

Hot Calls



Coordinators Corner

SEMS:

Keith Caslin reported that the hospital has now received their CON and Narcotics license. They are looking at the end of November/ Early- December to switch over. It will no longer be Schuyler EMS: it will be Cayuga Health EMS. The County has asked that they rebrand all the ambulances by January.

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Trivia Question

Last Month's Question no one answered

“Roof cut should be only deep enough to cut the roof boards”

This Newsletter Trivia Questions

When a nozzle is closed how does the pressure compare with the pumper pressure?

Coordinators Corner

There are a few trainings they'd like to get people interested in. The CPR/First Aid has changed when it comes to full arrests. They will be working all patients on scene until they get a viable patient. He asked if any of the FD's would like to send personnel to learn how to set up 12-leads. They have a new device that the Community Foundation program at the hospital bought. It's called the Lucas device, an automated CPR machine. You slide a backboard behind the patient and connect the machine, press "Go", and it does all the chest compressions for you. They'd like to train fire personnel on it. The unit cost was \$70,000+.

Can operate it with 1-2 people on scene. They are offering county-wide training for anyone that wants to come. Keith asked about any comments or complaints. Jake said the ambulance crew did a fantastic job on Sunday's call (MVA, double fatal).

Mecklenburg Pond Project

Date: 10/29/24

RE: Russell's Pond Completion

Hello to All;

Since the mid 1900's, we have been using the Town Pond at the Mecklenburg Park for drafting water into our apparatus to fight fires and for training. This invaluable single source has and will continue to be a source of water for our use. As many of you are aware, there is a concerted effort for the revitalization of the Park to include walking trails, a new playground, and many new features. These new improvements will hopefully result in more people being able to enjoy the beauty of this area. As such, we at MVFC were also concerned with the interaction of Fire Apparatus, Fire Fighting Operations and the Public.

For the past 2 years, the Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company has been working on the creation of a second source of water for use in fighting fires. We considered the impacts of the new improvements at the park; we consulted with the Town of Hector and the Schuyler County Soil and Water. Through extensive planning and tests, it was concluded that the best spot to establish a secondary source of water was at our own property. Schuyler County Soil & Water District Manager then stepped up and said he would "make this happen" for our community!

A team led by Schuyler County Soil and Water: **Jerry Verrigni** – District Manager; **Jim Barrett**- Equipment Operator; **Mike Manwaring**- Equipment Operator. Along with a team from MVFC led by **Wayne Lauper**- 2nd Assistant Chief, **Kim Beckley**-Rescue Captain, and **Don Beckley**-Fire Police Captain; And the invaluable expertise from Johnny's Wholesale: **Rich Neno Sr.**, **Rich Neno Jr.**, and **Stephanie and Michelle**; Coupled with the generous allocation of ARPA funds by Hector Town Board!

Beyond the creation of the new pond, the project also has included 10,000 gallons of underground water storage for immediate use. Previously, if we needed to draft water in the winter, we would have to sometimes climb out onto the ice and break the pond open; or in the summertime the shores of the pond would be overgrown with weeds, which would plug up the pump intakes on our trucks. With this underground storage option, we will no longer have to worry about that.

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The decision to name the new pond “Russell’s Pond” stemmed for the desire of the MVFC membership to dedicate the pond after our recently deceased President Jay Russell and the previously deceased Russell family members. MVFC has a tradition of honoring our deceased lifetime members and the decision to honor Jay and his family was a unanimous vote.

Pictured Below: MVFC would wish Jim Barrett the best in his retirement after this project after 49 Years of Service! Also, to Mike for the amazing work the two of them have done!



Jim Barrett



Mike Manwaring

Pictures of the Project



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Jim Barrett



Mike Manwaring



Mike Manwaring, Wayne Lauper, and Jim Barrett

Calls

Several brush fires have occurred because of the very dry fall season. The pictures are from mutual aid to Van Etten Town on Barnes Hill. Most of the calls went to mutual aid. Hector responded to Hector grazing and had Seneca County assisting along with Trumansburg.



