

Hot Calls

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New Face at EMO

Joshua Baker from Chemung County has been hired as the new Car 2. He has been on the job already for a couple of months. He has previous experience in 911 from Chemung County. He is also currently a Firefighter and Previous Assistant Chief in the Horseheads Fire Department.



Profile continued on page 2.

Trivia Question

Which is stronger: a solid beam ladder or a truss ladder ?

Profile: Joshua Baker

Name: Joshua A. Baker
Age: 35

Phone Number: 607-331-7505

Business Email: jbaker@co.schuyler.ny.us

Personal Information: Married since July 2011, has one son born in 2011 and one daughter born in 2015. Also has a stepson born in 2004. Outside of work hobbies include coaching baseball and football, being a travel cheer dad, camping, fishing, avid NY Mets fan, avid Philadelphia Eagles fan, avid Penn State Nittany Lions College Football fan, avid NY Rangers fan, and lastly an avid Elmira College Sports Team Fan as currently on the Booster Club Board as a Member at Large.

Fire Department History. Currently a Firefighter/EMT with Horseheads Fire Department, previous ranks held:

Interior Firefighter: 05/2009 – 04/2016, Lieutenant: 05/2016 – 04/2017, Captain: 05/2017 – 04/2020, 3rd Assistant Chief: 05/2020 – 04/2021, and 2nd Assistant Chief: 05/2021 – 04/2023.

I started my fire service membership career at Town and County Fire Department August of 2007 right out of high school and moved Fire Departments to Horseheads Fire Department May of 2009. Throughout my volunteer time with Horseheads, I have also been a Paid First Responder with the Elmira Heights Fire Department starting in January 2014 and ending in June of 2024. I also have been a Part-Time Career Firefighter at West Elmira Fire Department since June 2017 to current. Some of my education I have gained throughout my time in the Fire Service include:

Firefighter 1 & 2, Fire Officer 1, 2, & 3, Fire Instructor 1 & 2, Emergency Medical Technician 2011 – Current, AHA BLS & CPR Instructor and many more classes.

I come from a previous career of Chemung County 9-1-1 dispatch center where from March 2016 until May 2024 I was a full time Communications Operator and acted as a Communications Training Officer from January 2021 until May 2024. Prior to that career move I worked for Erway Ambulance from October 2013 until March of 2016 as an EMT-B.

Watkins Gorge Gets Emergency Markers

Markers on the trail show a star of life. Instructions say to stay put. And call 911. A predetermined staging area is given to responders to set up and work from four different locations. You must be on the gorge trail for the location numbers to appear on the post.

After this year we will be placing more signs on the other trails. The Indian Trail is being renamed to the North Rim Trail which goes from the wooden steps by the bottom entrance to the gorge trail all the way up to the north entrance off from state route 409.

And the South Rim Trail which starts behind the gas station and goes out past Hidden Valley. These two Trails will have different colored signs and will be numbered separately.

Example, Gorge Trail is blue sign with white lettering 1-49, North Rim Trail Green Sign with Black Lettering 1-60, South Rim Trail Yellow Sign with Red Lettering 1-160. All the signs have the International Emergency Symbol and have Dial 911 as well as the trail number and number.

Predetermined staging areas are designated according to the numbered location of the emergency.

I can say all 1st or 2nd party 911 calls in the gorge that we have had in the last 2 years utilizing these signs have made our rescue 95% quicker than all the other years past. We still get 3rd 911 calls where they have seen somebody struggle or fallen but do not stay with the person and those calls either become unfounded or end up being a longer extrication process as well as getting them medical aid. We encourage everyone to call 911 if they see an emergency but, in these cases, we encourage the 3rd party callers to contact the person possibly in need of medical attention and stay with them until we get there.

“ Chief Jason Hudson ”



Structure Fire Watkins Glen

A amazing story. Structure fire in Watkins today. Homeowner was not home - WG Fire Department, along with mutual aid from Montour Falls, Dundee, and Burdett acted swiftly to stop the fire. A dog was found in the home unconscious! Heroic efforts by our trained fire personnel immediately started CPR and initiated emergency efforts to save his life. The joint effort of firemen and Dr. Martha Hawksworth of Lakeside Veterinary Services, who literally trained firemen just yesterday, saved Deisel!



Thank you to all our local and neighboring heroes!

Firefighters and veterinarian work and revived the family dog.

The Volunteer

The Human Factor: What It Takes

When you look back to Benjamin Franklin in 1736 volunteers were recruited mainly to put out fires. There was no such thing as EMS or even paid ranks to man the equipment to fight the fires. Members were alerted by a fire bell and the location was passed by word of mouth. Fast forward to today's world and you can't even imagine how hard they had it. There were no requirements, or training, just courage and dedication to save the community.

Today's Volunteer Firefighter

Demands placed on today's firefighters are extensive and at times difficult to meet. As the population grows so do the needs and requirements. Along the way we added fire prevention, building codes, improved methods of fire fighting, improved fire equipment which required more UpToDate training. Then came EMS which was provided by the local undertakers. Eventually this was taken over in most cases by the volunteer fire service. More training and time. Then hazardous material came into play. More training and time. The responsibilities for serving the public keeps growing.

Core values for a life of Volunteerism

When you take on the job of a volunteer you accept a certain amount of responsibility for the job and yourself. It is not ok to take the attitude that “ I don’t have to go on that call because I'm a volunteer”. There has to be a certain amount of dedication to respond because you are a volunteer that signed on to protect the public.

PRIDE

This means you take ownership in your job as a volunteer. This is my department, my station, my town, for everything you do. You want to be a part of the best department and be proud to wear a jacket or uniform that reflects the job you signed up to do.

Honor

Understand that you are part of something bigger. Do everything to protect the image of the fire service. Never do anything to tarnish it. Remember it is an honor to serve. It is more than just a job or a hobby. You are there for a reason. Little kids, seniors, and the public in general look up to you.

Selflessness

Recognize the importance of putting the concerns and needs of others before your own. This both inside and outside the fire house. Understand that when you sign up it's more than responding to the exciting calls. You shouldn't pick and choose. If you're available and can respond, Then you respond. Can you imagine that you call 911 and no one shows up!!! For the person calling that's a big deal.

The Human Factor

Chiefs, Commissioners, Trustees need to realize that the very persons that they want as volunteers still have other demands for their time. Two jobs, the need to put food on the table, take children to plays , games, college funding They are still expected to make drills, meetings, fundraisers, oh yes and answer 400 calls a year. It takes someone special to be a volunteer. When we set the parameters, keep in mind what the ultimate goal is. The volunteer is responsible to their family, then the company. Both require consideration when the calls come in or duty needs to be filled. We as officers or commissioners need to strike the balance.

As we approach the future the calls still need to be answered. As the ambulance service went, from volunteer to paid because no one was answering calls, decisions need to be made that will be expensive to cover calls for the fire departments. It will happen!!

**SCHUYLER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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Last Alarms



Erick Lokken 04/28/2024
Burdett FD

Will Ross 06/04/2024
Hector FD

Roger Beardslee 06/20/2024
Hector FD

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- EMT Refresher: Registration Open—Starting November 17th

Visit our website for more information:

www.schuylercounty.us/training

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