



THE BULLETIN

APRIL 25TH, 2026

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

CAPITAL SHORT TAKES

- Homeland Security is now reporting civilian fire fatalities but the data is not quite up to date. FF LODD's are still not being reported.
- 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.
- Rosenbauer America Makes \$25M Investment in MN Campus, it will expand operational space, improve workflow, and support the growing needs of fire departments across North America.
- National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend Will Take Place May 2-3. The 2026 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, which includes a Candlelight Service and Memorial Service, will take place on May 2-3 at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the U.S. Fire Administration campus in Emmitsburg, MD. The weekend will honor 204 firefighters from across the nation who died in the line of duty.
- Webinar, Wednesday April 29th at 7PM, [Discussion on the AHJ compensating Volunteer First Responders](#), REGISTER AT THIS LINK:
https://archcapgroup.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OA_jgNqTSd-crodqZr6e1Q?fbclid=IwY2xjawRV-NNleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAYMjlwMzcxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeb2UDDqtgqLXwt_gVT03yynR1MiRwsbhrXZ_XpvM1v-7JtFQpAp2tGBY7q9g_aem_cu13mUOmFzBjclrCkXOUMA#/registration
- The REV Group is now the Terex Fire Group, which includes fire apparatus brands E-ONE®, KME®, Ferrara™, Spartan Fire Chassis™, Spartan Emergency Response®, Smeal™, and Ladder Tower™. The Terex Ambulance Group, which includes the ambulance brands American Emergency Vehicles, Horton Emergency Vehicles, Road Rescue and Wheeled Coach.

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>

2. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

- a. CAFDA Fall Seminar, Saturday November 7th, at a location in Colonie to be announced.
- b. CAFDA Conference '27, Lake George NY, April 9-10-11, dinner and a vendor show Friday April 10th Fort William Henry Carriage House. Sponsored Mixer the evening of April 9th at the Holiday Inn Resort, food, games, beverages.
- c. CAFDA Commissioner Training for 2027 will be held in Rensselaer County, Schenectady County, Saratoga County, Schoharie County and Warren County. Dates and locations to be announced.

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	TBA	
Thursday, November 12, 2026	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER 2026	NO MEETING			
FUTURE				
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



Staying Safe on EMS Runs ESIP WEBINAR SERIES

Join our Risk Management team as we look at the most common ways firefighters get into trouble when responding to calls for medical assistance. The webinar will cover response, patient movement, medication administration, and avoiding violence.

Presenter: [Lee Price, RM Training Supervisor](#)

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 7PM

REGISTER AT THIS LINK:

<https://mcneilandcompany.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=03596f243a9d922954ebaf15e&id=9864b20bad&e=781e9a2c81>

NYS AFC 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>

NYS AFC 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.

*****Supporting First Responders: Governor Hochul Announces Expansion of New York’s Volunteer Firefighter Training Stipend***

NYS has officially expanded the NYS stipend program to include additional courses. *This eligibility is backdated to the original rollout of the program (August 31, 2023)—meaning that if you took FAST in September of 2023, you are now eligible for payment on that course.* The qualifying course must have been **completed** on or after August 31, 2023.

I fully expect that this will overwhelm the limited staff in the stipend office, so encourage your membership to get their paperwork in sooner rather than later. Also, make sure that you have all of the department paperwork squared away, as this will hold them up. **If you don't know the last time your dept submitted the demographics form, just submit another one!**

Here are all the pieces (for full information, visit the NYS Website [here](#)):

DEPARTMENT/CHIEF REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fire Departments must have submitted their annual fire reports to OFPC or submit to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) in the previous calendar year
2. Fire Chiefs/Chief Officer must submit an [Annual FD Demographics Form](#) including Fire Chief or Chief Officer contact information and number of active firefighters (Submit completed forms to OFPC-Stipend@dhses.ny.gov).
3. If you run a "local fire training stipend" through your department, you have other requirements as well. This does not apply to most.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Applications must be submitted using the [OFPC Stipend Endorsement form](#). **(Submit 1 form for all courses requested for stipend - check all of the eligible courses at the bottom that you have taken since 8/31/23 but have not yet submitted for payment on).**
2. Applications must include, but are not limited to, the following components:

- a. signed statement from the Fire Chief/Chief Officer of the Fire Department indicating that:
- i. the Volunteer Firefighter is an active firefighter and Member in Good Standing (as determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction);
 - ii. the Volunteer Firefighter was authorized by the Fire Department to take the course; and
 - iii. the Volunteer Firefighter successfully completed the course
- b. a [Substitute W-9 form](#), if not already submitted (by the student) during course registration.
3. Application paperwork must be submitted through email to OFPC-Stipend@dhses.ny.gov.

ELIGIBLE COURSES:

First time completions of the following courses or course equivalency as determined by OFPC will be eligible for a State Fire Training stipend for course completions on or after August 31, 2023:

- 2021 BASIC EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS W/HMFRO (01-05-0101)
- 2021 SCBA/INTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS-FF1 (01-05-0102)
- 2021 BEFO W/HMFRO (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0103)
- 2021 BEFO-SCBA/IFO-FF1 (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0104)
- FIRE OFFICER I (NFPA 1021-2020 ED.) w/FSTFAC (01-11-0176)
- FIRE OFFICER I – SUPERVISING FIRE OFFICER MODULE SERIES (01-11-0154)
- BASIC WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION (01-05-0007)
- FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL: SELF-RESCUE (01-05-0092)
- FIREFIGHTER ASSIST AND SEARCH TEAM (FAST) (01-05-0018)
- RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC) (01-05-0133)
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR 1 (01-11-0162)
- FIRE OFFICER II (NFPA 1021-2020 EDITION) (01-11-0014)
- FIREFIGHTER II (01-05-0020)
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 (W/O STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE) (01-05-0124)
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 MODULAR SERIES W/STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE (01-05-0131)
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 (W/ STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE) (01-05-0143)
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 MODULAR SERIES W/O STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE (01-05-0144)

THE STIPEND AMOUNT THAT WILL BE PAID TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER BY OFPC IS:

\$250.00 –

- BASIC WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION (01-05-0007)
- FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL: SELF-RESCUE (01-05-0092)

\$350.00 –

- FIREFIGHTER ASSIST AND SEARCH TEAM (FAST) (01-05-0018) **or**
- RAPID INTERVENTION CREW (RIC) (01-05-0133)

\$500.00 –

- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR 1 (01-11-0162)
- FIRE OFFICER II (NFPA 1021-2020 EDITION) (01-11-0014)
- FIREFIGHTER II (01-05-0020)
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 (W/O STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE) (01-05-0124) **or**
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 MODULAR SERIES W/STRUCTURAL FIRE (01-05-0131) **or**
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 (W/ STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE) (01-05-0143) **or**
- 2024 – FIREFIGHTER 2 MODULAR SERIES W/O STRUCTURAL LIVE FIRE (01-05-0144)

\$750.00 –

- 2021 BASIC EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS W/HMFRO (01-05-0101) **or**
- 2021 BEFO W/HMFRO (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0103)

\$1250.00 –

- 2021 SCBA/INTERIOR FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS-FF1 (01-05-0102)

\$1000.00 –

- FIRE OFFICER I (NFPA 1021-2020 ED.) w/FSTFAC (01-11-0176) **or**
- FIRE OFFICER I – SUPERVISING FIRE OFFICER MODULE SERIES (01-11-0154)

\$2000.00 –

- 2021 BEFO-SCBA/IFO-FF1 (BLENDED LEARNING) (01-05-0104)

This release is also available on the CAFDA web site at:

<https://cafda.net/supporting-first-responders-governor-hochul-announces-expansion-of-new-yorks-volunteer-firefighter-training-stipend/>

Our Friends in Government; Aren't!

In Albany this week, Assembly Democrats on the floor voted against bill (A 01064) by Assemblyman Joe Angelino (R) that would provide a \$2,500 State Income Tax Credit for volunteer Fire and EMS personnel. This bill proposed would not only provide a much-deserved tax credit for those who serve our communities but may have attracted more people to volunteer at a time when personnel is in high demand. All of our communities in the majority of New York State rely every day on these brave Men and Women to answer the call in our time of need. They deserve our respect, not political theater. As our Governor and her party use the fire service volunteers and their departments to tout election campaign commercials and Public Relations events, they continue to not support the very group they claim to represent and use to get votes. Here's my campaign slogan, REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER.

