



110 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



Volume 62 No. 4 Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **APRIL 2023**

From the President's Pen...

Too Close To Home

We continue to handout cancer awareness posters, PTSD awareness and suicide prevention flyers at every meeting. Unfortunately when one of your community's emergency personnel takes their life it's a game changer. The reality is it could be anybody. The feeling is horrible and deeply emotional, just to say the least. The toll can be short term and long term.

Six signs of PTSD are depression, anxiety, stress, fear, flashbacks

and nightmares. Help is only a phone call away, family or friends or coworker or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK- (8255). If you think someone is struggling with life issues don't be afraid to tell them to call someone and talk to someone. You can be that lifesaver

Last but not least Thank You Little Ferry Hook And Ladder for hosting our last meeting. God Bless and Stay Safe. Let's continue to keep our military in our thoughts and prayers as they put their lives on the line for our Country.

President Roy De Young Jr

STREET NAMING & BRIDGE DEDICATION 10/16/ 22

On October 16, 2022 the New Milford Fire department turned out to honor two members that died in the line of duty in the 1940s.

Thomas J. Weisenback Co 1

Line of duty death November 7th 1941.

On this faithful day Thomas responded to a call at 6:45 p.m.. upon arriving at the firehouse he hurried on to the back step of the engine. In route he complained of shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. When the engine came to a halt he was on the verge of collapse. The other firefighters transferred him to a car of another firefighter following the engine to the call. They were taking him to the home of a doctor in town. Eiseinback would pass on the way the victim of a fatal heart attack.

He was only 38 years old and was survived by his wife Veronica and two sons Thomas and Frederick

He will now always be remembered with a street named after him between center Street and Grand Street near company number one.

Philip Kehr Sr. Co 2

Line of duty death November 28th 1943.

Philip along with battalion chief William Bliss were killed when their fire truck responding to a brush fire collided with a Rockland coach bus at the corner of River Rd. and Main St.

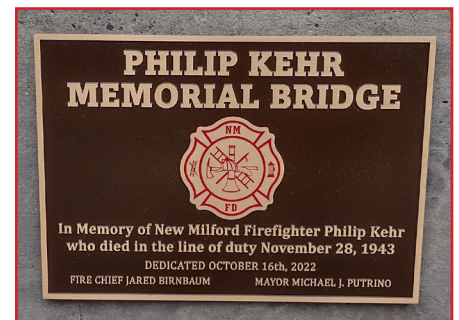
Both men were thrown from the fire truck. Philip was run over by either the bus or the fire truck and was pronounced dead at the scene. Battalion chief Bliss was thrown to the sidewalk and taken to holy name hospital where he died some hours later.

Philip was serving as an overage member due to world war II.

He was the father of four children two sons in the service Philip Jr in the United States Coast Guard and son George in the United States Army. also surviving a daughter Audrey and a younger son Clinton.

He will now always be remembered with a plaque bearing his

information on the bridge that crosses the Hirshfeld Brook on River Rd. just yards away from where he died. Battalion Chief Bliss has a street name in his honor on Henley Ave.



**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD APRIL 28TH AT RIVER EDGE FIRE COMPANY #2
55 ACKERMAN STREET • RIVER EDGE, 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:

Ex-Chief Carl Gitlin, Rescue Hook & Ladder Co. 1, Haverstraw, 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

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

2023

- April 22 and 23 Annual Spring Melt Antique Muster and firematic show in Allentown, PA
- April 28 NJNYVFA monthly meeting, River Edge Company 2, 55 Ackerson Street, River Edge, NJ Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- May 6 Leonia Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 125th Anniversary Antique Muster, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Broad Avenue, Leonia, NJ. Celebration at Wood Park starting at 12:30 p.m. until 7:00 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 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 4 Annual Memorial Service, NJ State Fire Museum, Allentown, 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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LARRY RAUCH HONORED AT BERGEN COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY

MAHWAH, NJ – On March 28, 2023 a ceremony was held at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah, NJ honoring our friend, Larry Rauch. County Executive Jim Tedesco was on hand to unveil a street sign on the grounds of the fire academy naming one of the main roads as Larry Rauch Boulevard.

