



109 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



Volume 61 No. 9 Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **NOV/DEC 2022**



From the President's Pen...

As President of this amazing association, I would like to thank the executive board and all the members that help strengthen this association and keep our day-to-day operations running smoothly as possible. Throughout the year we have been pushing cancer awareness, suicide awareness and the Captain Buscio program. We must protect ourselves and our sister and brother firefighters from all the toxic chemicals and other things that can endanger our health so please wear your PPE. Many personal members and towns owe back dues payments for 2022. We will be sending out notices and making phone calls in an effort to get all members current with their dues.

We will continue moving forward with fundraisers to raise money for our scholarship program to make a difference in children's education and to enable the association to continue to offer the programs that our members and the fire service benefit from.

Let's not forget all our past members that we have lost in the year of 2022. I also want to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families a happy and healthy holiday season. Let's continue to pray and keep our thoughts and prayers for our military. Remember, only you can make a difference in your community so volunteer. God bless & stay safe.

President Roy De Young Jr

2 LINE OF DUTY DEATHS WITHIN TWO WEEKS IN BERGEN COUNTY

Tragedy struck the Westwood Fire Department and the Upper Saddle River Fire Department recently with each department having a member die in the line of duty. Kevin Mays of the Westwood FD fell ill after returning from a mutual aid call. Mays was sent for medical evaluation and treatment. Shortly thereafter, Mays was still not feeling well. After subsequent treatment Mays returned home and was found deceased the next morning.

Alex Moss of the Upper Saddle River Fire Department responded on a fire call. He stood by at the firehouse and when units returned he reported he was not feeling well. He opted to return home and try to get so rest. The next morning Moss was found dead in bed.

Both of these occurred when the deceased firefighters had returned from a call and the initial report of not feeling well was within 24-hours of the call. This is a critical element in determining the application of the federal HERO Act for payment of the federal Public Safety Officer Benefit (PSOB).

Sadly, these two deaths point out the need for all firefighters to have regular medical evaluations. All firefighters, regardless of their age or perceived medical condition should make arrangements to have a cardio and pulmonary evaluation through the Buscio program. These examinations are offered at four locations throughout New Jersey including a testing site in Paramus, NJ. There is no out of pocket cost for getting tested through the Buscio program which provides the tests for firefighters, police officers and law enforcement personnel as well as emergency medical responders and their spouses. Schedule you Buscio physical today.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 2ND AT
NEW MILFORD FIRE CO. #2 • 680 TRENTON ST • NEW MILFORD, NJ AT 8PM**



The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed comrades:

FF Kevin May LODD, Westwood Fire Dept., Westwood, NJ FD

FF Alex Moss LODD, Upper Saddle River Fire Dept., Upper Saddle River, NJ FD

Ex-Chief Frank J. DeGroat Jr., Vol. Hose Dept. # 23, West Haverstraw, NY FD

FF Eugene Leone, Elmwood Park Fire Dept., Elmwood Park, NJ FD

FF/Diver Rocco Guglielmo, Empire Hose Co., Piermont, NY FD

FF Joseph Craft Jr., Orangeburg Fire Department, Orangeburg, NY FD

Listings of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.

Remember Our Troops
Visit us at www.njnyvfa.org

Upcoming Meetings and Events

2022

- December 2** NJNYVFA monthly meeting at New Milford Fire Company # 2, Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- December 4** Bergen County day at the New Jersey Firemen's Home, Boonton, NJ. Holiday Party with gifts given to all firemen's home guests from the Bergen County Firemen's Home Association. Start time is 2:00 p.m.

