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Volume 62 No. 1 Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association JANUARY 2023



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THE NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
in conjunction with
BERGENFIELD FIRE TRAINING CENTER, INC. AND
THE BERGENFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT
Is hosting a symposium on



Lithium Ion Batteries for Consumer Goods and Electric Vehicles

TOPICS TO BE COVERED AND DISCUSSED

- THE SCOPE OF THE ISSUE AND UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM
- FIRE SERVICE EXPERIENCE
- DEALING WITH THE FIRE AND THE AFTERMATH
- PACKAGING, SAFEGUARDING AND DISPOSAL
- DEVELOPING OPERATIONAL POLICIES, PROTOCOLS, AND STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES
- CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR DRAWBACKS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2023
BERGENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL • 80 S. PROSPECT AVENUE, BERGENFIELD, NJ
Registration @ 8:30 a.m. Symposium starts at 9:00 a.m.
Registration fee - \$40 per person. Includes lunch and breaks

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AGENCY: _____

Please send registration form with check, money order, purchase order or voucher
payable to: Bergenfield Fire Training Center, Inc., P.O. Box 5216, Bergenfield, NJ 07621
OR register using the QR code to the right.



**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 27TH AT PIERMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT
554 PIERMONT AVENUE, PIERMONT, NY AT 8PM**

experience of a serious fire in their homes. The funds generated by the clothing bin program also support our scholarship program, our valor awards program and our annual memorial ceremony at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah.

I would also like to wish a very happy 90th birthday to our treasurer George Saigh and his continued dedication to this association for many years. Let's continue to keep our military in our thoughts and prayers. God bless stay safe.

President Roy De Young Jr

NJNYVFA HOSTS JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON LITHIUM ION BATTERY AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES FIRES

The Association is sponsoring a symposium on Lithium Ion batteries and Electric Vehicles. The program is being done jointly by the New Jersey & New York Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Bergenfield Fire Training Center. The date is February 11 and the event will be held at the Bergenfield High School located at 80 S. Prospect Avenue in Bergenfield, NJ.

The main presenter for this program will be Lieutenant Adam Lynch with the FDNY – Engine and Haz-Mat Tech unit 250. Also presenting will be Ari Kesler of My Battery Recyclers who will be speaking on battery packaging and removal. His session includes a demonstration of packaging and containment for consumer goods batteries. There will also be a discussion by fire officers and others who have experienced fire events with lithium ion batteries and EV fires. Additionally, there will be an open discussion on policies, procedures and protocols for dealing with lithium ion batteries and electric vehicles involved in fires.

All attendees must register in advance so that we can make food arrangements and prepare certificates for all attendees. We are also seeking NJ DFS CEUs for certified personnel.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Jerry Naylis. His cell phone number is 201-240-0414 and his email address for this program is gnyaylis@bergenfieldfd.org

A flier for this program may be found elsewhere in this issue of the Signal. We look forward to seeing you at the symposium. NJNYVFA website. The success of this program depends on each and every member.



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

Ex-Chief John Centofani, Mombash Fire Co., Congers, NY FD
Past Pres. Todd Blauvelt, Stony Point Fire Dept., Stony Point, NY FD
FF Joseph Miller, Lady Warren Hose Co. 5, Haverstraw, NY FD
FF Petr Barnett, Piermont Fire Dept., Piermont, NY FD
FF John F. "Jack" Fioriti, Empire Hook & Ladder Co. 1, Upper Nyack, NY FD
FF Joseph Hanbury, Orangetown Fire Co. 1, South Nyack, NY FD
FF Robert G. Smith, Pearl River H & L Co. 1, Pearl River, 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

2023

- January 27 NJNYVFA monthly meeting at Piermont Fire Company, 554 Piermont Avenue, Piermont, NY. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- February 15 NJNYVFA Executive Board meeting at New Milford Fire Company #2, 680 Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ. This meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.
- February 24 NJNYVFA monthly meeting at Montvale Fire Department, 35 W. Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ. The meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- February 25 New Jersey State Firemen's Association Executive Committee meeting, NJSFA headquarters, Wall Township, NJ. Meeting starts at 9:00 a.m.
- March 15 NJNYVFA Executive Board meeting at New Milford Fire Company #2, 680 Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ. This meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.
- March 31 NJNYVFA monthly meeting at Little Ferry Hook and Ladder Fire Company, 124 Main Street, Little Ferry, NJ. The 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
- June 3 New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association Annual Convention, Phillipsburg, NJ
- June 4 Annual Memorial Service, NJ State Fire Museum, Allentown, NJ

CLOTHING BIN ASSISTANCE FUND IN ACTION IN LITTLE FERRY

Little Ferry, NJ - On November 12, 2022, the Little Ferry, New Jersey Fire Department responded to a house fire that displaced the Espinosa family in the middle of the night. Fortunately everyone got out safely.

