



110 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

# The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



**Volume 62 No. 2** Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **FEBRUARY 2023**

## From the President's Pen...

On February 11 our Association held a lithium ion battery for consumer goods and electric vehicle symposium in conjunction with the Bergenfield Fire Training Center at the Bergenfield High School. I am very proud to say we had well over 200 attendees and participants. I am very grateful for our fundraising committee for setting this program up and our other executive board members for their time and cooperation assisting during this event. Also I want to thank the County Wide Emergency Response Team for their assistance with refreshments. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

The 2023 dues notices have been mailed out. Please return your checks with the proper amount owed, including any past due dues that are owed.

May 21st is our annual memorial service at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah New Jersey, there are a number of line of duty deaths from 2022. More updated information about this event will be posted on our Facebook page and the Signal news letter.

God bless and stay safe. Only you can make a difference in your community so volunteer.

*President Roy De Young Jr*

## NJSFA FIELD AUDITS FOR BERGEN COUNTY ANNOUNCED

Bergen County Executive Committeeman Gerard "Jerry" Naylis has announced that the New Jersey State Firemen's Association will be conducting field audits for 2023 as follows:

Wednesday March 29, 2023 at the Midland Park firehouse, 45 Witte Drive, Midland Park, NJ 07432 for the following local relief associations: Allendale, Franklin Lakes, Hillsdale, Ho-Ho-Kus, Mahwah, Midland Park, Montvale, Oakland, Park Ridge, Ramsey, Ridgewood, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River, Waldwick, Washington Township, Woodcliff Lake, Wyckoff

Thursday April 6, 2023 at Fort Lee Fire Company # 4, 4 Brinkerhoff Avenue, Fort Lee, NJ 07024 for the following local relief associations: Bogota, Edgewater, Elmwood Park, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fair Lawn, Fort Lee, Glen rock, Hackensack, Leonia, Lodi, Maywood, Paramus, River Edge, Rochelle Park, Saddle Brook, Teaneck

The secretary and the treasurer of each of the above local relief associations need to attend and bring with them their books and records for the years 2021 and 2022. This includes the minutes of all local relief meetings, correspondence including letters from fire companies and the local exempt association identifying representative and trustees, and membership records held by the local relief secretary. The treasurer needs to have the checkbook for the local relief association including copies of all statements, banking records including all passbooks and certificates of deposit, treasurer's reports, invoices paid and any other financial records in the possession of the treasurer. Other local relief officers may also attend if their schedules permit.

Letters will be forthcoming from the NJSFA Field Examiner Jennie Hollingsworth giving an appointment time for each association.

## 2023 SPRING COURSES FROM THE NJ DFS AND KEAN UNIVERSITY

Kean University has announced that the brochure for 2023 spring course will be available on Wednesday February 8, 2023. To access the brochure, go to

[www.keanfiresafety.com](http://www.keanfiresafety.com)

You may log in to view course listings, dates and to register for classes. On line registration begins on February 22, 2023. For technical support call the Kean office at 908-737-3060 Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

Little Ferry, NJ – John Schwedhelm, the association's financial secretary spoke at the latest meeting of the NJNYVFA Executive Committee on Wednesday February 15 and advised that the annual dues for 2023 are now due and payable. Dues notices have been sent out to all members and fire companies. The annual dues for an active member are \$10 per year. The annual dues for a fire company are \$25 per year. Membership dues must be current to take full advantage of the benefits the association has to offer. Dues should be sent to John Schwedhelm at 5 Carlson Street, Little Ferry, NJ 07643-1701.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 24TH AT MONTVALE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
35 W GRAND AVE, MONTVALE, 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 John Lima, Haverstraw Rescue H & L, Haverstraw, NY FD**
- FF George Petry, Nyack Fire Patrol, Nyack, NY FD**
- FF John F. "Jack" Fioriti, Empire H & L, Nyack, NY FD**
- Ex-Chief John Berry, Congers Fire Dept., Congers, NY FD**
- Ex-Chief Thomas F. Sullivan, Wayne Hose Co., Stony Point, NY FD**
- FF Mark J. Grimes, Hillcrest Fire Dept., Hillcrest, NY FD**
- Chaplain Herman C. Branath, Empire H & L, Nyack, NY FD**
- Ex-Chief James "Jim" Garrison, Empire H & L, Nyack, 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](http://www.njnyvfa.org)


