



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

July 2023

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.**



Firetruck rollover accident in Virginia

In this issue

Why we should wear a seat belt
Rescue Tech Basic class
Firefighter 1 boot camp
Training our members for Fire Prevention presentations
Training

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There were two firetruck roll over accidents recently where firefighters were ejected and seriously injured. This is to remind you that you should wear your seatbelt at all times when traveling in fire apparatus. This is the law in New York State.

Please see articles below from Fire Rescue 1 by Lexipol

Ky. firefighter ejected in fire truck rollover

The Glencoe firefighter was responding to a car fire when the fire truck went off the road

June 12, 2023 at 11:09 AM

By Bill Carey
FireRescue1

GALLATIN COUNTY, Ky. — A Kentucky firefighter is recovering from injuries he received when the fire truck he was driving rolled over, ejecting him.

The Glencoe volunteer firefighter was responding to a car fire when he encountered a vehicle on a narrow, one-lane road, [WKRC](#) reported. The firefighter moved the fire engine to the shoulder and one of the rear wheels went off the road.

"When he did, he lost control of the truck and it overturned several times into a field. He's in serious condition and he's had multiple surgeries to repair fractures in his back," Glencoe Fire Chief Bud Webster said.

Investigators said the driver over-corrected and when the tire went back on the road, the fire engine overturned multiple times and ejected the driver, [WCPO reported](#).

Webster said the loss of the fire engine is significant for the department.

"All of our trucks haul more water than the average fire truck, we need every piece of water we can get," Webster said. "With us being down 1,500 gallons of water on that truck, we'll probably likely increase mutual aid for other tankers to that area."

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First responder seatbelt safety

Jun 5, 2022

Gordon Graham here with Today's Tip from Lexipol. Today's Tip is for everyone in public safety and it deals with: WEARING YOUR SEATBELT!

Seriously, here's the bottom line. If you're in a crash, wearing your seat belt is the single most effective step you can take to ensure your [safety](#).

I'm continually astounded, I am amazed, I am outraged by the number of first responders, allegedly smart people, who are injured or killed every year in crashes from not wearing their seat belts. WHY? I've heard it all. "Wearing it slows my reaction time." "What if I'm trapped in the vehicle?" These are excuses – or at best, unfounded fears – that aren't backed up by the numbers.

Nationwide, almost 50% of people killed in car crashes were unrestrained. The NHTSA estimates that seat belts saved almost 15,000 lives in 2017 alone. Based on those numbers, the use of seat belts could have saved an additional 2,549 people that same year. Tragic, to say the least! People are not wearing their seatbelts.

You know, wearing a seat belt just makes sense. Remember that old saying about motorcycle riders? There are two kinds of motor riders: Those who have been down and those who are going down.

We can say the same thing about driving emergency vehicles. As a motor cop, I never had the option of wearing a seat belt. But if you're driving anything other than a motorcycle, you have enhanced safety measures at your disposal – including your seatbelt.

So, the next time you get into your vehicle, buckle up your seat belt. And leave it on until you're ready to get out. Take this quick, easy, and painless step to make sure you [go home safe](#).

In closing, how many times have I heard this, from smart people. "Gordon, I am exempt from the laws requiring a seatbelt." **(Not true in NYS)** Well that might be true my friend, but you are never exempt from the laws of physics.

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Ga. firefighters ejected in fire truck rollover

After blowing a tire the newly purchased ladder truck overturned on its way to its new home

June 12, 2023 8:54 AM

By Bill Carey
FireRescue1

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, Va. — Two Georgia firefighters were injured when the fire truck they were driving blew a tire and overturned on Interstate 95 in Virginia.

The 1999 ladder truck had been purchased by the Waynesville, Georgia Fire Department from Granville, New York, when a rear tire blew and caused the driver to lose control, [The Progress Index](#) reported.

