

September 2021

#### **Critical Incident/Emergency Management Unit**

This is the monthly newsletter for the Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit. Please feel free to send us your comments and suggestions.



Tactical training trailer at Altamont Fair

Office of Emergency
Management

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Ph: (518) 720-8025 Fax: (518) 720-8031 Baxter Served the Albany County Sheriff's Office from September 27, 2017 to August 16, 2021. He will be sorely missed.

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers and condolences.

Chief Jerry Paris



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#### **Slingerlands Fire Department**

The "Tool Box"

Welcome to the Slingerlands Fire Department. Our featured apparatus is Rescue 3140, formerly known as Rescue 16 or "the toolbox." Rescue 3140 resides in the Town of Bethlehem serving the hamlet of Slingerlands and surrounding communities as needed.



Our department was fortune enough to be able to purchase one of the first set of Hurst Tools in Upstate New York in 1972. We have continued to upgrade as technology advances. Hydraulic rescue tools were first patented in 1961. George Hurst developed these after witnessing rescue crews take over an hour to extricate stock car drivers.

Rescue 3140 is a 2007 American LaFrance heavy rescue. The rescue is an 8-person cab. It specializes in heavy rescue and is equipped with a full set of battery powered Hurst tools which includes a combi tool, spreaders, a cutter and a ram. In addition, we carry ropes for low-angle rescue, swift/ice water rescue, cave rescue and elevator rescue. The rescue is also designed to carry forcible entry tools along with spare SCBA air cylinders for any emergency. Rescue 3140 is also equipped with tower lighting; this is great feature for lighting any scene.



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#### **Altamont Fair**

The Sheriff's Office was at the Altamont Fair last month, the Tactical training trailer and the Rock wall were both big hits.









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#### **Altamont Fair**





#### **Medusa Fest**

The Sheriff's Office was also at the Medusa Fest last month. Everyone seemed to have a great time despite the rain.

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#### **New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony**

The 24th Annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony will be held on October 5, 2021. <u>Twenty-four names</u> will be added to the Memorial Wall in the year 2021.

With last year's Ceremony being postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the  $\underline{21}$  firefighters added to the wall in  $\underline{2020}$  will also be honored at the Memorial Ceremony this year.

#### **Recruitment and Retention Car**





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Ph: (518) 720-8025 Fax: (518) 720-8031 Recruitment of new members for our Fire, EMS or Police Departments is always a priority. One way to recruit new members is to raise awareness of the need for them. The County Recruitment and Retention car is a highly visible way to raise awareness. If you have an event coming up and would like to have the Recruitment and Retention car there, just let us know.

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FIRERESCUE 1 - LEXIPOL BY JASON CAUGHEY

# How to build a fire family to foster VFD recruitment and retention

Bringing back family-focused values may be the enticement prospective members seek – or the glue that holds together the organization Jul 28, 2021

For generations, the local fire department was the cornerstone of our communities and provided a way for citizens to give back and help their fellow community members. But the modern volunteer fire service is facing declining volunteer interest and challenges in retaining members.

In our region, many rural fire departments are seeing an aging volunteer member population and a decline in attracting newer younger members. In addition, many volunteer leaders are seeing an increase in individualism and a lack of community pride, at least when compared to previous generations.

So, where does family fit into the challenge we are experiencing today?

One way to encourage the "fire family" feeling among members is to hold a monthly family meal or movie night for members and their families at the station. (Photo/Jason Caughey)

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#### THEN AND NOW: FAMILY TIME AND TECH TIME

Over the last 50 years, advancements in technology have created a dramatic shift in society. In the 1970s, most households had one TV, the phone was tethered to the wall, families sat down for dinner together, and the only news source was the evening news or the local newspaper.

Your family became your support group, your entertainment and your vision for the future. Many sons and daughters followed the model set by their parents. This was certainly true for the fire service, which benefited from the multiple generations of families that continued to cycle into the profession.

Fast forward 50 years: Many households are inundated with distractions – multiple TVs and gaming systems, cell phones that never leave our sides, and immediate notifications of local, national and international news. Many families simply don't have time for shared meals amid the myriad other extracurricular activities – or they don't prioritize family meals due to competing distractions.

