

Hot Calls

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Car One to Retire April 1, 2022

Bill Kennedy is set to retire on April 1, 2022. With the impending retirement the County is seeking applications for the position of Director of Emergency Services. The position has responsibility across different disciplines, including the titles of Fire Coordinator, Emergency Management Coordinator, EMS Coordinator, 911



Coordinator and Code Enforcement. To facilitate a smooth succession it is anticipated that the position will be filled as soon as possible to give the new person time to work with the current director prior to his retirement.

A link to the Director of Emergency Services employment opportunity can be found on the County's Civil Service website at:
www.schuylercounty.us/119/Civil-Service

Trivia Question

“What were the waiting lists for in earlier fire department?”

Email answers to Rick at rickshirlc27@gmail.com

Our last trivia question:

Question: “What time of day is it the most hazardous time to drive fire apparatus?”

Answer: 5 To 7 PM

Firefighter Profile: Clifford “Cliffy” Croft, Jr.

Written by: Rick Churches

Cliffy joined Montour Falls in 1977. Married to wife Shelia for 52 years. He has always made his home in Montour Falls. Working locally he never cared to go anywhere else. A daughter Tammy. Her husband Bill is a past chief of Montour Falls. Two other grandchildren, Caleb and Carley and a great grandson Patrick. His Grandson Chris is in the department for which he is very proud.



His dad was a member of the fire department along with his brother. They piqued his interest and he decided to join. He never cared much for the firefighting end but was interested in driving the trucks. His love for cars and fixing the same made him a good fit for that job. He has driven school bus for Watkins Glen, Worked as a mechanic at Jim and Bills Auto (now Parameters Motors.) Also a local cement company for several years. As he moved towards retirement he worked winters for NYS D.O.T. He is the happiest when he is driving and passes along his knowledge to the new drivers coming up.

I have worked with Cliffy for many years and have never seen him wear turn out gear even in the winter. I asked him if he ever wore it and he said yes one winter night when it was really really cold. I looked at his gear and it looks brand new.

I asked about the changes over the years and he said he would rather run the old trucks. They are more dependable then the newer ones. “too much electronics “ he said. Wish we still had them!

I asked about the most memorable call and he said they all run together I don't get involved I just run the trucks.

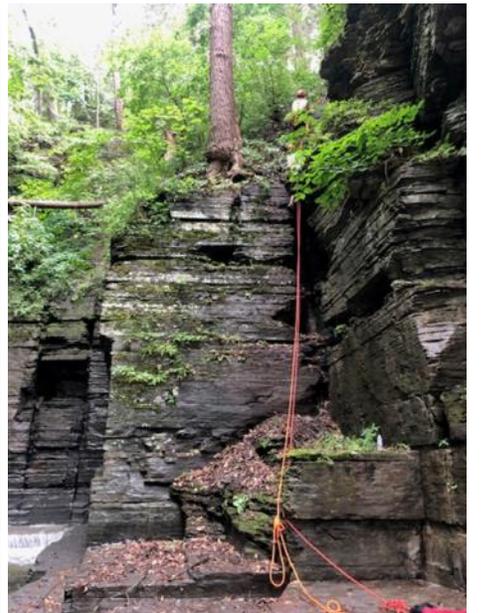
“Cliffy “is your lunch box firefighter He comes does his job and goes home. He lives a few blocks from the station and is usually the first driver there and he will tell you that. He loves his job and he is good at it. He likes to pick on others like me when we have trouble getting water or driving, but it's all in fun and he always has a smile on his face. When you see Cliffy thank him for his dedication. We need more like him.

Rope Rescue Task Force Used For the Second

The task force for rope rescue has been newly formed and used at least twice in recent months. The most recent was the Havana Glen Gorge above Eagle Cliff Falls in Montour Falls. A man was trapped above the falls while climbing the area. Montour Falls was alerted and soon activated the task force. Watkins responded with their rope team and trailer and Odessa with manpower and ATV. A long operation was to follow under the command of 15-1. A very technical and safe operation was started using access from location on Country Road 14, several hundred feet off the road and another long hike to an area above the stranded male. I am just amazed at the skill and knowledge used to conduct this rescue. The victim was not seriously hurt and was removed safely. Good job was done by all.



Rope Rescue, cont...



Joint Training at the Falls Home

Last night we assisted Montour Falls with the annual evacuation drill of the Falls Home. In addition to helping them perform the drill, Jake Burns talked a little about what is expected per MFFD's SOP. A briefing as given by "Chief Jake Burns. The following is an excerpt of that briefing from Odessa Officer.

