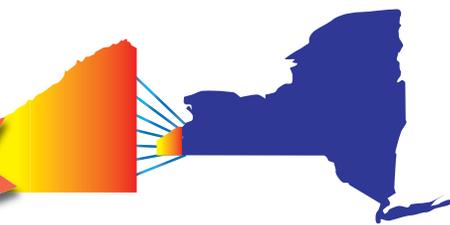




# THE RESPONDER



SEPTEMBER 2014

Chautauqua County Office of

Volume 14 Number 1

EMERGENCY SERVICES

## THE RESPONDER IS BACK!

It is great to see The Responder back after a short break! The Responder format has changed and is better. We have now gone electronic. This is just the most efficient way to communicate with our personnel and related agencies of the County Fire and EMS services. We will need your help to continue to make this a publication that will serve the entire County Fire and EMS service for many years to come by submitting articles, photos, special events or highlight a special person. John Griffith, 4th Battalion Fire Coordinator is the Editor of the Responder in its new format. John will be assisted by former Editor Jon Stahley and retired Jamestown Firefighter and Historian Leo Duliba. We are also pleased that Falconer Printing and Design will continue to be the publisher/printer of The Responder.

As in the past, The Responder is not a technical publication. We are looking for more of the human interest and insight into the County Fire and EMS Service. It is important to recognize the good work that is being done and the great things that the county fire service does on a daily basis. We would like to develop a staff of interested people that would like to write articles and submit photos that capture these special times and want to share those successes with our readers.

If you are interested in contributing articles or photos you can contact John Griffith at 499-3113 or email at [Griffith@chautcofire.org](mailto:Griffith@chautcofire.org)

## WELCOME BACK!

Registration link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TheResponderRegistration>

Or go to <http://www.chautcofire.org> home page and click on 'click here to register'

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Debbie Weaver, Chief Flight Nurse for STARFLIGHT conducted an educational session at the New York State Association of Chiefs Conference at the Turning Stone this past June. Debbie presented a program on trauma to EMT's and Paramedics from throughout New York State. The program was very well received.

Pictured left to right: Julius Leone Jr. Director NYSAFC, Debbie Weaver, RN, CEN.CFRN, NREMTP, Mike Volpe, EMS Director NYSAFC



*Thank you Debbie for the excellent program and representing Chautauqua County so well!*

## Things to Think About...

Properly managing the modern day fire department is not for the unqualified and faint of heart. More than ever before the task is challenging and taxing on individuals.

This section will be a standard article in the Responder. Hopefully it will be thought provoking and helpful. It may even raise a bit of hearty disagreement and that's OK. There are so many facets to our mission that require solid decision making and flexibility. Today the Fire and Medical Services must be flexible and constantly assessing and reassessing our operations. Irreparable damage can be done quickly if people in key positions don't possess the required skills to guide a fire department.

So we hope you will enjoy and maybe consider new ideas in order to better equip you to be the best you can be.

## MURPHY FIRE TRAINING CENTER TO BEGIN LIVE FIRE TRAINING

The City of Dunkirk Fire Department was notified that they will receive a mobile burn unit for use in conducting live fire training. Chief Keith Ahlstrom of the Dunkirk Fire Department applied for a regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant that will allow all of the county 42 fire departments to utilize the unit for improved firefighter training. The total grant award is \$400,000 with a local match of 10%.

The grant will once again give the county the ability to conduct Firefighter 1 and other live burn courses at the Murphy Training Center in Dunkirk. The live fire training building at Murphy was torn down several years ago due to its deteriorated and unsafe condition.

The mobile burn unit is part of our continuing effort to make improvements at the Murphy Training Center. In the past two years a new Mask Confidence building was constructed and most recently the classroom has been completely upgraded.

Thank you to Chief Ahlstrom and Dunkirk Fire for hosting the regional grant application.

## "Do You Remember"



2014 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ashville Fire Department. Shown here is the first unit stationed at the Stow location. It was a 1948 Chevrolet 500 gpm pumper built by JNK Body Corp. of Jamestown. It was later sold to the Ellery Center Fire Department in June of 1971. Ashville has come a long way since this lone small engine protected the Stow area so many years ago. We salute Ashville on this important milestone in their department's long history.



