



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

December 2021

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.**



Elsmere Fire trains on bailout simulator

Office of Emergency
Management

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Clarksville, NY
12041

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UTV-3

In 2014 the Fort Hunter Fire district began looking into the concept of making rescue operations within certain portions of the fire district easier. With over 14 miles of trail head within the Albany Pinebush and the fire district a solution was needed to move both victims and rescuers in a quick and easy fashion. UTV-3 proved to be that answer.

UTV-3 is a 2015 Polaris 900 UTV. It can hold up to 5 personnel, has a skid pack that carries 70 gallons of water, a fire pump, forestry hose, and a mounting system for a stokes basket. UTV-3 also has tracks that stay on the unit at all times allowing the UTV to have traction during both summer and winter rescue / firefighting operations. Should the UTV get stuck it has a receiver style winch on both the front and rear to allow self recovery of the vehicle.

UTV-3 is transported on an 18' open flatbed trailer. The trailer contains extra fuel for the unit as well as storage for PPE and a "sully" system for a medic providing patient care during transport. The trailer is typically pulled by M-32, a 2010 Ford F-350 Crew cab pick up truck.

UTV 3 has been called upon several times to provide transportation where traditional methods didn't work. It was recently used in the Albany Pinebush in the Stanford Heights Fire District to rescue a cross country skier who sustained an injury on a trail. The UTV has also seen use at structural fires, where the structure is set way back off of the road. The unit has been used to shuttle people up and down the long driveways as traditional vehicle access was blocked by hose. The unit prevented firefighters from having to walk long distances carrying their gear, and allowed them to go right to work once they arrived on scene.

UTV3 also won Best Appearing Utility in this years Albany County Muster.

UTV3 is available to anyone within our Mutual Aid system that feels like it would benefit them in an emergency.



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Cohoes Firefighters Graduate from Utica Fire Academy



Fourteen new firefighters joined the fire service, December 1st, after graduating from the Utica Fire Academy. Graduation was held at Utica City Hall. Fire Chiefs came from the Schenectady, Oswego, Saratoga, Cohoes and Amsterdam Departments, to pin the badges on their new firefighters' dress blues. The 14-week training program is rigorous when there isn't a global pandemic. Training during a pandemic meant some twists and turns.

"First night, we did a little PT and next Monday, we had a positive case we got sent home for two weeks. Then maybe six, seven weeks in, we had nine positive cases we got sent home again for two weeks, which, stopping physical training for two weeks then restarting back where we were was very difficult for us and it was a big push, all of us working together, to complete it," says Little Falls Firefighter, Damian Urtz.

Urtz says the training was very strenuous, but that completing the grueling program together allowed the 14 recruits to form lifelong bonds.

"I've had friends my whole life and I am not as close to them as I am to these guys," said Firefighter Urtz.

Family members filled the common council chambers for the graduation.



Left to right Josh Umholtz, Thomas Brazzil, Chief Fahd, Greg Hoffman, Chris McKay



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Fire Rescue 1 By Lexipol

Why firefighting is the best job in the world

You are trained to be a fixer of all problems, and that's pretty cool

Sep 24, 2021

By Scott Ziegler

Someone asked me why firefighting is the best job in the world when I was a **trialman**. Without naming any names, we will just call him ... Lieu.

Now the tone in which he asked me the question led me to believe he was looking for some sort of long, drawn-out explanation. I was a trialman at the time so everything I said or did was being judged. I got a little nervous. This guy was a well-respected firefighter, boss and person when it came to the DFD. I didn't want to say anything dumb. And I had a million things going through my mind.



You even get to save cats. (Reddit)

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1. PUTTING OUT FIRES IS AN INCREDIBLE RUSH

I could have started with the whole aspect of fighting fires. When someone's house is on fire, and you and your "team" put it out, it's the single most satisfying thing a firefighter can do. Not only did you get to contribute once again, but that fight ... the adrenaline rush ... the heat and smoke ... kicking in the door, actually truly "fighting" the fire.