The Falls Home- The Falls Home is a brick building with wooden structural members in the walls and the flooring. THIS BUILDING WILL BURN past the contents fire stage and into the structural member stage. The building has 4 exit points and 3 of those can be used for evacuation. The main entrance is designated the suppression entrance and should be avoided if possible. The building has a fire alarm. The fire alarm system is a common area fire alarm (areas of egress have detection protection). The building has a sprinklers system in the areas of egress. This means a room can and will reach flashover and has to extend into the hallway prior to a sprinkler head activating. There is also a standpipe that runs in the northern stairway; the standpipe connection is by the main entrance. If needed the gas shut off is at the Seneca Lake end of the building.

First thing to understand is that similar to our school response policy, MFFD's top priority at the Falls Home is FIRE SUPPRESSION. This is a good thing. March 23, 2021 at the Spring Valley Vol Dept. in Rockland County NY., A firefighter was killed as a result of placing evacuation first. The fire grew unchecked, eventually trapping him and he was killed. Had they concentrated on fire suppression the end result would have been different.



Joint Training, cont...



With that, Watkins Glen and Odessa will be the occupant evacuation groups. The first engine that get there will be in charge of evacuation. BRING IRONS IN, doors to the rooms lock. Jake was very clear that any locked door to a room needs to be opened and searched. Our crews need to keep our heads on straight and remember to complete the searches tactically. Fire floor first- nearest the fire and away. Once the people are evacuated from the Fire Involved Zone (area in between fire doors), we need to search that same zone above the fire. Once those Fire Involved Zones are clear we can work on both floors away from those zones.

Accountability is going to be a nightmare, we need to stay off the radios unless we have pertinent tactical benchmark or emergency traffic and/or our crew changes its geographic location.

The training was worth the time. I am sure I am forgetting something small but those are the big points.

Two In - Two Out

Firefighter close calls, firefighter injuries, and several Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) led to the creation of standards to address the issue. The Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is quite common today. But the makeup for today's RIT came from the initial "Two-In/Two-Out" paradigm. While the general idea is intact in both, there is a difference in two-in/two-out and RIT. This article will introduce (or reintroduce) the two-in/two-out concept.

The basics of outside assistance began in 1994 and the actual two-in/two-out was published by OSHA in 1998 in standard 29 CFR 1910.134 that deals with Respiratory Protection. The wording has been misinterpreted by some, but as it pertains to interior structural firefighting at least two employees (FFs) will enter an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere. In addition, at least two employees shall be located outside the IDLH. Other language in the standard requires those outside to be "equipped and trained to provide effective emergency rescue". NIOSH introduced similar language and referenced 29 CFR 1910.134 as well. Likewise in 1998 NFPA Standard 1500 first presented the Initial Rapid Intervention Crew (IRIC) which covers the two-in/two-out as well.

Over time and revisions NFPA Standards have dropped the IRIC and now only reference the definition of a RIC, Rapid Intervention Crew. Although there is no Standard (yet) regarding the specifics of a RIT, NFPA 1407 deals with training. OSHA 29 CFR does note a caveat that allows one member of the two-out to be engaged in another activity, as long as they can be available to immediately aid in the event of an emergency rescue. Examples are the Incident Commander or the engine operator. And "equipped" is intended to mean the two-out have full PPE and SCBA. It does no good to take a few minutes getting ready. The two-out requirement may be dismissed in the event of a known rescue. This means a victim is seen or heard in distress within an IDLH. Many states have adopted two-in/two-out as law. If a department or its members were to stray from such it could introduce the department, officers, and likely administrative staff to liability, especially if the practice is known and/or encouraged. Look up Vicarious Liability.

Firefighting is dangerous. Even with more than two outside to provide emergency assistance, LODDs and serious injuries can and do happen. The Two-In/Two-Out and IRIC came into being for the purpose of firefighter safety. Each was clearly written with some flexibility due to the very nature of chaos on an emergency scene. NFPA has relaxed some language, but the principle of ready help is still required. And the Fire Service has evolved to the Rapid Intervention Team concept, with various names, make up, equipment, procedures, etc. Until there is a detailed standard or regulation regarding RIT specifics, the best way to handle a firefighter emergency is with SOP/SOG's and regular training. And be sure we have personnel ready to help our own if needed.

Stay Safe,
Gail Foote

Valois-Logan-Hector; Alachua County Fire Rescue; Bronson Volunteer Fire Rescue

NEW, NEW, NEW

Testing Hydro for cascade systems come to the front door.

