



THE BULLETIN

APRIL 18TH, 2026

The Voice of CAFDA since 2004
Editor, Tom Rinaldi – tom@rinaldi1.com since 2014
When you see **, highly recommended article

CAPITAL SHORT TAKES

- If you didn't attend you missed a great Conference. We had fun, we ate some great food, learned a whole lot and welcomed fire district officials from all over the state. You also missed 21 great vendors and missed out on a mixer with good food and drink sponsored by Amsure Insurance, Quick Response Restoration & VFIS. We will be doing it all again next year and already have some topics to help you do your job. We will be back at the Fort William Henry conference center/hotel for more education and fun.
- I want to express my appreciation for all of our CAFDA staff and assistants you make my job as President easy, we are a great team. Our 3rd Conference went off without a hitch. My thanks to Vice President Ellen Martin, Directors; Art Hunsinger, Joyce Petkus, Ed Woehrle, Les Bonesteel, Charles "Skip" Smith, assistants Steve Vena and wife Peg, Secretary Molly Jenkins, Treasurer Tony Hill, Legal Counsel Greg Serio and Co-Counsel Alyssa Snyder.
- CAFDA would like to thank all of our sponsors and vendors for their participation at Conference '26 and look forward to Conference '27.
- We have a member looking for contact information on; "Who Services Your Fire Apparatus" in the hope of obtaining more competitive pricing. Please help out a fellow commissioner and let our friend from the north country know who services your vehicles, lgarsod25@gmail.com Thanks.
- See information on Prevailing Wage Rates and how they apply to Fire Districts on our website at CAFDA.net.
- E-One (REV Group) has announced a \$23.5 million expansion in Ocala FL, and is expected to increase production of aerials by 35 percent, reduce delivery times and add about 50 jobs!
- Dash cameras will soon be mandatory for all New York State (NYS) ambulances and emergency medical response vehicles. The requirements of the dash cameras were spelled out in an October 2025 ambulance equipment regulation, which include:
 - Records from the driver's perspective at least towards the front of the vehicle;
 - Is activated by "g" force change;
 - Is capable of recording pre and post activation; and
 - Is capable of recording sounds and video and retain such recording for a period no less than 10 days.
- Fire and EMS personnel are encouraged to contact their Congressional representatives to request the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial be accessible during the May 2-3 weekend events.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

From CAFDA

1. Join us at the NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday May 14th features dinner for attendees. Please join us.

ZOOM LINK FOR THE May MEETING at 7pm:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86413237058?pwd=MauWziwckK2pylWGVwYGUqxQLCwzHq.1>

CAFDA TRAINING AND EVENT DATES

| Day/Date | Time | Type | Location | Notes |
|--|------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| FY 2026 | | | | |
| Thursday, May 14, 2026 | 7:00 PM | General Membership Mtg. | Clifton Park | |
| Thursday, June 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM | General Membership Mtg. | Clifton Park | |
| July, 2026 | NO MEETING | | | |
| Friday, August 7, 2026 | 1:00 PM | Membership Activity | Saratoga Race Course | NYRA Day at the Races! |
| Thursday, August 13, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Board of Directors Meeting | Clifton Park | |
| Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 7:00 PM | General Membership Mtg. | Clifton Park | |
| Thursday, October 8, 2026 | 7:00 PM | General Membership Mtg. | Clifton Park | Officers/Director Nominations |
| Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 8:00 AM | Annual Fall Workshop | Verdoy | |
| Thursday, November 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM | General Membership Mtg. | Clifton Park | Officer/Director Elections |
| DECEMBER 2026 | NO MEETING | | | |
| FY 2027 | | | | |
| Saturday, January 2, 2027 | 9:00 AM | General Membership Mtg. | Clifton Park | Organizational/Morning Meeting |
| Thursday, April 8 - Saturday April 10, 2027 | | CAFDA Conference '27 | Fort William Henry Conference Center | Lake George |
| Thursday, April 6 - Saturday April 8, 2028 | | CAFDA Conference '28 | Fort William Henry Conference Center | |

From Other Organizations

NYSAFC is Bringing Hands-On Training to Your Area!

FIRE BEHAVIOR ON THE INSIDE

REGISTRATION: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/firebehavior>

FLASHOVER

REGISTRATION: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/flashover>

NYSAFC 2026 Seminar Series "Dangerous Spaces: Challenges and Tactics When Dealing with Garage and Basement Fires" With Chief/Commissioner Michael Lombardo (Buffalo Fire Department)

<https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/2026seminarseries>

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

Note: A 3% service fee will be applied if paying by credit card.

2026 Dates and Locations are available at the website for this series.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

From Albany

The 2026 Issues of United Concern are posted on the CAFDA.net website.

Bill you don't want to pass, just think how confusing this will be for poll workers

Bill A10817 introduced by Josh Jensen, who represents the 134th Assembly district, which includes the towns of Greece, Ogden, and Parma and the villages of Spencerport and Hilton in Monroe County. AN ACT to amend the town law, in relation to **requiring fire district elections occur on the same day as school board elections and require such elections be run by the county board of elections**; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto.

- The county board of elections shall determine where the election takes place!!
- Polls shall be open from 7am until 9pm
- County BOEs will provide absentee ballots!
- Elections will take place in **MAY!**
- School district boundaries and fire district boundaries are not contiguous.

From Washington

Urgent Call to Action

Access to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial for the NFFF's 2026 Memorial Weekend honoring 204 of America's fallen heroes is at risk due to closure of the National Fire Academy campus during the current lapse in funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Please review the provided template and fill in your contact information. You may also include a personal message about what the National Memorial being open for Memorial weekend means to you. Once complete, hit send email and you are all set. Your email will automatically be sent to your Congressional representatives.

Thank for taking the time to support this mission and the families of our fallen heroes.

GO TO THIS WEBSITE TO SEND YOUR SUPPORT LETTER:

https://ujoin.co/campaigns/4412/actions/public?action_id=6743

Washington Watch

✦ **Paul Matheis Appointed as Fire Administrator.** Paul Matheis, a former Division Chief with the Newport Beach Fire Department, has been appointed as the new USFA Fire Administrator.

✦ **Secretary Mullin Removes Personal Review of FEMA Contracts.** Last week, Secretary Mullin followed through on his **confirmation hearing promise** to remove the previous Secretary's policy of personal review over FEMA contracts worth more than \$100,000; a policy that had delayed **over 1,000 FEMA disbursements**. Proper and timely administration of FEMA grants, including **AFG and SAFER grants**, has been a major CFSI priority within **FEMA reform**. While this policy being rescinded is a great step forward, it is still vitally important to advocate for more grant funding and timely disbursement within FEMA.

✦ **President Trump Releases FY27 Budget Request.** President Trump released his **FY 2027 Budget Request** last Friday, April 3rd. This is yet another step forward in the FY2027 government funding process. If you have not yet followed up from your Hill Day meetings, or if you just want to build on your new relationships, now would be a great time to do so – and talk about funding for the fire and emergency services! Remember to use **CFSI's one-pagers**, including our **FY 2027 appropriations requests**.

✦ **DHS Shutdown Status Report.** After two weeks of Congressional recess, presidential pressure, and negotiations, the plan to end the DHS shutdown **has returned** to essentially where it was **when Congress left**. The two-method plan (funding all of DHS except ICE and CBP, then passing enforcement funding through budget reconciliation) was voted down by the House as recently as two weeks ago.

Now that it has the **President's approval**, the House is set to try again when they return from their recess; however, **comments from a group of House Republicans** show that there is no guarantee the Majority can pass this plan through the House.

See the Congressional Fire Services Institute at: cfsi.org

Educating Members of Congress About Fire & Life Safety Issues Since 1989

From Federal DOL/OSHA

See the latest from DOL/OSHA at CAFDA.net website.

FIRE DISTRICT FINANCIAL NEWS

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

NYS-OSC Fire Service Audits

Eagle Mills Fire District No. 1 Rensselaer County – Records and Reports

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Did the Eagle Mills Fire District No. 1 (District) Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) monitor financial activity, ensure appropriate records were maintained and reports were filed in a timely manner?

AUDIT PERIOD

January 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025

We expanded our scope back to January 1, 2019 to review the Annual Financial Reports (AFR) filing status and required annual audits.

UNDERSTANDING THE AUDIT AREA

A board of fire commissioners must monitor financial activity to ensure public funds are managed with accountability, transparency and integrity. Complete, accurate and current accounting records and reports are essential for informed decision-making, legal compliance and accountability.

The District's budgeted appropriations for fiscal year 2025 totaled \$514,743.

AUDIT SUMMARY

While our review of the accounting records did not observe any significant errors, the Board did not adequately monitor the District's financial activity and did not ensure appropriate records were maintained and that AFRs,¹ detailed financial data reports, were created and filed in a timely manner. As a result, the risk of errors and irregularities occurring increases and the Board's ability to assess the District's financial activities was diminished.

