



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

October, 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.**



Office of Emergency
Management

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Pump Operator class Guilderland

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Albany Fire Department Promotions



On Friday, September 15, 2023, the Albany Fire Department promoted 8 of their own into new ranks as Fire Officers. Battalion Chief Patrick Hines was promoted to Deputy Chief. Captain Robert Miller was promoted to Battalion Chief. Lieutenants Matthew Zink, William Parks and Anthony Roselli were promoted to Captain. Firefighters Sean Cahill, Joshua Gregg, and Sean Whitty were promoted to Lieutenant. In addition, Lieutenant Jeffrey Allen was formerly sworn into his new role. He was officially promoted in August 2022 but was overseas fulfilling his military duties in protecting our country.

Chief of Department Joseph Gregory and Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan led the ceremony held at Albany City Hall attended by families and friends of the new Fire Officers as well as various elected officials and uniformed members of Albany's Bravest.

Chief Gregory emphasized the level of dedication and commitment displayed by the new Fire Officers leading to their promotions. They will now take on the responsibility of helping to train and mold the younger members of Albany's Bravest. Chief Gregory noted that The Albany Fire Department is committed to serving and protecting the residents of Albany and that these new Officers are an integral part of fulfilling that mission.

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Pump Operator Class Guilderland Tower



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9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Albany County Fire Coordinator's personnel turned out on September 11th at Colonie Central High School joining the Capital Region Chapter 2 Blue Star Mothers of America at their 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. The Blue Star Mothers gathered to show their support for all first responders, Fire, Police, EMS and Military personnel.

The ceremony included placing a wreath on the "Hill of Heroes" across from the high school. It was a special moment of reflection and to honor the fallen.

We will always remember and we will NEVER FORGET!



Retention and Recruitment Car Middleburg Parade October 7, 2023



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Fire Rescue 1 - Lexipol

By Chris DelBello

Warehouse fires: The big fire that requires big water

What firefighters need to know about size-up, ventilation, fire attack – and when to go defensive

Aug 13, 2020

Warehouse fires: Where else can a bunch of on-duty firefighters meet up, aggressively fight fire for about 15-20 minutes, then back the lines out and set up for 8-10 hours of defensive operations, have food and beverages delivered, solve all the world's problems, and catch up on all things that matter in life, all the while flowing thousands of gallons of water per minute?

Of course, this is also a good opportunity for firefighters who aren't normally assigned to aerial devices to receive some real-world training on such devices – or at the very least take a ride in a tower!

A WAREHOUSE FIRE TRUE STORY

After transferring into a new district, a captain hits the ground running. In his first three tours of duty at his new station, he makes three warehouse fires – and not a single warehouse was saved.

On his fourth tour, his engine was dispatched to yet another warehouse fire. The officer thought he had this one. He had studied and thought about the recent rash of warehouse fires in his district, and he thought for sure he had a plan.

The officer's engine company was first due again to their fourth warehouse fire with moderate smoke coming from the A/D corner. The fire occurred on a weekend, and no vehicles were in the parking lot.

Side A consisted of a small office entrance and 14 large overhead doors with below-grade ramps that trucks would back down into for off-loading their deliveries.

On the A/D corner, an additional garage door was at grade level. This is where the officer decided to make entry and the initial attack.

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The officer cut a standard triangular access hole in the bay door and was greeted with heavy black smoke down to the floor. He entered the building and found the chain to hoist the door open just inside the doorway. Working in zero visibility, the officer pulled on the chain until he met resistance.

When he walked into the clear, his crew was just finishing setting up the blitz-fire ground monitor supplied with 3-inch hose.

Using the department-provided thermal-imaging camera (TIC), the officer initially attempted to locate the source of the smoke, but what the camera did not show was a dividing wall had been built approximately 40 feet beyond the door.

The officer retrieved a search rope from the engine and returned to the doorway. He communicated his plan to his crew and had his firefighters stage at the door while he entered the zero-visibility conditions in search of the seat of the fire. Approximately 40 feet in, the officer found the seat of the fire. The fire showed on the TIC to be the size of a small passenger vehicle. It appeared to be a pile of waste material.

