

# THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

“COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

Editor Emeritus: Stuart L. Gates, Stony Point, NY 10980

Editor: Sheryl Rose

Copy Editor:

John Kryger

### COYLE FAMILY IN NEW CITY FIRE DEPT

On Sunday, Jan. 21 at Dept. 9's swearing in ceremony, the company recognized John Coyle IV as he stepped down after 40 years as its Fire Police Captain. The Coyles have 136 years of service.

- John W. Coyle - joined in February 1888
- John Coyle II - joined May 7, 1924
- John Coyle Jr. - joined May 1, 1956
- John Coyle IV – joined August 1977

Thanks for the details, John Coyle IV & Gordon Wren Jr. for asking for the details.

### CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



What the hell is that thing?  
Guess I should have paid  
attention in Firefighter I.

44

### AL MAGNETTA 99 YEARS OLD



A very nice surprise on Sunday, Jan. 28 for Ex-Chief and 77-year member Al Magnatta. The officer's and members of Congers FD gave Al a surprise 99th birthday party. A very nice surprise for a gentleman, friend, leader, and mentor to the fire service, Al is also a RCVFA Life Member and WW II veteran.

### CONGRATULATIONS NEW CITIZEN & FF



Congratulations to Firefighter Sergio Fica who took his oath Wed., Jan.17 and became a naturalized United States Citizen! Sergio immigrated to the U.S. from Chile nine years ago, and has since strived to achieve his goal of becoming an American Citizen. Sergio has been a member of the Suffern Vol. Hose Co. 1 for seven years, and has served as both Fire Police and a firefighter.

**JANUARY WORKING FIRES**



Photo/C. Jackson

**Jan. 22**, 0432 hours Dept. 13 (Piermont) 10-FAST (Nyack) and 16-Ladder (Sparkill) were dispatched to a structure fire at 562 Piermont Ave. which was the old Piermont VFW Building. 0434 13-6 reports working structure fire, 3 story brick under renovation, 44-3 and 8 responded. 0447 hours 21-Engine (Tappan) and 2-FAST (Central Nyack) to the scene. 11-Engine (Orangeburg) relocated to 13-100. 0503 hours 2 lines in operation, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors knocked down. 0559 under control.



Photo/T. McKiernan

**Jan. 26**, 1330 hours: Dept. 8 (Nanuet) 9-FAST (New City) and 12-Engine (Pearl River) were dispatched to a structure fire at 179 West Route 59 Bldg. 1 Shop-o-rama Nanuet. 1334 8-2 reports smoke showing rear of bldg. , 44-1, 6, 12 and 13 responded. 1340 hours one line and ladder to the rear, 1343 44-6 reports no extension to the cockloft, duct fire in the Fortune Garden restaurant. 1347 water on the fire, 1348 main body of fire knocked down, opening up, 1410 under control.



Photo/C.Kear

**Jan. 30**, 0518 hours Dept. 26 (Thiells) and 23-FAST (West Haverstraw) were dispatched to a garage fire at 26 Madison Ave., Thiells. Haverstraw PD reported heavy smoke in the area of Roman Acres Drive and Madison Ave., 18-Engine (Stony Point) to the scene on that report. 44-1 and 11 responded. 0536 fire extended to semi-attached PD, 23-FAST to work, 6-FAST to the scene. 0544 9-Engine (New City) and 4-Engine (Haverstraw to the scene) three lines stretched, fire in walls (balloon construction) of the dwelling, opening up. 0640 3-Engine (Congers) to the scene for relief, 8-Engine relocated ton 26-100. 0645 17-Mask Service Unit (Spring Valley) to the scene. 0718 under control. There was a MayDay at the scene for a firefighter with a medical condition and it was promptly resolved. The dwelling was built in 1781.

**TURN BACK THE CLOCK**



Central Nyack Fire Department

**BASIC FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS  
W/HMFRO (01-05-0101) - 241**



Congratulations to our graduates!

Acosta-Cepeda, Ariela	44023
Alejandro, Justin R.	44006
Casino, James A.	44002
Cespe, Matthew J.	44001
Eager, Thomas P.	44024
Fennell, Colin T.	44022
Freedman, Nachum	44022
Gutierrez-Jacinto, Eswin A.	44017
Haggarty, Patrick J.	44001
Iannone, Peter G.	44004
Kroll, Menachem M.	44017
Loja, Edison	44004
Lukacs, Garrett	44018
McKiernan, Aidan P.	44001
Ryder, Kyle	44010
Shtesl, Menachem	44007
Spano, Christopher M. Jr.	44018
Tambor, Chaim Sr.	44006
Zweigbaum, Ethan R.	44009
Hoffman, Alter	44007
Marguleis, Shloimy	44007
Beital, David M.	44025
Bolger, Oisin P	44001
Chacha, Edgar J. Jr.	44026
Chernyhovsky, Lior	44009
Fried, Yonatan	44006
Friedman, Matt	44019
Gates, Dillon Michael	44009
Godinez, Alfredo	44023
Gomez, Jorny	44004
Keahon, James M.	44009

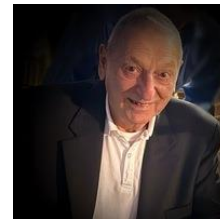
Lederer, Derek	R44001
Lennon, Daniel P.	44003
McCarvill, Stephen M.	44012
McLaughlin, Nicholas A.	44001
Reichman, Avi	44006
Roberts, Shannon M.	44009
Rodriquez, Giuseppe	44026
Rojas, Nathaniel L.	44026
Tejeda, Vito A.	44008
Thompson, George	44006
Wiseltier, Cole Ryan	44008

**WE MOURN THEIR PASSING**



Stephen F Caglione, died January 12, 202, age 73. He was a member of Central Nyack FD.

Robert E. Smith, died Jan 19, 2024, age 92. He was a member of Wayne Hose Co. 1, Ex-Chief (1980-81) and Life Member. Smitty was our longest serving member, 63 years. He was also a Past President, 1991, and Life Member of the RCVFA.



Nicholas "Nick" Vito Morgese, died Jan 26, 2024, age 88. He was a member of General Warren Emergency Co. 2 and the Haverstraw Fire Department

Thomas Joseph (TJ) Castaldo, died Jan 17, 2024 age 40. He was the son of Leeza Ann Castaldo Gesner, and she is a member of West Haverstraw FD, Chairperson of FAB, past Museum Chairperson, President of the RC Safety Officers, and RCVFA Haverstraw Town Vice President.



Robert Hastings died Jan 30, 2024, age 60. He was a member of Nyack Fire Department and Chelsea Hook & Ladder Co. 2.



**Reps For Responders**  
**Non-Profit 501c3**  
 Giving First Responders A Space To Feel, Heal & Thrive

Frank, Founder & President  
 repsforresponders@gmail.com  
 www.repsforresponders.org

@reps\_for\_responders

**HITECH**  
**Fire & Safety, Inc.**

Adam L. Gordon  
 Eastern NY Sales  
 158 Allen Blvd. - Suite A  
 Farmingdale, NY 11735  
 OFC 631-777-5170  
 CELL 845-494-0265  
 FAX 631-777-5171  
 a.gordon@hitechfireny.com  
 www.hitechfireny.com

Master Distributor for  
**MORNING PRIDE/HONEYWELL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING SYSTEMS**

**Hudson Valley**  
**FIRE EQUIPMENT - LLC**



**JOHN COCKERILL**  
 (O) 845.363.1810  
 (F) 845.363.1813  
 (C) 914.403.4781  
 jcockerill@hudsonvalleyfire.com  
 www.HUDSONVALLEYFIRE.COM

69 FIELDS LANE  
 BREWSTER, NY 10509

Modern training for today's Firefighters

**Suburban Tactical Inc**

JKNAPP23@AOL.COM  
 845-558-0489

9 Mackey Road  
 Garnerville, NY 10923  
 Jerry Knapp CEO

**ET Family Travel**  
 Personalized Concierge Service

**Brittany Ben-Jacob**

Travel Consultant specializing in all things Disney and beyond

Brittany.etfamilytravel@gmail.com cell: 845.323.5550  
 www.etfamilytravel.com

**Tactical Training Programs**

Strategies and Tactics for Modern House Fires  
 Tactical Response to Natural Gas Emergencies  
 Helicopter Emergencies for Suburban Departments  
 Handline Foam Operations  
 Fast Food Restaurant Fires  
 Command and Response to Railroad Emergencies  
 Chemical Suicide Response

**KORNFELD, REW, NEWMAN & SIMEONE**

*Attorneys & Counsellors at Law  
 Providing Legal services to fire districts and  
 Fire departments  
 Also concentrating in Personal Injury, Real Estate, Estates,  
 Matrimonial and Family Law.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*William S. Badura      Frank T. Simeone  
 Of Counsel  
 Scott A. Dow          Thomas J. Newman  
 Of Counsel  
 Jerome S. Jefferson*

*Robert E. Rew, Jr. (1912 – 1960)  
 Thomas J. Newman (1928 – 2012)  
 Jerome M. Kornfeld (1923 – 2012)*

*139 Lafayette Avenue  
 P.O. Box 177  
 Suffern, New York 10901  
 Phone: (845) 357-2660  
 Fax: (845) 357-6977  
 E-Mail: [KRNE@KRNE.com](mailto:KRNE@KRNE.com)*

Service Deserves Its Rewards



**Mark Dari**  
 Howard Hanna Rand Realty  
 Mark.Dari@randrealty.com  
 914-772-1471  
 845HERO.com











Richard Pforte died Feb 2, 2024, age 89. He was a member of the Volunteer Fire Association of Tappan, Ex Chief and Life Member. Chief Pforte was a RCVFA Life Member joining in 1964.

### **SENDING SPECIAL GET WELL WISHES TO:**

James Leiner was in the Sarasota Florida Hospital for a heart valve and pacemaker for 12 days. He is now home in Florida recovering. He is a RCVFA Life Member joining in 1972. He is also a member of the Nyack Fire Patrol.

### **FEW FIRE FACTS FROM FRIENDS**

Mike Wicks, RCVFA past president, was honored for 50 years with the Wayne Hose Co, Stony Point at its Annual Dinner on Sat., Jan. 27, 2024.

### **Westchester County Volunteer Firefighter's Association**

**Presents a seminar you will not want to miss!**  
**Mental Health, First Aid & Legal Issues in the Fire Service**

Saturday, February 17, 2024  
Westchester County Fire Training Center  
4 Dana Road, Valhalla, NY 10595  
You must pre-register

### **Mental Health First Aid – Caitlin Leon**

Firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty ~ 15-24% of Firefighters suffer from PTSD ~ 37% of Fire and EMS professionals have contemplated suicide & 30% of first responders suffer from mental health issues.

These are alarming statistics. PTSD doesn't just happen only with 9/11-like incidents; first responders can experience stress even on routine calls, and cumulative stress can lead to PTSD. Learn the warning signs and how to have the difficult conversations with your fellow firefighter and EMS brothers and sisters.

Caitlin Leon is a Licensed Social Worker at Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS). As the Director of Training & Digital Equity, she is committed to serving the needs of individuals, families, schools, and professionals in communities throughout Westchester County. She is a Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor for Youth, Adult, and Teen Mental Health First Aid.

### **Legal Issues in the Fire Service – Timothy C. Hannigan, Esq.**

Social media, member issues, disciplinary matters, timely governance documents, HIPAA... Got questions? We've got answers. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about common issues and ask about legal issues that could have an impact on you personally or your department. Tim serves as General Counsel to the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

Please pre-register. A \$10.00 fee must accompany this registration, or pay \$10.70 by PayPal at wcvfaweb.org go to donations, choose general, and email registration to amorjo1111@gmail.com

Please PRINT legibly:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Co. Department or Fire Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Paying by check: Mail to: Westchester County VFA Seminar, P.O. Box 65, Verplanck, NY 10596-0065

### **LEGISLATIVE ZOOM OUTREACH WITH FASNY**

FASNY's annual legislative outreach meeting in conjunction with the Hudson Valley VFA and Westchester VFA associations will include the local State Assembly Members and Senators who represent the lower Hudson Valley; Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan & Putnam Counties. The meeting will be held as a *ZOOM Conference on Saturday, March 9th at 9:00 am*. You don't need to travel, so relax at home with your breakfast and tune-in to the meeting.

