



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

March 2024

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.**



Fire Officer 1 Class at Colonie MTB

In this issue

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Haz Mat corner
Events
Training

Office of Emergency
Management

P.O. Box A
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Clarksville, NY
12041

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The last fire officer 1 module culminated in using the table top simulator at Colonie MTB. This class is one of the three eligible for NYS training stipends.

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**Swearing in ceremony Cohoes Fire
Department March 20th**



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Understanding relief valves: Essential practices for first responders

Relief valves, engineered to prevent system over pressurization, are a critical part of the natural gas pipeline system. They actively regulate pressure within the system by opening at a preset pressure to vent excess gas and vapors and then by closing once the pressure is back within a safe range. These mechanical safety devices, though small, play a large role in protecting not only the system but also the community.

Dedicated relief valves are typically present in high-pressure distribution stations and at pressurized storage locations.

If the system does not vent properly, the resulting pressure buildup could lead to system failure. The consequences of a system failure could be as minor as a temporary gas outage or as catastrophic as an explosion. This is why first responders should NEVER attempt to operate these valves or restrict the associated vents in any way.

How do you investigate a pressure release?

Be proactive. A natural gas event should not be your introduction to relief valves in the communities you serve. Partner with National Grid preemptively to learn the location of valves within their facilities.

Ask questions. Obviously, a natural gas emergency may not be the optimal time to ask dispatched National Grid personnel for valve safety education and training. Communication between you and utility personnel prior to an event is essential to valve safety. Ensure that you understand the basics of relief valve function and behaviors, but most importantly, NEVER operate or restrict pressure relief valves in any situation. Query utility personnel about any concerns and uncertainties you may have so that you are well informed and prepared.

Train. Knowing how to respond to normal and abnormal pressure release events helps protect not only you and your crew but also your community and the environment. The more informed and trained you are, the more effective you can be at managing a release event.

What do you do when dispatched to investigate a pressure release?

Contact and work with the utility. When dispatched to investigate, notify the utility and request the response of a subject matter expert (SME) to work in partnership with first responders as a member of the command team. Work with the onsite SME to:

- Perform a predictive analysis of prevailing wind patterns and conditions to determine odorant and vapor cloud migration.
- Set up appropriate safety/exclusion zones and monitor critical areas.



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- Identify priority risks and target hazards, such as control stations, neighborhoods close to potential event areas or highways that could be ignition sources.

Important: NEVER enter control stations, and NEVER operate or change the settings of pipeline, storage or control station valves of any type. Only trained utility operators should open or close these valves. However, if trained to do so, you can stop the flow of gas by closing the aboveground shutoff valve at a service meter or the shutoff valve at an appliance line.

Engage with the community. Even a small release of natural gas through a relief valve, which may be a normal operating condition, will often result in community concern – or even panic – stemming from the sulfur-like or rotten egg smell of mercaptan. During any pressure release event, you should work with the utility to distinguish between normal and abnormal (emergency) situations.

The discharge sounds, odorants and vapor clouds produced from the valves can be alarming to the public – and rightfully so. Once the utility has confirmed that the event is nonthreatening:

- Continue to take public concern seriously and choose a single-source contact for public communication, such as through some form of media.
- Reassure the community about the behavior of the relief valve as a safety device operating as designed to relieve pressure from the pipeline system.

If a relief valve continues to actuate for an extended period, the odorant released will likely heighten community concern. Therefore, consider placing firefighting apparatus and utility resources in the area as a proactive tactic and a demonstration of fire service presence to ease these potential concerns.

As a proactive measure, initiate safety awareness programs about relief valves within the community. Use these programs to explain the purpose and behaviors of the valves and established safety measures.

Keep yourself, your team and the public safe this winter and year-round.
Visit firstresponder.ngridsafety.com today to register and complete your utility safety training.

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R&R car at East Berne's Open House



**If you would like the R&R car at one of your events please contact
Bob Stevens at 518-827-2259**

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Hazmat Corner

Railroad Geographic Response Plans



BACKGROUND

How many remember the Bakken Crude Oil trains? These were referred to as the “bomb trains” by those who protested their use. I’m sure many of you remember the Lac-Mégantic disaster.