As the officer returned to the doorway, he could hear a hose stream flowing inside the building. It sounded like a car wreck on a repeating cycle that plays over and over.

When the officer exited the building and looked back, he could see two companies aggressively flowing water into the smoke, nowhere near the seat of the fire.

The officer ordered his crew to forget about the blitz-fire setup and pull a 2½-inch hose and follow him to the seat of the fire. As the crew arrived near the seat of the fire and started to flow, the hose line went limp. When the nozzle was closed, the hose line stiffened up again. This repeated several times, and the officer asked the chauffeur what he was pumping. The chauffeur responded with the correct pressure.

The officer opened the nozzle again and the hoseline went limp. The officer reported this to command and exited the building to retrieve another hoseline because the officer felt it was still possible to extinguish or contain the fire.

As the crew exited, the officer was approached by a division officer who was now assuming Alpha division. The division officer determined that it was time to go defensive.

The company officer was floored. He did not understand why they were going defensive. He explained to the division officer that he had located the seat of the fire and the approximate size and that he felt it could be extinguished or contained. The division officer paused for a moment, but then he insisted that they were sticking with the defensive strategy.

Soon the company officer learned two critical factors that drove the decision for defensive operations.

1. The A/D corner had racks upon racks of full propane cylinders.

The material burning was recycled plastic pellets the size of a kernel of corn, difficult enough to extinguish when you can see what you're doing, entirely impossible in zero visibility.

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Soon after the company officer removed his SCBA and got a drink of water, the fire began to spread like someone had poured gasoline in the building, and within 20 minutes, the entire 20,000-square-foot building was engulfed in fire.

After learning of those two factors, the company officer was in agreement. You see, the first three warehouses that burned to the ground were of the same recycled plastic. You can put a hose stream on the pile of burning plastic, but that just cools the surface much like a hard chocolate cover on an ice cream cone. The plastic underneath was still molten and hot enough to reignite once you removed the hose stream.

When all four fires were “tapped out,” there was literally no evidence of what was burning inside the buildings. The contents has been consumed.



Long hose lays and water supply issues are the order of the day when warehouse fires become major events. (Photo/DC Mike Phillips)

TACTICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR WAREHOUSE FIRES

Size-up

Warehouse operations can come and go in the middle of the night.

A well-documented preplan has the potential to be almost entirely useless a week after it is put on the apparatus or chief's vehicle. Companies change hands, and operations change as quick as the stock market rises and falls.

The point: What's in a warehouse today may be something else entirely tomorrow.

Then there is always the warehouse that remains the same for years, but the occupant allows their buddies to store personal items in the building as well. Items ranging from furniture to



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boats could be inside a warehouse that illegally stores flammable or caustic liquids in large 500-gallon vats.

Sizing up a warehouse can be difficult. It can also be time-consuming. However, it can also be the most beneficial step you take for the entire incident. It will remove most questions you have about your attack options.

It will tell you if the warehouse has a sprinkler system and if it is flowing. It will also tell you if you have additional FDC connections available. The most important observation, though, will be where and how many doors are available that can be opened for ventilation and the attack positions for entry or defensive operations.

The best method for sizing-up a mega-warehouse is to simply drive around the building before even committing to a location.

Don't forget about sizing-up your water supply as well. As you are driving into and around the complex, make a mental note of any hydrants you come across. Then, in your radio report, advise incoming crews and command of the locations. It is critical to provide this information as quickly as possible, as the incoming crews will start stacking up inside the complex, making access and logistics a communications nightmare.

Ventilation is top priority

After the size-up, initial-arriving companies should focus on **ventilation**. Ventilation will do three things at once:

1. Lift the smoke off the floor;
2. Help you locate the fire faster; and

Allow a more rapid and aggressive attack on the seat of the fire.

I have been a part of and witnessed enough warehouse fires to emphatically state that simply opening one or two doors and committing to vertical ventilation on a warehouse fire has never accomplished substantially enough ventilation to improve working conditions at these events.

Warehouse fires require *big* openings.

Horizontal ventilation is going to be the fastest method of ventilation on mega-warehouses. I am not suggesting you forego vertical ventilation, but when you open up a roll-up door that creates an opening 120 square feet at a time with little effort, it's hard to say that you're going to improve on that with even two to three vertical ventilation crews in a timely manner.

