



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

December, 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.**



R&R car in Colonie Holiday Parade

### ***In this issue***

Haz Mat corner  
PFAS in turnout gear  
Trench Rescue Exercise  
Fireground simulation class  
Retention and Recruitment/Training stipends  
Events  
Training

Office of Emergency  
Management

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# Albany County Sheriff's Office

## Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

December, 2023

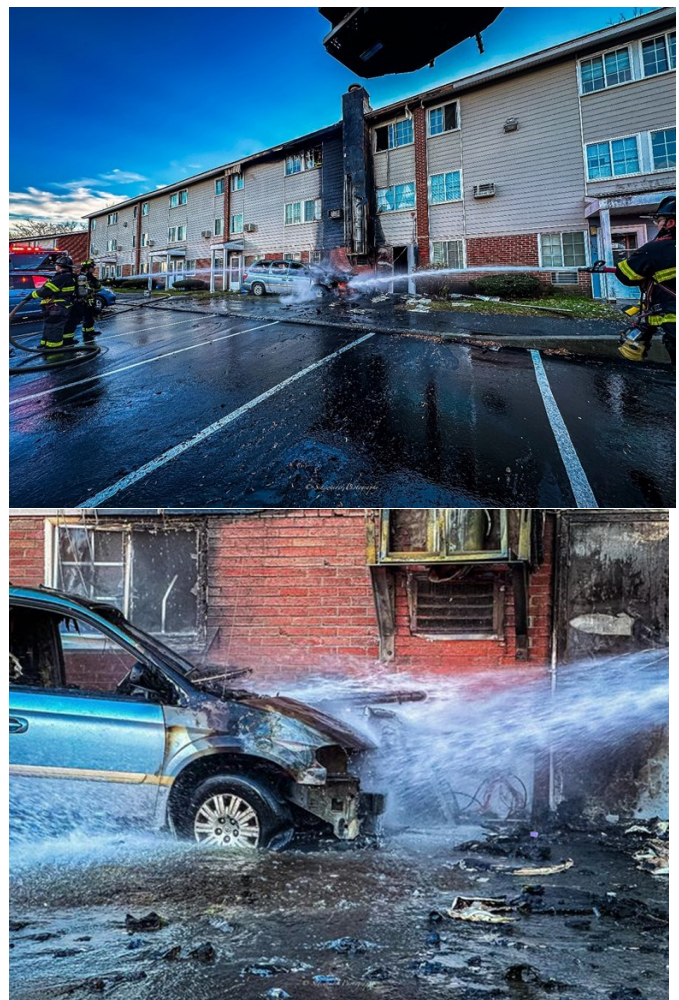
### HazMat Corner

We had a few interesting incidents this past month. Details follow below. If you have an interesting incident you would like to share, please let us know. Thanks to Chief Joe Gregory, Albany FD, Chief Tony Carrow, Westmere FD and Deputy Chief Travis Witbeck, Ravena FD. Also, credit to Sidewinder Photography for the pictures of the Albany incident.

Reminder, please send any information on lithium ion battery fires to the county fire coordinator who will forward the information to NYS OFPC.

### Car into building – gas meter on fire

On November 30 at 1430 hours the Albany Fire Department was dispatched to 162 Third Avenue for a man in a car on fire and building on fire. This was a “multi-task” operation – structure fire / vehicle fire / uncontrolled natural gas leak. A minivan had crashed into a house at 162 Third Avenue. The gas meter was in the front of the house. The impact of the vehicle damaged the gas meter and started a fire. The fire department attacked the fire extinguishing the part of the building that was burning. However, the gas was still ignited. Due to the fact that the outside gas shut-off was obstructed by the burning / abandoned vehicle, National Grid needed to bring in excavation crews to dig and crimp the gas line off at either end of the affected building to isolate the gas leak. The firefighters trained multiple hoses on the flame to prevent further extension of the fire without extinguishing the burning natural gas. Note there were no bollards in place protecting the outside exposed meters. Units returned to service shortly after 1800 with the scene being turned over to



