



110 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



Volume 62 No. 5 Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **JUNE 2023**

From the President's Pen...

THANK YOU To my family and all officers past and present, and the general membership for their patience and guidance over the past six years. We have been able to keep this association moving forward, growing and most important getting the word out on fire safety and health. We will continue to pass this information along. I would like to thank the continuous town's volunteering by taking our meetings and conventions. And one of the greatest things; our Memorial Committee for our amazing memorial service every year to respect our fallen brother and sisters. That will never ever be forgotten. Also a big thank you to Lois Ciampo and the Wyckoff Ladies Auxiliary for offering to serve refreshments at our memorial services.

I congratulate all of our scholarship and award winners for their achievements. Thanks especially to chairman Pat Connor and the Awards Committee for handling all of the award applications and presentations certificates to perfection. I would like to wish all the new incoming officers on their positions and the board of officer's the best of luck and continued success in leading this great association.

It has been a pleasure and an experience to serve you as President. For my last and final time, God Bless and Stay Safe. Keep our military in your thoughts and prayers. And remember, only you can make a difference in your community so volunteer.

President Roy De Young Jr

NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Trenton, NJ – As of Friday May 25 2023 the total number of bills in the legislative hopper was 9,767. The New Jersey State Firemen's Association is tracking a total of 164 bills, of which 118 bills have been identified as Fire and Emergency Service bills and 46 bills are Pension related.

There are several bills of particular interest to the fire service that are moving about in the legislative process.

S-2712 sponsored by Senators Troy Singleton and Senator Linda Greenstein would prohibit the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The bill was referred to the Senate Environmental and Energy Committee on 12/15/22. It was reported out of committee on 3/20/23. The bill had a second reading in the full Senate with amendments and passed the full Senate on 5/22/2023. The bill now goes to the General Assembly for consideration before that legislative body.

The proposed prohibited substances have been linked as cancer causing agents and reportedly pose a significant hazard and danger to firefighters in particular. At the national level there continues to be a push to ban these substances in firefighting foam from national level fire service organization.

S-861 The Senate Environmental and Energy Committee advanced this legislation that would permit municipalities to conduct an annual event for the open burning of Christmas trees. The bill is being pushed by the New Jersey League of Municipalities. The League president testified that the bill should be passed because it is a good funding mechanism for local municipalities and many have been doing it for

years. Unfortunately, outdoor burning of Christmas trees is prohibited under the New Jersey Fire Code. Obviously that fact doesn't seem to phase local officials. Never let the law get in the way of a town making a dollar. This is a bad bill for a number of reasons. First, opening burning creates smoke and air pollution. Two, it would be safer and make better ecological sense to chip and mulch the Christmas trees than to burn them. Third, conducting a Christmas tree burn would place an added burden the fire department where the burns are being conducted. The last thing the fire department needs is a heavier work load. When this bill was discussed during a previous meeting of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission, that body agreed unanimously that this piece of legislation was not good for the state and bad from a fire safety perspective. All firefighters are urged to contact their state Senators and ask them to vote NO on S-861 should come up for a vote in the State Senate.

S-3901 This is a new bill that the NJSFA has added to the tracked bill list. This bill would require school districts to award students high school graduation credits in health, safety and physical education for completing county fire academy courses under certain circumstances.

S-3904 Extends pension eligibility for survivors of certain emergency services volunteers who contracted COVID-19 during the 2020 public health emergency declared by Governor Murphy.

S-3090 – This bill provides retirement allowance after 20 years of service regardless of age for members in PFRS. The State Senate adopted the Governor's recommendations after his conditional veto. The bill passed the State Senate 36-0 and was sent for a Second Reading in the State Senate.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION IS THIS FRIDAY AT THE LYNDHURST, NJ FIREHOUSE LOCATED AT 299 DELAFIELD AVENUE IN LYNDHURST, NJ. THE CONVENTION STARTS AT 8:00 P.M.