From Washington

Washington Watch

- Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer resigns from Trump admin after misconduct investigation first exposed by The Post. Let's see who's next and the effect on the OSHA updates. Deputy Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling is expected to replace her as acting secretary of the Department of Labor, sources noted.
- Some Social Security recipients could see a boost in their benefits as the result of a rules change. In 2025, the Social Security Fairness Act did away with provisions that reduced or eliminated benefits for more than 2.9 million public servants, including some teachers, police officers, firefighters and federal employees. The act repealed two previous policies – the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. WEP impacted workers who received pension benefits from work where Social Security taxes were not withheld, resulting in smaller retirement benefits. GPO covered individuals with public pensions from jobs that didn't take out Social Security taxes who lost access to their spouse's Social Security benefits, including deceased and ex-spouses. The change also impacts divorced spouses and widows and widowers whose former spouse's Social Security benefits were reduced because they received public pensions. Eliminating that reduction means they, too, could be in line for higher benefits.

✦ **DHS Shutdown Status Report.** This week, Congress began implementing its two-part plan to end the DHS shutdown. Tuesday evening, Senate Republicans introduced a budget resolution that opened debate on a reconciliation plan to fund ICE and Border Patrol [until the end of the current Administration](#). After an overnight vote-a-rama ending at 3:30am Thursday, the Senate passed the budget resolution [50-48](#). However, Leader Thune [has noted](#) that Speaker Johnson has not confirmed that the House can pass the budget resolution as is.

Senate Majority Leader Thune wants the budget reconciliation to remain [as narrowly tailored](#) as possible to increase its chances of passing. However, a number of Republican lawmakers [have already commented](#) that they see this as one of the last opportunities to pass their policy proposals.

✦ **Recap of Key Budget Hearings.** Last week marked the beginning of budget hearings on Capitol Hill. A number of representatives from the Administration testified before committees in an effort to further explain the President's budget request.

- Chief Tom Schultz of the U.S. Forest Service [testified](#) in front of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. During his testimony, Chief Schultz provided an update on the Administration's federal wildland reorganization proposal, stating that the report that had been requested by Congress, which would assist them in determining whether or not the reorganization would be beneficial, will likely not be ready until the fall of this year. However, even if Congress does not approve the

reorganization proposal, just as it did not approve it last year, Chief Schultz believes the Administration has the authority to go forward with restructuring based on consultation with the Office of General Counsel.

- FEMA’s Acting Administrator Karen Evans [testified](#) in her opening statement that “when it comes to disaster response, our guiding principle is clear - local governments respond, states manage, and federal government supports”. When asked by Representative Newhouse (R-WA-4) to provide the rationale behind reductions in certain grant funding for First Responders, Ms. Evans reiterated that FEMA should not supplant the States when it comes to disaster response. Ms. Evans was also asked how the Agency plans to fix FEMA’s reimbursement timeline, to which she declared that a pilot program is in the works to streamline the process.

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

CUYLerville VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

AUDIT OBJECTIVE

Did the Cuylerville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (Department) officers and membership provide adequate oversight of financial operations?

AUDIT PERIOD

January 1, 2023 – June 3, 2025

Understanding the Audit Area

Providing adequate oversight of financial operations helps ensure transactions are properly recorded and supported with documentation, bills are paid on time, and funds are safeguarded and available for equipment, training and emergency responses. A lack of oversight can lead to a lack of operational effectiveness, mismanagement, fraud, damaged reputation and jeopardize the Department’s funding and its mission.

From January 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024, the Department’s deposits totaled \$177,922 and disbursements and withdrawals for startup¹ cash for fundraising events totaled \$141,561.

AUDIT SUMMARY

- Department officers and membership did not provide adequate oversight of financial operations because they did not adopt a code of ethics and detailed bylaws or financial policies or enforce the limited financial provisions in the bylaws.
- They also did not adequately segregate financial duties, implement compensating controls or provide guidance to the Treasurer² related to recording and reporting financial transactions. This placed Department resources at risk of waste and theft.
- Department officers and membership did not receive or review bank statements, canceled check images, and regular written financial reports; ensure the Treasurer prepared bank reconciliations; or annually audit the Treasurer’s records to monitor financial operations.
- Additionally, Department officers and membership did not ensure that the Treasurer or other Department officers maintained adequate supporting documentation for all 50 deposits totaling \$177,922 from January 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024.

- Furthermore, Department officers and membership did not review the Department’s disbursements before or after they were paid to help ensure that all 259 disbursements paid from January 1, 2023, through November 30, 2024, totaling \$141,561 were for appropriate Department purposes and properly supported with documentation, such as itemized invoices and receipts.
- Also, while the Department received \$9,315 in foreign fire insurance (FFI) tax proceeds, the Department officers and membership could not support that the membership approved spending the FFI tax proceeds that were spent or that the funds were used for appropriate Department purposes.
- In addition, the Department officers did not file the 2023 or 2024 FFI tax proceeds annual reports with the New York State Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) as required.

The report includes 12 recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the officers’ and membership’s oversight of financial operations. Department officers generally agreed with our findings and indicated they will initiate corrective action.

READ THE COMPLETE REPORT HERE:

<https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/audits/2026/pdf/cuylerville-volunteer-fire-department-2025-133.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.
- 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.

READ THE FULL REPORT HERE:

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

Who taught them to complain? Cultural contagion in the fire service

Division Chief Brandon A. Lambert

How often do you get new recruits who are disgruntled when they walk in the door? Hopefully not often — and if you do, they probably shouldn't make it through the hiring process.

I've conducted hundreds of interviews, and I've never recommended anyone for hire who wasn't genuinely excited to be there. *People generally don't enter the fire and EMS service unhappy with it. We make them that way.*

That's right, we do it. I mean, all of us — anyone around those new members — from the moment they tell us how excited they are to serve their community in their interview, up to the moment they start complaining about the pay and how they have to catch up on hydrant maintenance on Sundays in November because they slacked all year. That being said, one person in their circle is more responsible than anyone else — the company officer. Why? Proximity and exposure.

If a company officer doesn't put on their turnout gear to respond to fire alarms, the rookie probably won't either. If an officer doesn't know how to stretch a line, you'll find a rookie who can't either. But what about attitude? Though a person of good character and with a strong work ethic might resist for a while, we all tend to become like the people with whom we spend our time. The amount of time we spend together in this line of work makes it very unlikely we will remain unaffected by the constant influence of our crews and frontline leaders.

Asch (1951) demonstrated that even when individuals clearly knew the correct answer, the pressure of group opinion could lead them to conform to an obviously incorrect choice. More recent research has shown that individuals don't simply coexist within groups; they adapt to the expectations, attitudes and behaviors that define the group's norms (Cialdini & Goldstein, 2004). The same principle applies in the firehouse: ***Attitudes, not just behaviors, are contagious.***

ATTITUDE IS CONTAGIOUS

Leadership is more than instruction or providing direction; it is influence. The technical skills are easy enough to correct. We can measure them against benchmarks and train until the deficits go away. *Attitude, on the other hand, is something we can all see but is hard to measure and even harder to correct.*

When I became a battalion chief, I set a short list of rules for my company officers, one of which was that they were not permitted to sit around their kitchen tables complaining to their crews. Instead, they should bring their complaints to me or to other company officers, in private. They didn't fully appreciate the idea, as if it were their right to complain about their organization. One officer thought I was suggesting he had to fake being happy. But that wasn't it at all.

Consider this: Do you feel like you should enjoy your work environment? If someone is standing between you and finding joy in your work environment, should someone intervene? Who? At the company level, the obvious responsible party is the company officer. *Yet we see so many company officers neglect morale maintenance and culture management as a core job function.* Instead, many company officers contribute to negative environments. So while you may agree with the thinking that I was asking them to fake being happy, in reality, *I was simply asking that they share their dissatisfaction in an appropriate forum and with the appropriate audience.*

LEADERSHIP SETS THE EMOTIONAL CLIMATE

A lot of company officers express how important it is to them that they stand up for their members — have their back, if you will. But truly having their back is acting in their best interests, not just being seen opposing unpopular rules in public. Taking care of them includes taking care of their mental health. Leaders shape not only how their members perform but also how they experience and recover from stress in the workplace, which directly affects long-term morale and well-being (Sonnentag & Frese, 2003). The emotional tone that officers bring to the station has a ripple effect; moods and attitudes, both positive and negative, spread quickly through close teams (Barsade, 2002).

Mental health isn't just about coping with critical incidents; it is about maintaining a general state of happiness. Research shows that maintaining a generally positive emotional climate doesn't just make people feel better in the moment, it supports long-term physical health and resilience across a lifetime (Pressman & Cohen, 2005). If a company officer truly cares about their people, this is where their influence matters most —

standing on a soapbox with the crew cheering them on but creating a healthy environment where their members can thrive.