Technical Rescue in Havana Glen

October 21 at about 1202 PM Montour Falls was alerted two people stuck at a location in Havana Glen. C15 located the hikers and declared a technical rescue situation. Standard call went out to Watkins Glen for rope trailer and crew and additional manpower from Odessa and Burdett. Safe operation was conducted, and victims were not injured. It's not known if they were charged for trespassing at the park is closed this time of year



Structure Fire in Montour Falls

October 26 at 1830 Hours.



Fire Located at 175 L'Hommedieu was involved downstairs in the kitchen. Second alarm was activated and Odessa, Watkins, Burdett, EMO, SEMS, Schuyler Sheriff. A good stop as made by Montour's crew. With a hydrant in front of the house made quick work of the fire. All companies returned to service.

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All companies should park on the incident side. Montour new E17 only 4 hours in station when the call came.

Banquet Cycle Starts with Tyrone in November

Bill Huey Center (in uniform) was recognized for 50 years of service

Most calls Tom Dykes

George Lewis got the Leon DeCamp Award

Thomas Bartlett received both the Firefighter of the year and the rescuer of the year

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Officer for the coming year. Bill Kennedy (third from right) was elected for a second term. They were sworn in by Coordinator Kirk Smith. Tyrone sent three firefighters to Orange County to assist with the forest fires in that county.

It's There for a Reason; It's There, Use It By: Gail Foote

There are many items in our everyday life that we may take for granted. The accepted basic needs are food, clothing, and shelter. Other items may seem absolutely necessary: lights, cars, phones, etc.

But, do we really *need* such things to survive, or do they simply make life more comfortable? Perhaps it can be looked at as a matter of, "It's there, so I might as well use it."

The fire service is no exception. There are many examples of equipment, gear, and tools—general "stuff" we use to complete our mission of protecting life and property. Many are crucial (a basic need) to our work, such as nozzles, hoses, and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Several we can do without and still get the job done; some of the "basic needs" require further application. As such, even the most common objects or concepts can be misused, not used, or simply misunderstood.

IT'S THERE FOR A REASON

The first item up for examination is a no-brainer: the seat belt. Seat belts were first required in vehicles in 1968, but use was not mandated. Today, every state but one has a law requiring use. Fire departments have policies relating to seat belt use, and hopefully departments in that one state have seat belt policies. In 2006, Dr. Burton A. Clark, fire service member, training specialist at the National Fire Academy, and long time advocate for seat belts, created the "National Fire Service Seatbelt Pledge" for fire departments to urge and encourage firefighters to take care of themselves by wearing a seat belt. Paid or volunteer, anyone can be a victim. Death shows no preference for race, color, religion, sex, national origin, pronoun, geographic location, or other human factor.



1 Photo by Chris Mc Loone.

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Next is what got me started in this venture: the chin strap. Why is it called a chin strap? Because that is where it goes, under your chin. It doesn't go behind your neck to keep the helmet from falling forward; it doesn't go across the rear brim to keep that from falling off. Look at any video or picture of a fire, and it's amazing how many helmets have a loose or even missing strap. Who wants to end their career because the helmet fell off and they got struck by debris or burned by the heat? Likely no one. While it is difficult to determine chin strap status from a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Line of Duty Death (LODD) report, there are numerous close call stories related to nonuse of a strap.

A similar concern is misuse of the SCBA waist strap. Again, pictures and videos are rife with firefighters working with the waist strap just dangling and flopping around. No excuse. It does not take a lot of time to buckle, so it is either negligence or laziness. The loose buckles can get entangled in things and create a Mayday situation.

Speaking of Mayday, it can be nearly impossible to convert an SCBA to a harness on a down firefighter with the belt already undone. An added benefit of the waist strap: Our abdominal muscles are stronger than our shoulder muscles and, with practice, you should be able to take the weight off your shoulders by simply pushing the stomach area out. (It feels better the next day not being so sore.)

SCBA have a low-air alarm. The alarm means, "Get out!" Working through the alarm in training or in a low-risk situation can lead to complacency and a false sense of security.

The same can be said about the personal alert safety system (PASS). This device is constantly going off on the fireground and in training. It leads us to ignore the sound and disregard the gravity of what it means. Everyone looks around, but no one tries to mitigate the particular circumstance. When a full alarm sounds, there is still the same standing around and lack of concern.