2. YOU CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY

I could have mentioned how fulfilling the job can be. The job pays you in a way that no paycheck ever could. You get to contribute to society. Every man who was raised right wants to contribute and be a part of the solution — not the problem. When you go to bed at night, you know that you did something for your fellow man that day. And you didn't do it for any sort of personal gain. You are trained to be a fixer of all problems, and that's pretty cool. It's something anyone would be proud of.

3. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB; IT'S A TEAM

I could have gotten into the whole team atmosphere. Most kids grow up playing a sport, mostly team sports. Unless you like rolling around on a rubber mat with a sweaty dude, or playing golf — I mean golf is cool and all for old men, but let's face it, no golf player was ever taking any cheerleaders to any secluded parking lots — unless he reached Tiger-status. You grow up being a part of a team. As an adult you sometimes miss out on that camaraderie you shared as a team. Mostly adults have to work and don't have that camaraderie at their job. Well as a firefighter you are always part of a team.

4. YOU AREN'T A POLITICIAN

And then I could have listed off all the obvious ones ... The **schedule** is awesome. Chicks love men in uniform. You get occasional naps at work. The food is always top notch (maybe not always). You aren't a politician. You get to save cats from trees. You get to hang out with your buddies all day at work. The pranks you get to witness, and take part in. The fact that we can solve all the world's problems in the kitchen. The coffee. The fact that most other men hate when you come around because they know their wives wish they were with firemen too (joking). The stories. The life experience. The brotherhood. There's all of that stuff and more.

So when I was asked that question as a trialman, those things were going through my head, but I honestly don't remember what I said to him. But when I returned the question to him, he gave the best possible answer anyone could ever give. One very short and very simple answer:

5. "BECAUSE IT IS."

This article, originally published June 2015, has been updated

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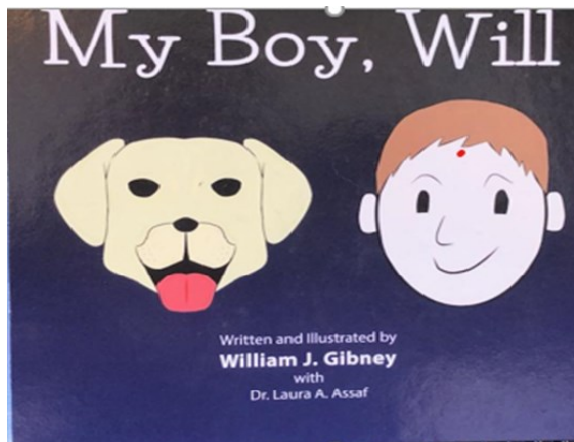
December 2021

Canine Companions

Chief Paris attended a book signing with Bunker and Hank at Colonie Center on December 12th to benefit Canine Companions.

"My Boy, Will" is the story of one child's triumph over immunodeficiency and autoimmune encephalopathy with the love and support of his service dog. **William J. Gibney** is a 17-year-old high school senior who wrote and illustrated this book and is donating all his profits to canine companions.

Canine Companions provide service dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities so their clients and their dogs can live with greater independence. The dogs and all follow-up services are provided at no cost.



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Upcoming Event

Hilltown Heroes Winter Festival

January 15, 2022

Snow Date January 29, 2022

11am to 3pm
Berne Town Park
1128 Helderberg Trail
Berne, NY 12023

Come out and join us, and have some family time making fun memories. We will have multiple activities including ice skating, chili contest with your local heroes, snow painting, vendors, craft vendors, raffles, food and much more...

Sponsored by the East Berne Fire and Ladies Auxiliary, The Town of Berne and many more to come... All proceeds will be for the new East Berne Fire House.

