said. Schneider said there is "no doubt" that the blaze was accidental, spreading quickly from the scooter that caught fire for reasons unknown.

STUFF FOR YOUR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS!

Must Have Policies and Practices for Every Fire Department

June 27, 2025 - 12 p.m. ET

A certificate of attendance will be offered.

Free to Attend - [Save My Seat!](#)

This class reviews the top administrative policies and operational practices every fire department must have to prevent liability, firefighter injuries, and public embarrassment and to increase proficiency on the fireground. The suggested policies are derived from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommendations and case studies on poor outcomes in fire departments that lacked sufficient policies or operational practices. Attendees will learn how to create vital administrative policies to protect their personnel and the department and learn to conduct a risk analysis of their operations to determine if there are policies or practices they must implement immediately. Among the topics addressed are the OSHA Operational Statement, physical fitness, carrying firearms **REGISTER AT THIS LINK:**

, photography, training requirements and skill testing, health and safety, and marijuana.

https://clarionevents.zoom.us/webinar/register/6817460421303/WN_WH3oQuJqTpKynBHwlglx1g#/registration



BY  **McNeil & Co.**

EMS Documentation Best Practices ESIP WEBINAR SERIES

In this session, Risk Management Training Supervisor, Lee Price, will discuss the importance of proper patient documentation and the best practices to help First Responders ensure accuracy and completeness

Wednesday June 18th at 7PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

[https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-](https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=13f0226bb7&e=781e9a2c81)

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

Aug. 7 at 2pm ET

Presenter: Katie Bulla

Webinar - The Continuing Evolution of Utility-Scale Battery Energy Storage System Design and Safety

July 8 at 2pm ET

Presenter: Mike Simpson

Sponsored by: 



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

June 15th, at the Gansevoort Fire Station 1870 Route 32N, Gansevoort, NY

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

The fire company thanks you for your support!!

Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast

See you in October when we start up again.

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

Leadership Lessons: Be Their Biggest Cheerleader

Dr. David Griffin

I'm writing this piece on April 25, 2025, which is my 20th anniversary in the fire service and with the only department that I ever worked for. I remember my first shift like it was yesterday, and then there's everything in between.

How do I put into words what these past 20 years have taught me, how they changed me, and what they taught my department, this profession and the world of emergency services.

During these 20 years, I, along with the other members of the Charleston, SC, Fire Department (CFD), experienced [nine line-of-duty deaths on June 18, 2007](#). We experienced four suicides since then. We carried about 30 caskets and folded American flags to present to family members at funerals. One hundred ninety-seven original members left the department since June 18, 2007, with their own struggles from the incident.

I am one of 49 of the 246 members who were with the department that day who remain on the job. With the department growing to 472 positions as of July 1, 2025, that's 423 new team members for whom we must be their biggest cheerleaders, so they can take what we've done to the next level.

We're a young department, which I see as a benefit if we coach, lead, mentor and cheer for these young folks. They want to be led. They want progress. They want leadership with love. They want better working conditions. They want nicer equipment and new stations. They want to showcase their skills. Just as all of us wanted on our come up as well. That's a good thing.

We must be their biggest cheerleaders, advocates and mentors, so they can move the needle, just as we have. At national conferences and at other departments, people marvel at what we've accomplished since June 18, 2007, while continuing to push hard for even more progress.

'I WAS AN ABSOLUTE CLOWN'

As you read this, it's June 2025, which marks the 18th anniversary of the Sofa Super Store Fire where nine CFD firefighters died. I'd like to highlight the progress that we made while also being real to the seriousness of this profession and the challenges that all of us face.

Let me be very clear on this: I take this job seriously. It's not a joke. It isn't a profession to hang out hoping that nothing happens. Do you know why I can and do say that? Because that's how I reported to work on June 18, 2007. I believed that it was just another easy shift, with no serious calls and that everything was funny. I was an absolute clown. My plan was to watch TV, take a nap, not train, play video games and go home. You see how that worked out. The next thing that I knew I was standing at a pump panel about 30 feet from the front door of a fully involved, 42,000-sq.-ft. furniture store and unable to put the engine in pump to give water to those fellas who went inside. They didn't come out until hours later, when our search crews removed their burned, morphed, melted and mangled bodies that were buried underneath steel trusses. How do you wrap a body that's burned so badly in an American flag? Yeah, you never thought about that, have you?