2023

- January 28** NJNYVFA monthly meeting at Piermont Fire Company, Piermont Road in Piermont, NY. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- May 6 & 7** National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD
- May 21** NJNYVFA Annual Memorial Service, Bergen County Fire Academy, Mahwah, NJ
- May 22 & 23** 33rd Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner, Washington, DC.
- June 2** NJNYVFA Annual Convention, at the Hillsdale Fire Department in Hillsdale, NJ. Convention starts at 8:00 p.m.
- June 4** Annual Memorial Service, NJ State Fire Museum, Allentown, NJ

CLOTHING BIN EMERGENCY APPEAL

New Milford, NJ – at the latest meeting of the NJNYVFA Executive Board our association treasurer, George Saigh gave an ominous report regarding the clothing bins sponsored by the association. The vendor that the association partners with on the clothing bins has reported that the total weight collected in the bins in Bergen County has dropped to below half of what has been collected in the past. This will have a direct impact on the amount of revenue generated by the clothing bins for the association. Less clothing collected results in less money for the association and its programs.


There are a number of reasons that this could be happening. There is more competition because there are more bins for other "good causes" out there. We have also seen a reduction in the number of bins in Bergen County. The current economic situation has people holding onto clothing longer and making repairs to extend the life of clothing. All of this means less clothing in the bins and as such less revenue being generated.

Our association depends on the revenue from the clothing bins to pay for a wide array of programs and services for the membership and the community. Among these are our death benefit funds (currently at \$1,000), ten \$500 scholarships plus and additional \$1,750 in scholarships from our partner, H&M for a total of \$6,750 each year, two training scholarships to the Bergenfield Fire Training Center named for Larry Rauch valued at \$800 each, and funding for our annual convention host expense. Additionally, the funds help us maintain the firefighter monument at the Bergen County Fire Academy, pay the costs and expenses of the association's Valor Awards program, and help fund our operating expenses including insurance and publication of the association newsletter. Without the revenue from the clothing bins we would have to reduce or eliminate many of the items outlined above.

What can you do? First if you are aware of a location that could host a clothing bin let us know. It can be a mall, shopping center, commercial venue, municipal complex, firehouse or other high traffic area. Call or email one of the association officers. George Saigh is our main contact for clothing bins. He can be reached at 201-261-7124. Second, encourage your family and friends to help us by using the clothing bins. Consider placing your old, tired, and worn out clothing in one of the association's clothing bins. Post a notice in your firehouse to support the clothing bin project and mention it at a fire company meeting. Clothing bin locations are listed on the NJNYVFA website. The success of this program depends on each and every member.

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REPORT STILL PENDING ON WATER SUPPLY DURING THE EVERGREEN FIRE IN SPRING VALLEY

Spring Valley, NY – The Spring Valley Fire Department (SVFD) and many other agencies are still awaiting a report from the New York State Department of Public Services on the water supply during a fire on March 23, 2021 at the Evergreen Court Home for Adults that destroyed a large portion of the facility and resulted in the deaths of Oliver Husted, a resident of the facility and the Line of Duty Death of Lieutenant Jared Lloyd of the Spring Valley Fire Department. There are many questions still unanswered regarding the fire and the circumstances surrounding the water supply. Reportedly, the SVFD had to content with very low water pressure, inadequate flow and had to have a relay conducted to a fire hydrant remote from the scene. There are also questions about how the fire spread so quickly.

Multiple fire departments from Rockland County and Bergen County fought the fire and assisted throughout the effort. As the firefighters made heroic efforts to fight the fire and save the occupants, they reportedly lost sufficient water pressure from the public hydrants and the nearby water tower. The relay was over two-thirds of a mile to reach a working fire hydrant on Route 45. The time delay meant that the fire was able to grow and spread unchecked. Over 100 residents were rescued during the massive blaze.

Rockland County Fire Coordinator Chris Kear was quoted in a local news report to say "Although I understand that there is a process and any investigation takes time, I am extremely disappointed in the lack of communication from the [Public Service Commission] ... not once has the PSC reached out to the fire service to provide an update on where the investigation is at."

The issue of adequate water pressure has been a problem for many years in the village according to a number of anonymous sources. The probe by the DPS was planned to include these historic pressure problems across the predominantly non-white, working class and economically poor village. Agency spokesman James Denn recently made a statement that "DPS staff is in the process of finalizing a report addressing what, if any, responsibility Suez (Water) has in relation to the fire, and the staff's report will be finalized once they have all the information that they need."



