



# Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

May 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.**



## Colonie Fire Company Trench Rescue Team

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Events

Training

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## Colonie Fire Company Trench Rescue Team

By John Moser

In 1996 the Town of Colonie Fire Advisory Board, made up of the 12 Town Department Chiefs, decided rather than every department trying to train on every specialty they would divide them up and have certain departments assume responsibility for one specific specialty. The five areas were Confined space, Hazmat, Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue and Water Rescue.

The Colonie Village Fire Co. and the Village of Colonie began to dedicate themselves and commit the necessary resources to provide a Trench Rescue Team. For two years the planning, training and collection of equipment was undertaken. Without the commitment and support from The Village of Colonie Board members, this entire project would have been impossible.

The Team went into service in November of 1998. What started as a local program providing Trench Rescue to the 12 departments within the Town of Colonie Mutual Aid Plan has grown into a true regional response team. We have responded to Trench Rescue calls not only in Albany County but in Rensselaer County, Schenectady County, Saratoga County, Columbia County and Greene County. Requesting agencies have included Fire/Rescue Departments, EMS Agencies and Police Agencies from those areas. The team has spent thousands of man hours and tens of thousands of dollars equipping, preparing, and training for this endeavor. We also have yearly training and requalification for members.

An important aspect of our Team is that we also provide an outreach education program on awareness and home department responsibilities regarding Trench Rescue incidents. We deliver this at no cost to the requesting departments or agencies.

Our first Trench Rescue call Was in December of 1998 and our most recent Trench Rescue was in August of 2021.



Menands 12/2/1998

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Starting a Technical Rescue Team may sound easy but as anyone who has done this knows it is anything but! Considerations of training, what type of equipment would be needed, how to pay for that equipment, where to put that equipment and how to get that equipment to the scene became priorities.

Training today would be simple, take the NYS Trench Rescue program of Awareness, Operations and Technician level classes but there was no NYS Training available at that time. The curriculum was just being developed. The Company did research and developed a training program based on the best available information at the time. We were very fortunate in that the members completely supported this effort and were extremely dedicated to spending countless hours developing and completing this training. Once the State Program was up and available, the members again dedicated themselves to completing that training and we had 32 members trained to the Technician level. We also do at least 1 "live dig drill" every year as a refresher.

Equipment was another issue to be dealt with. With a limited budget for equipment, we started out with just the basics. Plywood panels and 4x4 struts. Pneumatic struts were just beginning to be available but expensive. Since the inception of this team with Village, Department and Grant money, (Successful Grant requests included N.Y. State, Albany County and Federal AFG Grants), we have established one of the most extensive Trench Rescue Caches in the State.

While the equipment was being acquired, the issue of where and how this equipment would be carried and delivered was addressed. Originally, we purchased a 16ft trailer pulled by the Department Pick up truck. As the equipment cache became larger and heavier this option was becoming less viable and the process of replacement was begun. The Village allowed us to purchase a 24ft International box truck. Once again, the members stepped up and built out and customized the interior to meet the needs of this type of response. This unit complete with a 180CFM PTO compressor has been very successful for our needs.



Rotterdam, N.Y.

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With Training completed and the basic equipment secured the Team went in service in late November 1998. On December 2, 1998, we were dispatched to our first Trench Rescue call in Menands with a successful removal of the patient. Since then, we have been involved with 3 other Trench Collapse calls that resulted in a successful patient outcome. The most recent of which was in August of 2021. We have also been called to the unexpected types of collapse calls. An example is when a road washed out and a car was taken down the hill and the resulting slide trapped the patient in the car. A dirt bike driving thru an excavation after a storm and the rider and his bike were trapped in mud up to his chest. We all know the good also comes with the tragic. Unfortunately, we have also been involved with several calls needing body recoveries.

Despite all the initial challenges we have been able to develop and sustain a well-equipped, well qualified regional asset We are very proud and fortunate to still be in service and available.

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## Fire and Water responses to libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural organizations

Below is an article from the Capital New York Alliance for Response. Please feel free to use them as a resource when developing a pre-plan for libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural organizations within your response area. Most of these facilities will have wet sprinkler systems however some smaller collections may not have a fire protection system.