*Official Newspaper for the Chautauqua County, New York Fire Service*

*Thank you for your interest in the all new electronic "The Responder" I look forward to doing this going forward. Special thanks to Lyn Nagel and the great staff at Falconer Printing and Design. Also a huge thanks to Leo Duliba for the pictures of equipment. If your department has new equipment since January of 2012 let me know, Leo will get them done for upcoming issues.*

*I hope you enjoy this publication and I am looking for articles already for the next edition. Send me pictures, stories or any items that will promote the fire and EMS service in Chautauqua County. I also welcome your comments and suggestions.*

*John C. Griffith  
Editor  
[griffith@chautcofire.org](mailto:griffith@chautcofire.org)*

Here's one we missed last time before the Responder ended. Falconer has placed a Ford (F350) Road Rescue Type-3 ambulance in service. Ambulance-401 has been in service for about three years.



Sinclairville has placed in service a new Ambulance-491. This unit is a 2014 Ford (F450 Superduty) series type-2 ambulance with Horton bodywork.



The Kennedy Fire District has also placed two new pieces in service. Car-471, much like Fluvanna's Car-451, is also a 2013 Chevrolet Silverado series command car but it is equipped with four wheel drive and without the command roll out feature.



Falconer has also recently placed in service a new Truck-401. The 100' ladder-tower quint is a first for Falconer and is the second full sized ladder-tower in the county. The 2014 Pierce Velocity series truck sports a 100' tower, 2000 gpm pump and 300 gallon water tank.



The second new Kennedy unit is Ambulance-471. This unit is a 2014 Ford (F350) Road Rescue type-3 ambulance. The white and blue paint job is also new to the department.



Fluvanna has also placed in service two new units. Car-451 is this 2013 Chevrolet Silverado series Command car. The new chief's unit is equipped with roll out command style draws.



Fluvanna's second new unit is Ambulance-452. This apparatus is a 2013 Ford (F350) Road Rescue type-3 ambulance.

# PROFILES IN SERVICE

**Profiles In Service** is going to be one of the standard articles that will be in every issue in the future. The Responder originated and is still part of our Recruitment and Retention Program. In these articles we will be featuring the folks who are in the ranks everyday doing the work of the Fire and Medical Service for our County. Their attitude is as Larry the Cable Guy would say, "Git Er Dun". **It's important to recognize those who don't want any recognition.**

So, for our first article we will feature the Randy Milks family from Busti VFD. Their family consists of Randy, who has been with the Town of Busti for 34 years and is the Deputy Highway Superintendent. Now, Randy's nickname given to him by his peers is, "Rando". This may help give you some insight into his personality, which is a mixture of loyalty, creativity, intensity and hard work. Oh, I'm sorry, I left out hyperactive also. Joining the Fire Department years ago was not possible for Randy as he was a single parent and raised two boys, Lance and Chris, who now are in their thirties and made their homes away from here. There are now 3 grandchildren. Eventually Randy was able to help out on certain things for fundraising over the years. About 5 years ago he joined as a social member and started jumping into various projects. Then one day he was at the station when a call came in for a serious car accident. Although there were active firefighters at the station none of them at that time were qualified drivers so the needed unit could not go. Eventually someone on the drivers list came in and the unit responded. That bothered Randy since he had the skill of a professional operator. That was it. He jumped head first into a lot of training and has loved it ever since. He is also the Director of the Fire Department.

Like most of the people in our fire departments, they are into other community things. Randy also has coached kid's football. I am always amazed at the talent of people in the Fire and Medical Service. Randy does welding and fabricating for the Town Highway Dept. and uses those skills for the Fire Service also. Included with this article are photos of his latest creation. The best way to describe it is a, "fire response cooker". I have never seen anything like it! It is comprised of various parts of a trailer, fire engine, cooking components, beer systems, personal fire gear etc. Of course it is fire engine red and has beautiful graphics on the sides.

The smoke stack has smoke coming out of a fire helmet



on top and it just makes sense to have lights on all four corners just like a heavy rescue truck. This is all complimented with lots of diamond plate. This unit will be used for various fire department, State Chiefs functions and for friends.

