



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

April 2021

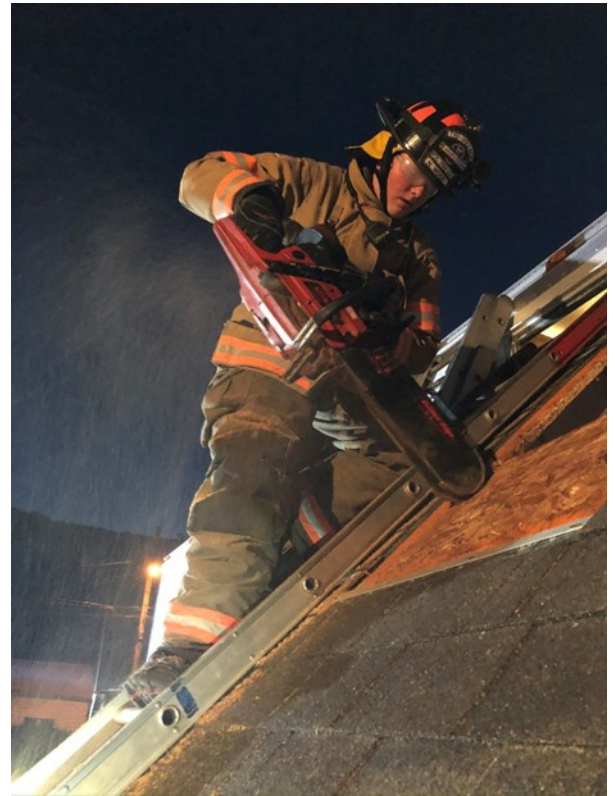
Office of Critical Incident/Emergency Management

This is the second of what will be a monthly newsletter for the Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management unit. Please feel free to send us your comments and suggestions.

The Critical Incident/Emergency Management Unit consists of the following:

- Office of Emergency Management
- Capital Region Forensic Hazardous Materials Unit
- Community and Emergency Services
- Office of the Fire Coordinator
- Search and Rescue Team.

The unit also acts as the administrator of the Four County Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Group covering Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties.



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Office of Emergency
Management

P.O. Box A
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COVID-19 Response

The EOC was opened on March 13, 2020 in response to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 14, 2020 Albany County declared a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19-Related Deaths

FEMA will begin accepting applications for Funeral Assistance on Monday, April 12, 2021 through the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number 844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585 . Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9AM—9PM Eastern Time.

FEMA's Funeral Assistance Program has controls in place to mitigate fraudulent activity. FEMA will not contact anyone until they have called FEMA or have applied for assistance. Do not disclose information such as the name, birth date or social security number of any deceased family member to any unsolicited telephone calls or e-mails from anyone claiming to be a federal employee or from FEMA.

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, the policy states:

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.

If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.

An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals.

The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.

Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

Applicants are encouraged to start gathering the following documentation:

An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States. The death certificate must indicate the death "may have been caused by" or "was likely the result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19-like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.

Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant's name, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses and dates the funeral expenses were incurred.

Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

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Office of Fire Coordinator

Recruitment and Retention

We developed and printed Recruitment lawn signs which we are in the process of distributing (copy below). If your Department has yet to receive these sign please contact the Fire Coordinator's Office at 518-720-8034.



RecruitNY Weekend April 24-25, 2021

Whether you've participated before or are new to this unique event, the time to sign up for RecruitNY Weekend April 24-25, 2021, is now! Things may look a little differently this year, so FASNY has got plenty of new resources to help you with a virtual event. Recognizing things may change between now and the big weekend, we've also provided these customizable resources for your in-person open house event.

Our ever-growing list of participants fuels a massive public relations campaign across the State that emphasizes our need for volunteers not only collectively, but in your community. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something special.

Over the past decade, RecruitNY has helped add thousands to departments. How? The attention of millions that we draw to our recruitment cause with our statewide PR blitz. We can't do this without you and we all need new recruits more than ever before, so sign up now.

Recruit volunteer fire service. FASNY is here to help with your virtual or traditional open house event. Add it to our growing list by signing up now and download all the resources necessary to promote and execute a successful open house event.

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Office of Fire Coordinator

Training Opportunities



Mobile Tactical Training Trailer

This trailer will be available to be used on your site to help you meet your training needs. It contains numerous rooms, a Bullex Fire training simulator with a smoke generator, maze, wall breach, roof simulator, forcible entry door and bail out window. Contact the Fire Coordinator's Office to reserve this trailer.



