



THE BULLETIN

JUNE 6, 2026

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

CAPITAL SHORT TAKES

- Next Thursday is our general membership meeting, join us on zoom or in person.
- A recording of the video Future of the Fire Service, panel discussion and open forum is available on the AFDNYS.org website.
- **DripDrop Hydration Giveback Campaign** As an NVFC member, you can enter to receive a donation of DripDrop electrolyte drink mix for your department. [Submit your entry](#) between noon ET on June 16 and noon ET on June 30.
- Income Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters Quadruples to \$800 annually, if the Governor signs the bill!
-

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

From CAFDA

- 1. Join us at the NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Thursday June 11 features dinner for attendees. Please join us.**
 ZOOM LINK FOR THE june MEETING at 7pm:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82294160041?pwd=2M7DZ1CRDlCFjv6N2LfUw9xxtf5fNQ.1>
- 2. 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.**
- 3. Mark your calendars now, CAFDA Fall Seminar, Saturday November 7th, at a location in Colonie to be announced.**
- 4 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.**
- 5> A DAY AT THE RACES to be held again this summer, stay tuned for more information, Friday, August 7th, in the Picnic Paddock Area, lunch included.**

CAFDA TRAINING AND EVENT DATES

Day/Date	Time	Type	Location	Notes
FY 2026				
Thursday, June 11, 2026	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
July, 2026	NO MEETING			
Friday, August 7, 2026	1:00 PM	Membership Activity	Saratoga Race Course	NYRA Day at the Races!

Thursday, August 13, 2026	7:00 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Clifton Park	
Thursday, September 10, 2026	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	
Thursday, October 8, 2026	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officers/Director Nominations
Saturday, November 7, 2026	8:00 AM	Annual Fall Workshop	Verdoy	
Thursday, November 12, 2026	7:00 PM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Officer/Director Elections
DECEMBER 2026	NO MEETING			
FY 2027				
Saturday, January 2, 2027	9:00 AM	General Membership Mtg.	Clifton Park	Organizational/Morning Meeting
Thursday, April 8 - Saturday April 10, 2027		CAFDA Conference '27	Fort William Henry Conference Center	Lake George
Thursday, April 6 - Saturday April 8, 2028		CAFDA Conference '28	Fort William Henry Conference Center	

From Other Organizations

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.

See this week's ScoreCard, this is the LAST week of this year's Legislative Session.

When you review the summary of the legislation that is related to the volunteer fire service in the state it will become clear that the majority rulers of the senate and the assembly do not genuinely care about you and I. Out of all the bills introduced only six made it through both chambers and one of those bills requires additional training, the one thing we are unified in complaining about! They are more concerned with their pronouns and progressive agenda items. If there were 25K bills introduced in the session how many can they pay real attention to? Note that only bills introduced by the majority made it through committee and to the Governor's desk and we will wait to see what she signs into law. Next time one of these politicians

asks what they can do for you the answer is genuinely support us and pass the legislation that we have introduced!