Did these technological advancements further the decline in fire service volunteerism? More importantly, how can we bring back the family-focused connections to help strengthen our local recruitment of volunteers?

The key is to make family a priority! Here are five ways volunteer organizations can prioritize the fire department family.

#### 1. CREATE A FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

The chain of command in volunteer fire departments should look more like the family hierarchy, generations of grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, etc., versus chief, assistant chief, captain, etc. In the volunteer system, creating a family feel versus a militaristic feel will build an emotional connection that ultimately strengthens the family feel of the organization.

#### 2. BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Many important family conversations occur around the kitchen table. If you have spent any time in a fire station, you know that an engine crew can solve the world's problems sitting around the kitchen table. Take advantage of this by creating fire family meals. A lot of good comes from bonding around food. For small volunteer departments, provide meals prior to training or business meetings. Give members the opportunity to share their day around a plate of spaghetti. Hold a monthly family meal or movie night for members and their families at the station.

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#### 3. USE TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT

While technology may have contributed over time to the decline in volunteerism, it can also be a great tool to help bring back the family feel in your organization. Back in the day, the phone system used to have "party lines" that connected multiple people. Today we can use social media to connect our members. Create a private Facebook page or SnapChat group, for example, to connect your members, and assign two or three members to manage the accounts. Be intentional with messages and branding. Share events and stories, and connect daily.

#### 4. DEMONSTRATE VALUE THROUGH INCENTIVES

Build value into being a part of your local fire department family. Partnering with local business to provide discounted meals, movie tickets and similar benefits is a great way to build family value and create incentives for your members.

#### 5. BE PRESENT

Families come together for important events, like birthdays and graduations. The fire service should be present in your community and with your members in the same way. Show unity with your community by having the fire department and its members present at the local high school graduation or Friday night football game. Create opportunities for your members and apparatus to be a part of the community weekly or monthly.

#### THIS MAY BE JUST WHAT VOLUNTEERS WANT

As many fire departments continue to see aging membership and a decline in recruitment, the fire service should take the opportunity to reinforce the value of a fire family. Bringing back some of the family-focused values that are often sidelined in today's faced-paced world may be the enticement that prospective members are seeking – or the glue that holds together the organization amid the many distractions and competing options for members.

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### **Training Opportunities**

#### -OFPC Arson Seminar

**Dates:** November 3-5, 2021

**Venue:** Watkins Glen Community Center

#### **Description:**

Features expert speakers and presenters from government agencies, commerce and insurance. Provides information and new developments in the field of fire investigation and allows for an exchange of ideas and experiences through peer interaction. Attendance fulfills the annual New York State in-service training requirements for fire investigators.

Designed for: Fire, police, Insurance SIU and municipal officials responsible for the legal investigation and prosecution of arson

Course Length: 12 hours

Prerequisites: Introduction to Fire Investigation (01-01-0040), Fire Behavior and Arson Awareness and Principles of Fire Investigation, or equivalent

Materials Fee: \$10

Course number: 01-01-0018

#### **Signup Details**

All requests must be accompanied by Form EOSB 1220- Fire Academy Registration Form.

Forms should be emailed to AcademyRegistrationMF@dhses.ny.gov

Course Registration Fees are Non-Refundable

New York State residents — \$25

Out-of-State — \$50

#### **PAYMENT METHOD**

Fees may be paid by check, money order or signed PO/Voucher payable to "Academy of Fire Science".

If MasterCard or VISA is being used, the registration form must include a credit card number, expiration date and signature.

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#### **Albany County Volunteer Firefighter news**

The Fire Muster will be October 9th at Fort Hunter. They would like to get a good turnout to honor Chief Eck.

