




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

# BULLETIN

**June 28, 2025**

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

## CAPITAL SHORTS:

- **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 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The firefighter Explorer program, Post 475, in Albany County celebrates 50 years of training teens, one of the oldest in the country, congratulations.
- Illegal fireworks have caused more than 200 serious injuries, over 500 fires and explosions and nearly \$1 million in damages in Massachusetts alone over the past

five years, [the fire marshal's office said in a press release](#).

- Congratulations to Chief (Rte.) Richard Lyman on becoming the president of the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs for 2025-2026.
- General Motors is recalling over 62,000 US vehicles over a faulty brake assembly that can cause fires to break out, even when the cars are off and unattended. The defective assembly may let brake fluid leak into the pressure switch, causing a short circuit and leading to a potential fire. Certain 2019-2024 Chevrolet Silverado Medium Duty 4500HD, 5500HD and 6500HD vehicles are impacted by the recall.

## STUFF FOR YOUR BENEFIT, NEED TO KNOW!

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

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

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

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

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

All correspondence & Capital Area Fire Districts Association Mailing Address should be directed to:

CAFDA PO Box 242 East Schodack, NY 12063 or EMAIL: [SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET](mailto:SECRETARY@CAFDA.NET)

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

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

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

## THE LATEST FROM THE STATE CAPITAL

### Legislative Commentary

In the words of the State Comptroller; "As is often the case in New York, a broken legislative process paired with misguided priorities yielded little of merit during this legislative session. It seems the 2025 session will

likely be remembered more for an obvious lack of productivity and missed opportunities than anything else. New Yorkers deserve thoughtful action but were instead met with political theater and half-measures.” The following are the major accomplishments of the fire service in the state, less than stellar through no fault of our lobbyists or those who stated our case, but rather that lack of attention of our majority who have much different priorities no matter how much they drool all over us or say how much they need us. They are clueless and could care less.

- 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 unmarried 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.
- S73/A4641A to provide for the safe collection and disposal of damaged or defective batteries collected by retailers and by government agencies and provides that a battery manufacturer may not sell, offer

for sale, or distribute rechargeable batteries in the state unless they are implementing or participating under an approved plan.

- S7501/A8086A establishes an emergency medical services local planning process to provide for counties, cities, towns, and villages to develop a comprehensive plan to provide for a coordinated emergency medical services within their counties.

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

## THE LATEST FROM WASHINGTON

### **IOWA Senator Calls Delays at LODD Benefits Program 'Absolutely Unacceptable'**

RYAN J. FOLEY Associated Press

A powerful U.S. senator on Tuesday called on the Trump administration to fix a growing backlog and longtime management problems at the program that promises benefits when police and firefighters die or become disabled in the line of duty.

Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program is failing the spouses and children of deceased and disabled first responders and needs new leadership. He said the mismanagement has caused significant hardship for grieving families, who often experience years long delays in processing and approving claims.

*"This is absolutely unacceptable," he wrote in a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi, in which he suggested she consider replacing longtime program leader Hope Janke.*

*Grassley's letter comes days after The Associated Press published an investigation detailing the claims backlog at the program, which provides a nearly \$450,000 one-time payment to the families of deceased and disabled officers and firefighters in addition to education benefits.*

The AP found dozens of families are waiting five years or more to learn whether they qualify for the life-changing payments, and more are being denied. As of late April, nearly 900 claims had been pending for more than one year, more than triple the number from five years ago, with a small number languishing for a decade.

*Grassley cited a Government Accountability Office report issued last year that detailed deficiencies in the program's management dating back to 2009. He said the program had failed to make changes recommended by outside reviewers but that "government bureaucrats" such as Janke have never been held accountable.*

Janke has not responded to AP emails seeking comment, including one Tuesday. A DOJ spokesperson confirmed receipt of Grassley's letter but declined to comment further.

DOJ officials said earlier this year that they are adopting several recommendations from the GAO, including improvements to make the program's electronic claims management system more user-friendly. They say they are responding to a surge of claims after Congress has made more categories of deaths and injuries eligible for benefits. Grassley demanded the DOJ provide updates and documents within two weeks related to the status of those changes.

*Texas widow Lisa Afolayan, who is still fighting the program for benefits 16 years after her husband died while training for the Border Patrol, welcomed Grassley's oversight of the program.*

"We need movement. We need change and not only for my family," she said. "They've lost sight of why the program was started."

## FIRE DISTRICT FINANCES

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

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

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

## **OSC Audit Reports**

### **North Amityville Fire Company – Audit Follow-Up**

#### **Purpose of Review**

The purpose of our review was to assess the North Amityville Fire Company's (Company) progress, as of June 2024, in implementing our recommendations in the audit report released in April 2023.

#### **Background**

The Company provides fire protection services within North Amityville Fire Protection Districts 5 and 6 in the Town of Babylon in Suffolk County. The Company is governed by its adopted bylaws. The elected five-member Board is responsible for managing the Company's financial activities.

#### **Results of Review**

Based on our limited procedures, it appears that the Company has not implemented sufficient corrective action. Of the nine audit recommendations, four recommendations were fully implemented, and six recommendations were not implemented.

**COMPLETE REPORT HERE:** <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2025/pdf/north-amityville-fire-company-2022m-163-f.pdf>

## **STEP INTO THE CHIEF'S OFFICE**

### **\*\*‘Learn To Be A Leader, Not Just A Manager’: Advice For Direct Supervisors**

Vincent Bettinazzi

One of the primary responsibilities of a supervisor is to foster, mentor and serve their subordinates. This is a role that can't be taken for granted or dismissed by those who are now expected to lead. *The role of the company or chief officer is to influence the team members within your command.* The expectation is to mentor, train and provide guidance. And while we tend to focus our needs and wants on the now, we need to understand that we are preparing the next wave of officers. How can you improve this process of succession planning?

The What Firefighters Want survey asked respondents, "How could your direct supervisor better serve your agency?" More than 700 respondents shared their insights, underscoring that they desire assertive leaders who seek additional training opportunities – essentially, leadership through a positive example. Some common remarks: "Learn to be a leader rather than just a manager of people" and "Be more present and involved in day-to-day operations."