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

Captain Richard O'Conner, Prospect Fire Co., Bergenfield, NJ FD

FF Kenneth R. Carr, Volunteer Hose Co. 1, Suffern, NY FD

FF Charles S. Dell, Haworth Fire Co., Haworth, NJ 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.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

2023

- June 2 NJNYVFA Annual Convention at the Lyndhurst Fire Department in Lyndhurst, NJ. Convention starts at 8:00 p.m.
- June 3 New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association Annual Convention, Phillipsburg, NJ
- June 10 Bergen County Firemen's Home Association Picnic at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Picnic and music start at 12:00 noon
- June 10 Wallington Fire Department Park Row Hose Co. 3 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Wallington Little League field on Mount Pleasant Avenue in Wallington, NJ starting at 12:00 noon and going until 6:00 p.m.
- August 5 Bergen County Firemen's Home Association Picnic at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Picnic and music start at 12:00 noon
- August 10 Bergen County Caucus for the NJSFA at Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ. Registration starts at 6:00 p.m. Caucus starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 15 & 16 NJSFA Annual Convention, Wildwood, NJ
- Sept. 29 NJNYVFA monthly meeting, Leonia Fire Department, 1 Borough Place, Leonia, NJ Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- October 14 Little Ferry Hose Co. # 1 Antique Fire Truck Muster, 95 Main Street, Little Ferry, NJ 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mahwah, NJ – On a brilliant Sunday afternoon on May 21, 2023 the NJ&NYVFA held its annual Memorial Service at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah, New Jersey. This year the association honored 119 fallen firefighters from Bergen County and 33 from Rockland County.

This year's observance was especially poignant at the association acknowledged the line of duty deaths of three Bergen County firefighters; Kevin G. May of Westwood, Alex Moss of Upper Saddle River and Basil Pizzuto of Saddle Brook. The names of the LODD firefighters will be added to the memorial so that their sacrifice will be remembered for all time. The Westwood Fire Department presented the colors at the beginning of the ceremony and during the outdoor portion of the ceremony when all in attendance were given the opportunity to lay a commemorative flower at the Firefighter LODD Monument at the academy.

Arriving attendees were greeted by a huge American flag suspended from aerials from Westwood and Saddle Brook Fire Departments. Large contingents were on hand from both departments as well as from the Upper Saddle River Fire Department. The indoor portion of the program was held in the Hall of Heroes where the standing room only crowd heard numerous tributes for the fallen firefighters.

The keynote address this year was given by US Congressman Josh Gottheimer, NJ Fifth District. Welcoming remarks were given by the Master of Ceremonies John Malool of the Ridgefield Park Fire Department, President Roy De Young of the Maywood Fire Department, and Director Richard Blohm of the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute. A solemn prayer was offered by ex-Chief and former NJNYVFA President Peter DeVries of the Cresskill and Tenafly Fire Departments.

Following the ceremony attendees were invited to partake of light refreshments provided by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Wyckoff Fire Department.

The association extends its thanks and appreciation to all who helped to make this year's Memorial Service a worthy recognition of the sacrifices of our fallen firefighters.



Ex-Chief Mark Lupardi accepts a Memorial Certificate from President Roy De Young honoring his father, ex-chief Anthony Lupardi of the Knickerbocker Hook and Ladder Fire Company of the Closter, NJ Fire Department. (photo by Ron Jeffers)

US Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-Fifth District) addresses the attendees at this year's annual Memorial Service. Gottheimer acknowledged the sacrifices made every day by the country's fire service, especially those who made the supreme sacrifice. He pledged to continue working on behalf of all firefighters to make their efforts safer to ensure that all return home safely after each call. (photo by Ron Jeffers)



Second Vice President Tony Chiodo rings the ceremonial bell signaling the last alarm for our fallen firefighters as President Roy De Young looks on while Master of Ceremonies John Malool explains the significance of the tolling of the bell to a packed crowd in the Hall of Heroes at the Bergen County Fire Academy during this year's Memorial Service.