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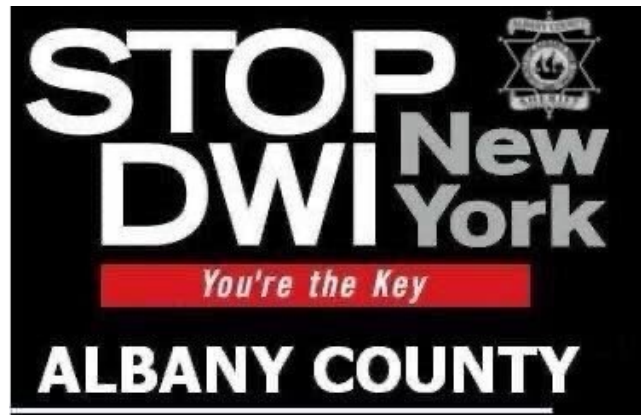


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Elsmere Fire trained on the Tactical training trailer while it was at the Bethlehem Training grounds for the month of December and was used by the Bethlehem Departments.



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The holiday season is a great time to get together with family and friends to celebrate the past year. Whether you are staying local or planning on traveling, always remember that sober driving is the safest driving. Don't be fooled thinking "it's only one more". The devastation that one more can cause could be a life time of suffering. Have a Plan! Choose a designated driver, ride share, or stay over – but never drive impaired! Extra law enforcement will be on patrol between December 17th and New Year's Day to help ensure our



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Recruitment and Retention



The Albany County Recruitment and Retention car made its final appearances for the 2021 season during December. At the Midway Fire Dept. the R&R car participated in a birthday parade for a special needs individual and on Saturday, December 11th the R&R participated in a Toys for Tots Holiday Lights event at the Colonie Central High School. This ends the 2021 schedule of events where the R&R car was placed at various events from Rensselaerville to the Watervliet Arsenal and from Delmar to Middleburgh. In all the car made 22 appearances at various fire houses, farmer's markets, community events and parades this year.

As the R&R car settles down for a long winter's nap, we encourage you to start thinking about scheduling the car to be displayed at your fire house or for special events starting in April 2022.

Happy Holidays to All

Deputy Fire Coordinator Bob Stevens at Robert.Stevens@albanycountyny.gov

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Training Opportunities

Refresher Training Opportunity

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control is now offering Refresher Training Courses for departments that want to have local training/drills that are led by State Fire Instructors (SFI). Course requests may be in increments of 4, 6, 9 or 12 hours. The host department works with the SFI to develop the curriculum. Topics to be covered may be from the following courses: Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Truck Company Operations, Apparatus Operator- Pump, and Apparatus Operator - Aerial Device.

This is a great opportunity for your department to enhance your drill schedule or team up with a regular mutual aid department to work on skills of mutual interest. It may also help you to meet the instructor requirements under NFPA 1403 if you plan to do a live burn.

Contact Deputy Fire Coordinator Bruno at william.bruno@albanycountyny.gov if interested in scheduling refresher training.

FIRE DYNAMICS – CONTROLLED VENTILATION

This presentation will provide new tactics related to National Institute Standards & Testing (NIST) research on modern fire behavior. It aims to provide a basic understanding of the importance of proper controlled ventilation in today's fire environment.

PRESENTER

Ed Mann, Director of Training & Education, Provident Insurance. Prior to working for Provident, he served as Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner for 14 yrs. He began his career in the fire service with the Logan Fire Company, Bellefonte PA in 1977. He then pursued a career in the U.S. Air Force as a Fire Protection Specialist until his retirement in 1994. He has worked as an adjunct instructor for the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy and was awarded Instructor Emeritus status in 2016. He currently serves as the Chief of the Logan Volunteer FD.

Thursday, January 27, 2022

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Webinar https://fasny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JCIq4-YIRGexSrEsh6EBJA

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FASNY EMERGENCY RESPONDER SAFETY

This program will demonstrate how fire and EMS agencies can provide a safe and healthful work environment where risks that are taken are commensurate with the potential benefits. The program goes beyond the typical hazards encountered at the emergency scene and also identifies risks associated with fire and EMS cultures, station life and challenges encountered on the street. The program identifies three different working environments where emergency responders encounter significant risks. They include the station, the street and the scene. The program, through interactive dialogue, identifies methods to manage the associated risks in those workplace settings. The program is divided into four distinct modules that can be covered separately.