Why does this matter so much? The survey also asked respondents whether they have considered leaving their department primarily due to their feelings about your direct supervisor. The good news: 80% said no. Even in a high-stress occupation, most members are not looking to leave their department. *The bad news: The remaining 20% have considered leaving the department specifically due to their supervisor. That's one-fifth of the workforce!*

With this in mind, consider what steps you, as a supervisor, could take to improve your members' experience. A dive into the detailed responses shows three common themes – good places to start with your self-reflection:

- Improved communication
- Support and empowerment
- Training and professional development

Here we'll review respondent feedback and consider how supervisors can improve these skills.

#### **IMPROVED COMMUNICATION**

Communication is critical, and it's clear that the strongest leaders are great communicators. They have a unique way of remaining in touch, relevant and relatable to those in their command. *Survey respondents want supervisors to exhibit stronger leadership qualities such as assertiveness and effective communication.* What is effective communication from the perspective of some subordinates? It's an improved interaction with staff through clear and timely communication.

Here's what some of the survey respondents shared:

- "Try to be open to suggestions."
- "He is not very interactive, rarely leaves his office or communicates what is going on, or to find out what the needs of those he manages are."

- “Communication with members.”
- “Be a leader. Get out of the office and interact with the line personnel.”
- “Need to improve communication. We are not psychic.”
- “His responses to non-ER issues depend on his mood.”
- “Stop by the office and visit our staff would be great.”

### **SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT**

It takes trust for a leader to empower their subordinates, whether giving them additional decision-making authority or assigning important projects and tasks. *Survey respondents voiced their desire for supervisors to stop micromanaging and rather support their team members by allowing them to perform their job duties.* Support also includes standing up for the team whenever it is necessary to do so. Supervisors need to provide praise and recognition for the achievements of their teammates – praise that’s delivered in political and administrative arenas as often as possible.

- “Stop micro-managing and allow chief officers to perform the job they were hired to do and support their decisions.”
- “Not be a chief pleaser. Be there for the crew.”
- “Member development, recognition of members.”
- “Listen and support the cause.”
- ~~“Get us more pay.”~~
- “Not retire.”

### **TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Survey respondents clearly want more training and professional development opportunities from their supervisors. (When its offered, you need to attend!!)* Supervisors should not only create a culture of professional development but also seek out additional training opportunities that would be beneficial to the team. Furthermore, *respondents noted that professional development opportunities extend to supervisors as well, stressing their desire for supervisors to organize, participate and seek professional development of their own.*

Responses that support the call for improved training and professional development:

- “Start becoming more active with training.”
- “More education and training on up-to-date ideas.”
- “Train others to promote.”
- *“Develop a mentorship program.”*
- *“Get more training and actually do what he is saying he is doing.”*
- “Certifications.”
- *“Take some leadership classes.”*
- “Become a certified trainer.”

### **A SOLID FOUNDATION**

Firefighters at various ranks want their supervisors to be communicative, empowering and supportive, with an overall investment in training and development. These themes represent a solid foundation for supervisors to build their leadership credibility with their teams.

## **THE ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

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

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

elected position to an appointed position in the future which would then allow you to follow the process in Section 174(4) of the T.L.

For information only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. The opinions expressed are the opinions of the individual author at the time the facts were presented and based on the law then applicable. The information contained in these opinions is not guaranteed to be up to date. The information provided is not legal advice. Since legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case, and laws are constantly changing, nothing on this site should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent legal counsel. The authors assume no responsibility to any person who relies on information contained herein and disclaim all liability in respect to such information. You should not act upon information in this publication without seeking professional counsel from an attorney admitted to practice in your jurisdiction.

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

### POSITIVE OUTCOMES

#### **Application Period for DripDrop Hydration Giveback Campaign Will Open on July 8**

DripDrop Hydration, PBC, is teaming up with the NVFC for the sixth year to help provide critical hydration to volunteer firefighters. This year, a total of 1,000 volunteer fire departments that have an NVFC member will receive two cases (200 sticks) each of DripDrop electrolyte drink mix. The application period will be open from July 8-22. *Stay tuned to the NVFC web site and newsletter on July 8 for details!*

#### **Request an In-person Training from the NVFC**

Did you know you can request an NVFC course to be brought to your department, region, or conference – at no cost to your department or organization? The NVFC has over a dozen training courses available to request, including *Leadership for the Fire and Emergency Services*, *Volunteer Fire Service Culture: Essential Strategies for Success*, and *Building a Healthy and High-Performing Fire Department*. View the full catalog and request a course [here](https://www.nvfc.org/nvfc-in-person-training/#request). <https://www.nvfc.org/nvfc-in-person-training/#request>

### FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

#### **Fishers Fire District To Dissolve? Former Chief Weighs In**

Christian Garzone

Victor, NY (WHAM) — Concerns are growing over life-saving services in an Ontario County community, as the Fishers Fire District considers dissolving.

"You don't rush a divorce. This is kind of like a divorce, and it feels like they're just ramming it down," said former Fishers Fire Chief Dan Chapman.

Chapman said the district's board of fire commissioners is expediting plans to shut down the district.

"Done right, this should be about a two year process," he said. "So you make sure, you check it and you communicate."

Chapman said this is the first step to dissolve the district.

"The five commissioners take it upon themselves to make the decision to move forward with it," he explained.

"Unfortunately, none of those five have any personal stake in the fire service or any background knowledge of the fire service. So in my opinion, that kind of narrows their field of vision."

What this could look like — he's not exactly sure.

#### **Fishers responds to about 1,000 calls per year.**

Fishers is a hamlet in the town of Victor, about half residential and half commercial, and has two main fire stations.

#### **Who will cover should its fire district disband? Chapman isn't sure. [EDITOR'S NOTE: WILL THIS PUT STRESS ON ADJOINING FIRE DEPARTMENTS WHO MAY ALREADY BE STRESSED DUE TO RESOURCES CHALLENGES?]**

"So now the town needs to talk to a provider," he said. "It could be Victor, it could be Mendon, it could be Bushnell's Basin."

