

# Hot Calls

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## Schuyler Ambulance Crews

**S**chuyler Ambulance will be adding an additional crew for eight hours, seven days a week. The schedule will vary as demand shows the need during certain times. This will help with the increased demand of transports that they handle plus covering 911 calls.

## EMS Change

**N**ew medical protocols will be put out by the State EMS after the first of the year. All providers will have to update to these. The process will be similar to the spinal immobilization change last year.

### Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast 2nd Sunday of every month

Burdett's 20-Week Club/ Dinner Dance Tickets. \$100ea (Dinner for two) On-going thru April 29

## History: Firematics Days

**T**he procedure for the rotation of Firematics Day was established at County Firefighters meeting in Monterey September 11, 1980. Jim Kennedy made a motion that the responsibility for Firematics Day host would follow the same rotation as county meeting. If a company could not host the event then it would pass to the next department. Second by Fran Vorhees.

## Firefighter Profile: Bob DeNardo

**B**ob and his wife Doris have three children: Mike, Tony, and Donna; and five grandchildren. Mike was the only one to follow in the fire service. Mike served as Chief of Watkins Glen. Bob spent all his time with the Watkins Glen Fire Department. He joined in the early 50's. He served as treasurer/ secretary. They are usually two separate posts but they could not get anyone else to take the job. This was held by him for thirty years. Just before Bob got in, Watkins Glen Fire Department was two different companies.

Bob worked for International Salt and the company had a very active fire brigade. Ray Granston was the chief of the brigade. He made arrangements' for Essentials of Firemanship to be taught at the plant. This was the first fire training Bob had. They had to deal with sulfur fires which were difficult to fight. This was a very active unit.

Bob's thoughts on changes in the fire service led to the new fire station. When he got in, the station was located where the village offices are now. It then moved to the location up the street where the BBQ restaurant is now. He said they were really grateful to the construction of the new station on third street. Training for the members has improved greatly.

The worst fires he can

remember were the Maricle fire and the Parker fire which a total of 10 people died in the two fires. This prompted the county to start fire education in the schools.

This was known as the "Learn Not To Burn" Fire Prevention Program. Bob worked with Ted Specchio to teach in the Watkins Glen School. The program is alive and well to this day.

The Fire Department purchased a used ladder truck. They needed to test the ladder for strength and could not afford to send it out. The idea came about ( he is not sure whose idea it was) to go down to the canal and extend the ladder out over the canal and have someone walk out on the ladder. Bob was not sure whether it was he who volunteered or someone volunteered him but he went out on the ladder. I asked him what was plan "B" if the ladder broke? He was not sure. His grandchildren said he could not swim!

He was also appointed as "Fire Warden" - each town had its own fire warden for grass and brush fires. He held



that position for 10 years.

Bob changed jobs a couple times going to the electrical trades then finally landing at the State Park. He worked his way up the ladder and became Park Manager for thirty years. He as also instrumental in getting the State Park to provide rescue rope for Watkins Glen for their work in the park. He retired from this position but still remained active in the fire department. Until recently, Bob still attended the County Firefighters Association Meetings. Health issues have sidelined him for a while. We appreciate all of Bob's contributions to the fire service. Without people like him it's hard to say where the fire service would be. Bob is currently doing rehab and is in Seneca View Facility, unit 2. He would like to see visitors and you can thank him for his service.

## Cyanide Poisoning

**T**his topic was an article in the June issue of Fire Engineering magazine. The most important thing to remember is that there is CO and Hydrogen Cyanide at every fire. The recommendation is that we should be using gas monitoring devices at all fires and make sure that all personnel wear SCBA even during overhaul. The effects of Hydrogen Cyanide are headache, nausea, fatigue,

confusion, coma seizures. Some of the same symptoms of CO! The article is worth reading and if you don't get the magazine let me know as I can print it off for you. Most gas meters are not set up for Hydrogen Cyanide but they can be! If there is at least one in the county it would pay to have it to see what the readings are. It is very important that we all wear breathing apparatus during overhaul which would

be a good reason for additional companies to assist in these situations. Heart attacks are an after effect of Cyanide Poisoning. Young firefighters getting heart issues (25-50 years old) could be a direct result of exposure to Cyanide! Our department is taking a very strong stand on this issue and will insist companies doing overhaul wear SCBA!!

## Tyrone Banquet

**T**here are no changes this year in Tyrone.

Chief: Nate Tormey

1<sup>st</sup>. Asst.: Bill Kennedy Jr.

2<sup>nd</sup> Asst.: Bill Meehan

3<sup>rd</sup> Asst.: Matt Maloney.