### Capital New York Alliance for Response:

New York is at high risk for natural disasters and emergencies. Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties have experienced hundreds of declared flooding events over the past 20 years, events that have wreaked havoc on our cultural heritage. Fires, some intentional, have destroyed libraries, museums, town centers, parks, historic sites, residential and commercial properties, eliminating tangible reminders of shared history for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Recognizing the importance of communication in the event of a disaster, the Capital New York Alliance for Response, with a volunteer advisory board of area experts, works to build strong partnerships among cultural stewards and first responders in the Capital Region to plan for the protection of our collections. We do this through advocacy, education, networking, and real-time emergency assistance. CapNYAFR is dedicated to serving Capital District libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural organizations as well as disaster planners, first responders, and recovery specialists. The more we understand about our respective roles in responding to an emergency the greater chance we have to minimize loss and damage to our historic sites and valued collections.

Founded in 2016, the CapNYAFR has sponsored symposia bringing together Federal, State, and local emergency personnel with representatives of the cultural heritage community in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties. In addition, the Alliance has hosted workshops and webinars on disaster planning for Libraries Archives and Museums. Recordings of recent online workshops are available on our website <https://capnyaftr.org/>. Advisory Board members have assisted numerous local institutions respond to collection emergencies ranging from mold outbreaks to roof collapses floods, and fires.

If you are interested in learning more about the CapNYAFR, touring local cultural heritage institutions or becoming involved with the Alliance please contact the co-chairs John Diefenderfer, Archivist, New York State Archives at [john.diefenderfer@nysed.gov](mailto:john.diefenderfer@nysed.gov) or Karen Kiorpes, Preservation Librarian SUNY Albany at [kkiorpes@albany.edu](mailto:kkiorpes@albany.edu).

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2018 Brazil museum fire: 'incalculable' loss as 200-year-old Rio institution gutted  
By Guardian News Website



2011 Flooded Basement  
Schoharie County building



2011 Mold growing on volumes  
of mortgages Schoharie County

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Roof collapse and water pipe break at Riverview Center in Menands 2016

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### PIX 11 Morning News

#### **E-bike, scooter batteries spark Sunset Park fire, 15 apartments vacated after blaze**

**By Aliza Chasan, Shirley Chan**

SUNSET PARK, Brooklyn (PIX11) — Batteries from e-bikes and scooters sparked a Monday morning fire that left a number of Brooklyn residents without homes, officials said.

A fire broke out in a Seventh Avenue building near 54th Street around 7 a.m., officials said. By 7:50 a.m. it had been escalated to a three-alarm blaze. More than 130 members of the FDNY worked to knock back the fire.

Only one civilian was injured, an FDNY official said. The individual was treated on the scene and refused transport to a hospital. There was also a firefighter who suffered a minor injury.

The building has 39 units and 15 of them were vacated because of the fire, according to the Red Cross. The agency is helping displaced residents with temporary lodging.

After discerning the fire was caused by lithium-ion batteries from e-bikes and scooters, the FDNY advised New Yorkers to always follow the manufacturer's instructions for charging and storage.

"When these scooters are involved in a fire, the batteries can overheat and cause spontaneous combustion. The fire department procedure is to pull them out of the building and turn them over to our Hazardous Materials unit," FDNY Deputy Assistant Chief John Sarracco said.

In September of 2021, a deadly Queens fire was started by an e-bike battery. Fires sparked by the batteries have caused a number of deaths and injuries, fire officials said at the time.

"Always use the manufacturer's cord and power adapter made specifically for the device," the FDNY tweeted. "If a battery overheats, discontinue use immediately."

Forensic engineers and inspectors from the Department of Buildings checked out the scene of the fire and conducted a structural stability inspection, officials said. While there, they determined that a business on the first floor was being used "as an electric scooter repair business and battery storage, contrary to the legal occupancy of the building."

