



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

June 2024

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.**



Recruitment cars

In this issue

Retention and recruitment
Guilderland Fire Tower
HazMat Corner
Events
Training

Office of Emergency
Management

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Albany County Sheriff's Office

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June 2024

San Francisco officials to vote on ban of PFAS in firefighting gear

Supporters of the ban believe it will push manufacturers to avoid using the cancer-causing chemicals

May 14, 2024 09:21 AM

By Bill Carey

FireRescue1 SAN FRANCISCO — Legislators in San Francisco are set to vote on Tuesday on a groundbreaking ban that would prohibit the use of fire safety gear containing chemicals linked to cancer. This would be the first ban of its kind in the nation, [according to NBC Bay Area](#).

If the proposed ban is approved, it will need another majority vote at the subsequent board of supervisors meeting on May 14 to become law, [NBC Bay Area](#) reported.

“We are not willing to negotiate how long we will continue poisoning people,” San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation Vice President Adam Wood said. “The change has to happen now.”

Wood, a firefighter in the city’s Mission District, is part of a vocal group advocating for a ban on PFAS or “forever chemicals.” These compounds, which break down very slowly, are linked to several health risks, including higher cholesterol, immune issues and cancer, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

“I definitely don’t want someone else to have to go through what I did,” Lieutenant Magaly Saade said. “I’ve had cancer twice.”

Saade, a firefighter for 26 years, underwent radiation and a double mastectomy for cancer treatment. She suspects her PFAS-laced protective gear contributed to her diagnosis.

In San Francisco, female firefighters face a breast cancer rate six times the national average, per the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation. Over the last 20 years, the department has lost over 300 firefighters to cancer.

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What is hydroxocobalamin? The drug that likely saved FDNY

firefighter who collapsed in burning home Published May 18, 2024 • Updated on May 18, 2024 at 12:22 pm *NBC Universal, Inc.*

The drug hydroxocobalamin combats the effects of cyanide poisoning that can result from smoke inhalation

Two of the firefighters suffered serious injuries while battling a house fire in Clason Point. One firefighter collapsed and lost consciousness after complaining about having trouble breathing. A man who lived in the home believed the fire was electrical and started in the basement.

Officials credited a smoke inhalation drug for likely saving the life of a New York City firefighter who fell unconscious and stopped breathing while battling a house blaze Friday.

The firefighter was one of three injured during the response in the Bronx. All are expected to recover, Mayor Eric Adams and Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanaugh said at an evening news conference.

John Hodgens, the FDNY's chief of department, said the firefighter was inside the house operating a hose when he began having problems breathing. He collapsed and was pulled from the building by other first responders, who put him on a sidewalk and started CPR, Hodgens said.

Emergency medical workers also gave the firefighter the drug hydroxocobalamin, which combats the effects of cyanide poisoning that can result from smoke inhalation. Kavanaugh said officials believe the drug saved the firefighter's life. He and another firefighter were in stable condition at a hospital, while the third firefighter was released from a hospital.

What is hydroxocobalamin?

Hydroxocobalamin was first approved for treating smoke inhalation in 2006 by the Food and Drug Administration. It is a manufactured, injectable version of vitamin B12, according to federal health agencies. France began using the drug to treat smoke inhalation in the mid-1990s.

"All in all, this is a much better outcome than we thought it would be," Hodgens said.

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12 situational interview questions firefighters should study

All of these questions would be asked as “What would you do if ... ” questions

May 29, 2024 07:37 PM •

[Firefighter Recruiter](#)

The interview process involves situational questions, framed in a “What would you do if ...” manner.

Becoming a firefighter is a competitive process. At some agencies, dozens, if not hundreds, of prospects apply for a handful of positions.

The process involves a [firefighter interview](#), often involving situational questions, framed in a “What would you do if ...” manner.

Prepare to answer “what would you do if ... ”

Here are five tips for responding to scenario-based interview questions.

Understand the role: Before the interview review the job description’s specific roles and responsibilities. Make sure you understand the challenges and opportunities of the position to anticipate relevant scenarios.

Think critically: After the question and scenario are posed to you, take a moment to consider the scenario carefully before responding to demonstrate your problem-solving skills.

Use a structured approach: The STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) is framework to organize your response to a what would you question.

Highlight your skills and experiences: Include your relevant skills and experiences to the scenario.

Be realistic: Provide practical solutions that show your understanding of real-world limitations of the fire department and its response protocols.

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12 “what if?” interview questions

Here is a list of 12 situational firefighter interview questions you may encounter on a typical entry-level oral board. Consider your answers so you're ready for the questions.

For weeks you notice that someone has been eating your cereal and drinking your milk. You have already asked everyone to please not do so and have even started labeling your food. One morning you walk into the kitchen and senior firefighter Bob is helping himself to the last of your milk and cereal. WWYD?

While shopping for groceries on duty, a civilian approaches you and asks why his tax dollars are paying for you to hang out and shop at the grocery store. He is obviously very upset and angry. WWYD?

While on scene at a medical aid, you are asked to go back to the engine to get a piece of equipment. En route to the engine, you notice that its placement is blocking traffic. Traffic is backing up, and an irate citizen is yelling for you to move the engine. You are not the engineer. WWYD?

You suspect a fellow firefighter has a drug problem. WWYD?

You see a fellow firefighter slip an expensive watch into his turnout coat during overhaul. WWYD?

During the final exam of your probationary academy, you see two fellow recruits exchanging answers. WWYD?

Your captain orders you to get him a radio from the engine. On the way, the battalion chief stops you and asks you to deliver an ax to the team on the roof right away. WWYD?

You feel a fellow firefighter is not pulling their weight when it comes to station chores. WWYD?

Your shift captain clearly delegates much more work to you than to the other firefighters on the shift who are consequently all off-duty drinking buddies. WWYD?

You are assigned a task that you strongly feel is unsafe. WWYD?

You and another recruit are assigned duties together, but you continually end up doing all the work. WWYD?

You are having dinner at the firehouse and someone makes a comment that you find personally offensive. WWYD?

If the department requires a firefighter or EMT certification, they may ask situational questions that are fire- or EMS-related. Be prepared.

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When talking about reducing cancer in firefighters, where is CAFS?

Detailing how CAFS helps reduce exposure to chemicals, chemical compounds, and carcinogens during interior structural firefighting

May 20, 2024 10:51 AM •

[Robert Avsec](#)

Firefighters develop several cancers at rates higher than those in the public. Naturally, the fire service has focused more attention in recent years on reducing firefighter exposure to the chemicals, chemical compounds, and carcinogens present in the smoke of today's interior structural firefighting. Advice typically centers on these recommended actions:

Engaging in initial contaminant reduction after exiting the hot zone.

Using personal wipes on face, neck, forearms after the removal of their SCBA and PPE.

Bagging contaminated PPE and SCBA for transport back to fire station for cleaning.

Showering upon return to the station.

Changing uniform/clothing after showering.

Cleaning the interior of the fire apparatus cab.

While these are certainly all good measures, they're *reactive* in nature. What's missing is how we can *proactively* reduce the exposure level to firefighters during the actual suppression operations.

The role of compressed air foam systems (CAFS)

One answer: Use compressed air foam for fire suppression. Why? Let's look at how CAFS helps reduce exposure to chemicals, chemical compounds, and carcinogens during interior structural firefighting.

CAFS maximizes the efficacy of water. Roughly 90% of the water from your hose stream hits the floor after passing through the room's atmosphere, and that includes the water that hits the target. Only about 10% of the water is penetrating the fuel to absorb heat and cool the



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Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

June 2024

fuel below the temperature needed for sustained burning – and the production of the nasty cancer-causing stuff. The longer a fire burns and smolders after knockdown, the longer firefighters inside the structure are being exposed to cancer causing agents.

Take a Class A foam concentrate, combine it with water and add compressed air, and you have CAFS, a fire extinguishing agent that is greater than the sum of its parts. The synergistic effect is a product with greatly reduced surface tension compared to that of plain water, which enables the solution to penetrate burning fuels faster and more efficiently, thereby stopping the production of those chemicals, chemical compounds, and carcinogens.

Just as important is the reduction of heat. A bonus is that the surfactant in the CAFS fire stream creates a thin film that sticks to wall surfaces and the target fuel where it continues to absorb heat. Even the CAFS solution that winds up on the floor absorbs heat 20 times more efficiently than plain water.

CAFS reduces the impact of cancer-causing “bad actors.” The surfactant in the CAFS fire stream is chemically attractive to the carbon molecule contained in smoke. Every molecule of the CAFS solution that meets smoke binds to a molecule of carbon.

That last point is critical, knowing what we now know about the connection between the chemicals, chemical compounds, and carcinogens that are present in the smoke of today's structure and the increased cancer risk for firefighters as compared to the general population. It only makes sense that the sooner we make the “generator” of those “bad actors” (i.e., the fire) ineffective, the sooner we start reducing the risk to firefighters.

“The sooner firefighters start applying CAFS to a fire, the sooner they start mitigating that risk to themselves and the downwind civilian population,” said Mark Cummins, man who invented CAFS in 1976. (Cummins once held the patent for CAFS in just about every English -speaking country; those patents have expired, and now anyone can manufacture a CAFS system.)

Let's not forget that as the fire continues burning and producing smoke and fire gases, those contaminants are being carried downwind, creating exposure risk to the civilian population. And it's not just the airborne hazard that we must be concerned about; there's also the water run-off. The longer the fire burns and more water is used to extinguish the fire, more contaminated water – water that contains who knows what number of chemicals, chemical compounds, and carcinogens and in what concentrations – is entering storm drains or surface water (e.g., streams, ponds, rivers, lakes).



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The sooner we can reduce the interior temperatures in a compartment and extinguish the fire, the more we can reduce firefighter risk from absorption of those “bad actors” because we get them out of the structure sooner and we keep their skin temperature inside their PPE from increasing. (Remember, for every 5 degree F rise in skin temperature, the absorption rate through the skin increases 400%).

What's your health worth?

“But CAFS costs too much.” If I’ve heard it once, I’ve heard it a thousand times. So, what are the annual costs for all those aforementioned reactive approaches to cancer risk reduction? Isn’t it worth the cost to have the one proactive cancer risk reduction tool – CAFS – available to your firefighters and officers?

Retention and Recruitment

The Retention and recruitment cars were in parades in Voorheesville, Menands, Maplewood and Berne this month..

CONGRATULATIONS B.K.W BULLDOGS!



Office of Emergency
Management

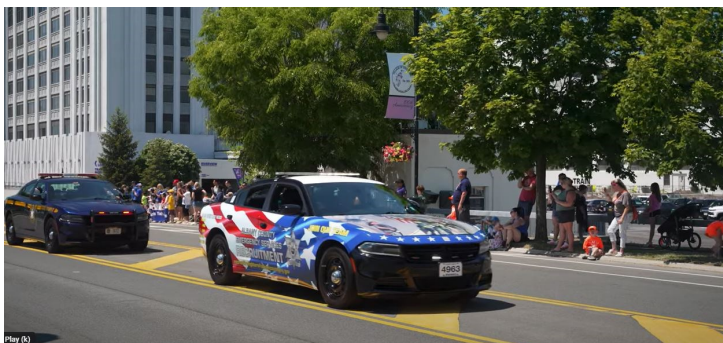
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Breaking ground for new Guilderland fire Training tower



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Hazmat Corner



2024 ERG Books Have Arrived



The 2024 Edition of the Emergency Response Guidebooks has arrived at Albany County Emergency Management. We will be distributing them over the next couple of weeks. These are distributed at no charge to municipal entities. Several months ago we solicited orders for the books. The number distributed will be based on these orders. We do have some extras for things like training courses, new vehicles, etc. However, these have to last until the next edition which is scheduled for 2028.