Specifically, we determined that:

- The District Secretary/Treasurer (Treasurer) did not record the District's fiscal years 2024 and 2025 annual budgets into the central accounting system, necessary for generating statements of operations with budget-to-actual comparisons.
- The Treasurer also did not prepare and provide the Board with periodic financial reports including balance sheets and budget-to-actual reports. Without status reports, the Board cannot effectively monitor financial activity and budget performance or properly assess financial condition throughout the year, increasing the risk of errors and irregularities.
- *The Board has not had the required annual independent audit of the District's books since fiscal year 2018.* In the absence of an annual audit, there is no independent verification that transactions have been properly recorded, and funds have been properly accounted for, diminishing the Board's ability to assess the District's financial activities.
- *The Treasurer has not prepared or filed the fiscal year end 2019 through 2024 AFRs as required by New York State (NYS) General Municipal Law (GML) Section 30.*² When AFRs are not filed in a timely manner,

it results in diminished transparency and the Board, taxpayers, OSC and other interested parties are denied the ability to assess the District's financial standing.

The report includes five recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the District's fiscal oversight

THE FULL REPORT HERE: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/eagle-mills-fire-district-2025m-136.pdf>

Cicero Volunteer Fire Department - Financial Activities

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Did Cicero Volunteer Fire Department (Department) officials ensure that financial activities were properly recorded and reported and funds were safeguarded?

AUDIT PERIOD

January 1, 2024 – July 21, 2025

UNDERSTANDING THE AUDIT AREA

A fire department treasurer should maintain complete, accurate and current accounting records and reports to comply with legal requirements and help a fire department's board and officials make informed decisions and effectively monitor the department's financial activities. A fire department's board should provide adequate oversight of the financial operations to ensure that public funds are managed with accountability, transparency and integrity. This critical function can help maintain public trust, ensure legal compliance and prevent mismanagement, waste and fraud.

For the 2024 fiscal year, the Department's disbursements totaled about \$339,000 and deposits totaled about \$378,000.

AUDIT SUMMARY

Department officials did not ensure that the Department's financial activities were properly recorded and reported and that funds were safeguarded. As a result, the Department Executive Board (Board) and volunteer members (membership) could not effectively monitor the budget, provide adequate oversight of the Department's financial activities and make informed financial decisions. In addition, because the Department did not have effective controls over cash disbursements and collections, it has an increased risk that Department officials may pay for improper expenses and that all collections might not be deposited and recorded.

The Department Treasurer (Treasurer) did not:

- **Maintain accurate, complete and up-to-date financial records or provide the Board and membership with adequate financial reports.** We identified significant errors and unrecorded transactions in the accounting records. For example, the Treasurer recorded \$216,088 that was received for a building lease payment twice, which overstated the Department's cash and revenue in its accounting records. As a result, the Board and membership could not effectively monitor the Department's financial activities.
- **Prepare accurate bank reconciliations in a timely manner.** Completed reconciliations contained invalid reconciling items and, as of March 2025, the Treasurer was 11 months behind in completing the bank reconciliations. Accurate and timely reconciliations are needed to ensure that Department funds are properly accounted for and safeguarded.
- **Prepare and submit the annual report for Foreign Fire Insurance (FFI) tax proceeds to the Board and membership, and to the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), as required by New York State (NYS) General Municipal Law (GML) Section 30-a.** The Department received \$46,565 in FFI tax proceeds during 2024. These annual reports provide additional transparency on the Department's use of FFI tax proceeds.
- **Issue customer receipts for all collections, unless requested, and did not deposit all collections in a timely manner.** Using press-numbered duplicate receipts and making timely deposits help establish accountability and transparency, and reduce the risk of funds being misappropriated, by safeguarding funds, providing proof of payment for transactions, helping ensure that collections were deposited intact (in the same form as they were received, such as cash or check) and maintaining organized records for accounting and audit purposes.

In addition, the Board did not:

- *Prepare and present to the membership an annual director's report, as required by NYS Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (NFP Law) Section 519.* This report provides additional transparency for the Department's financial activities and helps the membership make informed financial decisions.
- *Ensure that the Treasurer provided the Department's financial records to the Department audit committee (audit committee) on a quarterly basis and that the audit committee conducted timely audits as required by the Department's bylaws.* The audit committee serves an important oversight function because the Treasurer performed most of the Department's financial duties, including receiving cash, writing checks and maintaining the Department's accounting records, without any oversight of her work.
- *Ensure that all disbursements had adequate support, such as an itemized receipt or invoice that described the goods and services purchased, or review and approve all disbursements before payment.* Sixty-one disbursements totaling \$33,182 were not approved before they were paid, and 20 disbursements totaling \$237,152 were not adequately supported. When the Treasurer pays bills that have not been reviewed and/or approved before payment, and disbursements are not supported by adequate invoices or other documentation, the Department has an increased risk that disbursements may not be for valid Department purposes.

The report includes 15 recommendations that, if implemented, will improve controls over the Department's financial activities.

COMPLETE REPORT HERE: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/cicero-volunteer-fire-department-2025-138.pdf>

South Hornell Fire Protection Company, Inc. – Disbursements

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Did the South Hornell Fire Protection Company, Inc. (Company) Executive Board (Board) and membership ensure disbursements were supported, appropriate and authorized?

AUDIT PERIOD

January 1, 2024 – August 6, 2025

UNDERSTANDING THE AUDIT AREA

A fire company board should ensure that disbursements have adequate supporting documentation and are for appropriate company purposes before payment to safeguard company resources. A fire company board should establish a system of internal controls that consists of written policies and procedures and clearly defined bylaws that help ensure that officials properly record and authorize disbursements. When allowing officials and company members to make purchases using debit cards, the board should ensure that adequate controls are in place to prevent the risk of unauthorized debit card use.

The Company's 302 disbursements totaled \$300,953 for the period January 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025.

AUDIT SUMMARY

The Board and membership did not ensure all disbursements were supported, appropriate and authorized..

In addition, the Recording Secretary (Secretary) generally did not record the membership's *The lack of an adequate Company constitution and bylaws (bylaws), financial policies and procedures, debit card safeguards and periodic review and documented authorization of disbursements significantly hindered the Board's and membership's ability to ensure disbursements were supported, appropriate and authorized.* In addition, the Recording Secretary (Secretary) generally did not record the membership's authorization of disbursements at monthly meetings in the membership minutes and there were no minutes for nine membership meetings. As a result, 300 disbursements totaling \$297,853 did not have documented authorization. *We also could not determine whether 63 disbursements totaling \$126,012 were appropriate Company expenses because they lacked adequate supporting documentation.*

The report includes eight recommendations that, if implemented, will improve Company officials' ability to safeguard disbursements.

COMPLETE REPORT HERE: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/south-hornell-fire-protection-company-inc-2025-108.pdf>

Arkport Hose Company No. 1, Inc. – Treasurer

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Did the Arkport Hose Company No. 1, Inc. (Company) Treasurer properly deposit, disburse, record and report Company funds?

AUDIT PERIOD

January 1, 2024 – December 11, 2025

UNDERSTANDING THE AUDIT AREA

A fire company treasurer must properly deposit, disburse, record and report a fire company's funds to ensure statutory compliance, financial accountability and the public's trust. A lack of oversight can lead to mismanagement, fraud, damaged reputation, and jeopardize a fire company's funding and its mission.

From January 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, the Treasurer deposited revenues and redeposited startup cash¹ totaling \$40,466 and disbursed funds totaling \$48,320.

AUDIT SUMMARY

The Treasurer did not properly deposit, disburse, record and report Company funds. As a result, the Executive Committee (Board) lacked reliable information to manage the Company's financial activities. Furthermore, the company has an increased risk of theft, waste and abuse of company's resources.

From January 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, the **Treasurer did not:**

- *Deposit revenues totaling \$5,191 in a Company bank account within three days of receipt, as required by the Company bylaws.*
- *Maintain adequate supporting documentation, such as deposit slips, receipts or documented purpose, for 95 transactions totaling \$55,100. These transactions included 79 deposits totaling \$39,930 and 16 disbursements totaling \$15,170.*
- *Record or accurately record 48 transactions totaling \$21,528. These transactions included 40 deposits totaling \$20,272 in the receipt book and eight disbursements totaling \$1,256.*
- *Obtain appropriate approval for 37 disbursements totaling \$15,951.*
- *Prepare bank reconciliations.*
- *Provide adequate written monthly or annual reports to the Board and membership.*

As a result, the Board, Audit Committee and membership could not ensure that all revenues were deposited or deposited in a timely manner and that revenues and disbursements were properly recorded and for appropriate Company purposes, impacting their ability to monitor the Company's financial activities.

The Treasurer also did not:

- **File the Company's annual Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). By not filing Form 990 with the IRS, the Company's not-for-profit status could be at risk.**

The report includes 11 recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the Company's Treasurer's duties. Company officials generally agreed with our findings and indicated they will initiate corrective action.

COMPLETE REPORT HERE: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/arkport-hose-company-no-1-inc-2026-1.pdf>

THE FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE

Professionalism in the Fire Service: Misused or Just Misunderstood?

Jeremy Sanders

The fire service has always prided itself on tradition, honor, and excellence. But in today's rapidly changing world, one word seems to stir more debate than ever before: professionalism. How is this word applied to such a dynamic field as the fire service? Is it about how we look, how we act, or how well we do the job?