New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association
www.njsvfa.org

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Director National Volunteer Fire Council

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This fire should serve as a wakeup call to all fire departments to have up to date information regarding the abilities and limitations of their public water supplies and the adequacy of those water supplies. Large fires in Bergen and Passaic Counties within the past few years stretched the resources of local fire departments and water utilities, often resulting in major property losses.

A large fire on the boardwalk in Seaside Heights, NJ several years ago caused the public supply to be shut off from the fire departments using the public fire hydrants and water had to be relayed from ponds and other natural water sources. The water utility had to preserve enough water for sanitation and public health. A warehouse fire in Delanco, NJ (Burlington County) several years ago required a relay with water being pumped by a fireboat from the Rancocas Creek over 1 ½-miles away to finally extinguish the fire.

CANCER PREVENTION TIP # 5

Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion and other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible or isolate in a trash bag or other suitable isolation media such as a sealing type storage container or tub until washing is available.

All personnel exposed to the products of combustion, or any potentially harmful chemical or toxins, should complete a full personal decon as soon as possible after the exposure. This includes gross decon, the use of wipes on scene, showering within the hour and properly cleaning all articles of clothing that were exposed.



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ROBERT F. ORDWAY
PRESIDENT'S INFORMATION REPORT -
11/21/22

1. 2023 Convention - We are currently scheduling the 2023 Convention to be a 2-day Convention on Friday, 9/15 and Saturday, 9/16. We are at the mercy of state and federal regulations, but as of now, a 2-day Convention is planned. Friday will be the Memorial Service and all business/reports. Saturday will be for walk-through voting only - no meeting will be held on Saturday. Delegate cards and information will be mailed out next June/July. Verona FRA will be providing the Honor guard for this year's Memorial Service.
 - a. Friday, 9/15 – Registration from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Meeting & Memorial service will start at 11:00 am.
 - b. Saturday, 9/16 – Registration and voting from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Suggested voting times by County will be distributed.
2. Next year's County Caucuses will be regular meeting type Caucuses that again are subject to any government restrictions. Contact your Executive Committeeperson for any questions on your County's Caucus. Check our website for the date and starting times of your County Caucus. Delegates and Life Members attending the County Caucuses will be electing your Executive Committeeperson and for six counties, your Firemen's Home Manager. Because we are having the normal Convention in Wildwood, there will be **no payment for attending the Caucus**. As in past years, there will be a \$100.00 penalty for Delegates not attending the Caucus. That penalty will be deducted from the funds the Delegates receive for attending Wildwood. At your Caucus, you will be handed a packet of reports and information similar to what you have been receiving for the past few years.
3. As of now, all Associations are seated for the Convention for submitting paperwork on time. The deadlines exist because we also must respond to the State and meet their deadlines. Always start the reports early and get them in so your Association is not penalized. There are no appeals on the penalties issued by the Executive Committee.
4. Six Counties have Firemen's Home Managers up for election. Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Union; and will be voted on at the specified County Caucus. Petitions to have your name on the ballot are due by June 1st and are available on the Forms tab of our website. Contact Superintendent John Veras at the Firemen's Home if you have questions about the Manager's position or the Firemen's Home.
5. If a Firefighter is **NOT** qualified and had **zero percentage for the last five consecutive years** based on the Membership Reports (Percentage Sheets) submitted by your Association, you will be notified that they will be removed from the Membership roster. The 2022 report is due February 28th, 2023. After we receive all reports, we will notify all officers of who would be affected by this. You will then have time to talk to the member about responding to alarms or if they are no longer responding, remove them yourselves utilizing the online maintenance form. We will not be removing them until after receipt of the 2023 Membership Report in 2024.