George Heltz with Fishers' board of fire commissioners said in a statement that the board was considering a resolution on a potential dissolution plan. He went on to say:

***If approved, this will include a public hearing on July 16th. At this point, there have been no decisions made in regard to the resolution or potential dissolution. If after the Public Hearing in July the Board***



***votes to dissolve the district, there will be no gap in fire protection services. Fishers Fire District would continue to provide services through August 31st allowing the Town of Victor time to make decisions on how to provide services to residents. Additionally, the Victor Farmington Ambulance will continue to provide Emergency Medical Services response to Fishers residents as it does today.***

Chapman said it begs the question — why would leadership at Fishers want this?

"They're worried about their tax ranges," he said. "They think it's a huge waste of money because they've never needed the service, so they're just getting rid of it."

***Chapman also said this could increase taxes for residents and fire insurance for businesses.***

"What's it going to do to the commercial property? Their fire insurance is based on how good a fire department they have," he continued. "We just lowered that insurance rating a couple of years ago to a two to a three, which meant all the big businesses paid less than fire insurance. Now that's going to go away. Their fire insurance could jump exponentially."

The resolution to dissolve the Fishers Fire District will go before a public hearing July 16 at Fishers Station #2 on High Street.

#### **FOLLOW UP INFORMATION:**



### **VICTOR FIRE DISTRICT**

34 Maple Avenue  
Victor, New York 14564  
(585) 924-3321



#### **PRESS RELEASE - \* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \***

Victor Fire District is aware of the resolution passed by the Fishers Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to dissolve their fire district. Neither Victor Fire District nor our Board of Fire Commissioners were consulted or given any warning of this unprecedented change to emergency services within the town of Victor beforehand.

After the public hearing scheduled for July 16, 2025, the Fishers board may amend, approve, or reject the plan. If amended, additional notice and hearings are required. If adopted, a final plan must be enacted within 180 days and goes into effect on the date specified in the plan. Victor Fire will continue to monitor this developing situation.

In the meantime, Victor Fire District Officers and Board of Fire Commissioners continue to be committed to the staff, volunteer members, and community of our fire district in order to provide uninterrupted, prompt, dedicated, and skilled fire service.

## **FF HEALTH AND SAFETY – TAKING CARE OF OUR MEMBERS!**

***IN 2025 WE HAVE EXPERIENCED 38 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!**

- An FDNY firefighter was critically injured battling a five-alarm fire that spread through several multi-family houses in the Bronx Sunday night. 12 others are in the hospital. In addition to the firefighter in critical condition, another firefighter was in serious condition.
- A paramedic was injured while transporting a patient to a hospital, according to the Kansas City Fire Department, an altercation allegedly took place between the paramedic and a patient in the back of the ambulance.
- Firefighter Valeree Claude, 33 of White Mountain, Arizona responded to 2 incidents during the daylight portion of her shift. After dinner, she went to her bunkroom. At 0205hrs, her crew was dispatched to an incident but she did not respond. A crew member went to her bunkroom to check on her and found her to be unresponsive. According to the medical examiner, Firefighter/EMT Claude died of an overdose of oxycodone and other medical conditions.

- City of Buffalo officials say a firefighter is expected to recover after a mayday call at a house fire Monday afternoon. While fighting the flames, a firefighter fell through a hole in the floor. A mayday was called, but the crew member was quickly rescued. No serious injuries were reported and the firefighter was brought to ECMC to be observed.
- The Woodlands, Texas Fire Department said Firefighter John Rigoni was performing routine checks on a fire truck when the station's overhead ventilation fan hit him, he was rushed to the hospital by LifeFlight with serious injuries.
- Roanoke, Texas Fire Department Captain Michael Reedy died June 25 after suffering a sudden medical emergency. Captain Reedy started his career as a volunteer in 2007.

---

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

- The Shepherdsville, KY Fire Department Engine 92 was involved in a motor vehicle collision at the intersection of Adam Shepherd Parkway and Buckman Street. Firefighters immediately extricated the driver of the passenger vehicle and rendered medical aid. The driver was transported to the hospital by Bullitt County EMS. Firefighters from Engine 92 were evaluated on scene by EMS personnel and did not require further treatment.
- A Riverside firefighter was hospitalized Monday, June 23, after a car struck him and a fire engine as he pumped water being used to extinguish a brush fire. The engineer was at the pump controls when he and the fire engine were struck.
- A heavy rescue fire truck owned by the Waynesville Rural Fire Protection District crashed into a highway exit sign after one of its tires blew out Monday. According to Waynesville Rural Fire, firefighters were returning from a call at 11:20 a.m. on I-44 near exit 156 when the truck's front right steering tire suffered a blowout. The driver was taken to the hospital for minor injuries, and the two firefighters did not complain of injuries. The protection district believes the fire truck will be a total loss.
- A senior Montana EMS provider, Everett Edwards, 84 was involved in a two-vehicle crash earlier this month has died.
- The Coopersville/Polkton (MI) Fire Department's attenuator fire truck (Unit 433) was struck by a passing motorist. The rig sustained damage to its attenuator system, which is specifically designed to absorb the impact of such collisions. It will be out of service until repairs are completed.
- Fort Worth Professional Firefighters Local 440: UPDATE ON TOWER 8. Just hours after we celebrated the arrival of Tower 8 with a traditional push-in ceremony, it was struck by a vehicle while our firefighters were working a crash scene on IH-30. Thankfully, no one was injured, but the truck did suffer damage.

---

### **\*\*Are Sports Drinks, Water Or IV Fluids Better For Firefighter Rehab?**

Jay MacNeal

Firefighters are subjected to a variety of high-stress situations during training, performing technical rescues and operating on the fireground. Firefighters wearing structural gear are at high risk of thermal stress that, combined with heavy or even mild physical exertion, can rapidly lead to dehydration and other fluid balance illnesses.

While an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, it is easy to get behind in fluid consumption quite rapidly. The use of aggressive pre-hydration and rehydration strategies is paramount to preventing serious illness.