Larry Rauch was somewhat of a fixture in the Bergen County Fire Service. He was the Chief Instructor as the county fire academy for many years. He was also the County Fire Coordinator and assisted fire chiefs at many major fire incidents with deployments, coverage and sage advice. Additionally, Larry was an officer and Chief of the Upper Saddle River FD for more years than most want to count.

Larry also aided and assisted as an educator with the Bergen County Juvenile Fire Prevention Program offering counseling to youthful fire setters. He was one of the founding members of the Bergen County Fire Chief's Association and was a Past President of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.

The idea to commemorate Larry's contributions came from the current director of the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute, Richard Blohm.

NJSFA UPDATE

This is a reminder that the Delegate selection form for this year's annual convention must be filed with the NJSFA State Office by May 1, 2023. This form must be filed electronically.

The first quarter relief paid report must also be filed with the NJSFA State Office by April 30, 2023. This must also be filed electronically.

Failure to file either of these reports in a timely manner will result in sanctions including not being seated at this year's convention, loss of ability to compensate officers in December, and delegates not receiving credit towards life membership for this year.

The next meeting of the NJSFA Executive Committee is Saturday May 20, 2023 at NJSFA State Office in Wall Township.



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

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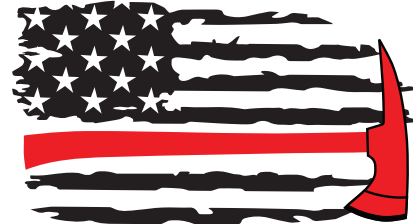
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NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION REPORT

Wall Township, NJ – The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission met on Wednesday March 15, 2023 at the offices of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association in Wall Township. The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety (NJDFS) reported on their activities since the preceding meeting in January. Director Rich Mikutsky, the NJ State Fire Marshal and Lou Kilmer, head of the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement were in attendance as well as members of the Fire Safety Commission.

Director Mikutsky reported that the NJDFS participated with WABC TV Channel 7 in the Operation Save a Life on February 1. As part of this effort, Channel 7 will again provide free smoke detectors to the state. Initial reports are there will be approximately 5,000 or more smoke detectors provided. They are expected to be delivered sometime in April and will be made available to local fire departments in May. Contact Charles Lavin at the NJDFS for information on obtaining these valuable life saving devices for distribution in your community.

The division is working with Rutgers University on the state wide mental health assistance hot line. They are also working on promoting the After the Fire program presented by Shawn Simons and Alvaro Llanos, two students who were seriously injured during the Seton Hall fire on January 19, 2000. Their inspiring story is designed to inform and educate students going to college on what they should look for, know and ask about as they embark on their post high school education in colleges and universities.

The division had investigated 70 fires year to date as of the commission meeting and continues to work with the New Jersey Chapter of the IAAI on development and delivery of fire investigation training. Mikutsky noted that several large brush fires had been identified as intentionally set fires and that the division is working with state, county and local investigators on these fires. A fire that shut down the Garden State Parkway and caused considerable damage resulted in the arrests of several individuals. Additionally the fire that burned 418 acres in southern Ocean County earlier this year was determined to be intentionally set.

The division is still working on transferring their communications to Union County from Mercer County. No timetable has been established for the transition of communications operations.

The division is working and collaborating with the NJDEP regarding the recent rail events in Ohio and states. Although state and local jurisdictions do not have code enforcement authority over railroads state agencies are working to assure that local emergency responders have the necessary plans and preparations in place to address and deal with an event should such a situation occur.

June 6 will be the next Homeland Security Conference. Further details will be announced in the near future. This year's Fire Bowl competition includes 8 school districts and kicked off on March 8.

The director advised that New Jersey training and certification under IFSAC was undergoing the 5-year review process. They are reviewing the 11 current certifications and looking at adding 7 additional certifications. New Jersey had their Pro Board re-certification done last year.

Letters have been distributed regarding the need for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander (HMIC) certification for any firefighter who has

command at any incident involving hazardous materials regardless of rank or years in the fire service. To obtain a HMIC certification a firefighter must be a certified firefighter, have completed Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, and complete the Hazardous Materials Incident Command class. Additionally, you must obtain a Level One Incident Management certification as well.

