



113 Years of Service to Volunteer Firemen

The Signal

www.njnyvfa.org



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President message...

Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone.

I hope everyone survived the snow and cold weather. We haven't had snow like this for awhile and we were spoiled. Soon we will be looking for some cool weather with Spring coming.

We haven't filled all the meeting dates for this Year, sorry to say. We have no location for March or October, for 2026. The next general meeting will be April 24, at Hillcrest Fire Department 374 North Main Street Spring Valley New York.

Our annual Memorial Service is Sunday, May 17, 2026, at the Bergen County Fire Academy 281 Campgaw Road Mahwah N.J. at 1pm. Refreshments served after the service is over. For those of you that never attended this, we honor our Sister's and Brother's from Bergen and Rockland Counties, who left us and joined Heavens Fire Department.

This Year one person we will honor is the Associations Secretary Rosemary Wyer. Rosemary was a Firefighter from Haworth N.J. since 1979.

We couldn't get any Town to host the Convention June 5th so the Association was able to get the use of St. Joseph Gym 300 Elm Street in Oradell N.J. this Year. The dates open for 2027 meetings and Convention are the following:

January 29 in Piermont N.Y... February 26 is open. March 26 is open, April 30 is open. May 16 is the 2027 Memorial Service at the Bergen County Fire Academy. June 4 is open for the Convention. September 24 is open. October 29 is open. November 19 is at New Milford Firehouse 680 Trenton Street New Milford N.J... It is the week before Thanksgiving. There are no Meetings in December, May, (the Memorial) June (the Convention) July and August.

Please help us with having a meeting at your Firehouse. If your Department or Company is a member of the Association and you host a meeting, the next Years dues are free for the Department or Company. Personal dues are still billed. If you host the Convention, you get an allowance of \$2,500.00 for refreshments.

This is the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association of Bergen and Rockland Counties, and we would like to see more members from Rockland County attend meetings and host meetings. The Officers are here to answer questions if you have any.

We are working on getting the web site up and running so everything will be posted there.

Stay safe

Tony Chiodo, President

Upcoming Meetings and Events

2026

March 27	OPEN
April 25	Hillcrest, NY., Either 374 North Maun St, Spring Valley, NY or 16 Thiells Mt. Ivy Road, Pomona, NY Will be clarified in a later issue.
May 17	Annual Memorial Service – Details to follow
June 5	WE ARE IN NEED OF A LOCATION FOR THE 2026 CONVENTION. PLEASE CONTACT AN OFFICER IF YOU CAN HOST A CONVENTION. SOME FINANCIAL HELP WILL BE AVAILABLE
September 25	Norwood Fire dept. 602 Broadway, Norwood, NJ - Refreshments served at 7:00 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.
October 30	OPEN
November 20	New Milford Fire Co. 2, 680 Trenton St., New Milford, NJ 07646 - Refreshments served at 7:00 pm. Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.



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



FIRST FEMALE FIREFIGHTER IN BERGEN COUNTY 1979 AND NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION SECRETARY ROSEMARY WEYER

Rosemary (née Guarino) Weyer was born on December 6, 1938, to parents Joseph and Rose Guarino in Tenafly, New Jersey. She passed away on Friday, February 6, 2026, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. She was predeceased by her parents; her aunt, Laura; sisters, Gloria, Jean, and Gilda; her brother, Edward; her niece, Susan; and her nephews, Anthony and Charlie. She is survived by her brother, Joseph; her daughters, Lauralyn Amoral (Geoffrey) and Ellen Taylor (Ross); her son, William "Billy" Weyer; and her grandchildren, Nicole Amoral (Christopher Minck), Jack Taylor, Emily Taylor, Cody Weyer, and Samantha Weyer; and many nieces and nephews.

Rosemary graduated from the Englewood School of Nursing and later attended Union College to receive her Paramedic Certification. She worked in an OBGYN office for thirty years before becoming a paramedic for six years. After her career in nursing and emergency services, Rosemary began nannying for the Czuj family, whom she lovingly considered her second family.

She was always in service to those around her, joining the Haworth Fire and Ambulance Department in 1979. Her family is proud to say she was the first female firefighter in Bergen County, becoming a true trailblazer in her community. She served in many roles, including President of the Englewood Hospital School of Nursing, Captain of the Ambulance Corps, and life member and Secretary of the NY/NJ Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Haworth Fire Department. You could always find her volunteering at any Haworth event.

Rosemary later became known to most as "Granny," one of her favorite roles. She loved playing games with friends and family, including Rummikub, Yahtzee, and many card games. She was a woman of many talents—an extremely gifted knitter and a phenomenal bowler who participated in many leagues and often beat her family during outings. She loved all things Elvis, doing crossword puzzles, and reading. She never missed an opportunity to be there for her loved ones, attending every graduation, play, concert, football, soccer, softball, and basketball game with pride, joy, and her cowbell in hand.

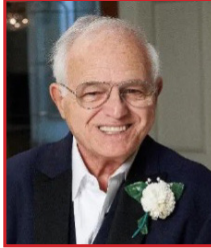
To know "Granny" was to love her. She will be missed by all who know her. Her legacy will live on through the first aid classes she taught, the lives she saved, and the memories she made.

In lieu of flowers, Rosemary requested that donations be made to the Haworth Fire Department and the Haworth Ambulance Corps.



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

CHARLES LESCHORN OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS 1943-2026



Charles John Leschhorn, 82, of Hasbrouck Heights, passed away on February 11, 2026.

Born and raised in Carlstadt, Charles worked as a Maintenance Supervisor for the Bergenfield Free Public Library for 27 years before retiring in 2013. Earlier in his career, he was employed by Two Guys and Vorando.

Charles proudly served with the Carlstadt Fire Department, Engine 1, from 1966 to 1974 and was Captain from 1971 to 1972. He was also a member of the EMS and an Exempt Fireman.

Beloved husband of 58 years to Edith Ann (nee Copp) Leschhorn. Loving father of Michelle Vining and her husband Joshua. Dear brother of Mary Kronyak and her husband Dennis Kronyak, Sr. Caring uncle of Dennis, Michael, and their families.

GEORGE E. VOLLMER



Northvale Police Chief George E. Vollmer (Ret.), 90, a lifelong resident of Northvale, NJ, passed away at home surrounded by the love of his family on Monday, February 16, 2026.

His commitment to service extended far beyond the police department. George was a life member of the Northvale Volunteer Fire Association and served as Fire Chief from 1979 to 1980. He was also a member of the Northvale Exempt Firemen's Association and a life member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association. He was also a life member of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.

PALISADES PARK FIREFIGHTER LOUIS CANNIZZARO 1943-2026



Louis H. Cannizzaro passed away in 2025 in Galloway, New Jersey. He was the beloved husband of Irene Casas Cannizzaro, with whom he shared 58 years of marriage.

Louis proudly served his community as a Volunteer Fireman in Palisades Park, New Jersey for 39 years, attaining the rank of Fire Chief. In 1988, while serving as Department Chief, he was honored as Fireman of the Year.

An accomplished runner, Louis completed the New York City Marathon in 1980 and 1982, achieving a personal best time of 3 hours and 47 minutes.

ROBERT MacDONALD



December 28, 2025: It is with heavy hearts the WRFD announces the passing of Exempt Firefighter Robert MacDonald, 74, on December 28, 2025. Bob was a Wood-Ridge fireman from June 1972 to August 1983 and was assigned badge number 3. After leaving Wood-Ridge, he continued to volunteer with the Hasbrouck Heights, Haworth and Dumont Fire Departments. Bob was residing in Florida with his family. Bob was also a life member of the New Jersey and New York Volunteer Firemen's Association. Rest In Peace Brother.

STEPHEN PAUL BUSH, JR.



Stephen Paul Bush, Jr., (77) of Greeley, PA, passed away February 20, 2026. He served at the Cedar Grove Post Office for 38 years. He is a member of the Moonachie Fire Department.

Stephen was predeceased by his beloved wife, Linda. He is survived by three devoted children, Amy, Stephen, and Louis; as well as two cherished grandchildren.



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

THEODORE CONANT FORMERLY OF RUTHERFORD N.J. 1937-2025



Theodore W. "Ted" Conant passed away peacefully in his home on December 5, 2025, after living a full life. He was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1937, grew up in Rutherford, NJ, raised his family in both Sparta, NJ and Richmond, VT, and retired in Hague (Silver Bay), NY after personally building his dream home there. His final years were spent in Raleigh, NC, closer to family, who he deeply loved.

Ted served his community as a volunteer EMT for over 32 years. During this time, he was known for his expertise with moulage (simulated injuries) for immersive medical training. His final act of service was to donate his body to the anatomical department at a local medical school for training the next generation of doctors.

A Memorial Service will be held at a time and place TBD. In lieu of flowers, please support your local EMS (fire/rescue/first responders) with your time or donations.

LODI FIREFIGHTER DIES SAVING HIS DAUGHTER: 'HERO IN UNIFORM AND AT HOME'



A longtime Lodi volunteer firefighter and North Bergen father has died five months after he was struck by a car, leaving him with a traumatic brain injury. Pedro Manuel Jimenez, 44, of North Bergen, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Jan. 30, according to his obituary posted by Voorhees Funeral Home.

He is survived by his wife, Megan Dwyer-Jimenez; daughters Orla and Neila; parents Pedro Jimenez and Gladys Jimenez; siblings, Diosdada Cordero, Vickyana Jimenez, Jason Jimenez, Randy Jimenez, and Scarlet Jimenez; and his in-laws, Dennis and Laura Dwyer, Bryan and Christie Dwyer, Eamon Dwyer, and Joelle Ramirez; and numerous friends, colleagues, nieces, nephews, and loved ones,

Jimenez was a mechanic at North Jersey Truck Center and a 25-year-member of the Lodi Fire Department.

STEP BY STEP ON HOW TO SURVIVE A FLOOD

Floods don't feel dangerous at first.

They feel slow.

Manageable.

Temporary.

That's why they kill.

Water doesn't need speed to win — it needs **depth, pressure, and time**.

Here's how to survive a flood and **stay functional while others panic**.

What It Does

- Keeps you from being swept or trapped
- Prevents cold shock and exhaustion
- Protects mobility and decision-making
- Buys time until water recedes
- Turns chaos into controlled movement

Flood survival is about **position and patience**.

The Core Rule

Never fight moving water.

Never trust still water.

You survive floods by:

- staying upright
- staying dry when possible
- staying ahead of the rise

Flood Survival Basics (Field Method)

1. Elevation beats speed

Don't outrun water.

Outclimb it.

Move to:

- upper floors
- rooftops
- high ground

Basements become traps fast.

2. Water hides danger

You can't see:

- open drains
- debris
- missing ground

Six inches can knock you down.

One foot can move a car.

If you can't see your footing — stop.

3. Stay dry, stay warm

Floodwater pulls heat fast.

Wet clothing = rapid fatigue.

Use:

- loose outer layers
- water-shedding covers
- wind blocks

Cold kills focus before it kills the body.

4. Move only when it helps

Constant movement wastes energy.

Once positioned safely:

- conserve heat
- conserve calories
- observe water behavior

Floods rise fast — and fall slower.

5. Signal, don't shout

Sound gets swallowed by rain and wind.

Visibility wins:

- light
- contrast
- motion

Make yourself easy to find without exhausting yourself.

Tips

- Never enter moving water for gear
- Avoid bridges — pressure builds there
- Watch debris flow to read current direction
- Floodwater is contaminated — avoid contact

Bottom Line

Flood survival isn't strength.

It's discipline.

Climb early.

Move deliberately.

Wait intelligently.

Water always wins against force.

You win with position.



