



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

August 2021

Critical Incident/Emergency Management Unit

This is the monthly newsletter for the Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit. Please feel free to send us your comments and suggestions.



Office of Emergency
Management

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The Sheriff's Office will be at the Hometown Hereos building at the Altamont Fair August 17th to August 22nd. The Sheriff's booth will have their rock wall, Stop DWI, Project Safe Child program, Search and Rescue team truck and our tactical training trailer, we hope to see you there.

Also in the Hometown Hero's building will be the State Police, Guilderland Police, as well as, various Fire displays and we will be remembering the 20th anniversary of 9/11.



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Capital Region Hazardous Materials Group

By Chief Joe Gregory, Albany Fire Department



The Capital Region Hazardous Materials Group consists of Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service agencies within Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga counties. The HazMat teams from Departments within these counties effectively work together to respond to emergency and non-emergency hazardous materials incidents. Such incidents include actual or potential spills, leaks, and exposures to substances that pose a threat to life, health, and/or property.

The Albany Fire Department is a major agency of this joint team, and currently staffs HazMat 1 the primary response vehicle for the Regional Hazardous Materials Group. This apparatus, quartered in the Arbor Hill Firehouse, is manned 24 hours each day by Albany Fire Department Rescue Squad personnel and can be rapidly deployed throughout the Regional Response Area.

HazMat 1 is a 1992 International chassis with a Hackney body donated by Momenive. HazMat 1 is equipped with the most current protective gear, chemical detection tools and leak mitigation equipment available. The majority of this special response equipment has been purchased with funding from State and Federal Homeland Security Grant funds.

The Capital Region Hazardous Materials Group is an essential component to the protection of life and property throughout Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Saratoga Counties. The Albany Fire Department is proud to be a part of this working group, providing any and all resources necessary in some of the most extreme situations that may arise.

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Safety Reminder:

Please remember to always use a spotter when backing up

NM firefighter killed in apparatus backing incident

By Matthew Reisen Jul 21, 2021 *Fire Rescue 1 Daily*
Albuquerque Journal, N.M.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — State Police say a volunteer firefighter was helping a person injured in a crash Wednesday morning when another volunteer firefighter backed over her in a fire truck along Interstate 25 near Truth or Consequences.

State Police spokesman Ray Wilson said 59-year-old Janet Tracy, a volunteer firefighter from Caballo, was pronounced dead at the scene. He did not say if the 52-year-old man who ran her over, also a Caballo volunteer firefighter, will face any charges.

"This incident is being investigated by the New Mexico State Police," Wilson said.

He said State Police were investigating a crash on I-25, south of Truth or Consequences, around 11:30 a.m. when the incident occurred.

"During the investigation officers were alerted to a firefighter on that scene who had been struck by a fire truck," Wilson said.

He said Tracy was at the scene "providing aid and support" to someone involved in the crash when, around 12:20 p.m., another Caballo Volunteer Firefighter repositioning the fire truck.

"The driver did not see firefighter Tracy and backed over her," Wilson said. "... The fire apparatus was not equipped with a backup camera."

He said State Police are not releasing the identity of the firefighter who ran Tracy over.

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Mutual Aid Water Supply Drill July 21st at New Salem

By Chief Craig Shufelt, New Salem Fire Department

Our mutual aid capability is a major strength of Albany County Fire Departments. New Salem Fire Department lead by Chief Shufelt, Assistant Chief Ayers and Firefighter Fitzmurice demonstrated this on July 21st with a mutual aid water supply drill. This drill included the following departments Altamont, Berne, Guilderland Center, Knox, North Bethlehem, New Salem, Onesquethaw, Slingerlands, and Voorheesville.



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Tankers were refilled by pumpers drafting at two locations Tygrett Road in New Salem and Pine St. in Voorheesville. This operation was assisted by many Fire Police.

Special thanks is given to the New Salem Fire Ladies Auxiliary who served refreshments



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Firehouse Magazine: How to Improve Your ISO Classification

Edward F. Straw shows you how ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) program works, and how you can improve your ISO classification.

Jun 1st, 2004

It's only fair. If you're providing good fire protection for your community, insurance premiums should be lower than in a community with less effective protection.