Christopher H. Assenheimer
Secretary - Past President
Editor of 5 Trumpet Journal

New Jersey State Fire Chief's Association

444 Central Avenue
Carlstadt, NJ 07072-1524

(201) 438-2603
email: chrisha4@verizon.net

- The reason for the one year delay is to give the member a chance to start responding. Again, we are talking about people not fully qualified and having a zero response for five consecutive years. destination of the water will be. If you decide to use portable dump tanks that is fine. Just make sure the receiving dump tank(s) is set up to receive the water. The same is true if the destination is a nurse tanker. Conversely, if the feed is going directly to an attack pumper with hose lines attacking the fire this may not be the most judicious use of the water supply. You could end up dumping a lot of water and not making efficient use of the water supply.
6. The NJSFA State Office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 24th & 25th. The State office will also be closed starting Monday, 12/26 through Monday, 1/2 and will reopen on Tuesday, 1/3. The office will also be closed Monday, January 16th and Monday, February 20th.
 7. Updated applications for Local (Form 101 – step 1), Special (Form 113 – step 2), and Supplementary (Form 102 – Step 3) Relief can now be printed out from the forms tab on our website. Please dispose of any unused older versions of those forms.
 8. The way you determine the maximum amount of Special Relief is to Calculate \$9,000.00 minus your Local Relief level. Your maximum amount of Local Relief must be approved and paid out before applying for Special Relief. Maximum Supplemental Relief is still four (4) times your Local Relief Level. The maximum Local Relief and Special Relief must be approved and paid before applying to the Advisory Committee for approval of Supplemental Relief.
 9. All Relief approved/granted in 2022 **MUST** be paid out by 12/31/2022. There is no carryover of approvals or granted amounts to 2023.
 10. **All records** – both for the Secretary and the Treasurer, and all bank books including the checkbook must be kept in a location in New Jersey. Records, bank books, etc. should not be removed from New Jersey. If an Officer lives in an adjacent county to New Jersey and needs to bring documents home for a **short period** to complete a report, that is acceptable, but documents and records should then be returned ASAP for storage/retention in New Jersey.
 11. An updated Application for Health Care is now available to be printed out from the forms tab on our website. Please dispose of all unused older versions. This is a reimbursement program assisting with the costs of health care at home, an adult day-care facility, a long-term care facility or a rehab facility. The care must be received from a **licensed caregiver** working with a **licensed health care firm**. The reimbursement is towards the net care balance not already being reimbursed from other sources. The funds are paid out from the State Office. This is separate from the Relief program and income is not a factor. The reimbursement program begins in the month that the NJSFA Advisory Committee approves the application and is not retroactive. The eligible active or Qualified Firefighter does not need to live in New Jersey, but can make use of the reimbursement program utilizing licensed caregivers/firms in whatever state they reside. We recommend using established Health Care Companies that have a recognized history of providing the proper care for your members that need this type of service. The Executive Committee has adopted a scaled payment schedule based on the amount of qualifying time the member has.

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- b. 12 months to 23 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$1,500.00/month
- c. 24 months to 35 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$2,250.00/month
- d. 36 months to 47 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$3,000.00/month
- e. 48 months to 59 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$3,750.00/month
- f. 60 months to 71 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$4,500.00/month
- g. 72 months to 83 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$5,250.00/month
- h. 84 months and greater (fully qualified) – reimbursement up to \$6,000.00/month

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- a. 1 month to 11 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$1,500.00/month
 - b. 12 months to 23 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$3,000.00/month
 - c. 24 months to 35 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$4,500.00/month
 - d. 36 months to 47 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$6,000.00/month
 - e. 48 months to 59 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$7,500.00/month
- Visit us on the web at www.njsfa.com
- f. 60 months to 71 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$9,000.00/month
 - g. 72 months to 83 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$10,500.00/month
 - h. 84 months and greater (fully qualified) – reimbursement up to \$12,000.00/month