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

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| Treasurer            | George E. Saigh<br>306 Luhmann Dr.<br>New Milford, NJ 07646 | gses7320@gmail.com        |
| Asst. Treasurer      | Allan Silverman   | firemusik@aol.com         |

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### 2023

- 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** New Jersey State Fire Commission meeting at the offices of the NJ State Firemen's Association, Wall Township, NJ. The meeting starts at 10:00 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.
- April 16** Bergen County Firemen's Home Association Day at the New Jersey Firemen's Home in Boonton, NJ. Entertainment and refreshments for the guests starting at 2:00 p.m.
- April 19** NJNYVFA Executive Board meeting at New Milford Fire Company #2, 680 Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ. This meeting starts at 7:30 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
- 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



*Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner*

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## FATAL BLAZE IN SECAUCUS FAMILY BURNED OUT WHILE SAVING MANY OCCUPANTS

Secaucus, NJ – A fast moving fire discovered just after midnight on January 16, 2023 claimed the life of one resident. The fire at 220 Meadow Lane, near the Secaucus High School is believed to have started in a second floor apartment. The fire is under investigation by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. No cause has yet to be determined or released.

In the process of evacuating the Grezda family saved the lives of numerous tenants by banding on their neighbors doors and alerting them to the fire. The family was burned out of their apartment due to the fire. Regrettably, they were not able to save one of the other tenants who perished in the fire.

The Secaucus Fire Department participates in the NJNYVFA Clothing Bin program. Association officers went to Secaucus and presented the family with gift cards to provide immediate assistance to the family. President Roy De Young, 1st Vice President Bryan Hennig, 2nd Vice President Tony Chiodo met with Secaucus Fire Chief Fred Schneider and Councilman James Clancy to present the gift cards to Ndriqim Grezda, Egzona Gredza and 11-year old twins Ari and Arsi Gredza. George Heflich was on hand to photograph the ceremony.

Any town in the association that hosts one of the association's clothing bins is eligible to participate in the gift card program for families that suffer a fire. The gift cards provide immediate financial assistance in the event of a fire. All that is needed is for the local fire chief to provide a copy of the fire incident report. For further information on the clothing bin program contact association treasurer George Saigh at gses7320@gmail.com



New Jersey State Volunteer Firemen's Association  
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**George H. Heflich, Sr**  
Director National Volunteer Fire Council

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## NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING REPORT

Wall Township, NJ – The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission held its bi-monthly meeting on January 18, 2023 at the headquarters office of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association in Wall Township, NJ. Director Rich Mikutsky, the NJ Fire Marshal and Lou Kilmer, head of the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement were in attendance as well as a majority of the members of the commission.

Director Mikutsky reported that there have been a number of retirements at the division and that restaffing continues. He also stated that there were numerous successful holiday fire safety demonstrations throughout the state over the holiday season. For future reference he noted that the holiday fire safety demonstration particularly including a Christmas tree burn have already been scheduled for November 20, 2023. More information will be available on this event at some point in the future.

The division sponsored a conference on energy safety and electric vehicles at the Montclair FD headquarters in December. The conference highlighted the need for the fire service to be cognizant of the expanding use of energy storage systems (ESS) in both existing buildings as well as new construction. ESS present significant challenges for the fire service and will likely continue to in the future.

The Channel 7 Operation Save-A-Life smoke detector program will be continuing in 2023 in co-operation with the division and local fire service agencies. This program provides free smoke detectors and is especially directed to aid at risk and underserved population segments. Early warning devices such as smoke detectors are proven life savers.

The Fire Focus newsletter for the winter and spring will be returning. This e-version may be viewed on the NJ DFS website.

New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland will be April 29 and 30, 2023. Sign up information will be forthcoming shortly. There will be multiple course offerings. Those planning on attending should block out the time needed on their schedules now and sign up as soon as the enrollment period opens. This is a very popular training opportunity and fills up quickly so make sure that you enroll early.

The Fire Stat sessions hosted by the division are being moved to the first and third Wednesday of the month starting at 9:30 a.m. These informational briefings provide timely and up to the date guidance for the fire service.

