

April 2022

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

This is the monthly newsletter for the Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit. If you have events that you would like posted in this newsletter please email them to the Fire Coordinator's office.



Albany Firefighters Museum

Office of Emergency

Management

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Recruit NY



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#### **ALBANY FIRE MUSEUM**

The museum is located at 384-386 Broadway Albany across from SUNY Central Plaza and is open from 1-3 every Sunday and by appointment. Call William Tobler at 518-428-1025.

This year the Department of Fire and Emergency Services of the City of Albany (Albany Fire Department) has been in service for 155 years. However, is this the true age of the department?

The Albany Firefighters Museum, established in 2014, has been conducting an extensive search to discover the origins of the Albany Fire Department.

With the appointment of Anthony Opalka, Cornell graduate and Albany City Historian, as museum director, the museum under his direction has been organized and recognized by the museum community. The New York State Museum, the New York State Archives, and the New York State Library, have stepped forward in assisting in the research of the department, as well as the Albany Institute of History and Art and the Albany Public Library. In addition, board members William Schmitt and Peter Hans, along with Campbell Higle, Trinity College Department of History graduate, have added to the many hours of reviewing forgotten archives. The Albany County Hall of Records has been the museum's main resource for the research.

There were three ledgers found, dating from the mid-1700s to 1927. The oldest ledger revealed fire companies and rosters of men serving up to 1801. It provided the dates of each fire company's establishment, including a retirement list of men serving 20 years in each fire company and their dates of retirement. The second ledger accounted for the establishment of volunteer fire companies from 1801 to 1867, listing the last volunteer fire company to be formed, Engine 15, in 1866. Each company is noted with the date of its establishment along with a complete roster of men appointed by date. This total of men appointed is in the thousands.

This ledger also contains the reorganization of the volunteer department to a paid department between 1849 and 1857, with an annual salary of \$30.00 per year for each of the 700 men required to hand-pull the apparatus and hand-pump the engines. Finally, this ledger was compiled from each company's records. It's all in cursive, written by one individual. The third ledger contains the first group of names of firefighters appointed to the paid fire department of today, with most men being appointed after June 1867. This ledger is more detailed, with facts about the individual men appointed to the department up until 1927, listing such additional details such as promotion dates, transfers, charges, injuries and

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separation of service. The last ledger reveals what connects the present department to its early days, including the names of 20 firefighters from the old volunteer department who had transferred over to the new 1867 paid department. By 1890, 5 of the 20 appointed had died in the line of duty.

The museum is developing the story of the individuals who served during the different periods of the department. The museum has been establishing a collection of items from individuals which have been on display. These displays represent the personal lives of these firefighters.

If the reader has any knowledge of a past family member who may have served the Albany Fire Department at any time, please contact the museum for more details. The museum is dedicated to bring to life the stories of these individual firefighters, and the only way we can succeed is with the contributions of current family members or friends of past firefighters.

The Albany Firefighters Museum has been developing and adding resources from research and donations. The generosity of people like you will help to develop the story of the brave firefighters who have gone before us.

In celebration of the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the paid Albany Fire Department, a history of the department and its houses is going to be published this year.





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#### Four County Haz-Mat Team Exercise 2022

The four County Haz-Mat Team held their annual spring exercise at the Watervliet Arsenal on April 13th. There was a class on Lithium Ion Battery fires presented by Lt. John Cassidy from the FDNY Hazmat Unit.

Then the group was split up to go through 4 Haz Mat stations;

Station 1 sampling techniques—OFPC

Station 2 METERS 265 a kits, ph. paper, oxidizer paper, 4 gas with pid and area capabilities, dragger tubes - Lt Jim Penn, Schenectady FD.

Station 3 Chemical suicide—Capital Region Forensic Hazmat Team

Station 4 National Grid case review

This exercise was in preparation for a full exercise this fall.





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FIRE RESCUE 1 BY LEXIPOL CHRIS DELBELLO

Training & Tactics

# MCI training: 8 key factors to incorporate into realistic drills

Confidence can only be obtained through realistic MCI drills that truly test the system. In a time where high-tech air-conditioned classrooms are taking over most training divisions in the fire service, we must recognize there are times when this approach simply won't serve our members in the best way possible. Nothing beats realistic hands-on training when preparing our members for a mass-casualty incident (MCI). There is literally no comparison. Just as fire service organizations vary in size, equipment and capability, MCIs can vary in scope and require different response models. No single response works for all organizations or incident types. The only true way to know if your command officers, company officers and crewmembers are prepared is through realistic training and drills.