NYS Fire Training Classes

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control is beginning to allow additional training opportunities. We intend to schedule three Firefighter Survival courses along with Truck Company Operations, Apparatus Operator Aerial Device and Principals of Instruction. Stay tuned to schedule #4 for new course offerings.

Current schedule can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=13918>

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**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

**Fire Prevention
and Control**

APRIL 22-23, 2021

**Youth Firesetter
Intervention
Specialist (NFA)**

**Shaker Road Loudonville
Fire Department**

**550 Albany Shaker Rd.
Loudonville, NY 12211**

*Social distancing, mask wearing,
and all proper Covid precautions
will be strictly followed.*

**Register: Must complete an OFPC Training Authorization Form and email to
OFPC.Arson@dhSES.ny.gov or fax to 518-242-3746**

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The training authorization form is available at the following link
<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=13008>



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Haz-Mat

The Sheriff's Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit (CIEMU) acts as the fiduciary and administrator for the Capital Region Hazmat Group. The group consists of five Hazmat Teams. The teams are the County Hazmat Teams from Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties as well as the Capital Region Forensic Hazmat Team.

The teams meet monthly to coordinate training, equipment purchases and administration of the regional grant. Through the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, the group receives grant money from FEMA. The last few years, the group has received \$150,000 each year. The CIEMU coordinates purchases under the grant and completes all reporting requirements.

The group trains together annually at a Hazmat Exercise, usually held at the Watervliet Arsenal. The grant provides funding for exercise materials and equipment as well as reimbursement for overtime and backfill for the career fire departments. Due to COVID-19, there was no exercise in 2020, however the 2021 exercise is in the planning stages for fall of this year.

Together, the teams qualify as the highest level of certified hazmat response according to both federal and New York State standards. The regional hazmat plan includes response from all five teams if necessary.

The Albany County Hazmat Team can be activated by contacting the Albany County 9-1-1 Center either directly or through your own dispatch center. The team has members available for consultation via telephone and/or on scene response. We are lucky to have some of the most experienced hazmat professionals at our disposal.



Photo from the 4 county Haz-Mat drill in October of 2020

The Albany County Hazmat Team consists of Albany Fire Department, West Albany Fire Department, Watervliet Arsenal Fire Department, Maplewood Fire Department and the Albany County Fire Coordinator's Office.

Our deputy fire coordinators assigned to hazmat are Car 6 – Tony Santulli; Car 3 - Gerry Morigerato (also chief of the Forensic Hazmat Team) and Car 10 – Tom Remmert, Capital Region Hazmat Coordinator. Chief Fire Coordinator Gerald E. Paris, Jr. is also notified of all requests for the County Hazmat Team.

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Reserve Engine

The Fire Coordinator's office has a reserve Engine available as needed for emergency backup. Should the need arise contact the Fire Coordinator. The Engine is a Pierce Lance with a 1,500 GPM Waterous pump.



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Evacuation Functional Needs Registry 911

The Albany County Sheriff's Office has a Countywide Registry for Persons In Need living in Albany County. The program is designed to assist residents with special needs who would need help to evacuate their homes during an emergency situation such as a natural or manmade disaster.

In addition, information from the application will be entered into the County's E-911 system, allowing emergency responders to instantly identify any special needs of callers from their residences. Prior knowledge of the needs of a caller could make a difference during a crucial time.

This completely voluntary Registry is the most extensive of its kind in the Capital District.

All information will be used for emergency purposes only and will be kept strictly confidential.

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=258>

Search and Rescue Team

Currently the Search and Rescue Team (SRT) stands at 25 members. This includes Commander Brian Wood and 4 Team Leaders. The SRT is staffed with deputies and paramedics who are highly trained in technical rescue including high and low angle rope rescue, cave rescue, ice rescue, swift water rescue, and wilderness search and rescue. We also have members trained in both trench rescue and confined space rescue. These members supplement the other county team already in existence.

In early 2020 we placed our new SRT rig into service. The 2020 Chevy/Navistar 5500 has a commercial enclosed utility body built by T&T Truck Sales.



This truck holds all of our rescue gear and also has been designed with several anchor points to facilitate rappelling from the cliff edge.



Chief Paris and Baxter provide live victim search and rescue Countywide and outside the County as requested.

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