The director reviewed a number of statistics pulled from the



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state's NFIRS data. Of specific interest is that there were a total of 62 fire fatalities in 2022. While this figure continues to show downward trend in fire deaths the director stressed the ongoing need to stress and promote fire safety at all times of the year. He noted that as of the fire commission meeting there had already been 9 fire deaths in New Jersey in 2023.

The division also conducted 387 fire investigation in 2022 and there were 83 reported school fires last year. The division's Bureau of Fire Department services is working on school security services and shooting events.

Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer reported that Dan Timmerman had been promoted to the position of Fire Code Specialist and will be working to address complex code issues as they arise and will be a resource for local fire code officials and the DFS.

The division is working on a number of issues of concern including RIMS, local assistance, penalties and mobile food trucks. The division is also looking for the new computer system to be in place by March 31.

Regarding the turnover of Fire Officials Kilmer noted that towns have 45 days to appoint a new fire official when an existing fire official retires or moves on. A town may get a 30-day extension to fill the position if needed such as when the town is in the hiring phase for the new fire official. Failure to have a properly appointed fire official may result in the division having to assume jurisdiction to assure continuity of operations for fire code enforcement.

4 new inspectors have been hired effective January 17 and the division continues to attempt to fill vacancies. Anticipated revenue figures for 2023 budgeting cycles have been released.

There continues to be questions regarding nonowner-occupied somber living facilities. These buildings are R-3 type occupancies and are required to be inspected. Some local enforcing agencies may be pressured by their jurisdictions regarding these types of residences. Regardless of that local sentiment these buildings must be inspected.

There is no new information available regarding the issue of radiator covers and burn prevention. The division is continuing to work on re-establishing the peer review board for fire officials and fire inspectors. Kilmer also spoke briefly regarding the school suppression survey that was distributed to schools. This survey looks to identify schools that have suppression and to what extent that suppression exists. More importantly, the survey will help to identify school buildings that lack fire suppression so the students may be better protected by the installation of fire suppression systems.

Kilmer concluded his remarks by saying the division is continuing to work on updates to the Uniform Fire Safety Act. This act was enacted in the early 1980's and led to the creation of the then Bureau of Fire Safety which is now the Division of Fire Safety. The act also led to the enactment of the Uniform Fire Code and fire code enforcement plus subsequent fire safety actions such as training and education certification including instructor certification, firefighter and associated certifications, fire inspector and fire official certification, fire protection contractor certification, public fire safety education, firefighter health and

safety, and statistical fire data collection. There is a recognition that many things have changed with respect to the areas covered in the Uniform Fire Safety Act over the past 40 years and the time has come to update the legislation that led to what we now deal with regarding fire safety.

The Codes Advisory Council reported they are still waiting for the 2018 edition of the fire code to be released by the Governor's office. The council is working on sub-chapter 4 and anticipates changes should be ready by mid-2023. Other areas being worked on by the Codes Advisory Council include cooking vendors, standardized forms for fire protection inspections, and public works contractors.

The Training and Education Advisory Council is examining the potential of having a Firefighter 2 challenge examine for instructors who do not have Firefighter 2 certification. This would not be a Pro Board certification examine. This advisory council is also exploring the development and creation of a strategic plan for training.


Commissioner Jerry Naylis asked what action if any is being taken regarding evaluation of automatic sprinkler systems. Naylis mentioned that in many cases he encounters sprinkler systems that are less than adequate or have design flaws. He noted that the current code references NFPA 25 for inspection, testing and maintenance (ITM) of water-based fire protection systems such as sprinkler systems. Contractors are quick to point out the NFPA 25 states it is not a design evaluation standard and as such contractors do not identify or mention anything related to design considerations in their ITM reports. So, in cases where there is a change in occupancy or operation design considerations are often not addressed. An example would be where the type of storage in a warehouse changes from a Class 1 or Class 2 commodity to a plastics or combustible liquid storage no changes are made to the sprinkler system because no evaluation as to the adequacy of protection is done. In these cases, the change should trigger a referral to the fire protection sub-code official for a reevaluation. Naylis asked that the Codes Advisory Council review this matter and provide suggestions for how issues such as this can be addressed by fire code enforcement inspectors. Additional examples included the use and placement of correct sprinklers. The matter was referred to the council with a request for a report at the next fire commission meeting.