Firefighter of the year is Bill Glerum.



## Tyrone Project

**A** very ambitious project has begun. They are restoring an 1923 pumper. This was bought used and replaced a converted school bus that was fitted with a tank and portable pump. The department was formed in 1950 and they celebrated 65 years this year.



## Keep the Wreath Blue

**F**or the Thirteenth year the Keep the Wreath Blue Fire Prevention campaign for the holidays is off and running. As of this writing we have six red bulbs.



## #1 - Beaver Dams Structure Fire

**T**he first “red bulb” for the Wreath of Blue 2016 was in Beaver Dams. They and their 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm partners were toned out for a structure fire November 30. Smoke was showing when they arrived. A State

Trooper who as in the area made entry and was able to slow the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher. The single female occupant was removed and transported to an area hospital. Quick response by Beaver Dams

kept things under control. Dominick Smith and Kent Thurston were working on an engine when the call came in. Both loaded up in Engine 5 and responded. A fire in a dryer was the cause.



## #2 - Beaver Dams Structure Fire

A second structure fire for Beaver Dams was on a very snowy night. The call was for a chimney fire with fire in the wall. The response was delayed by the weather.

Initial information was that the fire was out. On arrival of the first engine flames were coming out of the rear of the house. Chief Kirk Smith called for a full second

alarm. The first-in engine crew got a good “knock” on the fire and kept it to a room and contents. Unfortunately it became red bulb number two on the wreath of blue.

## #3 - Burdett Camper Fire

Burdett Fire along with a second alarm assignment as sent to a location on the Covert road. The initial dispatch indicated an explosion and fire. First units on scene reported a fully involved

camper fire. Car 12 arrived and called off the second alarm as the fire was on the ground. Shortly after an attack on what was left, it was discovered that a victim was inside the fire. This is the first fatal fire Schuyler

County has had in many years. No pictures were available and investigation is being conducted by NYSP, Burdett Fire, OFPC, and Schuyler EMO.

## #4 - Odessa Barn Fire

On a very cold December afternoon Odessa and their second alarm partners were toned for a garage fire on County route 7. On arrival of the first officer a fully involved barn (30 x 30) was fully involved. The wind was from the west to east and was very gusty. The house was a very short distance and would have been involved had the wind been in the opposite direction. Attempts were made to knock down the fire but it had too much head way. The effort soon went to saving the house. The temperature was near zero with the wind chill much lower. Water had to be hauled from the village. The building was a total loss. Some animals were lost in the fire. No cause had been determined at this time. Companies from Odessa, Montour, Burdett, Watkins Glen, Beaver Dams, Mecklenburg were on scene with Dundee and Newfield provided station coverage.



## #5 - Tyrone Heater Fire

On Sunday, 2/18, Tyrone Fire Department responded to a heater explosion. Upon arrival they found that there had been a small fire due to a portable heater and the homeowner had suffered minor burns.



## Banquet Dates

**January 7**  
**Mecklenburg**

**January 28**  
**Burdett**

**February 11**  
**Beaver Dams**

**February 25**  
**Hector**

**March 11**  
**Monterey**

**March 18**  
**Montour Falls**

**April 15**  
**Odessa**

**November 11**  
**Tyrone**

**TBD**  
**Watkins Glen**

## #6 - Tyrone Kitchen Fire

The sixth red bulb was added for a fire on 12/20. The Tyrone Fire Department responded to a small kitchen fire. The home had a fire alarm system that provided an early alert to the fire department, and with the use of a portable fire extinguisher by the homeowner, the fire was quickly extinguished with minor damage to the home. While we hope to prevent all fires, being prepared like this, with an alarm system and fire extinguisher to protect your home, a small fire can be prevented from becoming a devastating event.



“Prevention through  
Preparedness”

# Odessa School Bus Fire

On a cold October morning Odessa Fire was toned for a school bus fire on Steam Mill Rd. Having been in the fire service for over 50 years and never responded on a school bus fire I felt this would not be much. The first picture is as the Sheriffs Officer and first firefighters arrived. As you can see this was a lot more than I anticipated. There was only three students plus the driver on the bus at the time. Mecklenburg Fire was called for mutual aid. The fire spread extremely fast. There were no injuries and the investigation continues. We only live two miles from the incident! This is what e found on arrival!