*Both photos by Sidewinder Photography*

*(Continued on page 3)*

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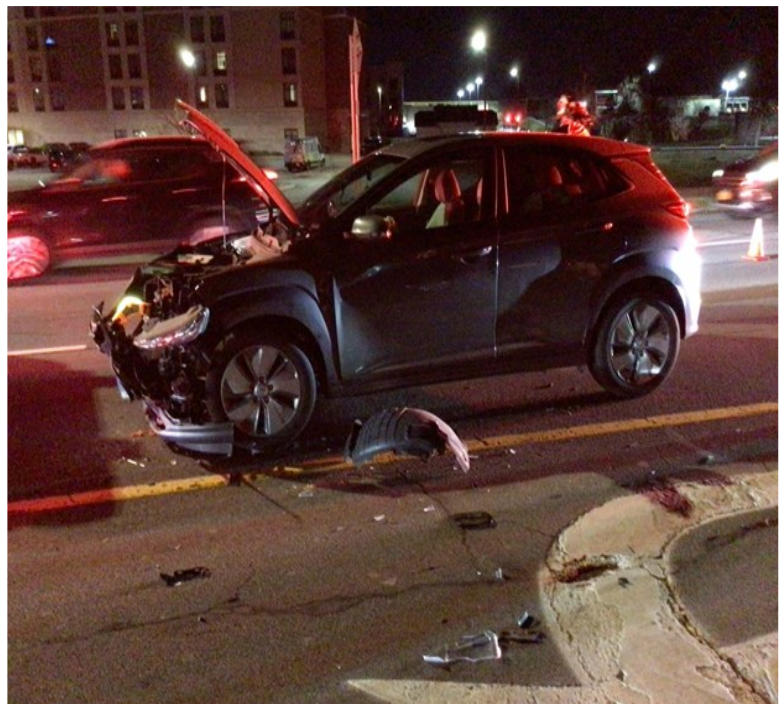
December, 2023

Codes and the City Engineer. The call was received and units were dispatched at 1430 hours; units arrived at 1433 hours and the scene was placed under control at 1635 hours. A video from the incident is available on Facebook on the Sidewinder Photography page. Thanks to Chief Joe Gregry for the information. *Photo credit Sidewinder Photography.*

### Hyundai Kona EV involved in PIAA

Later on November 30 at 1701 hours Westmere Fire Department was dispatched to a PIAA at the entrance to Crossgates Mall on Western Avenue. Two cars were involved. One of the vehicles was a Hyundai Kona EV. Initial reports were that the car was smoking. Fortunately, there was no fire only "smoke" from the airbag deployment. Westmere FD used their "Emergency Plug" to immobilize the EV. The interesting thing here is that the Kona has the charging port on the front of the vehicle. This is where the vehicle was damaged. The firefighters had to locate the remains of the charging port to utilize the emergency plug. In addition, the wheels of both vehicles were chocked to prevent movement. Thanks to Chief Tony Carrow and Lt. James Bornt for the information. Information on the Emergency Plug can be found at <https://www.emergency-plug.com/>

*Both photos Lt. James Bornt*





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### E-Bike fire in Ravena

An e-bike fire occurred on December 4 just after 2200 hours in the Village of Ravena. Here are pictures and the press release from the incident. See the Ravena Fire Department Facebook page for more pictures and a video. At the request of Deputy Chief Travis Witbeck, the County dispatched West Albany Fire Department as part of the County Hazmat Team Lithium Ion Battery Response Plan.



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## Ravena Fire Department

### PRESS RELEASE



December 5, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **LITHIUM-ION BATTERY POWERED MOTORCYCLE CATCHES FIRE IN RAVENA**

On Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> just after 10:00 pm, the Village of Ravena Fire Department was dispatched to the area of Pulver Avenue in the Village of Ravena for a reported motorcycle that was on fire.

Upon arrival, the RFD found a motorcycle was found lying in the street and actively on fire. It was reported to the incident commander that the bike was an electric bike powered by lithium-ion batteries and that was where the fire had originated from. The fire was extinguished by the first arriving engine company. There were no injuries as a result of the fire.

Equipment and devices powered by lithium-ion batteries are already prevalent in many people's lives. As the technology continues to improve, more and more of what we use in the course of our day will be powered by these batteries. As such, so will the risk of fire.

One of the main reasons why lithium-ion batteries can catch fire or fail is due to thermal runaway. This process can occur within the battery if it becomes too hot, and it causes a chain reaction that can ultimately lead to a fire. In addition, thermal runaway can happen if a battery is exposed to abused conditions such as high temperatures, physical abuse or if it is charged improperly.

Had this fire been indoors, such as in a garage or house, this incident could have very easily been catastrophic. The Ravena Fire Department would like to remind members of our community to follow manufacturer instructions when operating, charging, and storing equipment powered by lithium-ion batteries.