Then there is Debbie, the understanding wife and mother of daughter Aleesha and son Jordyn. She is by profession an insurance commercial lines customer service technician so she has the gift of administration and uses those skills for BVFD. Debbie joined October of 2011 as a social member. She is the Financial Secretary, Assistant

Treasurer and on many committees. BVFD has some unusual fundraising projects, such as their annual Daytona Race Party, which is a big deal, and she works in conjunction with the Busti Apple Festival. Debbie is instrumental in their functions. Interestingly, she joined about 6 months after daughter Aleesha joined. Now it became a family affair. Then the family participation expanded to Debbie's two sisters and their husbands, Tammy and Steve McKinsey and Jen and Rob Yahner. Actually, Steve has been a longtime active member of BVFD before the others got involved.

Then in keeping with the family genes of high energy there is the daughter Aleesha. Ever since 7th grade she had told her counselor that she wanted to be in a medical profession. Her grandparents' home was located close to the BVFD fire station, so she got to see them in action as a young girl which gave her the desire to join, and soon as she could. Once eighteen years of age she joined in May of 2011 while still a senior at Frewsburg High. Aleesha became an EMT, got an Associates in Science Degree from JCC and is now a graduate of the Radiology Degree program at WCA Hospital, where she received the, "Award of Excellence". She was able to use the County's Recruitment and Retention Fund Scholarship towards this. This is exactly the intent and the goal of the program. She currently works at WCA in the Radiology Informatics Department and at Wegman's. She is currently refreshing her EMT status. Aleesha is also involved with the Department's fundraising projects.



Then there is 15 year old son Jordyn, who is a tall, slender, quiet spoken young gentlemen. He is an excellent trap shooter and helps out some with community activities.

I asked the Milks to comment on Fire Chief Mike Volpe. They eagerly offered descriptions of Mike's attributes like: excellent incident commander, good administrator, gets us the equipment needed, good organizational skills, supports us 100%, good

communicator, makes us feel wanted and needed, loyalty to his community, no wall or barriers between inner department groups and many people want to join. The respect they had for Chief Volpe was so very evident. The success of a fire department just does not happen, it is engineered by competent leaders and this is so very evident in the Busti Volunteer Fire Department.

**Keep on, keeping on folks.**

## Mike Volpe Elected to the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors

Chief Michael J. Volpe, EMT-P, NRP has been a member of the Busti Fire Department since 1991 and has served as fire chief since 2011. He previously served as chief from 2000-2002. Volpe also serves as the chief of EMS operations for the Chautauqua Fire District #1. He is a past employee of the Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services, where he served as the 3rd Battalion fire coordinator from 2002-2010. Volpe has been employed by EmeryCare Ambulance Service, the largest commercial EMS provider in northwestern Pennsylvania, as a nationally registered paramedic since 2000. Volpe was previously employed as a flight paramedic with Stat Medevac, a flight paramedic with Starflight Medevac of Jamestown, NY, and has worked in various supervisory capacities in the EMS systems of both western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. He currently holds dual certification as a paramedic in New York and Pennsylvania. Volpe is a member of the Chautauqua County Emergency Medical Services Council and previously served as chairman. A member of NYSAFC since 2000, he was named a Chautauqua County regional representative in 2005, was appointed to the EMS Committee in 2008, and was elected EMS director at the conference this past June.



*A little piece of history:*

Here is the heading of the first page of the original Booster Line from 1953. The message is still the same. It is amazing that what was started 61 years ago is still so current today.

Raymond H. Hughes  
County Coordinator

THE  
B O O S T E R  
L I N E

Willis R. Wilson  
Chairman, Advisory Board

Volume 1

Official Publication of the  
Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board

February 1, 1953

### THE BOOSTER LINE

For many months we have been trying to find ways and means of creating a small publication to bring you news of the Fire Service which might be of interest or help to you and your Fire Department. Our funds and facilities for printing an elaborate BOOSTER LINE are limited, but we will try, with your help and the aid of a mimeograph, to give you a one page paper at least every month.

Our staff includes you as our roving reporter and the job of printing and mailing THE BOOSTER LINE will depend entirely upon volunteer labor. So if our news is stale, if our humor makes you mad or if we print mistakes, please forgive us.