S6233A MARTINEZ (D)	A6790A MCMAHON (D)	6/1/26 PASSED SENATE 5/14/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	<u>INCREASE INCOME TAX FOR 1ST RESPONDERS</u> THIS BILL INCREASES THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS' PERSONAL INCOME TAX CREDIT FROM \$200 TO \$800 FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND FROM \$400 TO \$1600 FOR ELIGIBLE MARRIED JOINT FILERS. FIRST RESPONDERS MAY ALSO TAKE THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION ON THEIR ASSESSED VALUATION.
S4675 JACKSON (D)	A688 BUTTENSCHON (D)	5/6/26 PASSED SENATE 4/29/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	AN ACT TO AMEND THE EXECUTIVE LAW, IN RELATION TO PROVIDING MINIMUM BASIC TRAINING RELATED TO HANDLING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS WITH ANY PHYSICAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS
S5614 ADDABBO (D)	A3681A WOERNER (D)	6/2/26 PASSED SENATE 1/28/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON THE FREQUENCY CERTAIN AUTHORIZED NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS MAY CONDUCT BINGO GAMES. (COMMITTING TO RULES INSURES THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED PROMPTLY IN 2026 SESSION)
S7316 HINCHEY (D)	A8008 LUNSFORD (D)	5/18/26 PASSED SENATE 6/1/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	REQUIRES THE FORFEITURE OF BENEFITS TO BE PAID PURSUANT TO A SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF FELONIES COMMITTED AGAINST A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, FIRE DISTRICT, OR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.
S9502A MARTINEZ (D)	A10885B STERN (D)	6/2/26 PASSED SENATE 6/1/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	TO ADD SURVIVING SPOUSES OF PAID FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY TO THE EXISTING OPTIONAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE SURVIVING SPOUSES OF POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.
S6368B SKOUFIS (D)	A3126B LUNDSFORD (D)	4/22/26 PASSED SENATE 3/30/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	REQUIRES THAT WHEN A COMPLAINT IS MADE TO LOCAL CODE ENFORCEMENT OF A VIOLATION OF THE UNIFORM FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE OR A LOCAL CODE WHICH RESULTS IN THE ISSUANCE OF A COMPLIANCE ORDER, THE COMPLAINANT SHALL ALSO BE PROVIDED A COPY OF SUCH ORDER.
S8832 KAVANAGH (D)	A9504 GLICK (D)	1/21/26 PASSED SENATE 2/10/26 PASSED ASSEMBLY	THIS CHAPTER AMENDMENT MAKES RETAILERS' ACCEPTANCE OF E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER BATTERIES VOLUNTARY. ANY COLLECTION SITES WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MINIMIZE CO-LOCATION WITH RESIDENTIAL HOUSING TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, BE CONVENIENT FOR CONSUMERS AND COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE FIRE SAFETY AND BUILDING CODES.

From Washington

WASHINGTON WATCH

✦ AFG, SAFER, and FP&S Grant Programs Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is now OPEN! Applications for all three grant programs are currently open and will be closing on June 22nd.

✦ National Fire Academy Resumes In-Person Emergency Management Trainings. The National Fire Academy is looking to fill classes beginning as early as May 24th. To [view class openings](#) and to apply, visit the [NETC Online Admissions application](#) website today!

Applications for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program; Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program; and Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grant Program are now open until June 22, 2026.

A link to each grant opportunity is below:

➔ [AFG Link](#)

➔ [SAFER Link](#)

➔ [FP&S Link](#)

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

EATON NO. 1 FIRE DISTRICT – AUDIT FOLLOW-UP

Purpose of review

The purpose of our review was to assess the Eaton No. 1 Fire District's (District) progress, as of December 2025, in implementing our recommendations in the audit report *Eaton No. 1 Fire District – Board Oversight (2024M-4)*, released in May 2024.

The audit determined that the Board of Fire Commissioners (Board) did not:

- Ensure basic accounting records were maintained or that it received written financial reports to manage operations.
- Ensure bank reconciliations were performed.
- Ensure that the District's required annual financial reports (AFRs) were filed in a timely manner.
- Conduct an annual audit of the Secretary-Treasurer's accounting records for 2020 through 2022.
- Adequately audit claims prior to payment. Of the 108 claims totaling \$209,006 that we reviewed, 55 claims totaling \$116,846 (56 percent) had one or more exceptions.
- Adhere to statutory requirements by seeking competition when purchasing a truck and related equipment totaling \$80,991.

The audit included 13 recommendations to help the Board and District officials improve oversight of the District's financial activities.

Background

The District is located in the Town of Eaton in Madison County the Board consists of five elected members, with one member being appointed as Chairperson. The Board is responsible for the District's overall financial management. The Board-appointed Secretary-Treasurer is the chief fiscal officer and is responsible for receiving, disbursing and accounting for District funds; preparing financial reports; and keeping Board meeting minutes. The District contracts with an independent accounting firm that prepares the District's AFRs.

Results of Review

Based on our limited procedures, District officials fully implemented two recommendations, partially implemented eight recommendations and did not implement three recommendations. Until all recommendations are implemented, the Board cannot ensure District assets are safeguarded.