ISO's Public Protection Classification (PPC) program measures the effectiveness of municipal fire suppression efforts in communities around the country – and helps insurance companies determine premiums for property owners in those communities. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal.

So, to serve your community, you want to earn the best possible PPC. This article will show you how the program works – and how you can improve your ISO classification.

How the PPC Program Works

To evaluate your community, ISO's expert staff collects information about your municipal fire-suppression efforts. We use a manual called the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) to assign credit points for various features of your fire protection, including your water supply system, your fire alarm and communications systems, and your fire department. The maximum score is 100 points.

Based on your score, we assign a Public Protection Classification – a number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents the best public protection, and Class 10 indicates less than the minimum recognized protection.

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Water supply. The most fundamental improvement many communities can make is in the water supply. If your water supply doesn't meet minimum FSRs criteria, you generally can't improve beyond a Class 9. However, the FSRs does recognize alternative water supply systems, including dry hydrants, suction points, large-diameter hose (LDH) relays and hauled water using tanker shuttles.

Credit for an alternative water-supply system can be up to 35 points and will allow your jurisdiction to improve from a Class 9. ISO may recognize your tanker-shuttle operation if it can deliver a minimum flow of 250 gpm, uninterrupted, for two hours, and if the water source is available and accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The FSRs recognizes agreements with neighboring fire departments to supplement the response of tankers and/or supply-site pumpers.

ISO has introduced Class 8B for communities that cannot meet the minimum 250 gpm uninterrupted flows for a two-hour duration in all or a part of their fire-protection area. To achieve a Class 8B classification, you must be able to deliver 200 gpm, uninterrupted, for 20 minutes within five minutes of arrival of the first apparatus at the fire. In addition, your community must score at least five points out of 10 on Receiving and Handling of Fire Alarms and at least 20 points out of 50 on the Fire Department evaluation.

If your community has a public water-supply system with fire hydrants, you can earn up to three points for maintaining the hydrants in good condition and inspecting them twice a year. The inspection program should include flushing the hydrants and conducting a pressure test. The public water authority may perform those tasks.



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Recruitment and Retention Car



R&R car at the Colonie Farmer's Market on July 31st. This County recruitment effort was in conjunction with the Colonie Village, Fuller Road and Shaker Road-Loudonville Fire Departments. It was a good example of a cooperative recruiting effort with four agencies. There was good foot traffic and several people stopped by the booth to pick up giveaways and get information. Each agency felt it was a worthwhile effort and are making plans to do it again in the next two months.

Recruitment of new members for our Fire, EMS or Police Departments is always a priority. One way to recruit new members is to raise awareness of the need for them. The County Recruitment and Retention car is a highly visible way to raise awareness. If you have an event coming up and would like to have the Recruitment and Retention car there, just let us know.

To reserve the Recruitment and Retention car for your station please contact Deputy Fire Coordinator Bob Stevens at Robert.Stevens@albanycountyny.gov

Albany County Volunteer Firefighter news

Albany County Volunteer Firefighter dinner is September 15th at Coeymans Hollow Fire Department.

The Fire Muster will be October 9th at Fort Hunter they would like to get a good turnout to honor Chief Eck.



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A 'SOUND' STRATEGY FOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION MARKETING

By Steve Fortunato (*From FASNY*)

How did you learn the alphabet? Most of us learned the alphabet through the power of sound. We hear the alphabet song, retain the sounds, and repeat over and over and over again until we have all 26 letters memorized. I'm confident that after reading the last sentence you have already started replaying the song in your head. I'm also pretty sure that as you sing the song, aloud or to yourself, that you will pause after the letters "g", "p", "s", "v", and "x". Go ahead, I know you want to try. I'll wait.

If your recruitment and retention marketing plans don't include utilizing audio platforms, you should change your strategy immediately so that sound becomes your No. 1 marketing tool. Platforms that include sound are traditional radio, streaming radio (podcasts, etc.), traditional television, over-the-top television or streaming video services, social media channels, your department website and, of course, live, in-person conversations.

SOUND CREATES EMOTION

There are numerous studies showing the connection between sound and emotion. There are even more studies showing that almost every decision we make is based on emotion, not logic. We connect emotionally and we justify those actions and decisions, like volunteering, with logic later. Not convinced? Google it.