Some see professionalism as a rigid set of rules—a dress code, a clean-shaven face, and a pressed uniform. Others argue it is something deeper, something defined by knowledge, skill, and performance under pressure. The reality? Professionalism is at the core of everything we do, yet it remains one of the most misused and/or misunderstood concepts in the fire service.

Are we misusing the idea of professionalism to serve personal agendas, or are we simply failing to understand its true meaning and maybe more importantly its intent? *It is time to take a hard look at what professionalism really means and why it matters now more than ever for us in the fire service.*

DEFINING THE TERM AND SURFACE APPEARANCES

Professionalism is defined in Merriam-Webster as the “conduct, aims, or qualities that characterize or mark a profession or a professional person” or “the following of a profession (such as athletics) for gain or livelihood.” Before we move on, I want to make something very clear: I am not excusing extreme examples such as offensive tattoos, responding to calls looking like a complete slob, or acting inappropriately. These and any other egregious offenses in a similar vein would be seen as unacceptable by those who display even the slightest bit of common sense, so I do not feel like I must acknowledge them at all.

Don't get me wrong, I truly believe that there is a “look” to professionalism, but that look is gained through knowledge, skills, and ability (KSAs), not by simply ensuring that all members have collared shirts and that all tattoos are covered. *In my opinion, by focusing solely on “looking” professional, we aren't accomplishing anything more than applying the proverbial lipstick to a pig.* If you are not familiar with that one, the point is that you still have a pig and have done nothing to address the bigger issue. While I will not dispute that appearance and demeanor both play an important role in how we are perceived by the public, I believe they pale in comparison to the significance of the previously mentioned KSAs. Bottom line: When citizens call 911, they expect a rig full of fearless heroes to jump out and quickly solve all their problems. In those times of need, I suspect citizens are not paying a lot of attention to appearances. *Full transparency, the firehouses of today are littered with “professionals” who know little to nothing about current best practices, and yet this is tolerated as long as they do not go out in public wearing unapproved items. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but that is not professionalism, it is incompetence in a pretty package.*

A MISUNDERSTANDING?

Is the term professionalism being misused as it pertains to the fire service, or is it just misunderstood? I think a case could easily be made for both, but that doesn't really lead us to any sort of solution. Let's return to the definition of professionalism. *It makes no difference whether you are a career firefighter or a volunteer firefighter—the citizens you serve expect professional firefighters to show up.* That may or may not be fair to everyone involved in the fire service, but that is without question what is expected of us. Although it's likely impossible to maintain a level of peak performance in every possible situation, by becoming exceptional in the basics and maintaining a solid understanding of our own capabilities, we can create a firm foundation to operate from when curveballs come our way.

Here are some areas where the presence or absence of professionalism really shows up:

- *During chaotic scenes, especially when the stakes are high, are you able to remain calm and composed, or does it look and sound like you're losing control?*
- *How do you handle the public on the less-than-desirable calls? Do you remain respectful, or do you have a tendency to show your frustration?*
- *When asked a question that you don't know the answer to, do you just make something up, or do you admit your lack of knowledge and do what is necessary to find the answer?*
- *When things don't go quite as they should either on scene or during training, do you use it as a teachable moment for everyone to benefit from, or do you just berate the offender in front of others?*

MORE THAN JUST APPEARANCE

At the end of the day, professionalism in the fire service is not about appearance—*it's about competence, accountability, and commitment to the craft.* The public doesn't call us because of how we look (most of the time). They call us because they trust us to help them in their worst moments through the knowledge, skills, and abilities that we bring with us. If we reduce professionalism to merely dress codes and surface-level standards, we fail to grasp the true essence of what it means to be a professional firefighter.

Instead, we must demand more of ourselves and each other. *True professionalism is displayed in our ability to stay calm under pressure; treat every call, no matter how routine, with the same level of respect; and continually seek to improve our knowledge and skills. It's in how we train, how we lead, and how we handle adversity.*

So, the challenge to every firefighter, regardless of rank or experience, is this: Define professionalism not by words, but by actions. Be the firefighter your crew can rely on. Be the firefighter your community deserves. Strive for excellence in every aspect of the job, not just in how you look, but in how you perform when it matters most.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

HOT TOPIC

[Click on this PDF to see notes from DOL related to Prevailing Wage Rates for Construction, Article 8](#)

PREVAILING WAGE RATE NOTES OPEN THIS LINK:

<https://cafda.net/information-on-the-nys-dol-prevailing-wage-rates-for-fire-districts/>

POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

[Enter for a Chance to Win an MSA Cairns® 1836 Fire Helmet](#)

For the fifth year, MSA Safety has partnered with the NVFC to give away state-of-the-art helmets to volunteer firefighters. This year, **NVFC members** have four chances to win an MSA Cairns® 1836 Fire Helmet. The first entry period is now open through noon ET on April 30. Additional entry periods will take place in June, August, and November. One recipient will be randomly selected after each entry period from all eligible entries.

Learn more and enter for the chance to win by noon ET on April 30 at www.nvfc.org/helmet.

[Positive Feedback from Conference Contributor; Quick Response Restoration](#)

It was a real pleasure meeting you in person and joining the CAFDA conference for the first time. What a fantastic all-around experience. Great people and I couldn't ask for a better audience relating to our services. I typically dread any trade show or conference like that but this one was different. It was just so – casual? I mean that in the best possible way. You helped make it all very easy. We'll definitely be back again next year and you can count on our support. If there are other CAFDA events throughout the year, please do let me know. Would love to stay actively involved.

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

[Former SC Volunteer Firefighter Indicted on Embezzlement, Misconduct Charges](#)

A former volunteer firefighter with the Southside Fire Department in Union County was indicted after stealing thousands of dollars from the department, according to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Eugene Bishop, 59, was indicted by a grand jury for embezzlement of public funds and misconduct in office, March 26, according to a news release. Between May 1, 2025, and February 26, Bishop, who *while serving as board chair* for the department, is accused of misappropriating more than \$10,000 for his own personal use, according to the indictment. He was booked into the Union County Detention Center.

[Leadership, the #1 Problem in the Volunteer Fire Service](#)

Two-thirds of Wales, Maine firefighters have quit citing leadership issues. When Fire Chief Scott Dimmick didn't step down last week, five firefighters resigned. Since then, six more have hung up their gear. Select Board Chair Eric Gagnon told WGME a Portland law firm has been hired to investigate the firefighters' claims that Dimmick isn't qualified to lead the department.

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY – PROTECTING OUR OWN

[DUE TO THE GOVT SHUT DOWN, NO NEW STATS THIS WEEK!](#)

[In 2025 we experienced 78 LODDs reported nationally.!](#)

FIRE SERVICE FATALITIES OR DIBILITATING INJURIES

- The Chief and Assistant Chief from the Walnuttown Fire Company traveling in a utility vehicle along a Pennsylvania road during a search for a missing woman were killed in a head-on crash with a car. A male and a female who were in the Camry when it crashed fled and were later arrested and the driver was

charged with vehicular homicide while under the influence of a substance that rendered him incapable of safe driving and involuntary manslaughter. Because there were active bench warrants for his arrest, the driver, Sepulveda Rivera was immediately taken to Berks County Jail.

- Broward County, FL, Firefighter/Medic Dies after Shift at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport, Fire Rescue Paramedic Firefighter Steven Lepselter, 54, was found unresponsive in a parking garage.
- The Chelmsford, MA firefighters union has identified the firefighter who was severely injured in a fall at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Tuesday morning as 28-year-old Nick Spinale. Spinale fell 40 feet onto solid concrete at the Stow campus, causing significant internal and external injuries, IAFF Local 1839 said in a Wednesday press release. He was flown by medical helicopter to UMass Memorial Hospital in Worcester where he is undergoing treatment for life-threatening injuries. Spinale's treatment will require multiple surgeries and physical rehabilitation.
- Fire and EMS agencies in the Susquehanna Valley, PA are mourning the death of 60 year old volunteer firefighter and EMT Kevin Brehm.
- PUTNAM, Conn. — A firefighter suffered a medical emergency, and another was injured while extinguishing a working structure fire in Putnam, according to fire officials. The firefighter who suffered the medical emergency was taken to a local hospital for evaluation, fire officials said. The other firefighter was injured in a flashover event. Both have been released from the hospital.
- Greely County Fire & Rescue firefighter Carl "Levi" Evans, 42, died on April 8 after suffered medical emergency during a fire department training event.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCIDENTS

- An Annapolis, Maryland fire engine was involved in a crash while responding to a working house fire in Millersville. A civilian, who was seriously injured after their vehicle collided with the Engine, was transported to R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore, according to Eye on Annapolis. No firefighters were seriously injured in the wreck that involved the rig and several other vehicles.
- A driver collided with a Cleveland Fire Department apparatus which was at the scene of a fatal crash on I-90 early Tuesday. While emergency crews were on scene, a second driver struck a fire truck positioned to block traffic and protect responders. Authorities reported no injuries in that secondary incident.