That's our reality. Don't try to understand or even judge that until you've walked in our boots. You never will understand.

RALLY AROUND ONE ANOTHER

We must be real with the challenges that we face. Sometimes, departments won't have the best tools, equipment, pay, stations, apparatus or benefits, but they do have a chance to make a true difference in people's lives and to work hard to improve all of those important items that I just listed for our well-being now and for future generations.

I know that no department is perfect. If you believe that there are some out there, go visit them, and you'll learn quickly that all organizations have challenges. However, it's how the team rallies around one another to take on the challenges. That's from the top level to the newest person in the organization.

QUESTIONS

Are you cheering for your teammates to be successful? Are you helping coach and guide them to be better? Are you listening to them on the radio as they try to control their nerves the best that they can, while talking to them like they can hear you?

This is me listening to our folks on an emergency: "Deep breath. You know what to do. Hit your marks. Stay calm. Yes, you did it. Keep going! You got it!"

It sounds as though I'm watching them on TV, but I feel like I'm right there with them, because in my heart, I am.

I then will send a text at any time during the day or night just to say, "outstanding work" or "you sounded like a baller."

Why wouldn't you cheer for your folks? They're your people, your family and who you put in all of the long hours for.

BELIEVE IN HOPE

In the past 18 years, according to budget reports, the CFD's budget increased from approximately \$14,519,550 in 2007 to approximately \$62,018,456 in 2025. That's a total dollar increase of approximately \$47,498,906 and more than a 325 percent approximate increase since 2007. About 90 percent of that

budget is for the people: pay, benefits, retirement, etc. Also since 2007, as noted above, we will increase to 472 positions as of July 1, 2025, from 246 in 2007. That's 226 new positions. Furthermore, since 2018, when our new fire chief, Dan Curia, came to the department to lead us (now as the longest-tenured fire chief since June 18, 2007), our budget grew substantially each year—from approximately \$34,612,958 in 2018 to approximately \$62,018,456 this year—for a total of approximately \$27,405,498, or just under 80 percent. This increase doesn't include the yearly apparatus replacement plan, which is in the millions of dollars, or new stations and a new training facility, which is in the tens of millions.

What we did in 18 years to improve the department is incredible, and it's because of the people who did the work. We're passionate, driven, dedicated, and focused on coaching, mentoring, developing and cheering on the new generation in the department, to help to make it the best organization that it ever has been. Better schedules, benefits, stations and equipment. Most importantly to me, better care—true care—for one another.

For everyone who's in the fire service to make the same kinds of things possible, we must be new members' biggest cheerleaders. Guide them, coach them, be there for them and love them, even if they don't love you back. I know in my heart and soul that it can be done. I see it in the 472 people of the CFD who want to make a difference.

LAUGH OUT LOUD!!

During my job interview, the interviewer asked, “Why do you think I should give you this job?”

I replied, “Because my best friend Dave works in your IT department and he told me you're having an affair with your secretary.”

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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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,

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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](tel: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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Amy Numrich, MBA

Digital Marketing & Events Specialist
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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 — 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

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ASSOCIATION - CAFDA

NEWEST INFORMATION ALWAYS AT THE TOP WITH RED ARROW

[Dave Denniston Reports on a Successful Visit to Washington, D.C.](#)

Could not be prouder than to be part of the current team as we laid the foundation for groundbreaking collaboration between the US Secretary of Labor, OSHA, IAFF, and NVFC. We all agreed to roll up our sleeves and finish crafting the Emergency Response Standard. **This new rule** will be a labor of love that protects our mutual volunteer and career first responders with a standard that is reasonable, and both economically and technically feasible.

The passion in this room was unsurpassed and I am confident the group will leave a fire service for the next generations that is safer and better than the one we found. Thank you for all the hard work that got us this far and the work of additional others that will be invited to help us in this process moving forward.

[NVFC Forming Red Ribbon Panel to address proposed OSHA ER Standard, more information to be posted as soon as it is available.](#)