FIRE REPORT SPARKS MASSIVE RECALL OF POPULAR LIGHT FIXTURES

More than 186,000 light fixtures are being recalled because of a design flaw that has been responsible for at least one reported fire.

PQL recalled about 186,520 High Bay Linear LED light fixtures, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said on Thursday, Feb. 26. The retaining pins that hold the LED board in place can degrade over time, allowing the board to come loose inside the fixture and potentially ignite.

According to the CPSC, there has been at least one report of a fixture catching fire. No injuries have been reported.

The recall covers several models of rectangular, white; metal light fixtures sold in 2-foot and 4-foot-wide versions. Model numbers are printed on the back of each unit.

The fixtures were available nationwide at LED Indy, Universal Lighting of America Inc., Independent Lighting, and online from January 2016 through June 2025. Prices ranged from \$50 to \$350.

Customers should stop using the recalled fixtures immediately and contact PQL for free replacement retaining pins.

You can learn more about the recall on PQL's website or by calling 805-416-5251.



FIRE REPORT SPARKS MASSIVE RECALL OF POPULAR LIGHT FIXTURES

Firefighting has a rich history in the United States, dating back to colonial times. Since then, fire departments have become crucial to modern society, providing critical emergency services to communities nationwide. From humble beginnings as volunteer bucket brigades to today's modern, technologically advanced departments, these fire departments have played a vital role in protecting their communities and preserving the nation's heritage. Join us on this journey through time as we delve into the fascinating stories behind some of America's most historic fire departments.

8. The Bedford Fire Department

Year Started: 1888

Chief (as of April 2023): Andrew Klein

Main Address: 315 Bedford Avenue Bedford, VA 24523

Stations: 14 The Bedford Fire Department has a long and proud history of serving the community of Bedford, Virginia. Established in 1888, the department has provided critical fire and emergency services for over 130 years. The Bedford Fire Department played a significant role in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks in 2001.

7. Lancaster City Bureau of Fire

Year Started: 1882

Chief (as of April 2023): Todd Hutchinson

Main Address: 333 E King St, Lancaster, PA 17602-2902

Stations: 6 The Lancaster City Bureau of Fire has served the Lancaster community since 1882. Under the leadership of Chief Todd Hutchinson, the department operates from 6 stations. In 1957, the Lancaster City Bureau of Fire became the first fire department in Pennsylvania to use a snorkel truck, a specialized firefighting vehicle equipped with an aerial platform extending up to 100 feet.

6. Philadelphia Fire Department

Year Started: 1871

Chief (as of April 2023): Adam Thiel

Main Address: 240 Spring Garden St., Philadelphia, PA 19123

Stations: 63 The Philadelphia Fire Department is one of the oldest and most storied fire departments in the United States, dating back to its founding in 1871. Before the establishment of the department, firefighting in Philadelphia was handled by volunteer companies, many of which were affiliated with political or social organizations. The department's first fireboat, the Edwin S. Stuart, was commissioned in 1890 and served until 1954. The Stuart was a steam-powered vessel that could pump up to 4,000 gallons of water per minute, making it a valuable asset in fighting fires along the city's waterfront.

5. Providence Fire Department

Year Started: 1854

Chief (as of April 2023): Derek Silva

Main Address: 325 Washington St, Providence, RI 02903

Stations: 12 The Providence Fire Department has been serving the people of Providence, Rhode Island, since its founding in 1854. At the time of its establishment, the city was rapidly growing and faced significant challenges in terms of fire safety. Before the creation of the department, firefighting in Providence was handled by volunteer companies, but these organizations were often poorly trained and

equipped to deal with large-scale fires. The department's first fire chief was Charles H. Smith, who served from 1854 to 1868. Smith was a pioneer in the field of firefighting, introducing new techniques and equipment to the department that helped to make it one of the most effective in the region.

4. **Portsmouth Fire Department**

Year Started: 1830

Chief (as of April 2023): Nestor P. Mangubat

Main Address: 311 County Street, Suite 200. Portsmouth, VA 23704

Stations: 8 The Portsmouth Fire Department has been serving the city of Portsmouth in Virginia since its establishment in 1830. The department also pioneered Virginia, becoming the first to use motorized fire apparatus in 1897, replacing its horse-drawn equipment with a steam-powered pumper.