The family of Captain Basil Pizzuto is greeted by Association President Roy De Young as they prepare to lay a commemorative flower at the LODD Memorial in honor of Pizzuto. The Saddle Brook FD accompanied the family in laying commemorative flowers in a show of support and solidarity. (photo by Ron Jeffers)



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REPORT FROM THE NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

Wall Township, NJ – The NJ State Fire Safety Commission met on Wednesday May 17, 2023 at the offices of the NJ State Firemen's Association in Wall Township for their regular bi-monthly meeting.

State Fire Marshal Rich Mikutsky reported the following items:

1. Governor Murphy announced on May 2, 2023 an additional \$10 million for firefighter safety grants from federal American Rescue Grant funds for the purchase of safety equipment. These grants will mirror the previous funding from 2022 and will be awarded through the Division of Local Government Services. Details will be forthcoming.
2. There is now a shared radio frequency between the NJ DFS and the NJ DEP. This will be particularly useful during joint operations including during wildland firefighting operations.
3. The Domestic Preparedness Task Force is going to adopt a training curriculum to assist in guiding their training mission.
4. On May 12 the NJ DFS along with multiple other state agencies participated in a railway incident planning exercise. There are numerous passenger and freight rail lines that are located in the state of New Jersey that affect industry, commerce and business that also transport thousands of passengers each day in and out of state. Being prepared for an emergency involving our rail system is essential to providing for rapid and coordinated response by emergency services.
5. The NJ DFS has filled the regional coordinator position for the Delaware area region. This now provides statewide coverage by NJ DFS coordinators for the Fire Service Deployment Act.
6. The NJ DFS participated in the Emergency Services Preparedness Conference in Atlantic City in April.
7. The division is planning a foam seminar.
8. The Homeland Security Conference being held on June 6 at Kean University is sold out.
9. The division is investigating a total of 8 complaints. These are ongoing investigations involving a myriad of topics and situation.
10. As of the commission meeting there were 30 fire deaths statewide year to date. The majority of these deaths continue to be in residential occupancies, all of which had no automatic sprinkler protection.
11. Participation in the state's fire incident reporting system stands at 58%. Failure to participate denies fire departments and state agencies a useful tool in identifying fire safety issues and needs. Mikutsky urged all fire departments to participate in the statewide fire incident reporting system. Important programs such as grant funding is often driven by data from the statewide fire incident reporting system.
12. The USFA has announced that the legacy National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is being reworked into a more robust data sharing network. More details are to follow.
13. The officer training and certification programs are being updated as an outcome of the ProBoard reaccreditation process.
14. There has been an influx of hazardous material certifications recently that has slowed down the processing of new certificates. Combined with staffing shortages it may take several months to receive new certification credentials from the NJ DFS. Mikutsky asked for

patience in allowing the division to catch up with the backlog.