12. The Health Care program has been expanded to include spouses of current NJSFA members and non-remarried surviving spouses of Qualified deceased NJSFA members. Starting January 1, 2022, eligible applicants will be able to receive a monthly reimbursement towards the NET cost of care from a **licensed caregiver** working with a **licensed health care firm**. This is toward the net care balance not already being reimbursed from other sources. The eligible spouse can be receiving that care at home, an adult day care facility, a rehabilitation facility or a long-term care facility. The eligible spouse (see qualifications above) does not need to live in New Jersey, but can make use of the reimbursement program utilizing licensed caregivers/firms in whatever state they reside. We recommend using established Health Care Companies that have a recognized history of providing the proper care for the spouses of your members that need this type of service. The Executive Committee has adopted a scaled payment schedule based on the amount of qualifying time the member has. The benefit paid for spouses of active Firefighters would utilize the below schedule based on the Firefighters achieved qualifying time. Spouses of active, retired, or deceased Firefighters (non-remarried spouse) that have achieved full qualifying status would be eligible for up to the full \$2,000.00 allotted (line h.) amount.

Spousal Care

- a. 1 month to 11 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$250.00/month
- b. 12 months to 23 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$500.00/month

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- c. 24 months to 35 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$750.00/month
- d. 36 months to 47 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$1,000.00/month
- e. 48 months to 59 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$1,250.00/month
- f. 60 months to 71 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$1,500.00/month
- g. 72 months to 83 months qualifying time – reimbursement up to \$1,750.00/month
- h. 84 months and greater (fully qualified) – reimbursement up to \$2,000.00/month

13. The Annual Financial Report and Annual Membership Percentage Report (formerly Green Sheets) must be completed online. Starting with the 2022 reports which will be due in February, 2023, they must be done online, finalized, printed out, and along with any supporting documents, signed and sent in to the NJSFA State Office. Manually completed copies will no longer be accepted. You can scan & email the reports to localreports@njsfa.com. Scanned reports must be clean & legible or they will not be accepted. Make sure you have a **tracking number** if you mail in reports. UPS & Fed Ex also have tracking numbers.
14. Report due dates:
- a. The 4th Quarter Relief Paid Report is due by January 30th and must be entered and finalized online.
 - b. The Officer's Listing Report is due by February 1st and must be entered and finalized online.
 - c. The Annual Finance report is due by February 20th – See item 13 above.
 - d. The Membership report (percentage sheets for those not yet qualified) is due by February 28th – See item 13 above.
 - e. Delegate selection forms are due by May 1st and must be entered and finalized online.
15. All IRS 990 forms must be filed online with the IRS by May 15th. Remember, **the IRS no longer accepts paper copies**. All reports/filings must be done online. A copy of your filing must be delivered to us by June 14th.
16. Firefighters who are not fully Qualified and are injured in the Line-of-Duty, and are permanently no longer able to respond to alarms can be granted Qualified status by the Executive Committee. Contact the State Officers if you have questions on the process and the documentation needed.
17. The allowable age for membership has been changed from a maximum age of 45 to a maximum age of 57. If you have any **ACTIVE** Firefighters, age 57 or less, who are not in the Relief Association, please get that Firefighter to fill out a new application (version REV 5/19 or REV 7/21), get a physical, and send it in. **Newly completed Applications with current physicals must be received in the State Office prior to the Firefighter turning 58. This is not retroactive and**



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is based on their current age.