THE FIRE CHIEF'S OFFICE

How to keep your ego in check: Critical guidance for chief officers

A/C Jo-Ann Lorber

Think back to your college psychology class, when you learned Sigmund Freud's three components of personality: the id, ego and superego. While this is not a refresher in psychology, it is a practical look at how ego affects leadership, especially in the fire service.

The ego is often described as the "manager" within us — the part that navigates reality and makes conscious decisions. It also shapes identity: how we see ourselves and how others see us. Outside the psychological definition, people commonly use ego to describe a person's sense of self, self-esteem or self-importance.

HOW EGO GROWS WITH RANK

As we rise through the ranks, we gain more authority. With that authority, people may try harder to please us — listening more attentively, agreeing more often and even laughing at our jokes. That attention feeds the ego. And when the ego is fed, it grows. Some examples:

- During a department strategy meeting, the fire chief proposes a new response protocol (SOP/SOG) that some team members privately believe is outdated or impractical. However, because of the chief's authority and reputation, no one voices their concerns or suggests alternatives in fear of retaliation or other negative outcomes. The plan is accepted without discussion, and the chief assumes their plan was universally commended.
- Similarly, on the fireground, if the officer orders a tactic, like advancing a hoseline through a potentially unstable section of a building, firefighters may hesitate to question the direction, even if they have safety reservations.

An unchecked ego can distort perspective and twist values. When we get caught in the ego's craving for more power, we risk losing self-control. Ego can make us more susceptible to manipulation, narrow our field of vision and influence behavior in ways that conflict with our personal values or the organization's mission.

THE OPERATIONAL RISK OF AN INFLATED EGO

Our ego is a target we carry with us. Like any target, the bigger it is, the easier it is to hit. An inflated ego craves recognition and validation. That craving can make leaders predictable. When others know what feeds that ego, they can play into it, steering decisions in ways that may be detrimental to ourselves, our friends and family, and possibly our organization.

For example, a leader motivated by reputation protection may favor vendors who flatter them or reinforce their status, rather than those offering the best value or innovative solutions. Similarly, staffing decisions might prioritize individuals who align with the leader's personal preferences or boost their image, instead of selecting candidates based on objective qualifications and team needs. When it comes to risk tolerance, choices could be shaped by a desire to avoid embarrassment or criticism, leading to overly cautious or, conversely, reckless strategies that ignore data-driven insights.

An inflated ego can also corrupt behavior. When we believe we are the sole creators of our success, we may become dismissive, more self-centered and quicker to interrupt others, especially when facing setbacks or criticism. Over time, ego builds a defensive wall that prevents us from learning from mistakes and makes it difficult to absorb the lessons that come from failure. This not only limits personal growth, but also degrades team performance — discouraging input, delaying course correction and increasing the risk of preventable errors on the fireground and in daily operations.

Finally, ego also narrows our vision. Ego looks for information that confirms what it wants to believe, fueling confirmation bias. When that happens, we lose perspective and end up in a bubble where we mostly see and hear what we want to. The result is disconnection, from the people we lead, the culture we're part of, and ultimately the community we serve. This can erode psychological safety, weaken feedback loops and create a compliance-driven culture where members are less willing to speak up during training, after-action reviews or even on the fireground.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO KEEP EGO IN CHECK

Breaking free from an inflated or overly protective ego is important and challenging work — and it requires deliberate effort. It demands self-awareness, reflection and a willingness to be challenged. Here are a few practical ways to keep your ego in check:

- Audit the perks and privileges that come with your role. Some are necessary to perform the job effectively. Others exist primarily to promote status and power. Identify which privileges you can let go of to prevent ego from taking hold.
- Surround yourself with people who will not feed your ego. Hire, promote and develop confident, capable personnel who are willing to speak up when ego begins to influence decisions.
- Practice humility and gratitude daily. At the end of each day, reflect on the people who contributed to your success and acknowledge their role. This reinforces the understanding that outcomes are rarely the result of one individual. Take it a step further by expressing that gratitude. Send a message of gratitude to at least one person who helped — this gesture strengthens relationships and helps counter ego-driven thinking.