3. **Mount Holly Fire Department**

Year Started: 1752

Chief (as of April 2023): Ryan Baker

Main Address: James Buillard, 17 Pine St, Mt Holly, NJ 08060

Stations: 3 The Mount Holly Fire Department has a long and storied history, dating back to its establishment in 1752. Founded in what was then the small colonial town of Mount Holly, New Jersey.

2. **Boston Fire Department**

Year Started: 1678

Chief (as of April 2023): Joseph Minehan

Main Address: 115 Southampton Street. Boston, MA 02118

35 The Boston Fire Department is among the oldest and most respected fire departments in the United States. Founded in 1678. The Boston Fire Department was the first department in the country to establish a training academy for its firefighters. The academy was founded in 1911 and has since become a nationwide model for fire service training programs.

1. **Fire Department of New York City**

Year Started: Originally 1648

Chief (as of April 2023): John J. Hodgens

Main Address: 61 West 48th Street, New York, NY 10020

Stations: 254 The Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) is the oldest fire department in the United States. It was founded in 1648 as a volunteer firefighting organization known as the New Amsterdam Volunteer Fire Department. The department is responsible for protecting over 8.5 million people who live and work in New York City.

OFFICIALS CALL FOR RELEASE OF FILES SHOWING NEW YORK CITY KNEW ABOUT 9/11 TOXINS

NEW YORK — City Council Speaker Julie Menin on Thursday demanded that “every single file the city has” regarding toxins swirling above ground zero following 9/11 be made public following a bombshell discovery of an internal city memo that proved the city feared the dangers just weeks after the terror attacks.

“My mother died from a 9/11 related cancer,” said Menin (D-Manhattan), who worked and lived just blocks from the World Trade Center in 2001. “(After the attacks) the city told us to put wet clothes on our windows. They echoed what Christie Todd Whitman and others said that the air was safe.”

The discovery of the long-sought Harding memo, made public Wednesday, proves that the city, just weeks after 9/11, were bracing for potential lawsuits over “health advisories (that) caused individuals to return to the area too soon (causing toxic exposure or emotional harm).”

“If there ever was a smoking gun, this is a smoking gun,” Menin said about the memo at a press conference outside City Hall with Councilwoman Gale Brewer (D-Manhattan), FDNY union officials and attorneys for 9/11 survivors.

“It’s really shameful that this city hid this information and refused to disclose it. It’s unconscionable that the city hasn’t taken responsibility for basically lying to not only our first responders, but the whole downtown community.”

More than 140,000 first responders and survivors are now enrolled in the U.S. Center for Disease Control’s WTC Health Program, which provides 9/11-related health care benefits. Out of that number, about 81,000 have a certified condition linked to the toxins that hung above ground zero.

On the day of the terror attacks, 343 FDNY members died in the collapse of the twin towers. Since then, an additional 424 members have died of 9/11-related illnesses.

Survivor advocates and union officials are calling on Mamdani to release all the documents, something his predecessors dating back to Giuliani has failed to do, claiming that releasing the information could lead to lawsuits.

The unearthed memo won't likely cause a flurry of lawsuits since first responders and survivors who are receiving help from the WTC Health Program and the 9/11 Victim Compensation fund have already signed waivers agreeing not to sue over their illnesses. More than 100,000 people have signed these waivers, officials said.

But the air quality studies conducted by the city more than 20 years ago could be imperative to learn more about the cancers that survivors are facing, advocates said.

"They lied to limit their liability and hid the records," Andrew Ansbro, the president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association said about prior administrations. "They made a conscious choice to keep these cancers hidden instead of studying them. And now 25 years of mayoral sins are dropping on the mayor's lap."

"We're saying to (Mamdani), do not make it your sin," he said.

An email to City Hall regarding these requests were not immediately returned.