15. The NJ DFS is moving forward with plans for a Firefighter 2 equivalency exam for those individuals holding a Firefighter 1 certificate and a Fire Instructor Level 1 certificate that want to become a Fire Instructor Level 2. This is not designed or intended to be a general or across the board equivalency testing program. It is only intended for individuals seeking to become Level 2 fire instructors.
16. This year the New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy was held April 29 & 30. A total of 129 students attended.
17. The NJ DFS is planning on holding Hazardous Materials Train the Trainer (TTT) classes through Kean University in the near future. There will be specific requirements for those that want to attend. All potential attendees are urged to look at the forthcoming training announcement and to follow the instructions to enable them to participate in the TTT class.
18. The NJ DFS is having a Subject Matter Expert (SME) group review all hazardous materials training courses so they can be updated to incorporate the most current methodologies for dealing with hazardous materials.
19. Training classes for the Fall 2023 semester will be finalized during a planning meeting at Kean University in June. Mikutsky noted that Zoom classes will no longer be done citing negative feedback for these type training sessions by instructors. All classes will need to be attended in person.
20. The division has conducted 144 fire investigations year to date. They have also added a new canine to the investigation unit.
21. The division continues to assist in fire investigations in the state's wildlands and forests. Many of these fires appear to be incendiary. During the week of March 20, the division spent one full week investigating the large forest fire in Burlington County. They all assisted in investigating a fatal fire on May 7 also in Burlington County. Additionally the division investigated a 5-alarm fire in Trenton.
22. There have been two Line of Duty Deaths (LODDs) since the beginning of the year in the state.
23. April 20 marked the 20th anniversary of the canine fire investigation program with the NJ DFS. This program has proven to be an invaluable asset to fire investigation units throughout the state in the twenty years of operation since its inception.
24. On a down note, Mikutsky advised that Kidde has reduced the number of smoke detectors allocated to New Jersey in their annual program. He also stated that any fire department participating in the smoke detector give away must complete and submit a brief distribution log showing where the detectors have been installed.
25. Two Youth Fire Setter classes were completed in April.
26. The NJ DFS Fire Focus Newsletter is being sent out via the web and is also available on the DFS website.

Lou Kilmer, chief of the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement reported the following:

27. The updated New Jersey Fire Code based on the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code was reviewed by the Governor's Office and has been released. The code is now being readied by the Office of Administrative Law and a June 5 publication date in the New Jersey Register is anticipated. Following the public comment period, the new code will finally be adopted. Subchapters 2 and



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

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4 will be enforced immediately. Subchapter 3 will have a 6-month integration period with full enforcement following.

28. Kilmer followed this announcement by saying that work has already begun on a review of the 2021 IFC. Given the long lag time in reviewing the model code by the advisory council, division staff and other offices in state government prudence supports starting this review now.
29. The NJ DFS is working with the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on fire code enforcement issues involving rail line operators and station stops on railroad property. The position being taken by the rail lines is that they are only subject to federal authority and not state requirements. Federal rail authorities have taken the position that they are only responsible for trains on tracks and not on issues regarding state code enforcement on railroad property other than the rails.
30. Kilmer mentioned that if any jurisdiction plans on establishing a Local Enforcing Agency for fire code enforcement they should contact the Local Assistance Unit and plan ahead.
31. On the subject of smoke and fire damper testing there are people in the legislature that want a new law mandating that these companies be licensed. The NJ DFS believes that there are sufficient requirements in the fire protection contractor regulations already in place. You can anticipate that there will be additional discussion regarding this matter in the future.
32. There are ongoing discussions with the NJ Department of Labor (DOL) regarding fire protection contractor certification. The DOL believes that such contractors fall under their jurisdiction and that all fire protection contractors must have an apprenticeship program. The position of the NJ DFS is that fire protection contractor certification falls under the currently existing fire protection contractor regulations.
33. The topic of mobile fueling at other than fixed mobile fueling stations and mobile marine fueling operations was discussed. It was noted that the 2021 IFC includes an allowance for mobile fueling operations. The issue is being pushed by private vendors who point to the newer version of the model code as evidence that this practice should be accepted in New Jersey. Some concerns were raised about the training and safeguards necessary before a local fire official issues a variance to allow this type of operation. A suggestion was made that a training course should be created for both the vendors and the fire code enforcement community to establish consistent practices for evaluating and granting such variances should they be made and to assure that all vendors are following safe operational practices. As for marine type operations, further examination is needed due to the nature of this operation which may also require consultation with the US Coast Guard.
34. The topic of automatic sprinkler protection evaluations in storage

occupancies was discussed. Kilmer noted that Section 103.4 allows for the fire official to get technical assistance when and if necessary to assist in the enforcement of the fire code. This would be an avenue to follow if the fire official wanted the assistance of a fire protection engineer or specialist in evaluating the automatic sprinkler system and the storage practices. This issue was raised several meetings ago by Jerry Naylis who noted that he often times comes across issues with sprinkler systems when conducting loss examinations. These issues are seldom identified during an annual sprinkler system inspection. Vendors note that NFPA 25 is an inspection, testing and maintenance standard and was never intended to be a design verification standard. As such, design deficiencies are often overlooked and only become apparent following a loss. When such deficiencies are identified, they must be referred back to the fire protection sub-code official for corrective action. The Fire Code Advisory Council and the Division of Fire Safety plan on offering a training program in the fall semester on this topic to assist fire officials and fire inspectors on this topic.