LEADERSHIP IS NOT STATIC

Success — the bigger salary, the nicer office, the easy laughs — can tempt us to believe we've mastered leadership. But we haven't. Leadership is about people, and people change every day. The moment we believe we've found a universal key to leading others, we start to lose perspective.

When ego takes hold, the consequences extend beyond the individual leader. It can limit a department's ability to adapt, contribute to long-term cultural drift and erode credibility with both crews and the community. Ego shapes what leaders see, hear and believe — and left unchecked, it can quietly turn today's success into tomorrow's failure.

THE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

No Burning Questions this Week.

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

PREVAILING WAGE RATE NOTES OPEN THIS LINK:

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

POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

New Jersey lawmakers advance bill to make basic emergency services 'essential'

Lilo Stainton

Legislation to require all towns in New Jersey to provide basic emergency services — the same way they must now ensure residents have police, firefighting and sanitation services — is moving forward in the State Legislature.

The Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee on Friday approved the bill which defines basic life support as care provided by a state-licensed entity that includes stabilizing a patient, transporting that person to a hospital, providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR, controlling bleeding, stabilizing fractures or wounds and other techniques.

"This bill simply makes the law match what common sense already tells every taxpayer and every parent who has ever dialed 911," said Chief Kevin Beyrouly, a leader with the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association, which represents firefighters, emergency medical technicians and emergency dispatchers and supports the proposal.

The legislation, first introduced by Assemblywoman Carol Murphy (D-Burlington) last fall, passed with three yes votes and two abstentions from the Republican members of the committee. Antwan McClellan (Cape May) and Paul Kanitra (Ocean) cited concerns raised by EMS volunteers that the legislation, as drafted, would make it hard for their teams to continue to serve their communities.

Murphy, a member of the committee, said she wants volunteers included in the scope of the legislation and said she was working with various stakeholders on amendments, but wanted to advance the bill Thursday so it can be done before lawmakers break for the summer. A companion version, with bipartisan sponsorship, is also undergoing changes in the Senate, she said, where it cleared one committee in March.

"It is the idea of being able to ensure that people have access to healthcare, access to medical care and EMS service as well. And the best way to do that is to make sure our volunteers are part of that," Murphy said.

Murphy's bill now moves to the Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee.

Advocates for the measure said it is needed to strengthen an increasingly fragile emergency response system, a patchwork of volunteer and paid squads associated with fire departments, hospitals and private companies. There were around 400 volunteer rescue squads in the early 2000s, Beyrouly said, and less than half that many today.

To meet the bill requirements, municipalities could contract with a licensed company or non-profit entity, enter an agreement with a hospital or fire department, or create a mutual aid pact with another town or with other communities in a region.

The Public Safety Committee also approved a bill calling for the state Department of Health to create a statewide emergency medical services plan. The proposal calls for the state to assess the level of EMS services available in each community and create a coordinated statewide plan with goals for improvement, performance metrics and timelines for reporting data.

There was no debate and the measure passed with unanimous support. The bill, which was approved by the Health Infrastructure Committee in January, now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

[TO BAD NYS CAN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THINGS THAT REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES INSTEAD OF TRYING TO CONTROL EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE.]

FIRE SERVICE CHALLENGES

Ex-Esperance fire chief charged with stealing \$10K from EMS, memorial fund

Tyler McNeil

A former volunteer fire chief in northern Schoharie County is accused of stealing thousands of dollars from his old station and a memorial fund, according to the state comptroller's office.

Matthew Deffer, who stepped down as chief of the Esperance Volunteer Fire Department in April, was recently charged with stealing about \$10,000 in agency funds following an investigation in coordination with state law enforcement and the state comptroller's office.

According to DiNapoli's office, the 43-year-old wrote two checks to himself from the department's emergency medical services account totaling about \$3,900.

He has also been accused of taking \$5,751 from the Schoharie Fallen Firefighters Memorial account that he had sole access to. Between May and August of 2025, Deffer allegedly transferred \$2,900 in fire department funds to the account and drained it of all its funds, according to the state comptroller's office.

After the village discovered problems with the EMS account, Deffer allegedly claimed he tried to repay the funds account with a check, but the check bounced, state investigators said. Eventually, the funds were paid back by Deffer's father, according to the state comptroller's office.