Your comments and suggestions will always be welcome, and we earnestly need your support in the way of news, ideas and hot tips. We sincerely hope you will enjoy reading THE BOOSTER LINE.

# Did You Tie Your Shoes Lately?

Bill Johnston  
Deputy Fire Coordinator Training

The need for training never goes away. We learn by training and by repetition. When you were very young someone decided that you would be wearing shoes with laces and that you needed to be able to tie them yourself. You didn't learn to tie your shoes properly, correctly or quickly the first time. You learned by doing it over and over until you could do it with proficiency.

The same applies to the skills we use in the fire service. Each new skill or set of skills that an individual is taught must be practiced to develop and maintain a level of proficiency.

Who decides what skills are needed and why?

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) after review of National Fire Protection Association Standards (NFPA) standards, Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) standards and New York State statutes has established a list of Fire Fighter Training: Best Practices. These are summarized below and are directly off the OFPC website. (<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/training/firefighting-best-practices.cfm> )

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Fire Prevention and Control, has developed recommended minimum training standards based on firefighter tasks or positions to provide guidance and promote best practices for firefighter training and education in the State of New York.

These best practices are applicable to all firefighters assigned to the tasks or positions listed below, including probationary firefighters appointed pursuant to section 58-a of the Civil Service Law who have not yet completed a certified basic fire training program that meets the requirements of 19 NYCRR Part 426. These best practices do not limit an Authority Having Jurisdiction from establishing training requirements which exceed the recommended minimum standards.

**Exterior Firefighter:** Establishes the minimum recommended training consistent with scene support functions for those firefighters assigned to tasks outside an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmosphere. Completion of the following meets these recommended minimums: NYS Scene Support Operations course, NYS Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations course, National Incident Management System (NIMS) I-700 and I-100 courses, and basic first aid/CPR.

**Interior Structural Firefighter:** Establishes the minimum recommended training consistent with NFPA 1001 Firefighter I level for those firefighters assigned to interior structural firefighting tasks. Completion of the following meets the recommended minimums: NYS Firefighter I course or equivalent, National Incident Management System (NIMS) I-700 and I-100 courses, and basic first aid/CPR.

**Apparatus Operator:** Establishes the minimum recommended training for operators of any fire department vehicle. These minimums are consistent with the general requirements of Chapter 4 of NFPA 1002 Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications and can be met with completion of the NYS Apparatus Operator: Emergency Vehicle Operation course or equivalent and local training specific to the apparatus or vehicle to be operated. It is recommended that Apparatus Operators also complete the training indicated for Exterior Firefighter or Interior Structural Firefighter as appropriate to their assigned tasks.

**Fire Officer:** Establishes the requirements of NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, Chapter 4 Fire Officer I, sections 4.2 through 4.7, as the minimum recommended training for any fire officer. Completion of the NYS Fire Officer I (NFPA 1021 2009) course or equivalent meets these recommended minimums. It is recommended, where practical, that fire officers comply with the requirements of NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I in their entirety.

These best practices also include recommendations for the medical qualification of firefighters, annual in-service training, and additional training for fire officers beyond the company officer or first-line supervisory level.

Guidance regarding the applicable OSHA standard requirements for firefighters is included and cross referenced where appropriate.

The complete listing of best practices includes more detailed content on the items listed below. The website address is: [www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/training/documents/training-best-practices.pdf](http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/training/documents/training-best-practices.pdf)

- A. Exterior Firefighters
- B. Interior Structural Firefighters
- C. Medical Qualification
- D. Minimum Annual In-service Training
- E. Apparatus Operators
- F. Fire Officers
- G. Additional Fire Officer Training

The courses OFPC provides through the county assigned State Fire Instructor lead courses as well as Academy Residential and Regional programs are just the tip of the iceberg in providing and maintaining well trained and proficient fire fighters. The real work is done after the initial training. The real work is done in-house during drills, reviews and practice.