To make an MCI run smoothly, you need to conduct large-scale drills – as realistic as possible and as many drills as your members can handle.

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#### TWO TYPES OF MCIS, ONE SOLUTION

There are two types of MCI events – the ones you can plan for and everything else.

The ones you can prepare for include events like the Super Bowl or World Series. You have time to arrange resources, like an area command, and have a medical sector pre-staged. Then there are those spontaneous events, such as chemical plant explosions, plane crashes, train accidents and mass shootings that are unexpected. Regardless of which scenario we are dispatched to next, training is key.



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To make an MCI run smoothly, you need to conduct large-scale drills – as realistic as possible and as many drills as your members can handle. Training will certainly differ agency to agency. Same with the response approach.

For example, I work in the fourth-largest fire department in the nation. I also work for a much smaller organization with only two stations and six members per shift. Obviously, these departments are going to have different approaches to an MCI, as the larger department will have more resources. But contrary to what you might think, smaller departments also require complex MCI plans and training, as their resources will be strained faster than a larger department.

#### ASSESSMENT TIME

It's sometimes hard to know where to begin with planning for an MCI. The first step is typically to assess your current situation:

- Do you think your organization is prepared for a large-scale MCI?
- Has training been sufficient?
- Are members mentally prepared for this type of event?
- Do they have the resources necessary for a successful outcome?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, I will just assume you are fooling yourself, your entire organization and the public. Yes, many organizations have guided an MCI to a conclusion, but they most always had a long list of items that they wish they had had available or actions they wish they had done differently. No MCI goes perfectly. There's always more we can do to improve. Many of these issues come up during post-incident debriefings, but others may only be acknowledged through personal evaluation.

#### **MCI REALITIES**

We must be realistic about these responses and our training for them. Yes, we need a starting point when we arrive on location, but this starting point shouldn't default to an IC standing Side Alpha with a checklist in their hands. And this really shouldn't be the default starting point if the actual incident occurred on the fourth level of the Charlie side of a football stadium with 50,000 spectators, some of whom are panicked and have lost all common sense in their effort to escape whatever the event may be. Let's also not forget that an active shooter on the run will widen your incident footprint.

Unless you have a bona fide plan for every single potential occupancy and every single large-scale event that occurs within your response territory, which is highly unlikely and highly impractical, my suggestion is that you focus on the basics and communications. Unless your resources are sitting in staging for the entire event, you should expect a certain level of confusion, chaotic radio traffic and slowed progress for the first 20 minutes.

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Whatever resources you have available, whether local, regional of state assets, include them in your next MCI drill. This will give everyone a good idea of what the working relationships are, the reflex time required to place the asset in operation, and the opportunity for everyone to become familiar with each other's operations and capabilities.





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#### MORE FOCUSED TRAINING

Unless we focus all our time and effort on MCI training, which is obviously not feasible, the only thing we can expect for certain is confusion. It might be controlled, but it's still confusion.

To help limit this confusion, we should focus our MCI training and drills on the following: ICS; dispatchers and call-takers; strict radio communications; response avenues; staging operations; triage, treatment and transport operations; working with additional agencies; and, for a realistic experience, how to manage confusion – a lot of confusion. Let's review each.

ICS: Not many events will test your understanding and use of the ICS – and your ability to remain calm – more than a large-scale MCI. Training and drills need to be an in-person, physical event, not merely studying a guideline, a PowerPoint presentation or table top.

When an IC participates in a drill, regardless of what the scenario may be, they will gain a better understanding of the ICS, become more fluid with radio traffic and learn how to better organize such events to bring them to a more controlled end. Further, MCI drills give the IC a rare opportunity to expand the ICS beyond that of our daily structure fire framework. The IC will realize the importance of assigning and communicating with the operations section, plus additional branches and divisions, if they actively participate in the drill.