Bottom line: Whether you're a company officer, hope to become one or simply expect one to have your back, we must start holding officers accountable for morale just as we do for technical competence.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

So, let's say you're bought into the idea. You agree that morale is part of your responsibility as a company officer. *Here are a few practical ways to keep spirits up in your firehouse:*

- **Start with yourself:** Your crew takes their emotional cues from you. When you stay calm, steady and composed, even when the day goes sideways, you give everyone else permission to do the same. Research shows that emotions are contagious; leaders' moods directly shape team climate and performance (Barsade, 2002).
- **Communicate with purpose:** The way you talk about the job influences how others feel about it. Praise publicly, correct privately, and use "we" instead of "they." When leaders express positive expectations and reinforce a sense of belonging, it strengthens group norms and morale (Cialdini & Goldstein, 2004).
- **Protect the kitchen table:** That's where culture is built. Keep it a space for laughter, learning and connection, *not* complaint sessions. Negative conversations and chronic venting can create what researchers call "emotional exhaustion climates," which quickly spread through teams (Totterdell, 2000; Barsade & Gibson, 2012). If the conversation turns negative, maybe it is a good time to start the daily training or duties.
- **Build belonging:** Ask for input, listen actively, and make sure every voice is heard. Teams thrive when members feel safe to speak up and contribute without fear of ridicule. Studies on psychological safety show that this kind of environment builds engagement, trust and performance (Edmondson, 1999).

Reinforce meaning: Remind your crew why the work matters. Connect routine tasks to the bigger purpose of service and community. Your department's mission, vision and values should be a guide. People stay motivated when they feel competent, autonomous and connected to something meaningful (Deci & Ryan, 2000).

Celebrate wins, big and small: Recognition builds resilience. A simple "nice work" after a tough shift does more for morale than most formal programs. Positive emotions have measurable benefits for long-term health and stress recovery (Pressman & Cohen, 2005; Fredrickson, 2001).

YOURS TO OWN

As leaders, we can't complain about how things are if we aren't willing to do the work to create positive change. Culture management may be one of the most difficult responsibilities of a company officer, but it's also one of the most important. In the end, culture isn't written in policy; it's spoken around the kitchen table. *So, if you're wondering who taught them to complain, the answer might depend on who's sitting at the head of the table.* You won't get it right every day, and some people won't change no matter what you do, so give yourself some grace, but the morale in your house is yours to own. Keep trying.

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/>

[County puts fire districts on notice for lack of payments](#)

The Observer

A pair of fire districts are facing the loss of future support regarding a lack of payment to Chautauqua County. The Chautauqua County Office of the County Attorney said in a news release issued Thursday that it is taking steps to resolve unpaid fees owed by the Forestville and Frewsburg Fire Districts for Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance intercepts and is preparing next actions to ensure compliance. *If the districts continue to*

refuse payment of the amounts due, the county may be forced to suspend certain services currently provided to the Districts.

“Our duty is straightforward: when the County lawfully bills for the services it provides, we must pursue payment for those services so that taxpayers are treated fairly,” said County Attorney Emily Woodard. “This is not a dispute the County sought out, but it is one we must resolve responsibly.”

Chautauqua County Emergency Medical Services (CCEMS) began providing ALS ambulance intercepts to Forestville and Frewsburg in 2022 as part of its standard support for districts that require higher level medical care during emergency responses. ALS intercepts occur when a basic life support agency requests advanced life support assistance from CCEMS to ensure patients receive appropriate care during transport. These services were provided at the request of the Districts and delivered in accordance with state law and established protocols.

During 2022 and 2023, CCEMS responded to multiple such requests from both districts, billing the standard \$250 per intercept — the same rate applied uniformly across all municipalities in the county. The debt accrued only after services were completed and billed, consistent with the County’s established EMS cost recovery procedures.

Under the EMS Cost Recovery Act signed by Governor Kathy Hochul in 2022, *any ambulance service that requests an ALS intercept from another provider must compensate that agency at a negotiated or reasonable “usual and customary” rate, as outlined in General Municipal Law 209b(4)(C).*

Forestville currently owes \$2,500, and Frewsburg owes \$20,250. Despite multiple outreach attempts — including an offer to establish payment plans — both have declined to pay and instead retained outside legal counsel, claiming novel constitutional objections to the state statute. *All other Fire Districts and Departments in Chautauqua County with similar obligations have paid in full.*

“When two Districts decline to meet an obligation that every other municipality has met, it creates an imbalance that unfairly affects all other taxpayers across the county,” Woodard said. “Our goal is to resolve this cooperatively, but the current situation is not equitable.”

The County also highlighted its longstanding support for local responders, including a \$50,000 loan provided to Forestville in 2023 to assist with the purchase of a rescue truck.

While the County remains open to working collaboratively with both Districts/Departments, officials noted that inaction is no longer sustainable.

“We hope to reach a reasonable resolution,” Woodard added, “but if payment continues to be refused, the County will have to consider its options.”

Ex-Mattydale, NY, Firefighter Charged with Sexually Assaulting Teen

Greta Stuckey, Syracuse.com

Deputies are looking for other victims after arresting a former volunteer firefighter with the Mattydale Fire Department accused of a sexual act with a teenage boy.

Donald Bender Jr., 61, of Mattydale, was arrested Wednesday by the Onondaga County Sheriff’s Office after an investigation that began in January, according to Thomas Newton, a sheriff’s spokesperson.

Bender is charged with third-degree criminal sexual act, a felony. He was booked into the county Justice Center on Wednesday, Newton said.

The arrest stems from allegations of a sexual encounter in late winter 2017 involving a boy who was 16. Investigators allege that other sexual encounters occurred with the teen earlier.

During that period, Bender volunteered extensively with the Mattydale Fire Department, where he frequently provided transportation to juvenile males involved in the department’s junior program, Newton said.

Given his access to youth through his volunteer work, investigators believe there may be more victims, Newton said.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

[St. Leonard, MD, Firefighter Revived with CPR, AED at Fire Scene](#)

A St. Leonard firefighter, who collapsed at a house fire in Lusby Saturday night, was revived by the quick actions of fellow fire and rescue personnel. The 56-year-old firefighter received CPR from crews who also applied an AED that delivered multiple shocks. He was revived and flown by Maryland State Police helicopter to a cardiac care facility. We are relieved to share that he is currently in stable condition and has undergone a procedure to place three stents to address previously unknown blockages, according to a fire department spokesperson.

[New EMT program coming to Albany area](#)

An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program will begin in September at Capital Region BOCES. It will be available on the Albany and Schoharie Career and Technical Education (CTE) campuses. The year-long program will combine classroom instruction, laboratory skill practice and real-world scenarios to develop the knowledge and competencies required for pre-hospital emergency care.

Students will learn to assess, treat and transport patients experiencing medical and traumatic emergencies.

The program will be available to high school students in about two dozen school districts and is spearheaded by Michael Turek, a paramedic with 20 years of experience.

“The program isn’t just about teaching skills,” he said. “It’s about building confident, capable providers who are ready to step into their communities and make a real difference.” Turek currently works as a paramedic for Greene and Otsego Counties. His teaching experience includes working as an EMT instructor for the Otsego County Office of Emergency Management, SUNY Oneonta, the Regional Emergency Medical Organization in Albany, and several area EMS providers.

[**Carbondale, PA Fire Department looks to attract next generation through Junior First Responder Club](#)

It’s not every day that you can get an up-close look at being a firefighter or working as a volunteer first responder. But a new partnership between Lackawanna County 4-H, Penn State Extension, Carbondale Fire Department, and the city looks to give curious kids a chance.

“When people go off to college, and they start leaving the area, it’s harder to keep them, kind of hooked into the fire service or the EMS service or wherever. So hopefully if we get them a little early enough, we can have that time with them before they leave, and hopefully we can convince them to stay,” said Michael McHale, Carbondale Fire Department.

Michael McHale is a firefighter with Station 51 and is one of the organizers of the Junior First Responder Club, starting in Carbondale. “Volunteerism is down all over the country, especially here in Pennsylvania, and we’re hoping that this will spark some interest in being a first responder and also teach kids some valuable skills that they can take home,” he said.

[FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES](#)

[Designing Modern Fire Stations for Neighborhood Compatibility](#)

Rachael Grodzki

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Early fire station stakeholder engagement is crucial to define neighborhood compatibility, considering the specific context and community expectations.
- Design strategies such as massing, material selection, and landscaping help minimize visual and noise impacts while maintaining operational efficiency.
- Traffic planning, including dedicated access points and traffic studies, ensures quick emergency response and minimizes neighborhood disruptions.