The NJDFS is planning on holding Train-The-Trainer classes for a variety of titles and certified classes later this year.

The New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy will be April 29 and 30. Details are available in the Spring training brochure available through Kean University and the NJDFS website.

An issue arose concerning people participating in Zoom remote training classes. Going forward, in order to receive credit for attending a Zoom type class the camera on your computer must be on and the participant shown. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in no credit being given for the class. Further, you may be barred from future Zoom classes.

Regarding the School Fire Suppression Survey project the NJDFS is working with the NJ Department of Education. They are also going to be contacting all Local Enforcing Agencies (LEAs) to assist in getting these surveys completed. The intent of the survey is to gain a better understand about the level of fire protection in our schools. The survey was asked for by the legislature. Unfortunately when this was passed no enforcement teeth were included so there has been little action on the part of the schools to comply with the request for information.

Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer advised that he is working on amendments to the Fire Safety Act that was initially passed in 1983. That law is now 40 years old and there are a number of items that warrant updating. This would require legislative action. Additionally, he advised that the updated NJ Fire Code is still in review at the Governor's Office.

The annual reports submitted by all the LEAs are currently being reviewed. The division is also looking for additional fire code inspectors. The NJDFS is working with NJ Civil Service to try and fill the rolls of state fire inspectors.

Kilmer mentioned that the new computer system had a target date of May 1. Please see the related article elsewhere in this newsletter concerning RIMS and the new system. He noted that there may be a lag in fire protection contractors being able to upload reports. That issue is being worked on. Additionally, Kilmer mentioned that violation notices may only be issued by the recognized enforcing agencies and may not be issued by third parties.

Additionally issues discussed at the meeting included:

1. The NJDFS is drafting a guidance memo on food trucks and what is needed to be inspected.
2. The division is looking at events linked to railroad rides. While the trains fall outside of NJDFS jurisdiction other activities at stations and embarkment points do fall under the fire code such as tents, food trucks, fireworks, etc.
3. The division is speaking with the Department of Labor concerning contractor certification and will likely be seeking an opinion from the Attorney General's office concerning conflicting language between fire safety regulations and new regulations from the



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

New Jersey State Fire Chief's Association

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4. A new business is being looked at, mobile fueling. Evidently there are new entrepreneurial businesses popping up where mobile fuel trucks contract with drivers to deliver motor fuels (gasoline and diesel) to an area where a vehicle is parked to fill them up. The concern is how this needs to be done to comply with the safety requirements contained in the fire code.
5. The division is also looking at marine fueling operations particularly in the recreational boating community.
6. The issue of fire damper testing was discussed. The question has come up whether individuals or companies doing this work should be considered fire equipment contractors. There was no consensus on this item and it will warrant further investigation and discussion.
7. EV charging stations and the ability to fight EV fires is generating numerous questions for the division.
8. On the legislative front, Senate bill 2788 passed the State Senate on a vote of 36 – 0. This bill would require carbon monoxide detectors in multiple family dwellings and certain hotels and motels. The bill states that if the hotel or motel has a monitored fire alarm system then the carbon monoxide detectors have to be included with the monitored fire alarm system.

The Utility Safety Task Group is working on developing a training program specifically designed for the first on scene responders.

The Cannabis Review Committee offered a guidance document for use by training academies and facilities when confronted by an individual that the instructor believes that a person is impaired by cannabis use. The Fire Safety Commission agreed with the guidance document which places responsibility on the individual to not participate in a training class if they are impaired. Further, any such individual would be removed from the class and a chief or other responsible party from the members FD would have to come to the fire academy to drive the affected member home. The affected party would not be allowed to drive themselves home.

There was also discussion on whether cannabis use would disqualify a firefighter from consideration for PSOB benefits if they are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

FIRE ALARM SIGNAL TYPES – WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

Contributed by David T. Phelan

(Email: firesubcode@gmail.com)

Defined terms in code books may not be the most exciting content but they are key to the proper application of various code requirements. One example of this is how NFPA 72 defines the types of signals various initiating devices produce in fire alarm systems. Incorrect signal typing can have a variety of impacts on how fire alarm signals are annunciated on the premise, processed by supervising stations, and dispatched to responding fire departments.