In addition, if you would like to be present at the meeting, a hybrid version will be held at the Ossining Fire Department headquarters, 21 State Street. A large screen is available so the zoom can be projected to an audience who might enjoy the format. A few legislators may attend the hybrid and you can interface with them,

The agenda will include the FASNY Legislative Scorecard of priority legislation and other bills of interest.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84576168424?pwd=rIDiLsOFh8dbQngJwGzaFK7HT3I7tD.1>

Meeting ID: 845 7616 8424

Passcode: 226098

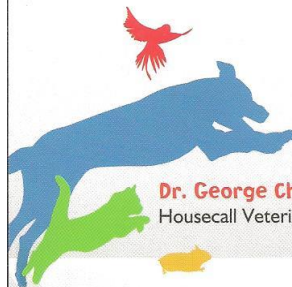
Another legislative conference for the central and northern counties of the Hudson Valley will be scheduled in late April or early May.



## George M. Mulligan, CPA

4 Liberty Square  
P.O. Box 676  
Stormy Point, NY 10980-0676

Tel: (845) 942-1186



**All outpatient care**  
in the comfort of your home!  
845-496-9058

917-846-9150  
Rockland County, NY  
Hospital services available

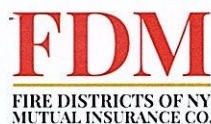
**Dr. George Chondris, Asst Chief BVFC**  
Housecall Veterinarian

cahwash15@yahoo.com  
www.cahwash.com

## ROY DENNY, MBA, CIC, CRM

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

845 352 8855 x7099 | 845 608 4989(mobile)  
845 352 2022(fax) | rdenny@fdmny.com



One Blue Hill Plaza, 16th Floor  
P.O. Box 1609, Pearl River, NY 10965

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

AldanPres@aol.com

Dan Mazzaro

# ALDAN PRESS

57 Bardonia Road  
Bardonia, NY 10954

(845) 627-0328  
Fax: (845) 627-0329

## Stephen A. Coyle, CPCU

**Coyle Insurance Agency**  
1 Lake Road  
Congers, New York 10920  
E-mail: stcoyle@coyleagency.com

Office: (845) 268-7000  
Fax: (845) 268-0709  
[www.vfis.com](http://www.vfis.com)



**HOLLYWOOD**  
**SCREEN PRINTING & EMBROIDERY**  
-www.hollywoodprinting.com-  
**WE DO ALL WORK ON PREMISES**  
**NEIL MARCUS - OWNER**  
845-364-5431 Fax: 845-364-5435  
email: [HollywdScrnPrnt@aol.com](mailto:HollywdScrnPrnt@aol.com)  
324 Route 202 Pomona, NY 10970



## Greenlight Handyman Services LLC

Ralph Francella Jr. - Owner/Operator

**Call/Text - 845-288-5727**

- Dryer Vent Cleanings
- Window/Door Screen Repair
- Deck, Step and Fence Repairs
- Assembly - Furniture, Exercise Equipment, BBQs
- Wall Mount TVs, Smoke/CO2 Detectors, and much more!

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

RC - H21173  
NJ - 13VH12024500  
Insured



## Block Uniforms

*Uniforms, Badges, Footwear and Equipment*

**Brian Block**  
President

PO Box 622  
Tallman, NY 10982

CALL FOR OFFICE HOURS IN SUFFERN

Phone/845-521-0922  
email/blockuniforms@gmail.com  
website/blockuniforms.com



*Serving multiple industries since 2003*



1-833-JM DREAM

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

MICHELE CARRON  
Travel Counselor

[Michèle@jmdreamvacations.com](mailto:Michèle@jmdreamvacations.com)

JAIME ARMIDA  
Travel Counselor

[jaime@jmdreamvacations.com](mailto:jaime@jmdreamvacations.com)