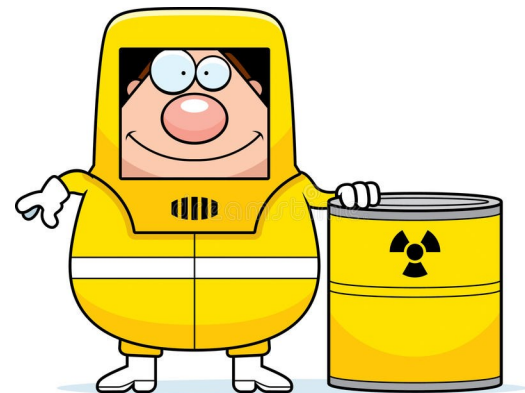
Virginia State Police Sgt. Jessica Shehan said the truck ran into the median, then back onto the highway when it flipped over.

The driver and passenger were thrown from the truck. The driver was transported to a local hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The passenger was flown to a hospital with serious injuries.

The investigation of the crash is ongoing.

Hazmat Corner

We will return in the fall.



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Rescue Tech Basic refresher at Berne



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Firefighter 1 Boot camp at Westmere



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Fire Rescue 1 By Lexipol

By **Billy Hayes**

Training firefighters to prioritize life safety and 'own' the CRR vision

New firefighters receive little training on fire prevention messages before being asked to deliver presentations and take action in the field

Jan 7, 2020

In every fire and emergency services department around this great nation, members seeking training to advance their skills and abilities in fireground tactics and strategies, EMS, officer development, technical rescue, hazardous materials ... the list goes on and on. However, one area seldom considered for firefighter training is fire and life safety prevention/education, or [community risk reduction \(CRR\)](#).

TRAINING FIREFIGHTERS ON FIRE PREVENTION

Once someone joins the fire service, they attend recruit school, where they learn about the many basic skills that will save them when confronted with challenging circumstances. Soon, they graduate, receive their assignments, and then here comes the station tour – the “pub ed” presentation or the company inspection, which we haven’t trained them for. We haven’t put those tools in the rookie’s toolbox.

We’ve invested days, weeks, months and dollars into training these recruits without addressing one of the most basic and fundamental priorities that every firefighter should be trained to do – preventing a fire or emergency from occurring when possible.

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Putting an untrained rookie into a position like this makes the firefighter resent fire prevention and erodes public trust in those giving a second-rate presentation or tour.

We can prevent this lose-lose situation simply with training.

BELIEVING IN THE MISSION – AND TAKING ACTION

First, as an organization, we must believe in the values and mission of protecting life and property, including before an emergency ever occurs. We must demonstrate it in our actions, behaviors and commitments (ABCs). It must truly be a core value!

Second, we must include this value, emphasize it and hold everyone accountable to it in every position, from the newest member to the most senior. It's not enough to just incorporate the message into mission statements; we must demonstrate it.

Next, we should have an accurate understanding of what fire and life safety education, prevention and CRR truly is. A common misconception is that public education is only about teaching children about friendly firefighters, stop drop and roll, and calling 911.

However, if an exit door is blocked at the local grocery store when we stop for milk or at the restaurant where we are picking up dinner, that's a fire safety educational moment. If we respond to a medical emergency in a home and hear a smoke alarm chirping, we shouldn't ignore it. If we see someone intentionally starting a fire during a burn ban, we must take action. If we see a trip hazard at a place of business, it's time to speak up and mitigate the danger. If we see a car about to drive across a flooded roadway, again, we must intervene and use the incident as an educational moment. In all of these situations, if prevention fails, it is our members who will respond to the resulting incident.

Too many firefighters believe public education is only about kids and that fire code violations should only be identified and addressed by someone from the Fire Marshal's Office. Too often, we pass this responsibility to "the other shift." Again, it goes back to the basics: We must be trained to own CRR efforts.

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6 WAYS TO PRIORITIZE FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY

Here are a few ideas that can assist in making fire and life safety a priority in your organization:

1. Use data: This means that you should be able to present local, state and national statistics in key focus areas. Not just fire data, but also include unintentional injury statistics as well, especially if we find that most of our responses are EMS calls. What is the data to qualify it? Who are we responding to? When are the peak times we are responding? What are the types of calls?

Don't just talk about property lost – celebrate property and lives saved, and the financial impact of those saves. Being able to present this information provides credibility when asking members to join in, the community to support programs and the elected officials to fund the programs.

2. Look outside: When we respond to incidents, what other agencies and organizations are affected? We in the fire service like to bear the burden of solving problems and often think we are the only ones affected. But there are others who also may be searching to solve the same problems and may have the additional resources to do it.

