

FLY CAR PROGRAM APPROVED

The Fly Program was approved by the Chautauqua County Legislature and County Executive Vincent Horrigan in November 2016. The concept is based on three recommendations made by the MMA Consulting Group that was contracted to study the delivery of Emergency Medical Services in Chautauqua County. The three recommendations are: Implement a County Fly Car System, Implement electronic Pre-Hospital Care Reports county wide and Implement Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) county wide.

The system will have three units staffed by one paramedic throughout the county ready to respond as needed. The Fly Cars will be available on Monday thru Saturday from 6:00 am – 6:00 pm. The “Fly Car” will be integrated into the system that is comprised of fire based ambulance, ALSTAR, fire based first response and now the county operated Fly Car adding to a “blended” response system.

The system is being designed to allow resources (Fly Car) to be moved as appropriate. Dynamic staging of the Fly Cars will be based on call volume, response patterns, emerging incidents and system circumstances.

Kevin Peebles EMT-P has been hired to implement the program. The job descriptions have been completed and approved for both Senior Paramedic and Paramedic. We are in the process of recruiting a “Senior Paramedic” to work with Kevin to begin working on policies, procedures and to start purchasing the necessary equipment and supplies. We are working with the Department of Public Facilities to purchase the three vehicles in early 2017.

Although there is a lot of work that needs to be accomplished prior to implementation, the Office of Emergency Services is working very hard to have the Fly Car program ready to respond early in 2017.

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NEW YORK STATE FIRE INSTRUCTORS

Chautauqua County has two new State Fire Instructors.

Mike Swanson is a 16 year member of the Ashville Fire Department where he is currently serving as Fire Chief. Mike is also a former EMT and has held most positions in the Ashville Fire Department. A 17 year veteran with the New York State National Guard he is currently Platoon Sargent with Bravo Troop in Jamestown. Mike has been deployed to Afghanistan and served at Ground Zero, New York City on 9-11. Mike is the father of 13 year old Mackzine and is employed by the Federal Department of Defense in Jamestown .

Andrew Caruso is a 14 year member of Panama Fire Department. Andrew is a New York State Critical Care EMT. Employed by Jamestown Fire Department for 5 years he is stationed with Engine 4 in the City. He is also employed part time by Alstar EMS and the Chautauqua Police Department. Andrew also is a Red Cross Instructor, American Heart Association Instructor and works as a Certified Lab Instructor (CLI) for the Jamestown EMT class. Andrew is married with three children and lives in Kennedy.

SCOTT BAILEY APPOINTED AS 3RD BATTALION COORDINATOR

Scott Baily has been appointed at the 3rd Battalion Coordinator replacing Mike Gleason. Scott has been a member of the Celeron Hose Company #1 since 1989. Holding all Line Officer positions in Celeron as well as serving as Fire Chief from 1998-2004 and again in 2008. Scott is a member of the Fire Advisory Board and served as President of the Chautauqua County Fire Chiefs Association in 2014. He is also a members of New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and was also a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team.



Congratulations Scott!

DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATOR TRAINING

Richard Westpfahl has been appointed to the position of Deputy Fire Coordinator-Training. Rich is a thirty year volunteer of the fire service that started with Hartfield Fire Department in the mid 1980's. In 1987 Rich transferred to the Mayville Fire Department where he served as Assistant Chief and Rescue Lieutenant where he continues to be an active member. Rich recently refreshed his EMT certification as a member of the Mayville Fire Department Rescue Squad.

Having a passion for the great outdoors he finds nothing more relaxing than walking with his dogs through the woods and tending to his beef cattle on the farm. Rich is a Corrections Sergeant with the Sheriff's department. Rich states "as Training Coordinator it is my goal to manage and work with NYS Office of Prevention and Control to provide the best possible training opportunities for the Chautauqua County Fire Service."





COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM *CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE* TO THE COUNTY'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS

A key resource for hazardous chemical emergencies in Chautauque County is the Chautauque County Hazardous Materials Response Team, an all-volunteer, highly-trained group of firefighters who respond to incidents involving hazardous chemicals throughout the county.

The Chautauque County Hazardous Materials Response Team was organized in 1981 at the instigation of then co-captains Jack Henderson and Dick Manning with the assistance and support of then County Fire Coordinator Ralph Sandquist to provide specialized responders at hazardous materials emergencies.

It was realized that it was not realistic for individual fire departments to take on this kind of task so they canvassed the fire service for people who were interested, and put together a core group.



The Chautauque County Hazmat Team was the first organized county hazmat team in the state of New York and the first Level A team in the state outside New York City.

Their first call on June 4, 1982 was to I-90, the NY Thruway, for an overturned truck carrying 75 Drums of Perchloroethylene.

Today the group consists of about 52 men and women from fire departments across the county. They're allvolunteers on the county's team, and train monthly at their facility at the EOC in Mayville.

**COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM
CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE COUNTY'S FIRE DEPARTMENTS CONT.**

Since its inception, the county team has been called an average of about 40 times a year, responding to fuel and oil spills and incidents with unknown chemicals. The team has experienced a wide range of calls with responses having been made to everything from household chemicals to train derailments, and everything in between.

A local fire chief can call on the hazmat team when he realizes there is a spill or a hazardous chemical is involved. The incident commander makes the call through the E-911 Communications Center, following procedures contained in the Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Incident Response Plan. When the county team is called to the scene, they integrate into the fire department's response. The local fire chief remains the incident commander, and the team advises and takes direction from him. The team brings

its special operations vehicles, outfitted with equipment for specialized response including, detection equipment, fully encapsulating "Level A" suits and decontamination equipment.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the federal and state governments have provided funding to buy more specialized equipment that the team would use in a hazmat event. There is a heightened level of hazmat awareness.

In 2014 the team became a NYS Department of Health certified Advanced Life Support First Response (ALS-FR) Agency with 29 rostered EMTs and Paramedics under the Medical Direction on Drs Brian Walters and Mike Faulk. Four providers are Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) certified and five are Advanced Hazmat Life Support (AHLS) certified. We are working to establish Western New York's first ToxMedic program.

In recent years the county team has taken its response units to local fire departments, showing them the equipment and explaining how the team works with the local organizations. There is a need to know what the team's resources are and how to request them.



For more information on the county HAZMAT team or to schedule a training session, call the county Fire Coordinator's Office at 753-4320.

SHERIFF'S EMT PROGRAM GOING STRONG

By: Undersheriff Charles J. Holder

You may have already experienced an emergency call in your area where one of our new EMT Deputies have been on scene to assist your fire department. Since the program started in March of 2016, our deputies have responded to more than 50 EMS calls. In many of these situations, the deputy was the first EMS responder on the scene and started patient treatment before any other EMS first responder had arrived.

There are currently 12 deputy sheriffs trained and responding to calls throughout the county. In addition, we have another 29 academy recruits and part-time deputies being EMT trained at the Sheriff's Academy and Sheridan Fire Department. These new EMTs will transition to our office and other police agencies throughout the southern tier.

This program would not be a success without the continued assistance of Julius Leone, Dan Imfeld, Kevin Peebles and many others in the fire and EMS services who assisted us in getting this project up and running. Much of the cost of this program is paid through asset forfeiture money but, starting in 2017, a designated budget line has been established to keep this program going. This shows that both the County Executive and County Legislature is in full support of our efforts in EMS response. If anyone doubts the need for our law enforcement officers to have some level of EMS response, one needs only to look at the recent lifesaving effort of two of our deputies who responded to the a motorcycle accident in the Town of Villenova. The driver received an extremely serious injury to his leg. Deputies Beichner and Howlett responded and were the first to be on the scene. All our deputies are trained and issued tactical tourniquets. These two deputies applied these tourniquets and saved the life of this motorist. This example shows that our law enforcement officers maybe the first line to assist our citizens in a time of crisis. The Sheriff's EMT program is a small component in the overall EMS system, but it can and will be a crucial service to our community. Thank you for your continued support of the program.



Photo: from left to right – Deputy Seeley, Deputy Hover, Sheriff Gerace and Undersheriff Holder

FROM SHERIFF JOE GERACE;

With the holiday season upon us, I want to take a moment to thank all of you who are involved with public safety. It takes a special person to put the needs of others before their own. We are so blessed to have you working to make our county a safer place to live and to visit.

I am honored to have the opportunity to share my thoughts in this forum.

2016 has been a busy and challenging year for us. Together we launched a new public safety radio system for Chautauqua County. Although it is still in its infancy, it is a state-of-the-art platform that has already shown its benefits. I ask for your patience as the system matures and all of the public safety partners join in. The radio system is for all of us. It was selected and developed through a multi-agency effort. It will provide us capabilities that we have never had including countywide coverage, true interoperability, multiple channels, emergency notifications, GPS locations of portable radios, and more. It was also designed so that when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) narrow-bands public radio systems again, we will not have to upgrade our equipment a second time.

This year our EMT program was born and is still growing. I firmly believe it will become a key component of our county EMS system. We have already seen that the benefits and the partnerships we have had with the fire services have become even stronger. Several of my deputies have already joined their local fire departments and I feel that this trend will continue. This year I have made the EMT course part of the Sheriff's Academy and the current recruits will graduate as certified police officers and EMT's. If this continues, eventually almost every law enforcement officer in the county will be an EMT.

As someone who believes that you should lead by example, I attended my EMT training this year and am so proud to be an EMT. It gave me a new appreciation for those of you who have made this commitment, both past and present.

Another huge undertaking this year is the upgrade of our county E911 emergency telephone system to NG911 (Next Generation 911). This project has been going on quietly in the background while the other programs have taken more of the spotlight.

Put simply, NG911 is an Internet Protocol (IP)-based system that allows digital information (e.g., voice, photos, videos, text messages) to flow seamlessly from the public, through the 911 network, and on to emergency responders.