FIREFIGHTERS FALLING THROUGH

- According to the Rochester Fire Department, there were "deteriorating structural conditions" with a vacant building fire and while operating inside, a fire lieutenant fell through a compromised section of the floor. The lieutenant was quickly assisted and removed without injury.
- An Edison, NJ firefighter had to call a Mayday and was rescued after falling through a roof while battling a fire at a two-story apartment complex. Crews on scene rapidly located and removed the member, who was transported to a local hospital. Officials later confirmed the firefighter was treated and is in good condition.

'Catastrophic Failure' and Outdated Training Cited as Factors in Baltimore Fire that Claimed Two Firefighters

Susan Nicol

The internal report -- that has not been released publicly -- also blamed aging basic equipment for the 2023 fire that killed Baltimore Capt. Dillion Rinaldo and FF/EMT Rodney Pitts III.

When two Baltimore firefighters answered their final alarm in 2023, they were part of an understaffed department with outdated training techniques and aging basic equipment.

Those were among the findings in an internal report conducted after Capt. Dillon Rinaldo, 26, and Firefighter/EMT Rodney Pitts III, 31, died fighting a house fire.

The document has not been released to the public. But it has been shared with their families and other stakeholders, according to The Banner which obtained the 300-page report.

The investigators pointed to “catastrophic failure” of substandard equipment and “basic job-related functions” were “severely lacking” as factors that contributed to the firefighters' deaths in the Linden Heights Avenue house.

When they went through the front door of the structure, they didn't turn on the hose, investigators determined, adding that they were never taught why it was important to have the line open as they advanced.

“Both members experienced catastrophic SCBA failures of their facepieces and UEBSS (buddy breather supply hoses). The failures started (sic) at 15:50 hours, less than 4 minutes after the members donned their SCBA. The members also experienced severe thermal (sic) degradation of their protective firefighting gear,” the investigators wrote.

The SCBAs were 12 years old and far behind current standards. Since the fire, Baltimore firefighters are now using updated breathing equipment, according to the report.

When Rinaldo called a Mayday, which was answered quickly by the incident commander, he was asked for more information. Within 17 seconds, he called Mayday, Mayday, Mayday. “first floor” adding subsequently, “29, I can't get out.”

Within five-and-a half minutes, they were found just feet from the front door and brought out of the house by fellow firefighters.

Pitts was in cardiac arrest when he was removed, while Rinaldo suffered extensive burns.

Crews performed CPR on Pitts, who was taken to R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Rinaldo was taken to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center for treatment of burns. He died Oct. 24.

They died less than two years after three firefighters were killed fighting a row house fire.

While that report was released to the public within 10 months, that's not the case this time.

When The Banner asked why the report hadn't been released, the city fire department spokesman John Marsh simply replied that their request had been received. Later, the paper was notified the document was finished. Geraldine Rinaldo told reporters said city fire officials shared the findings during the first week of March. Her husband, a fire chief in New Jersey, raised questions with them about what he believed were discrepancies in the report's findings.

Thermal imaging cameras “were not utilized to their fullest potential and ability” during the initial response, officials wrote.

Probing that further, they determined that “any new officer promoted or hired after 2013 has not received formal training in the department's three types of thermal imaging cameras.”

Union officials also are among those waiting.

IAFF Local 734 President Matthew Coster said he'd been in contact with the chief “to get more information on when the report will be out.”

Baltimore Fire Chief James Wallace wrote in a message included in the document: “We remain steadfast in our commitment, to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement on behalf of our firefighters, their families and the community we are sworn to protect...The lessons learned from this tragedy will guide us as we strengthen policies, enhance training, and refine our operational readiness...”

THE LATEST ON THE CHANGING FIRE SERVICE

****The Plight of Volunteer Fire Departments: Are Fire Stations Becoming Shopping Malls?**

Peter Matthews

KEY TAKAWAYS

- Many fire chiefs of volunteer fire departments face daily challenges planning for the next few days and weeks, but they also must look further down the road for ways to help to ensure their agency's continued existence.
- Too many volunteer fire departments are rebuked by their citizens when they request, for example, \$150 more per year per taxpayer to keep staffing at an adequate level and equipment up to snuff.

- Volunteer fire department fire chiefs must be transparent with their counterparts in government and the municipality's citizens regarding the organization's capability to be prepared to answer calls.

I grew up in the fire station, following my father every time a run came in and to each drill and work detail. The volunteer fire stations were an essential part of the fabric of the community.

When he retired and moved, my father joined another department in a much smaller town where the fire department wasn't only responsible for responding to emergencies and service calls but also provided annual entertainment, including parades, a carnival, tractor pulls and Easter egg hunts.

Today, many departments are strapped for resources, most importantly, members. These people sign up to help their community at any given moment. They train. They complete the work details. They attend community events and perform other duties that take up so much time. *Unfortunately, in many of these communities, when the loud siren atop the fire station sounds for an emergency these days, their residents never see a car with a firefighter driving to the station nor a bay door opening and a rig pulling out.*

While watching a short video about a nearly vacant mall in Peru, IL, several of the transitions sounded similar to what we hear at Firehouse, and it hit home that some volunteer fire stations and departments have followed in the same path as shopping malls.

NO ONLINE OPTION

Joining their local volunteer fire department was a rite of passage for many teens in their community, particularly the smaller ones. The station became a hangout after school and at night ahead of training. Now, stations that were built in the 1940s–1980s might have hooks or lockers to hang 50 sets of turnout gear but only have one or two dozen sets of gear. *Some apparatus bays aren't used fully, just like the retail spaces in many malls, as the capability to turn out six rigs for a fire is down to a pumper and truck or even just one rig, with the other bays serving as storage.*

Why have malls closed? Rent is too high, people prefer to shop online, and some folks don't have the time to jump in the car, park, walk into the mall and stand in line to check out. If an online order doesn't fit, they return it when it's convenient for them.

Yes, things changed somewhat for the malls. Rents were dropped, pop-up events were born, and the shopping centers provided more entertainment opportunities. *Meanwhile, volunteer fire departments host recruitment drives or realign responder requirements, only to find short-term gains.* However—and, again, like what's occurred with malls—the serious decline in membership continues because people don't have the time—to commit to training and work details and to go on runs. *Many departments are asking for money to help pay stipends.*

The big difference between fire departments and malls is simple. Residents can't go online, purchase a \$200 annual membership and order up two pumpers, three tankers, an ambulance and a chief to respond as their home burns. However, if a fire department asks for \$150 more in annual revenue from each taxpayer for service, they balk. If something that they bought at an online retailer isn't delivered in the allotted time window, people get upset, go online and complain, with hopes for a freebie down the road. If the fire department doesn't show up or it responds with minimal resources, there might be some noise.

LONG-TERM VIEW

Malls were essential for everyday life 20 years ago, but now, most are nothing but memories inside of a vacant or nearly vacant building. *Volunteer fire departments must heed the lessons and plan for the future.* Fire chiefs must be transparent with their community. *Staying quiet or downplaying the volunteer crisis, whether it's funding or personnel, doesn't help. Today's chiefs are overwhelmed planning for next weekend and next month, but the sit-down discussions must be had about two, five or 10 years out. What are you planning today for that time?*

Many reminisce about the good old days of shopping malls but then pick up their phone to buy their products. I've heard many volunteers talk about how it was 15 years ago, only for the siren to sound an hour later and no one turns out.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peter Matthews is the conference director and editor-in-chief of Firehouse. He has worked at Firehouse since 1999, serving in various roles on both Firehouse Magazine and Firehouse.com staffs. He completed an

internship with the Rochester, NY, Fire Department and served with fire departments in Rush, NY, and Laurel, MD, and was a lieutenant with the Glenwood Fire Company in Glenwood Landing, NY. Matthews served as a photographer for the St. Paul, MN, Fire Department and currently is a photographer for the Fort Worth, TX, Fire Department.

Combination Departments: A Firefighter's Point of View

Kyle Starr

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The informality of a combination fire department and the more frequent interaction with leadership that results from that might appeal more to some firefighters who considering a move than to others.
- Firefighters who are contemplating a move to a combination fire department from a career department must consider whether they would be OK with the dynamics that result from volunteers' irregular presence at the station.
- Firefighters who move to a combination department from a career agency must be comfortable with the possibility that standards will be different from that to which they are accustomed.

A lot has been written from a managerial perspective on the unique challenges that are faced in combination departments, but little has been written from a firefighter's perspective on how these challenges affect the career line personnel who work there.

Combination departments are getting more and more common as overwhelmed volunteer departments look to lighten the burden by adding career staff to their roster.

Maybe you're looking to start your fire service career, or maybe you're looking at lateral move to a combination department. Combination departments can have unique benefits over larger career departments, but it's good to know the ins and outs before you apply to a combination department.

Although no two combination departments are the same, here are some characteristics that I've found to be frequently true in the 12-plus years that I've been affiliated with these types of organizations.

INFORMALITY BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES

Combination departments usually are relatively small in staffing yet still cover a large response area. They usually don't have the luxury of multiple divisions or dedicated specialty teams that handle unique calls, such as water rescue, rope/technical rescue or wildland firefighting. Often, there are one or two career personnel on duty who lead and/or coordinate the response, with volunteers supplementing the response crew.