In 2015, as a result of an executive order from the then governor, NYS DEC hired the engineering firm of O’Brien and Gere to develop geographic response plans covering the railroad tracks that were used to carry the unit trains of tank cars carrying the Bakken crude oil. (Unit trains are trains of a little over 100 cars all carrying the same thing.)

Albany County is where the east/west lines meet the north/south lines and proceed to the CSX rail yard in Selkirk. The east/west lines are generally CSX and the north/south lines north of the Port of Albany are CP Rail.

The GRPs are available on-line at the NYS DEC website. These are an important tool to use in the event of a rail incident. They can most easily be found by using your preferred search engine and searching for “NYS DEC GRP.” This page gives a good explanation of the GRPs and provides a link to the GIS maps and the individual GRPs. Click on the map viewer shortcut in the first paragraph. When the map comes up, zoom in to get the GRP view.

Fire department officers should be familiar with the GRPs especially if they have railroad tracks in their primary response area or in the area of their usual mutual aid departments.

UPDATES

The GRPs were initially prepared in 2015 and updated in 2018. We are working with Ramboll (formerly O’Brien and Gere) to further update the information. Update meetings were held on March 18 and 19 with the fire departments and emergency management agencies involved. Departments that have GRPs for their areas that were not able to attend should review the related GRPs and forward any comments or changes to Tom Remmert at Albany County Emergency Management. The comments/changes/questions can be emailed to thomas.remmert@albanycountyny.gov. If necessary, we can arrange to meet at your convenience.

NEW GRPs

We are also working with Ramboll to develop new GRPs covering the CSX tracks that are leased to Amtrak that run from the Rensselaer train station west through Albany and Colonie to the Schenectady area. Initial GRPs will be developed and then we will review them with Albany Fire Department, Town of Colonie and the fire departments in Colonie along those rail lines.

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Voorheesville Fire Department will be holding a Brooks Barbeque on Thursday March 28th 3:30 PM until sold out

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COMING SOON

COMEDY NIGHT
FRIDAY MARCH 22nd 2024
BURNING IT DOWN!
TRAVIS STEALEY
JOHN BRYCE
ALAN FISH
KATIE ARROYO
HEADLINER: **DAN GEURIN**
AS SEEN ON **Funny Bone**
Shaker Road Loudonville Fire Department
550 Albany Shaker Road
Loudonville NY 12211
TICKETS: TRAVISSTEALEY.COM
7PM HAPPY HOUR
8PM SHOWTIME

**Shaker Road Loudonville Fire Dept
Explorer Post 475 Fish Fry
Fundraiser**

Menu:
Fish Fry or Clam Roll... \$6
Lunch Special..... \$10
Includes** Choice of Clam Roll or Fish Fry,
with French Fries, Colestlaw, and Drink.
Hot Dog Special..... \$6
Includes** White Eagle Hot Dog, French Fries,
Colestlaw, and Drink.
Dinner Special..... \$15
Includes ** Choice of Fish Dinner or Clam Roll,
with French Fries, Colestlaw, Drink, and Dessert.
Clam Chowder..... \$4
House made New England Clam Chowder, Bst

When: March 29th, 2024
Lunch: 11:30am-2pm
Dinner: 4pm-7pm
Location: Shaker Road
FD Station 1
Dine-in or Take Out
Take Out - Cooked to Order



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HVVFA Annual Bill Eck & John J. Mulligan Haz-Mat, Homeland Security and Fire Training Seminar

Host by the
Athens Volunteer Fire Department
39 3rd Street Athens, NY 12015

Saturday March 23rd, 2024

Registration from 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM

Program from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Registration fee of \$10 per attendee includes the seminar and lunch.

Pre-register by email to Fred Pettingell fpettingell@aol.com and note HVVFA seminar as the subject.

2024 topics include:

Tactical Response to Natural Gas and Propane Emergencies by Jerry Knapp
Group Home Awareness by NYS OFPC
and more!

Any questions please contact Kurt Mulligan at kmulligan@stonypointfire.com

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HVVFA Fire Police Committee proudly
presents
the
2024 Annual Ken Merriman
Fire Police Training Seminar

April 06, 2024
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Saugerties Fire Department
43 Partition Street
Saugerties, NY 12477*

AGENDA TOPICS TO INCLUDE:

- Lt. Kevin Slade, NYS Forest Ranger, Region 3, NYS Environmental Conservation, "The Role and Responsibilities of a New York State Forest Ranger".
- Frank Jewett, Battalion Chief, Nyack Fire Dept., "What keeps me Safe? HAZMAT for Fire Police".
- Tom With, Vol. Fire Police Assn. of the State of NY, "FHWA National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Responder Leadership, Technology, and Training Symposium at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC), National Fire Academy (NFA), on October 20-22, 2023, in Emmitsburg, Maryland."
- Two pending Presentations.