JM Dream Vacations, Ltd. @jmdreamvacations  
Family of 1<sup>st</sup> Responders  
Specializing in Cruises, Group & Family Travel  
Personalized Service and Customizable Trips

## HANNEMANN FUNERAL HOME INC.

88 SOUTH BROADWAY, NYACK, NEW YORK 10960  
TEL. (845) 358-0573 | FAX (845) 358-0210  
[WWW.HANNEMANNFUNERALHOME.COM](http://WWW.HANNEMANNFUNERALHOME.COM)  
nyack@hannemannfuneralhome.com

SHAUN M. CASSIDY KEITH R. TAYLOR  
BRIAN J. KNECHT 1969-2020

**CALENDAR****LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 2/28/2024**

- Fri, Feb 9 ● RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at Thiells FD, Route 202, with Pres. Kurt Mulligan
- Sat, Feb 10 ● Blauvelt Fire Dept, Drive-Thru Soup Supper, 1-3 PM, P/U @ 548 Western Hwy, \$6 pints/\$12 quarts, contact Bailey Domenick, 845-6098-0453, [blauveltladiesaux@gmail.com](mailto:blauveltladiesaux@gmail.com), Venmo @LABVFC, Zelle [blauveltladiesaux@gmail.com](mailto:blauveltladiesaux@gmail.com), Soups: Broccoli & Cheese, Turkey Chili, Split Pea & Ham, Pasta Fagioli, Manhattan Clam Chowder, Chicken Tortellini, Mac & Cheese
- Wed, Feb 14 ● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Thiells FD, Route 202 with Pres. Stewart Rhymer  
● RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Valley Cottage, with Pres. Matt DeGennaro
- Thur, Feb 15 ● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Nanuet, with Pres. Kevin Huslinger
- Fri, Feb 16 ● SW Johnson, Annual Fish Fry, 5-8 PM, 37 Bridge St, Garnerville, 1<sup>st</sup> week
- Wed, Feb 17 ● RC Volunteer Fire Safety Officers is hosting an Incident Safety Officer certification at the Rockland County Fire Training Center. For more information please contact [Jeff Bailes](mailto:Jeff.Bailes@631495-1313.com) at (631) 495-1313. Customers of Fire Districts Mutual Insurance of NY will be reimbursed 50% of the registration fee for up to 3 Safety Officers per Fire District or Fire Department.
- Mon, Feb 19 ● RC Fire Instructors Seminar, 7-10 PM, at FTC, \$25 Register [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)
- Wed, Feb 21 ● RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Blauvelt FD, with Pres. Carol Cich
- Thur, Feb 22 ● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco.
- Fri, Feb 23 ● NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at Old Tappan FD, 231 Old Tappan Rd, Old Tappan NJ, with Pres Anthony Chiodo
- Tue, Feb 27 ● NYS AFC Seminar, "Searching – The Offensive and Defensive", with Lieutenant Michael Scotto, Fire Department City of New York (FDNY), @ FTC, 7-10 PM, \$35-member, \$50 non-member, <https://nysafc.proof-cloud.com/fmi/webd/online>
- Wed, Feb 28 ● RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, @ 6-100 Hillcrest FD, with Chairman Chuck Larkin  
● Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- Fri, Mar 8 ● RCVFA Next Meeting, 7:30 PM, at PR H&L, with Pres Kurt Mulligan