**Dispatchers and call-takers:** Questions for the callers should be focused on the type of event, exact location (not just an address) and number of victims, as well as whether the scene is still active in some manner. They also need to continue pressing for

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additional information as the companies are responding. This information must be passed onto the responding companies quickly, and it must paint a picture and make sense. The information transmitted to incoming companies should lead them directly to or very close to the heart of the MCI until resources are in place for a formal staging location.

**Radio communications:** Radio communications must be condensed and limited when necessary but still effective enough to get the message across in a calm voice. Every department has members who are yellers and air-time hogs. These folks are counterproductive during an MCI and need to be controlled from the beginning to limit the chaos that could ultimately prevail. Realistic training drills will improve this aspect of our MCI response.

Response avenues: Once command has been established by the first-arriving company or chief officer, a single response avenue should be determined. That way, resources are assigned from staging to the treatment/transport area, they use a single known route instead of coming from multiple directions. This plan should be incorporated into your response guidelines to help limit the confusion of responding and staged companies. Realistic training drills will improve the coordination of this aspect of an MCI and make all vehicle traffic more fluid.

**Staging operations:** Incorporate staging into your next MCI drill. The lack of a formal staging area and officer could lead to congestion and an uncoordinated response into the MCI area. Appoint a formal staging officer, and add additional channels to limit the chaos created on the operational channels. Understanding this aspect of response and actually drilling on this prior to an event will provide an additional level of competency for the real deal.

**Triage, treatment and transport:** This always been a difficult and time-consuming aspect to MCIs. There is either too much time spent on triage or on locating the actual victims that require medical attention.

In your next drill, add participants who do not require medical attention. A realistic number would be 1,000 to 1 but, of course, it's not realistic to find that many willing participants. However, the more you can add, the more realistic the event would be for your triage, treatment and transport crews. Requiring them to wade through a sea of uninjured panicked participants to find the actual patient and begin the triage process is about as realistic as one could get.

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NVFC

MATIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE COUNCIL

FIRE • EMS • PESCUE

Columbia Southern University is proud to award two scholarships to members of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). Each scholarship will cover up to 60 credit hours towards one online degree program. The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition for up to three years or until the completion of the selected online degree program, whichever comes first.

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

Be a member of the NVFC. If you are not currently an NVFC member, <u>visit the NVFC</u> <u>website</u> to learn about membership benefits and join the NVFC

Be a volunteer responder

Complete the CSU/NVFC Scholarship application

Submit a 500-word essay on this subject: "Explain how the opportunity to continue your education through this scholarship will advance your participation in the fire and emergency services or enhance your ability to contribute back to the emergency services community."

Provide at least one letter of recommendation (from a teacher or someone at the fire department you reported to directly)

Must not have previously earned a scholarship through CSU or the NVFC

Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED), and be able to provide a transcript Be able to begin coursework within 90 days of the date of the award

Maintain a 2.0 undergraduate GPA or 3.0 graduate GPA

Remain in good standing with CSU and NVFC throughout his or her degree program Maintain continuous enrollment in the CSU degree program

Current CSU students must already meet these requirements to be considered

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### **Application Process**

The scholarship will be open from May 18, 2022 through August 17, 2022. An NVFC Scholarship Committee will select the winners. Winners will be announced in October. All applicants will receive an email notifying them of the decision.

Questions? Please email our scholarship liaison at scholarships@columbiasouthern.edu or call 888-785-3006.



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## NYSAFC 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE & FIRE 2022 EXPO



### JUNE 15-18, 2022 THE ONCENTER • SYRACUSE, NY



Join NYSAFC in Syracuse at the largest fire industry, rescue, and EMS expo in the Northeast! Featuring hundreds of exhibitors, nearly 40 fire and EMS classroom education programs, eight Hands-On Training sessions, and networking events for fire and EMS personnel of all ranks, there's something for everyone at FIRE 2022!

To Register: https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/fire2022attendees

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## COSMO STRIGARO ANNUAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

JULY 30-31, 2022 FASNY FIREMEN'S HOME HUDSON, NY

TO REGISTER FOR GAME AND/OR CAMPING: HTTPS://FASNY.COM/ EVENTS/COSMO-STRIGANO-ANNUAL-SOFTBALL-TOURNAMENT/

The Annual Cosmo Strigaro New York State Volunteer Firefighters Softball Tournament will be held Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>. The softball games will be played on the immaculate fields at the Firemen's Home in Hudson, NY.