18. Local Association Presidents, Vice Presidents & Chiefs now have their own log-in tab on our website and can now submit the Initial Notice of Death form online, just as the Secretary and Treasurer can.
19. Last year, we created a Memorial video to put on our website to remember those Firefighters that would normally be honored at the Convention Memorial Service. We will create this video each year moving forward so that family, friends and colleagues can view the service at any time. The 2022 Memorial video is now available online on our website.
20. **If any of the Local Association Officers are having problems signing on to their section of the website or are having problems completing or finalizing reports online, please call the NJSFA State Office immediately so that we can resolve the issue.**
21. A Year-To-Date Relief Paid Report is available for Treasurer's to use when completing their Annual Financial Report. It takes the information submitted on the four Quarterly Relief Reports for a calendar year and summarizes the information on one report. After you finalize the 4th Quarter Relief Paid Report, you will be able to import the information directly to your Annual Financial Report when completing that report online.
22. Treasurers: if your bank is not directly sending copies of your monthly bank statements to us, you can take your copy, get two other officers to sign it as reviewed, and then scan and send it to us at bankstatements@njsfa.com. You can also use LocalReports@njsfa.com.
23. **It is mandatory that the following reports be completed/finalized online. We will no longer accept paper, faxed, or emailed copies of these reports or forms:**
 - i. All Quarterly Relief Paid Reports.
 - ii. Local Relief Association Officer Listing Report
 - iii. Convention Delegate selection forms
 - iv. All Initial Notice of Death forms (#300)
 - v. All Membership Maintenance forms (#108)
24. **It is mandatory that the following reports be completed/finalized online, printed out, and with all necessary signatures and supporting documents, sent to the State Office.** Completed reports with all supporting documentation can be scanned and emailed to LocalReports@NJSFA.com. If you scan and email the reports, you do NOT have to mail in hard copies.
 - i. Annual Financial Report #200
 - ii. Annual Membership (percentage) Report #109
25. Field Exams will be scheduled for early next year for those Associations/Counties required. Notice will be sent out by the Field Examiner to those required to attend. If the books/records/checkbook/bank books cannot be brought on your scheduled night, you must contact the Field Examiner to schedule time at another County Field Exam location. After the last Field exam, we will set up one daytime schedule for all of those that still could not make it.



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FILING DEADLINES FOR NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION APPLICATIONS

Joseph Costello "VALOR AWARD" April 1st
NJNY Unit Citation..... April 1st
Ladies Auxiliary April 1st
Rudy Appeld Award..... April 1st

All the above applications to be mailed to:

Pat Conner, 9 Medford Rd., Dumont, NJ 07628

Scholarships..... April 20th

All scholarship applications to be mailed to: **George Saigh, 306 Luhmann Dr. • New Milford, NJ 07646-2327**

MAKE SURE THAT ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETE, CORRECT AND SIGNED BY A CURRENT MEMBER OR LIFE MEMBER AS THE SPONSOR, OR THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEEKEND TO MOVE TO MAY IN 2023

EMMITSBURG, MD – NFFF Chairman Troy Markel of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation announced recently that the annual fallen firefighters memorial weekend will move from October to May in 2023. A combination of weather uncertainties and frequent threat of federal government shutdowns prompted the move Markel was quoted as saying.

"As with everything the NFFF does, the priority is making sure we do right by the families of the firefighters we are honoring" Markel said. The change means the 2023 memorial weekend will be May 6 and 7. While the time of year for the Candlelight and Memorial Services change, our other four decade long traditions will continue. Chairman Markel said, "removing some of the uncertainties we've faced with the October date will help avoid distractions as we focus on honoring the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Gerard "Jerry" Naylis
Bergen County Executive Committeeman

New Jersey State Firemen's Association

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By Kevin Schade, EVT

In a previous article, I discussed the importance of shifting the pump/aerial PTO slowly and with a purpose so now I'm going to explain about transmissions. When I speak about transmissions, I'm talking about the most common ones found in custom fire trucks. The most popular transmission for fire apparatus is both the Allison 3000 and 4000 series. The below information will provide some tips for smaller apparatus on a pick-up truck frame but will mostly pertain to larger custom apparatus.

The Allison transmission is a reliable and strong transmission but they do have their quirks and issues. The majority of issues will be caused by some type of electrical fault and due to the fact that our vehicles are electrically controlled, this could cause an array of issues. A simple wet or corroded wire could cause the vehicle to shift hard or derate to a slower speed at random. There are electrical wires that run throughout the vehicle to let all components communicate with one another. If one of those components has an issue or that communication wire is interrupted by a broken/corroded wire, the truck will act accordingly. The components are programmed to not hurt themselves or one another.

