



111 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

# The Signal

[www.njnyvfa.org](http://www.njnyvfa.org)



**Volume 63 No. 8** Official Publication of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association **OCTOBER 2024**

## From the President's Pen...

Now that fall is officially here, there are some things that we need to be paying attention to while responding to calls. We should be cautious when there are leaves on the ground seeing as that this can create slippery road conditions. With temperatures dropping, we will be seeing frost on the windows. With that occurring, you might want to cover your windshield at night so that, if there is frost, it will not stick to the glass and will allow for a quicker and safer response to calls.

Again, we are definitely going to be having a beefsteak/comedy night in late March 2025. Also, the 500 Club 50/50 raffle will be taking place in December 2025. Tickets will be available shortly. We are in need of towns to sponsor clothing bin locations. The income from the clothing bins is used for scholarships and our burnout card program. If a resident of your town suffers a burnout, and you have a clothing bin in your town, your chief can notify us and we can review reports and award up to \$300 in gift cards so that people can put clothes on their backs.

The procedure for applying for burnout assistance is as follows: You must have a clothing bin in your town and your chief of the fire department must send a written request to the president for assistance. Included with that letter, you must have submitted a copy of the official police and fire reports. Upon review, the presidents will arrange with the chief of the department requesting

the aid to meet and present the cards to the affected families.

We are looking for new members and, this year, we have decided to allow recent fire school graduates to apply for membership with a no-dues fee charged until January 2026. Those recent graduates, who are interested in becoming members of our association, must complete and submit the application as well as include the date of graduation/course completion on their application. This membership is being offered to all Bergen County and Rockland County fire school graduates.

Upcoming meeting dates and locations are as follows: The October meeting will be on Friday, October 25, 2024 at the Upper Saddle River Fire Department located at 375 West Saddle River Road in Upper Saddle River, NJ. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. The November meeting will be on Friday, November 22, 2024 at New Milford Fire Company #2 located at 680 Trenton Street in New Milford, NJ. The meeting will also start at 8 p.m.

A reminder to all that Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 3, 2024. Please make sure to remember to turn all your clocks back one hour. Veteran's Day is quickly approaching, so let us all remember those who fought for our country and freedom. Thanksgiving will also be here before we know it. On behalf of the officers and trustees, we would like to wish all of our members and their families a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

**Patrick W. Conner, President**

## TIME TO CHECK YOUR APPARATUS BEFORE WINTER

**Gerald Naylis, ARMM CFI, EVT**

The leaves on the trees are starting to turn color, the sunlight is getting shorter each day, and temperatures are beginning to drop; all of which are indicators that the cold weather of winter is coming and will be upon us very soon. That means that now is the time to conduct and perform pre-checks and exercise precautions to our vehicle fleet to assure our apparatus is prepared for winter weather.

The first things that should be checked are the engine cooling system, engine coolant and anti-freeze, and the radiator. Test the fluid to determine what temperatures the engine coolant/anti-freeze fluid will protect the system to both the high end and the low end. If after testing you determine that the fluid does not provide adequate cooling or freeze protection, the fluid should be drained and replaced. If the volume of fluid removed is less than the volume that should be in the system, this supports a conclusion that the

radiator and cooling/anti-freeze system may be clogged and may not protect the apparatus when needed. The radiator may need to be totally flushed before refilling the system with the appropriate replacement fluid, which should be the fluid recommended by the apparatus manufacturer.

Air tanks that provide air for the braking system and other air actuated functions should be drained to remove moisture accumulations. Even is the apparatus is equipped with an air dryer, it is possible for moisture to accumulate in the tank and find its way into air lines. If the moisture does get into the brake lines, it is possible for the lines to freeze up when exposed to freezing temperatures for a prolonged period of time. Based on the volume of moisture removed, it may be necessary to drain the tank(s) multiple times.

Air pressure in the vehicle's tires should be as specified by the tire manufacturer and be appropriate for the vehicle's weight. If you haven't weighed your apparatus this would be a good time to do so. The apparatus tires should also be examined to document their condition and to identify any conditions that require attention or corrective action.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 25, 2024 AT UPPER SADDLE RIVER FIRE HOUSE  
375 WEST UPPER SADDLE RIVER ROAD • UPPER SADDLE RIVER, NJ STARTS AT 8:00 P.M.**

In areas that may be subject to snowfall this pre-winter check should also include a check of snow chains if used. For those apparatus that are equipped with on board apparatus automatic drop-down snow chains the pre-cold weather check should include assuring the control mechanism is functioning and that the chains fit properly and are not damaged.

An often-overlooked item would include the apparatus' windshield wipers. The wipers are a wear item and may need replacement. Installing replacement wiper blades before snow starts to fall may be a wise course of action.

While this is not intended to be an all-inclusive list it certainly includes many items that really need to be checked before cold weather sets in. Taking the appropriate preventive measures now may just allow you to avoid an unpleasant experience this winter.

Gerard Naylis is a 50 plus year fire service member in both career and volunteer fire departments. He has served as chief of his volunteer fire department on three separate occasions. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science from Jersey City State College and holds numerous certifications from the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety and three Emergency Vehicle Technician certifications from the Emergency Vehicle Certification Commission.

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## Upcoming Meetings and Events

### 2024

- October 16 NJNYVFA Executive Committee meeting at River Edge Fire Company #1, 695 Kinderkamack Road, River Edge, NJ. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.
- October 19 Antique Fire Muster, New Jersey Firemen's Home, 565 Lathrop Avenue, Boonton, NJ 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- October 25 Regular NJNYVFA meeting, Upper Saddle River Fire Department, 375 West Saddle River Road, Upper Saddle River, NJ. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- October 26 Cliffside Park FD Annual Beefsteak dinner @ Cliffside Park Firehouse. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
- November 19-21 New Jersey League of Municipalities Conference, Atlantic City, NJ
- November 20 New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting, Atlantic City Convention Hall. Meeting starts at 10:00 a.m.
- November 22 Regular NJNYVFA meetings, New Milford Fire Company # 2, 680 Trenton Street, New Milford, NJ. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m.
- November 30 Wallington FD Holiday Lights parade
- December 22 Bergenfield FD Holiday Lights parade

### 2025

- March 29 NJNYVFA Annual Beefsteak Dinner and Comedy Show, Montvale firehouse, 35 West Grand Avenue, Montvale, NJ. 7:00 p.m.
- June 5 NJNYVFA 2025 Annual Convention — Lyndhurst, NJ. Convention starts at 8:00 p.m.



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## NEW JERSEY FIRE COMMISSION MEETING REPORT FOR 9/12/24

Wildwood Crest, NJ – The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission met on September 12, 2024 at the Wildwood Crest firehouse as a prelude to the annual convention of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association and the annual meeting of the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association during what has come to be known as Wildwood Weekend. Attendance was strong with individuals from throughout the state attending the meeting.

State Fire Marshal Richard Mikutsky, who serves as the director of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety started the meeting off with his report of NJDFS activities. He reported that the Division of Fire Safety remains busy on all fronts. With the support of the administration, DFS continues to move towards filling vacancies.

As we move forward to fill our organizational structure and continue the important work the Division performs for the benefit of the people of New Jersey, I'm extremely proud to report that Bruce Tynan has been promoted to the position of Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Fire Department Services. This position has been vacant for several years, and with the support of this administration, we have been able to fill this very important vacancy. Please congratulate Chief Tynan.

The fire service suffered a tremendous loss on August 21 with the passing of Congressman Bill Pascrell. Bill was responsible for bringing tens of millions of dollars to New Jersey's fire service through the Fire Act of 2000 which gave birth to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in 2001 and the SAFER Grant programs which he authored in 2003.

### BUREAU OF FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES UNIT UPDATES

#### Investigation Unit

YTD stats: 200 fire investigations; 40 K9 deployments; 360 other dispatch notification calls.

Reminder: For anyone calling our hotline into Mercer for DFS notification, please be sure to specify if you need an investigator or K9, an inspector, or a coordinator to ensure that calls are routed to the proper unit for follow-up.

Our K9 Teams will be assisting with security sweeps throughout the Wildwood Convention Center prior to the meeting sessions on tomorrow and Saturday.

K9 Remi was recently hospitalized at an emergency vet for severe gastro issues. Thankfully, they were able to provide treatment and avoid surgery, and she recovered within a few days and is now back in service.

The unit has been fielding questions about lithium battery fire cause evidence. There needs to be a balance between hazard mitigation and evidence preservation so that departments do not find themselves

in an evidence spoliation situation. As such, we have been in contact with ATF staff, and they are developing a recommended evidence procedure. It will be distributed thru DFS and NJIAAI as soon as it's available, but in the meantime, contact Supervisor Spiecker or your regional ATF investigator to discuss this further if needed.

The unit will be assisting with instructing modules and practical evolutions for the upcoming DCJ and NJIAAI Basic Fire Investigator courses.

We are working with NJ State Police Marine Unit staff to update procedures to ensure that marine vessel fires are being properly investigated. Previously, these marine investigations were handled by the NJSP Arson / Bomb Unit, but these incident notifications have become sporadic in recent years.

We want to remind all FD's that our notification form for FF injuries is on the DFS website. Online and phone notification is required upon a firefighter being admitted into a hospital for treatment, or for any injury that occurs at a training facility.

Remind everyone that the newly created "NFPA 1321 Standard for Fire Investigation Units" just became available for purchase, and our unit is currently evaluating and updating our policies and procedures for compliance.

#### Training & Certification

The Office of Training & Certification has issued approximately 14,000 certifications to date for calendar year 2024.

The Basic Fire Police Officer credentialing program is being finalized by Chief Martinelli and the Fire Police SME Group. TTT sessions will start being scheduled in October.

RIC SME Group met on August 22, 2024, at the Gloucester County Fire Academy to discuss the program delivery, the TTT delivery, TTT locations, and instructor and safety requirements. NJDFS is looking to deliver the TTT's in Morris County, Burlington County, and Gloucester County in the fall.

The NJ ARFF credentialing program was requested to present the program and its accomplishments to the ARFF Working Group at the 34th Annual International Educational Symposium in Myrtle Beach, SC, during the week of September 9 to 12, 2024. The NJ ARFF program will be run exclusively at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, and the Newark and Atlantic City International Airports. All instructors must have gone through the TTT course. The sponsoring agency will have to provide the needed jet fuel, Purple K extinguishers, crash trucks, and instructors.

The 2025 NJ Weekend at the National Fire Academy will be Friday, May 30th, Saturday, May 31st, and Sunday, June 1, 2024. The Real ID Act will be in effect, and a Real ID/Passport/Passport Card/federal ID will be needed to enter the NFA facility. There are 7 courses to choose from.



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- Safety for Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Fire Investigation: Fire as a Weapon

Remaining Eligible Organization Meetings for 2024:

- Atlantic County Fire Academy – November 22nd

Code Enforcement SME to reconvene soon to update the Fire Inspector and Fire Official courses to the new International Fire Code – 2018 NJ Edition. 2018 IFC of NJ – Subchapters 2 and 4 went into effect April 15, 2024 – Subchapter 3 is effective October 15, 2024.

- Subchapter 2 contains new Life Hazard Uses and a new permit, along with clarifying language and corrections.
- Subchapter 4 contains amended provisions allowing Carbon Monoxide detection systems installed in accordance with UCC to be an additional alternative to the requirements.
- The combustible landscaping materials provision will not become operative until 4/15/2025.

N.J.A.C. 5:71 regulation revisions are in the process up being reviewed and updated. Proposed amendments include the following:

- Testing and course hour requirements for Fire Official.
- Experience requirements for Fire Inspector and Fire Official certifications to be moved to the front end, which will be in-line with other DCA licensure requirements.
- Mandating the code update requirement for all fire code officials, not just fire code officials working for an LEA.
- Enhancing the code update requirement to a core and elective continuing education model, which will allow more courses to meet the core requirement, than just the code update course.

The Fire Inspector credentialing program is currently being revised. We have received the revised program and are reviewing the content. After this review has been completed, the Fire Inspector SME Group will meet regarding the program, the exam questions, and the practical skill sheets. TTT's will be scheduled. Instructors will be required to take the TTT if they would like to teach this course. The Fire Official credentialing program will be worked on after the Fire Inspector program has been completed.

N.J.A.C. 5:73 regulation revisions are currently being worked on and will be sent for review. These regulations are set to expire on June 27, 2025. Changes will include the Incident Management 2 requirements for chief level officers, the Incident Management 1 requirement for the Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander certification, and the establishment of the Junior Firefighter training regulations.

The courses have been selected for the 2024 Fall CEU Semester brochure. Online registration began on September 4th.

Transcripts, Renewal Notices, and Final Renewal Notices were printed on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. They should be delivered by September 14.

Dates are as follows:

- Final Renewal Notices went out for: April 30, 2024 expiration
- Renewal Notices went out for: October 31, 2024 expiration
- Transcripts (3-year cycle): April 30, and October 31, 2025  
April 30, and October 31, 2026  
April 30, and October 31, 2027

The Division and Kean will start providing Fire Officer courses during this fall semester brochure, similar to how we do Fire Instructor courses. This is due to the lack of Fire Officer 1- 4 courses being offered at the county fire academies.

A memo was released by the DFS Office of Training and Certification detailing the Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific PPE and Product Control credentialing programs for those individuals who previously were not offered these courses before 2018. This course should take approximately 1 day to accomplish.

- 3-hours of classroom lecture
- 1-hour lunch
- 3.5-hours of practical skills
- 0.5-hours for the written exam

The Division/Kean will schedule TTT sessions for Hazardous Materials: Awareness and Operations. This would be a complete HazMat TTT for Instructors that would like to be Awareness and Operations Instructors. Instructors will need to possess the following state certifications:

- Firefighter 2
- Hazardous Materials: Awareness
- Hazardous Materials: Operations
- Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific PPE
- Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific Product Control
- Instructor Level 2
- Drill Ground Instructor

We are looking to have these TTT's in the Morris County, Middlesex County, and Burlington County areas soon.

We have received questions on the recently released Minimum Mandatory Qualifications memo from the Division. Many have been asking about the Minimum Recommended Qualifications section. Specifically, "Does this mean that Firefighter 1 and Hazardous Materials certifications aren't required?" This means the minimum qualifications your members need to ride the apparatus are Firefighter 1, Hazardous Materials: Awareness, and Hazardous Materials: Operations. This is the same information we've been saying for many years.

The Division has been meeting with representatives from NJ PEOSH Labor and Health, the NJ Forest Fire Service, to discuss OSHA's new proposed rule, 29 CFR 1910.156: Emergency Response. The comment period closed on June 22, 2024. NJ partnered with several other state for comments.

The Division, the Fire Safety Commission, and the Training & Education



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Advisory Council discussed the formation of a Fire Training Commission (FTC) very similar to the Police Training Commission (PTC). We are looking to adopt the CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test) Program or equivalent for recruit firefighters only. All future meetings regarding the Fire Training Commission/Firefighter Physical Agility testing will include the following:

- Representatives from the NJ Division of Fire Safety
- Kean University Fire Safety Training Program
- Various Fire Safety Commission members
- The Training & Education Advisory Council Chair
- The Training & Education Advisory Council Vice-Chair
- Two Training & Education Advisory Council members
- The Firefighter Health & Safety Advisory Council Chair
- A Firefighter Health & Safety Advisory Council member
- A representative from the NJ FMBA
- A representative from the PFANJ

Division phone numbers will be changing once again. Desktop phones are being eliminated and everyone will be using Teams to make calls. New phone numbers will be published.

All academies should be contacting the Office of Training & Certification (OTC) when it comes to NFA TTT courses. The NFA will not come to your department/academy to run a TTT courses for just your staff. All NFA TTT courses must come through the OTC.

#### Office of Fire Department Programs

Staff attended and assisted at a multi county, multi regional water supply training class and exercise. The final exercise was held on 8/31 in Ocean County.

Assisted with fire coverage coordination and attended the funeral of Congressman William Pascrell in Paterson.

Attended PSE&G exercises in Willingboro, Burlington County and Lawrence Twp. in Mercer County. PSE&G continues to hold emergency exercises around the state. DFS partnered with PSE&G during these events.

Assisted in resource coverage at a recent water emergency in Hudson County. This incident lasted approximately 36 hours. Local plans were established for response into the affected area. Various UASI counties provided stand-by task forces for coverage. Luckily, there were no major fire incidents during this water emergency.

Received notifications and monitored numerous multi alarm fires throughout the state.

Participated in the weeklong exercise Vigilant Guard with members participating at Joint Base and the SEOC.

Staff continues to review the 21-county fire mutual aid plans. This review/update is required every other year.

The NFL is requiring all personnel to be credentialed for all games and stadiums. Bureau of Fire Department Services is working with MetLife security to accomplish the credentials.

Bureau of Fire Department Services has personnel in 2 FIFA Working groups. The Information and Intelligence group and the Emergency Preparedness group. Meetings are being scheduled throughout the end of the year.

NJDEP foam take back program-Scope of Work provided for an approved contractor to collect the foam. NJDEP legal personnel are in the process of accommodating the requirements of the new legislation.

SAVER working group-ASIM (Active Shooter Incident Management) class as of this date at 121. Commissioner Saurez attended a class and subsequent NJ Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force meeting and is in full support of the project.

Meeting with NJ DOH-Office of Emergency Medical Services to discuss complaint proceedings and certification revocations. Several co-op investigations will be forthcoming

Currently 31 ongoing fire department complaint investigations-dual investigations or referrals with NJDOL/PEOSH/NJ DOH. 2 referrals to AG Office of Professional Integrity unit.

#### Community Risk Reduction

With the lineup complete, promotion of the 21st Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting has officially begun. We have instructors coming from New Jersey, Michigan, California, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Delaware, as well as NJ State Police's Bomb Unit. Registration is set to open online on October 1st through the Kean Fire Safety website. Cost will be \$110/person for both days – which includes all courses, and a sumptuous breakfast and lunch each day. 1.0 CEU's will be awarded upon completion.

There is a NFA Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist class scheduled for October 22nd and 23rd at Union County Fire Academy in Linden. Unfortunately, the class is at capacity.

Operation Save-a-Life continues to assist fire departments statewide in both the NYC and Philadelphia viewing areas.

Community Risk Reduction staff is working on the 2025 NJ Fire Safety Calendar and expects to get them printed by November to debut at the League of Municipalities Conference. Unfortunately, we lost a key sponsor, Atlantic City Electric, this year due to budgetary constraints, but we are actively looking to make up the difference with new sponsors.

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## NFIRS

Lithium-Ion Battery Fires : 78 ( includes 26 electric vehicle/bikes/scooters,

6 drones, 14 portable electronic devices, 16 power tools, 2 batteries, 14 other)

Only 543 fire departments out of 705 ( 77%) fire departments have reported NFIRS for 2024 to date. A Monthly Participation Report was sent September 6, 2024 to Fire Chiefs statewide indicating this information.

There are 980 active USFA eNFIRS user accounts (Free NFIRS Software). There has been an increase of 200 users since March of 2024

Up Coming NFIRS/Fire Incident Report Writing Training:  
Kean University Classes:

October 6, 2024 Passaic County Fire Academy

November 15, 2024 Mercer County Fire Academy

November 16, 2024 Toms River Fire Academy

FireStat will resume at 9:15am on Wednesday October 30, 2024

Agenda: Statewide Fire Stats including Forest Fires, NERIS and NFIRS Updates, ROIC/ODMA Updates and will continue to be held on the last Wednesday of each month on the HSN Network.

**Civilian Burn Reports: 349**

**Total Fatal Fire Reports: 41**

**Residential Fatal Fires: 30**

**School Fire Reports: 47**

**Electric Vehicle Fires: 3**

**Lithium-Ion Battery: 78**

Several issues from previous meetings were discussed during Advisory Council reports, unfinished business, new business and public comment period.

The implementation of NERIS, the USFA data collection tool for fire incidents will be happening soon. This program will replace the NFIRS that we have been using for decades to document fire incident data. The USFA has held several webinars and workshops and more training is forthcoming. Fire departments should make sure that they have personnel assigned to transition their data programs to NERIS so that there will be seamless integration of the new data tool.

A number of meeting attendees spoke regarding the memo that was sent out regarding firefighter fitness and training as well as the potential impact that new regulations may have on the fire service. The memo that was circulated earlier in the year should have been marked as DRAFT and was intended for the Training and Education Advisory Council and the subcommittee only. The issue arose as the result of a career firefighter that was discharged and sued to get his job back. The judge in the case side with the dismissed firefighter because there was no state standard to base the dismissal on.

With the recently adopted New Jersey Fire Code becoming effective October 15, Commissioner Jerry Naylis inquired why we are not moving forward to work on adopting the 2024 International Fire Code in New Jersey instead of the 2021 as is planned. Naylis stated that the Division of Codes and Standards has been working on the 2024 edition of the International Building Code and their plan is to have the 2024 edition of the IBC adopted in 2025. Naylis advocated for the adoption of the 2024 edition of the IFC concurrently with the 2024 edition of the IBC.

## NJNYVFA TAKES POSITIONS ON TWO TOPICS

Northvale, NJ – At the last association meeting in Northvale on September 27, 2024 the membership voted overwhelming to take specific positions on two very important topics.

Evan Humphrey, association trustee from Rockland County, NY addressed the membership on the issue of a proposed code change moving ahead in New York State to require automatic sprinkler protection in new one- and two-family homes as well as new residential townhouses being built in New York. Humphrey stated that in his capacity as the president of the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighter's Association he had already submitted a letter supporting the proposal.

A motion was made, duly seconded and passed unanimously to endorse and support the position of the RCVFA on the sprinkler code change. Additionally, President Pat Connor was asked to send a letter to the New York Code Council advising them of the support of the NJNYVFA for the code change and asking that the code be amended to require automatic sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes and residential townhouses.

The second topic that was addressed was a move by religious based organization that has formed a fire safety group in a Rockland County town. This group is promoting that residents call them instead of 9-1-1 for emergencies. The association has taken the position that calls for assistance should always be directed to 9-1-1.

## NJSFA REPORT

*Gerald Naylis, Bergen County Executive Committeeman*

The 2024 annual convention is in the books. The officers were re-elected and all resolutions that were presented for a vote passed. The NJSFA Executive Committee will be looking at the results as well as the comments made from the floor and giving them all due consideration going forward.

This is a reminder that the pink and blue convention attendance reports need to be completed and submitted to the NJSFA State Office by November 1. Do not delay in submitting these reports. Get them in now. A further reminder that if a delegate did not attend the county caucus in August their expense reimbursement should be assessed a \$100 penalty when issuing their expense reimbursement. Also remember that each delegate and life member seeking reimbursement needs to submit a voucher summarizing their expenses along with receipts for those expenses. The vouchers and receipts are to be retained by the local relief association for record keeping purposes.

The third quarter relief paid report is now due. Fortunately, there are but a few associations that still need to submit their reports. These are due by October 30. If your local association has not yet submitted the third quarter relief paid report, please do it now.

The last day to submit applications for special or supplemental relief is December 2 because the 1st is a Sunday. If special or supplemental relief is needed please do not wait until the last minute. Prepare the application, hold the meeting and if necessary submit the applications for consideration by the Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the NJSFA Executive Committee will be Saturday November 23, 2024 starting at 9:00 a.m. at the state association offices in Wall, NJ.



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### New Jersey State Firefighters Association

21 South Taylor Street  
Bergenfield, NJ 07621  
www.NJSFA.com

Gerald J. Naylis  
Executive Committeeman  
Bergen County

cell: (201) 240-0414  
bergenexecutive@njsfa.com

## THE NJNYVFA NEEDS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

The association will be transitioning to electronic distribution of the newsletter, informational announcements and events in the near future. In order for this transition to be successful we need to obtain and verify email addresses for every member. We have email addresses for a number of members, but not all members.

At the upcoming meetings in Upper Saddle River in October and in New Milford in November the list of email addresses that we currently have will be available for review by each individual. If we do not have your email address that would be a great opportunity to provide your email address to the association. If a fire company or fire department has the email addresses or their members, you can send this list to the association mailing address, which is NJNYVFA, 246 B Livingston Street, Northvale, NJ 07647-1910 or you can email the list to the association treasurer Peter Briscoe at [peter\\_briscoe@msn.com](mailto:peter_briscoe@msn.com)

Individuals may also send their email address to Peter Briscoe at the email address listed above. If you want to be informed of what is going on and what is happening we need your email address. If you do not provide your email address there is a strong likelihood that you will be left in the dark. Please do not delay. Get us your email address before the end of the year.