Many of you heard the phrase "jack of all trades, master of none." There's a lot of truth in this in regard to a combination department. You truly get to experience a wide array of call types.

With combination departments typically being smaller, you're a person and not just a badge or employee ID number. Frequently, there are opportunities to assist leadership with projects, which can be valuable mentoring opportunities to help to build your experience.

Combination departments tend to be more informal, with officers (even chief officers) sometimes being on a first-name basis, compared with the typically more formal environment of career departments, where people might be addressed strictly by rank. I find that this informality, as well as the more frequent interaction with leadership, has been invaluable to me for preparing for leadership roles, by providing opportunities to "pick their brain" and to see the use of different leadership perspectives and techniques.

APPARATUS ASSIGNMENT VARIETY

At a career department, you might find yourself assigned to the same apparatus each shift; at a combination department, you might get to use a variety of apparatus. In my department, a member might respond in an ambulance, a pumper, a brush truck, a water tender or a rescue boat, all in one 48-hour shift. Many people enjoy getting to train on such a variety of apparatus.

Often, career personnel who work at a combination department are on a fast-track for training as driver/operators, because, often, there's no guarantee that a driver/operator-qualified volunteer will be able to respond to each call. Career members in combination departments need continual training and refreshing to stay proficient with a variety of apparatus and equipment.

DYNAMIC STAFFING

Staffing can be highly dynamic. Many combination departments don't know exactly how many volunteers they might get to respond from call to call. This is particularly dependent on time of day or weekend versus weekday. This can be a stressor for some career personnel in combination departments.

Sometimes, career staff roll the initial responding apparatus, and volunteer members come in and get other apparatus or backfill the station. Responding to a structure fire with three people, knowing that additional personnel are likely 5–10 minutes out, can be stressful. Others find the challenge a positive thing. I personally like the challenge of it.

Career members in combination systems must know that there might be times that they must “John Wayne” it and safely do what they can until more personnel arrive and more aggressive fire suppression can be performed.

Although you might work with the same crew on each shift at a career department, at a combination department, your coworkers often fluctuate. Sometimes, volunteers come in and spend the day in the station, so you often have no idea who you are working with until you come on shift. This can change even in the middle of a shift, as other volunteers might pop in as they get free time and decide to log some duty time.

Although it's a good thing anytime that you have volunteers wanting to engage, it can make it challenging for career staff if they are the ones who coordinate that day's duty crew. Maybe you have already planned training that was better for a small group, and you suddenly have three additional volunteers. Maybe you mapped out apparatus assignments perfectly. Maybe you ran to the store and planned dinner for five people, but now you find yourself with eight.

Again, it's a good problem to have, but it means that whoever oversees the shift must do some shifting on the fly to adapt to changing personnel levels.

There always is the chance that it throws off shift dynamics, too, whether it's a personality difference, etc. Career members in a combination department must be flexible thinkers and be able to roll with these sometimes-frequent daily roster changes.

INPUT MATTERS

One thing that I noticed is that it feels like career personnel are invested more significantly in the department when it's a combination department. Being smaller, it's easier to have those one-on-one conversations with leadership, as noted above. There are a lot more opportunities to have both formal and informal discussions when department matters can be discussed. In my experience, I've felt significantly more “heard” and that my input matters at combination departments than I have at a career department.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

One of the trickier aspects for some people is that at combination departments, there often is a tremendous spotlight on the volunteer personnel, while the career personnel tend to operate in the shadows and behind the scenes.

In my opinion, volunteers should be front and center. They are the ones who risk their life and their health to serve their community for no pay or small stipends. For this reason, I have tremendous respect for them.

Career personnel tend to look at this from two angles. Some are OK with this, because they see it as their job to support the volunteers and feel that they're being paid to be there and don't really need the “atta-boys” and recognition for simply doing their job. Others find that it grates on them after a while. They see the work that they do behind the scenes to keep the department running smoothly and sometimes feel overlooked or taken for granted, particularly if they believe that the department wouldn't be capable of functioning if staffed only by volunteers. People who are looking to apply to a combination department should be aware of this dynamic.

DIFFERENT STANDARDS

I don't really want to say that the standards are lower in combination departments, but let's be honest, necessity almost dictates that they are. Thus, the personality of the firefighter plays a tremendous role at combination departments. I've seen people come from a larger career organization to a combination system and really struggle. One can't expect the same level of competency at a mostly volunteer department as at a career department. Many aspects are different by nature.

Most volunteers can't do a full-time, multi-month training academy. Call volume plays a role. A career firehouse that runs 10–15 calls per day is going to be at a different performance level than a combination firehouse that runs 1–2 per day.

Firefighters who go into a combination department and expect the same level of performance that they were used to at their former career department might find it difficult to adjust. Combination departments tend to have fewer policies and procedures, and the policies and procedures that do exist tend to cover essential safety topics.

Rigid thinkers who are used to more “step-by-step” rather than more “goal-focused” standard operating guidelines are more likely to struggle at a combination department.

TRAINING

Firefighters who like to teach tend to integrate well into a combination department. These organizations aren't places where you come on shift, check out your apparatus and then plop down in a recliner when not running calls.

In addition to maintaining proficiency in a wider variety of apparatus and equipment, many times, the career staff have a very active role in helping to train volunteer members. This connects back to how an ideal combination department firefighter is flexible: That firefighter might have a plan for the day, but then a volunteer or two comes in and wants to do some training. The day's plan might need to be reconfigured a bit.

STEPPINGSTONE?

Sometimes, turnover is higher in combination departments. Many firefighters use a combination agency as a steppingstone to get their foot in the door in the fire service and then move on to a busier career department. For people who don't mind the things that are noted above; it doesn't have to be a steppingstone, it can be a great place to spend your career.

FIRE APPARATUS

****Is Your Apparatus Fit for Duty?**

John Cockerill

Your station tones alert: “Engine 86, Engine 260, Ladder 29, Car 32: Respond to 15 Smith Street. Report of a fire in a private dwelling with multiple calls reporting people trapped.” You have trained your body. You have trained your mind.

Up to this point, you have attended training and performed drills to prepare for this very emergency. But, how often do you think about the readiness of your apparatus? Without a properly maintained, fully functional, and safe apparatus, you will fail to meet the mission statement of the fire service to protect lives and property. The best trained firefighters and officers will quickly be rendered useless if they cannot safely and effectively respond to the given emergency. If their apparatus does get them to the scene, will it be able to pump the water correctly, power the aerial device, or power the rescue tools they need to accomplish their mission? By now, you are hopefully asking yourself, is my apparatus fit for duty?

Fire apparatus are some of the most complex, customized, and expensive vehicles on the road today, with so many different systems and components that all require regular maintenance to operate correctly at a moment's notice. Let's not forget the fact that they live a life of mostly hard miles, hard acceleration, hard braking, responding and returning, and endless hours of stationery running time with the constant loads of numerous onboard systems to run on scene.

After reviewing National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1911, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles* (now NFPA 1910, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles and Marine Firefighting Vessels*), you will need to implement a system to maintain your fleet with preventive maintenance schedules and regular checks to recognize problems before they leave you unexpectedly out of service. Ensure pumps, aerial devices, and portable ladders receive the necessary annual testing. The nature of the fire service is to be always ready, always alert. Establish measures to ensure your apparatus are always ready for the next response.

To be an effective fleet manager, you must be proactive. *You need to ensure you have regular and thorough apparatus checks that are documented. Use a repair facility specializing in fire apparatus and implement at least a six-month and annual preventive maintenance schedule to have the vehicle inspected from bumper to bumper.* If your call volume warrants it, you may have to implement a three-month preventive maintenance schedule based on engine hours and response volume. All apparatus components should receive preventive

maintenance and inspection service according to the manufacturer's recommendations for that given component. Brakes, tires, steering, suspension, lights, and all other safety components must be inspected for defects to ensure firefighter safety. *If you are not already doing so, consider issuing an apparatus safety inspection annually by your respective state's heavy vehicle inspection station, the same as every other truck on the road. Fire departments may not be required to complete this, but it gives you an extra measure ensuring the vehicle has been inspected for safety.*

No matter how much preventive maintenance you do, problems will arise that will require repair outside of your regular maintenance schedule. Two of the most common difficulties in reporting the defects include members not seeing anything getting fixed and giving up and not having a good system of reporting problems. Often, members will not want to lose their front-line apparatus and must change over to a spare or be down an apparatus. As a fleet manager, come up with a system that is efficient and easy for you and your members. Address reported problems in an effective manner so members don't feel like their reports are falling on deaf ears. When members see progress, they are more likely to help with solutions.

I always like to use the three Cs when dealing with repairs: complaint, cause, and correction. Have an efficient means of reporting complaints: email, software, paper, or phone call. Have a good means for documenting and tracking information like fire department/fleet management software or email. Verify the complaint before you send it to the repair center so you don't waste time and money if there is no real problem or if the problem can be easily corrected in house. When verifying the complaint, you should work to determine the cause of the problem. This may not happen until the apparatus is at the repair facility. Gather as much information as possible and speak with the member making the repair request or other familiar apparatus operators. When addressing intermittent or condition-specific defects, the more information you supply the service writer, the more efficient he can be at pinpointing the condition and cause.