35. Kilmer also noted that inspection guidance is also being developed on mobile food truck fire code compliance.
36. The former registration program known as RIMS is now shut down. The replacement program known as Fire Solutions has taken its place. Ongoing training is being conducted to acquaint fire officials with the new program.
37. Kilmer noted that inspection activity is running behind schedule due to staffing issues with the division.
38. The School Fire Suppression Survey is approximately 50% complete. Kilmer stated that the division will likely be reaching out to local enforcing agencies for assistance in getting this legislative mandate completed.
39. Lastly, Kilmer noted the division is working on updating the New Jersey Fire Safety Act, which is 40 years old this year.

Advisory Council reports –

Fire Code Advisory Council – most items addressed by either the Director or the Bureau Chief.

Training and Education – this council is examining combining Firefighter 1 and 2 into a single joint training program. The Live Burn Instructor and Drill Ground Instructor programs are both being reviewed.

Statistics and Information Advisory Council – participation stands at approximately 58% statewide. All fire departments should be submitting their response data which can be used to support efforts for increased funding for fire department operations. Most of the fire deaths that have occurred this year were in residential occupancies, none of which had automatic sprinkler protection.

Health and Safety Advisory Council – the council has decided to no

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longer pursue a revision or republication of the advisory booklet dealing with guidance to follow in the event of a firefighter injury. This decision was made based on EMS being better educated and an elevated success rate in assessing patients on a case by case basis and when to send them to a trauma center.

Burn units are seeing a marked increase across the country in burn injuries from fires involving lithium ion batteries.

There have been 140 burn injuries reported to the NJ DFS as of April 3, 2023.

Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council

Smoke Alarm program – this year the NJ DFS has received less than 3,000 smoke alarms to cover both the New York Channel 7 and Philadelphia Channel 6 Operation Save A Life campaigns. Charles Lavin reported that he is also working with the American Red Cross and the FDNY Foundation to secure more smoke and CO alarms for fire departments. He anticipates the actual distribution to begin on or around June 1, 2023.

The dates for this year's Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference will be November 30th and December 1. While the dates and location have been set additional planning is currently underway and will be announced sometime in the future.

Public Education Advisory Council

The New Jersey Fire Bowl competition. This is the first post – COVID competition and featured 8 school districts. In previous years there were as many as 12 school districts participating. The council is considering ways to include more school districts next year.

Fire Safety Poster Contest – this event is finishing up for the 2022/2023 school year. The state is collecting the winning posters from each county and selecting the best ones for inclusion in the 2024 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendar.

Other issues and items being worked on by the council include the Youth Firesetter programs, Lithium Ion batteries and Electric Vehicles, the NJ DFS Fire Focus, Smoke Alarm and Fire Extinguisher disposal, the Statewide Risk Assessment, and Fire Service Recruitment and Retention.

NJSFA UPDATE FOR MAY 2023

Jerry Naylis, Bergen County Executive Committeeman

Wall Township, NJ – The Executive Committee for the New Jersey State Firemen's Association held a meeting at the state offices in Wall Township, NJ on Saturday May 20, 2023.