## WHO SHOULD BE CALLED IN AN EMERGENCY?

Village of New Hempstead, NY – Recent news reports have identified a new private organization known as Matzilei Aish of Rockland (aka RCMA) which represents itself as a fire safety group that has also established its own fire brigade. This group is advising residents to contact them directly instead of calling 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.

This organization is not affiliated with local emergency services. Their recommendation to bypass 9-1-1 in favor of contacting their private operation poses a significant and dangerous risk to residents and emergency services personnel. Delays in contacting 9-1-1 can result in response delays by fire, police and emergency medical first responders. This can and will put Rockland County residents in jeopardy.

The New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association is a membership organization of volunteer firefighters from Bergen County in New Jersey and Rockland County in New York. For over 100 years our firefighter members have served to protect residents and property and to promote fire safety. The organization strongly supports and endorses the viewpoint of the Village of New Hempstead local government and the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association (RCVFA) in endorsing the importance of calling 9-1-1 for all emergencies. By calling 9-1-1 people are assured that the appropriately trained and equipped first responders are dispatched to address the emergency at hand.



### New Jersey State Firefighters Association

1711 Route 34 South  
Wall Township, NJ 07727

[www.NJSFA.com](http://www.NJSFA.com) Office: (800) 852-0137

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1st Assistant Secretary

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President

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The Village of New Hempstead  
Village Hall

108 Old Schoolhouse Rd. • New City, NY 10956  
• (845) 354-8100 • FAX (845) 354-7121 •

September 9, 2024

Re: Village Notice\_ For Any Fire Emergencies, Contact 911

To New Hempstead Residents:

I am writing to inform you about an important matter concerning our community's safety. It has come to my attention that a private organization, known as Matzilei Aish of Rockland or RCMA, which presents itself as a fire safety group, has established its own fire brigade. This group has been advising residents to contact them instead of dialing 911 in case of an emergency. This fire brigade has raised many concerns

The organization is not affiliated with our local emergency services, and their presence in our village and neighboring areas is expanding. The recommendation to bypass 911 in favor of contacting this private group poses a significant risk, as it may lead to delays in emergency response and could potentially jeopardize the safety of our residents.

The village strongly emphasizes the importance of using 911 for all emergencies. The County of Rockland operates a nationally certified 911 center, which is equipped to handle emergency situations with the utmost efficiency and professionalism. When you call 911, you are ensuring that the appropriate first responders—whether they be fire fighters, paramedics, or police officers—are dispatched promptly to address the emergency at hand.

If you have any questions or concerns about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the village office. Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and for your cooperation in keeping our community safe.

Best regards,

Abe Sicker, Mayor  
Village of New Hempstead

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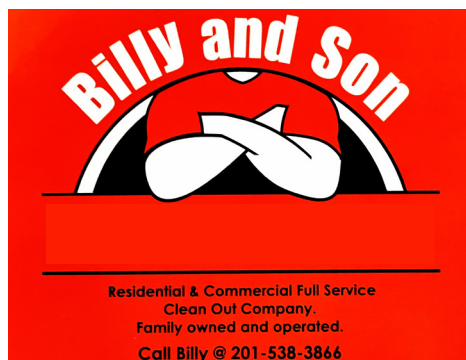
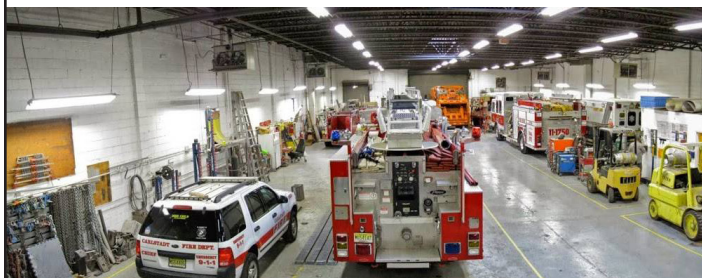
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