The DOC issued three violations to the landlord. The violations were for occupancy contrary to the certificate of occupancy, failure to properly maintain the building and failure to maintain the exterior walls of the building.

The inspectors also issued a partial vacate order for 15 apartments and five commercial stores on the ground floor.

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Be aware that many times these e-bikes and scooters are stored inside residences so they represent an additional hazard you may encounter at a structure fire.

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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, visit the NVFC website to learn about membership benefits and join the NVFC. [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org)

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

## 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](mailto: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/](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.

#### **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: [https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events Training/Seminar%20Series%202022%20Flyer\\_Form%204.jpg](https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events%20Training/Seminar%20Series%202022%20Flyer_Form%204.jpg)

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# Albany County Sheriff's Office

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## Albany County Training

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #3 2022 is now available on our website .

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

### Truck Company Operations

**There is a Truck Company Operations on our training schedule starting September 14<sup>th</sup> in Colonie.** Do you like to break stuff? Do you want to know how to quickly get in that front door when the Incident Commander tells you to “take it”? Want to be more confident when you’re told to “vent the roof”? **THIS IS THE CLASS FOR YOU!**

**For years, we have been struggling with the public perception that our “Truck Company Ops” course is only for departments that run a piece of aerial apparatus. Help us to spread the word that this is not the case! Chiefs: please talk to your firefighters about the importance of this class!**

Firefighting requires a lot of training and constant learning. Courses like Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations (BEFO) and Interior Firefighting Operations (IFO) are meant to teach the basics to new firefighters. Those classes are just the building blocks. There are many more courses offered through the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

Every fire requires us to do two things: put water on the fire (Engine Company Operations), and ventilation and forcible entry (Truck Company Operations). The Truck Company Operations course is a class that all interior firefighters should take. This course provides instruction for using equipment usually assigned to a Truck Company: operating ground ladders, forcible entry, operating and maintaining specialized tools, ventilation, building construction, and search and rescue.

Note that there is no requirement to actually own a “Truck” to take this course! Smaller departments that only run engines still need to be experts in all of these skills! Truck Company Operations is a great way to help to develop and perfect those skills.

### 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](mailto:paul.miller@albanycountyny.gov)

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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 - OPFC](#) )**

Registration opens 45 days before the first class

COURSE	LOCATION	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	PREREQUISITES
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**Please Note that a training authorization letter is now required for all courses offered by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control**

<p><b>Firefighter I Certification</b></p> <p>(BEFO/SCBA Interior Firefighter Operations)</p> <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p>IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7th Edition Curriculum</p>	<p>Colonie MTB</p>	<p><b>December 1<sup>st</sup>: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer Must Attend with Student</b></p> <p><i>BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><i>SCBA/IFO: March 3/30, April 4, 6, 11, 13, 25, 27, May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 26</i></p> <p>1830-2130 February 5<sup>th</sup> 0800-2200 Instructor - Collins</p>	<p><b>At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter</b></p> <p><b>Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,</b></p>	
<p><b>SCBA-IFO</b></p> <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p>	<p>Guilderland Tower</p>	<p>March 22, 24, 29, 31, April 5, 7, 12, 14, 26, 28, May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19</p> <p>1830-2130</p>	<p>DeGroff</p>	<p>Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations w/HMFRO</p>

Truck Company Operations <b>In Progress</b>	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 <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	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 <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	Selkirk FD Station #1	April 30 0830-1430	French	None
FAST <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	Guilderland Tower	April 30: 0830-1430 and May 7: 0830-1730	Kerr	Firefighter: Self Rescue or Equivalent & SCBA Qualified
NYS Traffic Incident Management <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	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 <b>Boot Camp</b>	Guilderand Tower	June 14, July 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, August 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 Weeknights 1830 Saturday 0800	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivalent
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	June 29, 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 <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	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.
<p><b>Unless changed by instructor or noted above:</b>  <b>All evening classes will be held from 19:00-22:00 hours.</b></p> <p><b>All Saturday and Sunday classes will be held from 09:00-12:00 hours  and 13:00-16:00 hours</b></p>			 <p><b>Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris</b></p> 