Little Ferry is part of the New Jersey/New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, and they have special New Jersey & New York VFA clothing bins in their town. The clothing bins allow us to help families like the Espinosa family who have experienced a loss due to fire. The Association was able to present Vanessa Espinosa with \$400.00 in gift cards from the clothing bins fund.

The assistance fund is paid for through funds generated by the clothing bins. Any town with a NJ & NY VFA clothing bin is eligible to get financial assistance for families that have had a serious fire.

If anyone has any questions about the clothing bins, please contact any of the Executive Officers or our treasurer George Saigh.



Pictured left to right are Past President Pete DeVries, 2nd Vice President Tony Chiodo, President Roy DeYoung, Vanessa Espinosa and Little Ferry Fire Chief Steve Iurato.

NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2022-2023

President	Roy DeYoung	Bigshoes420@hotmail.com
1st Vice Pres.	Bryan Hennig	bhennig@bclpsi.net
2nd Vice Pres.	Anthony Chiodo	ex11chief@aol.com
Secretary	Rosemary Weyer	njecs@optonline.net
Asst. Secretary	Nancy Naylis	nnaylis@bergenfieldfd.org
Financial Secretary	John Schwedhelm	lffd11@aol.com
Asst. Fin. Secretary	Jeffrey Guenther	jguenther@optonline.net
Treasurer	George E. Saigh 306 Luhmann Dr. New Milford, NJ 07646	gses7320@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer	Allan Silverman	firemusik@aol.com



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THE IMPORTANCE OF CHECKING ALL EQUIPMENT ON YOUR FIRE APPARATUS

By Doug Tobin



It's 3 o'clock in the morning on a cold winter night and your pager (plectron) (for the old timers) goes off reporting a house fire ! You had just completed fire school and this is your first "JOB". As you race to the firehouse to make the "First Due Rig" your mind is also racing on how big the fire is, what your job will be at the fire scene, and who will let you show off your training skills from the fire academy.

Also on this apparatus is a newly elected young officer and two "senior members". Once on scene you quickly determine that the house is not on fire, the cause of the fire was embers burning from the fireplace. As you're picking up the hose lines and putting your equipment back on the apparatus, one of the senior members experiences a medical emergency. You hear all the commotion and go and see what it going on. All the sudden you see your fellow members performing CPR on this senior member. Your in shock! You don't know what to do. Someone tells you to grab the AED. You grab the AED and bring it to the other members. While they are preforming chest compressions and providing rescue breaths, your instructed to turn the AED on and put the AED pads on this members chest. All the sudden you quickly realize the AED won't turn on and instruct you on what to do next.

The meaning and purpose of this article is to ENSURE ALL YOUR EQUIPMENT ON YOUR FIRE APPARATUS PROPERLY WORKS ! The AED is a tool in your "toolbox" when it comes to cardiac emergencies and when someone is in cardiac arrest. Ensuring this unit is frequently checked and properly working will be resulting in a life or death outcome. Factual statistics state that for every minute defibrillation is delayed, survival is reduced by 10%. Having the proper equipment on your apparatus is key. In the fire service we know we need the fire hoses, SCBA packs, forcible entry tools, hooks, and ladders but medical equipment should also be part of this check list.

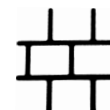
It has been proven especially in this great organization that having a WORKING AED on the apparatus saves lives. They have saved several of our members to date. The importance of

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President

201 E. Ridgewood Avenue
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Email: mbet@michaelabetarch.com

every "rig check" is to make sure that every piece of equipment is accounted for and properly working. As a impactful company drill, quizzing your members on where certain equipment is on

the apparatus and what is each equipments main objective will ensure that every member knows how important checking all equipment is.