### *Are your shoes tied?*



August 1st to 3rd Montour Falls NY State Fire Academy hosted its annual Explorers Weekend. 168 Junior Members from all over NYS converged at the Academy to participate in a fun filled weekend of training. Locally Juniors from Kennedy and Falconer Fire Departments joined youths from as far away as Albany to cover training topics based on years of attendance. First year members went through the Everybody Goes Home Courage to Be Safe Program, Fire Extinguisher Training, EMS Skills, Ladder raising and basic SCBA skills. The older kids spent the weekend going through Engine Company operations and Rescue Tech Skills including rappelling and low angle rescues. Kennedy Fire Chief and Adviser Greg Scott stated this is a wonderful opportunity to spend a weekend with many other of our future firefighters and EMS providers all while teaching our own what it takes to become an effective firefighter. We look forward to next year.



*Kennedy Explorer Jake Scott during Fire Extinguisher Training*

Pictured above are the youths who participated in the weekend.

# Team Work



August 24th 2014: Members of the Falconer, Kennedy and Gerry Fire Departments met at Falconer as they hosted a Team Building workshop to develop team work with the newest Jamestown Hockey Team the Southern Tier Xpress. 26 Hockey players from as far away as Russia joined and competed against members of the Fire Departments in 5 different fire oriented challenges. A bucket brigade consisting of moving water by 3 gallon pails from a portable pond to an elevated 55 gallon barrel, followed by a 24' extension ladder balance the ball activity started off the day. Next teams were put through an obstacle course consisting of a 175lb rescue dummy that had to be carried by a stokes over and under obstacles all while the team members were challenged by blindfolds and limitations of arms. A tug of war showed team work and was followed off by a hose race competition consisting of 3 sections of 1 3/4 hose being assembled and attached to a hydrant and using the water to knock down bowling pins. Jamestown Southern Tier Xpress head coach Rylan Galiardi stated what a great opportunity it was for his team to be out of their elements and get to know each other all while working with local first responders. Marcus Fosberg from Falconer Fire coordinated the event and hopes to continue with the activities as it builds teamwork and gets folks together who respond sometimes daily to break free from the demanding tasks of being volunteers and have some fun. Look forward to an exciting year of youth Hockey at the Ice Arena and thank you to the volunteers who took the day to spend with an amazing group of kids.



# Building Dedication

Members of the Busti Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary dedicated their Auxiliary Building at the Busti Firemen's Grounds on Saturday, August 23 in memory of Jeanette Northrop. Jeanette, was one of the founding members of the Auxiliary, passed away February 17, 2013. During the Busti Gala Days she was very involved in making the "Famous Auxiliary Fish Fry."

# Chicken Soup For The Firefighters Soul

from Pete Dawson

*The following story will be familiar to many of you. I hope you'll excuse me for submitting a rerun from 2008 but the message is timeless and it certainly supports my mission in our Fire Service. Thanks.*

In Phoenix, Arizona, a 26 year old mother stared down at her 6 year old son who was dying of leukemia. Like any parent she had wanted her child to grow up and fulfill his dreams. That was no longer possible but she still wanted his dream to come true.

She took his little hand and asked "Billy, did you ever think about what you wanted to be once you grew up?" He answered "Mommy, I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up." Mom smiled and said "Lets see if we can make that dream come true."

Later in the day she went to visit the Phoenix Fire Department where she met Fireman Bob. She explained her sons wish and asked if it might be possible to give Billy a ride around the block on a fire engine. Bob explained that they could do better than that. If she had her son ready at 7:00 Wednesday morning, he could be and Honorary fireman for the whole day. He could come down to the fire station, eat meals with them and go out on all the fire calls with them. The whole nine yards. "In fact", he said "If you give us his sizes, we will have a full uniform for him with a coat and boots and a real helmet with the Phoenix F.D. emblem on it." "They're made right here in Phoenix, so it wont be a problem."

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his new uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to his seat over the rear axle of the waiting ladder truck. He helped steer the truck to the station.

He was in heaven. There were three fire calls that day and Billy went on all of them. He rode in different engines, the paramedics van and the chief's car. He was also video taped for the local newscast.

Having had his dream come true, with all the attention and love that was lavished on him, so deeply touched Billy that he lived three months longer than any doctor believed possible.

One night all his vital signs began to drop and the Head Nurse called in the family to the hospital. Then she remembered the day Billy had spent with the firemen and she called the Chief to ask if a uniformed fireman could be there when Billy made the transition. The Chief said "We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes, but I need a favor from you. When you hear our sirens screaming and our lights flashing, will you please announce over the PA system that there is no fire? Tell them it's the fire department coming to see on its finest members one more time. Also please open the window to Billy's room."