# Funeral Services

**W**e have all had funeral detail for our members. For some there is just a quick service and for more dedicated long time members either past or present we have a more involved recognition. If the member was to pass from a duty related incident there is a lot more involved. The Office of Fire Prevention and Control will come in if asked and manage the services along with advising the Department on what they should be doing for the department and the family. I have attended several LODD funerals where they have come in and assisted and it was very well done. This leaves us to manage the non LODD death to the local department to handle. It would be prudent for the department to have a protocol to follow so each Firefighter would be treated the same. The following is some ideas for departments to do. Not all who have ever belonged to the department may deserve all the following. Some may not have belonged very long and some have not been very active. It would be up to the department to set the tone for the degree of the service.

- Honor Guard for the fallen firefighter during services both



- at the funeral home and church
- Department in Uniform to line the walk ways as the family and friends enter the service.
- A piece of apparatus positioned outside where services are held.
- Set of turnout gear near the apparatus or entry point.
- Tone out last alarm over pagers with a short message.
- Firefighter service
- Escort funeral procession to the cemetery
- Flags or draping's on the fire station
- Turnout gear with firefighters name out front

Having a person in charge of

these details and working directly with the family is extremely important. Also asking a department to stand-by while you are at the services relieves the department to concentrate on the detail and not answer an alarm. Should get to the designated area well ahead of the family is important. Be sure to work with the funeral home and church official when making plans to do some or all of the above. You have no idea unless you have been on the receiving end of this effort how much it can mean to the family.

# From the Ground Up

By: Gail Foote

Many readers may remember me (Gail Foote) from my time as a member of Valois-Logan-Hector through the '80s or the Newsletter article about me from a few years ago. After 14 + years with VLH I moved to Florida to explore (and fulfill) an opportunity to be a paid firefighter. I have been a member of Alachua County Fire Rescue, ACFR, for 22 years with the past 9 as a Training Captain. ACFR has 200 fire personnel operating 8 Engines, 1 Quint, 1 Squad and 15 ambulances. The department covers 900 square miles with a population of 260,000 and an annual call volume of over 45,000. The City of Gainesville has its own department in the center of Alachua County, and there are a few smaller municipalities with their own fire department.

In 2010 myself and another Training Captain discussed the need for a training facility, mainly in response to the Insurance Services Organization, ISO, Fire Suppression Rating Schedule as part of their Public Protection Classification program. The Rating Schedule takes into account the amount of training members receive as well as a facility for training purposes. A state of the art facility can be a tremendous expense. Coming out of the 2008 recession and budget cuts,

the Training Division looked at the possibility of utilizing metal shipping containers, or "conex" boxes, to construct a facility.

Land was an issue. ISO requires at least 2 acres for full credit. We are fortunate to have an Alachua County high school that has a Fire and EMS Academy as a career and technical education Magnet program, similar to BOCES. The school board deeded 1.8 acres to ACFR. We began with 3 conex boxes and after six years we have 8 boxes in a two story configuration. There are 2 more boxes on site to eventually be placed as a third story with the top of the third boxes to be considered as a fourth floor. We have interior and exterior wood stairs built by school board facilities personnel, who have also done the cutting of windows and doors. The school board is currently attempting to procure a grant for metal exterior stairs.

The cost to ACFR so far is less than \$25,000 for an effective facility to conduct training and to achieve points for the ISO Public Protection Classification program. A comparable prop from companies that manufacture similar facilities would easily be at least twenty times our output, and it can be difficult to think about that much money for a facility that will get beat up by overeager firefighters.

We designate the boxes as an "exterior prop", since calling it a "building" would open up unnecessary discussions of building codes and permits. The high school's Fire and EMS Academy provides students with Firefighter I designation after graduation. They are able to utilize the facility at any time and have joined ACFR when we conduct drills at the site. It is very satisfying to see our members mentoring the students.

With just a little bit of land it is possible to have a sufficient facility to conduct needed training in real world situations. A theatrical smoke machine can provide limited visibility similar to fire conditions. Live fire training can also be offered following NFPA 1403. (Another reason for designation as an "exterior prop".) Although training is a small portion of an ISO rating, an adequate facility indicates to ISO, and to a community, that local fire departments have a commitment to be prepared to provide the best service they can to the public.

For questions or discussion contact me at [gef@alachuacounty.us](mailto:gef@alachuacounty.us)

Other views on Youtube. Search [ACFR Firefly](#). "Loften Training Burn Jan 15 2015" is the best video.



**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

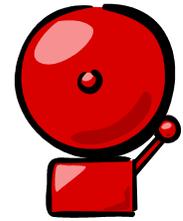
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## Last Alarms



*Dennis Miller*  
*Monterey*

## Upcoming Classes

- *BEFO - early 2017*
- *Principles of Building Construction: Combustible*

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