K-M-G-3-6-5

The television show "Emergency" ended in 1977, but for those of us living in the 1970s the sound of the emergency firehouse alarm still elicits an emotional response. In fact, you may have decided to become a firefighter because of the show. Even though you're reading this article in the written word format, surely you can hear it in your mind, "Squad 51, K-M-G-3-6-5." So now that we agree using audio is an effective way to recruit and retain volunteers (we did agree, right?), the next step is to make sure you're using it correctly. The power of sound loses all of its power if it's implemented the wrong way.

STORYTELLING

Storytelling through sound has always been, and always will be, an extremely powerful tool of persuasion. When we sit around a campfire, we don't exchange notes we tell stories. "TED Talks" are not called "TED Essays" for a reason. The stories told by your volunteers are what will get others in your community to volunteer. Ultimately, your best storytellers are also your best brand ambassadors your current volunteers.

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TESTIMONIALS

Record your volunteers telling their own stories in their own words. Scripts, notes during the interview and polished presentations are not allowed. Candidates will connect with their potential future brothers and sisters if testimonials are authentic and imperfect. Humans trust real. We don't always trust calculations. It's powerful to hear a volunteer share his or her "Why" – "why I do what I do, what it means to me, my family and the community I serve." When a volunteer shares the truth, as only that volunteer can share it, the passion in the voice is deeply felt by the audience. What the volunteer says is actually not as important as how the volunteer says it.

HOLLYWOOD EFFECT

There is a critical retention aspect to volunteer testimonials—we call it the "Hollywood effect." Aunt Betty, Cousin Phil, Grandma and Grandpa are filled with pride when they hear their loved one's volunteer story and then they share it with their world.

It's also a proud moment for the volunteer knowing the department is saying, "We trust and appreciate you so much that we want you to represent us and our brand."

Let's go! The best time to start is now. Grab your smartphone, invest in a lapel microphone and hit record. It doesn't matter if it's gold, you just need to start sharing volunteer stories. Make sure your messages are authentic and then start connecting with the community.

Steve Fortunato spent 24 years in the radio and television industries. He specializes in recruitment and retention marketing and advertising. Most recently he implemented a recruitment and retention marketing strategy for Goose Creek Rural Fire Department in Goose Creek, South Carolina (gcrfd.com). Steve's contact information is (716) 465-5131 or steve@shovelthesidewalk.com.



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Training Opportunities

FASNY TRAINING WEEKEND

Join the first FASNY Training Weekend! This three-day program at one of the top training centers in the nation features hands-on and classroom trainings to provide the best knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to safely and effectively prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and manmade disasters.



CLASSES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH:

- Surface Water Rescue (16 hrs.)- 24 Maximum participants
- ATV/UTV Class (20 hrs.) (Friday-Sunday at Noon) Participants must bring their department issued vehicles (Department Registration must be shown)- 24 Participants Maximum
- Meet and Greet BBQ/Clambake hosted by FASNY and the Clinton/Westmoreland Fire Departments from 6:30pm-10:00pm- at Clinton Fire Department #2

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH:

- Hybrid Class: This will include: Engine Company Operations, Truck Company Operations, Initial Fire Attack, Search and Rescue, Forcible Entry, FAST. Each Class is tentatively scheduled for 3-hours each. This will be held at the City Scape.-
24 Participants Maximum
- Flood Operations and Mitigation: 8 hrs.- 24 Participants Maximum
- Saturday evening: On Your Own

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH:

- 8:30am: ESIP: Dealing with Issues Leaders Face in the Volunteer Fire Service– 2.5 Hours-
24 Maximum Inst.: David Dennison
- 8:30am: VFIS: Traffic Incident Management – 2.5 Hours- 24 Maximum – Instructor Tim Boel
- 8:30am: PTSD What All First Responders Should Know– Instructor Jared Meeker
- 11:30am: Closing and Certificates

TO REGISTER

[HTTPS://FASNY.COM/TRAINING/FASNY-TRAINING-WEEKEND/](https://fasny.com/training/fasny-training-weekend/)

The New York State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) is the multidiscipline complex operated by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES). The SPTC affords state, local, and federal agencies a complex of training venues that can be used for the entire spectrum of training.