This is the first fire directly caused by malfunctioning lithium-ion batteries that the Village of Ravena Fire Department has faced and would like to thank the Albany County Fire Coordinators Office, West Albany Fire Department, Ravena Rescue Squad, Coeymans Police Department, and Albany County Communications Center for their assistance.

The Village of Ravena Firehouse is located at 116 Main Street in Ravena, New York 12143.

Thank you,

Travis Witbeck  
Deputy Chief  
Village of Ravena Fire Department  
E-Mail- [Travis.Witbeck@outlook.com](mailto:Travis.Witbeck@outlook.com)

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## Transitioning away from firefighter turnout gear with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances could bring potential performance tradeoffs, according to new research.

The chemicals offer water- and oil-repelling properties on the outer shells of firefighter turnout gear.

The study showed that turnout gear without PFAS outer shell coatings were not oil-repellent, posing a potential flammability hazard to firefighters if exposed to oil and flame, says Bryan Ormond, assistant professor of textile engineering, chemistry, and science at North Carolina State University. Ormond is corresponding author of the study in the [\*Journal of Industrial Textiles\*](#).

“All oil repellents can also repel water, but all water repellents don’t necessarily repel oil. Diesel fuel is really difficult to repel, as is hydraulic fluid; in our testing, PFAS-treated materials repel both,” he says. “In our tests, turnout gear without PFAS repelled water but not oil or hydraulic fluid. Further, oils seem to spread out even more on the PFAS-free gear, potentially increasing the hazard.”

PFAS chemicals—known as [\*forever chemicals\*](#) because of their environmental persistence—are used in food packaging, cookware, and cosmetics, among other uses, but have recently been implicated in higher risks of cancer, higher cholesterol levels, and compromised immune systems in humans.

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In response, firefighters have sought alternative chemical compounds—like the hydrocarbon wax coating used in the study—on turnout gear to repel water and oils.

Besides testing the oil- and water-repelling properties of PFAS-treated and PFAS-free outer garments, the researchers also compared how the outer shells aged in job-related exposures like weathering, high heat, and repeated laundering, and whether the garments remained durable and withstood tears and rips.

The study showed that PFAS-treated and PFAS-free outer shells performed similarly after exposure to UV rays and various levels of heat and moisture, as well as passes through heating equipment—similar to a pizza oven—and through washing machines.

“Laundering the gear is actually very damaging to turnout gear because of the washing machine’s agitation and cleaning agents used,” Ormond says.

“We also performed chemical analyses to see what’s happening during the weathering process,” says lead author Nur Mazumder, a doctoral student in fiber and polymer science.

“Are we losing the PFAS chemistries, the [PFAS-free chemistries](#), or both when we age the garments? It turns out that we lost significant amounts of both of these finishes after the aging tests.”

Both types of garments performed similarly when tested for strength against tearing the outer shell fabric. The researchers say the PFAS and PFAS-free coatings didn’t seem to affect this attribute.

Future work will explore how much oil repellency is needed by firefighters out in the field, Ormond says.

“Even with PFAS treatment, you see a difference between a splash of fluid and soaked-in fluid,” he says. “For all of its benefits, PFAS-treated gear, when soaked, is dangerous to firefighters.

“So we need to really ask ‘What do firefighters need?’ If you’re not experiencing this need for oil repellency, there’s no worry about switching to non-PFAS gear. But firefighters need to know the non-PFAS gear will absorb oil, regardless of what those oils are.”

Coauthor Andrew Hall, another doctoral student in fiber and polymer science, is also testing dermal absorption, or taking the aged outer shell materials and placing them on a skin surrogate for a day or two. Are outer shell chemicals absorbed in the skin surrogate after these admittedly extreme exposure durations?

“Firefighting as a job is classified as a [carcinogen](#) and it shouldn’t be,” Ormond says. “How do we make better gear for them? How do we come up with better finishes and strategies for them? These aren’t just fabrics. They are highly engineered pieces of material that aren’t easily replaced.”