The Walter W Eck Biennial Fire Police Seminar scheduled for October 2nd has been canceled





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#### - Other Training Opportunities

#### **Albany County Training**

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #6 2021 is now available on our website https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/16754

Training Schedule #6 attached at end of Newsletter

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## **Training Announcement**

#### Rescue Technician-Basic

LOCATION: Niskayuna Fire District #2

DATES: October 5, 12, 16\*, 18, 23\* and 26 (\* denotes Saturday class)

TIMES: Weekdays: 18:30 - 21:30 Saturdays: 08:00 - 15:00

Rescue Technician - Basic provides a base from which to prepare students for a wide variety of possible rescue operations. This course includes an overview in areas of specialized rescue, search, technical rescue management, risks and priorities; use of ropes, knots, and rope systems in a low angle environment, and establishment of landing zones for helicopter operations. Demonstrations, practice sessions and testing are included.

Course Length: 24 hours Lead Instructor: SFI Beardsley

Locations: Niskayuna Fire District #2 (2772 Troy Schenectady Rd, Schenectady, NY 12309)

Prerequisites: None.

PRE-REGISTRATION via LMS is REQUIRED! Go to https://LMSPortal-DHSES.ny.gov

A signed, NYS Training Authorization Letter (TAL) is REQUIRED and must be submitted at first class. The TAL is available at: http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/documents/authorization.pdf

Questions? Contact:

Rick Manocchi, Schenectady County Deputy Fire Coordinator for Training Coordinator@SchenectadyFireTraining.com

Course number: 01-04-0032

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An Office of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services



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#### Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I

LOCATION: Watervliet Arsenal

Building 125 1 Buffington Street Watervliet, NY 12189

DATE: October 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31

TIMES: 8am to 5pm

**DESCRIPTION:** This is an upper level course designed for the experienced firefighter, fire instructor

candidate, fire officer candidate, or other individual who will be delivering instruction within a fire service organization. In addition to the basic knowledge, skills and abilities required for new instructors, this course prepares the candidate to meet the Instructor I job performance requirements as defined in NFPA 1041 "Fire & Emergency Services

Instructor," including delivering instruction from a prepared lesson plan,

instructional aids and evaluation instruments, adapting lesson plans, organizing the learning environment, and meeting record-keeping requirements. Students will need to read chapters 1 thru 8 of the Jones & Bartlett's Fire Service Instructor 3rd edition prior to the start of class. During class students will complete five presentations and take the Fire Instructor 1 National Certification Exam. Course includes additional homework and

independent study.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIREMENTS: Bring signed Training Authorization Letter and completed National Certification

Examination Application to the first night of class. They can be obtained at:

http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/documents/authorization.pdf

http://www.dhses.ny.gov/ofpc/documents/standards/exam.pdf

REGISTRATION: Registration is done through DHSES's new Acadis Learning Management System. You

can login to the system and obtain additional information about the system at https://LMSPortal-dhses.ny.gov or, if you already have an account, you can register

directly by clicking HERE.

QUESTIONS: Questions can be emailed to ofpc.fireservices@dhses.ny.gov.

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#### ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #6 2021

Pre-Registration Required: Students may register by clicking on the Learning Management System link on the NYS OPFC Home Page (NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services - OFPC)

Registration opens 45 days before the first class

	- <del></del>			
COURSE	LOCATION	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	PREREQUISITES

# Please Note that a <u>training authorization letter</u> is now required for all courses offered by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control

Firefighter 2 IN PROGRESS	Guilderland Tower	August 26, September 2, 7, 9, 14, 21, 26, October 7, 14, 19, 21, 26  November 2	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Fire Police IN PROGRESS	Rensselaerville	September 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, October 4	Collins	None
Principals of Instruction	Knox	October 5, 7,14, 19, 26	DeGroff	None
Live Fire Training	Latham	November 22 1830-2230	DeGroff	None
Fire Service Instructor I  NEW TO SCHEDULE	Watervliet Arsenal	October 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 0800-1700	Bachner	None Registration is done through DHSES'S new Learning Management System LMS.
Water Rescue Awareness	Onesquethaw	December 6 1800-2200	Molesky	None

Unless changed by instructor or noted above: All evening classes will be held from 19:00-22:00 hours.

All Saturday and Sunday classes will be held from 09:00-12:00 hours and 13:00-16:00 hours



Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris

