



Albany County Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit

February 2025

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.**



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FASNY Fire Museum

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Albany County Emergency Management Receives Reaccreditation

We are happy to announce that the Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit of the Albany County Sheriff's Office received reaccreditation at the NYS Emergency Managers Association Annual Conference which was held February 11-13, 2025 in Syracuse. Reaccreditation is required every three years.

The Local Emergency Management Accreditation Program is a voluntary program that provides local emergency management offices in New York State a mechanism to evaluate and enhance the overall proficiency of their agency. Accreditation is a formal recognition that an office's policies and practices meet or exceed standards in all primary aspects of emergency management, to include preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation. This Program also represents the strong collaboration and continued partnership between the New York State Emergency Management Association and the New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services. NYSEMA and DHSES have worked cooperatively to develop this program with guidance and input from the emergency management community in New York State.



NYS DHSES Director of Emergency Management Matt Franklin, Emergency Manager Brian Wood, Deputy Emergency Manager David Poole, NYSEMA President Chris Baker

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Fire Rescue 1 By Lexipol

Conduct a *personal* AAR in 45 minutes or less

It's a simple way for company officers and incident commanders to enhance the group after-action review

January 29, 2025 10:20 AM •

[Chris Paskett](#)



SOPHIE-CARON/Getty Images

An after-action review (AAR) is one of the best ways to grow your team. It can help those in your department learn critical operational lessons without having the specific lived experience attached to those lessons.

Ideally, we would perform a thorough and probing AAR on all our significant incidents, with tailboard discussions immediately after the call being the first step in that process. While this is the gold standard, you might share my reality where calls for service keep coming, and daily shift needs combine with vacation leave



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to create challenges in getting the same team back together down the road. If we cannot perform the AAR the same day, it is important we continue to be creative with how to capture the lessons we learned in the field, utilizing virtual platforms and video options to connect responders after they have returned to quarters.

AARs can also be applied in non-operational settings to help supervisors reflect on interactions with their teams, especially after an employee counseling or disciplinary session resulted in a difficult conversation.

Personal AAR for scene operations

It has been my experience that fire service personnel enjoy discussing emergency incidents, and I've found crews to be largely responsive to the AAR process when it is administered well. To capitalize on this intrinsic motivation, the incident commander (IC), senior advisor on scene or company officer in a growth role can enhance the group AAR by preparing themselves beforehand using a "personal AAR." When the IC or supervisor on scene examines their actions first, it allows them to both improve their own skillset and facilitate a more thoughtful approach at the group/team level. Coming to the larger group ready with specific thoughts, observations, reflections and questions is a great springboard for the more formal AAR. Start to finish, the personal AAR can be achieved in 45 minutes or less, with the potential to deliver specific, actionable take home points. Here's how to break down the steps:

Tailboard and informal conversations (10 minutes): The first place to start is by having a brief tailboard discussion and/or informal conversation after the incident is placed under control. This does not need to be comprehensive; simply gathering some initial perspectives will help you make sense of what occurred on scene and fill in any gaps in your own timeline. What was the physical location of E9 when you gave the order to advance a hoseline through the alpha side? Which hydrant did E15 take? More conversation here is certainly better, but I am acknowledging the realities of units out of service, area coverage and crews returning to the station for cancer prevention measures.

Audio and tactical worksheet capture (5 minutes): The next step is to capture your tactical worksheet (actual worksheet, screenshot or photograph) and obtain the audio recording for the call. Our 911 communication center (Central Lane

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Communications, Eugene, Oregon) has fantastic turnaround emailing audio recordings of the incident based on your specific needs. I typically ask for the first 20 minutes of the recording and specify whether I would like it in compressed timeframe (audio without breaks) or as it naturally occurred. While audio without breaks is superior, allowing for full understanding of the scene and how long tasks took to complete, the compressed form speeds up the process to hear radio transmissions.

Audio review (25 minutes): Audio review is an important piece to ground the AAR in what *actually* happened, not simply relying on our fading recollection. Gaining insights from specific, recorded points in the incident can help push the conversation to get to a more meaningful place. As Peter Senge writes in ["The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of The Learning Organization,"](#) when everyone is working with the facts and the facilitator has established safety to speak freely, we can avoid an AAR pitfall of "people reducing the living practice of AARs to a sterile technique," something I have certainly been guilty of.

A caution when reviewing audio: It can be difficult to listen to yourself talk on the radio. You might not love hearing your imperfections, use of filler words like "uh," and assignments you made that were unclear. Push through and understand this process is both an essential part of your own growth and important to achieve an accurate portrayal of what happened. In short, while people are often complimentary after an incident, listening to the recording is the best way to know exactly how it went and what you might want to focus on in the future.

I sit down with pen and paper and typically listen to the first 20 minutes or so of the incident, giving myself a few minutes to pause for review and notetaking. I am focusing on several areas of radio traffic with an emphasis on my own performance. You may want to consider different points based on your SOPs/SOGs and operational priorities. My review often includes the following:

Size-up: Was my size-up clear and concise? Did I hit my benchmarks? Did I declare an appropriate strategy and designate the alpha side of the structure? If I performed a command transfer, did it follow predetermined tenets?

Incident action plan: Did I declare an incident action plan that was well understood by incoming crews?

360 survey: Did I complete or assign a 360 scene survey of the incident early?



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Task/location/objective: Did I use the task/location/objective (or comparable) communication model? Did it translate to crew comprehension of their role in the operation?

Airtime: Did I take tactical pauses and allow for units with priority traffic to break through? Was I efficient in my use of airtime? This can only be assessed if you obtain the audio in its entirety.

Positive takeaways: What went smoothly? Did someone make a great catch on a scene hazard (recognized and took proactive action on an electrical drop line before it burned through and fell onto responders) or execute a difficult assignment? These are things we want to promote as our best practices moving forward.

Gaps and issues: Were there any obvious gaps or issues that stood out? Did I miss radio traffic? Did a crew misunderstand an assignment, and was there an impact to the operation? Was there uncertainty because of my own communication failures? These are things we must discuss in the group AAR.

Focal points: I usually have one skill I am working on personally, and I listen specifically for that in my review. Recently, it has been a focus on appropriate and efficient use of airtime drive incident communications (see above). My focal points can change from incident to incident.

Recap and lead-in to AAR (5 minutes): After my review, I take five minutes to recap my notes and make sure I have my talking points aligned for the group AAR. As you move through the group AAR, you will be better prepared to lead a meaningful conversation because you will have an idea which areas to focus on and which questions to ask. Helpful AAR methods have been previously outlined in some of the additional resources below.

Personal AAR for employee interactions

As supervisors, we have almost daily opportunities to connect with our teams. If we are honest and caring leaders focused on employee growth, some of these interactions are going to result in difficult conversations. Whether coaching, counseling or, in some cases, administering discipline, it is vital that we perform a look back on our own actions to make sure we gave our teams every opportunity to succeed. Just like the operational AAR, the specific points you review from your personnel interactions will change based on the circumstances surrounding the event:



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Background: Did I do my homework before I sat down with this employee? Did I know what I wanted to accomplish? Were my emotions in check? Did I have my facts straight? Did I come in with curiosity (when appropriate) so I could better understand the context around the decision or action in question?

Expectations: Were my expectations clear? How were they initially communicated to the employee? Could a misunderstanding have occurred based on this communication (or lack thereof)?

Connection: Did I feel like we connected, or was it a one-sided conversation? In other words, was there buy-in or was this a transactional conversation?

Resolution: Did the resolution leave the employee with a clear path forward? If discipline was administered, did I choose a path based on the principle of disciplining to the lowest level that changes behavior (if possible)?

Integrity: Did I demonstrate an honest, transparent and consistent approach?

Empathy: Did I consider or ask about all the factors leading to the conversation? If there was a problem at home or the employee has consistently struggled at work, did I discover and acknowledge those factors in my decision matrix?

Final thoughts

Whether conducting a review of our operational decisions or evaluating challenging employee interactions, assessing our performance as supervisors and acting on the information we gain is crucial for several reasons. First, it helps us grow in our role as an incident commander, which provides safer, more effective scene operations for our personnel and the public. Second, we are modeling growth mindset and vulnerability from the front and rejecting the notion leaders are perfect and cannot be questioned. If we are going to ask crews to be high performers in all aspects of this work, we must model what growth and improvement looks and feels like from our position as fire service mentors, supervisors and leaders.

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Fire Rescue 1 By Lexipol

How to structure your informal tailboard AAR for greater impact and efficiency

It's time to go beyond the free-flowing storytelling to maximize our after-action reviews

May 22, 2024 11:28 AM • [Eric Linnenburger](#)



Photo/Eric Linnenburger

By now we all know the value of after-action reviews (AARs). There is no comparison to learning from our actual events, training evolutions and near misses, and these reviews serve as an invaluable tool for team and individual growth. They also play a key role in the fight to keep our firefighters mentally resilient and thriving on the job for long, healthy careers.

Maximizing effectiveness in AARs

Even though the AAR has become an organizational- and industry-wide expectation, it seems to be like so many things in the fire service where we bring attention to ideas and expectations but fail to articulate or teach our officers how to execute them. Certainly, some organizations have written the expectation into policy and do provide guidance, but that is simply not the norm. More have created policy for large events but offer no direction for the single-alarm or smaller event that still have lessons to share.

I imagine if we were to survey fire officers and ask them to define an AAR or even detail their AAR process, you would get a different response from all of them. This isn't all bad. There can be value in just about any discussion and

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incident review process. However, are we being as effective as possible, maximizing our opportunities to learn from these reviews?

Types of AARs and delivery methods

There are many different AAR delivery structures, with an appropriate time for each, but they are not one size fits all. AARs should be delivered intentionally to either stand alone or build upon one another, depending on the situation. For the sake of this discussion, we will focus on AAR delivery facilitated by and directly involving line officers and crews. Such reviews can be broadly categorized as follows:

Informal crew “hot wash” often led by the company officer in the cab or at the kitchen table after clearing the scene.

Semi-formal on-scene tailboard AAR typically led by the incident commander prior to terminating the incident.

Formal, often-polished, forward-facing post-incident AAR typically presented days (or longer) after the event by a command team.

As it relates to the first two types of AARs, company officers should be cab or kitchen table “hot-washing” even the seemingly simplest single-company incidents. And battalion chiefs or second-level ICs should bring closure to events through tailboard on scene AARs.

As for the third type of AAR, some incidents dictate a larger-scale department-wide or even public-facing review. Some of the public-facing AARs have become very advanced as full-scale multimedia productions. There are some great examples out there where organizations have been vulnerable and transparent so others outside the organization might learn from their experiences, such as the Los Angeles Fire Department collaborating with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to share their [Boyd Street](#) experience.

I work within an automatic-aid region where we often use video conferencing platforms to deliver AAR presentations for our large events or when there was a near-miss or are significant lessons to be shared. This allows us to involve as many on-duty crews as possible from multiple departments in the region and still maintain adequate response coverage. We can combine dispatch audio with on-scene video and include maps, floorplans and other relevant information. These highly produced and more scripted AARs are not only a great way to share lessons with members who were not on the primary call but they can also be catalogued for use as a training resource indefinitely. However, without the complementary less-formal AAR activities, such as the post-incident tailboard discussion, the more formal AARs may fall short for members or seem fabricated.

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The key takeaway: Go beyond the common free-flowing storytelling opportunity to engage members in a more efficient, structured and predictable information exchange that can either stand alone or complement the future public-facing presentation.

Reasons to embrace the tailboard AAR

There are several reasons to embrace the tailboard version of the AAR – reasons that will help bolster support for the more structured reviews:

- Perception is reality. It's an opportunity to get accurate information while it's fresh, and before stories are created to justify actions.
- AARs present a great opportunity to gauge the mental and physical status of the team prior to demobilization.
- The information gathered builds a more accurate future AAR if a more formal version is needed.
- AARs are an opportunity to reinforce and encourage positive actions and appreciate our people and the challenges they faced in real time.
- They also serve as an opportunity to fix problems or misunderstandings in real time.
- The two-way dialogue establishes [leader's intent](#) and builds mutual respect and appreciation for all positions and jobs on the fireground.
- An AAR demonstrates healthy command presence.

Recommendations for tailboard success

Set your AAR up for success with consistent and clearly communicated ground rules:

- Allow only honest, respectful and factual communication. Establish a circle of trust.
- Anyone who wishes to speak shall be encouraged to do so, regardless of rank, and without retribution.
- Involve as many of the working crews as possible, not just the officers of those crews.
- Keep it concise – less than 10 minutes if possible.

Additionally, it's key to have a plan and structure your AAR for success.

Orchestrate a structured and predictable conversation. If your organization doesn't already have a set format, create your own template to stay on track and encourage predictability. If you are a battalion chief, share your template with your officers. If



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you are a company officer, share it with your crew. If crews know you will be addressing specific expectations after every incident, it can serve as a training tool to guide on scene behaviors and set themselves up for success.

Too often, these tailboards become a creative storytelling exercise with either too many pats on the back or emotional ego-driven finger-pointing. Human nature tells us that some will take every second of the stage time to embellish their superiority and detract from mistakes, while others will be overly humble and shy away from the limelight, often neglecting to share important information or being inappropriately self-deprecating. Having a predictable structure not only keeps the conversation on track and efficient but also keeps it objective. It helps reinforce good behavior while addressing improvement areas – without making it personal.

Some examples of predictable objective items to discuss:

- Communications: dispatch, response, initial-arrival report and size-up, command transfer, overall IC communications
- Apparatus placement and fireground discipline
- Strategy determination and Initial Action Plan (IAP)
- Rescue considerations and search
- Exposure considerations
- Water supply
- Medical
- Safety concerns, any injuries
- Demobilization and event termination plan

Of course, your list will differ based on your specific challenges and how you are resourced. The important thing is that you have a post-event plan before the event occurs.

Tailboard template

Following is an example of the template I use. It can be resized and laminated to fit in a pocket or clipboard. This is a living document in that it is constantly being updated based on needs. The idea is not to read it checkbox-style but rather to use it to guide the conversation so nothing is missed.

- 1.Apparatus positioning
- 2.IAP and task-level operations

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- a. Rescue considerations
- b. Hoseline selection / placement
- c. Flow path considerations
- d. Exposure considerations
- 3. Water supply
- 4. Communications

- a. IRR and IC transfer, radio discipline
- b. 360
- c. IC Benchmarks
- 5. Safety and Medical

- a. Medical / Rehab
- b. Decon / air monitoring
- c. Injuries
- 6. Overhaul plan
- 7. Challenges / lessons learned

Go beyond simply terminating command

The on-scene tailboard AAR helps us close the loop. The IC should not assume everyone is coming from the same level of understanding, especially when they were operating at the task level. There will inevitably be some within the group who need the information but will not speak up and ask for it. We all know that firefighters without the whole story will fill in the missing pieces. However, a group of unified firefighters will go to great lengths to support one another and the mission.

When we create a safe and predictable atmosphere where everyone has a voice, we decrease anxiety and set the environment up for growth. We also ensure accountability and naturally establish [leader's intent](#). The incident commander being prepared and structured in their approach to the tailboard AAR does not mean that one person controls or dictates the conversation. Presenting a predictable format and clearly setting the rules of engagement creates an expectation that others not only speak but are comfortable doing so. In fact, if delivered effectively, the incident commander acts as a facilitator and should be talking the least. That incident commander should be taking mental notes and incorporating the information into the future formal AAR, or into future training and development of their team.

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Fire Rescue 1 By Lexipol

Recruitment and Retention

‘I saw you on TikTok’: The fire service recruitment strategy no one is talking about

Sacramento Fire Captain Keith Wade, once a TikTok skeptic, is now on a mission to show fire service leaders how the app’s reach could be the answer to staffing woes

December 18, 2024 12:02 PM •

[Rachel Engel](#)

Wendy Aguilar, a professional storyteller hired by Sacramento Fire as a media and communications specialist, takes video of fire crews working an incident scene.

Photo/Sacramento Fire Department

The days of receiving a stack of applications for one open career position on a fire department are gone.

From the Great Resignation to inflation, coupled with the challenges brought by the pandemic and civil unrest, the fire service is reaching a crisis point when it comes to recruitment.

Traditional tactics, even [out-of-the-box ideas](#), are not reaching what should be a department’s target audience: young people. Up-and-comers. The new generation of fire recruits.

So, where are they? And how do you reach them?

Welcome to TikTok

With the oldest millennials now turning 40, most new fire recruits will come from Generation Z, who are currently 26 or younger. People of this generation are unlikely to see your department’s Facebook post about open positions, as the [percentage of Gen Z teens using Facebook](#) dropped from 71% in 2015 to 32% today.



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However, while Gen Z may not be on Facebook, they are on TikTok – and if you're dismissively rolling your eyes at the mention of the newest social platform, you can take comfort in the fact that you're not alone. Sacramento (California) Fire Department Captain Keith Wade was also skeptical when it came to incorporating the app into their department's arsenal of recruitment tools.

"I'm 46 years old, married with three kids; I didn't know anything about TikTok," admitted Wade, who also serves as the department's public information officer (PIO). "I envisioned it as people dancing and singing. I'm like, 'What is this going to do for us?'"

But Wendy Aguilar, a professional storyteller hired by the department as a media and communications specialist, saw the app's potential. Just a few months after she started the [@sacramentofire TikTok account](#), they had their first viral video – a fire safety clip reminding viewers to never re-enter a burning home.

"That video has been viewed 8.5 million times," Aguilar said. "It doesn't matter if it's somebody in our community [who sees it] – anyone in the country or the world can benefit from hearing that message. That's when we knew we had something with our TikTok account."

[@sacramentofire](#)

[#firepreventionweek](#) [#call911](#) [#structurefire](#) [#getout](#) [#stayout](#) [#failingtoplanisplanningtofail](#)

[🎵 original sound - SacramentoFire](#)

'I saw you on TikTok'

While SFD's safety video was able to reach a global digital audience, it was just the beginning of their TikTok engagement strategy. As Aguilar shared videos of promotion ceremonies, helmet cam footage from fireground operations, and the always-popular animal rescue videos, the views and comments began racking up – and this time, they were local.

"Can't wait to get my firefighter 1 certificate and join the Sac fire dept much respect for all those that are currently in the force"

"This is so cool! I live in Sac and had no idea you guys were on TikTok!

"Can you make a video about life at the department? Like a daily routine of sorts?"

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Aguilar was rapidly replying to fans with encouraging updates, while also sharing the recruiting link for SFD. Eventually, their digital promotion yielded real-life results, which shocked Wade.

“We’ve had people show up at recruitment events and say, ‘I saw you on TikTok,’” he said. “It was hard for me to fathom a bit. Like, that’s how you’re arriving at our doorstep? But it’s a testament to this new generation. If you’re not on these types of platforms, you are somewhat archaic. You have to get with the times.”

It’s an area the fire service must make a priority like it has with other issues that needed an updated approach in the modern era.

“We’re doing a good job across the nation with cancer prevention and working on how we can do a better job on response times and keeping our firefighters safe,” he said. “But in recruitment, you have to stay relevant as well. How do you keep it moving and meet new benchmarks?”

‘What’s for lunch?’ in Sacramento

One of the reasons Aguilar and Wade believe the SFD TikTok account has seen so much success is due in part to the contrast in their perspectives. Aguilar, as someone without any prior experience in the fire service, is looking at every aspect of the industry as an outsider, as opposed to someone on the inside, like Wade.

“It’s kind of a unique dance that we’re doing,” Aguilar said, “because he knows the feel and the look of the fire service, whereas I’m here with the curious mind of what people in the outside world may be interested in.”

Case in point: SFD’s “What’s for lunch?” TikTok series, which was inspired after the first time Aguilar ate a meal at the firehouse; she knew immediately it was something the public would be interested in.

“... Everybody’s cooking, coming together at the table, they’re breaking bread together and having these conversations about their day,” she said. “They really are building a community that’s kind of like their family. For me, I thought, ‘If I would’ve known this about the fire service, that would’ve made me want to join, just for the family environment of it.’”



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So, she captured that dynamic on video, talking with firefighters at the station about what they're making, and getting footage of the collaborative cooking process as members talk amongst themselves.

"It blew up," she recalled. "People absolutely loved it."

The series has become something of a competition between stations, Aguilar said, as crews try to outdo each other with elaborate meals in the hopes of attracting the most views.

There has been pushback from some crewmembers who don't like the idea of showcasing firefighters at the station, but Aguilar underscored that it's a part of the whole package of being in the fire service.

"They want to be seen as firefighters running into burning buildings, with big flames and a lot going on," said Aguilar, adding that focusing on who firefighters are after the flames have been doused and turnout gear put away is what completes the picture of the profession.

"We've really done a good mix of both. You get to see what they do for the work they do, but also that family environment where they are just people, like everybody else," Aguilar said. "As a storyteller, that's the way we connect. It's about people. It's about who we are at the very core."

It's that insight from Aguilar that makes it work, Wade says.

"That's where I was really missing the mark. I was sitting there going, 'Well, I don't care where Bill came from, I want to talk about this incident,'" he said. "What I didn't see and now I totally get, is that Bill has a story. Bill arrived here somehow and that can empower people to think, 'Oh, I'm just like Bill. I grew up like Bill did, and now I can be a firefighter, too.'"

Firefighters as social media influencers?

Yes, the idea of firefighters as influencers may make you chuckle, but in 2022, it's a logical step to modern recruitment, as well as overall community engagement. A viral safety video or an animal rescue video that strikes an emotional nerve can bring awareness to the fire service and your particular department



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“Animal rescues are my absolute favorite stories to write,” Aguilar said. “I feel like I’m writing a children’s book every time. And Loki was the first one that really went viral for us.”

Loki, an abandoned pit bull puppy who was found with burned plastic on his body at a fire scene, garnered more than 600,000 views in his introduction video, which was set to the tune of “You’ve Got a Friend in Me” from Disney’s Toy Story.

[@sacramentofire](#)

While responding to a [#fire](#) under eastbound I80, [#Sacramento](#) [#firefighters](#) [#rescued](#) a small puppy. The puppy didn’t have a name tag. So, [#animalcontrol](#) will be taking the puppy to FrontStreetAnimals. In the meantime, we need your help to try to figure out a name for this brave puppy! 🐶

[🎵 Toy Story: You've Got A Friend In Me - Geek Music](#)

Viewers on TikTok followed Loki’s story as he was given a name and fostered by one of the firefighters, who eventually adopted him.

When one of SFD’s viral TikToks highlighting the rescue made its way to the local news station, news crews were quick to make a trip to the firehouse to film their own update on the story, which had already become a local sensation.

“The reach of that story is so massive still, to this day,” Aguilar said. “I’ll post something on TikTok and [commenters] will say, ‘Oh, thank you for saving this family’ or whatever the incident is, but then they’ll ask, ‘Where’s Loki? Can you tell us more about Loki?’ It is great for us to tell that story and for the community to know that the fire department is here for everyone.”

The SFD TikTok team also views the account as an educational tool they can use to give residents more insight into what their local fire department does on a daily basis. On one of the “What’s for lunch?” series videos, one commenter posted, “Oh, so that’s where my tax dollars are going, to pay for your meals.”

Aguilar turned the remark into a civics lesson.



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"I asked, 'Hey, people are asking who pays for these meals?' and right away I start recording their answer that they pay for their own meals," she said. "It's a great teaching opportunity."

It's the concern that comments will turn ugly that Wade said holds many fire leaders back from engaging on social media platforms and trying new ways of connecting with the public.

"If you're not open to get out there and take some risks, you aren't going to have a whole lot of successes," he said. "You're going to stay in safe mode all the time. Take some risks, invite conversation, and then just have a plan on how you're going to answer stuff and not shy away from it. You've got to be kind of bold on these types of things."

How to make firefighting 'cool'

For any department, large or small, curious about the possibilities of TikTok, Wade encourages PIOs or whoever disseminates information for the organization to have a discussion with senior leadership about the app's potential.

"They need to have these discussions and really learn what the value is, because a lot of them think it's nonsense and just for fun and zany ridiculous back and forth," Wade said. "But there's real value to these platforms for recruitment and retention."

And that value is being connected to the next generation, according to Aguilar. She recalled a conversation she had with a captain at Sacramento Fire Station 4 who shared a moment between him and his daughter.

"His daughter said, 'Oh my gosh, dad, you guys are so cool. You're on TikTok,'" Aguilar said. "And he said, 'I wasn't cool before because I was a firefighter, but now I'm cool because we're on TikTok.' So, it kind of gives you the idea of where this is going and where the next generation is."

She punctuated the point: "And that's where want to be – wherever the next generation is."Top of Form

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1970 Sayville Race Car: 1970s "C" class racing car, Sayville, New York. In the late 1920s, FASNY standardized the 26 contests held at musters in New York state, as well as the types of trucks allowed to race. Class "A" trucks were regular company fire trucks with all of the removable parts taken off.

Home of the world's premier collection of American firefighting artifacts and apparatus.

Established in 1925 with an original donation of four fire engines, the FASNY Museum of Firefighting in Hudson, New York has grown into an educational institution occupying more than 50,000 square feet and featuring over 60 vintage and rare fire engines dating back to 1731.

The Museum houses, cares for and exhibits thousands of firefighting artifacts, from firefighting gear and equipment to photographs, art and a 6,000-volume library. Through interpretation of its unequalled collection — the largest of its kind found anywhere in the world — and its many fun, hands-on exhibits, events and activities, the Museum fascinates, educates and delights visitors of all ages.

The mission of the FASNY Museum of Firefighting is to educate a diverse audience about firefighting as history, as culture, as a service to humanity, as a preventative practice and as ever-changing art and technology.

"It is a small tribute to the valiant men of this country who gave their own time and lives to protect the property and loved ones of their neighbors. It is a lasting contribution by Firemen's Association of the State of New York to future generations of this world. It is our hope that the children and their parents who visit this museum will find within these walls the same spirit to



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help their brother man that prompted the founding of the volunteer fire service in this country." From Albert J. Foley's dedication address at the opening of the Museum's addition in 1958.

The vision of the FASNY Museum of Firefighting is to continue to strive to be a vital asset to our community and beyond, extending scholarship and support to all. We intend to accomplish this by offering outstanding interpretation and programming that explores past culture and human values, by creating comprehensive exhibitions that prompt critical thinking and by presenting educational special events to a diverse audience. All of these activities will be structured around STEAM components: science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. This STEAM framework will bring these five disciplines together to create an inclusive learning environment that will encourage our community to participate and contribute. By offering and expanding upon a wide range of STEAM programming, we will fully support all of these disciplines. This will result in the Museum continuing to be an integral part of our community and society in general, as well as a trusted and safe space in which all individuals can exchange ideas and achieve understanding.



1930s Pedal Fire Truck: 1930s Mack pedal car manufactured by Steelcraft of Cleveland, Ohio. It has two headlights that run on batteries. It has two wooden ladders. Steelcraft was known for its bulldog Mack style trucks, both floor and pedal versions.

Office of Emergency
Management

P.O. Box A
58 Verda Ave.
Clarksville, NY
12041

Ph: (518) 720-8025
Fax: (518) 720-8031



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Hazmat Corner



Tier 2 Reporting

It's the season for Tier 2 Reporting again. If you're not familiar with this, it has to do with federal law that requires anyone with certain hazardous materials being stored onsite must report them to their Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the local fire department. More information can be found on the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/epcra/tier-ii-forms-and-instructions>.

You can access most of the information via the internet using E-Plan. While not required to be used, most entities file using E-Plan. E-Plan filings are accepted by the State of New York and Albany County. At this time, we are not aware of any entities in Albany County that do not file using E-Plan.

There is a "First Responders" login page that can be used to access the information. You can access this at <https://erplan.net/erplan/home.htm>. You do have to register with E-Plan to get access. If you don't have a user account with E-Plan, go to the login page and click on "Create First Responder Account."

Once you are logged in, you can do a search by state and city or by zip code. We strongly suggest that you do such a search several times a year so you will be familiar with any changes in your response area including mutual aid areas. Currently there are 192 Tier 2 reports for Albany County.

Information on the report includes Facility ID, location, fire district, maximum occupancy, emergency 24 hour telephone number, a list of emergency contacts with phone numbers and email addresses.

The chemical inventory lists the chemicals onsite, the maximum quantity, average quantity, NFPA Code and properties (e.g. pure liquid). The physical hazards are also listed. If available, links to SDS sheets are provided.

You should browse the reports for your area. You may find some surprising information. One report list Oxygen as one of the chemicals with an average quantity of almost 2 million pounds.

With many fire departments now carrying laptop computers and iPads it is recommended that you have a link to the E-Plan webpage on these for use in an emergency response or during a site visit.

If you have any questions or if you need assistance with E-Plan, please give us a call.



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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 #3-2025 is attached

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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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

Firefighter I Certification

Colonie MTB

December 10th: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer Must Attend with Student

At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter

(BEFO/SCBA
Interior Firefighter
Operations)

BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)
January 2, 6, 7, 9, 14, 21, 25 February 1, 8, 13, 18,
20, 25, March 4, 8, 15, 20, 27, April 1, 3

IN PROGRESS

SCBA/IFO: April 8, 19, 26, May 1, 8, 13, 15, 20, 27, 31, June 7, 12, 14

Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,

IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting7th Edition Curriculum

Weeknights 1830-2130 (3/15, 3/20, 4/1, 4/3 1800-2200)

Saturdays 0800-1400

Instructor - Molesky

Firefighter I Certification

East Berne FD

December 11th: Orientation: 6:30 pm Chief Officer Must Attend with Student – **(Revised Start Date)**

At Orientation: Training Authorization Letter

(BEFO/SCBA Interior Firefighter Operations) IN PROGRESS IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting7th Edition Curriculum	<i>BEFO (W/Hazardous Materials Operations)</i> January 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 February 5, 10, 12, 15, 17, 19, 24, March 1, 5, 10, 12, 19, 24, 27, April 2 Weeknights 1830-2130 except for (3/19, 3/24, 3/27, 4/2 class time 1800-2200) Saturdays 0800-1400 Instructor – Michael DeGross SCBA/IFO: Schedule TBD	Start of SCBA/IFO: Medical Clearance to wear SCBA,
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Principals of Instruction IN PROGRESS	Colonie MTB – Upper Class Room	February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4 1830-2130	Clawson	None
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Company Training & Community Risk Reduction IN PROGRESS	Altamont	February 8, 10, 24 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0800-1400	S. DeGross	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Leadership & Supervision	Albany International Airport FD 10 Jetway Drive, Latham	February 24 & 25 0800- 1700, February 26 0800-1100	OFPC	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Company Training &	Albany International Airport FD	February 26 1100-1700, 27 0800-1700, 28 0800- 1100	OFPC	BEFO or Equivalent

Community Risk Reduction	10 Jetway Drive, Latham			
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Planning & Emergency Response	Albany International Airport FD 10 Jetway Drive, Latham	February 28 1100-1700 March 3 0800-1700	OFPC	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Firefighter Health & Safety	Albany International Airport FD 10 Jetway Drive, Latham	March 4 0800-1700, 5 0800-1100	OFPC	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Fireground Strategies and Tactics for First Arriving Companies	Albany International Airport FD 10 Jetway Drive, Latham	March 5 1100-1700, 6 0800-1700	OFPC	BEFO or Equivalent
NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAM FIRE OFFICER I	Albany International Airport FD 10 Jetway Drive, Latham	March 7 0800-1700	OFPC	Fire Officer I National Certification Exam Application
IMPORTANT! Individuals must register in LMS for each individual course they would like to attend. Priority will be given to those students registered for all (5) Fire Officer I modules. Any one may register for the Fire Officer I National Certification Exam, you do not have to be registered to attend one of the above listed Fire Officer I modules to be eligible. All registrations require a Training Authorization Letter to be attached. You can access this form from the course description in LMS or by going to: https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/2023tal_0.pdf				
Fire Officer 1 Module Series:	Elsmere	February 24, March 1, 15	Kerr	BEFO or Equivalent

Leadership & Supervision		Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0830-1430		
Fireground Strategies and Tactics for First Arriving Companies NEW TO SCHEDULE	Colonie MTB Upper Classroom	February 24, 26, March 5, 12, 24 1830-2130	DeGroff	Firefighter I or Equivalent
Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Awareness	East Berne	February 27 1900-2200	Meyer	Course is intended for Chief Officers or District/Department Administrators.
Fire and Emergency Service Instructor I	Saratoga Public Safety Building- 6010 County Farm Rd. Ballston Spa	February 28, March 1, 2, 8, 9 0800-1700	OFPC	None If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Basic Structural Collapse Operations	Green Island FD Green Island Municipal Center, 19 George Street	March 4 0900-1700	Gill	None
Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (I-300)	Selkirk FD #1	March 5,6,11,13 1800-2200 March 15 0800-1700	SEMO	IS-100, IS-200 (2019 Edition), IS-700, IS-800 Note: When registering filter under Program: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (I-300). There are 2 offerings available. Check the dates before registering.
Rescue Technician Basic	Slingerlands	March 10, 11, 12, 13 1800-2200, March 15 0800-1600	G. Gould	None

Incident Safety Officer	Selkirk FD Station #1	March 19, 26, April 2, 16, 23, 30	DeGroff	Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations or BEFO w/HMFRO
Fire Police NEW TO SCHEDULE	Maplewood	March 22, 29 0900-1800 April 2 1900-2200	Collins	None
Confined Space Awareness & Safety NEW TO SCHEDULE	Colonie MTB	March 25, 27	Paiko	None
Fire and Emergency Service Instructor II	Saratoga Public Safety Building- 6010 County Farm Rd. Ballston Spa	April 4, 5, 6, 12, 13 0800-1700	OFPC	Fire Service Instructor I or National Certification If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Rope Rescue Operations	Albany County Sheriff's Office 58 Verda Ave. Clarksville	April 5, 6, 12, 13 0800-1700	OFPC	None
I 400 ICS for Complex Incidents	New York State Police Academy - Building 24 1220 Washington Ave Albany, NY 12226	April 10 & 11 0800-1700	State Emergency Management	The target audience for this course is senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Systems are established Dress: Business Casual Note: When registering filter under Program: ICS FOR Complex Incidents (I 400)
Fire Officer II	Harriman Campus – 1220	April 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 0800-1700	OPFC	Fire Officer I or National Certification

	Washington Ave, Albany			If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Battery Emergencies and Electrical Storage Systems	Elsmere	April 22, 190-2100	Graves	None
ATV/UTV Class	East Berne FD	April 26 0800-1600 Contact Chief Paul Miller (Albany County Sheriff's Office) to register: 518-720-8034 or 518-320-4213 to Register	Paris	Bring Fire Department Issued ATV/UTV for hands-on session. Class size: 50 for classroom session only. 25 for classroom and hands-on. County Training Certificate of Completion will be Issued.
Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations Annual Refresher NEW TO SCHEDULE	Coeymans Hollow	April 29 1830-2230	Juliano	BEFO w/HMFRO or Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations.
Apparatus Aerial Operator	Westmere	May 1, 6, 8, 20, 22, 29, June 3, 5, 17, 26 1830-2130	Santabarbara	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer 1 Module Series: Company Training & Community Risk Reduction	Elsmere	May 1, 8 10 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0830-1430	Kerr	BEFO or Equivalent
G-2200 Basic Emergency	NYS Office of Emergency Management	May 7: 0800-1700	State Emergency Management	Target Audience: Emergency Management Dress: Business Casual

Operations Center Function	1220 Washington Ave., Building 22 Albany, NY 12226			Note: When registering filter under Program: G-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Function
Apparatus Operator-Pump	Selkirk FD Station #1	May 19, 21, 28, June 4, 7, 14 Weeknights 1830-2130 Saturday 0900-1500	Clawson	BEFO or Equivalent
Fire Officer III	Harriman Campus – 1220 Washington Ave, Albany	June 2 – June 6	OFPC	Fire Officer II Pro-Board Certification If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Fire and Emergency Service Instructor II	Harriman Campus - 1220 Washington Ave, Albany	August 18, 19, 20 ,21, 22 0800-1700	OFPC	Fire Instructor I or National Certification If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Fire and Emergency Service Instructor I	Saratoga Public Safety Building- 6010 County Farm Rd. Ballston Spa	September 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 0800-1700	OFPC	None If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Fire and Emergency Service Instructor I	Harriman Campus - 1220 Washington Ave, Albany	November 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 0800-1700	OFPC	None If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Fire Officer II	Harriman Campus - 1220 Washington Ave, Albany	December 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 0800-1700	OFPC	Fire Officer I or National Certification If you have any questions, Contact OFPC at: OFPC.FireServices@dhses.ny.gov
Unless changed by instructor or noted above: All evening classes will be held from 19:00-22:00 hours.			 Fire Coordinator Gerald Paris 	

All Saturday and Sunday classes will be held from 09:00-12:00 hours and 13:00-16:00 hours	
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