Sign up your department or attend this event for some of the best slow pitch softball in the state. Visit the Firemen's Home and the FASNY Museum of Firefighting.





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### **NYSAFC 2022 SEMINAR SERIES**

NYSAFC 2022 Seminar Series "The Five Points of Command" With Chief/Commissioner Michael Lombardo, Buffalo Fire Department Three-Hour Seminar:

The fire ground is a dynamic, ever-changing environment. It can be a daunting challenge for firefighters, company officers, and chief officers to control an emergency situation. A cohesive and smart incident action plan is critical and key to successfully controlling the chaos that we so often respond to. Personnel must understand the components of the incident action plan and how this plan effects all facets of the operation and all who are operating to attain success. Remember, this plan isn't just for and about incident commanders, but rather a framework for all on the fire ground to operate with. Whether you are a new firefighter or the chief of department, having, implementing, and understanding the incident action plan will provide the clarity and coordination for a safe and successful operation.



#### **Instructor Michael Lombardo:**

Mike Lombardo is a 43-year veteran of the fire service and was the commissioner/chief of department of the Buffalo Fire Department from 2006-2010. He is a New York state fire instructor and was a member of the development team for the New York State Firefighter Survival and Rapid Intervention programs. Lombardo has also served as a Hands-On Training instructor for NYSAFC. He is a two-time *Firehouse* magazine Heroism Award recipient and is the FDIC 1999 Tom Brennan Training Achievement Award recipient. In 2015, Lombardo was a contributor for the NFFF documentary "Giving Courage: LODD Chiefs Speak." He provides consulting services across the United States and serves as an instructor on fire tactics, live fire attack, firefighter survival, command, and fire department operations. Lombardo is also a member of the board of directors of the Fire Department Training Network, where he developed the Fire Command program. He is currently an active member of the East Amherst Fire Department and is a past assistant chief of the Christiana (DE) Fire Department.

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#### **Registration Fee:**

**\$35 per person –** NYSAFC Individual and Department Members **\$50 per person –** Non-Members

Seating is limited at some sites. Pre-registration is encouraged. On-site registration will be accepted if space permits.

October 24 – 7:00 p.m. – Albany County, Village of Ravena Fire Department • 116 Main Street • Ravena, NY 12143

To Register: <a href="https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events\_Training/Seminar%20Series%">https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events\_Training/Seminar%20Series%</a> 202022%20Flyer Form%204.jpg



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### **Albany County Training**

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #3 2022 is now available on our website and attached at end of newsletter.

https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/19156/637840787937500000



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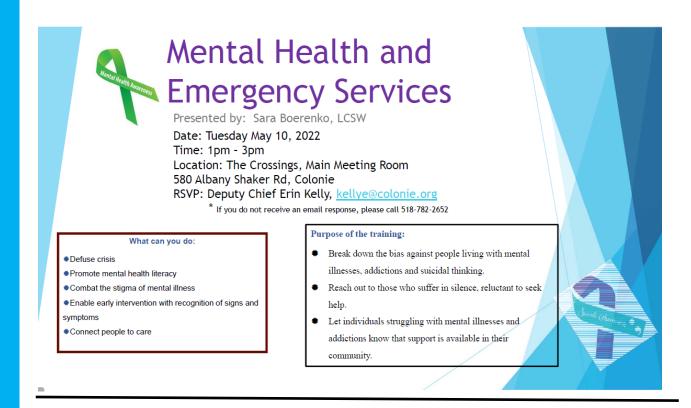
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Ph: (518) 720-8025 Fax: (518) 720-8031 If you need recruitment lawn signs for your Recruit NY event please contact Paul Miller at 518-720-8034 or 518-320-4213



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### **Article Submissions Requested**

Do you have an idea for an article for our newsletter?

Do you have a talent for writing?

Is there an area that you have a strong knowledge or interest in?

If so, please contact us. We are always looking for valuable information to pass on to the Emergency Services Community. If you seen an interesting article, let us know.