PRESENTER

Tim Boel is an Education Specialist for VFIS Education and Training, a subsidiary of Glatfelter Insurance Group. His responsibilities include coordination and delivery of education and training programs, curriculum development, and information analysis in the State of New York. He is a member of many emergency service organizations including NYSAFC, FASNY, Rensselaer County Association of Fire Chiefs and NFPA to name a few. He also served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and committee member of the New York State Association of Fire Chief's Public Education Committee.

There is no charge for these programs.

Monday, February 28, 2022

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Fuller Road Fire Department

To Register

https://member.fasny.com/nc_event?id=a0l2T000006crb3QAA

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COURAGE THROUGH ACTION

First responders, police officers, firefighters, EMTs and paramedics, experience significant job-related stressors and exposures that may confer increased risk for mental health morbidities. The Courage Through Action process 'Q' – Question 'P' – Persuade, 'R' – Referral help First Responders to Recognize signs when a person is struggling with suicidal ideations, how to help someone with mental health issues to get the help they need, and to identify community resources where a struggling person can be referred for services.

SPEAKER: JOHN CONNORS

John Connors has a M.A. in Counseling and is the President of the Connors Group. He has been in the training and development profession for over 30 years. John has written 2 books, co-authored a third and authored numerous articles. He has provided training services around the world.

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Webinar

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 4-6, 2022

MONTOUR FALLS, NEW YORK

Each year, the FASNY Emergency Medical Services Committee presents the EMS Seminar in Montour Falls, New York. The two-day 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 toxicology, cardiology, respiratory, psychiatric and EMS operations, among others.

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SAVE THE DATE **JANUARY 28-29, 2022** **SELDEN, NEW YORK**

Each year, the FASNY Emergency Medical Services Committee presents the EMS Conference in Selden, New York. The one-day 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-Conference Workshop eligible for Core CME credit hours in toxicology, cardiology, respiratory, psychiatric and EMS operations, among others.

Albany County Training

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #11 2021 is now available on our website

Training Schedule 11 attached below

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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](#))

COURSE	LOCATION	DATE	INSTRUCTOR	PREREQUISITES
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Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations	Knox	October 29, November 15, 18, 20, 23, 24, 30, December 4, 6, 8, 13, 16, 20, 22, 28, 30, January 3, 5, 10, 13, 17 Weeknight: 1800 Start Saturdays: 0900 Start	Heinbach	None
IN PROGRESS				Chief Officer Must Attend First Night for Apparatus Assignments

Firefighter I Certification (BEFO/SCBA Interior Firefighter Operations)	Colonie MTB	December 1st: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer Must Attend with Student <i>BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)</i> January 3, 5, 9, 10, 12, 19,24, 26, 31, February 5 7, 9, 14, 16, 28, March 2, 7, 9,14, 16, 21, 23,28	At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter
IN PROGRESS IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting7th Edition Curriculum		<i>SCBA/IFO:</i> March 24, April 4,6, 11, 13, 25, 27, May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 26 1830-2130 February 5 th 0800-2200 Instructor - Collins	Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,

Fire & Emergency Services Instructor I NEW TO SCHEDULE	Watervliet Arsenal	January 28, 29, 30, February 5 & 6 0800-1700	OFPC	None
Fire Officer II w/FILO NEW TO SCHEDULE	Watervliet Arsenal	February 14,15,16,17,18 0800-1700	OFPC	NYS Fire Officer I or NYS Intro to Fire Office and Fire Officer I or FLSTP prior Nov. 1, 2014 and FLSTP to FO I Bridge Course Completion or FLSTP Fire Officer I course completion after Nov 1, 2014 or Pro Board DOD or IFSAC Fire Officer I Certification
Fire and Emergency Service Instructor II	Watervliet Arsenal	February 28, March 1, 2,3,4 0800-1700	Brimhall	Fire and Emergency Service Instructor I
Unless changed by instructor or noted above: All evening classes will be held from 19:00-22:00 hours. All Saturday and Sunday classes will be held from 09:00-12:00 hours and 13:00-16:00 hours			 Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris 	