One of the questions commonly considered is the use of oral versus intravenous fluids for firefighter rehab. Frankly, the question is poorly studied in the circumstances of firefighter exertion, dehydration and other fluid balance illnesses.

Although it may seem faster and more effective, rapid boluses of intravenous fluids are not without risks. Let's examine what we know about hydration.

#### **FLUID BALANCE**



We live in an age of energy drinks, workout optimizers and highly caffeinated beverages. The lifestyle choice to drink these alternatives to water tends to keep us, paradoxically, in a relative state of dehydration from the very beginning of our shifts.

*In fact, a high percentage of firefighters arrive at training in a significantly dehydrated state, and firefighters lose a significant amount of body mass because of firefighting operations. Firefighters are at risk of serious illness or injury because of these circumstances.*

While most departments around the country are getting better at rehabilitation processes, firefighters often still avoid the formal process. Whether from fear of being taken out of the action or of missing a particularly exciting fireground activity, or due to the general mentality of being 10 feet tall and bulletproof, *we still are far more likely to die from cardiac stress on the job than from any direct fire suppression activity.*

Fluid balance is an important piece of that cardiac stress algorithm. Cardiac output is the amount of blood the heart pumps through the circulatory system in a minute. The amount of blood put out by the left ventricle of the heart in one contraction is called the stroke volume.

The stroke volume and the heart rate determine the cardiac output. If stroke volume is decreased due to dehydration and hypovolemia, the only way the body can compensate is to increase the heart rate. This leads to less blood supply to the heart, as the heart gets most of its supply in the diastole phase. When cardiac output is decreased, the cooling capacity of the body is also reduced. It is a vicious cycle.

### **ORAL FLUIDS: WATER OR SPORTS DRINKS?**

To beat the vicious cycle of thermal load and dehydration hypovolemia, we need to maintain adequate hydration. Understanding how best to do that is important. Oral hydration was the first means of hydration and arguably may still be the best. There is an entire multibillion dollar industry dedicated to just that.

But when should sports drinks should be used instead of water? Most firefighters and EMS providers have heard of hyponatremia (abnormally low sodium levels) in athletes after drinking only water. Although rare, in extreme situations, fluid replacement with only water can lead to hyponatremia and when severe, seizures, coma and possibly death. Anecdotally, many people overcompensate to prevent hyponatremia by drinking only sports drinks.

A study of 488 runners in the Boston marathon showed that 0.6 percent had critical hyponatremia at the end of the run. These runners were more likely to have consumed more than three liters of water, have slower finishing times and be at extremes of BMI. This study of marathon runners suggests that the individual's physical fitness plays a role in sodium regulation.

Another sodium issue is hypernatremia, abnormally high concentration of blood sodium levels, which is a very real threat on the fireground as well. Concentration of blood sodium levels through essential fluid loss can and will lead to a hypernatremic state which also leads to dysrhythmias, seizures, coma and death.

### **INTRAVENOUS HYDRATION FLUIDS**

Other than treating a medical emergency, is there a reason for IV fluids in rehab operations? Fluid replacement studies have been done in the athletic population. Although not a direct correlation to the fire service, there are some similarities. More importantly, at least one study has been done in the fire service.

In the Hostler study, subjects were given water, sports drink or IV rehydration therapy. Firefighters were dressed in protective gear and asked to complete a variety of upper and lower body exercises in a timed exercise period to reflect firefighting scene duties.

There was no difference in performance in the three study groups, *thus the study showed no benefit to intravenous therapy over oral fluid consumption.*

The routine use of intravenous therapy cannot be recommended as best practice. Given the lack of benefit of intravenous hydration, the use of intraosseous or rectal fluid administration is also not recommended.

### **BEST FLUID OPTIONS FOR FIREGROUND REHAB**

*Based on the research, water, is in most situations the ideal rehydration beverage for firefighters receiving fireground rehab.* Sports drinks can be beneficial but should not totally replace the use of water from company-level or formal rehab operations.

The avoidance of caffeinated beverages is highly recommended. The diuretic effect of caffeine can be counterproductive to hydration efforts.

## PRE-HAB FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Prior to heavy exertion, many athletes will pre-hydrate. Firefighters and EMS providers do not have the benefit of scheduled responses. Maintaining hydration during non-emergency operations is an important piece of response planning.

Implementation of a pre-hab strategy to drink a bottle of water while en route to an incident that is likely to cause a large thermal load seems to be a reasonable strategy. The amount of water should not be excessive to the point of causing nausea.

## CONCLUSION

Although it can be tempting to provide rapid rehydration with intravenous or intraosseous fluids, there is unlikely to be any benefit in most routine rehab situations. *It is reasonable and a best practice to practice moderation, consume a combination of commercially available sports drinks and water or in some cases to dilute an electrolyte drink with water. Perhaps Grandma was right: moderation is the key.*

Any provider not able to manage his or her hydration with oral fluid consumption will likely require additional medical support. Any responder requiring intravenous fluids is at risk of electrolyte imbalance and should be transported to the nearest appropriate medical facility for formal evaluation and treatment.

## 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	42
Last fire death 6/23/25 Queesbury, Warren Co. 80yo Male	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	71
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	550
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/47
	#2 NY/42
	#3 IL/34
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2025: <b>1014</b>	
2046 civilian home fire fatalities in 2024	
<b>Week 23 of 2025, fire has claimed on an average 45.2 lives PER WEEK, perhaps OSHA should examine that death toll.</b>	
Both the states of Maryland and California as well as Wash. DC require sprinklers in 1&2 family dwellings.	
According to realtors and builders only old homes burn, so sprinklers are not needed in new homes: so when does a new home become an old home?	

## **Burnaby Mayor, A Former Firefighter, Urges British Columbia Government To Repeal New Single-Staircase Buildings Up To Six Stories**

Ken Chan

Burnaby Mayor Mike Hurley, a former firefighter with decades of frontline experience, is sounding the alarm over new provincial government policies that allow the construction of new small single-staircase, multi-family residential buildings up to six stories.