Pre-registration is required to the two Co-Chairs below.

Registration on your subject line and provide your name the way you would like it written on your certificate.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on the morning of event. Certificates will be issued immediately following the program. First Speaker starts at 9:00 AM.

Registration fee of \$15 per person which will also cover an onsite lunch.

Any questions, please contact Co-Chairs:

Registrations send name of FD and attendees names to either:

Douglas Mann: mr103liberty@aol.com / Tom With: tomwith@hotmail.com

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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

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

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #7-2024 is attached.

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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ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #7 2024

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
<p>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</p>				
Firefighter I (BEFO/SCBA Interior Firefighter Operations)	Colonie MTB	December 21st: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer Must Attend with Student <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: April 18, 20, 25, 30, May 2, 7, 18, 30, June 6, 11, 13, 18, 25</i> Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1700 Instructor - Molesky	At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter	
IN PROGRESS IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7th Edition Curriculum				Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,
Truck Company Operations IN PROGRESS	East Berne	March 12, 25, April 1, 8, 24, May 1, 6, 8	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent

Firefighter Survival: Self Rescue	Selkirk #2	March 20, 21: 1830-2130 March 23: 08001400	Kerr	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Public Safety Wellness, Fitness and Rehab Awareness	Midway FD #2	March 23 0900-1300	Juliano	None
Live Fire Training NEW TO SCHEDULE	Slingerlands	March 25:1830-2130	Kerr	None
Live Fire Training	Coeymans Hollow	March 26	Flensted	None
2024 Annual Fireline Refresher (RT-130) WCT and Fire Shelter Training	Friday-Five Rivers Env. Ed. Center, Delmar Saturday Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center	Friday March 29: 0900 Saturday March 30: 0900	Ranger Mitchell	Contact if interested in attending: Ranger Tyler Mitchell 518-257-9867, tyler.mitchell@dec.ny.gov Tyler Briggs(APB) 585-506-8675, Tbriggs@albanypinebush.org
Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations	Colonie MTB	April 2 & 4: 1800-2200 April 6: 0800-1600	Molesky	None
Tactical Fire Ground Simulations	Slingerlands	April 11: 1830-2130 April 13: 0900-1700	Flensted	ICS 200
FAST	Delmar FD	April 15 & 17: 1830- 2130 April 20: 0800-1700	Kerr	Firefighter I, FFS-Self Rescue or equivalent
SCBA-Interior Firefighting Operations	Selkirk #2/Colonie MTB	April 15: Orientation Selkirk #2 1830 April 18, 22, 25, 29, May 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 30, June 3, 6, 10	Messenger	BEFO w/HMFRO or equivalent

		1830-2130		
Tactical Fire Ground Simulations	Westmere: There are 2 offerings at Westmere. Note the dates of the course you have selected.	April 22: 1830-2130 April 27: 0900-1700	Flensted	ICS 200
ATV/UTV Class	East Berne FD	April 27 0800-1600 Contact Chief Paul Miller (Albany County Sheriff's Office) to register: 518-720-8034 or 518-320-4213 to Register	Paris	Bring Fire Department Issued ATV/UTV for hands-on session. Class size: 50 for classroom session only. 25 for classroom and hands-on.
Tactical Fire Ground Simulations	Westmere: There are 2 offerings at Westmere. Note the dates of the course you have selected.	April 29: 1830-2130 May 4: 0900-1700	Flensted	ICS 200
Refresher Training (Rescue Technician Basic) NEW TO SCHEDULE	Slingerlands	May 11: 0800-1400	Kerr	Rescue Technician Basic
Engine Company Operations NEW TO SCHEDULE	Selkirk FD #1	May 22, 29, June 1, 5, 12, 15 Weeknights 1830/2130 Saturday 0830-1430	Clawson	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Unless changed by instructor or noted above: All evening classes will be held from 19:00-22:00 hours.			<div>  Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris  </div>	

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