Doug Tobin is an exempt member with the Little Ferry, NJ Fire Department and also a carrier firefighter with the City of Hackensack NJ. Doug is the owner of Metropolitan Medical Corporation in Lyndhurst, NJ. His company provides certification programs such as CPR, AED, and Emergency Responder. Doug also provides an AED service and maintenance program to clients. If you would like to learn more information on how his company can assist your department, contact him via email: doug@metromedcorp.com

2023 DUES ANNOUNCEMENT

Membership dues for 2023 for both personal members and fire department & fire company memberships are now payable according to Financial Secretary John Schwedhelm.

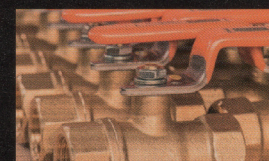
Personal membership dues are \$10 for the entire year and entitles all personal members to the full benefits of the association. Fire Department and Fire Company dues are \$25 for the year.

Please remit your annual dues to John Schwedhelm, NJNYVFA Financial Secretary at 5 Carlson Street, Little Ferry, NJ 07643

As a side note the association is working on updating our membership records. It would be very helpful to provide up to date contact information including name, street address, town and state as well as zip code. Additionally, please provide the most current email address. Updated contact information is also needed for life members. If you know of or have any life members of the NJNYVFA in your company or department please make sure that they send in updated contact information, especially email addresses.

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LEGISTRATIVE UPDATE

The following bills have been introduced in the New Jersey Legislature:

S 2712 – would prohibit the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of firefighting foams containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These types of firefighting foams have been identified as cancer-causing agents and pose a significant risk to firefighters. The companion Assembly bill is A 4125.

A 4842 – Requires allocation of Universal Service Fund to support emergency medical technician and firefighter training concerning electric vehicle fires. The state fire marshal, Rich Mikutsky is working to find out where the funds for the USF are and to identify how much is available in this fund to support EV training. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee. The companion Senate bill is S 3237.

A 4476 – Requires firefighters and emergency medical technicians to receive training on electric vehicle fires and firefighting requirements. The companion Senate bill is S 2881. The bill establishes timeframes for completing the training.

S 3405 – Establishes a fund for cancer screening for volunteer firefighters. Allows volunteer firefighters to receive screening for eleven different cancers and be reimbursed up to \$1,250 once every three years for such expense. The companion Assembly bill is A 5081

ACR 171 – A state constitutional amendment to allow municipalities to pass ordinances establishing property tax credits up to 100% on the primary residence of volunteer firefighters and volunteer first aid squad members. This resolution, if passed would put this matter on the ballot to be voted on in the general election in November. The constitutional amendment referendum would have to pass for municipalities to be allowed to create ordinances allowing the property tax credit.

At the federal level, the \$1.7 trillion omnibus funding bill passed by the US Congress and signed into law by President Biden includes \$360 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and \$360 million for the Safe and Adequate Funding for Emergency Responders (SAFER) grant program. The omnibus bill also in funding for the US Fire Administration for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2023.

The AFG application period is currently open and the closing date to submit AFG applications is February 10, 2023.

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

SADDLE BROOK FD SUFFERS LINE OF DUTY DEATH

Saddle Brook, NJ – On November 23, 2022 the Saddle Brook, NJ Fire Department experienced the worst nightmare that any fire department can have. Captain Basil Pizzuto died the day after conducting self contained breathing apparatus refresher training the night before to fellow members of the fire department. The next morning, November 23, 2022 while working at his regular full time job, Pizzuto suffered a heart attack and coded. EMS personnel arrived at the scene and were able to revive him. Pizzuto was rushed to a nearby hospital and was conscious and alert. Shortly thereafter, he fell ill and was taken into emergency surgery. Pizzuto passed away a short time thereafter.

Basil Pizzuto was 49 years old at the time of his death and had 32 years of service with the fire department. His death is being considered a line of duty death under the Hometown Heroes Act covering cardiac events that occur within 24-hours following a fire or other firematic duty.

The New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association expresses its profound sorry at the loss of yet again another long serving volunteer and extends its condolences to the family and the entire Saddle Brook Fire Department.

JANUARY IS FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Washington, DC – The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has issued a reminder to all volunteer firefighters nationwide that January is Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. The NVFC is reminding all firefighters that this is an excellent time to read the Lavender Ribbon Report to learn best practices for reducing exposure risks of cancer. The NVFC is hosting a live discussion on this topic on Wednesday January 25, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. This event is free of charge and anyone may participate.

Join the NVFC and expert panelists to learn more about what types of cancer most commonly affect firefighters, why firefighters face an increased risk of cancer, and what actions you and your department can take to reduce risks and prevent job-related cancer. Panelists include: Brian McQueen, NVFC board member and co-author of the Lavender Ribbon Report; Bryan Frieders, chief executive officer of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network; Rick Markley, former editor-in-chief of FireRescue1 and advocate for the National Firefighter Registry; and a representative from the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7811111111>
WN_2bPLd4pnRgaeBgGgHuD7KA

DIVISION ISSUES GUIDANCE ON LOSAP ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT

The Division of Local Government Services has issued Local Finance Notice 2023-01, providing general information regarding the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) along with the annual cost of living adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the maximum award amounts. The increase in CY 2022 for use in CY 2023 is 7.8% for municipal programs and 7.3% for fire districts. If your municipality has a LOSAP, please review the Local Finance Notice with your chief financial officer.

Thank you and a tip of the old fire helmet to Jim Kirsch, President of the Bergen County Fire Chiefs Association for providing us with this timely tidbit. Make sure you consult with you local finance people if your town has a LOSAP program.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS SAY THANK YOU TO THE RUNWAY DINER FOR THEIR RECENT DONATION

South Hackensack, NJ - The Owners of the Runway Diner at 380 Rt. 46 West in South Hackensack New Jersey were presented with a plaque on 12-10-22 for their support of the New Jersey/New York Volunteer Firemen's Association recent beefsteak fundraiser. The officers wanted to say thank you to them for their support.

If you are in the area please feel free to drop in, let them know you are a firefighter and wanted to say thank you for their support.

Tony Chiodo. If anyone has any questions about the clothing bins, please contact any of the Executive Officers or our treasurer George Saigh.



Pictured Left to right, 1st Vice President Bryan Hennig, President Roy DeYoung, Ele Stathatos, Nick Stathatos. Past President Pete DeVries, and 2nd Vice President

ATTENTION LOCAL FIRE OFFICIALS IN NEW JERSEY LEA ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2023


Wall Township – At the New Jersey State Fire Commission meeting held on Wednesday January 18, 2023 at the NJSFA offices in Wall Township, Lou Kilmer of the NJ Division of Fire Safety reminded everyone attending that the annual report of Local Enforcing Agencies (LEAs) must be completed and filed with the NJ Division of Fire Safety by January 31, 2023. The reports must be completed in full. He cautioned that there should be no reason for any of these reports to be late.

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Bergen County Executive Committeeman
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NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Gerard "Jerry" Naylis,
Bergen County Executive Committeeman

The first quarter of the year is a very busy time for the state firemen's association and its local relief associations. There are a number of reports that needed to be filed in a timely manner. Failure to file these reports will result in disciplinary action being taken against any local relief association failing to file any of these reports.

- 4th Quarter Relief Paid Report** – Complete the report online and finalize it. Remember once the 4th Quarter report is finalized, you will be able to automatically transfer all of the payments from all four quarters for 2022 to the Annual Finance Report.
- Annual Financial Report** – Directions are on the forms tab of the NJSFA website. You can enter the **2022** Representatives and Trustees immediately. After your December meeting you can enter the 2023 Officers. Once you have completed the 4th Quarter Relief Report, you can import the Relief paid information automatically. You can also enter any of the miscellaneous expenses that have been made. After 12/31, you can enter each individual bank balance, interest earned per account, and the deposits and withdrawals in transit. Remember, the report **MUST** balance and you need to finalize it online. Once it is finalized, print out the report, get the needed signatures, and it must be emailed, mailed (tracking number) or dropped off with the required supporting documents. If you have any questions, contact the Field Examiner in the State Office.
- Officer Listing Report** – Your 2023 Relief Officers are elected at your December meeting by the 2022 Representatives. **Hold a special meeting if you have to with the 2022 Representatives to get this done.** It is by State Statute that the elections are held in December. The new officers take over January 1st. As soon as the election is over, you can complete and finalize the report online. Remember, you can be an Officer & Representative at the same time. You cannot be a Trustee at the same time as being an Officer or Representative. Make sure you reconfirm addresses, phone numbers and **most importantly make sure the email addresses are correct and actually work for each individual officer.** Once this report has been accepted by the NJSFA, only the newly elected officers will have password access to the password protected tab screens. The previous officers will no longer have access.
- Delegates selection** – can be completed once your convention delegates have been elected by the Representatives.
- The Membership Reports (percentage sheets) are now open up for data entry.** Directions are available on the forms tab. The report must be filled out

online, finalized, printed, requested signatures affixed, and then emailed, mailed (tracking number) or hand delivered to the NJSFA State Office. All pages must be completed and submitted at one time.