Now, imagine if you open two, three, four or all of the roll-up doors! It will make working conditions more tenable – and you can actually see the seat of the fire before committing attack crews.

Regarding vertical ventilation, by all means, send crews to the roof. Send multiple crews to the roof. Have them give roof reports and begin vertical ventilation, if possible, and if it can be accomplished in an expedient amount of time that will yield benefits to the initial attack operation.



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However, if they find that they are dealing with a concrete roof, their efforts can be better spent doing something else, simply because they could potentially be cutting for hours before they actually cut a hole substantial enough to overcome any significant fire products inside a warehouse.



Large overhead doors will offer the best ventilation effects during initial stages of operations and should be the primary focus prior to any interior attack efforts. (Photo/DC Mike Phillips)

The attack

No interior attack should commence, and no apparatus positioning should be committed to, until after a good size-up has been accomplished and ventilation operations have been deemed effective.

You do not want to commit that first attack line until you have as much information as possible. You want to avoid creating an increased workload on the attack crew by starting the attack from a poor tactical advantage.

When ventilation efforts have started and the effects of ventilation are seen, that is when the safest, easiest and quickest tactical choice to **initiate the attack** on a warehouse fire occurs. We know this isn't always possible, but ventilation efforts must still take priority and remain ongoing as necessary.

Another option is to send a recon crew or multiple recon crews from multiple entry points in first. This crew is equipped with 200 feet of search rope and a TIC. Let them locate the fire and report back to the attack group. This saves a lot of unnecessary effort for the crew that

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should be advancing a 2½-inch hose line. This allows them to start in the most advantageous tactical position and eliminates searching for the fire while trying to advance the handline.

Many, many times, the best-laid plans will still end in disappointment. Either the materials stored inside cannot be extinguished like plastics warehouses, or the fire is just too far advanced prior to arrival.

Defensive operations

Defensive operations should be considered early into the strategy, even while the initial efforts are just getting started. Command should be planning for defensive operations even as they are sending in the initial interior attack crews.

If the fire was small and the initial attack efforts were successful, we can chalk it up to our training and aggressive tactics.

However, if we go headfirst into a warehouse fire without planning early for defensive operation and operations go south, we will be playing catch-up during the entire event, and you can bet the incident will be the topic of conversation for weeks to come as they watch the events unfold on social media, over and over and over.

Ladders should be given tactical priority positions. Command should avoid having multiple engines stack up near or around the warehouse, blocking the ladder's ability to operate to its fullest potential.



Warehouse Fire Trivoli St Albany (Albany Times Union)

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Hazmat Corner

How Hazmat Teams are Organized in New York State



NYS DHSES funds hazmat teams in the state with Hazmat grants. Working with OFPC, several years ago the state was divided into several hazmat regions. The Capital Region consists of Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties. The annual grant started out at \$75,000 for our region and was doubled to \$150,000 for the 2014 grant year. For the 2020 grant year, the amount was increased to \$171,750. While we received increases, some counties had their amounts decreased.

The funds are managed by a consortium of the hazmat teams in the region. The group meets monthly and includes representatives from the fire coordinators of all four counties, Albany FD, West Albany FD, Saratoga Springs FD, Schenectady FD, Troy FD and Watervliet Arsenal FD. Also participating are Colonie EMS, NYS OPFC, NY State Police and the 2nd Civil Support Team from Stratton Air National Guard Base.

The grant funds are used for training overtime and backfill for career departments, training props such as a rollover simulator, training suits and expenses for an annual training exercise. The exercise is usually held in April of each year.

Additionally, funds are used to purchase equipment such as 4-gas meters, specialized gas meters such as chlorine, ammonia, etc. We also acquired 4-gas meter with WiFi and a WiFi hub that is used for wide area monitoring where the meters can be placed in a perimeter and monitored from a central location.

The teams are in the process of acquiring hand held Raman technology units for identifying unknown substances. These units are over \$50,000 each. To date, we have 3 of these units and will be ordering 3 more with the next round of grants.