Prioritize your repairs and address the most important ones first. Safety-related items such as a brake lining worn past specification will take priority over a scene light that may be out. Lastly, there is the plan of correction, which is usually determined by the recommendation of the repair facility or in-house technician. Formulate a plan and determine lead times for parts and any other special considerations or resources that may be needed for the repair. Often, apparatus can sit for weeks waiting for a part that would not put the apparatus out of service. This can be avoided with planning, prioritization, and good communication with repair facilities.

Every department will have different means of handling fleet repairs and maintenance. Some have in-house mechanics. Others send everything to an independent repair shop or apparatus dealer. Some use their local department of public works highway garage. *When dealing with any of the above repair facility options, use technicians who are National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and emergency vehicle technician (EVT) certified. Firefighters are required to maintain set levels of training; apparatus technicians should be no different.*

Quality repair shops will always want the trucks to come to the shop for complete preventive maintenance and big repairs. If possible, save the road service for emergencies and minor repairs. Access to all the heavy shop equipment, vehicle lifts, tools, parts, and resources needed to repair fire apparatus is limited when working out of a service truck. Have a plan in place to send trucks to repair centers when needed or scheduled. The department usually pays for the travel time the technician spends driving to and from the apparatus location. It is far more beneficial to pay the same labor rate to have your apparatus repaired vs. the technician driving. There is a major benefit to working with a repair facility that is also a dealer for the apparatus you are operating. Warranty claims are handled more efficiently, and the facility and technicians are much more familiar with your brand of apparatus and have access to factory resources. Parts accessibility, lead time, and inventory are far better. This results in a much more efficient process because you are working with the people who best know your product.

I have three fundamental rules when dealing with any repair shop:

- (1) I don't want to be misled or misinformed,
- (2) I don't want to be sold anything I don't need, and
- (3) I expect a shop to stand behind its work.

This, unfortunately, is not always the case, so do your research on the repair facilities you are considering. *Repair facilities' reputations are very similar to those of the firehouse. It takes years to build a good reputation*

and a second to ruin it. Establish a repair contract with a quality shop so prices are set ahead of time, and you can minimize any surprises. This also makes billing easier for purchasing policies.

It is no secret that today's fire apparatus are the most expensive pieces of equipment departments will have to purchase. Therefore, it should not come as a surprise that they are expensive to repair and maintain. The "pay now or pay a lot later" adage applies to maintaining and repairing fire apparatus. You must constantly invest the time and money in your fleet to make sure it is always operating at peak efficiency. If you take shortcuts, you will have shortfalls. There is no time to call AAA roadside assistance for your fire truck when responding to an emergency.

If you have an apparatus failure because you neglected to perform the correct preventive maintenance or repair, you have failed your firefighters and your community. Firefighters depend on functional and safe fire apparatus to be operationally effective and accomplish their mission of protecting lives and property.

THE BUILDING AND FIRE CODE ISSUES – WEEKLY REPORT ON FIRE FATALITIES

The New ICC Code-NYS Edition went into effect on December 31st 2025 although the implementation of the energy code provisions have been withdrawn until further notice.

WITH THE SHUT DOWN OF DHS, STATS FOR THIS WEEK HAVE NOT BEEN COMPILED

GREEN ENERGY AND THE IMPACT ON THE FIRE SERVICE

*****Person Dead After Fighting CA Electric-Bike Battery Fire***

Ethan Baron, Caelyn Pender – Bay Area News Group

One person is dead after trying to put out a fire started by an electric-bicycle battery in a San Jose apartment, fire officials said. The blaze started Friday morning in the unit on Norwalk Drive, which runs beside Interstate 280 near Saratoga Avenue, the San Jose Fire Department said in a news release.

"Two people were inside when the battery in an e-bike began sparking and smoking and ignited a fire," the department said.

One occupant fled outside, while the other tried to fight the blaze, the department said.

"That individual made it out of the apartment, but collapsed," the department said.

A neighbor tried to save the person, described only as an adult, by starting cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but the victim had serious injuries and was pronounced dead at a hospital, the department said. Burning lithium-ion batteries produce thick, toxic smoke, and people should not try to fight a battery fire, the San Jose Fire Department said in the news release. Instead, they should leave immediately if a battery starts smoking or catches fire, and if possible, close doors behind them on the way out.

OH Firefighters Tackle Fire at Amazon Warehouse; Rooftop Solar Panels Suspected Cause

Dan Landrigan

A fire involving rooftop solar panels at an Amazon warehouse in West Jefferson led to a large-scale evacuation. Fire crews were called to the fulfillment facility on West Main Street around 12:10 p.m., where officials say approximately 75 to 100 solar panels on the roof caught fire.

Thousands of employees were evacuated as a precaution, with workers later allowed to re-enter in small groups to collect belongings before being sent home for the day. No one was injured in the fire.

Fire Chief Dan Gatley told NBC4 that about 10 fire engines responded, along with mutual aid from several nearby departments. *While the fire caused limited structural damage, he said there was more water damage inside the building due to the sprinkler system than damage from the fire itself.*

Electric Car Battery Sparks Massive Fire in Cahokia Heights, IL

Approximately 50 vehicles in the tow yard were destroyed, Cahokia Heights Fire Chief Stephen Robbins said. Patterson Towing employee James Austin was taking off tires and salvaging car parts in the scrapyards when the fire broke out. He said his coworker was moving an electric Fiat with an excavator when the car sparked.

MI Township Faces Tough Choice as Battery Project Weighs on Residents

Aya Miller – mlive.com

Seven months after a renewable energy company approached township officials about building a battery storage facility, staff and elected officials haven't reached a decision on what to do about the technology.

NewEdge Renewable Power approached the township in August 2025 about building a 260-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) on land it leases at West M Avenue and South Van Kal Street.

The request comes as state lawmakers push for more battery storage. But township residents are afraid of potential fires and environmental disruption if battery storage comes to their backyard.

Experts from the state government and University of Michigan attended a Thursday, April 9, planning commission meeting to provide more information about battery storage technology.

Residents who spoke during public comment — many of whom have spoken out against the technology before — weren't swayed.

"This is a rural residential area, something this size... doesn't belong there," said Donita DeBruin, who lives near the proposed location of the BESS facility.

To meet renewable energy goals, Michigan will need 2,500 megawatts of battery storage by 2030, according to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

But the value smaller communities see in building the technology has not changed over time, said EGLE analyst Ian O'Leary. "It's a big ask to request an agricultural township to help us with that," O'Leary said. The property NewEdge wants to build on is surrounded by agricultural and residential zoned land and borders Little Pistol Farms, an organic farm owned by Ken and Katie Schneider at 2335 S. Van Kal St. Alistair Smith, a township planning commissioner, asked why the facilities can't be built in the township's industrial areas. Smith declined a request for comment from MLive/Kalamazoo Gazette.

Madeleine Krol, a clean energy land use specialist at the University of Michigan's Graham's Center for EmPowering Communities, said the batteries need to go where there's still capacity on power grids.

"The big size projects ... they don't feed into the power lines I see here in Ann Arbor. They feed into those regional huge transmission lines," Krol said. [*Farmland is also easier and cheaper to build BESS systems on.*](#)

The batteries can also produce noise and be an unpleasant visual addition to the rural landscape, Krol said.

E-Scooter Battery Fire in NJ Town May Spark Battery-Storage Crackdown

Paige Britt | NJ.com – nj.com

A fire caused by an electric scooter has prompted officials in Leonia to consider the safety of storing these devices in apartment buildings.

On March 22, Leonia volunteer firefighters responded to 313 Woodland Place, where an e-scooter battery caught fire in a public hallway, producing "thick, acrid, dark smoke" before bursting into flames, according to Leonia Mayor Bill Ziegler.

Firefighters quickly put out the fire and evacuated the building. No one was harmed.

"My concern is, in a multiple dwelling unit, that one person's decision to put an e-scooter and e-bike in their unit or outside in the hall can affect everybody else in the building, as we saw in Leonia," said Ziegler.

The specific concern is not with e-scooters themselves, but with any lithium-ion battery-powered devices.

Leonia's laws and ordinances committee is now examining the appropriate storage of lithium-ion battery-powered devices in apartment buildings and is expected to present recommendations to the borough sometime this summer.

Ziegler emphasized that a new regulation would not affect single-family homeowners.

Leonia isn't the only town to regulate lithium-ion batteries to reduce fires.

In August 2025, Hackensack banned the sale of secondhand lithium-ion batteries, and imposed regulations specifying where lithium-ion battery powered devices, such as e-scooters and e-bikes, can be stored.

NEIGHBOR'S HELPING NEIGHBORS, thank you for your support!!