The transition to NG911 involves more than just new computers and other hardware. Implementing NG911 has involved a tremendous amount of planning and coordination between the telephone providers, the equipment vendor and our staff. The process has involved a complete re-design of the entire 911 network countywide.

FROM SHERRIFF JOE GERACE CONT.

Originally, our 911 system was the most basic available and it did not include the entire county. Some communities were still required to use a 7 digit number for emergencies. Many of us remember the listings that were given to residents with emergency numbers to call. They were instructed to hang them by their phone or paste them on the refrigerator. Basic 911 only delivered the voice call to the dispatchers. They had no idea where the calls were coming from.

In the mid 1990's, we launched E911 (Enhanced 911). This new system delivered not only the voice, but also the enhancement of providing the phone number, name, address, and responsible public safety entities. It was all address-based and was designed for "hard line" telephones. It quickly proved to be a lifesaver.

As cell phones began to become more popular, the E911 technology needed to change. Because cell phones are totally mobile, it became necessary to advance our 911 network to allow us to handle wireless calls. The FCC handed down regulations compelling the wireless providers to provide enhanced data to 911. This was done in two phases. Phase 1 of W911 (wireless 911) mandated that the telephone companies deliver the phone number of the cell phone and the tower site it was using. This was somewhat helpful to dispatchers but it just made the "needle in a haystack" become a smaller haystack.

Eventually the FCC enacted Phase II of W911. This mandated that cell providers delivered the phone number, tower site, and the longitude and latitude of the call. This helps greatly but it is still a far cry from where we need to be. Dispatchers don't always get the location data and, when they do, it's only accurate up to 150 meters. It cannot give us elevation so a multiple story building or a large complex is still a guessing game.

It is sad to say, but Facebook and Uber do a better job locating cell phone callers than our country's 911 systems do.

NG911 will not solve this issue. We need to have help from the FCC to force cell phone providers to use all the available technologies to pinpoint cell phone callers in an emergency.

NG911 will give us many immediate advantages. It will move us to an IP (internet protocol) network. It will provide many features that could help all of us. It will also put us in a position to eventually interconnect to a statewide and hopefully a nationwide 911 system that routes calls to the proper dispatch center based on the location of the phone not the tower site.

The current plan is for NG911 to "go live" in January. Dispatchers have been trained and are eager to embrace the new technology.

We will be looking for the assistance of the county's fire services to help us make test calls on the go live day.

Stay tuned!

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday.



RIPLEY FERNO

In the summer of 2016 Ripley Fire Department purchased a new Ferno INX Power Stretcher. This is a unit that allow one person to load a patient. The new unit was purchased by the Ripley Fire Department with Department funds. A combination of monies from a Hirtzle Foundation grant and a WallMart Foundation grant along with monies from department activities provided the initial funding. Fund raising will continue as this unit is on a lease/purchase plan. The Ferno INX was purchased direct from Ferno and the components in A-272 were installed by Gorman Enterprises.

Ripley Fire District currently has 9 active EMT's, 8 Basic and 1 Critical Care. The Ripley Fire District responds to approximately 260 EMS related calls each year.

EMT CLASS SPRING 16

The Office of Emergency Services held an EMT class in Spring 2016. The following people were successful in completing the EMT course. There are 12 new EMTs and 7 refreshers. Congratulations everyone.

Originals:

Adam McAdoo – CCSO, Allen Crowell – Sheridan, Christopher Cook – Silver Creek, Cheri Zadzilka – Fredonia, Christopher Wichlacz – Cassadaga, Gregory Breene – Clymer, Joseph Gerace – CCSO, Kirk Lyon – CCSO, Macia Kent – Lakewood, Matthew Martinez – Dunkirk Police, Phillip Lombardo – CCSO, Steven Smith - Brocton

Refreshers:

David Fratz – Ripley, Eric Petry – CCSO, Jeffrey Ortolano – Fredonia/Dunkirk Police, Marsha Holland – Westfield, Richard Westpahl – Mayville/CCSO, Samuel Piazza – East Dunkirk/Jamestown Police, Seth Strahan – Brocton

Note: CCSO is Chautauqua County Sherriff Office



TWO NEW FOREST RANGERS ASSIGNED TO CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY



Chautauqua County now has two New York State Forest Rangers assigned to here in the county. Zack Robitaille grew up in Albany, NY and came out to Buffalo for UB in 2005. He graduated with a Masters degree in Environmental and Earth Systems Science from UB in 2013. Zack attended the NYSDEC Law Enforcement Training Academy 20th Basic School in September 2016.

Nathan Sprague grew up in Williamsville NY, attended SUNY ESF The Ranger School, and received his Bachelors in Forest Resources Mgmt. from the main campus in Syracuse. Previously a certified arborist and BOCES conservation teacher, Nathan graduated from the NYS DEC Law Enforcement 26th Basic Academy in September 2016.

CHERRY CREEK FIRE DEPARTMENT'S NEW PORTABLE POND

Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department recently added a new portable pond to the list of equipment that is available for use. This 2100 gallon pond is now on Engine 412 and is the 2nd pond that Cherry Creek has in service. In a rural area with no hydrants portable ponds are a much needed item to continue a steady flow of water in a tanker operation. The pond was purchased by the Cherry Creek Fire District. In the photo is Chief Terry Sheldon, Commissioner James Steward and Assistant Chief Ray Sheldon.



EMERGENCY SERVICES HOSTED GRAIN BIN RESCUE TRAINING

The County hosted a grain bin safety and rescue-training class at Office of Emergency Services On August 18, 2016 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM



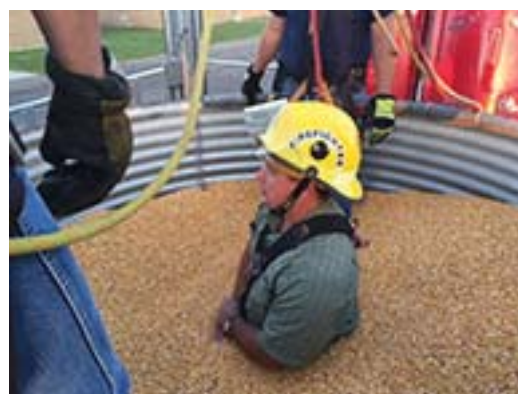
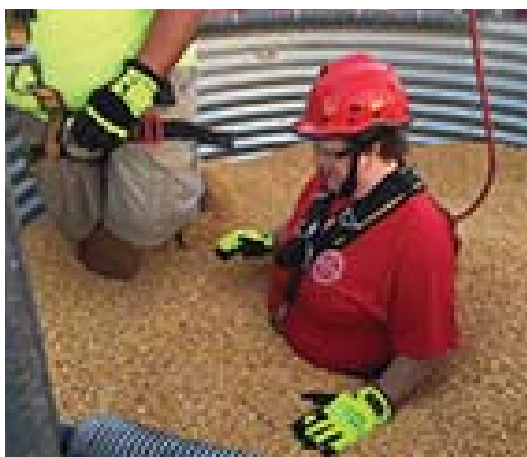
The class was provided by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), located in Peosta, Iowa.

The training for firefighters and EMS personnel was conducted by NECAS Director Dan Neenan, a Paramedic Specialist with a Firefighter Specialist degree, it included one hour of classroom time and three hours of hands-on experience with the Grain Bin Rescue unit filled with 110 bushels of grain.

The class is designed to give students knowledge of grain bin design and structure. Learn the four most common ways that people become entrapped. During the hands-on component of class, they practiced lockout/tag out and extrication procedures for both a fully engulfed and partially engulfed victim. The content met NFPA 1006 and NFPA 1670 requirement.

Thank you to Falcone Farms of Forestville for the use of the grain corn and to Growmark FS for transporting the corn to Mayville and returning it to Falcone Farms.

Students and Fire Coordinators from across the county were in attendance.



DIVE TEAM



2016 has been a busy year for the dive team. To date we have had 9 callouts, 11 public service dives and events, 9 training days, as well as several law enforcement evidence dives. Unfortunately, our summer was met with tragedy on both Chautauqua lake and lake Erie as drownings occurred on June 25th , and August 16th. I would like to personally thank the Chautauqua fire department, and the Sunset Bay fire department for their response to those respective incidents. They were both long duration searches and the manpower hours were astounding.

In my short tenure as CCWET coordinator, I have been reminded that this county is truly lucky to have so many hard-working people in the fire service ranks. The time spent away from family attending meetings, drills, and calls is a huge sacrifice for the citizens of this county.

As we get into the cold weather months, I would just like to talk about a few things to keep in mind. As we all know, cold water can be deadly. If we have a person submerged, hypothermia, incapacitation, and death can occur within minutes. Our response as emergency personnel could mean the difference between life and death. It is important to train on cold water, and ice rescue techniques and make sure our equipment is mission ready. The dive team had the pleasure of assisting Chautauqua fire department at a recent joint pool drill at Turner elementary school, where these techniques and equipment familiarization were practiced. It is also imperative that we take a step back and think about our safety as responders. I once had an emergency physician tell me “don’t just do something, stand there!” I think this statement holds true in many aspects of the fire service. We need to make sure we don’t make a bad situation worse by becoming a victim ourselves. We need to have the proper training, resources, and equipment to affect the proper rescue. We also need to take care of our own. Scene rehab during cold weather situations may be a little bit different than warm weather. Ensuring we have a place to go and get warm, out of the weather, maintain hydration, and a quick vital sign check will help any member maintain mission readiness. Some of these operations could last hours or days so we need to continuously re-evaluate the condition of our people and their general well-being. We have so many great assets in this county as far as rehab, tents, heaters, generators, and medical personnel. We should take advantage of these as much as we can.

DIVE TEAM CONT.