All municipal owned vehicles should have one of these books. If you need extras or replacements please contact Tom Remmert by email at thomas.remmert@albanycountyny.gov.

Additional information about the guidebook can be found on the federal Department of Transportation website. Here's the link: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/training/hazmat/erg/emergency-response-guidebook-erg>

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SPONSORSHIPS

- **CORPORATE SPONSOR** \$1000
Corporate Sponsor sign at registration
Corporate Sponsor sign at clubhouse
Golf fee 4
- **TEAM SPONSOR** \$500
Team Sponsor recognition on banner
Golf fee 2
- **LUNCH SPONSOR** \$250
Lunch Sponsor recognition on banner
- **GREEN SPONSOR** \$200
Custom 14x20 flag on green
- **TEE SPONSOR** \$100
Sponsor sign at tee box
- **"CAPTAIN" SPONSOR** \$50
Name Recognition on banner

Corporate Sponsor _____ x \$1000 = _____
Team Sponsor _____ x \$ 500 = _____
Lunch Sponsor _____ x \$ 250 = _____
Green Sponsor _____ x \$ 200 = _____
Tee Sponsor _____ x \$ 100 = _____
"Captain" Sponsor _____ x \$ 50 = _____

TOTAL SPONSORSHIP \$ _____

**** ANY DONATION IS APPRECIATED ****

Please contact gcfidgolf21@gmail.com
for more sponsorship information

Guilderland Center Fire Dept. is a 501(c)(3) organization

Guilderland Center Fire Dept.
PO Box 112 Guilderland Center NY 12085

Guilderland Center Fire Department



PLEASE COME
JOIN US
TO SUPPORT



Guilderland Center Fire Department

10th Annual Douglas Lawton Charity Golf Outing



Doug Lawton was a Life Member of the Guilderland Center Fire Department who loved to be on the golf course with friends and fellow firefighters. Sadly, he passed away in 2014 after a three-year battle with colon cancer. To honor him, the Guilderland Center Fire Dept. hosts this outing in his memory.



Along with honoring Doug, we also remember and honor Thomas R. Lawton (Tommy) who we lost in January 2022 after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. Tommy is the son of Doug's cousin, Tom Lawton. Both Doug and Tommy were cared for by the staff at Community Hospice and the staff at the Hospice Inn at St. Peter's Hospital.

The Community Hospice is a non-profit organization providing high quality end of life care to residents of seven counties in the Capital Region. Community Hospice is committed to serving the most vulnerable people in our community who are struggling with advanced illness, facing the end of life, and recovering from the loss of a loved one.

Again this year GCFD honors both Doug and Tommy by sharing the proceeds of this event with Community Hospice.

\$360 per Golfer

Registration Fee includes:
18 Holes of Golf w/ cart
(4 Person Scramble format)

at the picturesque



Lunch, Dinner & Prizes

Registration: 7:30 am
Tee Off: 9:00 am
Dinner*: 1:00 pm

**For non-golfers:
Dinner can be purchased separately for \$30*

For more information, please contact:
gcfidgolf21@gmail.com
or
Tom Lawton: ut1283@yahoo.com

Guilderland Center Fire Department

Douglas Lawton Charity Golf Outing Registration

Wednesday July 17, 2024

Team #1 Captain _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Golfer #2 _____

Golfer #3 _____

Golfer #4 _____

Team #2 Captain _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Golfer #2 _____

Golfer #3 _____

Golfer #4 _____

(for additional teams see separate sheet)

Golfers: _____ x \$150 = _____

Dinner Only: _____ x \$ 30 = _____

Reserve by July 1, 2024

Please send completed form and payment to:
Guilderland Center Fire Department
PO Box 112 Guilderland Center NY 12085
Attn: Golf Outing



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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Be sure to visit the NYS DHSES OFPC website for additional public education resources!