Matthew Deffer is also listed as a safety officer for Schoharie County and a member of the county's Fire Advisory Board. He is still an active employee with the county, according to Schoharie County Board of Supervisors Chairman William Federice. "I can't really say what we're going to do at this time because we got the information late on Friday, and we will probably decide on how we're going to approach this whole situation tomorrow," Federice said on Sunday.

[Sixteen Cabarrus County, NC, Firefighters Facing Termination Amid Restructuring](#)

Sixteen Cabarrus County firefighters are facing termination later this year.

The decision to disband Squad 410, which could come Monday, is "not related to budget concerns or team performance.

Squad 410 -- consisting of 12 full-time and four part-time firefighters -- *was established in 2017 to help with staffing at various stations.*

The move is to "improve operational efficiency" and "reduce duplication of services," Cabarrus County Communications Director Jonathan Weaver told reporters. Weaver explained that in the past few years, departments have hired firefighter to cover shifts. If approved, the final shift for the 16 firefighters will be Oct. 29. The county will assist Squad 410 crews find "opportunities in emergency services and beyond," Weaver said.

SATISTICS FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY – PROTECTING OUR OWN

[FIREFIGHTER FATALITIES IN THE UNITED STATES](#)

30

In 2025 we experienced 78 LODDs reported nationally.!

- **Data from US Fire Administration on LODD:** <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/>
- **Information on FF injuries and deaths from the Secret List:** <https://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/>
- **Information of Fire Apparatus MVCs:** <https://www.emergencyvehiclereponse.com/>

Fire Apparatus Accidents

- A Parkersburg, WVa Fire Department truck rolled over while responding to a call . At least two people were transported to Camden Clark Medical Center. The call the fire truck was responding to turned out to be a report of burnt food.
- Two people, including a firefighter, were taken to the hospital after a crash involving a fire truck in Avondale, Ohio. Investigators said the fire truck was side swiped by another car.
- A juvenile was airlifted to Maine Medical Center Friday night after a bicycle collided with a fire truck in Harpswell, according to the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. A Cundy's Harbor Fire Department squad truck was traveling south on Cundy's Harbor Road when one of the bicycles struck its rear

bumper, the sheriff's office said. The fire apparatus drive attempted to avoid the collision but was unable to do so.

- The child sustained serious injuries

Firefighter Maydays, Serious Injuries and Deaths

- Firefighter/Paramedic Demair Lloyd, 44, suffered a medical emergency at home after his shift at Station 41, in Calverton, Prince George's County, Maryland.

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

- Home Fire Fatalities in the News: <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/civilian-fatalities/>

Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings in NYS	32
6/2/26 Moreau, Saratoga Co. Female 64 and Male 70.	
Fire Deaths in any type of Dwelling in NYS	83
Fire Deaths in 1&2 Family Dwellings Nationally	559
Top 3 States with the greatest 1&2 Family Deaths	#1 PA/ 46
	#2 NY 37
	#3 OH 36
Civilian home fire fatalities in 2026: 896	
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?	

NOTE: 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 APPARATUS

Fire Chief Considerations: Manufacturer Standardization vs. Diversification

Joseph Murray

The approach a fire department takes to procure or replace its fleet is a significant decision that can have long-term and consequential implications. Apparatus procurements involve significant capital investment, often with the expectation that the apparatus remains in active service anywhere from 10 to 25 years, and often longer in many communities.

These significant investments and long lifecycles make purchasing fire apparatus one of the most important decisions a fire chief is tasked with as it directly impacts firefighter safety, operational effectiveness, and fiscal sustainability.