From a dive team perspective, one of the first things I think about is access to a scene. I know Denny Barmore harped on this for years, but it still holds true. The Dive team members have about 100lbs of gear (or more) to get to the scene. If we can keep this in the back of your mind it may alleviate some problems, especially with an ice dive scenario. Ice dives are high stress, I.D.L.H. environments, and if a diver is fatigued before the dive he will be that much less effective. If you think your department is immune to a water or ice related emergency you're not. This county has water everywhere, whether it be a pond, creek, stream, reservoir or great lake, I can guarantee you have one of the above in your district.

It has been an exciting few months for me, and I look forward to meeting, and working with some of the best people this county has to offer. I hope each and all of you have a wonderful, safe holiday season. Merry Christmas! *Dan Aldrich- Deputy Fire Coordinator CCWET*

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD)

What is it and what does it mean for EMS and most importantly, the patient?

EMD is a process where the EMD trained Dispatcher receives a 911 call for assistance. The dispatcher has a set of cards for certain patient complaints. Through different questions asked and answers given by the patient, the dispatcher will then dispatch the appropriate agency at the appropriate response level. The dispatcher can then give guided instructions to the caller to help the patient until EMS arrives. For example the dispatcher can instruct the caller how to check for a pulse and perform CPR if necessary or how to control bleeding.

The County dispatch center has been certified for approximately 15 years and been dispatching Jamestown Fire for 4 years now and has worked well.

What does this mean to EMS? The dispatches will include the priority of the call. The priorities will be BLS Standard, BLS priority and ALS. BLS will be a COLD response (no lights or sirens). BLS Priority will be a HOT response (lights and sirens). ALS will also be a HOT response, but ALS will also be dispatched at the same time as the host agency. With this being said at any time during the incident if an EMT with patient contact feels like the response should be changed they can request it. Example COLD response to an ankle injury and an EMT gets on scene and the patient is

unresponsive, the EMT may request the call be upgraded to a HOT response. It will also work the opposite way (HOT down to COLD). If the EMT feels that ALS is not needed after ALS has been dispatched they can be canceled.

What does this mean to our patients? Through proper questioning, the appropriate response will be initiated. If it meets ALS criteria an ALS unit will be automatically dispatched to respond with the host agency instead of waiting for the initial EMS agency to get on scene.

All department leaders need to read the NYS Department of Health Policy on ambulance responses. The policy is No. 00 – 13. This is the link to get to it. <http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/pdf/00-13.pdf>

The EMD committee and Medical Directors have spent many hours reviewing and changing the EMD cards to best fit Chautauqua County. The EMS Council, County Chiefs and Fire Advisory Board have approved to move forward with the implementation of EMD. This will take effect in the first quarter of 2017. EMD is an essential and integral part of the Chautauqua County EMS system, to aid in faster and more appropriate responses.



EVIDENCE COLLECTION FOR FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

As things change over time in our fire service, so does the collection of evidence on fire scenes. In the past we interviewed eyewitnesses, took pictures, gathered samples to send out to see if an accelerant was used and cleaned the area of most damage to help find the cause of a fire. These days' new techniques in fire investigation have helped in determining the cause and origin of fires. Updated training and better equipment have helped. Better building materials and good code enforcement have also helped in cutting down on accidental fire. Over the past seventeen plus years I have been on the county team, these type of fire have declined. This is a good thing. The bad thing is that the types of fires that have increased are the incendiary fires and the undetermined fires. Some of this is the way people act, live and treat other people. The attitude/life style of people has changed over time and not always for the good. I think we, in the Fire/EMS service have seen this. So as things change we need to change along with them in order to keep our members and communities safe. We are looking for some help as we conduct fire investigation throughout the county.

As you are called out for any possible fires (the same goes for any call) please think about and pay attention to your surroundings. Things like what type or color vehicle did you pass as you come on to a scene. Who is around that does not seem to fit in at that location. If you have time and it does not take you away from other duties, early pictures are a great help. Keeping those pictures and not sending them out to the world until we have time to look at them first so we can use them as evidence is a GREAT help. Remember you are called to that scene as a fire fighter or EMS person NOT a private citizen. If you are the first fire fighter on scene or the fire interior fighter we would like to hear about what you saw or observed. The collection of DNA evidence has come a long ways over time. This is something we can use to help determine who was on scene prior to the fire or incident. Please think about this as you are around the scene. Do not leave anything behind that you or your department brought to the scene. Things like water bottles, food wrappers and cigarette butts. These things need to be placed in one area away from the Fire/EMS scene, perhaps by an engine or fire department vehicle. The important thing to remember is we don't want to miss or gather the wrong evidence that will keep us from determining who was on scene that may have started a fire. If we work together as a team we can get the best results and help to improve our Fire and EMS Service in our County. Always work safe, lookout for one another and do the best job you can with the knowledge and training you have.

Thank You,

Scott Cummings

Fire Investigator, Chautauqua County



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

The Cassadaga Valley Central School, once again, had a very extensive Fire Prevention week from October 11th thru October 14th. During this week, the



teachers at the Sinclairville Elementary School, along with administration, instructed the kids about fire safety, having a “meeting place” and “Stop, Drop and Roll”. This was all in preparation for the final day where the fire departments were to show up and talk with the kids.