Fire stations are among the most essential pieces of civic infrastructure, yet they are also some of the most complex buildings to integrate into established neighborhoods. Designing a fire station that meets rigorous operational demands, rapid response times, large apparatus, and 24/7 activity, while also respecting the character, scale, and expectations of its surrounding community requires a thoughtful approach to neighborhood compatibility.

This balance goes beyond aesthetics; it involves early stakeholder engagement, contextual design decisions, and a clear understanding that compatibility is not a one-size-fits-all solution. When done well, a fire station can be both a high-performance emergency facility and a valued neighborhood asset.

DEFINING NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY

To define neighborhood compatibility for a project, early engagement with stakeholders is critical in establishing the overall aesthetic and vision for the building. Stakeholders may include department members, designers, community residents, and zoning or planning boards; however, this group will vary depending on the project's location and context. Is the station nestled within a residential neighborhood, located in a bustling business district, set in a quiet rural community, or situated within a historic district? Each setting brings different expectations, sensitivities, and voices that will want to participate in defining what compatibility means for the site.

It is essential to establish clear goals and priorities with these stakeholders, whether the objective is to blend the building into the existing architectural fabric, pay homage to the department's history through design, or introduce a more modern facility that serves as a community landmark and supports recruitment and retention efforts.

APPROACHES FOR DIFFERENT PROJECT TYPES

Each project, whether ground-up new construction or an addition/renovation, will have its own definition of what it means to be compatible. For additions and renovations, contextualizing the new work within the existing station may be the top design priority. Ground-up construction on an existing site offers additional opportunities for community input by gathering feedback from neighboring properties based on their experiences with the current station.

When a project involves ground-up construction on a new site, it is important to recognize that neighbors may have no prior experience living adjacent to a fire station. Providing transparency about the design process and operational considerations can help alleviate concerns, reduce opposition, and address common "not-in-my-backyard" attitudes.

DESIGN FOR BOTH FUNCTIONALITY AND COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE

Engaging project stakeholders to help define neighborhood compatibility provides a valuable framework that can guide the overall exterior design aesthetic of the station. Equally important is educating stakeholders on the critical functions and operational needs of a fire station, while ensuring their feedback is genuinely heard and considered. One of the primary responsibilities of the design professional is to balance efficient emergency response and daily operations with community expectations related to exterior appearance.

Design professionals work within building code and zoning requirements to develop a building mass that accommodates the programmatic needs of a fire station. Apparatus bays, for example, require significantly greater square footage and volume than standard office spaces or neighboring homes. Through thoughtful massing, articulation, and material selection, a qualified design team can achieve an exterior design that functions operationally, respects the surrounding context, and appropriately manages community expectations.

While building massing tends to be the largest sticking point in residential neighborhoods, other common design elements that matter most to stakeholders include mitigating noise and light pollution, screening the visibility of commercial equipment such as HVAC units and generators, thoughtful landscaping and planting, and traffic patterns associated with entering and exiting the site. It is important to work closely with your design professional to minimize these operational impacts through informed planning and design.

Building massing and roof design can be used strategically to conceal rooftop equipment such as HVAC units, while landscaping and screening elements can help minimize the visual and acoustic impact of ground-mounted equipment. Lighting impacts can be mitigated through careful fixture selection, aiming strategies that limit light spill, and the use of controls such as dimming or motion sensors to reduce nighttime light pollution while maintaining safety and security.

In some cases, neighborhood compatibility may be defined less by building aesthetics and more by the role the fire station plays as a community asset. Project stakeholders may prioritize spaces that foster public

engagement and strengthen the relationship between the department and the surrounding neighborhood. Incorporating community rooms for public functions, such as fundraisers, fire safety education events, local voting/polling station, or use as a storm shelter, can help establish the station as an extension of the community rather than an isolated civic facility.

In other contexts, stakeholders may value the inclusion of additional green space, such as a pocket park or publicly accessible landscaped areas, further reinforcing a sense of shared ownership and connection between residents and the department.

TRAFFIC PLANNING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Traffic considerations should be addressed early through clearly defined and separated access points for emergency responders and the public, allowing apparatus to enter and exit the site efficiently while reducing conflicts with pedestrian and neighborhood traffic.

In many cases, conducting a traffic study can help inform curb cut locations, turning movements, traffic signal time optimizations and the integration of traffic signal pre-emption systems to support safe and reliable emergency response.

CASE STUDIES

At the Massapequa, NY, Park House fire station, located on Long Island, NY, a split-level building strategy was used to reduce the overall building height required for the apparatus bay, allowing the station to align more closely with the scale of the surrounding residential neighborhood. Residential-style materials, including brick, siding, asphalt shingle roofing, and window proportions that mirror nearby homes, help the station blend into the existing neighborhood fabric.

A mansard roof form contributes to a pitched roof appearance consistent with adjacent residences while allowing flat roof areas to be strategically located out of view. These flat roof areas conceal mechanical equipment through the use of screening, which minimizes visual impacts and supporting neighborhood compatibility without compromising operational performance.

The village of Mineola, NY, Fire Headquarters is located along a busy roadway and demonstrates how site planning and landscape design can support neighborhood compatibility in more urbanized contexts. The inclusion of a pocket park along the street frontage softens large areas of hardscape and reinforces the station's role as a civic and community-oriented facility, rather than a purely operational one.

CONCLUSION

As you embark on the design of a new or renovated fire station, it is essential to prioritize the functional and operational needs that support emergency response first and foremost. However, meaningful community engagement and transparency throughout the process can foster positive relationships with the stakeholders the department serves.

[Hydrant Snafu Leads to Resignation of Waterbury, CT, Water Chief](#)

The city's top water official resigned Wednesday after an investigation into low-pressure fire hydrants uncovered evidence he engaged in misconduct while on the job, a spokesperson for the Waterbury mayor's office said.

Water Department Superintendent Bradley Malay stepped down Wednesday when he was asked about the misconduct during an interview, according to Jennifer Rose, a spokesperson for Waterbury Mayor Paul K. Pernerewski Jr.

Rose did not describe the exact nature of the misconduct or whether the wrongdoing was connected to the water flow issues on Bennett Avenue earlier this month that delayed firefighters from extinguishing a house fire.

"The investigation relating to water flow issues remains active and ongoing," Rose said.

Rose said the city now is working to fill the superintendent position and is scheduling interviews with eligible candidates. She said Assistant Water Superintendent Chris Savage will oversee day-to-day operations in the meantime with the help of a water distribution consultant.

The development comes about two weeks after Pernerewski directed Police Chief Fernando Spagnolo to investigate the circumstances surrounding the insufficient water flow from hydrants at the scene of the fire.

At the time, Pernerewski said the probe would examine what inspection and maintenance protocols should have been in place, what actions were taken, and how the city's practices compare with federal, state, and local requirements.

[In the aftermath of the fire, Malay told reporters the *hydrants had not been flow tested in more than a decade.*](#)

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

- Ford County, KS, Firefighter Paramedic Suffers Medical Issue, Dies on Duty, Firefighter Paramedic William 'Liam' Price had served with Ford County Fire & EMS since 2018.

FIRE APPARATUS ACCIDENTS

- A Dallas Fire-Rescue ambulance was involved in a fatal crash last week. The ambulance was responding to an emergency with two firefighters and an intern when it was involved in a crash with an SUV at Rugged Drive and Savoy Street around 3 p.m., according to CBSNews.com. Police said an adult in the SUV was killed in the crash and a juvenile was seriously injured. The three aboard the ambulance were treated for injuries.
- Milwaukee Pumper Catches Fire after Head-on Crash with Car. The firefighters were shaken up but not physically injured. The rig will likely be deemed a total loss.
- Police and medics responded to a crash involving a fire engine in Dayton, Ohio on Tuesday morning. The fire engine had just left the scene of a reported fire when witnesses said it proceeded through an intersection and collided with a van. Two people from the van were transported to a local hospital for treatment. Their injuries were described as non-life threatening.
- A fire truck for the Hilton-Parma Fire District in Monroe county was involved in a crash. An engine with five volunteer firefighters aboard was returning from a call around 8 p.m. when a car blew a stop sign and struck the truck. Both vehicles were significantly damaged in the crash but no firefighters were hurt, and all four occupants of the car involved were evaluated at the scene but were not hospitalized, the fire district said.

FIREFIGHTERS FALLING THROUGH

- None reported this week.

THE LATEST ON THE CHANGING FIRE SERVICE

NFPA 1700, Guide for Structural Fire Fighting: What's New for 2026?