Safe Air Systems from Afton has a unit to test hydro bottles on site. The pictures below show the testing procedure which amounts' to a sort of ultra sound. Instead of sending them out you can be back in service the same day.

Specifications New 6000 psi cylinder New 6000 psi DOT storage cylinder with current hydro. DOT cylinders need to be hydrostatically tested every five years (most composite cylinders three years) Standard CGA 702 valve 509 cu. ft. @ 6000 psi ...



The Department of Transportation (DOT) requires all cylinders to be hydrostatically tested every 3, 5, or 10 years. The time allowed by law is determined by a variety of factors such as the type of material, the gas it contains, its age, and special permits the cylinder may have been manufactured under.

What is a hydrostatic test?

A "hydro test" is an approved way to test the structural integrity of a compressed gas container. It is performed by removing the valve, filling the container with water, and then pressuring the container above its operating limit. The expansion of the cylinder is measured, recorded, and analyzed. If cylinder expands beyond certain limits, the cylinder must be condemned.

The new system above replaces the above hydro test procedures

In most cases corrosion or other damage, internal or external, will render a cylinder useless before a failed hydrostatic test. If it fails it must be destroyed.

How often is a hydro test required?

This depends on the rating of the cylinder and the date it was last tested. The month and year of each hydro test is stamped onto the cylinder between a letter and four numbers identifying the tester. It is 3, 5, or 10 years from this date that the next hydro test is due.

All cylinders have ratings that start with "DOT" or "ICC," followed by the service pressure of the container. For example "DOT 3AA 1800" means a DOT approved cylinder made to the "3AA"



NEW, NEW, NEW , cont...

specification rated for 1800 psi. Some common ratings and test intervals are below:

5-Year test:

DOT 3A

ICC 3A

DOT 3AA

ICC 3AA

DOT 3AL

3-Year test:

DOT 3HT

10-Year test:

DOT 3AA with a “star” following the last hydro test date.

Some cylinders have a 5-point star stamped into the cylinder after the last hydro test date making them eligible for a 10-year test under certain circumstances.

Various:

DOT E

DOT SP

These are specialty cylinders that fall within a range of testing requirements and are manufactured and tested with “special permits” from the DOT.

Retest and Inspection of Cylinders Table

Specification under which cylinder was made	Minimum test pressure (psig) ²	Requalification period (years)
DOT 3	3000 psig	5.
DOT 3A, 3AA	5/3 times service pressure, except non-corrosive service (see § 180.209(g))	5, 10, or 12 (see § 180.209(b) , (e), (f), (h), and (j)).
DOT 3AL	5/3 times service pressure	5, 10 or 12 (see § 180.209(e) , (j) and § 180.209(m) ³).
DOT 3AX, 3AAX	5/3 times service pressure	5, 10 (see § 180.209(e) .
3B, 3BN	2 times service pressure (see § 180.209(g))	5 or 10 (see § 180.209(e) , (f)).
3E	Test not required.	
3HT	5/3 times service pressure	3 (see §§ 180.209(k) and 180.213(c)).
3T	5/3 times service pressure	5.
4AA480	2 times service pressure (see § 180.209(g))	5 or 10 (see § 180.209(e) or (h)).

NEW, NEW, NEW , cont...

Specification under which cylinder was made	Minimum test pressure (psig) ²	Requalification period (years)
4AA480	2 times service pressure (see § 180.209(g))	5 or 10 (see § 180.209(e) or (h)).
4B, 4BA, 4BW, 4B-240ET	2 times service pressure, except non-corrosive service (see § 180.209(g))	5, 10, or 12 (see § 180.209(e) , (f), and (j)).
4D, 4DA, 4DS	2 times service	5.
DOT 4E	2 times service pressure, except non-corrosive (see § 180.209(g))	5 or 10 (see § 180.209(e)).
4L	Test not required.	
8, 8AL		10 or 20 (see § 180.209(i)).
1 Exemption or special permit cylinder	See current exemption or special permit	See current exemption or special permit.
Foreign cylinder (see § 173.301(j) of this subchapter for restrictions on use)	As marked on cylinder, but not less than 5/3 of any service or working pressure marking	5 (see §§ 180.209(l) and 180.213(d)(2)).

Any cylinder not exceeding 2 inches outside diameter and less than 2 feet in length is excepted from volumetric expansion test.

2 For cylinders not marked with a service pressure, see § 173.301a(b) of this subchapter.

3 This provision does not apply to cylinders used for carbon dioxide, fire extinguisher or other industrial gas service.

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www.emstar.org

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Photos, News,
and
Suggestions!**

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