The Cassadaga Valley Parent Teacher Organization annually plans the last day of Fire Prevention includes all the Fire Departments that have students that attend CVCS. This year was the best attended and included apparatus and manpower from Sinclairville FD, Cassadaga FD, Lily Dale FD, Stockton FD, Gerry FD, Ellington FD, Chautauqua County Fire Police, Chautauqua County Hazmat and Chautauqua County Emergency Services’ Battalion 4 Coordinator – John Griffith. The CVCS High School Principle, Josh Gilevski, also made arrangements for all the Junior Firefighters in the high school to be bussed to the elementary school so they could work with the younger students.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK CONT.

The Firefighters and Junior Firefighters went to the individual classes to discuss fire prevention. Some firefighters were wearing masks and “on air” to demonstrate to the young students what they may see and hear if a firefighter is coming to help them. The firefighters either don or doff their gear in front of the children so they recognize that they we are just regular people trying to help and not to be afraid. The firefighters also join the kids for lunch where they can answer their questions and feel more comfortable around them. The young students also get a tours of the trucks and ambulances that are present.



ADVANTAGES OF AN ELECTRONIC PRE HOSPITAL CARE REPORT (EPCR): MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This past year, the Chautauqua County MMA EMS study made several recommendations to help make our EMS system the best that it can be. One of those recommendations was to have all EMS agencies in the county move to electronic pre hospital care reports (ePCRs). In the digital world that we live in currently, paper records have become obsolete. While we can attest to the frustrations of electronic and digital documentation in hospital medicine and pre hospital care, it has become the standard of care across the country. The vast majority of EMS agencies in the U.S. have moved to electronic documentation. Unfortunately, our county is behind in the implementation of ePCRs.

While we recognize the drawbacks to electronic documentation, there are a number of advantages. The advantages of using an electronic record clearly outweigh the potential and realized downsides. The following points are what make an electronic record worth implementing:

1) Data Collection: The ability to have robust data collection across all EMS agencies in the county is paramount. The data that can be obtained will be used to the advantage of all involved parties including the individual EMT, the EMS agencies, the medical directors and the county coordinators. This information will be vital in regards to how we plan for the future of EMS in our county.

2) A legible, comprehensive legal document: In this world of medicolegal scrutiny and lawsuits, it is important for our EMTs to create a well polished document of the care provided. This document must be legible, comprehensive and represent all of the emergency care provided for the patient. The ePCR programs can also prompt the provider regarding pertinent information that should be completed and documented, such as areas of the physical exam or history of the present illness or injury.

3) Quality Improvement: It is important for our EMS system to have a quality improvement program. All of us providers want to do the very best for our patients, and it is important for us to identify certain areas where we, as a system, may be able to improve. An example of this may be: How often do our EMS agencies get signatures for patient sign offs or how often is aspirin given in chest pain calls. Without an electronic record to easily gather this data, we cannot have an important quality program such as this. Providing constructive feedback to providers and agencies can only make us better.

4) Medical Director Review: It is important for an EMS agency's medical director to have real time access to a patient's medical record. The medical director of a particular EMS agency is ultimately responsible for all care provided by the agency's EMS providers. Review of this care is an essential function of an EMS medical director. Unfortunately with paper PCRs, it is difficult to coordinate and facilitate these reviews. An example of this: All administrations of a controlled substance must be reviewed by the medical director. When the medical director has immediate access to the medical record, this review can be accomplished in an efficient manner.

ADVANTAGES OF AN ELECTRONIC PRE HOSPITAL CARE REPORT (EPCR): MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE CONT.

Our hope would be that all of Chautauqua County's EMS agencies will be using ePCRs as soon as possible. As medical directors, we are always available to discuss options and further discuss the advantages of ePCRs. We realize that the transition to ePCRs may be inconvenient for some agencies, but the end result will be worth the frustration.

It has been wonderful working with all of our EMS agencies and providers. We are simply amazed by the amount of dedication you all have in helping make our county EMS system the best it can be. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your Medical Directors,

Dr. Watters and Dr. Faulk

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FIRE SERVICE: ON THE MOVE!

By Vince Horrigan, County Executive

As we close out another year, I like to reflect a bit on what we accomplished in 2016 and where we are going in 2017. I call it: "On the Move."

Of course every department distinguished themselves again this past year saving lives and protecting property. Time and again you answered the call, from structure fires to motor vehicle accidents, with your timely professional response. Often times we take for granted that when you dial 911, help is on the way. The reality is that yes, help is on the way, thanks to our first responders who have spent countless hours in training to ensure the best possible outcomes can be achieved when an emergency strikes.

This past year we held our breath as a major train derailment occurred on March 1st in Ripley. Once again, I witnessed superior on scene command and control from evacuations to securing the disaster area. Calm, professional, effective incident command played a major role which ensured a highly coordinated emergency response. Our team is truly impressive and it is all because of your dedication and commitment to serve and protect.