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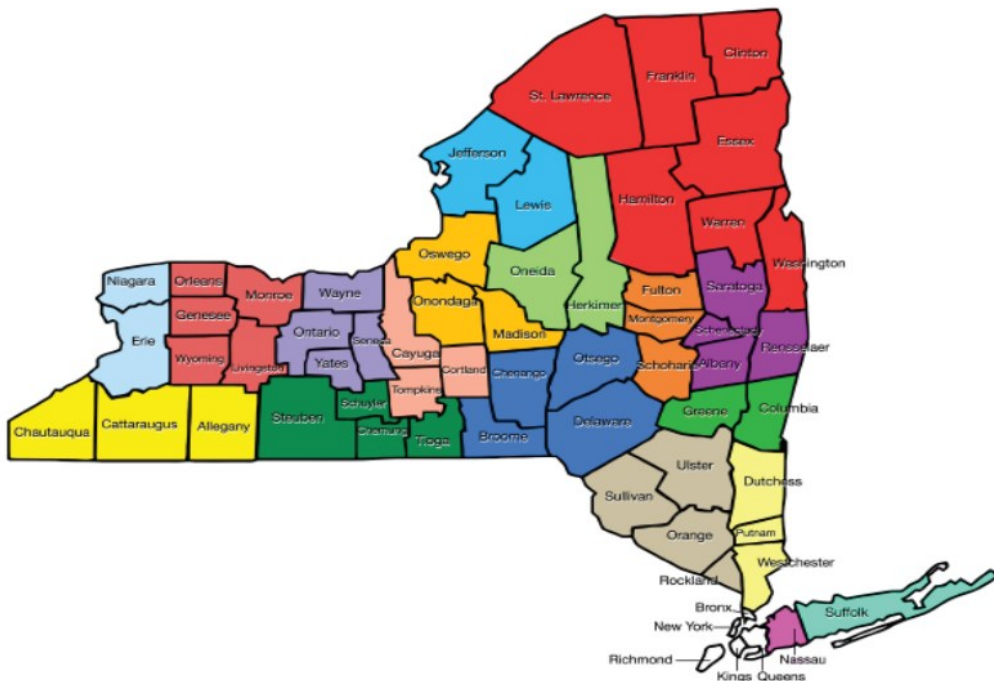
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Hazmat Corner continued

By working together, the teams have standardized on the equipment used. Should there be a need for a large response, teams from the Capital Region can come together. For example, any teams wide are gas monitoring capability can be expanded by adding the units from another team in the area.

The group also operates a special hazmat response unit which is available to all four counties. The unit is stationed at the Albany Fire Department Arbor Hill Station.



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Each year the group must submit accreditation documents with the grant application. Each of the hazmat teams in the region are at the second highest level of accreditation. Together, the teams comprise the highest level of accreditation.

The Capital Region Hazmat Group strives to work together for the residents of the entire area. The group is administered by the Albany County Sheriff's Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit.

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Do you make the best chili?



Why not put it to the test?



Westmere FD is hosting the 1st Annual Chili Cookoff

November 18, 2023

Noon to 4pm

1741 Western Avenue

\$10 to enter, \$5 to sample

Trophies for top 3 and a people's choice!!!!

Judges will decide at 3pm

Send an email to mkoff77257@aol.com, enter w/ your name, where you're from and name of your chili. Subject should be WFD Chili cookoff

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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.

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

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**Homeland Security
and Emergency Services**

**Fire Prevention
and Control**

4 9 T H A N N U A L **ARSON SEMINAR**

November 14-16, 2023

Watkins Glen Community Center
155 S Clute Drive
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

November 14 Opening Presentation:

Innocence Project Case Study

—Rita Dave, Esq.
—Bill Tulipane, FDNY Ret.
—Paul Rancallo

November 15 Workshops:

Fatal Fire Investigations, Planning to Execution

—Chicago Fire Department
• Bradley Batka, Assistant Commanding Fire Marshal
• Bill Granat, Instructor-Trainer

LUNCH

Fatal Fire Investigations, Case Study

—Chicago Fire Department
• Bradley Batka, Assistant Commanding Fire Marshal
• Bill Granat, Instructor-Trainer

November 16 Closing Presentation:

Fatal Fire Death Investigation

—Dr. Elayne Pope, Fatal Fire Forensics



Register

NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency
Services (DHSES) Learning Management System

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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 #10 2023 is posted on our website

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/45323/638318282717530000>

There is now a link on our website with instructions on how to get an LMS sign-on ID .