[Original Study](#) DOI: 10.1177/15280837231217401





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**Annual trench rescue dig November 4th. 22 members of the team representing Colonie Village Fire, Watervliet Arsenal Fire and Albany County Sheriff's Office were in attendance.**



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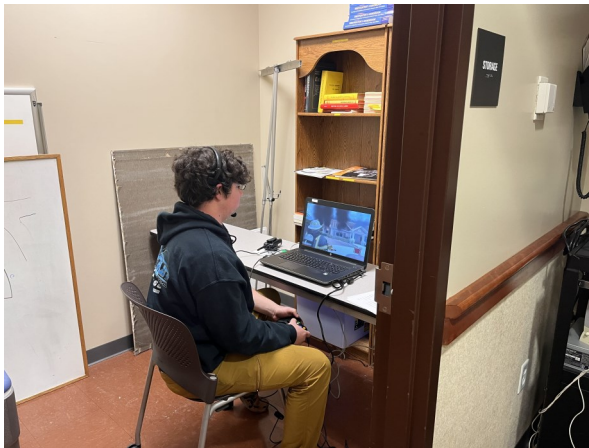




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## Photos from Tactical Fireground Simulations Class at Fort Hunter December 2, 2023



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## R&R Car was at many Holiday events



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## Recruitment and Retention Sheriff's Recruitment Car at Hudson Valley Community College



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### DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING NEW TRAINING STIPEND FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

***New Stipend to Help Aid Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Across the State***

***Proposed Regulations Published in [State Register](#) to Undergo 60-Day Public Comment Period***

***Stipends Range from \$500 to \$1,250 Depending on Completion of Various Training Courses***

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services today announced the start of a 60-day public comment period for draft regulations establishing New York's first training stipend program for volunteer firefighters. As part of Governor Hochul's effort to strengthen and stabilize New York's volunteer fire service, \$10 million was secured in the FY2023-24 State Budget to offset the costs of training courses which volunteer firefighters are required to complete. The program's draft regulations were published in the State Register on November 29, 2023 and will now undergo a 60-day public comment period.

"The role volunteer firefighters play in our communities cannot be overstated, and with so many departments facing recruitment and retention challenges, it's critical we support these brave men and women who keep our communities safe," said **New York State Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Jackie Bray**. "Training is an essential component of firefighting and by offsetting its cost, New York is making it easier for volunteer firefighters statewide to continue serving their communities, without impacting their own bottom line."

Volunteer fire departments serve approximately 9 million New Yorkers, nearly half of the State's population. In recent years, however, more than three-quarters of these departments have reported a decrease in the number of individuals willing to volunteer and serve. This is further compounded by the increased operational responsibilities beyond fire protection to include vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, hazardous material spills, and weather-related rescue operations. At the same time, calls for service have increased 29 percent from 1997 to 2020.

As part of the effort to strengthen and stabilize the state's volunteer fire service, the Division's Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) will administer the stipend to volunteer firefighters for completion of the following training courses completed on or after August 31, 2023:

Course	Stipend
Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations	\$750.00
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus/Interior Firefighting Operations	\$1,250.00
Fire Officer 1	\$1,000

Additionally, a local fire training stipend may be authorized for the completion of any OFPC training course or equivalents, as determined by OFPC, up to \$500.

Stipends are for first time course completions of the listed OFPC course or equivalency as determined by OFPC. Students must be a member of good standing as determined by their department and stipend applications are submitted by the fire chief.

To be eligible, fire departments must have submitted fire reporting for the previous calendar year and complete the annual fire department demographics form. This regulation also authorizes volunteer fire departments to pay volunteer firefighters a training stipend, subject to local funding, for the completions of certain courses, identified by the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.





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## 2024 LONG ISLAND METRO FIRE/EMS EXPO



## Long Island Metro FIRE/EMS EXPO

**FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024**

**NASSAU COLISEUM • UNIONDALE, NY**

The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Islip Town Fire/EMS Museum Educational Center have partnered once again to deliver this exciting emergency services exposition and educational event on Long Island.

The 2024 Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo will feature vendors displaying apparatus, tools, equipment, and services for fire and EMS agencies, as well as educational seminars for fire/EMS responders of all ranks presented by some of the most prominent leaders in the emergency services field.



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This event benefits the [museum](#) and the association, supporting their shared mission to serve the fire and emergency services personnel of Long Island and New York state. [Email](#) questions to NYSAFC. Check out photos from past expos [here](#).

### **Exhibitor Registration:**

[PDF Exhibitor Application](#)

### **Attendee Registration:**

\$25 per person, per day (includes entry to the expo and seminars)

**FREE parking!**

Tickets are available online [through Ticketmaster](#). Credit card only (service fees will be applied).

Tickets can be purchased at the door. Cash, voucher, and credit card (service fees will be applied) accepted.