Daniel Madrzykowski, Keith Stakes, Chris Stewart

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The 2026 edition of NFPA 1700 includes significant updates, such as the addition of a chapter in Tactical Considerations for Search and Rescue.
- New research areas address fire suppression tactics, including studies on coordinated fire suppression and the hazards of lithium-ion batteries.
- The standard aims to ensure that life safety remains the foremost priority in all fireground decisions and actions taken by firefighters.

PURPOSE

The purpose of NFPA 1700 is to provide guidance for the development of standard operating procedures addressing strategies and tactics for structural firefighting. The information in NFPA 1700 is supported by science-based research and the decades of fireground experience of the technical committee members as well as the insights of fire service members who submitted comments during the development process.

NEW INFORMATION FOR 2026 EDITION

While revisions exist throughout the new edition of NFPA 1700, this article will focus on the chapters with significant changes or new information. The chapters considered below include

- Chapter 4: Background,
- Chapter 7: Building Construction and Structural Considerations,
- Chapter 9: Strategic Considerations, Chapter 10: Tactical Considerations for Fire Control and Extinguishment,
- Chapter 12: Fire Specific Tactical Considerations, and
- Chapter 13: Tactical Considerations for Search and Rescue.

RESEARCH AREAS ADDED

In the new edition, research results from the UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute studies on coordinated fire suppression and ventilation were added to the laboratory-based studies on ventilation and suppression. The studies were conducted in a variety of acquired structures including one- and two-story single-family homes, garden apartments, and a commercial strip mall. Information on understanding and fighting basement fires developed by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors and the UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute was added. This information demonstrates a variety of considerations regarding flow paths, the hazard of operating in the exhaust portion of a flow path with a low intake and high exhaust, and the effectiveness of fighting the fire on plane with the fire.

Two new research areas were added to NFPA 1700: (1) results from the UL Research Institutes' Fire Safety Research Institute's Search & Rescue Operations studies, which served as a basis for the new Chapter 13; and (2) results from studies examining the fire and explosion hazards from lithium-ion-battery-powered micro-mobility devices and residential and commercial battery energy storage systems (BESS).

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND STRUCTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Chapter 7: Building Construction and Structural Considerations includes a section on emerging building features. New in this section is a discussion of the potential safety hazards to firefighters, from BESS including high voltage and thermal runaway. Tactical considerations address size-up indicators, the need for full PPE including SCBA, and charged hoselines. Further considerations on lithium-ion battery fires are provided in Chapter 12.

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The goal of Chapter 9: Strategic Considerations is to illustrate a systematic method for making basic strategy decisions to develop and initiate a tactical incident action plan (IAP). The IAP is the work that needs to occur to achieve the tactical objectives: control the fire, locate and remove any victims, and minimize the loss of property. The appropriate process and selection of incident strategy directly impact the effectiveness of fireground operations and the safety and welfare of the firefighters in the hazard zone.

Chapter 9 was also designed to provide consistency in the size-up process and language with Chapter 10: Tactical Considerations for Fire Control and Extinguishment, Chapter 12: Fire (Occupancy) Specific Tactical Considerations, and Chapter 13: Tactical Considerations for Search and Rescue of this guide, as well as develop synergy with other NFPA standards dealing with incident command and Mayday operations, as in NFPA 1550, *Standard for Emergency Responder Health and Safety*, and NFPA 1400, *Standard on Fire Service Training*. Chapter 9 defines incident strategy as the positions from which fireground operations will take place, offering two distinct choices for these positions. An offensive incident strategy is appropriate when the incident conditions, fireground factors, and risk management all align with working from within the hazard zone. This definition is meant to be inclusive of action exterior to the structure but within the hazard zone, such as exterior fire control prior to making entry into the structure. Conversely, a defensive strategy is appropriate when the incident conditions, fireground factors, and risk management dictate that working from outside the hazard zone is necessary.

It is well understood that in a majority of Mayday and line-of-duty-death (LODD) incidents, the appropriate selection of incident strategy (offensive or defensive) was done poorly or not done at all. Firefighters working in offensive positions during defensive fire conditions create a recipe for disaster, defined as a "strategic level" Mayday. This means that this situation has direct connection to the incident commander's (IC's) choice of strategy.

To prevent poor or absent choices and improve strategic decision making, a defined standard and process are critical in the incident command system. The greatest advancement of the 2026 version of Chapter 9 is the description of size-up in defining the critical fireground factors at any incident. Size-up is an ongoing process until all tactical objectives have been met and the incident is under control.

As a part of the ongoing process of size-up and effective strategy decisions, this chapter emphasizes the importance of a standard process for conducting a 360° assessment at every incident. This process allows the IC to challenge or validate the initial (A side) incident size-up to better support or change an initial IAP in executing the tactical objectives. This process includes the following:

- Size-up for the location, volume, and extent of smoke and fire.
- Presence and type of basement.
- Ventilation profile.
- Location of potentially tenable or searchable spaces.
- Structural integrity.

Each of these elements is critical to developing a plan that executes the work in the best possible manner and manages the safety of the firefighters conducting it.

Chapter 9 is designed to improve the initial, critical decisions of ICs through a defined process of selecting the most appropriate incident strategy. This is meant to ensure effective fireground operations while protecting the firefighters, so they can minimize the harm to their communities to the best of their abilities.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FIRE CONTROL AND EXTINGUISHMENT

The 2026 edition of NFPA 1700 incorporates several significant changes to Chapter 10: Tactical Considerations for Fire Control and Extinguishment, the first of which was to further strengthen and expand the language about the fire service's primary mission: life safety. With the completion of further research on victim survivability and search and rescue operations, more information is now available to impact suppression and ventilation tactics on the fireground. The biggest emphasis is that the choice for hoseline placement and corresponding means of ventilation should be based on an assessment for life safety. Put most simply, fire control and ventilation are in support of the primary search. Verbiage was added to provide context to how a well-placed hoseline controls the fire, reduces occupant exposure, facilitates an effective search, and maximizes firefighter safety.

Regarding water application, the fire control sections were overhauled to match current research-based best practices. Fundamentally, these changes focus on ensuring the right hose stream type is chosen for the right suppression method at the right time and in the right location. Beginning with exterior fire control, it was important to add that this tactic can be used in either an offensive or a defensive strategy. Traditionally exterior water applications were used if the fire building could not be occupied or if the fire was rapidly getting out of control. Research highlights the importance of early water application to cool surfaces, contract fire gases, and control the problem—all with the goal of preserving life. This statement holds true, regardless of where the water is being applied from.

If the end goal is to ensure firefighters are in the structure of origin confirming fire extinguishment and primary searches are complete, then any tactic employed prior to that is considered part of the offensive strategy. In fact, research also shows that deploying multiple hoselines for the rapid application of water onto the fire, including ones from the exterior as needed, only furthers the mission of life safety. An offensive strategy concludes with firefighters in the building with the fire controlled, searches complete, any trapped occupants removed and in the care of EMS, and the structure ventilated and returned to ambient conditions.

The content around what makes up interior fire control was also updated considerably. The basis of these changes was to organize the tactics by suppression methodology. In short, suppression tactics differ from the advancement throughout a structure to base fire extinguishment in the compartments of origin. On the advance, firefighters should be using a straight or solid stream, flowing while moving, to cool surfaces. This is to ensure survivable space behind the hoseline is improving and to control the flow path of fire gases ahead of the nozzle. Whenever a flow-and-move approach is not feasible, intermittent cooling of spaces on the way to the fire compartments is provided as an alternative.

Previous language around an indirect attack was further clarified with important distinctions of where and when to use this method. Most importantly, only use it when the space is known to be unoccupied. The default

for interior fire control is a flow-and-move advance and direct base fire extinguishment—all with a straight or solid stream.

Ventilation sections were updated modestly to ensure the verbiage is consistent with the remainder of the document and that the tactics have the right context, caveats, and support where needed. Notably, the hydraulic ventilation section has new language to emphasize its importance as a life safety measure, especially when suppression occurs quickly and the building has not yet been cleared of potential occupants. This is based on the most current research into search and rescue operations.

Several sections have been added as alternatives for exterior fire control. These cover different, but common, applications of water on the fireground. This includes basement fires, the bent tip nozzle, the opposing tip nozzle, the rotary distributor elevating apparatus, and an internal high-rise application of the rotary distributor nozzle.

All of these are in support of the overarching mission of the document: to prepare and arm firefighters with the most up-to-date research to ensure all fireground actions are timely, efficient, effective, and in the support of the fire service's primary mission of life safety.

FIRE-SPECIFIC TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The goal of Chapter 12: Fire Specific Tactical Considerations is to provide occupancy-specific operational considerations using the foundations of Chapter 9: Strategic Considerations and Chapter 10: Tactical Considerations for Fire Control and Extinguishment. The process and consistency of making effective size-up, risk management, and strategy decisions coupled with effective IAPs built around solid understanding of fire behavior, effective extinguishment and ventilation, and occupancy-specific considerations is a powerful way to protect our communities and firefighters.