Commissioner Paul McGrath is now the new chairman of the Public Education Advisory Council. He noted that this council will be looking for new members going forward.

Commissioner Richard Blohm spoke regarding the Firefighter Health and Safety Advisory Council. Blohm mentioned that there is concern particularly regarding how to determine whether a firefighter is impaired and what constitutes impairment. This question is being discussed in light of recent changes in state law regarding the use of cannabis. There was no resolution regarding a definite threshold that would determine if a firefighter was indeed impaired. The commission does have a special committee looking into this issue but nothing concrete has been identified thus far.

Blohm also reported that PEOSH Chief Tom Lipski retired effective December 1, 2022 and that PEOSH is in the process of

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

**New Jersey State Fire Chief's Association**

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hiring another Assistant Chief for Safety Enforcement. He also reported that the booklet Guidelines for Emergency Management of Firefighters is being redesigned to illustrate special health considerations for injury in the fire service. The book has been converted to a single page algorithm reference guideline as a reference for pre-hospital and Emergency Department use. Topics include burns, cardiac events, slips, trips & falls, stroke and thermal injuries including hypothermia and heat stroke.

The Youth Firesetter Advisory Council is working on training programs for 2023.

## ASSOCIATION HOLDS LITHIUM ION BATTERY FOR CONSUMER GOODS AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE SYMPOSIUM

BERGENFIELD, NJ – The NJ and NY VFA held a symposium on February 11, 2023 at the Bergenfield High School in conjunction with the Bergenfield Fire Training Center on Lithium Ion Battery for Consumer Goods and Electric Vehicles. The featured speaker was Lieutenant Adam Lynch of the FDNY. Lt. Lynch is currently assigned to Engine 250 which is also a hazardous materials response unit in the FDNY.

The main program gave an excellent review of the dangers and hazards associated with lithium ion batteries in both consumer goods and electric vehicles. Lt. Lynch provided excellent examples of fires involving lithium ion batteries including a number of rather dramatic video footage that clearly demonstrated how rapidly these batteries can evolve from just issuing smoke to producing a full-blown fire in just a matter of seconds.

A major issue with the batteries is they produce massive quantities of hydrogen and hydrogen fluoride gas, commonly referred to as HF gas. These gases are extremely flammable and readily ignitable. If you are wondering how deadly and how quickly hydrogen ignites, think of the dramatic video of the Hindenburg airship that exploded in a massive fireball in 1937 at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, NJ.

Firefighters will need massive amounts of water to knock down a fire involving lithium ion batteries. In responding to one question about what type of hose line to attack a fire involving lithium ion batteries, Lt. Lynch stated if the battery is small such as in a consumer product in a single or two family residential dwelling, start with a one-and three-quarter inch hose line with

a smooth bore tip, just as we would with any other single or two family residential fire. This hose line should be backed up with another hose line. Larger battery packs (also referred to as modules) will likely require larger hose lines (think two-and one-half inch) especially if the batteries are in a large structure such as a Queen Anne type home, a commercial occupancy or a large storage occupancy (warehouses, distribution centers, big box stores, etc.).

Lt. Lynch also stressed the need to use full personal protective equipment (PPE) when dealing with any of these incidents. The gases, fumes and smoke from these fires are deadly.

Many firefighters think that simply knocking down one of these fires is enough. The problem is the off-gassing vapors readily reignite and continue to do so. In fact, there have been documented cases of fires reigniting hours and in some cases days after the initial call.

Lithium ion batteries are becoming the energy source of choice for numerous consumer goods from watches to cell phones, calculators, toys as well as hearing aids, power tools and so forth. Lt. Lynch discussed a fire that occurred at a firehouse where battery packs for tools on the fire apparatus were being charged and erupted in a fire causing severe damage to the apparatus and the firehouse.

Overcharging and using an incorrect charging device are seen as the most common causes of fires involving lithium ion batteries. Puncturing and otherwise damaging the protective shell of the battery can also lead to a fire.

Scooters and modified bicycles appear to be some of the leading problematic situations involving these batteries. Firefighters are encountering cases where numerous scooters are found charging in store fronts, basements and people's homes. Often times the power charging cord is nothing more than a light weight electrical extension cord that is not designed or intended for the electrical load being carried. The insulation on the wire breaks down allowing a short circuit to occur which in turn results in a fire.