One question that often comes up in apparatus procurement deliberations is whether a department should standardize its apparatus fleet with a single manufacturer or diversify across multiple manufacturers. This is an important decision, as it can significantly impact maintenance practices, training requirements, supply chain resilience, vendor relationships, and lifecycle costs. This article reviews both fleet standardization and fleet diversification and examines the advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

FLEET STANDARDIZATION ADVANTAGES

Repair and maintenance efficiencies are core benefits of standardizing the fire department fleet with a single manufacturer. Standardizing the fleet makes it easier for the fleet division to ensure consistent inspection, testing, and maintenance procedures to guarantee apparatus reliability and firefighter safety. When apparatus share common components, fire department fleet divisions can streamline diagnostic processes and reduce the number of parts required to hold in inventory. From an asset management perspective, standardized fleets

also support a more predictable lifecycle cost modeling. When the fleet is standardized under a single manufacturer, mechanics and technicians who work on apparatus can develop a deeper expertise of common systems. This expertise can lead to greater efficiencies, including reduced labor hours per task and limiting the out-of-service time of the apparatus.

Using a single apparatus manufacturer can be useful in standardizing apparatus layout and design. Standardized apparatus layouts allow firefighters to move from apparatus to apparatus with minimal need for additional training and reinforce muscle memory when operating at emergency scenes. Training programs also benefit significantly from apparatus uniformity, and they can be developed based on common aerial operations, pumping operations, and equipment deployment training around a single apparatus configuration. *This reduces overall training hours and the need for drivers or operators to retain unique information related to different manufacturers.*

Fleet standardization can lead to procurement efficiency by reducing specification and bid evaluation complexity. Repeat customers familiar with a single vendor's processes often benefit from more accurate build timelines, improved communication, and quality post-delivery support. Additionally, in some cases, fire departments that use the same apparatus vendor have a greater ability to negotiate a price reduction or stabilization by leveraging a larger volume of apparatus to be purchased.

FLEET STANDARDIZATION DISADVANTAGES

One of the most significant risks associated with standardization is dependency on a single supplier. Using a single manufacturer increases a fire department's vulnerability to supply chain issues, production delays, labor disputes, and material shortages. Apparatus manufacturing backlogs can disrupt fleet replacement schedules and extend the service life of aging units, potentially impacting reliability and safety.

Fleet standardization has the potential to hinder a department's exposure to emerging technologies. Fire apparatus manufacturers innovate at different rates. A department committed to a single vendor may be slower to adopt improvements that enhance firefighter safety and operational effectiveness. Long-term reliance on one manufacturer can lead to outdated specifications that grow stagnant when not regularly reevaluated. *Without competitive pressure, departments may continue to acquire apparatus that meet the minimum requirements of less than recent specifications but fail to reflect evolving best practices, new technologies, or changing operational realities.*

ADVANTAGES OF DIVERSIFYING THE FLEET

Different apparatus manufacturers often specialize in specific apparatus categories. Diversifying manufacturers allows fire departments to select the best designed apparatus for their intended use (engine, aerial, heavy rescue, wildland, etc.) rather than rely on a single vendor that may produce the best engines, for example, but not necessarily the best aerial trucks. In these cases, a "hybrid" approach to standardization may serve a department well. Using a single manufacturer for each type of apparatus (engines, aerials, rescues, etc.) provides the benefits of standardization while ensuring the department maintains mission-specific design and performance.

We live in challenging times when it comes to apparatus procurement. Long lead times have left many fire departments across the country in peril as new apparatus deliveries are, in many cases, delayed by years. While diversifying the fleet won't completely solve this problem, it reduces reliance on a single manufacturer that might be struggling with supply chain issues.

While using a single apparatus manufacturer can work well for a department for many years, there is always a risk of a new model, new system, or new motor coming out that will be a complete failure, resulting in excessive repairs and increased out-of-service times. Fire departments that buy multiple apparatus at a time are at risk of making purchases that do not meet expectations. Diversifying manufacturers when making a multi-apparatus purchase may reduce a department's ability to negotiate a better price, but it may also save a department from having a fleet of lemons. It is important for the fleet division to review any major changes in the design and construction of a particular manufacturer prior to purchase. One lemon can be dealt with. A fleet of lemons is an entirely different situation.

Although the fire apparatus procurement industry is trending more toward cooperative agreements, competition among manufacturers can drive innovation and result in cost containment. Putting fire apparatus out for an open bid encourages competition, which tends to encourage cost reasonableness and technical

suitability. Exposure to multiple manufacturers allows departments to more easily set benchmarks and performance goals rather than just signing onboard to an already prespecified package.