The work in Chapter 12 for the 2026 edition focused on better organizing information considerations across multiple occupancy and hazard types, including battery technology, and supplementing this with research-based tactical considerations. The topics in this chapter were divided into four categories: residential, commercial, structures with special or specific circumstances, and battery technologies.

In the residential occupancy considerations, the focus is on areas with recently completed research or residential occupancy features that have played significant roles in recent significant incidents or tragedies. This includes general information on size-up of conditions, understanding of construction, and specific fire control and rescue decision making and tactics. These factors are applicable to making more effective decisions and appropriate actions when community life safety is a critical fireground factor.

In the commercial occupancy considerations, the focus is on the understanding that the overall size and volume of these buildings require different decision making and tactics to improve the ability to save the buildings and exposures, and to protect firefighters. Recognition of sprinkler systems, including effective support and operation, is a critical element in commercial fires. Lastly, the recognition that interior fire control operations come with significant risk to firefighter safety and that effective decision making regarding incident conditions, building size, ability to provide an effective fire attack from the most advantageous positions, as well as the management of the accountability and firefighter SCBA air are critical, concurrent considerations.

For structures with special or specific circumstances, the focus is specific structural elements that require careful understanding and decision making to apply the best possible incident strategy and actions. These special or specific circumstances include basements, variable grade structures, concealed spaces, garages, attics, high-rises, buildings under construction/ demolition, and photovoltaic systems. The current research findings have provided additional considerations for operations involving these elements, which can help mitigate the considerable complications that develop in these circumstances for firefighters in job performance and safety.

Lastly, lithium-ion battery technology considerations were not previously documented in this guide. As the technology rapidly advances, the number of responses to fires with batteries has increased as well. The size-up, decision making, and actions should use the same process as all other elements; however, the specific knowledge, understanding, and capability (or lack thereof) to mitigate these hazards are critical to safe and effective responses for our communities and firefighters. This chapter includes the most current research and findings along with correlating best considerations and actions. Because this is an evolving technology, we anticipate the need to reevaluate these recommendations as new data becomes available.

Tactical Considerations for Search and Rescue

The largest and most fundamental change to the 2026 edition of NFPA 1700 is the addition of Chapter 13: Tactical Considerations for Search and Rescue. At the time of the initial issuance of NFPA 1700, research into victim survivability and search and rescue operations was underway but not yet complete. The first edition of the guide included text to highlight the importance of life safety in all fireground operations; however, it lacked specifics, and ties to other tactics were not yet fully evidence based.

The chapter begins with a reinforcement about life safety being of the utmost importance and that all fireground decisions and subsequent strategies and tactics should be based on this understanding. Prior to discussing search and rescue operations, the chapter reviews the four aspects that impact the survivability of an occupant within a structure, including the following:

1. Occupants' proximity to the fire.
2. Occupants' elevation in the space.
3. Occupants' exposure duration (both toxic and thermal).
4. Whether occupants are isolated from the fire through some form of compartmentation.

Once these factors are known, the fire service has two ways to impact the survival of a potentially trapped occupant. The first, and most desirable, is to remove the occupant from the hazard. Should that not be immediately possible, the hazard must then be removed from the occupant. An emphasis is placed on beginning the search as soon as feasible and performing simultaneous, but coordinated, fire control and ventilation measures.

One feature lacking in much of today's training materials is the aspect of a fireground size-up that is solely focused on the present life hazard. Much of traditional size-up training includes sizing up both the building and the fire conditions. However, of equal (if not more) importance is the rapid identification of the most threatened or exposed searchable spaces within the structure, the most effective manner to access threatened or exposed searchable spaces, possible rescue plans based on egress and access points, and acknowledgment of whether there are positive reports of trapped occupants prompting questions about the specifics of their location.

As the chapter proceeds into more detail about search operations, a definition of primary and secondary search is provided. Most notably, the primary search is intended to focus on the areas in which a victim is most likely to be both viable and present. This includes the common paths of travel, main entry and egress points of the structure, bedrooms, closets, and bathrooms. Tactical considerations about how a search should be conducted are delineated by time relative to fire control operations. Prefire control search actions should focus on isolation, ventilation of isolated spaces, and door control. During and post-fire control search actions should involve opening any previously isolated areas including maximizing ventilation to the exterior for the exchange of air, establishment of flow paths, and ensuring the occupiable spaces return to tenable conditions as quickly as possible.

Similarly, tactical considerations about rescuing a trapped occupant are also formulated in conjunction with the timing of fire control. In short, the way in may not always be the best way out. If an occupant is found pre- or during fire control, the best course of action would be to take several quick steps to improve survivability including establishing isolation and local ventilation and moving the victim to a lower elevation and fresh air if possible. Should fire control measures still be underway, the occupant may need to be removed through an alternative egress path or even sheltered in place until conditions warrant a more traditional removal path.

Aside from the addition of this new chapter, all other chapters covering strategy and tactics on the fireground were also updated with this new research on victim survivability and search and rescue operations.

STANDARD OF CARE FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING

NFPA 1700 is the first national guide on structural firefighting. Although it is a guide, not a standard, given its process of development, it is considered a standard of care for structural firefighting.

The fire service has expertise in training firefighters and fire officers in the performance of tasks. Teaching why a tactic should be done or when a tactic should be performed is relatively new. NFPA 1700 aims to provide the scientific basis for the "why." Understanding the "why" is important for improving decisions on the fireground and being a more effective firefighter.

With the addition of search and rescue considerations, the document now tells a complete and cohesive story on how the fire service should best engage with the building and the fire, keeping the mission of life safety at the forefront of every decision made and action taken.

Citizens share concerns over possible Reber Fire Station closure

About 50 residents of the hamlet of Reber, Essex County filled the Willsboro Volunteer Firehouse on April 13 to voice their disapproval for the proposed closing of Willsboro Station 2, also known as the Reber Fire Company, which has been in existence for 72 years.

A petition presented to Willsboro-Reber Board of Fire District Commissioners with over 100 signatures said, "For 72 years, Willsboro-Reber Fire Department Station 2/Reber Fire Company has been a cornerstone of safety for our community in Willsboro, NY. We understand that the Willsboro-Reber Board of Fire District Commissioners faces difficult decisions, and we want to work together to find the best path forward.

"Closing this station would significantly increase emergency response times and place greater burden on neighboring fire departments — outcomes none of us want. We believe there are alternative solutions worth exploring together, such as membership recruitment initiatives and accessible training programs for all members.

"We respectfully ask the board to pause any closure plans and invite open dialogue with the community. Together, we can find a sustainable solution that keeps our neighbors safe and honors 72 years of dedicated service."

The maelstrom had been brewing for the past few years but was brought to a head by the proposal at the March 9 WRFD meeting to close the Reber Fire Company as of June 1.

According to what was presented, it was a combination of being unaware of the situation on the part of Reber residents and lack of communication by the WRFD. Though the monthly meeting was held March 9, Reber residents claimed they first became aware of the situation March 31.

Though WRFD Commissioner Bob Provost asked those in attendance to be respectful, several in the audience became vocal until Gregg Dickerson took over to become spokesperson and reminded them Robert's Rules of Order should be adhered to.

The primary reason given by WRFD was a lack of volunteers who have currently passed the requirements needed to become a volunteer firefighter.

"Thank you for doing a thankless job. I commend you for that," Gregg said, addressing the commission.

He then requested a copy of the proceedings from the WRFD Commission's meetings from the past few months, specifically the March 9 meeting during which the proposal to close the Reber Fire Company was acted upon.

Gregg gave for keeping the Reber station open was location. "We are centrally located to provide back-up for Lewis, Whallonsburg and Essex," he said at the meeting.

Ray Montville, of the Whallonsburg Volunteer Fire Department gave another. "It's my personal opinion that we need the extra 2,000 gallon tanker. Reber is on the backside of my district," Montville said.

Another consideration is homeowner's insurance, as many companies will not carry insurance or will raise rates if a residence or property, such as a barn, is over five miles from a fire station.

Provost indicated that although there had been six members of the Reber VFD, generally, only one member, 84-year-old Philip Dickerson, would show up at fires, generally driving a tanker. It was pointed out that the WRFD responded to approximately 125 calls in 2025 while the Reber Fire Company only participated or assisted in 25.