The problem with electric vehicles is access to the battery. The batteries are often buried within the vehicle or on the underside of the vehicle. It is extremely important during firefighting operations to cool the battery with copious volumes of water to limit the thermal runaway associated with these batteries, especially when the batteries are damaged by a puncture or are crushed.


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Lt. Adams encouraged the symposium attendees to learn as much as they can about the challenges posed by lithium ion batteries and to develop policies and procedures for their organizations for dealing with these batteries. These policies should include firefighting, packing, and disposal.

The second speaker of the day was Ari Kesler of My Battery Recyclers from Brooklyn, NY. His firm is the contractor for the City of New York and handles packing and disposal of lithium ion batteries. Kesler discussed proper and improper methods of packaging and disposal of the batteries. Unfortunately, many fire departments believe they must do something when confronted with a dangerous situation. Doing the wrong thing can only exacerbate the problem and make the problem more difficult to deal with downstream. As an example, Kesler mentioned that in past situations some agencies have put multiple batteries in a drum and covered the batteries with sand. Sand is not recommended as packaging material and likely will create an even greater hazardous materials handling situation. In fact, this practice may result in the shipment being refused at the recycling facility and returned to the shipper (your agency). Placing too many batteries in a drum or shipping container is also an unwise and unsafe practice. There are products on the market designed for safely packaging lithium ion batteries that have been involved in a fire. Conversely, fire departments may want to utilize the services of a third-party recycling firm to safely handle the packaging and disposal of this hazardous materials item. Attendees were advised to check with their towns to confirm that they have current hazardous materials cost recovery ordinances in place to avoid a disappointing surprise if a third-party vendor had to be used to dispose of the batteries after a fire. Another recommendation was made to check with the local Office of Emergency Management when creating policies for dealing with lithium ion batteries.

The final speaker of the day was federal investigator Kevin Peter of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. Peter gave a brief overview of the agency and its mission. He then went into specifics regarding the numerous consumer products that are using lithium ion batteries as the power unit of choice. Peter covered the importance of obtaining as much information regarding the batteries during the investigation of the fire. Specifically, he said to obtain the make and model of the battery, the product, where purchased, any available packaging material that would aid in identifying the product, directional pamphlets, etc. He also cautioned that when investigating not to jump to conclusions regarding the cause of a fire. Merely finding a battery in the fire debris does not necessarily indicate that the battery was the cause of the fire.

A cause determination should only be made after a complete and thorough investigation has been completed.

Following the speakers, a number of questions were asked and suggestions made. Attendees were asked if a hands-on exercise for investigations would be a good idea. The overwhelming response was yes. There was also a general consensus from the group that the NJ&NYVFA should engage the county government in a dialogue to develop action steps and protocols that could be used by local fire departments that included how the hazardous materials team from the Bergen County Health Department could be of assistance. Finally, the group expressed that the idea of the NJ&NYVFA providing model policies, procedures and cost recovery ordinances on their web site was a good idea.

Also attending the symposium were several vendors that displayed new equipment and technology that has emerged to aid in addressing the needs of the fire service in handling fires involving lithium ion batteries. Vendors included New Jersey Fire Equipment, the Turtle fire stream applicator device, JKKS Industries showing the Rice Applicator Nozzle and My Battery Recyclers showing cell block and packaging drums.

In closing, President Roy De Young, Jr. thanked everyone for attending and the speakers for sharing their knowledge and wisdom. He also thanked the vendors who participated, the executive board members who attended, the Bergenfield Fire Training Center for working with the association to deliver the program and the County Wide Emergency Response team for providing refreshments during the break.

## **FIRE AND EMS INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES MULTI-TOPIC SEMINAR**

The New Jersey Fire & EMS Institute has announced a Firefighter Health, Safety & Tactics Seminar to be held on April 22, 2023 at the Middlesex College Performing Arts Center Theater. This non-profit institute was recently brought back by the leadership of the NJ State Fire Chief's Association, NJ Career Fire Chief's Association, NJ Deputy & Battalion Chief's Association, NJ Volunteer Fire Chief's Association and the International Association of Fire Chief's Eastern Division to advocate for the Health, Safety & Education of our State's Firefighters and EMT's.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety has approved 0.5 Technical CEU's for Fire Investigator, Fire Instructor and Fire Code

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**Gerard "Jerry" Naylis**  
**Bergen County Executive Committeeman**

**New Jersey State Firemen's Association**

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Enforcement. Doors and registration opens at 0800 with breakfast served, vendor exhibits and interaction as well as new fire apparatus on display. Tickets must be purchased in advance at <https://njfemsi.org/product/seminar-registration/> or by emailing [njfemsitickets@gmail.com](mailto:njfemsitickets@gmail.com) if a department is paying by purchase order. The tickets for the seminar are only \$25 per person.