Traditionally, the three signal types in a fire alarm system are; alarm, supervisory, and trouble. To avoid misclassified signal types code officials, designers, and installers must work within the definitions provided by NFPA 72 for each of these signal types:

Alarm – A signal that results from the manual or automatic detection of an alarm condition. Alarm condition is further defined as an 'abnormal condition that poses an immediate threat to life, property, or mission'. Common examples include are smoke/heat detectors, waterflow detectors, manual pull boxes, and microswitches on chemical suppression systems.

Supervisory – A signal that results from the detection of a supervisory condition. Supervisory condition is further defined as an 'abnormal condition in connection with the supervision of other systems processes, or equipment'. Common examples include valve tamper switches, low temperature sensors, air pressure switches, and water level sensors in storage tanks.

Trouble – A signal that results from the detection of a trouble condition. Trouble condition is further defined as an 'abnormal condition in a system due to a fault'. Common examples would be ground fault, low battery, AC power loss, open circuits, and loss of communication channels.

Fire sprinkler systems for example often include supervisory initiating devices such as valve tampers, air pressure switches, and temperature sensors. When a control valve is moved off its full open position a supervisory signal is initiated, but if the wires in that circuit were cut or grounded this would generate a trouble signal. If air pressure in a dry pipe sprinkler changes from its normal setpoint then a supervisory signal is initiated. Unfortunately, these types of 'supervisory' conditions are often incorrectly programmed or configured in a fire alarm system as 'trouble' signals. In fact, those supervisory devices are required to produce BOTH supervisory signals and trouble signals to separately

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identify different conditions in the fire alarm system.

In a fire alarm system these three signal types also have a priority order meaning that the alarm signals take precedence over supervisory and trouble signals on the fire alarm annunciator so that even if a trouble signal, say for low battery, exists in a system and is displayed on the annunciator the receipt of an alarm signal will cause the fire alarm system to activate and the annunciator will display the alarm signal. Similarly, a supervisory signal will take precedence over an existing trouble but an alarm will still take precedence over a supervisory signal. The annunciation of these different signal types helps provide needed information to the fire alarm monitoring center and guide the notifications which are made to property representatives and/or emergency responders. Consider the following example scenarios:

The building's fire alarm system is providing supervision of the attic dry pipe sprinkler system but the air pressure supervisory switch has been incorrectly programmed as a 'trouble' signal. With this deficiency there is no way to decipher an activation of the pressure switch as being either a legitimate air pressure condition or a broken wire, ground fault, or short in the actual detection circuit. This can lead to an ineffective response to the notification and the potential for further damage. If the 'trouble' condition is the result of summertime critter activity in the attic (chewing on wires) the corrective action can focus on tracing the circuit and repairing the critter damage to restore proper function of the circuit, all while the sprinkler system remains operational and set for service. This condition was not the result of air pressure changes in the dry sprinkler piping but it could interfere with the prompt detection and reporting of an air pressure issue with the dry sprinkler system.

Now replay that scenario where the attic dry sprinkler system's air pressure switch activates a 'trouble' signal but it's the middle of a cold February night in NJ. Upon receipt of this 'trouble' signal the property representative and/or service provider might erroneously conclude this 'trouble' indicates a ground fault, short, or broken wire which, while it is important to address, could safely wait until morning since the dry sprinkler system is actually not the problem. In reality however this was not a true 'trouble' condition and instead the air pressure supervisory switch was signaling a loss of air pressure in the dry sprinkler, which by definition is a 'supervisory' condition and given the time of year and exposure warrants an immediate response, not necessarily by the fire alarm provider but rather the fire sprinkler service provider. Due to the configuration error and the erroneous assumption that it was a problem with the fire alarm system a sprinkler technician is not immediately dispatched and valuable time is lost. Now the dry sprinkler eventually loses enough air pressure to trip the dry valve and fill the system with water, leaving the entire system immediately exposed to freezing and substantial property damage. A very real scenario that was avoidable from the very start by making sure the correct signal type is programmed and reported to a given alarm, supervisory, or trouble condition.