[Glens Falls \(NY\) Plans Fundraiser for Firefighter Critically Injured After Fall From Moving Apparatus](#)

A Glens Falls firefighter remains in critical but stable condition after being seriously injured in a fall from a moving fire truck Thursday evening. State Police say crews were responding to a fire around 7:40 p.m. when the firefighter, who was seated in the captain's position, fell from the apparatus and struck the pavement as it was turning. The firefighter, longtime department member Micki Guy, was initially transported to Glens Falls Hospital before being transferred to Albany Medical Center, where she continues to receive treatment. The cause of the incident remains under investigation. In the wake of the incident, the Glens Falls community rallied in support of Guy and her family. A fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday April 19th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lawrence Street Tavern, where proceeds will go toward assisting Guy and her family during her recovery. Organizers say the response from the community has been overwhelming.

Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast

Sunday May 17th Breakfast will be served starting at 8AM

Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast

Next Breakfast will be held in the fall at a date to be announced.

Speigletown Fire Department Breakfast 2nd Sunday of each month

Sunday May 10th from 7:30 to 11:30, \$10 adults, \$5 children, under 5 free.

Cancer Benefit Firefighter's Ball

The Saratoga County Fire Officer's Association is sponsoring a benefit to create a cancer fund to assist firefighters in Saratoga County. The Ball will be held on May 9th location TBA, to include finger foods, music and a cash bar all for a donation of \$30 per person. **Sponsors are needed.**

GENERAL INTEREST TO ALL

Donations of Used AED Equipment Needed

" If any department is moving to surplus AED equipment, Greg Serio from Verdox FD would like to inquire about a donation of that equipment to a program in which he is involved in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Dental Mission Project provides dental care for Dominicans in rural and mountainous regions of the country each summer and Chief Serio serves as technical and emergency medical support for the dentists and volunteers of the program. The region where the DDMP operates--the province of San Jose de Ocoa--already has a connection to the American fire service as an engine from the Hazleton, PA FD was donated to the Ocoa FD through a Dominican FF who serves on the Hazleton department.

If anyone has equipment that is still in good working order, he asks that you reach out to him by calling/texting to 518.365.9242. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile project."

This is a must-read article and then you will start to understand the real issue, it's not you!!!

******The Greatest Threat Facing the Volunteer Fire Service is Math, Not Recruitment**

Mark Lambert

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Volunteer fire departments have seen a 25% decline in membership since 1984, while call volumes have tripled.
- The traditional small-town volunteer model is misaligned with modern demands, including all-hazard responses, and EMS responsibilities.
- *Expanding regional responses and mutual aid increase complexity, making trust and cohesion harder to maintain among volunteers.*

The greatest threat facing the volunteer fire service may surprise many people. It is not recruitment. It is math. It is the simple arithmetic of fewer available people against ever-rising demands. The numbers are stark: according to the NFPA, the United States had nearly 898,000 volunteer firefighters in 1984, the first year the

agency began tracking the figure. By 2020, that number had fallen to approximately 677,000, a decline of more than 25 percent, while the U.S. population grew by 40 percent over the same period. The number of calls that fire departments respond to each year have tripled since the 1980s. That is not a motivation problem or recruitment problem. That is math.

The volunteer fire service is labor model built for a society that no longer exists: a society without long interstate commutes, dual-income households, non-stop service economies, EMS-heavy call volumes, mandatory credentialing, and the expectation that small-town departments will function as all-hazard emergency response agencies.

We keep talking as if the crisis is motivational, but I believe strongly that it is not.

The easy explanation is that young people simply do not want to serve. Every generation judges the next, and I understand the temptation. But the central problem is not a moral failure of the younger generation. It is that the system they are being asked to join has become structurally misaligned with the world they live in. They may want flexibility, clearer pathways, and organizations that respect their time, and they are not wrong to want those things. But even a perfectly welcoming fire department cannot overcome a system level labor shortage combined with expanding mission demands.

The volunteer fire service was born in a different America. Benjamin Franklin's Union Fire Company, the model that seeded the proud tradition of the American volunteer firefighter, was formally established in Philadelphia in 1736. It was local, small, and rooted in a world where work and home were close together, labor was community based, and neighbors could reasonably be expected to drop what they were doing and respond. Franklin intentionally limited membership, perhaps to keep the organization local and effective, suggesting an intuitive understanding that organizations work best when they remain human in scale.

That model worked. It worked for a very long time. In parts of America, it still receives that deep respect. Volunteer firefighters protected communities for generations, often with little recognition and less money.

They did not fail the country. The country changed around them.

Through the 19th and 20th centuries, more was assigned to the fire service. What was once primarily a community fire brigade became, in many places, an all-hazards emergency response agency. Downed trees, vehicle crashes, EMS assists, hazardous materials, wildland incidents, technical rescue and traffic control. Following the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, the fire service adopted homeland security command systems. To maintain the ability to volunteer, firefighter have increased training requirements. Departments themselves require credentialing, compliance, documentation and there is insurance pressure. All of that continued to expand while the supply of local volunteer labor shrank.

The EMS shift alone tells the story. Survey after survey of volunteer departments shows EMS calls now vastly outnumber fire calls, often by ratios of two or three to one. Volunteer departments were never staffed, scheduled, or trained with that call profile in mind. The honest result is that a volunteer who joined to fight fires now spends most of the time responding to medical emergencies, often during the workday, when most members are unavailable.

Now, a quarter of the way through the 21st Century, the cracks that began to show decades ago have widened into a full crisis. Rural population decline took root as mechanization reduced the need for local labor, highways lengthened commutes, and dual-income households became have almost become mandatory. At the same time, volunteer fire departments made up the difference by doing more with less.

This is the real story that volunteer fire departments face today.

If a system requires members to work full-time jobs, commute farther, raise families amid rising costs, complete growing amounts of training, respond to more non-fire incidents, absorb more compliance burdens, and still behave as though they live in a small, 19th Century town, then the problem is not that the next generation lacks character. The problem is that the institution has become badly mismatched to the world it inhabits.

In other words, this is not primarily a recruitment problem. It is a design problem.

Yes, recruitment matters. And, leadership matters, along with a department's culture. Departments that are welcoming, organized, flexible, and mission-driven will always do better than departments that are cliquish, stagnant, or hostile to newcomers. But even the best local culture cannot fully overcome a system-level labor shortage combined with expanding mission demands.

We are trying to solve a design flaw with a membership drive.

That is why short-term enthusiasm so often fails to become long-term stability. Interest rises after major events. Public spirit surges. New members come through the door. Then ordinary life returns, and the arithmetic reasserts itself. The jobs are still there. The commute is still there. The calls are still there. The training hours are still there. The EMS burden is still there. The people are still fewer than the system requires. The deeper structural problem is not merely one of numbers but of human scale and network fragility. Franklin seemed to have understood something that we would only later formalize: organizations work best at a human scale. *Small volunteer departments can still function remarkably well when they remain rooted in trust, familiarity, and shared obligation. But the demands of the 21st Century have forced these small groups into larger, more complex networks of mutual aid, regional dependency, interoperability requirements, and multi-agency coordination.* As those larger networks grow, trust, communication, and cohesion become harder to sustain.

Compounding this is a second reality: the burden is not distributed evenly. In practice, a small number of people, departments, and mutual-aid partners increasingly carry a disproportionate share of the load. Some departments become hubs while others become dependent. The system can appear functional while it is ultimately becoming brittle. *Lose a few core people, add a few more daytime gaps and increase the non-fire workload. Then, stretch mutual aid a little farther and eventually the system does not bend. It starts to fracture.*

That is not a failure of values. It is what happens when a human-scale organization is forced to carry a burden larger than its social and operational structure can sustain. That is where the public conversation needs to mature.

Rural America still deserves fire protection. Small towns still deserve a rapid response from trained personnel in a functioning emergency system. Respecting the tradition of volunteerism does not require pretending that the old structure remains viable everywhere. They are not the same things.

If we truly care about preserving fire protection in rural communities, then we have to stop comforting ourselves with the idea that one more recruitment poster, one more slogan about service, or one more lecture about how younger generations do not want to work will solve this. It will not.

The volunteer fire service is under strain not because Americans suddenly became careless people, but because we placed a 21st Century emergency burden on top of an 18th Century labor foundation and kept pretending the mismatch was temporary. Simply put, it is not.

The question now is not whether the old model can be stretched a little farther. *In many places, communities are already answering it and departments and counties are moving, quietly but steadily toward hybrid models: paid-on-call systems that compensate volunteers for their time, county-level staffing arrangements that place a small number of career personnel alongside volunteer crews to cover daytime gaps, and regional mutual-aid agreements that distribute the burden more evenly across neighboring jurisdictions. None of these are failures of volunteerism. They are honest responses to today's reality.*

No single model will fit every community. But the conversation must begin with what a community can sustain, not with a nostalgic baseline that no longer exists.

The volunteer fire service did not break faith with America. America changed the terms of the bargain and left local fire departments and the communities they protect to absorb the consequences.

TAKE A MOMENT TO SMILE

A husband and wife had been arguing all day. They passed a herd of jackasses. The wife says; “relative of yours?” Husband says with a smirk on his face, “yep in-laws.”