In a strongly worded call for repeal earlier this month, Hurley warned that the changes —intended to support housing affordability and design flexibility — pose serious safety risks for residents and first responders alike. His stance marks one of the most prominent rebukes yet from a municipal leader since the B.C. government introduced the policy shift in Summer 2024.

*“Affordable housing should not mean unsafe housing.* As we address the housing challenges, we still must do our homework to ensure we’re not placing our citizens in a compromised safety position,” said Hurley during a Burnaby City Council public meeting earlier this month.

Burnaby City Council approved the Mayor’s member motion calling on the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) to call on the provincial government to repeal the policies in the B.C. Building Code enabling such buildings with one single exist stairway. The next UBCM convention is in September 2025.

“This is a ridiculous suggestion by this government for gaining very little through the housing, [creating] maybe one apartment, one extra apartment in a building. In no way is that ever worth putting people’s lives at danger,” said the Mayor, who was previously Burnaby’s Assistant Fire Chief and the Vice President of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Hurley provided an anecdotal example from his firefighting career, when an arsonist was lighting fires across Burnaby, including the fire exits and stairwells of buildings. He suggested that if these buildings had just one stairwell, many people could have been injured or killed in those incidents.

*He then cited troubling statistics on building fire safety, noting that 40 per cent of fire safety systems in existing apartment buildings — including smoke detectors and sprinklers — do not meet current codes and may not function properly.* Fires occurring in residential hallways and stairwells, which serve as critical evacuation routes, now account for nearly nine per cent of all residential fires, with smoke from these incidents quickly obstructing exits. Alarminglly, nearly eight-in-ten deaths related to a fire incident are attributed to smoke inhalation.

Hurley wants the provincial government to suspend the policy, reopen the consultation process with fire departments, public safety organization, and municipalities, and use B.C.-specific data for the evaluation of alternative design concepts that mandate at least two stairwells.

Previously, at least two stairwells were needed for multi-family residential buildings three storeys and higher. *Prior to the provincial government’s decision last year to approve the regulations, the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters Association and other public safety organizations expressed opposition and concern for the new policies.*

The provincial government had previously considered single-egress buildings as tall as eight stories, before dropping the regulations down to up to six stories based on the recommendations of a contracted consultant, *which also outlined a range of enhanced safety design feature requirements such as enhanced sprinklers, smoke-management systems, and wider stairwells.*

Pushed forward by some local housing advocates, single-egress stairwell buildings are intended to make more efficient use of limited land by allowing private developers and non-profit housing providers to construct smaller, taller buildings on compact sites, potentially including single-family lots. By requiring only one exit stairwell, the building footprint can be reduced, freeing up space for additional units and helping to lower construction costs. These buildings can also be constructed using mass timber, which supports faster, more sustainable construction while aligning with provincial goals for increased housing supply and climate-friendly development.

### **CITY OF VANCOUVER IS STILL CONSIDERING SIMILAR POLICIES**

While this new building form has generated a bit of buzz — praised by housing advocates for its potential to improve affordability and supply and criticized by others for safety concerns — it remains uncertain whether many of these buildings will actually be constructed, let alone become commonplace.

Supporters of this building form often point to major European cities, as well as New York City and Seattle, where similar policies allow single-egress mid-rise residential buildings and have been integrated into the urban fabric. *Last year, Seattle's fire and building code officials opposed the Washington state legislature's passing of new policies that expand single-stair buildings statewide.* Generally, a growing number of jurisdictions in Canada and the United States are considering such buildings, and in each instance, they are also opposed by their local fire and safety officials.

The B.C. government's policies enabling such buildings currently do not apply to the City of Vancouver, which is the only jurisdiction in the province with its separate self-regulated building code.

In February 2025, Vancouver City Council directed City staff to continue exploring the potential for allowing new single-staircase multi-family residential buildings — similar to the provincial policies — and to consult with Vancouver Fire Rescue, architects, and builders. *With input from local fire officials, ahead of City Council's direction, City staff had opposed the adoption of such policies, echoing concerns raised during the provincial government's earlier consultation process. Among the key issues cited was the assumption that life safety systems in these buildings would always be properly maintained.*

It remains to be seen whether City staff will oppose such building allowances again when they report back on their findings and recommendations in Fall 2025.

## GREEN TECHNOLOGY & THE FIRE SERVICE

### *NY Battery Energy Storage System 'a Major Concern'*

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

When construction started on a battery energy storage system in Manor Heights this past February, Valerie Vislocky and many of her Tillman Street neighbors braced for the worst. They knew there would be noise, they knew there would be disruption. They even anticipated dust, dirt and other construction headaches. But what they didn't prepare for was the sobering sight of the finished product.

"It's ridiculous and disheartening," said Vislocky, who shared video and pictures of several Tesla megapacks that are now located directly next to her house. "We protested, voiced our concerns at Community Board meetings and got hundreds of signatures on a petition. None of it mattered. I feel like I can reach out and touch the batteries, that's how close they are to my home."

The site, which is near completion but not yet in operation, has unlocked new fears for Vislocky, who said she now worries about day-to-day norms like allowing her children to play outside or even lighting up a barbecue in her yard.

"It's obviously too late for us," she added. "But hopefully all of the work we did can stop more from being built. This is not just a problem in this neighborhood, it's a major concern throughout the entire borough." Joe Territo, owner of The Manor Restaurant, which is directly across the street from the site, said the project is costing him his business.

"Parking has been horrendous, they've closed streets without permits, and my regular customers who couldn't get to the restaurant for a good length of time are now going someplace else to eat," he said. "The restaurant business is hard enough as it is. This project has been extremely detrimental to my business, and the site is not even up and running yet."

Territo, who grew up in the neighborhood and whose family has owned The Manor since 1968, said he does not blame the property owner for his plight, he blames New York City.

"When the city throws so much money at you, and the land has been empty for 30 years, of course you're going to take it," he said. *"But why the city and the state are allowing these things to be built in residential areas is beyond me. Clearly, this does not belong here."*

Earlier this year, a representative from NineDot Energy, which has several battery projects on Staten Island, said the company does not minimize neighbor concerns, and offered the following statement to clarify which safety measures have already been taken:

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

NineDot also noted that the FDNY has "examined and tested the BESS technology used on this site [Tesla Megapacks] and determined the technology is safe for use in NYC, in large part because of the several layers

of safety redundancy, which prevent so-called ‘thermal runaway’ [i.e., a fire spreading from one cell or module to another].”