Aside from electrical issues, Allison transmissions have very few mechanical issues when used in fire apparatus. Fire apparatus is typically not used for long durations like an over-the-road truck (18-Wheeler) is. The hardest thing that firefighters do to these transmissions is shifting them hard and driving them cold. It is understandable that we cannot meet some standards when driving to an emergency but when driving to a drill or returning to the firehouse we absolutely can. Allison recommends warming the transmission fluid (ATF) to above 50 degrees before driving which can be done by simply idling the motor for a minute or two depending on the ambient temperature. Allison also recommends a specific shifting pattern. When driving forward in drive gear (D), it is recommended to come to a complete stop and then shift into neutral (N) before shifting into reverse gear (R). The same principle applies when shifting from reverse to drive.

Some of you may have heard the term "neutral bomb". This action is when you push the accelerator down while in neutral and then with the engine RPM's high, the transmission is placed into drive. Obviously, this is bad for both the motor and transmission and I would never want somebody to do this. Allison recommends to only shift the transmission out of neutral while the engine RPM is at idle. Now, with that being said DON'T PERFORM A NEUTRAL BOMB even if it is unintentional. Some may wonder why I even bring this topic up, and I will explain. Some Allison transmissions are programmed to not shift out of neutral while the acceleration pedal is depressed which is great! But, while driving with structural firefighting boots on, it is very possible that you may be depressing both the brake

and acceleration pedals without noticing. If this happens, the truck may not shift into D and you may be stumped as to why, now you know.

If your truck has an electronic shift pad for the transmission, you can check a variety of things through it. With a warm motor/transmission, you can check the transmission fluid level, health, and fault codes by clicking the + & - buttons at the same time. This should only be performed while stationary and at idle.

These transmissions can be quirky but in a lot of ways, they are prepared for the human factor. There is a lot more information that can be found by looking at the manual in the firehouse or by simply watching a Youtube video or searching on Google. Like I always preach, use this information accord to your department's standards and be safe.

Kevin Schade is a lieutenant in the Bergenfield Fire Department. He is a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician by the EVT Certification Commission and is employed as a mechanic with Hudson County Motors in Secaucus.

BREAKING LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM WASHINGTON, DC

WASHINGTON, DC – The International Association of Fire Chiefs has reported that the United States Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has passed legislation extending funding for both the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) program and the SAFER program. The measure now moves to the full Senate for action. The bill would extend the funding through 2032. This is considered a major victory for the fire and emergency services as we all push to continue this vital funding mechanism.

All firefighters are encouraged to contact our two United States Senators and ask them to support this measure when it comes before the full Senate. We need to get this bill passed and signed into law before the end of the current Congressional session at the end of this year. Immediate action is needed. Both AFG and SAFER have been major successes with thousands of fire departments benefiting from these federal grant programs. Do not delay. Write, email, text and call Senators Cory Booker and Senator Robert Menendez asking them to support passage of this legislation by voted Yes when the bill comes before the full Senate. Also ask them to urge their fellow Senators to vote Yes on the measure as well.



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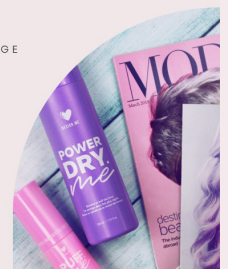
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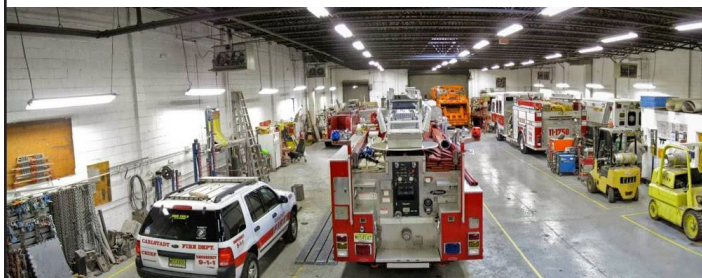
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