*If paying by voucher – departments can provide NYSAFC with the voucher and a roster in advance **by January 31** OR submit the voucher and use a sign-in sheet on-site. NYSAFC will bill agencies at the conclusion of the event. Any department using a voucher for payment will receive a 10% discount on the purchase of 50 or more entry tickets. [Email](#) or fax documents to NYSAFC at (518) 477-4430.*

### **Hands-On Training – Forcible Entry:**

Registration Opening Soon!

### **Exhibit Hours for 2024:**

**Friday, February 2:** 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, February 3:** 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, February 4:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Education Hours for 2024:**

**Friday, February 2:** 3:00 – 6:15 p.m.

**Saturday, February 3:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

**Sunday, February 4:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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### **FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATORS' TRAINING SERIES**

For over 40 years, NYSAFC has partnered with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control to co-host the Fire & Life Safety Educators' Conference at the New York State Academy of Fire Science. Featuring workshops and networking activities, this weekend event has brought together public educators in the emergency services field from throughout the Northeast and Canada to learn how they can enhance their programs.

Due to infrastructure updates that will be taking place in 2024 at the fire academy, in lieu of the annual conference, we're taking the show on the road, conducting three one-day conferences across New York state! Join us at the Fire & Life Safety Educators' Training Series in Albany, Erie, and Onondaga Counties.

#### **2024 Dates and Locations:**

**8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at all locations.**

#### **Albany County – April 27, 2024**

Fuller Road Fire Department • 1342 Central Avenue • Albany, NY 12205

#### **Erie County – May 4, 2024**

Erie County Fire Training Academy • 3359 Broadway • Buffalo, NY 14227

#### **Onondaga County – May 10, 2024**

East Syracuse Fire Department • Station 2 • 148 Saunders Creek Parkway • East Syracuse, NY 13057

***Student registration opening soon!***

[Call for Presenters \(PDF\)](#)

*Deadline: December 8, 2023*

Be sure to visit the NYS DHSES OFPC [website](#) for additional public education resources!

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## **FASNY UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS SATURDAY – SUNDAY, MARCH 2-3, 2024 GENEVA FIRE DEPARTMENT, GENEVA, N.Y. REGISTRATION AT 7:30 A.M. CONFERENCE STARTS AT 8:00 A.M.**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024 | PRE-SEMINAR, CORE CONTENT (PRESENTED BY DAN BATSIE)  
PRE-SEMINAR REGISTRATION AT 7:30 A.M. PRE-SEMINAR STARTS AT 8:00 A.M**

The FASNY Emergency Medical Services Committee presents the EMS Seminar in Geneva, New York. Due to construction, our location has temporarily changed from Montour Falls to Geneva. The event is packed with presentations that address the most contemporary and critical topics in the EMS community.

These invaluable sessions are complemented by a Pre-Seminar Workshop eligible for Core CME credit hours in Airway, Cardiology, Shock & resuscitation, Trauma, and Operations.



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For hotel accommodations, if you'd like to arrive on Thursday instead of Friday, please contact Timothy Weller-Ruthven at 41 Lakefront Hotel at 315-789-0400 ext. 2101 so your reservation can be adjusted.

### **Lethally Hot**

*Presented by: Tiffany Bombard, NRP, MD, FACEP*

It may be January, but your patient's temperature is 104. They're probably septic. But what if they're not? Saving your unstable, hypothermic patient will depend on your answer to this question. This class will teach you to diagnose and treat toxicologic, environmental and septic causes of hyperthermia and help you save your patients. There is much to learn here, for brainy BLS providers through experienced paramedics.

### **Stopping Respiratory Failure**

*Presented by: Tiffany Bombard, NRP, MD, FACEP*

Respiratory disease may present on a spectrum, but the one thing it does quite reliably is get worse. This class will teach you memorable methods to recognize, diagnose and treat respiratory disease aggressively, early in the disease process, and change your patient's outcome. The material presented is most relevant for AEMT and above, but there is much here for the inquisitive BLS provider looking to expand their brain power.

### **Growing Up in Public Safety: A Roadmap for Career Success**

*Presented by: Dan Batsie, Paramedic*

Advancement in public safety too often occurs accidentally. We gain experience and assume leadership roles by stumbling and bumbling our way through operational and clinical challenges. However, real success can and should be more strategic. When you envision your next five years in public safety, how do you see yourself? Will you be a supervisor, an officer, or even in a different operational role? The key question, however, is what active steps are you taking to prepare? This class will discuss best practices and proven pathways toward public safety success. We will describe real-world methodologies to open the correct doors and prepare you to seize the opportunities around you. Whether you are paid or volunteer, don't let your career unfold by accident.