**Future Events**

- Sat, Mar 9 ● RC Fire Chiefs, Old Timers Dinner. 6 PM, Elks Lodge, 62 Elks Dr, Haverstraw
- Wed, Mar 13 ● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Sparkill FD, with Pres. Stewart Rhymer  
● RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Stony Point, with Pres. Matt DeGennaro
- Thur, Mar 14 ● Museum Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairperson Linda Wanamaker
- Wed, Mar 20 ● RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at Pearl River Hool & Ladder, with Pres. Lisa Castaldo, Nominations  
● RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Orangetown FD, with Pres Carol Cich
- Thur, Mar 21 ● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Stony Point, with Pres. Kevin Huslinger
- Sat, Mar 23 ● SW Johnson, Pocketbook Bingo, Doors will open at 6 PM! Calling will start 7 PM! \$45, Contact Kristen Brehmer 845-893-3773 Venmo Kristen-Brehmer-3 to reserve your seats! There will be no seats being sold at the front door! Pre sales only!!  
● Association of Fire Districts, Installation Dinner at Town & Country 6 PM  
● SW Johnson, Pocketbook Bingo, doors open @6 PM, Start @7 PM, \$45, Contact Kristen Brehmer 845-893-3773, Venmo Kristen-Brehmer-3, **Pre sales only!!**  
● Hillburn Ladies Auxiliary Hero Night--Hillburn Community Room, 37 5th Street 5-6:30pm, \$15.00 includes: hero, drink, chips & dessert. Raffle tickets available. For pre-orders or more info, call: 845-304-3697
- Sun, Mar 24 ● David B Roche Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. from 8 am till 12 noon. Reservations will be taken. Save the Date and Watch for our complete flyer with all the information coming soon.
- Wed, Mar 27 ● RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, @ 6-100 Hillcrest FD, with Chairman Chuck Larkin
- Thur, Mar 28 ● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco  
● OCVFA, Regular Meeting Dates Bi-Monthly, Refreshments/Dinner 7 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM, at Warrick FD Eng Co#3

**To view this newsletter on line, please go to the following web site:**<http://www.rcvfa.com/trumpet.html>

Thanks to Sheryl Rose, Stuart Gates, and John Kryger

Please email Sheryl Rose with any Fire Department news, dates of events, fundraisers, etc. [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)

**Garnerville, NY 10923**  
**PO Box 16**  
**RCVFA TRUMPET**



**FROM THE  
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**



**FAST DUTIES**

It's a cold January night when the fire alarm dispatch center tones out three departments for a confirmed working fire in a private dwelling. As you are roused from sleep, you hear the dispatcher indicate that your department has been designated as the **fast unit** (firefighter assist and search team). Armed with this information, you can begin a size-up knowing the duties, equipment and responsibilities when designated as the **fast unit**. **Fast** (firefighter assist and search team) or **rit** (rapid intervention team) as they are referred to are assigned to structural fires, large scale emergencies, or anytime the incident commander feels a need for a dedicated unit at a scene. The paramount responsibility of the fast unit is to be immediately available to provide assistance to any firefighter who becomes trapped, lost or is presented with a life-threatening emergency. In order to fulfill the role of the fast unit, members need to be properly trained, equipped and ready to act in the event of a mayday transmission, for these reasons, the fast unit officer should upon arrival announce their presence on scene over the radio and report directly to the incident commander. Other members of the fast unit should assemble nearby with their designated tools and equipment. Generally, the fast unit should be located in the front of the fire building within sight and verbal distance of the command post. It is critical that the incident commander understands the role of the fast unit and that they ***should not*** be used for firefighting duties. Rather, the fast unit should conduct a size-up to determine the layout of the building, noting exit/entry points, location of the fire, and units operating in the building and their location. The team should continually monitor their radios for any mayday transmissions as well as reports from the inside teams. The fast unit should remain intact and readily available. They should not engage in any tasks which would interfere or cause delay in their ability to rapidly deploy should the need present itself. It is essential that the incident commander recognizes and fully understands the role and critical asset of having a fast unit on scene at the beginning of an operation. The incident commander ***should not*** utilize the fast unit for there is no alternative, an immediate call for an additional fast unit fighting fire operations ***except*** in extreme circumstances. In the event shall be made. While awaiting their arrival, the incident commander should designate at least 2 firefighters to be available for a mayday or emergency calls for assistance. Not until the incident commander determines the fire or emergency to be ***under control***, should he consider using the fast team for other duties. Many firefighters owe their lives to the quick actions of fast units that have been called upon by a brother or sister's urgent plea for help. This can only be achieved if the team understands its role and can implement a plan when called upon. This requires good communication, cohesiveness, and fortitude. Try to remember this the next time you go out the door as the fast unit. Until next month, stay safe and take care of each other.

**Tom McKiernan "44-6"**