Looking ahead to 2017, we will take on a new area of responsibility with the addition of a County EMS paramedic response team. Commonly called the "Fly Car," this team is designed to fill in the gaps of our 911 response when local fire departments are caught short in available volunteer EMTs. An in-depth study validated the need for this enhanced service due to the strain on volunteer resources during various hours in the day, especially in rural areas of the county. It is important to note that the Fly Car system is not there to take the place of our volunteer EMS responders but to augment them as required. Furthermore, volunteer fire departments will maintain responsibility for patient transport to our hospitals.

I also want to acknowledge the 30th year of service that StarFlight celebrated this past September. Together our entire first responder team is clearly one of the very best in the Country. I am so proud of all of you and the Chautauqua County First Responders are another example of why Chautauqua County is "On the Move."

GERRY RESCUE R-461



Gerry Fire Department recently placed in service a replacement for M-461. The new Rescue, R-461 is a 1997 International Chassis unit that was purchased from West Hill Fire Department in Pennsylvania. It's availability was the direct result of the merger of two local departments.

This unit has a automatic transmission, 300 diesel engine and a 5 man cab. It is equipped with the rescue and extrication equipment for the Gerry Fire Department. This includes there hydraulic Amkus tool, air bags, hand tools and blocking. It is also equipped with a front winch. R-461 has an on board 10KW generator for scene lighting and is being equipped with LED lighting.

This unit also carries a 500 GPM PTO pump with 200 gallons of water. It is equipped with a AFFF foam pack for quick response to all types of fires. A front pre connect line plus a cross lay are also included.

Past Chief and Past Fire Coordinator Dennis Barmore would like to thank Chief James Miller for all his working in finding this truck and getting it service for the Gerry Volunteer Fire Department.

LAKWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW UNITS



Ambulance 371. This is a 2016 Road Rescue type 3 ambulance built on a Ford chassis with a gas engine. This is a fully equipped Advanced Life Support Ambulance.

Lakewood fire department recently placed the following new equipment into service:

Engine 371. This is a 2016 Spartan Gladiator Rescue Pumper with a 1500 gallon per minute pump, a 1000 gallon tank and a six man cab. Powered by a Cummins engine which was donated by the Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant, this is a front line attack engine. It is also equipped with rescue tools including a Hurst tool along with extrication equipment and clean up materials.

LAKEWOOD FIRE DEPARTMENT CONT.

Car 371. A 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe equipped with the Law Enforcement Package, this is the Lakewood Command Vehicle.



Boat 371 is a 18' Carolina Skiff and is equipped with a 150 horsepower four stroke Mercury outboard. Named the "Chief Charles L Smith Rescue Boat" in honor of past Lakewood Fire Chief and past Chautauqua County Fire Coordinator Charles "Charlie" Smith. This unit is stored in the winter months in a building insuring that if Chautauqua Lake is clear of ice it is available to respond.



THE FIRE SERVICE – OUR COMMUNITY HEROES

by New York State Assemblyman Andrew Goodell

The members of the Fire Service are the true heroes in every community! They respond at any time of the day or night to help someone in need— whether involving medical emergencies, fires, floods, hazmat responses, car accidents, water rescues, train derailments, or any other emergency. They save lives. They protect property. They are truly heroes.

In addition to responding at a moment's notice, the Fire Service responds with great professionalism, training, and compassion. The EMS members have extensive training in advanced first aid and life support, the firemen have extensive classroom and practice training

in fighting fires, and every fire department has decades of experience in responding to virtually every conceivable emergency. Working together in close cooperation with other fire departments, our police and sheriff departments, highway departments, and others, the Fire Service is the public safety backbone for all of our communities.

During this holiday season, I join with all of our grateful neighbors and residents in giving a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to our hometown heroes—the dedicated members of the Fire Service!

THE BOILING FROG

by Jon Stahley

Future of the Fire Service Committee

Most of us have heard the parable about, “The Boiling Frog”. I am not sure if it is scientifically true, but it provides a wise lesson in life. My apologies to you animal rights folks, but here it goes. A pot of cold water is placed on a stove into which a frog is placed. The burner is then turned on to a low setting. Mr. Frog is content to just stay in cold water since he is not sure of the surroundings if he jumps out. The water slowly increases in temperature. For a period of time the temperature is just right. Then it goes to uncomfortable, to excruciatingly painful. Strangely he stays in the pan not really knowing what has happened and that his environment has changed. Sadly Mr. Frog dies. His legs are then eaten by a volunteer fireman! Okay, not really, but I need to keep you interested.

This is a valuable lesson that can be applied to the fire and medical services. We are at a critical point in our time. What is that point? I believe the water has gotten too hot and we run the risk of dying by staying where we are. We must enter new ventures when it makes sense. Let’s be honest, in many fire districts we are not providing the emergency service for which the citizens pay taxes. I used to say, “If the public only knew”. Well, now I think they are becoming aware of how bad things are. Sometimes nobody is coming and you know it.