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### **State of the State of EMS**

*Presented by: The NYS Department of Health*

Discussing Issues of EMS in NYS. Question & Answer Portion.

### **Managing School Bus Incidents**

*Presented by: Ken Bouvier – Paramedic, Professional Fire / EMS Speaker*

This session is designed to help First Responders, EMT's & Paramedics, Dispatchers, Firefighters and Fire Chiefs better understand how to manage School Bus Incidents. Daily in the United States an average of 480,000 yellow school buses, transport approximately 25 million students to and from school.

During this session we will discuss the frequency of school bus incidents and you will be amazed to learn how often they occur. Using a unique power point presentation, we will also discuss school bus designs, the types of injuries you can expect, how patients are triaged, patient tracking and school bus crash management and how Emergency Management will play a valuable role in assisting law enforcement, fire and EMS.

### **Understanding Firefighter Injuries**

*Presented by: Ken Bouvier – Paramedic, Professional Fire / EMS Speaker*

This session is designed to help responders, firefighters, EMT's and paramedics better manage firefighter Injuries on the scene of a fire and in route to the hospital. Firefighting is one of the world's most dangerous jobs and accidents in this profession can result in costly losses. The greatest loss being the injury or death of a firefighter! During this session we will explain the two basic factors that motivate accident control efforts. Humane vs. Economics, all departments know and understand what it takes to produce the almost perfect firefighter, but they also realize the cost involved. Because of cost, many departments are out of compliance and allow their firefighters to operate unsafe and unhealthy.

During this session EMS will learn that they are not on the scene just to watch the fire, but instead play one of the major roles of preventing firefighter injuries by keeping a close eye on them. We will explain the most common types of injuries, how and why they occur. We will explain the importance of wearing proper firefighting equipment, using the Incident Command System, and the need for rehabilitation on scene.

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## FEBRUARY 2-4, 2024

GREEK PEAK MOUNTAIN RESORT

2000 NYS ROUTE 392, CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

To register, click the link below.

To book a room, call **607-218-8714**

For a discounted room rate, mention the code "FASNY22" or mention you are with the FASNY Winter Games group.

Each year, dozens of departments and hundreds of volunteer firefighters from across the State come together for a little competition and camaraderie during the FASNY Winter Games. Hosted by the Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland, these games include tubing, sled-pull, stokes basket carry, hose races, tug-of-war and broomball. Departments are also awarded for best tailgate setup and farthest traveled. The overall winner is crowned on Sunday of this busy weekend that has become a bona fide FASNY tradition.



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## Albany County Training

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #12 -2023 is attached . <https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/45769/638382441356308014>

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



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access to training opportunities.

The staff of the Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

We look forward to working with you in the new year. Watch for great things to come!!



# ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #12 2023

**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**

Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations  <b>IN PROGRESS</b>	Ravena	August 31 Orientation September 7, 18, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30, November 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 27, 30, December 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21 1830-2130	Messinger	None
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<b>Firefighter I</b>  (BEFO/SCBA Interior Firefighter Operations)  <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	Colonie MTB	<b>December 21<sup>st</sup> : Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer</b> <b>Must Attend with Student</b>  <i>BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)</i> January 2, 4, 9, 11, 20, 23, 25, 30, February 1, 6, 8, 13, March 2, 7, 14, 19, 21, 26, April 2, 4, 6  <i>SCBA/IFO:</i> April 18, 20, 25, 30, May 2, 7, 18, 30, June 6, 11, 13, 18, 25  Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1700	<b>At Orientation:</b> Training Authorization Letter           <b>Start of SCBA/IFO:</b> Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,
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IFSTA Essentials of  
Firefighting 7th  
Edition Curriculum

Instructor - Molesky

The Firefighter's Guide to Light Weight Wood Construction	Westmere	January 8, 10, 22, 24  1830-2130	DeGroff	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Company Training & Community Risk Reduction <b>NEW TO SCHEDULE</b>	Guilderland Tower	January 18 & 25 (1830-2130) January 27 (0800-1200)	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivalent
<b>Unless changed by instructor or noted above: All evening classes will be held from 19:00-22:00 hours.</b>  <b>All Saturday and Sunday classes will be held from 09:00-12:00 hours and 13:00-16:00 hours</b>			 <b>Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris</b> 