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

There are currently more than a dozen of them located on Staten Island, each constructed [to help the state meet some of its ambitious environmental goals](#). And many more are in the pipeline — several of which are set to receive more than \$1.5 million in incentive awards from the New York Energy Research and Development Authority.

---

### **FDNY: Li-Ion Batteries Caused 5-Alarm Fire That Critically Injured Firefighter**

Rocco Parascandola, Nicholas Williams New York Daily News

Lithium-ion batteries caused the five-alarm Bronx house fire that injured two residents, including a child, and 13 firefighters and medics, the FDNY said Monday.

One of the firefighters was critically hurt battling the blaze that broke out about 7:20 p.m. Sunday in a multi-family home on Devoe Terrace near W. 190th St. The inferno quickly engulfed the residence before spreading to two other houses.

His condition is improving Deputy Mayor Kaz Daughtry said Monday of the critically hurt firefighter.

“I went to see him this morning,” Daughtry said at a press conference at the burned-out building. “He is in good spirits. He was up. He was talking. He couldn’t wait to get back to work and to go surfing.”

Nine firefighters, four EMS workers and two civilians were hurt, according to Mayor Adams and FDNY officials. Most of the firefighters suffered minor heat exhaustion. One of the hurt EMS workers was a lieutenant who was aiding a firefighter who suffered smoke inhalation.

“We continue to see over and over again the role that lithium-iron batteries are showing. This is why we are looking at every measure possible to remove these batteries off our street,” Adams said on Monday as he examined the aftermath of the blaze. “We are fortunate that no one was killed.”

[The fire started from the front porch of the building where the batteries were located](#). The building is around 115 years old and made of wood and the fire quickly rose to the attic with firefighters facing heavy smoke.

Neighbors told ABC7 New York that everyone got out of the homes alive thanks to other neighbors pulling them to safety, including at least two people who needed help because they rely on scooters and walkers to get around.

“They were helping some old lady, she had an oxygen tank and a walker, they was helping them out,” Jay Lopez told the station. “They have a lot of old scooters on the porch. So maybe one of the batteries? We don’t know.”

Red Cross personnel were sent to the scene to help residents displaced by the fire.

Adams said there has been a 67% drop in lithium ion batteries deaths in 2024 compared to 2023, with no deaths so far this year.

“We are at zero this year. However last night could have been the first one,” FDNY Commissioner Robert Tucker said. “We are very lucky that our hero firefighter is alive today.”

## **STUFF FOR YOUR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS!**



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

---



BY  **McNeil & Co.**

### **Work-In-Progress Building Awareness, ESIP WEBINAR SERIES**

Construction demolition and renovation hazard awareness training teaches First Responders how to identify and reduce the risks of hazards on construction sites.

**Wednesday, July 2, at 7PM**

**REGISTER AT THIS LINK TO PARTICIPATE:**

<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=fae5930553&e=781e9a2c81>

---



### **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](https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/featured_courses)

---

**NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS**

**Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast**

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

---

**Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast**

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

---

**Asking for a Friend**

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

---

**GENERAL INTEREST**

**At our Conference in April, there was great interest in companies that are able to do fire apparatus re-firbs:**

- Har Rob in Syracuse, NY
- Bulldog Fire Equipment, Nesquehoning PA
- SVI, Fort Collins CO.
- Fire Line Equipment, New Holland, PA
- Ten-8 Fire and Safety, Bradenton, FL
- Fire Trucks Unlimited, Henderson NV
- New England Fire Equipment & Apparatus, North Haven, CT

## **Apparatus Push-In Ceremonies: A Long-Held Tradition That Unites Communities**

Rachel Engel

Like the armed forces, part of the appeal of the fire service is its deep connection and reverence for tradition, from the iconic sound of the bagpipe to the now-ceremonial apparatus push-in.

Beginning in the 1800s, after crews returned from a call on horse-drawn equipment, the animals were unable to back into the station, requiring members to detach the horses and push the equipment into the bay. Over time, with the invention and adoption of motorized apparatus, the need to manually move the equipment was gone. However, the legacy of the push-in was secured.

Now, in honor of those early crews, many fire departments hold a push-in ceremony when taking delivery of a new apparatus, often inviting community members to celebrate the exciting moment their tax dollars helped make possible.

## **LAUGH OUT LOUD!!**

**While looking into the mirror, I see gray hair, fine lines and eyes that don't have the  
same sparkle and I can't help but think,  
They sure don't mirrors like they used to!!!!**

## **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](http://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](mailto:jpetkus@greenfieldfd.org) or regular mail to Greenfield Fire District, P.O. Box 103 Greenfield Center, NY 12833.

## **CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

### **OFFICERS**

*President, Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner, Stillwater Fire District*

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, John Meehan, Commissioner West Crescent Fire District*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ellen Martin, Deputy Treasurer Clifton Park Fire District*

### **DIRECTORS:**

*Les Bonesteel Commissioner Burnt Hills/Saratoga,*

*Fred Richards Commissioner Harmony Corners/Saratoga,*

*Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga,*

*Ed Woehrle Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady*

*Art Hunsinger, Ex-Officio Member Clifton Park Fire District*

---

### **APPOINTEES**

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

*Treasurer: Tony Hill*

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

*Chaplain: Fred Richards, Commissioner, Harmony Corners Fire District*

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

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

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

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

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

# CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

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

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

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

## FIRE SERVICE LEGAL SERVICES



**The D'Amato Law Group LLP**  
Gregory Serio, Partner  
Alyssa B. Snyder, Partner  
111 Washington Ave Suite 600  
Albany, NY 12210  
518.426.3800  
Email: [gserio@dlgny.com](mailto:gserio@dlgny.com) or  
[asnyder@dlgny.com](mailto:asnyder@dlgny.com)  
[damatolawgroup.com](http://damatolawgroup.com)