I am in awe of the amount of time and dedication committed by the people of our 42 fire departments of Chautauqua County. It gets harder every year to train, run calls, raise funds etc. etc. I used to ask myself how much can the State and National agencies expect of us. I now am of the opinion that these bureaucrats really don’t care if the volunteers exist anymore. The mandates have finally taken its toll as evidenced by the lack of manpower now. As strange as it may sound, we have gotten so advanced that we sit on the pad waiting for critical personnel to arrive while the public is waiting and wondering what we actually do. Boy Scouts and the general public can render basic common sense first aid more than the local volunteer fire department can now. And it is getting to be about the same on the fire side.

Our dedicated heroes are finally starting to give up.

Good progress has been made by our departments in reduction of equipment, increased sharing of services etc. Of course we have had a written standing mutual aid system in our County since the 1950’s which has been great. However, a major move out of the pot has recently been made with the advent of the County Medic system. “Job well done”, to Emergency Services Director Julius Leone and all of the parties involved in initiating this much needed program. “Thank you”, to the

THE BOILING FROG CONT.

County Executive Vince Horrigan and the County Legislature for recognizing this critical problem and supporting it. It equates to saved lives and maybe helping to perpetuate the service of some of our EMT's. Now we must look for ways to stave off our dwindling numbers on the firefighting side.

I have always said that Chautauqa County Emergency Service people are some of the most dedicated and resourceful people in the business. Our agencies are respected throughout the State. We need to keep communicating and exploring new ideas as we have always done. The difference is that this is the hottest the water has ever been in our history and failure is not an option.

Let's stick with the chicken wings instead of frog legs.



HOLIDAY WISHES

“During this holiday season, I wish to extend to you, our dedicated and courageous first responders, my most sincere thanks for your efforts now, and throughout the year.

“As members of a fire department, police agency, or as an EMT, you give unselfishly in service to our communities. I know that you do not take your responsibilities lightly, and the time you sacrifice with your friends and family, to help a neighbor in need, represents the pinnacle of generosity.

“This year our community was confronted with many trying emergencies, including a major train derailment, numerous fires and emergency medical calls, and through it all you performed admirably.

“On behalf of the all the residents of Chautauqa County, I extend to you my wishes for a very happy holiday. Thank you again for all you do, and may 2017 be blessed with safety for all our local emergency responders.” - Senator Cathy Young



2017 Training Calendar EMERGENCY SERVICES

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

Updated 12-28-16

2 Academy Street, Suite A, Room 106
Mayville, NY 14757

Phone: 716-753-4341
Fax: 716-753-4363

Course Offered - Prerequisite	Hours	Units	Start Date	Location	Instructors
EMT Refresher - Jamestown	Various	Various	1-5-17	JCC Center for Continuing Ed.	Ron Hasson
EMT Challenge Refresher Course	Various	Various	1-9-17	Murphy Training Center	Julius J. Leone, Jr.
Strategies and Tactics for Initial Company Operations (STICO)	15	5	1-10-17	OES	Donald Woodfield
Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FAST)	15	5	1-20-17	East Dunkirk Fire Department	Andrew Finson
Principles of Building Construction: Combustible	12	4	1-23-17	Taylor Training Center	Don Woodfield
Apparatus Operator – Emergency Vehicle Operation	18	6	1-28-17	Bemus Point Fire Department	Dave Norberg
Basic EMT - Jamestown	Various	Various	1-19-17	JCC Center for Continuing Ed.	Ron Hasson
Principles of Building Construction: Non-Combustible	12	4	2-13-17	Taylor Training Center	Don Woodfield
Basic Structural Collapse Operations	8	2	3-18-17	OES	Don Woodfield
Trench Rescue – Awareness Level	8	2	3-25-17	OES	Don Woodfield
Company Officers Leadership Training (COLT)	10	3	4-8-17	East Dunkirk Fire Department	NYS AFC

Must have a signed OFPC Chief's Authorization Letter to attend classes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER: See our Website at www.chautcofire.org

IF UNABLE TO ATTEND AFTER REGISTERING FOR A CLASS, CALL OR E-MAIL OUR OFFICE.

NOTES from the Editor:

As 2016 comes to a close I think back at all that we have experienced in one short year. From early in the year with the beginning of a new radio system the Chautauqua County Fire Service has been moving and changing. 2017 appears to be a continuation of those processes as the mission of our service is ever changing, Chautauqua County will be changing also. I look forward to continuing to bring this publication to the responders in Chautauqua County and as always if you have any ideas for articles please contact me. I will meet on your schedule to get articles and pictures for upcoming publications.

Thank you to all who have contributed in 2016, without you this would not happen.

John Griffith

THE RESPONDER Official Newspaper for the Chautauqua County, New York Fire Service

If your are interested in contributing articles or photos you can contact

John Griffith

Editor at 499-3113 or

email at Griffith@chautcofire.org.

To register go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TheResponderRegistration> or <http://www.chautcofire.org> home page and click on 'click here to register'.



COMING SOON...

The first issues of the Responder are being prepared to post on our website - www.chautcofire.org. You will be able to access them by going to the history section.