From classroom lectures and discussions to skill development lanes to reality and high-performance scenario-based training, the SPTC offers opportunities for dynamic emergency first responder training.

Saturday, September 25, 2021
8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday, September 26, 2021
8:00 am - 11:30 am

State Preparedness Training Center* Oriskany, NY

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-OFPC Arson Seminar

We want to let you know that OFPC is in the planning stages to hold the Office of Fire Prevention and Control's Annual Arson Seminar as an IN-PERSON event this year.

Dates: November 3-5, 2021

Venue: Watkins Glen Community Center

Agenda: Details are being finalized – information will be distributed when all are confirmed

OFPC's plan is to host the Seminar in the same schedule format that participants have experienced in past years. (Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday, and Friday morning). Attendance **MAY** be limited in accordance with NYS DOH COVID guidelines and DHSES policies in effect at the time of the event. Lodging at the Academy of Fire Science will most certainly be limited.

Registration will be posted to the [DHSES Learning Management System](#) in the near future

Air Medical utilization and landing zone safety



**The Knox Fire Company will be hosting this class at
our firehouse (2198 Berne Altamont Rd.) on**

Monday September 20th at 6:30 p.m.

All local departments (fire, EMS, etc.) are invited to attend

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Chief Bill Vinson at 518-424-7785 or

Captain Sue Olivares at 518-366-2465

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Upcoming event

Upstate New York Firefighters Expo 2021

Network, Training and Fire Apparatus Exposition in the Lake George Region!

Friday: 9 AM - 5 PM/Saturday: 9 AM - 3PM

RSVP Today

Time & Location

Sep 03, 9:00 AM – Sep 04, 3:00 PM

Cool Insuring Arena, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Glens Falls, NY 12801, USA

The goal of the Upstate NY Firefighters Expo is to offer a location that benefits the North Country and Great Capital Region Firefighters and their families. **The exhibit floor pass is free if you preregister.**

For more information visit <https://www.upstatenyfirefightersexpo.com/>

- Other Training Opportunities

-National Grid has online First Responder safety training available at the following link <https://fireresponder.ngridsafety.com>

Albany County Training

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #5 2021 is now available on our website

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/16514/637600365460700000>

A copy of schedule 5 is appended to the end of this newsletter

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NYS ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS FIRE/EMS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: THE PRICE WE PAY WORKSHOP

FREE Three-Hour Workshop

With Past Chief Mike Healy (Central Nyack Fire Department) & Past Chief Jared Meeker (Lake Shore Fire District)

Registration form https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events_Training/NYSAFC%20Fire_EMS%20Behavioral%20Health%20Workshop%202021%202.pdf

This workshop will deal with the behavioral health issues faced by firefighters and emergency medical services personnel. The mounting number of suicides, an increase in alcoholism and drug addiction, and post-traumatic stress all need immediate attention. The workshop will provide an overview of the behavioral health problems that fire/EMS personnel experience. Attendees will learn about the skills necessary to recognize and help others who are struggling with mental health issues. Participants will gain an understanding of how to monitor the health of fellow firefighters and EMS providers in order to prevent the negative results that could have a long-lasting impact on their agencies, ultimately increasing retention and reducing burnout in first responders. As leaders, our number one responsibility is to keep our members safe, which also includes keeping them safe from the effects of emotional trauma from the events we respond to. All first responders, including 911 personnel and police, are welcome to attend. As family members are usually the first to notice something is different or has changed in the behavioral health of a first responder, spouses or partners are also welcome to register to attend this workshop. They will learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of a first responder who is struggling with emotional trauma, as well as where to get the necessary help.

Lecturers:

Past Chief Mike Healy has years of experience in this field and has assisted thousands of firefighters and EMS providers in getting the necessary help to lead the normal life of a first responder. **Past Chief Jared Meeker** experienced a tragic event that triggered a landslide of emotions from many previous traumatic events. He is now able to share many lessons learned to help others.

Registration: FREE

Seating is limited due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. Pre-registration is encouraged.

October 18, 2021 – Rensselaer County

East Greenbush Fire District #3 • 68 Phillips Road • Rensselaer, NY 12144

On-site registration will be accepted if space permits.

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