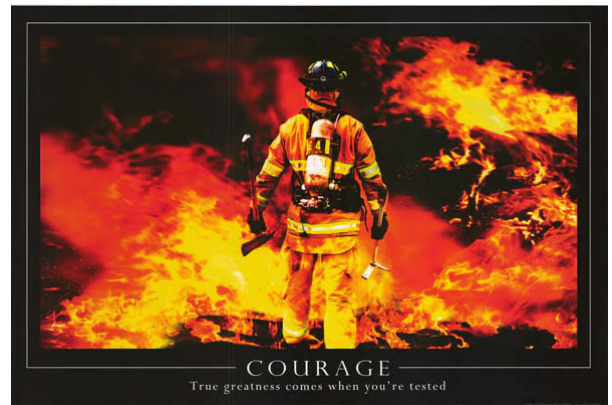
Next Issue: The High's & Low's of Air Pressure Supervision in Dry Pipe Sprinkler Systems



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NJ/NY VFA OFFICEHOLDER NOMINATIONS – MARCH/APRIL 2023

Nominations for office will be held at the March and April meetings with nominations being closed at the April meeting and voting to be held at the NJ/NY Convention on June 2, 2023.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Current Projected Nominees</u>
President	Bryan Hennig (Lyndhurst, NJ FD)
1st. Vice President	Anthony Chiodo (Moonachie, NJ FD)
2nd Vice President	OPEN
Secretary	Rosemary Weyer (Haworth, NJ FD)
Asst. Secretary	Nancy Naylis (Bergenfield, NJ FD)
Treasurer	OPEN
Asst. Treasurer	Alan Silverman (New Milford, NJ FD)
Financial Secretary	John Schwedhelm (Little Ferry, NJ FD)
Asst. Fin. Secretary	Jeffrey Geunther (Cresskill, NJ FD)
2028 Trustee	Thomas McCoy
2028 Trustee	OPEN

NEW JERSEY AND NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**To Hold Annual Memorial Service on May 21, 2023 at the
Bergen County Fire Academy**

MAHWAH, NJ – The association will be holding its annual memorial service on Sunday May 21, 2023 at the Bergen County Fire Academy located at 281 Campgaw Road in Mahwah, NJ. This year's ceremony will be especially poignant as five new names are added to the monument honoring those firefighters who have died in the line of duty. There will be three names added for LODDs from Bergen County who succumbed in 2022. They are Kevin Mays from Westwood, Alex Moss from Upper Saddle River, and Basil Pizzuto from Saddle Brook. Additionally, there will be two names added from Rockland County for LODDs that occurred years ago and were discovered based on historical research confirming that they too died in the line of duty.

A large turnout is expected at this year's memorial service. In addition to the five LODDs the association will also be honoring all firefighters from Rockland and Bergen Counties that passed away in 2022. Memorial Certificates inscribed with the names of the deceased firefighters will be presented to family members and fire departments.

All firefighters attending the ceremony are requested to wear their Class A dress uniforms. The indoor portion of the ceremony will be held in the Hall of Heroes. Firefighters are asked to allow family members to have the seats and fill in if there are any open seats left available. Following the indoor portion of the ceremony we will move outside for the unveiling of the monument. Please check in when your FD arrives at the academy.

Leonia Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 invites you to celebrate their

1898 125th Anniversary 2023

May 6, 2023

Antique Muster

Broad Avenue, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Fire Apparatus staging begins at 8:00 am.
Public viewing, to be followed by judging & trophies at Noon.

125th Celebration

Wood Park, 12:30pm - 7:00pm

Come out & enjoy a fun filled day with Leonia's Bravest!
Activities for kids. A good time for all ages.

T-SHIRTS FOOD BEER REFRESHMENTS

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Apparatus Parking for Muster:
Broad Ave between Fort Lee Road & Woodland Place

Inquiries: lfd125@leoniafire.org

BERGENFIELD FIRE COMPANY NO. 2

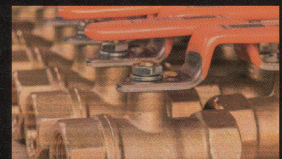


ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023
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