

Hot Calls

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November/December 2022



Fire Prevention Wreath of Blue

Nine Red Bulbs representing structure fires, were added between November 25 To December 31, 2022.



Ambulance

Legislature approves new ambulance service

The Schuyler County Legislature, meeting in special session Wednesday, approved a contract with Cayuga Health System for a new ambulance service in the county. The Legislature passed two resolutions -- one that authorizes a contract with Cayuga Health Transport, LLC, "a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation whose sole member is Cayuga Health System, Inc." The other approves a schedule of fees to be charged to those people utilizing the new ambulance service. The contract is scheduled to take effect on Dec. 1 and go for two years, with a longer-term agreement expected by officials after that.

Photo: Legislature Chair Carl Blowers.



(Article by Odessa file)

New Ambulances for Schuyler EMS

On January 2, 2023 Schuyler Emergency Service became active. They are working out of three stations. Station 1 being Tyrone, Station 2 is Watkins Glen and Station 3 in Odessa. They have been taking dropped calls a couple weeks before but went full time the morning of January 2 and were real busy. Stay tuned for further details on operating schedules and procedures.



Profile: Keith Caslin

Keith Caslin is the Emergency Medical Coordinator assigned to the staffing and scheduling of Schuyler EMS.

Keith has been involved in the fire service for 22 years. Recently was appointed Deputy Coordinator when Kirk Smith became Emergency Management Coordinator last year. Since that time he has continued as a fire investigator and now has taken on the position as Emergency Medical Coordinator. He is in charge of the transition to the new Schuyler Emergency Medical Service.



Keith is married to wife Melanie, who also served in Schuyler Ambulance. They have three children, Samuel, Catherine, and Ashley the oldest who is in college getting her master's degree in Psychology.

Keith started his firefighting career in Watkins Glen then moved into Hector and joined the Burdett Fire Department. He holds the position of 1st Asst. Chief. I asked him what he thought were the biggest changes and he answered, "new technology", training. and the lack of qualified personal is going to be an obstacle for fire departments to overcome very soon. Some area departments are already studying the possibility of forming Fire Districts. This would make it easier to combine departments, making equipment purchases and the hiring of people. I do see in the future the possibility, or at least the conversations of a county fire department. I strongly feel that Firefighter training should be taught locally and by local qualified instructors. It is too difficult and demanding to obtain state certified training with the number of hours that is being asked to volunteer.

Keith retired from the military and in that time, he traveled to 26 countries including Afghanistan. He served as a Combat Engineer and in the infantry. He was injured in August of 2010. Retired at the rank of E-5 Sergeant. His vision for the County Ambulance is it will continue to grow as a paid service serving the whole county. This will be sooner than later.

Keith is very active outside of the county fire and EMS service. He has coached Soccer, Basketball, Little league Baseball. Also serves on the school board.

Beyond the current jobs in front of Emergency Management there is planning for improved radio service. Also looking into the future to see where the emergency services will be in five years. When you see Keith thank him for his service both military and in local operations.

Beaver Dams Had First Red Bulb

The fire occurred on November 26, 2022 the day after the “Wreath of Blue “ was activated. The second alarm as activated by 11-4 (Car-1). A well involved trailer was found with one exposure. Quick knock down was done but little remained. Second alarm companies were used but soon were released. The second “ red bulb” was beaver was also awarded to Beaver Dams but no information was given on that one.



Odessa: Trailer Fire

Early one morning on Dec. 3rd at 1:09 am on Rt 13 at 5926 a reported working trailer fire. 2nd alarm was transmitted by car 16 who was first to arrive.

Engine 23 crew laid a 5” line from State Route 13 into the trailer park. They did a transitional attack which knocked the fire down and then made entry to do over haul. Mutual aid came from Newfield, Town and Country, Van Etten to assist Odessa. Good stop but as trailers go it was not livable



Right: Car 9 returns a cat that was saved from the fire to the owner.

Montour Falls: House Fire

Montour Falls had a working structure fire on December 30th. The location was on Hanrahan Road at State Route 14. This location burned once before and was a total loss. This time Montour was able to make a good stop. It was initially reported that someone was trapped in the building. When Car 7 arrived a passerby was attempting to get the occupant out of the upper floors of the building. He assisted in this and no other occupants were in the building. 2nd alarm was sounded. Mutual aid from Odessa, Watkins Glen, Burdett, Millport, Emergency Management, Schuyler Sheriff and Schuyler Ambulance. Occupant was not injured and remained on the scene.



Odessa: Porch Fire on Trailer

December 29th early in the afternoon Odessa as toned out for a structure fire on Rt 228. The fire located in a trailer park was located on the porch of the trailer. It involved a go cart and several other items. Neighbors had fire extinguished when OFD officer arrived. Second alarm was canceled. Two children in the trailer had to use a rear window to escape as this was there only exit on the porch!



Tyrone Banquet

Tyrone's Line Officers are as follows:

Chief	Matt Maloney
1 st Asst. Chief	Bill Kennedy
2 nd . Asst. Chief	Bill Kennedy Jr.
Captains	Nate Tormey and Bill Meehan
Lt.	Mike Wood

Leon DeCamp Award	Lori Kennedy
Firefighter of the Year	Bill Glerum

The Department responded to 164 calls. 101 were ambulance calls



Bill Kennedy was recognized for his years of service as EMO Director



Emergency Services Director Kirk Smith swears in the line officers for 2022.

Learn Not to Burn Program

The county fire prevention program is again on schedule in all Schuyler County Schools. Brandon Swarts from Hector has taken on the program coordinator spot and doing a great job. We are under the watchful eye of Emergency Management. We are always in need of instructors and helpers in each school. You don't need to be active fire fighters or even belong to a fire department to be helpers. If you have an interest in the program contact Emergency Management. 607-535-8200 and let them know and the committee will contact you. This is really the only place where will save lives from fires. There have be documented cases where the information and instruction has saved not one but whole families from fires. With fewer firefighters interested in interior firefighting education is our best defense. Hector, Burdett, Tyrone, Odessa are currently taking on the monthly instructions.



Bryan Chapman (left and Casey Dudgeon in gear) teach at Hanlon School.

Critical Incident Stress Management

Bryan Chapman gives presentation on the topic. Bryan is a member of Odessa Fire Department, Paramedic with Erway Ambulance, and certified in Critical Incident Stress.

Stress Response and Mitigation for 1st Responder Agency Presentation Program Development

It is a clear and unarguable fact that stress negatively effects 1st Responders regardless of Volunteer or Paid status.

It is extremely important that an agency's culture shifts to:

1. Accepting stress impact as negative that can become a positive
2. Having ownership of stress recognition, mitigation, and reduction

Up until approximately 5 years ago Critical Incident Stress Care/Intervention was end all. What has been put on the back burner is cumulative stress (buildup of multiple incidents), bleed over stress (personal and professional collide) and unhealthy coping mechanisms.

Suggestions for Agency Stress Reduction (not in order)

1. Ownership:

-Chief/Line officers/Supervisors/Administration Board/Oversight Board/Staff

2. Create SOG/SOPs

-Chaplaincy- coverage of liability, letter appointment, duty description

-Line of Duty Death and death while in service

-Mental Health for both staff and responding to public

-Substance Abuse for both to staff and responding to public

-Critical Incident Response and After event care

3. Contact with Employee Assistance Program For Southern Tier Counties Counseling Associate of Southern Tier. Any entity providing service MUST be trained, aware and experienced with 1st Responders County Health Departments and Mental Health Branches useful resources

4. Have initial (at start up and orientation) and regular on-going Stress Training addressing:

Mental Health Resources

Mental Health Issues within staff

Stress reduction- personal, family, work, spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, financial



Skills: Be Ready To Help

By: Gail Foote

We could fill an entire Hot Calls and more with incidents depicting downed firefighter(s) events. The FEMA/US Fire Administration report Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2020 indicates 14 FFs died in the Line of Duty during on-scene structure fire operations in that year. It is difficult to determine the number of Close Calls that may have occurred during that time, but it could very likely be a considerable amount. I could relate numerous situations I have personally witnessed or heard first-hand accounts of. Fortunately, they each turned out to be a Close Call and not a Line of Duty Death (LODD). Almost all had one thing in common...at least one other FF present to help.

The website <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/>, started by Billy Goldfeder and a group of others in 1998, highlights death, injury, and instances of serious concern for others to learn from. The site also provides a link to sign up for The Secret List to receive emails about LODDs, Close Calls, Conferences, and other Safety related information.

Two-In/Two-Out has been around for more than twenty five years and the Rapid Intervention Crew/Team (RIC or RIT) concept for nearly as long. In recent years a debate has surfaced as to the need for a dedicated RIT, since many “saves” have been performed by other personnel in proximity to a FF in trouble. I have had FFs say that if a situation arose where their partner needed help, they would pick him/her up and push them out a window. Sounds admirable – until you actually try it.

If a department has too few personnel, insufficient time to assemble a RIT, or just decides to forego a dedicated RIT, all FFs should at least be familiar with – and train on – some basic RIT skills. NFPA 1407 Standard for Training Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews is an excellent resource for topics to be covered, as well as Instructor and Student requirements. There are skill subjects for individuals and crews. Skill areas include:

Calling a Mayday

Search techniques

Access and extrication

Air supply: (Includes replacing face piece, regulator and/or cylinder on the downed FF)

Ropes, slings, and harnesses

Protecting downed fire fighter(s) in place

Moving downed fire fighter(s) to safety

FF self-rescue

NFPA Standards are available for Free Access viewing. Registering for an Account is required and easy. <https://www.nfpa.org/> As an alternative a simple internet search for RIT Skills will produce a lot of information including videos. In addition to the preceding, for sufficient accountability a credible resource should be considered to provide reliable, legitimate information to a lesson plan.

Regardless of how a department decides to conduct operations to provide for the safety of fireground personnel, everyone should be acquainted with the skills needed to initiate a rescue in the event one is needed. And knowing is not enough....practice, practice, practice. Then practice some more – and regularly, so you should not have to think too long about what to do in a FF emergency.

Train Safe to Stay Safe

Gail Foote is a former member of Valois-Logan-Hector; retired Training Captain from Alachua County Fire Rescue in FL; and currently a paid FF with the Bronson Volunteer Fire Department in Bronson, FL. programmanager@townofbronson.org

Watkins Glen: New UTV

It is a Can-AM Defender, all-wheel drive. It holds two persons, has heat and air conditioning and the back tilts or dumps.

The picture below is the skid unit still on order.



Trivia Question

What is the term when a nozzle is shut down too quickly?

Email answers to Rick at rickshirlc27@gmail.com.

Our last trivia question:

Question: *What is the easiest crime to commit and the hardest to detect?*

Answer: *Arson is the hardest crime to prove.*

Winners from last month. Dick Robertson, Jason Hudson

History

On the west hill above Montour Falls you can see to silos side by side. The yellow one is called a Harvester Silo. This was a new concept in storage of feed for milk cows.

This particular fire occurred on a Tuesday morning as the farmer as unloading feed for the day. Gene Hubbell was fire chief of Montour at the time. Not knowing how to handle this the manufacture was contacted and several options were given. We could have unloaded the silo, Filled it with carbon monoxide from exhaust, or seal it up tight and let it put itself out from lack of oxygen. Do not open it or put water on it. The later as done and it was checked on during the week. On Sunday a heat mark was noticed on the side of the silo. Montour again was called this time calling Odessa for mutual aid tanker. The top of the silo as opened and the bottom was opened and water was applied via deck gun in the top and it eventually ran out the bottom. Odessa was released and before we got back to quarters we were called back as there had been an explosion. An inspection plate was being taken off when air started to violently enter the silo. Firefighters ran and an explosion occurred taking the top of the silo and it actually sucked the metal sides of the silo in. It is still standing just off Hayes Hill Rd. No one was injured but the silo was a complete loss. The majority of these silo fires are slow, smoldering ordeals that become a frustration to farmers and fire fighters. A few have resulted in raging fires or explosions, some with fire fighters being injured or killed. A variety of conditions are possible when fires are in conventional silos. Now farmers don't use these type of silos a lot. Bunker silos are more common now.

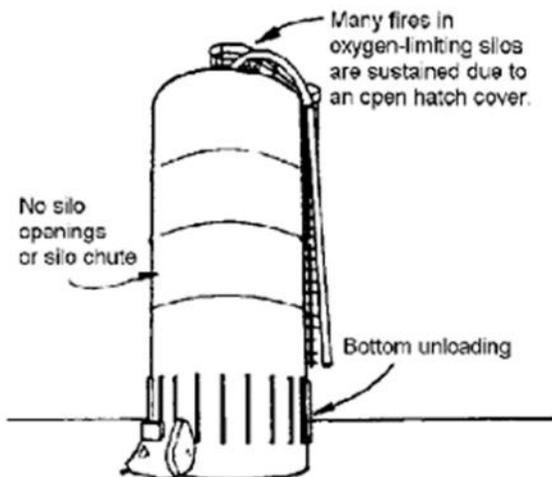


Figure 9. Oxygen-limiting or 'sealed' silos

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Last Alarms



Tom Peters
Odessa

Ron "Thumbsy" Ayers
Montour Falls, Odessa

Jay Russell
Mecklenburg

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- EMT Refresher

Want to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us

For more information, visit:

www.schuylercounty.us
www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc
www.emstar.org

**Send Us Your
Photos, News,
and
Suggestions!**

To send information, or if you want us to visit your station, contact the Emergency Management Office at 607-535-8200 or Rick and Shirley Churches at 607-594-2189 or rickshirlc27@gmail.com