Additionally, continuing to use a single manufacturer can lead to perceptions (whether true or not) that the fire department is more concerned with acquiring the brand it wants, as opposed to seeking what is most appropriate as stewards of public funds.

FLEET DIVERSIFICATION DISADVANTAGES

Using multiple apparatus manufacturers presents a few logistical challenges for fleet divisions and apparatus maintenance and repair. Given the differences in components and systems among various apparatus manufacturers, it may prove challenging for technicians to gain the same level of expertise and proficiency when compared with a standardized fleet model. This may result in increased turnaround times or a reliance on third-party vendors. A mixed fleet also requires developing multiple standardized processes related to maintenance and repair. A diverse fleet also requires departments to maintain an expanded inventory of parts and consumables related to maintenance and repair.

Operational inconsistency is a recognized safety concern. Unfamiliar apparatus and equipment layouts can be a contributing factor to operational errors during emergency response. Variations in pump panels, cab controls, and electronic interfaces can lead to confusion and slow critical actions. A diverse fleet requires a fire department to dedicate many more hours to training firefighters to be proficient on each of the various manufacturer platforms.

Managing multiple vendors increases procurement and contract oversight demands. A diversified fleet requires rigorous warranty, service agreement, and performance metric tracking to ensure all brands are compliant with all requirements.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

The decision to standardize, diversify, or take a hybrid approach to the fire department fleet is a strategic one that has long-term operational and financial impacts. Standardizing the fleet offers efficiency, consistency, and simplified training, while diversification enhances resilience, competition, and access to innovation. When considering the best approach for the fire department's fleet, fire chiefs and fleet division staffs must ensure that decisions are grounded on their specific communities' needs, a lifecycle analysis, risk management, and mission requirements rather than simply tradition or convenience. *Ultimately, the most effective fleet strategy is one that aligns procurement decisions with firefighter safety, community risk profiles, and sustainable fiscal stewardship.*

GREEN ENERGY AND THE IMPACT ON THE FIRE SERVICE

[Lithium Battery Sparks Fire in MI Garbage Truck Near Athletic Campus](#)

Jordyn Pair, mlive.com

A lithium battery is believed to have sparked a fire in a garbage truck near the University of Michigan's athletic campus. Crews were called around 8 a.m., Tuesday, June 2 for a report of a fire inside a garbage truck near Lacrosse Stadium, 2500 S. State St., according to officials with the university and the Ann Arbor Fire Department. "Due to the quick work of firefighters, the fire was confined to the storage area and did not damage the chassis or mechanical systems," the Ann Arbor Fire Department said on social media.

The truck dumped its load so crews could effectively extinguish the fire. No one was injured, officials said. The fire may have been sparked by a lithium battery, officials with the University of Michigan said, although the incident is still under investigation.

[Train Car Burglary Leads to Lithium-Ion Battery Fire in Cajon Pass, CA](#)

Alex Wigglesworth

Los Angeles Times

A rail car ignited in flames, shutting down a major BNSF rail line for hours, after trespassers a car holding lithium-ion batteries caught fire.

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

We salute all of the kitchen help who hustle, giving up their Sunday mornings, to make these events special for all the attendees and work hard to support their fire company's. Thank you for your tough work and dedication.

GENERAL INTEREST TO ALL

Stop Running—Grow

Brendan Stackpole

“The degree to which a person can grow is directly proportional to the amount of truth he can accept about himself without running away.” —Leland Val De Wall

Change can mean many things, and it's often not “positive.”

Humans are creatures of habit. We're comfortable where we are, even if that means discomfort. If dysfunction or chaos is the norm, we find comfort in that, so much so that we resist any change. It's only when that “norm” ceases to suit us that we begin to consider change.

But what is change?

Change comes in many sizes and shapes. We can make change and still regress or make matters worse. If our norms aren't serving us anymore, then change needs to bring improvement. Change should enable self-improvement, meeting and completing goals, and a strengthening or enhancement of emotional well-being.

Change in the “forward” direction is growth.

HOW DOES ONE GROW?

Identifying the need to change or grow is a good first step. I don't care how that identifying part comes about. It can show itself in many ways. Signs will be all over. It's our job to read and listen to the signs. Having already said we don't like change, most of us won't heed the warnings or words. We'll need something much more dramatic.

Sometimes it's the infamous “rock-bottom” we all hear about. Sometimes it's the speakeasy many don't know exists under the rock-bottom. Trust me, there's a fraternity of folks who have learned the secret knock. That one truly qualifies as “you'll know when you know.” The important part is recognizing and accepting it.

The quote at the top of this article, attributed to Leland Val De Wall, illuminates the path to growth or change. You must be willing to “sit in it.” Stew in your own shit for a while, unflinching.

Accepting the raw and ugly truths about yourself is a good place to begin. Many of us never do that. We go about our days playing victim, passively or actively. If we can blame someone else, blame the system, or blame life in general, then we don't have to admit our own shortcomings.

You aren't going to like what you see or find. Being raw and real can be terrifying. If you truly look inward, it can be life-altering. It will rock your core and strip you bare.

YOU'LL HAVE TO SIT WITH IT

That's beginning to sound like a cliché these days. We hear it in many places, and it seems to be said casually. In this case, there's nothing casual about it. It sucks to sit in it. It hurts to sit in it. It's embarrassing to sit in it. But it is necessary to sit in it. It's life affirming to sit in it. It's life altering to sit in it. It's lifesaving to sit in it. The longer you're willing to sit in and with it, the better the outcome will be. Taking that time to get dirty with it, to feel it all, and in a way embrace it all will only help you grow later. This is the tilling of the soil and planting of the seeds. It's necessary to get your hands filthy, cracked and bleeding. You have to do this in order to feast on the other side of it all.

"Your vision will become clear only when you look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; Who looks inside, awakes." —Carl Jung

It's bad enough to get in there and glimpse it, admit there is rot, and unveil the nonsense. But...hold on, it gets worse. Oh, my friend, it gets so much worse.

Once you find that rot, you must clean it up. If you don't, it festers, grows, and eats like a cancer at you. This doesn't simply go away because you find it and/or admit it. Nope—no way no how. Now you become the janitor. It's on you to find the aisle that clean-up is on. This is where you bring the mop and bucket, the brushes, the towels—the tools to start a clean-up.

You'll be tempted to stop with the discovery part. You'll feel as if the answer is enough. By that I mean you will find a moment when simply hearing and admitting something is wrong inside of you will feel like healing. Don't be fooled by that. At this point, it's simply awareness. *Awareness is awesome and needed but it isn't healing. It's knowledge.*

There's a great lyric from the songwriter Todd Snider. He wrote "they tell me depression runs in the family. Well, that doesn't help me much." Just knowing isn't enough. Just knowing is a start.

The heavy lifting starts now. Roll your sleeves up and prepare to get dirty. It's going to take a serious recipe of, quite literally, blood, sweat and tears.

TAKE A MOMENT TO SMILE

Every time I try to eat healthy, along comes the 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Friday, or Tuesday and it ruins it for me.

CLASSIFIED

CAFDA IS SEEKING A TREASURER FOR OUR FIRE SERVICE NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSOCIATION.

Our current excellent treasurer has announced that he will be giving up the position as soon as we find a replacement due to increased workload with his own business. Any candidate should be familiar with Quick Books and the structure and operation of a not-for-profit organization as well as some familiarization with the operation of fire districts in New York State. CAFDA offers a stipend which won't make you rich, but you get to hang out with some great people, get free meals prior to meetings and trying to provide a service to fire district officials. The Association requires our treasurers to be bonded. If you are interested let us know by providing a resume and cover letter to secretary@cafda.net.

Station Keeper Position Available

Station Keeper position is available at **Niskayuna Fire District Two, Schenectady County**. Starting salary and medical benefits negotiable. For information email sk2@nfd2.com **Please include email and phone contact info.**

WHO ARE YOUR CAFDA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2026?

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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.

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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The D'Amato Law Group LLP
Gregory Serio, Partner
Alyssa B. Snyder, Partner
111 Washington Ave Suite 600
Albany, NY 12210
518.426.3800
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Jack Clark, Fire District Attorney
646 Plank Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065
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