



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

September, 2023

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.**



New Albany County Retention and Recruitment car

In this issue

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Training

Office of Emergency
Management

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Altamont Fair

The Fire Coordinator's Office was at the Altamont Fair again this year. We displayed our new R&R car and the new Fire Safety House constructed by Chief Paris. Many youth and even some adults had a great time with the Fire Safety House.



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Recruitment and Retention

This is our new Recruitment and Retention car which will be available for special events. If you want the car displayed at your event please contact Bob Stevens at 518-857-2259 or robert.stevens@albanycountyny.gov to make arrangements.



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The fire service is a top career path for young people – they just don't know it

Fire Rescue 1 by Lexipol

By Linda Willing

A new study ranks fire supervision as a prime option, so how do we make this connection for the younger members of our communities?

A recent joint study by Gallup and Amazon has rated *First-Line Supervisors of Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers* as the top career path for young people without a college degree.

The study, called the **Careers of the Future Index (CFI)**, ranks careers for different education levels based on data on income potential, job growth, job vacancies per job-seeker and resistance to automation. The study conveys the economic strengths and weaknesses of various career paths, and highlights careers that both pay well and are likely to be available to applicants now and in the future.

Based on these criteria, a fire service career ranked first in its category, tied with *Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians*.

SEND THE RIGHT MESSAGE – AND MEMBERS

While this sounds like good news for both the fire service and young job-seekers, the study also highlights a disconnect between expectations and reality. For example, the study found that 35% of 15-year-olds aspire to careers like athletes and actors, while overlooking higher scoring careers.

Most people who choose to work as firefighters know what a great job it can be, and that it is a fulfilling career path. How can the fire service work harder to get this information out to the next generation?

Many fire departments have had youth outreach programs in place for a long time, and these programs have great value. Successful outreach programs include fire department-sponsored Explorer posts, girls' fire camps, partnerships with community groups, and high school and college-aged internships, to name a few. In addition, fire departments may participate in singular events such as career days or job fairs that seek to interest new young people in an emergency services career.

This is all good – but it may not be enough. Two factors that may be lacking in these efforts are relatable messaging and one-on-one follow up.

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Who is taking the message to Career Day? Is it a 20-something firefighter with only a couple years on the job, or (as is true in many cases) is it an older firefighter with seniority? The latter representative surely has more experience and acquired knowledge about the job to share. But the fact is, if firefighters at these events don't look anything like the young people they hope to recruit, their efforts will be less effective. The old line that "you have to see it to be it" may feel trite, but it is still true. If young people only see firefighters who are clearly different from themselves based on age/generation, race/ethnicity or gender, it will be harder for them to imagine themselves in that same role.

For this reason, it is important to get diverse, young department members involved in outreach programs, not just as tokens, but as active and contributing members.

Likewise, there can be a disconnect based on messaging and communication methods. Most young people live on their phones, through the internet and social media, but many fire departments have yet to create inviting and accessible digital access to their organizations. Again, this is where involving newer, often young members can help.

That being said, be careful. It may be tempting to go all-in with digital platforms for recruitment and outreach, but even in 2023, there is still nothing like a personal connection. I have interviewed many fire service leaders who came from traditionally underrepresented groups, and most of them have a similar story: They were unsure or unaware of the potential of a fire service career until they connected with someone who took a personal interest in them and helped to guide them through the process of joining the department. Even decades later, these individuals can name the person who filled that role.

SHOW THEM A PROMISING CAREER OPTION

The Gallup/Amazon study states: "Millions of American students face an important decision every year – what career do they want to pursue and what's the best way to get there? Young adults are overlooking promising career options."

Firefighters know they have a great job. It's a vocation that provides security and fulfillment even as it demands its members give their all to mitigate and prevent harm in the community. But firefighters also have the responsibility to build the future of their organizations through intentional outreach and inclusion of the next generation.

Data shows that opportunities exist. Firefighters have an obligation to ensure that these opportunities are known and available to all members of the community.

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Hazmat Corner

Spill Reporting and Cleanup – Who you gonna call?



There is some confusion and misinformation out there about spill reporting. Often it gets handed down to new firefighters that you only have to report spills in excess of 5 gallons. This isn't true. Here are the guidelines from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

What petroleum spills need to be reported?

All petroleum spills that occur within New York State (NYS) must be reported to the NYS Spill Hotline (1-800-457-7362) within 2 hours of discovery, except spills which meet all of the following criteria:

1. The quantity is known to be less than 5 gallons; and
2. The spill is contained and under the control of the spiller; and
3. The spill has not and will not reach the State's water or any land; and
4. The spill is cleaned up within 2 hours of discovery.

