



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

January 2022

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.**



Boght Community Fire Department Type 3 Swift Water Rescue Team

In this issue

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Office of Emergency
Management

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Albany County Sheriff's Office

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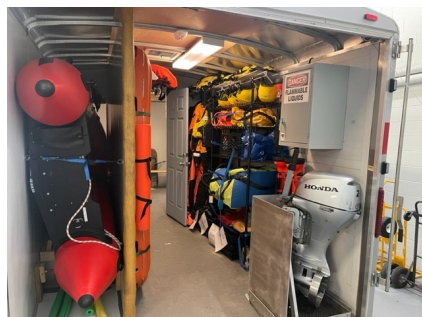
Boght Community Fire Department Swiftwater Rescue Team

The Boght Community Fire Department is a Type III Swiftwater Rescue Team. We currently have 8 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians, with multiple support members. We respond to all water rescue incidents with Rescue 1, a Heavy Rescue, and a Water Rescue Trailer. All Swiftwater Rescue Technicians are issued personal water gear, including dry suit, PFD, water boots, water gloves and helmets.

The Boght Community Fire Department Water Rescue Trailer is a 24' custom built response unit. The WRT is divided into 2 sections, the front section being available for donning and doffing of PPE. This section of the trailer is heated and cooled for the comfort of the rescue personnel. The rear section is designed to carry all water rescue (swift and cold) equipment, including a 14' Zodiac inflatable boat, a 20 hp motor, spare dry suits and gear, as well as a cache of ropes and rescue equipment.

The interior cab of the Rescue is also designed to supplement the WRT. The cab contains a "horseshoe" cabinet that contains dry suits, PFD's, helmets and throw bags for the responding crew.

During inclement weather, all Swift Water Rescue Technicians carry their gear on the apparatus while responding to any incident. This ensures our members are prepared to be reassigned to a water incident with the proper PPE.



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Recruitment and Retention



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.

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

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Fire Rescue 1 by Lexipol

By Daniel Shoffner

‘The Great Resignation’: It could go either way for the fire service



The fire service must capitalize on this phenomenon to attract new members or be destined to experience its own mass exodus
Dec 4, 2021

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The fire service has just had a second alarm pulled on it, and fire chiefs and administrations nationwide are responding with all the resources they have available. But is it enough, and will the outcome be the same as mopping up after the “big one” when everyone is ready to return to quarters after a job well done? The fire service, along with several other professions, is experiencing a problem not seen in modern times – staffing. The Great Resignation, as it has become known, has seen millions resign from their jobs since the beginning of the pandemic.

As Derek Thompson covers in his article, [“The Great Resignation Is Accelerating,”](#) there are various reasons for this sudden workforce depletion, namely that employees



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are looking for more satisfactory work, and they have the benefit of multiple government programs providing a safety net during the pandemic, making job transitions a safer option.

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The fire service, along with several other professions, is experiencing a problem not seen in modern times – staffing. The Great Resignation, as it has become known, has seen millions resign from their jobs since the beginning of the pandemic.

It is not clear yet how this will impact the fire service, but what has become clear is that more firefighters have been retiring, active firefighters have been called upon to take on more during the pandemic, and the fire service may not be itself immune to the Great Resignation.

TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Most firefighters would probably agree that there are few professions as fulfilling and rewarding as the fire service. This doesn't change the fact that many may be tempted to graze upon grass that appears to be greener on the other side. It also doesn't change the fact that, for whatever reason, many of us are seeing our firefighter applicant pool begin to dwindle.

When I began exploring fire service careers 25 years ago, it was extremely competitive to get a job as a firefighter. It was a huge accomplishment to get hired by most municipal departments in my area, and in most instances, it involved more than one hiring process due to the high number of applicants. Today, we still may see good applications show up, but the volume has decreased dramatically.

Certainly, a key reason is the impact of the pandemic. Everyone in public safety has been called upon to do more over the last nearly two years. For many, this has involved repeated mandatory overtime – the result of other firefighters seeking employment elsewhere, being out of work due to COVID-19 exposure or infection, and myriad other reasons. And the impact has hit EMS, too.