Field audits for approximately half of the local relief associations in Bergen County will held on March 29 and April 6. Each affected local association will be notified of the time and location of their audit.

CONGRESS PASSES EMPOWERING THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION ACT BILL SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

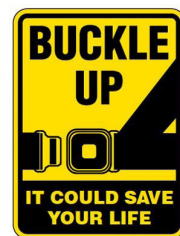
Washington, DC - H.R. 7077, the Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration Act, was passed and signed into law on December 20, 2022. This bill authorizes the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to conduct on-site investigations of major fires and other fires under other specified circumstances. The Congressional Budget Office identifies fire that cause the deaths of 10 or more people or property damage in excess of \$10 million.

In the case of a major fire, the USFA may send incident investigators (e.g., safety specialists, fire protection engineers, codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training specialists) to the site. Any such investigation shall (1) be conducted in coordination and cooperation with appropriate federal, state, and local authorities; and (2) examine the determined cause and origin of the fire and assess broader systematic matters.

Upon concluding any such investigation, the USFA must issue a public report to local, state, and federal authorities on the findings of such investigation or collaborate with another investigating federal agency on that agency's report.

Additionally, the USFA may send fire investigators to conduct investigations at the site of any fire with unusual or remarkable context that results in losses less severe than those occurring as a result of a major fire. -

The impetus for this legislation was a horrific fire that occurred in the Bronx last winter that killed 17 people. Initial reports suggest that a malfunctioning space heater was the cause of the fire. Further those initial reports also suggest that the self-closing feature for the apartment door did not work as expected. The building also lacked a working automatic sprinkler system. Although the fire was contained to the apartment of origin, copious amounts of smoke spread throughout the building that resulted in the deaths of the 17 residents.



TAKE THE PLEDGE
Wear Your Seat Belt on All Calls
Going to and coming Home from All Calls

THE NJ STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION PRESENTS: TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

Saturday, February 18 at 8 am - 4 pm

Somerset Emergency Services Training Center

402 Roycefield Rd, Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/xR7t5s2DiZvqkCoN9>

Seminar Registration Link:

<https://forms.gle/KZu19bT1AWNq2xPQ6>

Any questions contact Tony Correia at: 1vpres@njchiefs.com

Are you and your department prepared when death or a serious injury strikes one of your firefighting family?

A fire department does not know when it will have a line-of-duty death, serious injury, or the sudden loss of a valued member. Does your department have a plan in place with these stressful and challenging events? Are you ready to deal with the emotional toll it will take on your members? Are personnel records current? Does the department know how to make timely and proper notifications to the survivors? Fire chiefs and survivors tell us that most fire departments are not prepared for a line-of-duty death or unexpected loss of a firefighter. Taking Care of Our Own® provides senior fire officers with specific information and valuable insights, as well as guidelines for developing a plan for these types of events.

The course will be led by survivor firefighters and family members who have "been there", to provide you with their valuable insight on what went well and how we can best prepare for those events. The course also includes valuable insights from a behavioral health specialist who gives guidance on the mental health resources that should be made available when dealing with a line-of-duty death (LODD) or unexpected death or serious injury of one of your firefighters and what elements should be included when developing a LODD policy.

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Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) - How to file for PSOB benefits for LODD survivors will also be discussed

Target Audience: This course is designed for officers or those in leadership positions, of career or volunteer fire departments; chief officers; County Fire Coordinators, and senior officers in a leadership position of local, county, state & federal government, honor guard commanders, chaplains, and officials of national, state & local fire organizations; And others who may be part of this planning process.

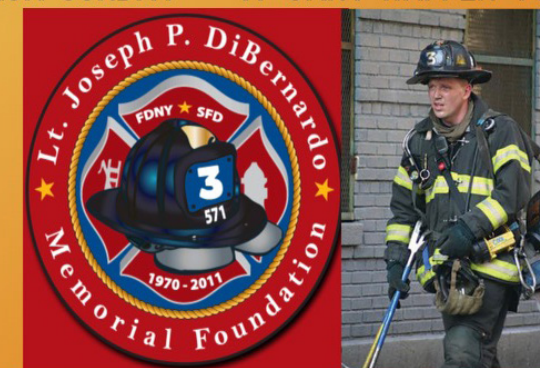
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