The annual convention of the NJSFA is set for Friday September 15 and Saturday September 16 at the Convention Center in Wildwood, NJ. The convention will follow the format of last year's convention with all business conducted on Friday including the Memorial Service. Saturday will be the day for elections and all voting. Additionally, there will be a Relief Workshop conducted on Saturday morning for local relief association officers, representatives, trustees and anyone wishing to become better informed on the workings of the local relief association. The workshop is planned for 9:00 a.m. and should last for approximately 2 hours. Anyone attending the workshop can vote between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Expense payments for 2023 will be the same as for 2022. This includes those requiring lodging and for those commuting.

The Bergen County caucus will be Thursday August 10, 2023 starting at 7:00 p.m. as voted on at last year's caucus. Registration will start at 6:00 p.m. All chief and delegates must attend the caucus. If a chief or delegate is unable to attend they must make arrangements with their second in command (for chiefs) or a designated alternate to attend in their place. Only the exempt alternate can replace the exempt delegate. Bergen County will have three check-in stations at the caucus.

The Executive Committee voted to establish the effective date for health care reimbursements as the date the application is received in the state office. This was done to address lag times between when an application is received and action is taken by the Advisory Committee.

100% of the delegate and alternates names have been submitted for the caucuses and the convention. Changes if necessary must be submitted in writing to the state office no later than August 31.

The Compendium Committee is being finished up and was expected to be on the NJSFA website by June 1. Additionally, the revised Secretary and Treasurer manuals are being finished up as well. Once completed, these two documents will be posted on the website.

Treasurer Ed Mullin reported that outside reviews of our finances continue in accordance with nationally accepted accounting practices.

If any local relief association receives any notices for the federal Internal Revenue Service, especially penalties or notices of revocation the state office must be notified immediately. At least one Bergen County association received a notice of revocation this past month because the wrong taxpayer identification number was on the 990-tax return. The treasurer is dealing with a total of 12 IRS tax exempt status revocations at this time.

The state office is attempting to establish direct deposit for all payments going forward.

The Field Examiner reported that all field examines were completed with the exception of one officer that was coming into the office on Monday May 22. She thanked all those who came to the field audits.

The schedule of field audits for 2024 will soon be released. The field examiner asked that any local relief association scheduled for a field audit in 2024 bring their relief applications for 2022 and 2023 to their respective county caucuses.

President Ordway reminded all that the state office will be closed from July 1 through July 7. The next executive meeting will be Saturday July 22, 2023.

Any application for special relief or supplemental relief must be in the state office no later than December 1, 2023. All payments for regular relief, special relief and supplemental relief must be dated on or before the last day of the year, December 31, 2023.

Gerard "Jerry" Naylis
Bergen County Executive Committeeman

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All locals received their distribution checks on May 15, 2023.

The budget for the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year was adopted by the Executive Committee. It was noted that between relief payment, death benefits and health care the state association made payments exceeding \$26 million in 2022.

Under new business the Executive Committee removed 3 members from Margate and 1 member from Harvey Cedars for legal reasons.

The Executive Committee also voted that bills and invoices for health care reimbursement must be submitted within 60 days in order to be paid. Additionally, the Executive Committee voted unanimously that the purpose and intent of the Health Care program was for medical reimbursement and was not intended to pay for rent and other expenses.

##

Midland Park, NJ – A special relief workshop was held on Wednesday night May 17 at the Midland Park firehouse. Over 100 local relief officers, representatives and trustees turned out for this workshop.

Presentations were given by President Robert Ordway, Vice President Joseph Hankins, and First Assistant Secretary Brian Martone. Comments were also made by Bergen County Executive Committeeman Jerry Naylis and Secretary Tom Pelaia.

The workshop focused on duties and responsibilities of officers, representatives and trustees. Proper completion and timely filing of forms and reports was stressed. Common errors were reviewed and information provided on how to avoid making these time-consuming mistakes. Ordway stressed that early completion of all reports is advisable, especially the annual financial standing report and the annual membership report. Waiting until the last minute should be avoided at all costs.