A spill is considered to have not impacted land if it occurs on a paved surface such as asphalt or concrete. **A spill in a dirt or gravel parking lot is considered to have impacted land and is reportable.** (*emphasis added*)

As you can see, a spill on pavement does not need to be reported if it is less than 5 gallons. If the spill is of any size and impacts dirt or gravel it needs to be reported. Also, if any of the spill enters a sewer (storm sewer or sanitary sewer), it needs to be reported. You should also notify the agency that maintains the sewer such as the water department or highway department depending on your jurisdiction.

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Hazmat Corner continued

Defensive actions that can be taken include diking, covering sewer grates and manhole covers, using an absorbent such as speedi-dri, etc. Reminder that contaminated absorbent products are a hazardous material. You should request assistance from DEC and/or the County Hazmat team if necessary. The owner of the spill is responsible for the cleanup. Often, when a vehicle is involved, the towing company takes care of the cleanup.

If you think you may need additional diking materials or assistance with containing the spill, don't hesitate to request a response from the County Hazmat Team. Often, these types of spills can be handled with a limited response. Also, we have a supply of booms, absorbent pads and other items for handling spills. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the Albany County Emergency Management Unit of the Sheriff's Office at 518-720-8026 or the County dispatch center.

Additional information from DEC can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8692.html>



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OLD FORGE FIREFIGHTERS DRILL SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE:
SEPTEMBER 14TH - 17TH, 2023
OUR **56TH** YEAR OF TEACHING!



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OLD FORGE FIREFIGHTERS DRILL SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 14-17 IN OLD FORGE, N.Y.

This event will enable you to experience a unique opportunity to train and network with fellow firefighters from around New York. There are a variety of topics, and the instructors are top notch. Tom Merrill, who serves with the Snyder Fire Department, is the keynote speaker and will speak on "Professionalism, Passion, and Pride in our Volunteer Fire Service."

Attend, gain knowledge, and share with your department.

Please click on the brochure link below to learn more and register

<https://fasny.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Old-Forge-Final-Print-Ready-Pamphlet.pdf>

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**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

**Fire Prevention
and Control**

Fire and Emergency Services Leadership and Management Conference

SAVE THE DATE

November 3-5, 2023

At the New York State Academy of Fire Science



- **Scope:** Leadership and management. Focused on 'upper level' content such as HR, grant writing, administration, ethics, leadership, program management, health and wellness, etc. Will not contain strategy and tactics related content.
- **Target Audience:** Chief level officers, administrators, staff officers, commissioners, lieutenants, captains etc.
- **Format:** Multitude of 2 – 4 hour breakout sessions where attendees can go to whatever they like. No need to sign up for any specific breakout session ahead of time, just register for the conference itself.

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For more information, email FireOfficer@dhses.ny.gov



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NYS AFC 2023 SEMINAR SERIES

NYS AFC's annual Seminar Series provides educational opportunities for fire service personnel of all ranks at sites across New York state. three-hour seminars are conducted by some of the nation's leading fire service instructors at the local level on a variety of timely topics.

[Online Registration](#)

[https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events Training/2023%20NYSAFC%20Seminar%20Series.pdf](https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/files/Events%20Training/2023%20NYSAFC%20Seminar%20Series.pdf)

NYS AFC 2023 Seminar Series "Truck Skills Beyond the Textbooks" **With Lieutenant Mike Campo, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY)** **Three-Hour Seminar**

Early in our firefighting orientation, we're taught basic skills and tactics from textbooks. In addition, we'll drill and be tested on many of these skills at fire academy buildings to attain our firefighting certifications. It's a good process, but our learning shouldn't stop there because we haven't been exposed to many of the situations we'll encounter at fires and emergencies. Plus, the buildings in the academy aren't conducive to allowing us to operate with tools to open the walls and ceilings, pull suspended ceilings, remove baseboard and window trim, or even cut open tongue and groove sheathed roofs. This interactive lecture strives to go beyond textbook learning and bring alive street skills, tips, and tactics of truck work in: portable ladders, overhaul, forcible entry, roof ventilation, tool use, and more.

Registration Fee:

\$35 per person – NYSAFC Individual and Department Members

\$50 per person – Non-Members

Pre-registration is encouraged. On-site registration will be accepted if space permits.

2023 Dates and Locations:

Registration area opens 30 minutes prior to starting time. Three-hour program.

October 23 – 7:00 p.m. – Albany County

Village of Ravena Fire Department • 116 Main Street • Ravena, NY 12143

October 24 – 7:00 p.m. – Saratoga County

Clifton Park Fire Department • 38 Old Route 146 • Clifton Park, NY 12065

Albany County Training

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #8 2023 is posted on our website

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/43009/638240739787630000>

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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