Provost indicated insurance for the fire district, which includes liability, health and cancer, which could be caused by hazardous materials, is required. Thus, members need to have sufficient yearly training. For the most part, training could be attained through computer courses. This includes the subjects of sexual harassment, hazmat and blood borne pathogens.

Another obligation is to obtain an annual physical given during the month of September. If the physical is not taken at that time, unless there are extenuating circumstances, the applicant has to wait until the following September.

Provost addressed the fact rumors have been spreading on social media, which included the sale of Reber's fire equipment. He also pointed out representatives from Reber rarely attend WRFD meetings.

After informing the WFRD that Reber has diligently been recruiting volunteers and has a list of 15, Bridget Moran asked for a year's extension so they may fulfill the requirements.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the commissioners were asked to vote on the proposal to allow Reber one year to fulfill the requirements. After some deliberation, it was decided more time was needed to contemplate their decision. They will hold the vote at the May 11 meeting. This seemed to satisfy the majority in attendance.

FIRE APPARATUS

*****Fire Apparatus Refurbishing Strategies***

Matt Wiedmeyer

At the same time, rising costs driven by tariffs, supply chain shortages, and raw materials inflation have pushed prices to unprecedented levels. A new custom pumper can easily exceed three-quarters of a million dollars, while a ladder truck or tower may top \$1.4 million. For many communities, these figures represent not only a financial burden but also a political challenge when justifying capital expenditures.

These realities mean that departments are being forced to stretch their existing fleets further than ever before. Engines that once would have been retired at 20 years are being pushed past 25. Aerials with known wear issues are being kept in frontline service while city councils debate funding.

The result is a decision that can no longer be made on dollars alone. Choosing between refurbishment and replacement is now about readiness, firefighter safety, and community trust. Whether that reliability comes from a brand-new apparatus or a carefully refurbished unit is a question every department must answer in today's economic and operational climate.

STANDARDS: DEFINING THE PLAYING FIELD

Any serious discussion about refurbishing or replacing apparatus must begin with the standards that guide both processes. *These standards do more than outline best practices; they define what is legally defensible and operationally safe for departments that choose one path over the other.*

On the refurbishment side, the governing document is National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1910, *Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Refurbishment, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Emergency Vehicles*. This standard absorbed the older NFPA 1912, which for years served as the refurbishment guide. NFPA 1910 now provides the framework for what work can be performed, how it should be documented, and the qualifications required to ensure refurbished rigs remain safe, compliant, and roadworthy.

For new apparatus, NFPA 1900, *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances*, is the benchmark. It specifies the latest safety, design, and performance requirements, everything from crash protection and lighting, to clean cab layouts and stability systems. Apparatus built to NFPA 1900 offer departments access to the newest technology and safety features, many of which cannot be retrofitted during refurbishment.

Together, NFPA 1910 and 1900 create the boundaries of the refurbish-vs.-replace debate. Chiefs and city leaders simply cannot make decisions based on budgets or delivery timelines alone. Compliance with NFPA standards ensures that whether a rig is rebuilt or brand new, it meets the fire service's duty to protect firefighters and the communities they serve.

WHAT REFRUBISHMENT MEANS

When departments consider refurbishment, it is important to recognize that the term can mean vastly different things depending on scope and budget. Some projects are little more than cosmetic refreshes, while others amount to complete frame-up rebuilds. Understanding these levels is essential before presenting the idea to city councils or procurement boards.

- **Cosmetic or light refurbishment:** This includes repainting, replacing warning lights, updating cabinetry, or performing minor electrical work. These projects are quick and inexpensive, but they do little to extend the actual service life of the apparatus.
- **Midlevel refurbishment:** A step up in scope, midlevel projects may involve pump rebuilds, drivetrain overhauls, brake system replacements, or extensive rewiring of aging electrical harnesses. At this

stage, departments can realistically add five to seven years of useful service to a rig, provided the chassis and body are structurally sound.

- **Full rebuild or remount:** The most intensive option involves stripping the vehicle down to the frame, addressing structural issues, remounting the body onto a new or reconditioned chassis, and completely modernizing key systems. A full refurb may also include aerial device overhauls, hydraulic system replacement, and integration of new technology where feasible. While this is the costliest option, it can add a decade or more of service life at potentially half the cost of a new unit.

Several OEMs operate formal refurbishment programs, while independent vendors offer similar services. Typical timelines range from three to nine months depending on the scope of work, significantly shorter than the 24- to 48-month wait for new apparatus.

For chiefs, the key takeaway is this: Not all refurbishments are created equal. A cosmetic refresh might improve appearance and morale but do little for reliability, while a full rebuild can extend lifecycle but requires careful financial and operational justification.

PROS OF REFURBISHMENT

For many departments, refurbishment can offer a practical middle ground between stretching aging rigs beyond their limits and waiting years for new apparatus to arrive. When done correctly, a refurb can provide significant operational and financial benefits.

- **Cost savings:** A well-scoped refurbishment can be completed for 40% to 60% of the cost of a new rig. That difference can free up capital for other critical needs—staffing, training, or station improvements—while still extending the life of frontline apparatus.
- **Faster turnaround:** With new builds taking 24 to 48 months, a refurb project that takes only three to nine months can be a lifeline. Departments facing immediate fleet gaps or coverage concerns can return rigs to service far more quickly than if they wait for a new unit to be delivered.
- **Extended lifecycle:** *Mid- to full-level refurbishments can add seven to 10 years of reliable service, particularly when the chassis and body remain in good condition. In some cases, a strategic refurb can bridge the gap until a delayed replacement unit finally arrives.*
- **Crew familiarity:** Firefighters and operators often prefer to work with equipment they know. A refurbished engine or aerial allows crews to keep their existing layouts, controls, and compartment configurations, reducing training time and minimizing adjustment issues.
- **Sustainability and resource efficiency:** Refurbishment makes use of existing frames and bodies, reducing waste and environmental impact. In an era where sustainability is becoming part of municipal decision making, refurbishing can be framed as both cost-conscious and environmentally responsible.
- **Budget flexibility:** Unlike new purchases that often require capital bonds or multiyear approvals, refurbishments can be funded through the operating budget. This makes it easier to get approved, especially in cities where large capital projects face political hurdles.

In the right circumstances, refurbishment can give chiefs more years of safe, reliable service while protecting their budget and planning for long-term fleet replacement.

CONS OF REFURBISHMENT

While refurbishment can be a smart strategy, it is not without risks. Chiefs and fleet managers must weigh these drawbacks carefully before committing resources.

- **Hidden costs and surprises:** Once a rig is stripped down, unexpected problems often occur with the surface such as frame corrosion, wiring damage, or structural fatigue. These add-ons can quickly inflate the project cost, sometimes bringing the final bill closer to that of a new apparatus.
- **Limited technology upgrades:** Certain modern safety features like air bags, rollover protection, collision avoidance systems, and clean cab designs cannot be retrofitted into older rigs. Even after an extensive refurbishment, the apparatus may still lack the latest NFPA 1900 safety innovations.
- **Extended downtime:** Although refurb projects are faster than waiting for a new build, a truck is still out of service for several months. If the department lacks sufficient reserves, this downtime can strain coverage and force reliance on neighboring agencies.

- **Resale and residual value:** Refurbished units typically have lower resale value than new rigs of the same age. For departments that count on resale or trade-in value as part of their replacement planning, this can be a significant disadvantage.
- **Risk of “overinvesting”:** Investing heavily in a rig that is already at or beyond its expected lifecycle can be a poor use of funds. As the saying goes, “You can put good money into bad steel.” Without careful evaluation, a department may end up with an apparatus that still will not provide the years of service needed to justify the cost.
- **Warranty limitations:** Unlike new purchases, where OEMs back vehicles with multiyear warranties, refurbished apparatus often come with limited or piecemeal coverage. This leaves the department assuming more risk if major systems fail shortly after returning to service.

In short, refurbishment is not a cure-all. It can extend service life and reduce short-term costs, but it cannot make an old apparatus brand new. Departments that fail to account for these limitations risk spending heavily while still falling short of long-term readiness goals.

Pros of Buying New

Despite the challenges of cost and delivery delays, there are undeniable advantages to purchasing new apparatus. In this section we are going to look at a few of those advantages.