3-ALARM WAREHOUSE DRAWS MASSIVE MUTUAL AID RESPONSE IN MOONACHIE



A three-alarm warehouse fire sent heavy smoke over Bergen County on Friday, Feb. 27, authorities said.

Moonachie firefighters were dispatched to 1 State St., at 5 p.m. for a reported water flow alarm, the department said.

A responding police officer reported heavy smoke coming from the building moments later, prompting fire officials to strike additional alarms and call-in crews from surrounding towns.

Firefighters entered the warehouse and worked to put out flames involving foam products stored inside the building. Additional alarms were transmitted as crews worked to contain the fire and clear smoke from the structure.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, officials said. Moonachie EMS and the Department of Public Works assisted at the scene, authorities said.

Fire departments from Little Ferry, Wood-Ridge, Hackensack, Paramus, Wallington, Rutherford, East Rutherford, Ridgefield Park, Hasbrouck Heights, and other mutual aid partners responded to assist, officials said.

SECOND ALARM FIRE REKINDLES AT ORADELL RESIDENCE

ORADELL, NJ, (February 08, 2026) - Firefighters are on scene battling a rekindled blaze in a private dwelling at 43 Poplar Ave, prompting a second alarm and mutual aid request from neighboring departments.

Fire Department On Scene w/ (Rekindle) fire in a Private Single-Family Dwelling, Company's stretching lines, Mutual Aid Request.

Fire Department On Scene w/ (Rekindle) fire in a Private Single-Family Dwelling, Company's stretching lines, Mutual Aid Request.

Crews stretched lines to combat the fire, which reignited early Feb. 8 at approximately 6:51 a.m. The incident underscores the challenges of fully extinguishing structure fires, with ongoing operations to secure the scene.

3-ALARM FIRE BURNS THROUGH LARGE HOME IN BERGENFIELD, NEW JERSEY

BERGENFIELD, New Jersey (WABC) -- A three-alarm fire burned through a home in Bergenfield, New Jersey early Thursday. The fire broke out around 5 a.m. on Roosevelt Avenue in the basement of the home. It quickly spread through all three floors of the home.



RIDGEFIELD PARK COMMUNITY RALLIES AFTER 3-ALARM FIRE DISPLACES LOCAL FAMILY

RIDGEFIELD PARK, NJ — A local family is beginning the process of recovery today after a massive 3-alarm fire tore through their Euclid Avenue home on the afternoon of February 12. While the blaze caused significant damage, officials have confirmed that all residents and first responders escaped without injury.

Rapid Response to 2:30 PM Blaze

The Ridgefield Park Fire Department was dispatched to the residence at approximately 2:30 p.m. following reports of a fast-moving structure fire. Fire Chief William Lynn reported that crews initially battled the flames on the exterior of the building before moving inside to conduct an aggressive “interior attack” to quench the remaining hotspots.


The severity of the fire required a massive mutual aid response from across Bergen County. Fire departments from seven neighboring towns assisted in the containment and overhaul:

- Hackensack & Teaneck
- Bogota & Englewood
- Little Ferry & Leonia
- Hasbrouck Heights



- **Safety First: No Injuries Reported**
- In a fortunate outcome for such a large-scale incident, Chief Lynn confirmed that there were **no injuries** sustained by the family or the dozens of firefighters who braved the conditions. The exact cause of the Euclid Avenue fire remains under investigation by local fire officials.
- **Support and Temporary Housing**
- While the home is currently uninhabitable, the town of Ridgefield Park has stepped in to ensure the family is not left out in the cold. Fire Official **Peter Danzo** stated that the family found immediate shelter the night of the fire.
- The Ridgefield Park Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is currently working with the displaced residents to facilitate a temporary stay at a local hotel while they navigate the next steps of their recovery.

TRIVIA OF THE DAY



arts

Which historical figure is known for creating the first printing press with movable type?

Isaac Newton	Leonardo da Vinci
Galileo Galilei	Johannes Gutenberg

Answer is Johannes Gutenberg in 1440 in Germany.

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