Please contact:

Chief Paul Miller Albany County Fire Coordinator's Office paul.miller@albanycountyny.gov (518) 720-8034

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### ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #3 2022

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

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 I Certification Colonie MTB

December 1st: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer At Orientation: Training

Must Attend with Student Authorization Letter

(BEFO/SCBA Interior

Firefighter Operations) BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)

January 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 19,24, 26, 31, February 5 7, 9, 14, 16, 28, March 2, 7, 9,14, 16, 21, 23,28

Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical

Clearance to wear SCBA,

IN PROGRESS SCBA/IFO: March 3/30, April 4,6, 11, 13, 25, 27,

May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 26

1830-2130

17, 19 1830-2130

February 5<sup>th</sup> 0800-2200 Instructor - Collins

I THO GILLOS

IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting7th Edition

Curriculum

SCBA-IFO
Guilderland Tower
March 22, 24, 29, 31,
April 5, 7, 12, 14, 26,
28, May 3, 5, 10, 12,

Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations
w/HMFRO

Truck Company Operations In Progress	Elsmere	February 23, March 2, 26, 30, April 6, 23, Weeknights 1830- 2130 Saturdays 0900-1500	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent and SCBA Qualified
Fire Police NEW TO SCHEDULE	Slingerlands	April 2, 9, 16, 19 Saturdays 0800-1500 April 19: 1900-2200	Collins	None
NFA – Incident Safety Officer	Elsmere	April 18, 20, 25, 27, May 2, 4 1830-2130	Clawson	None
Courage To Be Safe NEW TO SCHEDULE	Selkirk FD Station #1	April 30 0830-1430	French	None
FAST NEW TO SCHEDULE	Guilderland Tower	April 30: 0830-1430 and May 7: 0830- 1730	Kerr	Firefighter: Self Rescue or Equivalent & SCBA Qualified
NYS Traffic Incident Management NEW TO SCHEDULE	Slingerlands	April 30 0800-1500	Collins	None
SCBA Confidence	Elsmere	May 16, 18, 23, 25	Clawson	Firefighter I or Equivalent & SCBA Qualified
Rescue Technician Basic	Colonie MTB	May 24, 31, June 2, 7, 9, 11 Weeknights 1830 Saturday 0800-1700	DeGroff	None
Firefighter II	Guilderand Tower	June 8, July 20, August 24, September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2 Weeknights 1830	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivlet

Firefighter II Boot Camp	Guilderand Tower	June 14, July 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, August 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 Weeknights 1830 Saturday 0800	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivlet
Apparatus Operator - Aerial Device	Colonie MTB	June 16, 23, 28, 30, July 12, 28, 30, Weeknights 1830 Saturday 0900-1500	Molesky	Scene Support Operations/Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations or Equivalent
Apparatus Operator- Pump <b>Boot Camp</b>	Colonie MTB	June29, July 9, 10, 11 Weeknight 1830 Weekend 0800-1700	DeGroff	Scene Support Operations/Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations or Equivalent
Apparatus Operator - Emergency Vehicle Operator	Slingerlands	September 6, 8, 13, 15, 17 Weeknights 1830 Saturday 0800	DeGroff	Driver's License
Truck Company Operations  NEW TO SCHEDULE	Colonie MTB	September 14, 21, 26, 28, October 3, 10, 15 Weeknights 1830- 2130 Saturday 0900-1500	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent and SCBA Qualified
Fire Instructor II	Watervliet Arsenal	September 30, October 1, 2, 8, 9 0800-1700	OFPC	Fire Service Instructor I There is a lengthy pre-course reading assignment, and students complete a pre-test, final exam, independent assignments, and one presentation during the course. Course includes homework and independent study. There is a dress code for candidates attending this course.
Apparatus Operator- Pump	Slingerlands	October 11, 13, 18,20, 22, 25 Weeknights 1830 Saturday 0800	DeGroff	Scene Support Operations/Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations or Equivalent
Principals of Instruction	Elsmere	November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5	Clawson	None

Vehicle Rescue: Operations Level	Onesquethaw	November 7, 9, 14, 16, 21	DeGroff		None
Fire Instructor II	Watervliet Arsenal	November 28, 29, 30, December 1, 2	Bachner		Fire Instructor I There is a lengthy pre-course reading assignment, and students complete a pre-test, final exam, independent assignments, and one presentation during the course. Course includes homework and independent study. There is a dress code for candidates attending this course.
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		Castalan d	Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris		