



# Chautauqua County Fire Chiefs' Annual Banquet

- 2022

Every year in May, the Chautauqua County Fire Advisory Board and Chautauqua County Fire Chiefs Association host a banquet to present awards for Firefighter of the Year, Citizen of the Year and EMS Provider of the Year. On May 25th, the Annual Banquet was held at the Moose Lodge in Westfield and a delicious meal was enjoyed by all. This year's banquet was well-attended by fire personnel from around our county and award recipients and their families. The following award recipient narratives are excerpts from submitted letters of nomination.

The 2022 Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Ripley Firefighter Elias Quintero, for his efforts to save the life of a neighbor on Shaver Street. The person was reported by Mayville Dispatch to be trapped on the second floor of the house with no way to get downstairs. The neighbor of the victim, Tom Swoger, had hailed down Elias who happened to be just houses away. They used Tom's ladder, putting it in place below the victim's window. Firefighter Quintero climbed the ladder and pulled the woman headfirst out



*Tom Swoger, Ripley Chief Mark Smith, FAB Chairman Jeff Molnar, FF Elias Quintero, Burl Swanson, CCFCFA President Jordan Bailey*

of the window and onto the ladder, which was witnessed by Ripley Chief Mark Smith. Once the victim was on the ladder, Elias was able to get her turned around and they both climbed down the ladder to safety. The victim was transported to Westfield Memorial Hospital for evaluation. Had it not been for the neighbor's quick thinking and Firefighter Quintero's rescue, the outcome for the victim could have been much worse.

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## Chautauqua County Fire Chiefs' Annual Banquet cont...



The 2022 Citizen of the Year was awarded to Elliye-Mae Ball from Sherman. In the early morning hours of January 12th, the recipient's mother, Tiffany Taylor, was awakened by smoke detectors going off in their home. Tiffany ran from her downstairs bedroom to get three of her children from their second-story bedrooms, only to find intense fire blocking her way. Elliye, who is 12 years old, woke up from her mother's screams to a room full of smoke. While Mom evacuated the house with her twin sons who had been sleeping with her, Elliye attempted to rescue her one-year-old brother from his room. She was blocked by flames at the entrance of the room and was badly burned. She ran back to another brother's room that was adjacent to hers and crawled through smoke and flames to find her brother, Miles, badly burned and unresponsive. Knowing that they would have to jump in order to survive, Elliye roused him enough to get to a second story window. She kicked out the window and jumped with Miles approximately 28 feet to the ground, then proceeded to a neighbor's house. They were both transported by ambulance to UPMC Hamot Hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. Both children were transferred to UPMC Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh due to the extent of their burns – Elliye

had 51% of her body burned, while Miles had 91% of his burned. Both children have had multiple surgeries and endured unimaginable pain. Despite the odds, both have made tremendous strides towards recovery. Through all of the painful treatments, Elliye has made a point to let her little brother know every day that she is always by his side. Elliye's actions would be considered heroic if she was an adult, but considering that she is a 12-year-old makes it all the more inspiring. The courage this young lady displayed to stay calm in such a terrifying situation in order to save her little brother's life is astonishing.

The 2022 EMS Provider of the Year was awarded to Dewittville Fire Chief Don Emhardt. On October 26, 2021, Dewittville and Hartfield Fire Departments, plus the CCEMS Medic were dispatched for a female with a possible heart attack. Chief Emhardt arrived on the scene first to find a female laying in the driveway unresponsive. The lady of the house stated that a vehicle had stopped in her driveway, with the female passenger having a heart-related emergency. As she aided in getting the female out of the car and onto the pavement, it was determined that there were no vital signs and CPR was initiated. Upon arrival of Chief Emhardt, he took over CPR while assisting agencies were arriving. Hartfield EMS and the CCEMS Medic worked together to apply a Lucas device and establish an airway. The victim was transported to the hospital, where she received rapid care and came through with a heart-assisted device implanted. The combined and timely actions of all involved enabled a totally unresponsive victim with no vital signs to be revived and medically treated to be given a second chance at life.

Tom Swoger received recognition as a runner-up for the Citizen of the Year award for his part in aiding with the rescue of the victim in Ripley. At a meeting of the Fire Advisory Board in June, Lieutenant Jeff Hatch of the Jamestown Fire Department received recognition as a runner-up for Firefighter of the Year. He was instrumental in preventing an individual from using a knife against a fellow firefighter during operations at a house fire.

# Recognition Ceremony for Vietnam Veterans

The Fire Department of Westfield and the Westfield Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Association hosted a ceremony to recognize Vietnam Veterans in and around the Westfield area on April 30th at the fire hall. The recognition of the veterans was a continuation of an idea started by Firefighter and Past Chief Lyle Holland.

The recognition ceremonies began December 7, 2016, with the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Veterans of World War II from across Chautauqua County were sought to be recognized at that time, with eight veterans in



attendance. Speakers/dignitaries from around the area were also invited to attend. Many spoke of what these men had endured and the honor that they were so deserving to receive. Certificates were given to each veteran and the ceremony wrapped up with cake and drink. Some of the veterans hung around to recall and share memories.

The next event was held on November 11, 2018. Veterans of the Korean Conflict from around Chautauqua County were invited to attend this recognition ceremony, with a special "guest veteran" from Erie. This special veteran was Lyle's father-in-law (Marsha's father), who passed away the following June. This event hosted 19 veterans, with the certificates being given to each. These veterans also enjoyed recalling the stories from their time overseas.



Due to CoVid-19, the Vietnam Veterans were not honored until this year. This program was the most important for Lyle – he was not a veteran but grew up in the era and witnessed how the veterans were treated when they returned home. This program was held in partnership with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration that provided some extra "goodies" for the veterans and a special award to the Department for recognizing the veterans. There were 19 veterans and six deceased veterans' families present from the northern area of our county who all received certificates and other gifts as a small token for their service to our country. This proved to be a "standing room only" event and was well-received by the community.

# Jamestown Fire Department Adds and Upgrades Equipment



Jamestown Fire Department adds and upgrades equipment. The City of Jamestown has made major investments in the Jamestown Fire Department recently. JFD has replaced two front line engines and completed a total refurbishment of Ladder 1.

Jamestown Fire Department Ladder 1 is a 2008 Pierce Velocity. The entire process of refurbishment was a two year process with a total cost of \$360,000. The aerial device was completely rebuilt and recertified including an upgrade of the ladder computer system. The hydraulic lines on Ladder 1 were replaced as part of the process. The pump was rebuilt along with all valves and it was also recertified. All compartment doors were replaced and the entire unit was repainted to the new JFD paint scheme. The interior seating was all reupholstered and the entire Multiplex System was upgraded. Jamestown Fire Department has a state of the art Ladder Truck in service once again.



Recently Jamestown Fire Department placed in service two new front line pumpers, Engine 3 and Engine 4. These are matching 2021 Spartan/4 Guys Metro Star units. Features include stainless steel bodies, Clean Cab Concept 4 man cabs, 2000 gallon per minute pumps, 500 gallon water tanks and enclosed ladder storage. Powered by Cummins L-9 engines these units are 450 horsepower. Engine 3 and Engine 4 respond to fire and EMS calls in the City of Jamestown and as mutual outside of the City with each having approximately 950 responses per year.



The City of Jamestown is also investing in the Fire Stations used by JFD. Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds all stations are being upgraded. New power generators are being installed at all stations along with all new overhead doors and man doors at all stations. Also Station 4 is getting a new roof and at Station 5 the East side truck bay floor is being replaced. (The West side was replaced earlier)

Jamestown Fire Department has three new recruits attend the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls NY and they will be joining the department as full time replacements after graduation in July.

Congratulations to Jamestown Fire Department and the City of Jamestown for all the great things happening at this time.

## EAST TOWN OF DUNKIRK ADDS NEW PUMPER



The East Town of Dunkirk Fire Department has added a 2020 E-One Typhoon pumper to their fleet of equipment. It is equipped with a six man cab, 1750 gallon per minute pump, 780 gallon water tank, pre-connect Blitz Fire, Remoter Extendable 1500 Gallon per minute TFT Deck Gun and a Hydraulic Ladder Rack. It is powered by a 450 horse power Cummins engine.

## Kennedy fire department is happy to announce the addition of two new fire apparatus to its fleet



The first one is a 2020 e-one typhoon chassis pumper. It is a top mount pump panel with 1030 gal, no foam tank.

It is built with a front pre-connect suction for a pond. The pond that can be watched from the pump panel with cameras.

All equipment are enclosed to keep out of the winter weather.

The engine is equipped with a fridge to allow our members to have cold water at all time.



The second equipment is a new 2021 dodge ram 1500 command unit.



# EMS Tidbits

There is a tremendous amount of happenings/changes in EMS lately. Here are some bullet points.

- EMS Skills are due by June 30th. Both BLS and ALS skill fairs are being conducted. If you can't/didn't make one of these there is a list of preceptors on the STEMS web page.
- CoVid is still here – we just don't hear a lot about it anymore. Please don't let your guard down. Hospitalizations doubled the first week of June in Chautauqua County.
- Monkeypox is here in NYS! NETEC (the folks who pushed out EMS info on Ebola) have put together some resources on this latest outbreak: For EMS providers: EMS Response to the Current Outbreak of Monkeypox.
- Billing. So many questions – so few answers. As of this writing four information sessions have been set up around the county. Look for one and attend.
- More agencies sign on with CCEMS. Falconer and Celoron are fully contracted. Fluvanna's paperwork is with the respective legal councils. Discussions are taking place with another 10 or so agencies. (a solution for our billing and EMT mutual aid issues???)
- This year's NYS EMS Memorial service was moved from EMS week to September 20th, 2022, starting at 11 am at the Empire State Plaza. Sadly, ten fallen EMS providers will be honored this year.
- NYS Vital Signs is in Albany this year, October 27-30 at the Empire State Plaza. Scope out the details at [www.vitalsignsconference.com](http://www.vitalsignsconference.com).
- EMT certifications were again extended a year earlier this winter. The state will not print new cards. Your EMS captain is able to print your new expiration date from the Health Commerce System (HCS)
- Digital cards are coming to the HCS. Individuals will be able to print their card from this portal. Just waiting on DOH to release this to the field. Of note, both provider and instructor credentials are currently displayed in HCS.
- The controversy on what CME can be used for recert has been settled by DOH: regardless of when you got your most recent card, all CME you do since that card was issued can be used to renew your current card, no matter how many extensions you received.
- You might recall proposed equipment changes (Regs, Part 800.24) have been talked about. Well, they are still in review and may hit the press for public comment soon.
- Fall is the expected release date for the new BLS Practical Skills Exam (PSE). It will utilize 3 out of hospital scenarios, focused on testing critical thinking and applied learning rather than rote memorization of psychomotor skills.
- The migration of CME paperwork submission to an on-line portal is complete. All CME paperwork must be submitted at: <https://apps.health.ny.gov/pubpal/builder/survey/cmeportal>. A few added bullet points of note for anyone involved in CME recerts: The agency MUST submit CME for anyone who belongs to that agency. If the provider submits as an individual, the agency loses eligibility for funding. Bottom line: if the agency CME Coordinator signs the CME recert application, the agency must submit it.
- Some updates on CLI/CIC requirements: the NAEMSE instructor course has replaced the NYS CIC course. CLI courses continue to be offered and will shortly be available on the Vital Signs Academy. One tweak to CIC training: if an instructor takes the NAEMSE instructor course with the intention of becoming a CIC and, for whatever reason, is unable to complete their CIC internship, they may now apply for CLI status (and complete the CLI internship requirements). For the CLI/CIC CME requirements, the Bureau will shortly be putting a complete package on Vital Signs Academy (VSA) using the Instructor CME preconference done annually at the Vital Signs Conference.
- Trivia buffs – here are some data on numbers of certified providers in NYS (as of 3/31/2022):
  - CFR: 8,153
  - EMT: 53,750
  - EMT-CC: 1,241
  - AEMT: 759
  - EMT-P: 9,673
  - Total certified EMS providers: 73,576 (but only slightly more than half have submitted a PCR in the last year)
- A new FCC designated 3-digit number (988) will launch nationwide on July 16th, 2022, to connect people across the U.S. to their local Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The new number (988) will replace the myriad of 7-digit numbers currently in use all over the Country. Ultimately, 988 will have capability to direct transfer to 911 centers, but not on its initial launch.

EMS Coordinator  
Dan Imfeld

# Hazmat Happenings



Since the Ripley train derailment a few years ago (where we had a propane car travel 1484 feet on its side) the hazmat team has significantly increased their training and capabilities to handle all types of propane emergencies. This included bringing in 2 grant funded training sessions by national training experts. The first two day class was opened up to our regional hazmat teams who we work with – we had 4 Buffalo fire hazmat and 2 Erie County Hazmat personnel attend our session.

The team is now trained and equipped to handle leaks in tanks that range in size from your 20lb barbeque tank up to rail cars. A leaking 20lb cylinder can be flared off in approximately 10 minutes.

The other area where we have gained new capabilities is in natural gas detection. In April the team received a grant funded Remote Methane Laser Detector (RMLD) This device is designed for up to 100ft distance detection of leaks on outside gas pipelines along buildings, bridges or within gas and industrial sites. Its capacity to detect gas through glass also makes it an essential tool for conducting rapid inspections where multiple buildings/residences are suspected of having gas accumulations, safely and efficiently remotely.

Large buildings (malls, strip malls, big box stores and factories) pose a significant challenge to fire

department as natural gas is lighter than air and may accumulate near the ceiling where you may not be able to reach with an ordinary 4gas/PID monitor.

The RMLD - allows team members to quickly scan common venting points within a structure from a safe distance to determine if there's methane gas present. All too frequently first responders are called to minor and major natural gas emergencies, using equipment that puts them too close to potentially dangerous structures. The RMLD remote detection allows the operator to shine the beam through most windows, giving them an audible and visual signal as to the presence of methane. This quick scan permits first responders to make quick decisions and establish control of the gas and ignition sources if a detection is present.



# How do we know when it's over?

The volunteer fire service is going through the biggest change in history. From its beginnings with Ben Franklin in the 1700's through the change from horses to trucks, two world wars and the growth of the second half of the last century, the fire service has adapted and survived.

In this century the growth has slowed or stopped. Our pagers are constantly being activated for more manpower, drive and EMT needed, interiors needed and much more. There is not many "single company" alarms because there is no longer enough manpower in a single company.

Advanced Life Support Response Units are doing Basic Life Support work because there is no one else responding. Fires are fought by men in their 50's and 60's and even 70's because there is a real shortage of younger men and women.

All this leads to the question, how do we know when it's over?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is an international nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards.

NFPA 1710 recommends that each company be staffed with four qualified firefighters. The standard further outlines that one firefighter will staff the pump, one firefighter will secure the water supply and two firefighters will advance the hose line.

They also recommend that no firefighters enter a burning building unless four firefighters are "on-scene," the so-called "two-in, two-out" rule, which requires that at least two firefighters enter the Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with each other at all times. It also requires that at least two employees be located outside the IDLH atmosphere, thus the term, "two in/two out".

In today's environment with limited manpower it is very difficult to respond to a call for service with a staffed engine as defined by NFPA. For

rural departments the response may be the engine to the scene and firefighters arriving by personal vehicle but the number on scene for recommended staffing remains the same.

At last count Chautauqua County had listed 99 fire engines in service divided by the 42 fire departments. That is an average of 2.35 engines per department. In this real world of the year 2022 how many departments in New York State can respond one engine with a crew?

New York State has required essential services that all communities must provide. One of those services is fire protection. It may be as a Fire District, City or Village Fire Department, Fire Protection District or Fire Company. A Fire Company can be either a unincorporated association or incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation.

For departments with extremely low staffing when is the time to tell the governing agency having jurisdiction, (AHJ), that there is a fire station with equipment but that there is not a fire department that can respond meeting NFPA. That is a strong statement to make however the AHJ must be notified of the issue before there is a loss of life and property with long term ramifications. Is the leadership of the fire department obligated to make the notification? Certainly if the department cannot meet the minimum standards it will be better to make that known before the loss of life and property than after when the lawyers are circling like buzzards over the incident.

In a world with legal ramifications for not providing exact services there will be financial settlements awarded for lack of services.

Imagine this scenario: There has been a terrible loss of life and property in a small community. The head of the local AHJ is on the stand and the plaintiff's lawyer has the victim's property tax bill in their hand. On the bill there is a line for "Fire Protection". The lawyer asks the defendant did you collect this money for fire protection. The defendant says yes, we did collect that money. The next question is: Did you provide fire protection when the plaintiff

## How do we know when it's over? cont...

needed it? The answer is that the fire department did what they could; there was a limited response due to several factors. The lawyer than ask: Did your response meet the NFPA recommendations?

This situation will not end well for the AHJ, for the local fire department or for the other defendants in the action.

The times have changed; the fire service is not what it once was. Let's go back to the beginning of this and again ask the question: How do you know when it's over?

Maybe now is the time to have that discussion with the local AHJ and tell them where your department stands. What can be expected for a response to an alarm of fire, numbers of responders and abilities of responders? Tell the AHJ how it is, don't over state the facts. Keep in mind it is not the members who have let the community down, it is the community lack of volunteers that have changed over the years.

This is a topic that has no good ending however it must be addressed. So, how do you know when it's over?

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

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