About five minutes later the ladder truck was outside and 16 firefighters climbed up and through Billy's third story window. With his mothers permission they hugged him and held him and told them how much they loved him.

With his last breath, Billy looked up at the Chief and said "Chief, am I really a fireman now?" "Yes, Billy you are really a fireman and Jesus, The Head Chief, is holding your hand" said the Chief.

With those words, Billy smiled and said, "I know, He's been holding my hand all day and the angels have been singing ..... He closed his eyes one last time.

## Fire Advisory Board Future of the Fire Service Committee

In 2007 the Fire Advisory Board determined they needed to develop plans for the future. They created the Future of the Fire Service Committee to plan for the future, to look into the crystal ball and come up with ideas on how to prepare for the future. As there is no crystal ball, the committee, under Jon Staley, started by looking at where we progressed from so they could plan for the future.

They found there were some very progressive leaders in the past, some of whom are memorialized on the doors of Station Seven. The need for a team of "experts" to investigate fires was seen as a need. Fire Chiefs in New York State are required under State Law to investigate the cause and origin of all fires. Every Community in the County could not afford the time and expense to have expert personnel available to assist their Fire Chief in determining cause and origin. So the Fire Investigation Team was formed which brought dedicated personnel from the Sheriff's Department together with Fire Service members to assist the Fire Chiefs.

The next need to arise was for a Hazardous Materials Team. Just look at all the equipment this team has and try and duplicate it 42 times. Our tax payers would hang us all. The Water Emergency Team, the Technical Rescue Team and the Fire Police team have followed. All these teams fulfill a need no one department could possibly do on their own.

The current Committee as selected by the Chairman of the Fire Advisory Board Peter Samuelson is co-chaired by Noll Guttman and Larry Barter is charged with planning for the future. The committee understands our past and is now looking to the future.

One problem they are trying to tackle is the EMS response throughout the County. When this write joined 39 years ago, the Fire Departments fought fires and did a little EMS on the side. Today we are EMS agencies who do a little firefighting. In some departments 80% of the runs they cover are emergency medical in nature. In the 1980's it was rare you heard a second department toned out for mutual aid for an EMS run. Today it is not uncommon to hear two and sometimes three or four departments toned out for the same call. This is a problem this committee is looking at with the help of the EMS council.

The committee recommended to the Fire Advisory Board they ask the County Executive and the Legislature to commission a study with the emphasis on the providing of EMS in this County. This is supported by the EMS council. This is one problem we as a County need to solve together or will die individually to paraphrase Ben Franklin the Father of the Fire Service.

This is only one area the committee is looking into. The committee's goal is to develop a strategic plan the County as well as the individual departments can use as an aid for the future. Our plate is full and we will be looking for help from all departments as well as government and the people our ultimate bosses.

# CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WATER EMERGENCY TEAM

On September 14, 1994, the Chautauqua County Water Emergency Team (CCWET) was established when Resolution No. 234-94 was passed by the Chautauqua County Legislature. The result of that action combined eight members of the Sheriff's Office Dive Team and eight Fire Service members, formerly with the Starflight Dive Team, into a single, county-wide water rescue response group. Three of the charter members, Denny Barmore, Randy Hockenberry and Darryl Braley, are still active with the team. As we mark the 20th anniversary of the CCWET, or WET team as it has become known, it is interesting to reflect on the transitions and accomplishments that have occurred over the past 2 decades.

Prior to the formation of the CCWET the response to water and ice-related emergencies within the county was much different than it is today. Fire and police agencies were not nearly as well trained or equipped to handle these complex calls for service. Far too often, potential drownings were managed as recovery operations from the start and not rescue opportunities. Fortunately for all of us, that has changed immensely and we like to think that the CCWET has played a small part in that. The CCWET has participated in countless joint training exercises over the years involving almost every rescue scenario imaginable. It has been gratifying to see the interest sparked in the wake of those sessions and the preparedness that individual departments have attained as a result. Today, the public can rest assured that a capable and competent water and ice rescue response is close by almost anywhere in Chautauqua County. Fire and police commanders have also become much more safety conscious and many agencies now provide first responders with training and personal protective equipment specific to water and ice rescues.