I was in a regional chiefs meeting recently where the topic came up regarding the number of open positions in our area's EMS systems. The number of vacancies was alarming. In our region, most fire departments support EMS systems but do not transport, leaving that to our local EMS agencies. But many paramedics have left their jobs for the same reasons identified by Thompson above.



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MENTORSHIP AND QUALITY OF LIFE

In order for us to hold onto our members and attract new ones to our chosen profession, we must proactively work to prevent the Great Resignation from striking deeper into our membership. We can do this by supporting our current members, and capitalizing on the fact that many individuals are now actively seeking new, different career paths.

Those of us who have been in the fire service for many years, or even been in other professions, have come to appreciate what we have in the fire service, in good times and bad. Many up-and-coming firefighters or those interested in a career in the fire service may not grasp what we veterans know about all that the fire service has to offer.

One of the most important things any of us can do right now is to mentor of our younger firefighters who may be getting fatigued with the mandatory overtime, or those who have just entered the field and see the added stress and demands, but don't understand the benefits. As veterans of the service, we understand the satisfaction of serving others and the rewards of helping our fellow man during their most challenging times, and we also understand the camaraderie between our brothers and sisters in emergency services after we have been impacted by the stress of being present in the worst of times for many and intervening when lives and property are not spared, including those of our own. Few professions have the brotherhood and sisterhood we enjoy, nor the overwhelming satisfaction of service. We must pass this on, so these elements of the fire service are not lost during these turbulent times.

During the Great Resignation, we have seen people leave their jobs for more flexibility and improved quality of life. While our shifts can be demanding, the fire service does offer the benefit of reasonable time away in between shifts. However, as many have had to implement more overtime, this benefit has decreased. The only way to change this is to encourage those in the fire service to stay and strive to attract those leaving other professions to join our ranks. It is a slippery slope on which we reside. If more firefighters leave, conditions will rapidly worsen, much like a smoldering fire with newly opened windows and doors to introduce massive influx of oxygen. However, we can make the Great Resignation work for us, attracting more to our workforce and thus preserving the backbone of our profession, instead of breaking the backs of our firefighters to do more and more in these difficult times.

While the fire service may never attract the same number of people as industries with much higher salaries, we know many people are now leaving high-paid professions in favor of quality of life – something we can offer when we too have strong staffing. Now is the time to take advantage of this pool of workers and introduce them to the satisfaction and lifestyle many of us know and embrace. Let's not miss this opportunity to embrace the change we are seeing in the workforce; otherwise, we will likely quickly succumb to it as well

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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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PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR AWARENESS FOR THE FIREFIGHTER

Photovoltaic Solar Awareness for the Firefighter: This webinar program will explain what Photovoltaic Solar is, define all the components of a Photovoltaic solar system and highlight safety concerns for first responders and discuss operational considerations and safety tactics.

PRESENTER

Brendan Dunn retired as a Deputy Chief, from the Utica Fire Department. During his 23 years of service Chief Dunn worked in engine and truck companies. As a Captain he developed the curriculum for the Utica Fire Academy and trained more than four hundred fifty firefighters over a ten year period. Since 2007, Chief Dunn has been working with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control as an Academy Regional State Fire Instructor. Chief Dunn has an AAS in Fire Protection Technology and has presented at the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs Conference, the Old Forge Fire School, Ontario County Fire Chiefs Training Seminar, and for the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Monday, February 7, 2022 - Sunday, February 7, 2021

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Webinar

Register

https://fasny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CLSq46LySsiLDiFlulwFg

In addition we want to remind you that the County Solar Prop Trailer is still available for training. Contact Chief Paris if you would like to reserve it.

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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

https://fasny.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_52NkBohjTgSDFZKe8ozssw

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 and attached at end of newsletter.

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/17164/637755895421330000>

Albany County News



Onesquethaw Fire Department will be holding their first monthly breakfast of the New Year January 23rd from 7:30am-10am at the Clarksville Fire station located at 2178 Tarrytown Road.

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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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ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #11 2021

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	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 Chief Officer Must Attend First Night for Apparatus Assignments
IN PROGRESS				

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 <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	At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,
IN PROGRESS			
IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7 th Edition Curriculum			

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 	