<https://www.dhses.ny.gov/general-public-resources>

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #12

<https://www.albanycounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/47673/638527486268030000>

LMS SYSTEM

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.



ALBANY COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SCHEDULE #12 2024

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
Please Note that a <u>training authorization letter</u> is now required for all courses offered by the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control				
Firefighter I (BEFO/SCBA Interior Firefighter Operations)	Colonie MTB	December 21st: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer Must Attend with Student <i>BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)</i> January 2, 4, 9, 11, 20, 23, 25, 30, February 1, 6, 8, 13, March 2, 7, 14, 19, 21, 26, April 2, 4, 6 <i>SCBA/IFO: April 18, 20, 25, 30, May 2, 7, 18, 30, June 6, 11, 13, 18, 25</i> Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1700 Instructor - Molesky	At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter	
IN PROGRESS IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting 7th Edition Curriculum				Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,
SCBA-Interior Firefighting Operations	Selkirk #2/Colonie MTB	April 15: Orientation Selkirk #2 1830	Messenger	BEFO w/HMFRO or equivalent

IN PROGRESS		April 18, 22, 25, 29, May 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 30, June 3, 6, 10 1830-2130		
Firefighter I Boot Camp Combined Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations & SCBA Interior Firefighting Operations- Firefighter I – Blended Learning (Internet Based Course) Firefighter Survival: Self Rescue: Certification included in training program Class Schedule Dates: June 8 (0800-1900), June 15, 22, July 1 (0800-1700), July 2 (0800-1900), July 6 (0800-1700), July 8 (0800-1400), July 10, 11 (0700-1700), July 13 (0800-1400) IN PROGRESS		May 28th Orientation 1830hrs. Slingerlands FD Note: Chief Officer from student's department must attend orientation. Instructor: Kerr	Completion of Approved CPR Course, physically capable of wearing an SCBA and Training Authorization Letter. Student must have access to a computer with high-speed internet. ICS100, ICS700, Home Skills – Due Date will be announced at orientation First Aid /CPR- Due Date will be announced at orientation <u>\$40 enrollment fee</u> required at orientation for blended learning program	
Engine Company Operations IN PROGRESS	Selkirk FD #1	May 22, 29, June 1, 5, 12, 15 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0830-1430	Clawson	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Incident Safety Officer	Coeymans Hollow	June 11, 18, 25, July 3, 9, 16 1830-2130	Clawson	None
Truck Company Operations	Westmere	July 17, 24, 29, August 5, 10, 17 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturdays 0800-1400	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent

Apparatus Operator-Pump	Midway	July 23, 25, 30, August 6, 22, 29, September 3, 5 1830-2130	Molesky	BEFO or Equivalent
Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations NEW TO SCHEDULE	East Berne	August 20, September 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 28, October 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31, November 5, 7, 9 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturdays 0830-1430	Messenger	None
Truck Company Operations	Midway	September 4, 9, 11, 16, 21, 28 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturdays 0800-1400	Molesky	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Firefighter II	Colonie MTB	September 17, 19, 24, 28, October 3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 17 Weeknights: 1830-2130 Saturdays: 0800-1400	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Medium Structural Collapse Operations: Tools	Albany County Sheriff's Office	September 23&24 0800-1700	Jennings	Medium Level Structural Collapse Concepts
Trench Rescue - Operations Level	Albany County Sheriff's Office	September 25&26 0800-1700	OFPC	Medium Structural Collapse Operations: Tools
Confined Space Rescue Technician	Albany County Sheriff's Office	October 21-24 0800-1700	OFPC	Rescue Technician Basic

Fire Officer I Module Series: NYS Officer Development- Leadership and Supervision Course	Altamont FD	November 13, 16, 19, 21 Weeknights: 1830-2130 Saturday: 0800-1400	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 	