The three topics covered from 0900-1500 will be:

Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer will be instructed by Retired Fire Chief, President & CEO of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network Bryan Frieders. The 11 best practices for preventing firefighter and fire investigator cancer will be discussed in depth. The types of carcinogens found in the firehouse, on the fireground and during fire investigations will be thoroughly identified. Methods of exposure and absorption rates members face, as well as the types of cancers that are caused by workplace exposure will be discussed and the best practices to minimize these exposures will be covered.

Rules of Engagement, Firefighting Tactics of NFPA 1700 will be instructed by Captain Mike Daley from Fire Service Performance Concepts. Scientific research of today's fireground has been thoroughly tested and studied by fire departments and several fire service research organizations and a new guide for structural firefighting called NFPA 1700 was released from these studies. Fire behavior and fire dynamics are topics that all firefighters and fire investigators must be currently educated on. The speed at which a fire grows today and the path that a fire takes throughout a building is impacted by all of our actions on the fireground. The terms air control, uni-directional and bi-directional flow paths and transitional fire attack are some of the topics that we need to completely understand in order to keep today's members safe on the fireground.

Electric Vehicle & Lithium Ion Battery Fires Hazards & Tactics will be instructed by Mike Abraham from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm & Explosives. Fires involving lithium ion batteries, whether they are in a bicycle, vehicle or tool are becoming more frequent as technology moves forward. The hazards of these batteries need to be understood by firefighters, fire inspectors and fire investigators. The hazards of these batteries when they are involved in a fire need to be known and the current best practices in order to handle these emergencies will be discussed. Also, as more electric vehicles are mandated to be on the road during the next decade, incidents involving them will only increase. Additionally on the investigation side, the causes of lithium ion battery fires will also be identified for conducting origin & cause investigations where a lithium ion battery may have been involved.



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## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There were 65 new bills introduced since the last report. The total number of bills are at 9,121 for this session. Two new bills were added to the NJSFA tracking lists this week which are both related bills, A-5179, "Fire Life Safety Damper and Smoke Control System Inspection Verification Act;" requires routine maintenance and periodic testing of smoke dampers, fire dampers, and smoke control systems in certain buildings by qualified personnel, and S-3516, Smoke Control System Act which requires routine maintenance and operational testing. The total number of NJSFA tracked bills is now at 149, with 107 bills in Fire & Emergency Services and 42 bills in Pensions. There are currently twelve bills sitting on The Governor's Desk and he has signed 166 bills to date.

There were Senate and Assembly Committee Meetings on February 16, 2023, with one of the state association's tracked bills listed heard in the Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, A-2385, allows person on police officer or firefighter eligible list who is unable to complete requirements for employment due to certain military service to have name placed on subsequent eligible list. The bill was approved in committee and now moves to the full Assembly for a vote. There is no companion bill for this legislation in the Senate yet.

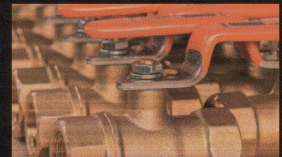
There is a Senate Quorum Call for Thursday, February 23, 2023, but as of publication they have not posted a list of committees or bills yet.

President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, and First Assistant Secretary Martone continue to meet with members of the Senate and Assembly concerning the new legislation for Cancer Screening for Volunteer Firefighters. The Senate version of the bill was heard in committee in mid-February and released with amendments for a second hearing in the Senate.

ACR171 is the constitutional amendment that was introduced that would ultimately allow municipalities to enact ordinances permitting a property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer first aid squad members. No hearings have yet been scheduled on this resolution and no action has been taken to date. The joint resolution must first pass both houses of the legislature and then be placed on the ballot of the November general election and passed by a majority of the voters in that election to allow for municipalities to pass a required ordinance.

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