Over the years, the goal of the CCWET has been to maintain and improve on the original concept for which the team was established; to provide rapid responses to all types of water related emergencies, including surface and sub-surface rescues and recoveries in open water, swift water and ice cover environments. In addition to the rescue component of our mission, the CCWET provides law enforcement support throughout the region to locate and document underwater crime scenes and to recover evidence and contraband. As a service to the public, we are also frequently called upon to locate and/or remove safety and navigation hazards and provide assistance and support to other governmental

and public safety agencies. To accomplish all of this, we have specialists trained and equipped in all of the following categories:

- Emergency Deployment Rescue Divers
- Ice Rescue Divers
- Surface Ice/Cold Water Rescue Specialists
- Deep Water Recovery Divers
- Swift Water Rescue Specialists
- Rescue Swimmers
- Homicide By Drowning Investigators
- HazMat Divers
- EMTs and Paramedics
- Dive Equipment Technicians

The CCWET has secured training through accredited international SCUBA training agencies to provide members with current Public Safety Diver Certifications that include dry suit, full-face mask and redundant gas supply endorsements.

The CCWET operates a fully equipped emergency response vehicle and two rigid hull inflatable outboard rescue boats. Other team resources include side scan sonar, underwater photography and video equipment, swift water and high angle rigging, flotation stretchers, an ice rescue sled, an underwater vehicle recovery lift bag salvage system and underwater communication equipment. Much of the training and equipment funding used by the CCWET comes through donations and grants.

Emergency requests for the CCWET may be made to the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center in Mayville by any public safety incident commander. Dispatch personnel are authorized to immediately activate the team any time they determine that the potential for a life-saving rescue exists. Non-emergency requests, out of county requests and the use of Sheriff's Office vehicles, vessels and aircraft for deployment or insertion of CCWET personnel must be authorized by the Sheriff's Office CCWET Team Leader.

Fire service personnel interested in possible CCWET membership should contact Dennis Barmore for information regarding team vacancies, required qualifications and applications.

## Notes from the Jump Kit

Steve Cobb - EMS Coordinator

*"It is my pleasure to be able to again contribute to The Responder."*

A big thank you to all that have worked so hard to finally get every department up to date with the WREMAC required PPAs and credentialization. I especially would like to thank the Battalion Coordinators and Norma Cummings. Just a reminder that each EMT has to be credentialed once a year, by the end of June. This is a WREMAC requirement.

I would also like to welcome our one returning and three new Medical Directors to our county.

Dr. Borton - 1st Battalion; Dr. Santillo - 2nd Battalion; Dr. Faulk - 3rd Battalion; Dr. Walters - 4th Battalion. More information about each Doctor will appear in a later issue.

I would like to thank Dr. Connor for his dedicated service to the county. I still remember Dr. Connor's input as a member of the EMS Council back in the days when ALS was just starting to be implemented in the county. He made many contributions to get us to the level of care that we have today.

# Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team



*CST Drill – May 2013 as part of the State “Storm West” exercise the HazMat Conducts exercise with the NYS National Guard Civil Support Team (2nd CST) and Chautauqua Fire Department*



*Train Wreck – 1997 ConRail Train derailment in West Dunkirk*



*Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team renders safe abandoned lab with the help of the Ashville Fire Department and the Sheriff’s Dept Bomb Team.*



*April 2013 - Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team conducts drill on leaking rail car at St Bonaventure with its regional partners: Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties and the Seneca Nation of Indians.*



*Hazardous Materials Response Team drill tanker in preparation of offloading gasoline from this overturned tanker On Rt62 in Kiantone.*

The Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team is an all-volunteer, highly-trained group of firefighters who respond to incidents involving hazardous materials throughout the entire county.

The Chautauqua 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 all 42 individual fire departments in the county 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 Chautauqua County HazMat Team was the second HazMat team organized in the state of New York and the first Level A team in the state outside New York City. The team is chartered by Chautauqua County, NY and serves at the direction of the Director of Emergency Services

Our first call was 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 54 men and women from fire departments across the county. They’re all volunteers on the county team, and train monthly at their facility in Mayville, NY.