CLASSIFIED

Boght Community Fire District, Station Keeper/Maintenance Person

The Boght Community Fire District has a full-time hourly position available for a professional and highly motivated person to perform custodial services and to maintain fire district buildings, grounds and equipment. Must have good communication skills, the ability to manage several projects simultaneously, and be flexible with work hours when necessary. Prior experience preferred. All candidates must have a current active status as a volunteer firefighter.

Full time hours at 40 hours per week, starting at \$20/hour, commensurate with experience. Benefits available to include health, dental, and life insurance. Vacation, personal, sick time, paid holidays, and NYS Retirement.

Please submit application and resume with cover letter to District Secretary Alicia Hodges at office@boghtfire.org , by fax at (518)785-0311 or by mail to Boght Community Fire District, 8 Preston Drive, Cohoes, NY 12047.

Qualifications/Requirements:

- 21 years of age or older
- Minimum High School diploma or equivalent
- Relevant work or experience
- Basic knowledge and abilities to perform general maintenance, including but not limited to light carpentry, light plumbing, light electrical, painting, the ability to maintain and use hand and power tools, cleaning and yard work, in addition to be able to maintain and repair small gas engines
- Basic computer skills
- Able to lift objects weighing 70 lbs. or greater
- Pass District Physical, drug screen, and background check
- Willing to respond for emergencies and snow removal
- Must possess and maintain a valid NYS Driver's license, with a good driving record
- CPR/AED trained

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Performs work under the direction of the District Administrative Supervisor and Commissioner in charge of Personnel.
- Maintain Fire District buildings, grounds and equipment.
 - o Mowing, landscaping, trimming of bushes and trees
 - o Removal of snow and ice. Snow and ice removal to be done off hours during snow storms. Salting as needed.
 - o Minor carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, general repairs/maintenance
 - o Maintaining and repairing equipment
 - o Custodial type services including but not limited to: mopping, vacuuming, washing, scrubbing, cleaning windows, buffing, carpet cleaning, garbage removal.
 - o Assist with set up and break down for District, Fire Company, and Auxiliary meetings or as requested.
- Fire Apparatus and Equipment
 - o Clean, fuel, maintain, perform daily truck/equipment checks, and transport apparatus and equipment as necessary
 - o Perform minor apparatus/equipment repairs
 - o Assist in coordination of various equipment testing i.e., hose, ladder, pump.
 - o Maintain EMS stock with current expiration dates
 - o Upon request, participate in community outreach events, i.e., Fire Prevention
 - o Any additional tasks as requested by Chief Officers.
- Within one (1) year of hire date, must be a qualified driver on all District vehicles. Training will be provided on District time.
- Any and all other duties as assigned by the District Administrative Supervisor and/or Board of Commissioners

WHO ARE YOUR CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2026?

OFFICERS

President, Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner, Stillwater Fire District
1st Vice President, Ellen Martin, Deputy Treasurer Clifton Park Fire District

DIRECTORS:

Les Bonesteel Past Commissioner, Burnt Hills/Saratoga,
Skip Smith, Commissioner, West Crescent/Saratoga
Joyce Petkus Treasurer Greenfield/Saratoga,
Ed Woehrle Commissioner Niskayuna #1/Schenectady
Art Hunsinger, Ex-Officio Member Clifton Park Fire District.

We would consider expanding the number of Directors if individuals from other counties would volunteer to participate!!

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: Dane Fagan
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 join!
If your Fire District is a member, you are a member!!**

**Please advise your secretaries that all correspondence should be mailed to:
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
518-407-5020**

[Wish to become a member of CAFDA, go to CAFDA.net/membership to apply.](http://CAFDA.net/membership)

CAPITAL AREA BUSINESS PARTNER'S

Business Partner Applications Available At: WWW.CAFDA.NET

Stay tuned for some new Business Partners for 2026.

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 2026. 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 or
asnyder@dlgny.com
damatolawgroup.com



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

Ducharme, Clark & Sovern, LLP

Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney
646 Plank Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-373-1482
Ducharmeclark.com

FIRE STATION & FACILITIES ARCHITECTS AND ENENGINEERS

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
50 Century Hill Drive, Latham, NY 12110 518.786.7400

n.lobosco@ctmale.com



Powered by partnership.

Architecture/Engineering/Code Services

Melissa Smith – mlsmith@labellapc.com
Senior Marketing Manager
518-903-8394
4 British American Blvd
Latham, NY 12110

Managed IT Services
Cloud Telephone Services



Northeast IS
YOUR BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

Ryan Sapienza
Project Manager/Technology Consultant
518-754-4623
Service 518-869-3614
930 Albany Shaker Rd, Latham, NY 12110



Home of the Award Winning



+ **MA Mitchell Associates Architects**

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



Architects & Engineers
433 River Street, Suite 8002
Troy, NY 12180
518-765-5105
Dennis Ross, Practice Leader
www.H2M.com

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



New York State
Public Entities
Safety GroupSM



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

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



Stephan Petras
Marketing Representative
One Blue Hill Plaza – 16th Floor
PO Box 1609
Pearl River, NY 10965
845-352-8855x7099
329-236-3505
spetras@fdmny.com
VFBL/Workers' Comp



8 British American Blvd., Latham, NY 12110
518.272.6120
full-service **insurance** brokerage for business,
benefits, and personal coverage



Tony Blackwell, Territory Sales Manager
800-822-3747 ext 530
ablackwell@mcneilandcompany.com



Pat Daglio
pdaglio@vfis.com
717.819.3072



Dignum & Bame Insurance
98B Troy Road
East Greenbush, NY 12061
518.479.2004
Katherine Henry
Kate.henry@nfp.com

FIRE SERVICE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND LOSAP MANAGEMENT



Service Award Programs (LOSAP)

Anthony Hill ahill@fireflyadmin.com
President (518) 687-1400 (office)
www.fireflyadmin.com (518) 937-6174 (cell)



UBS Financial Advisors

Ralph Lemme, CFP
Ralph.lemme@ubs.com
8 Southwoods Blvd Suite 207
Albany, NY 12211
518.445.1667



Wealth Management

The LOSAP Group

518-432-5087
838-433-7304 cell
www.theosapgroup.com
nikki.haskins@rbc.com
455 Patroon Creek Blvd, suite 200, Albany NY
12206



Jeremy Hartnett
824 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE 19809
302-483-7699
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
nmeeker@penflexinc.com

FULL-SERVICE FIRE EQUIPMENT



Quality. Our DNA

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

DRYER VENT CLEANING



DRYER VENT WIZARD

JORDAN CATINO
8 NAPA COURT, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309
518-344-0664
SARATOGADRYERVENT.COM
icatino@dryerventwizard.com

FIRE DEPT COMPUTER MANAGEMENT & REPAIR



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 EQUIPMENT TESTING



Safety First Equipment Testing

99 Glass Lake Road
Averill Park, NY 12018
518-892-5860

www.safetyfirstfirehose.com

HOSE, APPLIANCE & LADDER TESTING
Safety1hose@gmail.com

FIRE COMPANY FUND RAISING



Lloyd Fox, Account Executive
34 Garner Road, Averill Park, NY 12018
Lfox8@nycap.rr.com
518-810-7819
www.funddrive.com

PRINTING AND MAIL SERVICES



518.371.4649

12 FIRE ROAD, CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065

printproduction@aol.com

one stop print shop and full service mailing house
No project large or small, we can't handle

FIRE APPARATUS/SERVICE

VANDER MOLEN FIRE APPARATUS SALES & SERVICE

Mike Bonesteel
Warranty & Safety Manager
518-288-3587 X101
Cell 518-926-0451
After Hours 680-800-5015
1 Super 50 Way, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

FIRE SERVICE EQUIPMENT



Timmy Kimball
518-925-2786

www.divalsafety.com

Testing-Safety-Promotional Services-Respiratory Solutions
Facility Safety-Fall Protection-Training
60 Cohoes Ave, Green Island NY 12183

FIRE DISTRICT CPA/AUDITS/FINANCIAL SERVICES



Gentile Brengel & Lin, LLP
Certified Public Accountants

Accounting, Consulting & IT Security
1581 Franklin Ave. Mineola, NY 11501
Kyle Brengel, Managing Partner
516-472-7345
kbregel@gblny.com



BRYANS & GRAMUGLIA
CPA's, LLC

Aaron Hahn
1 Pine West Plaza Suite 107, Albany NY
12205
518.452.8055x17 or 518-452-9055
Email: ahahn@bgcpa.net



518-459-6700
10 British-American Blvd, Latham, NY 12110
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 aclink@mmb-co.com
Heather R. Lewis, CPA hlewis@mmb-co.com

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



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



425 Main Street Catskill, NY 12414
www.tbogc.com
518.943.2600 X2198
Joe Rothrock – josephr@tbogc.com
Specializing in Fire Service & EMS Financing



The Arrow Family of Companies
Corporate HQ 250 Glen Street
Glens Falls, NY 12801
518-793-4121
Business Banking Services
Arrowbank.com
Hero Mortgage Program Supporting
First Responders Available

The Weekly Capital Bulletin is reaching well over 700+ 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.