Firefighters are always doing the "PASS alarm shuffle" to reset the timer. During Mayday training, I noticed when members could not manually activate the PASS and had to stay still for the required time, they would shake to reset as it began to pre-alert. Ignoring the device on the fireground could lead to a disastrous consequence. We must all be looking for the source when a PASS pre-alert or full alert is heard and try to reset it, shut it off, or determine if someone is in trouble. The only reason a PASS should fully activate is when someone needs help.

Hoods and gloves are essential personal protective equipment to protect sensitive skin of the head, neck, and hands. Many times, the hood is not used, perhaps because it takes too long to put on? Or, how about the old myth that the ears will tell me when it's too hot? Hogwash. With the heat produced in today's fires, the ears can be gone before you know it's too hot. In a fire, a hood must always be in place. Dinosaurs like me never had a hood until well into our time in service, while anyone under 40 should have no reason not to wear a hood.

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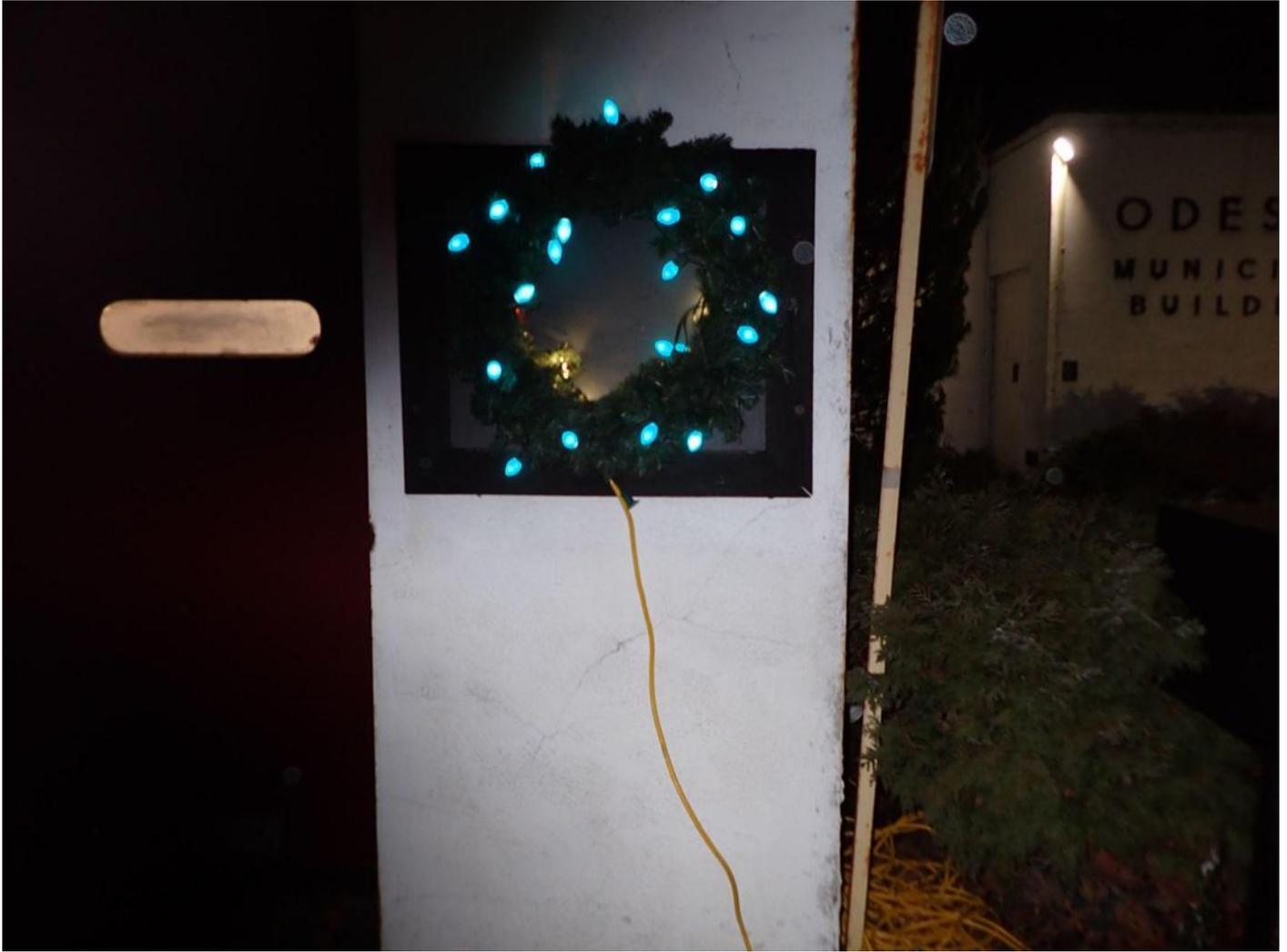
This cannot be overstated enough: Gloves must be worn for any operation around a fire—obviously, for interior attack and search and rescue but just as important for ventilation, forcible entry, carrying equipment, exterior hose attack, etc. There may not be a need for structural gloves when picking up hose or other equipment, but at least wear something. It only takes a few bad cuts or scrapes to realize that gloves should have been worn. Don't wait; wear gloves all the time. Also, there is a possibility that insurance will not cover an injury if no protection was used.

Why do firefighters wear red suspenders? To keep their pants up. It's a stale (very) old joke, but there is no joke when firefighters do not have their suspenders up. It looks unprofessional, lazy, and uncaring for one's own safety—plus another item to get snagged. You're not at a calendar shoot. Wear the gear the way it's supposed to be worn.

IT'S THERE, USE IT

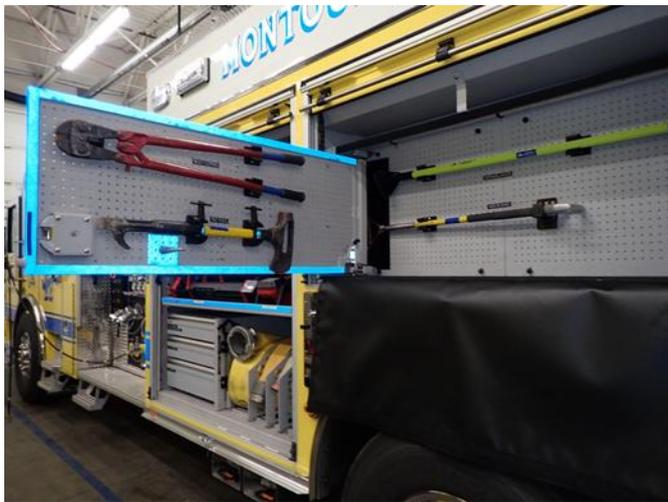
Any fire topic can fill numerous pages with information. One subject is firefighter cancer. Everyone has undoubtedly been affected in some way by someone with cancer.

It is hard to pinpoint if a firefighter was stricken with the disease from actions in the line of duty, a genetic predisposition, or certain life choices. There are steps we can take to limit the possibility as firefighters. The first line of defense is to go through gross decontamination after a fire—at the scene. Have your gear washed or at least rinsed off before returning to the station. Use hand wipes to clean your face, neck, and hands. Then shower within the hour. Wash every- where—twice. Be especially attentive to the nostrils.



The wreath of Blue has been part of the holiday season for more than 25 years. People do look for them at all the fire stations in the county. Whenever a red bulb appears they ask where it was and what happened. This has been a good fire prevention awareness for the county.

New Truck in the County GE-17 2,000 GPM Pierce Recue Pumper



Hidden tool compartment



Battery chargers and tools



TNT power source



Cutters and spreaders

Learn Not To Burn



The LNTB program is in its second month with holiday safety. There is also a big push for smoke alarms along with escape plans. CO alarms are covered as well. It's important that kids know what to do. Adults at home don't always take an active role in the program. Past calls that the children knew what to do and how to get out show the value of the program.

Walk the Talk

The importance of having a prompt response is a big part of our job. Not looking for fast driving but getting out the door quickly to calls. There are things that can improve getting out the door and to the station quickly. Car keys in one location. Turnout gear for night calls. Backing cars in instead of driving in. If not in a protected garage, covering the windshield in cold weather. See how long it takes from the 911 call to water on the fire. I think you would be surprised. Working on the on-scene SOG's would go a long way to save time. Remember fires burn faster now!!!!

History

When did the Wayne Fire Company move to Steuben County?

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Last Alarms



James C. Keeney Jr 12/17/2024

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

01/21: EMT-Basic

Thursdays: 6P-9P &

Saturdays: 8A-4P

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