Monaco Cooper Lamme & Carr.PLLC  
1881 Western Ave, Suite 200  
Albany, NY 12203  
Nicole Strippoli 518-941-9040  
[NSTRIPPOLI@MCLCLAW.COM](mailto:NSTRIPPOLI@MCLCLAW.COM)  
<https://mclclaw.com>

### HANNIGAN LAW FIRM PLLC

388 Kenwood Avenue  
Delmar, New York 12054  
P: (518) 869-9911  
F: (518) 869-9915  
[www.hannigan.pro](http://www.hannigan.pro)  
Fire/EMS –Municipal Law

### Ducharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP

Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney  
646 Plank Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065  
518-373-1482  
[Ducharmeclark.com](http://Ducharmeclark.com)

### Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP

Bond Counsel  
Robert J. McLaughlin, Partner  
One Commerce Plaza, Albany, NY 12260  
518-487-7697 Cell 518-813-6333  
[mclaughlin@woh.com](mailto:mclaughlin@woh.com)  
[www.woh.com](http://www.woh.com)

## FIRE STATION & FACILITIES ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS

### C.T. Male Associates

Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C.

Single Source Responsibility  
for all your  
Essential Facility Design Services

 [www.ctmale.com](http://www.ctmale.com)  
50 Century Hill Drive, Latham, NY 12110 518.786.7400

[n.lobosco@ctmale.com](mailto:n.lobosco@ctmale.com)



### Architecture/Engineering/Code Services

Melissa Smith  
Senior Marketing Manager  
518-439-8235  
4 British American Blvd  
Latham, NY 12110



Architects & Engineers  
433 River Street, Suite 8002  
Troy, NY 12180

518-765-5105  
Dennis Ross, Practice Leader  
[www.H2M.com](http://www.H2M.com)

### Managed IT Services Cloud Telephone Services



Wendel's award winning public safety design team

Wendel, Centerpointe Corporate Park, 375 Essjay  
Road, Suite 200, Williamsville, NY 14221

716.688.0766

Amy Numrich, MBA

Digital Marketing & Events Specialist  
[anumrich@wendelcompanies.com](mailto:anumrich@wendelcompanies.com)



*Reveal the Possibilities*

Shawn Corp, Principle  
15 Cider Mill Way, Saratoga Springs, NY  
518.322.1386  
[www.reveal-ad.com](http://www.reveal-ad.com)



Ryan Sapienza

Project Manager/Technology Consultant

518-754-4623

Service 518-869-3614

930 Albany Shaker Rd, Latham, NY 12110

## FIRE SERVICE INSURANCE



**AMSURE.**  
Above and Beyond

**Specializing in insurance for fire districts and departments**

**Dave Meager**      **Dustin Hall**  
dmeager@amsureins.com    dhall@amsureins.com

31 Woodlawn Avenue, Saratoga Springs  
(518) 584-5300 • Amsureins.com

### Haughey Insurance Agency

850 State Route 50  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027  
518-399-1583  
www.haugheyagency.com



**Roy Denny**  
Executive VP & COO  
One Blue Hill Plaza – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO Box 1609  
Pearl River, NY 10965  
845-352-8855x7099  
Cell 845.608.4989  
[rdenny@fdmny.com](mailto:rdenny@fdmny.com)  
VFBL/Workers' Comp Coverage



**Fleury Risk Management**  
28 Corporate Drive, Suite 104  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
518.478.6314

<https://www.fleuryrisk.com/nysgroup497>  
VFBL Insurances Services



**Tony Blackwell, Territory Sales Manager**  
800-822-3747 ext 530  
[ablackwell@mcneilandcompany.com](mailto:ablackwell@mcneilandcompany.com)



**Pat Daglio**  
[pdaglio@vfis.com](mailto:pdaglio@vfis.com)  
717.819.3072

## FIRE SERVICE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND LOSAP MANAGEMENT



Service Award Programs (LOSAP)

**Anthony Hill**      [ahill@fireflyadmin.com](mailto:ahill@fireflyadmin.com)  
President      (518) 687-1400 (office)  
[www.fireflyadmin.com](http://www.fireflyadmin.com) (518) 937-6174 (cell)



**UBS Financial Advisors**  
Ralph Lemme, CFP  
8 Southwoods Blvd Suite 207  
Albany, NY 12211  
518.445.1667



**Wealth Management**  
The LOSAP Group

518-432-5087  
838-433-7304 cell  
[www.thelosapgroup.com](http://www.thelosapgroup.com)  
[nikki.haskins@rbc.com](mailto:nikki.haskins@rbc.com)  
455 Patroon Creek Blvd, suite 200, Albany NY 12206



**Jeremy Hartnett**  
302-483-7699  
[jeremy@firehousepayroll.com](mailto:jeremy@firehousepayroll.com)  
payroll-pension reporting-tax filing  
direct deposits-timekeeping-HR Services



**Nicole Meeker**  
Manager of Business Development & Accts  
518-394-7894  
Cell 607-423-4811  
[www.penflexinc.com](http://www.penflexinc.com)  
[nmeeker@penflexinc.com](mailto:nmeeker@penflexinc.com)

### FULL-SERVICE FIRE EQUIPMENT

### FIRE EQ TESTING

### DRYER VENT CLEANING



[www.jeromefire.com](http://www.jeromefire.com)  
Breathing Air Comp Maintenance,  
Air Quality Tests and Repairs  
Russell Jerome  
315-699-4533 Office  
Ready Rack Extractor/Washers  
Full Line of Fire Equipment  
8721 Caughdenoy Rd, Clay, NY 13041



**Safety First Equipment Testing**  
99 Glass Lake Road  
Averill Park, NY 12018  
518-674-8363  
[www.safetyfirstfirehose.com](http://www.safetyfirstfirehose.com)  
HOSE, APPLIANCE & LADDER TESTING  
[Safety1hose@gmail.com](mailto:Safety1hose@gmail.com)



**DRYER VENT WIZARD**  
JORDAN CATINO  
8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309  
518-344-0664  
[SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM](http://SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM)

## FIRE STATION TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Telecommunications equipment supplier offering voice and data services, and IT and security systems.