DEPUTY STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR ADDRESSES NEW YORK CHAPTER OF THE IAAI AT THEIR ANNUAL SEMINAR

Saratoga Springs, NY – During the recently concluded annual seminar of the New York Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, Deputy State Fire Administrator Luci Labriola-Cuffe of the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services Office of Fire Prevention and Control addressed the attendees complementing the work that fire investigators do day in and day out. She focused her remarks on two specific areas of concern that are affecting the Empire State. First was the significant increase in fire deaths and that New York now leads the nation in fire deaths, a statistic that Labiola-Cuffe was not proud of. In fact, she mentioned that during a recent event the Governor, Kathy Holchul asked her what can be done to stem the growing tide of fire deaths. Year to date she mentioned that New York has experienced 80 fire deaths which is putting the state on track for a record number of fire deaths.

firefighter and emergency service personnel suicides. She noted that the number of suicides is twice the number of line of duty deaths. She warned that this statistic should be a warning to all members of the fire service and said that if anyone is exhibiting signs of being in need to encourage the person to seek help immediately.

In an interesting corroborating report, New Jersey State Fire Marshal

Rich Mikusky reported at the last State Fire Commission meeting on the activity of the Fire/EMS Hotline.

The activity report suggests that many within the fire service are experiencing problems and difficulties from a variety of situations that strongly suggest a need for emphasis in dealing with those who need help.

Fire/EMS Program (July 2022 – April 2023):

Dial 1-888-653-3367 NJ Fire & EMS Lifeline Peer Support and Crisis Intervention/Debriefing services.

Fire/EMS Program Peer Post-vention Crisis Management Total Contacts: 114

8 Critical Incident Stress Management Responses (debriefings)

Fire/EMS Program Performance Telephone Details FY '23 (July 2022 – April 2023)

Inbound Calls 301 /Outbound Calls 1,787

Abandonment Rate 7.97 %

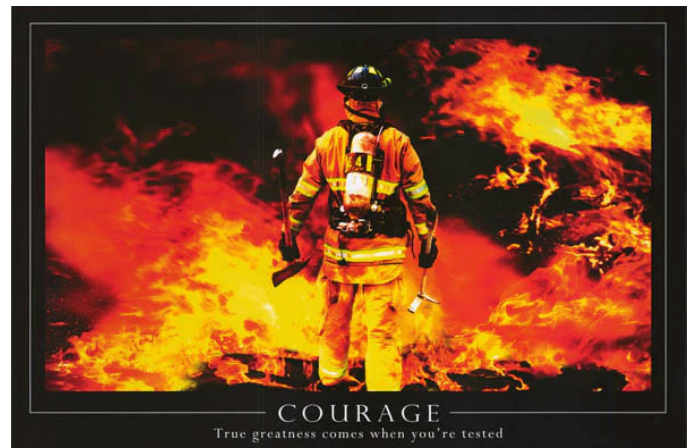
Average Speed to Answer 12.7 seconds

Average Talk Time:

Inbound Calls - 6 minutes, 16 seconds per call

Outbound Calls - 2 minute, 0 seconds per call

If anyone within your organization shows signs of needing help, be the hero that helps them by reaching out and putting them in contact with the Fire/EMS Lifeline Program.



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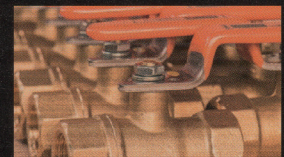
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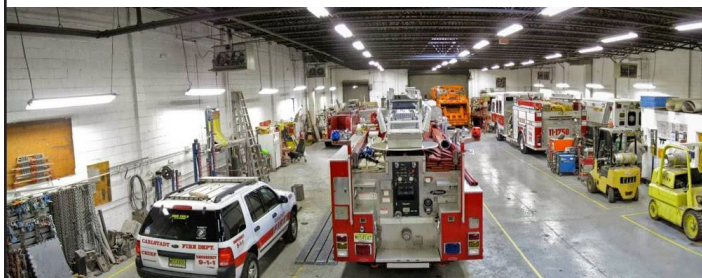
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