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 County 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 HazMat response including, detection equipment, fully encapsulating “Level A” suits and decontamination equipment.

The Chautauqua County Hazardous Materials Response Team has strived to create an environment where the team’s assets, skills and equipment can be used no matter what the situation. Over the last dozen years we have been we have worked to be a resource as an all hazard asset.

We are automatically dispatched with the County SWAT Team, and the tech rescue, dive and forensics teams all call on us to provide various support.

In 2008 NYS we lead a group of HazMat teams in our area in an effort to secure a regional grant in the new initiative to support the New York State Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Teams with grant funds to enhance and upgrade their capabilities. We partnered with Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

This specialized HazMat grant was created to provide a financial incentive for the development of regional HazMat capabilities. The three primary objectives of this grant are to promote the development of regional partnerships among the State HazMat community; to build sustainable WMD/HazMat Response Capabilities; and to enhance the standing of the State’s HazMat teams within FEMA’s “typing system”.

The NYS Department of Homeland has awarded a targeted grant to the Hazardous Materials Response Team in Chautauqua County and our partners every year since. The initiative seeks to encourage regional collaboration with targeted funding.

We have also established a partnership with Erie County Pa. training with and exercising with them many times over the last 5 years.

In May 2013 we were fortunate to host a drill at Chautauqua Institute with the NY National Guard’s elite Weapons of Mass Destruction 2nd Civil Support Team.

The team annually co-sponsors with the local community collage (JCC) an 8 hour Hazwoper refresher course for local industries. We also participate in the delivery of this class.

The team annually co-sponsors with several agencies two Household Waste Days throughout the county. We help out and are on stand-by the day of the events.

# TRAINING KEEPS THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM BUSY

The Hazardous Materials Response Team has been busy this spring and summer with various training. Their monthly drills are a back to basics theme with recent training on meters with the County Bomb Team, Decon Basics and chlorine kit refresher.

OFPC conducted a Hazardous Materials Technician – Basic course in May  
Seven members attended CSX rail training in Erie.

A busy fall training schedule is ahead with the OFPC live fire foam class and a joint harbor boom deployment exercise with the Coast Guard scheduled as well as the Ohio HazMat Team conference.



Midland2 HM team members review proper application of Midland Emergency Response Kit (ERK) with their rail car valve simulator



HM 003 CSX Safety Training Train

Anyone interested in finding out more about the team should feel free to attend any of our drills or contact Dan Infeld at 410-4263



HM 015 HazMat Team Members (l-r) Chris Wichlacz, Dr Brian Walters and Tom Fairbanks receive instruction on rail car top valves from CSX Safety Train instructor



HM 205 OFPC instructor David Baker instructs HazMat Technician class students on the proper way to stop a leaking cylinder

# Ronald J. Keddie Memorial 2014 Chautauqua County Weekend



*The 19th annual "Ron Keddie" Memorial Chautauqua County Weekend was another great success!*

Over 85 Chautauqua County Firefighters traveled to the NYS Fire Academy in Montour Falls to participate in some of the best training offered in New York State. As in the past, the academy was exclusively for Chautauqua County Firefighters.

The courses offered this year were among some of the best that have been offered over the past 19 years. The course included: Apparatus Operator-Pump Refresher, Medium Structural Collapse Operations-Exterior Shoring, Flammable Gas Emergency Workshop, EMS Special Situations Course and The Rules Have Changed- Firefighter's Guide to Lightweight Building Construction.

The EMS Special Situations Course offering was the first time the course has been offered at the Fire Academy. Typically the course is taught at the NYS Homeland Security State Preparedness Training Center. Students in this course were challenged to work in situations often not encountered during routine response.

Thank you to Larry Barter, Bill Johnston, Tony Faso, Julius Leone, Gloria Burke and Deputy Chief Brian Benstead (OFPC) for all the hard work in making the 2014 "Ronald J. Keddie" Chautauqua County Weekend a great success!



**MARK YOU CALENDARS:  
20TH ANNIVERSARY "RONALD J. KEDDIE MEMORIAL  
CHAUTAUGUA COUNTY WEEKEND  
SEPTEMBER 11- 13, 2015**