3. Find safety advocates: Fire and emergency services professionals – career workers or volunteers – do not want anything bad to happen to anyone. Deep down, we swore an oath to protect lives and property, despite the craving for that working fire.

Create dialogue and communication to find those who have a special interest that can be utilized. Those who are electricians can talk about electrical safety. Those who are in construction can talk about site safety, fall prevention and other safety areas. Find something that sparks an interest and turn their interest into safety advocacy.

4. Put the tools in the toolbox: Provide the training that will make members successful. Don't expect them to be teachers if they haven't been taught how to be, nor expect them to be experts on topics they aren't familiar with.

5. Keep it simple: Once the tools have been provided, keep the message simple, consistent and relevant. We are the experts in our industry. It's easy to drift from the fire triangle to positive pressure ventilation attacks, flow paths and reading smoke in the blink of an eye.

6. Celebrate success: There's no guarantee that everyone will get on board with fire and life safety prevention or CRR. But when they do, celebrate it. When there is a successful outcome internally or externally, celebrate it. Small wins are consolidated gains that become great success stories.

EAT THE CRR ELEPHANT ONE BITE AT A TIME

There are many ways to engage members of the organization to embrace fire and life safety and CRR. The best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time, so don't ignore it just because it's in the room, and don't accept, "It's not my job," as an answer. It's all of our jobs as long as the patch is on our arm.

Be safe!

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**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

**Fire Prevention
and Control**

Fire and Emergency Services Leadership and Management Conference

SAVE THE DATE

November 3-5, 2023

At the New York State Academy of Fire Science



- **Scope:** Leadership and management. Focused on 'upper level' content such as HR, grant writing, administration, ethics, leadership, program management, health and wellness, etc. Will not contain strategy and tactics related content.
- **Target Audience:** Chief level officers, administrators, staff officers, commissioners, lieutenants, captains etc.
- **Format:** Multitude of 2 – 4 hour breakout sessions where attendees can go to whatever they like. No need to sign up for any specific breakout session ahead of time, just register for the conference itself.

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For more information, email FireOfficer@dhses.ny.gov



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NYS AFC 2023 SEMINAR SERIES

NYS AFC's annual Seminar Series provides educational opportunities for fire service personnel of all ranks at sites across New York state. Three-hour seminars are conducted by some of the nation's leading fire service instructors at the local level on a variety of timely topics.

[Online Registration](#)

[https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events Training/2023%20NYS AFC%20Seminar%20Series.pdf](https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events%20Training/2023%20NYS AFC%20Seminar%20Series.pdf)

NYS AFC 2023 Seminar Series "Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks" With Lieutenant Mike Campo, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) Three-Hour Seminar

Early in our firefighting orientation, we're taught basic skills and tactics from textbooks. In addition, we'll drill and be tested on many of these skills at fire academy buildings to attain our firefighting certifications. It's a good process, but our learning shouldn't stop there because we haven't been exposed to many of the situations we'll encounter at fires and emergencies. Plus, the buildings in the academy aren't conducive to allowing us to operate with tools to open the walls and ceilings, pull suspended ceilings, remove baseboard and window trim, or even cut open tongue and groove sheathed roofs. This interactive lecture strives to go beyond textbook learning and bring alive street skills, tips, and tactics of truck work in: portable ladders, overhaul, forcible entry, roof ventilation, tool use, and more.

Registration Fee:

\$35 per person – NYS AFC Individual and Department Members

\$50 per person – Non-Members

Pre-registration is encouraged. On-site registration will be accepted if space permits.

2023 Dates and Locations:

Registration area opens 30 minutes prior to starting time. Three-hour program.

October 23 – 7:00 p.m. – Albany County

Village of Ravena Fire Department • 116 Main Street • Ravena, NY 12143

October 24 – 7:00 p.m. – Saratoga County

Clifton Park Fire Department • 38 Old Route 146 • Clifton Park, NY 12065

Albany County Training

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #8 2023 is posted on our website
<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/43009/638240739787630000>

There is now a link on our website with instructions on how to get an LMS sign on ID. We recommend that all new members should register as soon as they join so they have access to training opportunities.

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