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ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #10 2023

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 - OFPC](#))

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

Firefighter II IN PROGRESS	Delmar FD	August 16, September 4, 11, 23, 27, October 4, 9, 11, 16, 23, November 8 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1400	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations IN PROGRESS	Colonie MTB	August 21-Orientation September 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, October 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 30, November 6, 8, 13, 15 Weeknights: 1830-2130 Saturday: 0800-1400	Juliano	None
Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations IN PROGRESS	Ravena	August 31 Orientation September 7, 18, 21, 28, October 5, 12, 16, 19, 26, 30, November 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 27, 30, December 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21 1830-2130	Messinger	None

Apparatus Operator-Pump IN PROGRESS	Westerlo -Moved to Guilderland Tower	September 7, 12, 14, 19, 23, 26 Weeknight 1830 Saturday 0800-1400	DeGroff	Scene Support Operations/Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations or Equivalent
Water Supply Operations IN PROGRESS	Slingerlands	September 18, 20, 25, October 2, 7, 9, 14 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturdays 0900-1500	Flensted	Scene Support Operations/Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations or Equivalent
Rescue Technician Basic	Berne	October 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 28 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1700	DeGroff	None
FAST	Westmere	October 16, 19, 21 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1700	Kerr	Firefighter Survival: Self Rescue or Equivalent
FALL 2023 Capitol Region Firefighter I National Certification Exams OFPC is hosting the first of its kind regional Firefighter I National Certification opportunity. Now that you've completed BEFO and IFO it is time to turn those two classes into training that will be recognized across the country. Step 1 - Choose your date/location to take the skills portion of the exam. Step 2 - Choose your date/location to take the written portion of the exam. Sign up now on LMS utilizing the links below or by going to https://LMSPortal-dhses.ny.gov. You will be asked which day you would like to take the written exam within the registration for the skills exam. Seats are limited, pre-registration is required.				
Firefighter I National Certification Exam – Skills Portion	Wilton Fire Department - 270 Ballard Road, Wilton, NY	October 16: 1830	OFPC	Firefighter I
Firefighter I National Certification Exam – Skills Portion	Rotterdam Fire Training Center - 511 Burdeck Street, Rotterdam, NY	October 18: 1830	OFPC	Firefighter I

Firefighter I National Certification Exam – Skills Portion	Colonie Municipal Training Building - 100 Wade Road, Latham, NY	October 24: 1830	OFPC	Firefighter I
Firefighter I National Certification Exam – Skills Portion	Rensselaer Emergency Services Training Center - 25 Macha Lane, Wynantskill, NY	October 26: 1830	OFPC	Firefighter I
Firefighter I National Certification Exam – Written Portion	Wilton Fire Department - 270 Ballard Road, Wilton, NY	November 9: 1830	OFPC	Required Forms for Registration FFI National Certification Exam Application FFI Live Fire Suppression Form
Firefighter I National Certification Exam – Written Portion	Latham Fire Department - 469 Watervliet Shaker Road, Latham, NY	November 16: 1830	OFPC	Required Forms for Registration FFI National Certification Exam Application FFI Live Fire Suppression Form
Principals of Instruction	Colonie Village	November 7, 14, 21, 28, December 5 1830-2130	Clawson	None
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Firefighter Health & Safety NEW TO SCHEDULE	Guilderland Tower	November 20, 27, 29, December 4 1830-2130	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Tactical Fire Ground Simulations	Fort Hunter	November 30: 1830-2130 December 2 0900-1700	Flensted	ICS 200

Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Planning & Emergency Response NEW TO SCHEDULE	Guilderland Tower	December 6, 7, 11 1830-2130	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Tactical Fire Ground Simulations	Westerlo	December 14: 1830-2130 December 16 0900-1700	Flensted	ICS 200
The Firefighter's Guide to Light Weight Wood Construction NEW TO SCHEDULE	Westmere	January 8, 10, 22, 24 1830-2130	DeGroff	BEFO or Equivalent
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 	