930 Albany Shaker Rd. Suite 102, Latham, NY 12110  
518-869-3571  
[www.Northeast-is.com](http://www.Northeast-is.com)

## FIRE DEPT COMPUTER



**White Wolf Computer, LLC**  
4 Normanskill Blvd. Suite 410,  
Delmar, NY 12054  
[\(518\) 459-9653](tel:5184599653)

Managed Services  
Cloud Hosting Solutions  
Telephone Data Cabling  
Backup Disaster Recovery  
Web Design Services

## FIRE STATION HVAC AND PLUMBING SERVICES



**Alltek Energy Systems, Inc.**  
Construction-Fabrication-Power & Controls  
Planning Service  
24/7 Service  
518-238-2600  
Waterford, New York  
[www.alltekenenergy.com](http://www.alltekenenergy.com)

## FIRE COMPANY FUND RAISING



Lloyd Fox, Account Executive  
34 Garner Road, Averill Park, NY 12018  
[Lfox8@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Lfox8@nycap.rr.com)  
518-810-7819  
[www.funddrive.com](http://www.funddrive.com)

## FIRE APPARATUS

**VANDER MOLEN  
FIRE APPARATUS  
SALES & SERVICE**  
PHILIP VANDER MOLEN  
PRESIDENT

224 WELLINGTON ROAD, DEWITT NY 13214  
6085 TRENTON ROAD, UTICA NY 13502  
(315) 952-7787 cell  
(518) 288-3587 office  
[vmfire@verizon.net](mailto:vmfire@verizon.net)

## FIRE SERVICE LIGHTING SYSTEMS, REPAIRS, STRIPPING



Vehicle Repair, Warning Light Packages, Body Shop, Upfitting  
78 Freemans Bridge Road, Glenville  
518-377-5555  
Veteran Owned Business

## FIRE DISTRICT CPA/AUDITS/FINANCIAL SERVICES



Zoriana M. Stawnychy  
973.283.0024  
[zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com](mailto:zoriana@stawnychyfinancial.com)  
135 Kinnelon Road Suite 101  
Kinnelon, NJ 07405  
Serving fire districts in New York State

*Accounting, Consulting & IT Security*  
1581 Franklin Ave. Mineola, NY 11501  
Kyle Brengel, Managing Partner  
516-472-7345  
[kbregel@gblny.com](mailto:kbregel@gblny.com)



**Robert V. Gramuglia, CPA**  
1 Pine West Plaza Suite 107, Albany NY 12205  
518.452.8055 or 518.859.5851cell  
Email: [rgramuglia@BGCPA.net](mailto:rgramuglia@BGCPA.net)



518-459-6700  
10 British-American Blvd, Latham, NY 12110  
[www.bstco.com](http://www.bstco.com)  
Brendan Kennedy ext 356



BUSINESS  
ADVISORS  
AND CPAS

11 British American Blvd, Latham, NY 12110  
518-785-0134  
Queensbury Office 518-792-6595  
<http://www.mmbaccounting.com>  
Alan W. Clink, CPA [aclick@mmb-co.com](mailto:aclick@mmb-co.com)  
Heather R. Lewis, CPA [hlewis@mmb-co.com](mailto:hlewis@mmb-co.com)

## FIRE STATION PEST CONTROL



518-300-4732  
431 New Karner Rd Suite 170  
Albany, NY 12205  
<https://fox-pest.com/albany-ny>



## BANKING/FIRE SERVICE FUNDING SOURCES



**JOHN M. LESNIEWSKI**  
Assistant Vice President and  
Senior Business Banking Officer  
Fulton/Montgomery Markets  
12 Fremont Street, Gloversville, NY 12078  
P: 518.775-5205 | M: 518.848-0612  
NMLS ID 915694  
[www.nbtbank.com](http://www.nbtbank.com)



**Don McCormack**  
425 Main Street Catskill, NY 12414  
[www.tbogc.com](http://www.tbogc.com)  
518.943.2600 X607  
[donaldm@tbogc.com](mailto:donaldm@tbogc.com)  
Specializing in Fire Service Financing



**David Farstad, VP-Municipal Banking**  
652 Albany-Shaker Road, Albany NY  
12211  
Ph: 518-730-3120  
Cell: 518-506-0075  
[farstadd@pioneerbanking.com](mailto:farstadd@pioneerbanking.com)



**Ballston Spa National Bank**  
PO Box 70  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
Deborah JR O'Connor  
518.363.8119  
[Deborah.oconnor@bsnb.com](mailto:Deborah.oconnor@bsnb.com)

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

### BECOME A MEMBER OF CAFDA!

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

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

Would you like to join Capital Area Fire Districts Association along with 100 members in 14 counties? Individuals, fire district associations, fire protection districts and Village departments are all eligible for membership.

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

\$0 to \$200,000: \$50

\$200,001 to \$400,000: \$100

\$400,001 to \$600,000: \$200

\$600,001 plus: \$300

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

**Business Partners: \$100.00 annual member fee**

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

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

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

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

# CAPITAL AREA FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION

## SAVE THE DATES!

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

### COMMISSIONER TRAINING

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

### OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS	Fulton-Montgomery Community College — Thurs-Fri. March 13-14, 2025 — 2805 State Hwy. 67, Johnstown
FINANCIAL TRAINING FOR FIRE DISTRICT OFFICIALS	Brighton Fire District — Tues-Wed. March 25-26, 2025 — 3100 East Avenue, Rochester
CAFDA CONFERENCE	<b>Fort William Henry Hotel &amp; Conference Center, Lake George</b> — <b>Thurs-Sat. April 10-12, 2025</b>
<b>ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR</b>	Verdoy Fire District — <b>November 1, 2025</b> — 988 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham

### SOCIAL EVENTS

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

### MEETINGS – CLIFTON PARK FIRE DISTRICT & ZOOM

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



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

## FOR MORE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Website	<a href="http://www.CAFDA.net">www.CAFDA.net</a>
---------	--

# 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*

### [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.](#)**