- **Latest safety features:** New rigs are built to the current edition of NFPA 1900, which incorporates the most up-to-date safety standards. Features like air bags, rollover protection, electronic stability control, and collision-avoidance technology provide protections that simply cannot be retrofitted into older apparatus.
- **Clean cab design:** Modern apparatus often include clean cab layouts designed to reduce firefighter exposure to carcinogens by isolating contaminated gear and improving airflow. For departments emphasizing firefighter health and wellness, this feature alone can justify replacement.
- **Warranty coverage:** New rigs typically come with comprehensive multiyear warranties covering major components and systems. This reduces maintenance costs in the early years and provides peace of mind that unexpected failures will not immediately drain budgets.
- **Full lifecycle reset:** Purchasing new apparatus provides a fresh start with 20 to 25 years of expected service life, depending on the type of apparatus and the department’s call volume. This long horizon allows for more predictable capital planning and reduces the risk of unexpected downtime.
- **Latest technology and performance:** New apparatus come equipped with modern multiplexed electrical systems, improved pump efficiency, advanced aerial hydraulics, and integrated telematics. These improvements enhance both reliability and operational capability on the fireground.
- **Resale and trade-in value:** A new rig holds more value over time compared with a refurbished one. Even after a decade of service, departments can often recoup a meaningful portion of their investment through resale, trade-in, or reassignment to reserve status.

For chiefs presenting budget proposals to city councils, these benefits provide a compelling argument: Buying new is not just spending more money; it is investing in firefighter safety, operational readiness, and long-term fleet stability.

CONS OF BUYING NEW

While purchasing new apparatus brings undeniable advantages, it also can come with significant drawbacks that every department must consider.

- **High cost:** In 2025, the price of new apparatus reached historic levels. A custom pumper often exceeds \$750,000, and a new aerial can climb to \$1.4 million or more. For municipalities, these figures compete directly with other essential budget priorities such as staffing, training, or infrastructure.
- **Long lead times:** Global supply chain challenges and strong demand continue to extend build times. Departments frequently face 24- to 48-month delays from the time of order to delivery. For organizations already struggling with fleet reliability, this waiting period can pose serious risks to readiness.
- **Financing and political hurdles:** Purchasing new apparatus almost always requires capital bonds, long-term financing, or special appropriations. Securing approval can be a slow and politically charged process, particularly in communities with tight tax bases or competing priorities.

- **Budget shock:** The upfront expense of a new rig can cause “sticker shock” among council members and taxpayers. Even when funding is approved, the size of the investment can limit a department’s flexibility for years, tying up capital that could otherwise be spread across multiple operational needs.
- **Rapid depreciation:** Like most vehicles, new apparatus lose value the moment they leave the factory. While they hold value better than refurbished units, depreciation in the early years is still substantial. This reduces resale or trade-in options if the department needs to adjust its fleet strategy sooner than planned.
- **Potential overspecification:** Departments sometimes overspend by purchasing rigs with features or capacities that exceed their actual operational needs. Without careful specification, a department may end up with a million-dollar apparatus when a simpler, more cost-effective solution would have sufficed.

In short, while buying new apparatus provides unmatched safety and lifecycle benefits, it also brings financial, political, and timing challenges that can delay or complicate a department’s ability to meet immediate readiness needs.

DECISION-MAKING FRAMEWORK

Choosing between refurbishment and replacement is not just a matter of dollars and cents; it is an operational decision that shapes a department’s readiness for years to come. Leaders should approach the choice strategically and systematically, weighing the following factors.

- **Fleet size and depth of reserves:** Larger departments with multiple frontline and reserve rigs may be able to tolerate the downtime of a new build or a full refurbishment project. Smaller departments with limited fleets often need faster solutions, making refurbishment or partial rebuilds more attractive.
- **Current apparatus condition:** A thorough inspection of the chassis, frame, and body should guide the decision. If corrosion, fatigue, or structural damage is severe, refurbishment may not be cost-effective. Conversely, if the rig’s foundation is sound, refurbishment can add years of reliable service.
- **Technology and safety needs:** Departments must determine whether modern safety features—such as air bags, clean cab designs, or collision-avoidance systems—are essential for their operational profile. If those features are critical, replacement is often the only path forward.
- **Budget and funding mechanisms:** Refurbishments can sometimes be paid out of the operating budget, while new apparatus will usually require capital bonds or multiyear financing. Chiefs should work closely with city leaders to identify which funding pathway is realistic.
- **Risk tolerance:** Leaders should ask how many frontline rigs can afford to be out of service at one time? In communities with high call volumes, downtime tolerance is minimal, pushing departments toward options that maximize readiness.
- **Lifecycle return on investment (ROI):** Every dollar spent should be tied to years of service gained. A \$400,000 refurbishment that adds 10 years of service may deliver a better ROI than a \$1.2 million replacement that adds 20, but only if the refurbished rig can truly perform reliably through those added years.
- **Community expectations and political climate:** Citizens and council members often view new apparatus as symbols of public investment in safety. While refurbishment may be practical, chiefs must also consider how each choice will be perceived and whether it builds or undermines community trust.

The right decision is not about which option looks best on paper; it is about which option keeps rigs in service, firefighters safe, and communities protected when the call comes.

FIT OVER FORMULA

There is no universal answer to the refurbish vs. replace debate. What works for one department may be completely impractical for another. A rural volunteer agency with three engines may find refurbishment the only viable option, while a metro system managing 100 rigs may lean heavily on scheduled replacements to keep pace with operational demands.

The critical truth is this: maintenance strategy is no longer about dollars—it is about readiness, firefighter safety, and community trust. Every time an apparatus fails to respond, the consequences ripple across the fireground, the department, and the citizens depending on that rig.

For some departments, a carefully scoped refurbishment will provide a cost-effective bridge, adding years of service life while budgets recover or new apparatus are built. For others, investing in new rigs is the only way to ensure compliance with modern safety standards and guarantee long-term fleet stability. Many will find that a hybrid approach—refurbishing selected apparatus while strategically purchasing new— offers the best balance of cost, capability, and readiness.

In today’s climate of rising costs, tariff-driven parts shortages, and multiyear delivery delays, chiefs and city leaders must reevaluate their fleet strategies regularly. The best choice is not the one that looks cheapest on paper. It is the one that ensures when the tones drop, the rig rolls, every time.

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.

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	17
Last fire death 2/26/26 Amherst, Erie Co. Male, Age unk.	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	36
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	325
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/ 34
	#2 NY-OH-TX/ 17
	#3 GA-MI/16
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2026: 549	
Both the states of Maryland and California as well as Wash. DC require sprinklers in 1&2 family dwellings.	
According to realtors and builders only old homes burn, so sprinklers are not needed in new homes: so my question to you is; when does a new home become an old home?	

GREEN ENERGY AND THE IMPACT ON THE FIRE SERVICE

Exploding Battery sparks Residential Structure Fire

A fire involving an exploding li-ion battery in Quaker Springs, Saratoga County NY at 283 Hayes Road in the Town of Saratoga. Quaker Springs and mutual aid companies extinguished the working structure fire at about 9:11pm on the 23rd of April. One minor injury was reported and the patient was treated by EMS and released on scene.

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

Gansevoort Fire Department Breakfast

Sunday May 17 Breakfast will be served starting at 8AM

Clifton Park Fire Department Breakfast

Next Breakfast will be held in October 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

The Message We Send When the Doors are Closed.

David James Stone

Every fire department sends a message, whether we mean to or not...

For those of us in suburban communities, something as simple as our firehouse and the message it sends to the public matters more than we may realize. We should look open, welcoming, and available at all times.

In many communities, the firehouse is still a point of pride. It represents service, trust, and doing the right thing. The public often views us in a very positive light. At the end of the day, the building, the trucks, and everything inside belongs to the citizens anyway. It all matters.

The bay doors being open send a signal to everyone passing by. Open doors send one message. Closed doors send another. If we are honest with ourselves, in many cases, keeping the bay doors shut all day is usually not about security. It is about comfort. We do not want to be interrupted. We do not want visitors while we eat, train, work out, or rest, whatever.

Open bay doors are like open hands. They say we are here. We are available. You the public are welcome. Early American volunteer fire companies were deeply public facing, often located in visible, open buildings where citizens gathered such as a community center. That openness helped build trust long before we came onto the job.

The trust the fire service holds today was earned by those who came before us. They cared about and took pride in their equipment, and made the public feel welcome. We continue to benefit from that, even if we do not always recognize it. This job has grown up. We have grown up. We understand now that impressions matter. Not for ego, but for trust. For them. *The citizens.*

We should take an honest look at the message out stations are sending when we are on duty. Not what we intend, but what people are actually receiving. Look at the bay doors. Look at the front of the building. Look at whether the place feels open, welcoming, and available or closed off and untouchable. Ask yourself what a citizen driving by would think. Would they feel like their fire department is present and ready, or hidden away and disconnected?

Whether we like it or not, the public is always reading the message

TAKE A MOMENT TO SMILE

**The leading cause of injuries in older men, is them thinking they're younger men!
I can relate to that.**

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 in!

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.

Welcome to Belfor Property Restoration Services

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..

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