

Hot Calls

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Kirk Smith, Director of Emergency Services

One of the most important roles that the Emergency Management Office has is planning. With that, we have worked with the county legislature and administrator on a succession plan for the impending retirement of Bill Kennedy. After an open application process, the selection committee interviewed four candidates for the position of Director of Emergency Service with the intent to have a person in place by the first of the year allowing for three months of working together for a smooth transition.

Kirk Smith was selected to be the next Director of Emergency Services and will start in the office on January 3, 2022, and will be assuming full responsibilities on April 1, 2022. Kirk brings to the office an extensive Emergency Service background. Over 30 years in the fire service serving as Chief in both the Watkins Glen Fire Company and the Beaver Dams Fire Company. He has served as a Deputy Fire Coordinator for 18 years heading the J-fire program. He has successfully completed FEMA's Emergency Management Professional Development series of courses. He has worked for the Sheriff's Office for over 20 years assigned to the 911 center. Kirk is the current 911 supervisor Sargent and a member of the NYS 911 Coordinators Association. Throughout Kirk's career within our PSAP(Public Safety Answering Point), He has experienced the evolution of E911 from phones and radio, to the many faceted sides of today's digital communications.

Kirk's experience and passion for emergency services will serve the county now and into the future. Please join me in welcoming him to his new position.



Firefighter/EMS Profile: Mel Horton

Mel started getting involved in Fire and EMS work in 2003. His first call was an MVA and he had no training...just did fire police. After that first call he had an interest in EMS. He isn't sure who made the first contact to him. He started from 1st aid to EMT, to Paramedic. Every time when he had to re-certify, he went to the next level. He has been a paramedic ever since 2015. Fire classes were enough to keep him current but he prefers EMS. He left the department and went to then Rural Metro Ambulance in Corning. After a short while he became a supervisor. Trying to stay a little more local, he joined Schuyler Ambulance. A few years later he returned to now AMR Ambulance. Since that time he has become supervisor again and is in charge of Watkins Glen International Race Track during the summer months and the training coordinator for AMR Corning.



He has two daughters Kali, and Makenna and they both are in the fire department.

They are always trying to improve and are looking to purchase a newer utility vehicle. They have purchased 12 sets of gear over the past few years. He did mention that AMR is looking to hire 15 people for an EMT academy he will be teaching. The candidates would work full time. They will do the training and you have to work for AMR for one year once you obtain your EMT. Go to their web site for more information. American Medical Response - AMR Medical Transportation Jobs

When you see Mel, thank him for his service.

Fallen Firefighters Honored at Memorial Service

The three fallen firefighters whose names are on a memorial plaque in the Schuyler County Emergency Services Memorial Park outside the Sheriff's Office in Watkins Glen were honored Wednesday evening Oct. 6 at the county's first annual Firefighter Memorial Ceremony at the park. Thomas J. Tobin of the Tyrone Fire Department (he died in 1992), Alton L. Lewis of the Montour Falls Fire Department (1999) and Dale E. Jaynes of the Burdett Fire Department (2019) were eulogized by Sheriff William Yessman, Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, County Fire Coordinator Bill Kennedy and County Deputy Administrator Fonda Chronis in short speeches. The Memorial Park was the site of a similar ceremony honoring police in the spring.

Photo: A ringing of a bell was part of the memorial service.

Story and
Pictures by
Odessa File



Dale Jaynes Honored at the National Fire Academy

Car 9 joined a list of 212 fallen firefighters throughout the country in Emmitsburg, Maryland on October 3-4 th, 2021. He was pictured with his daughter during the ceremony. It can be seen on Firehouse.com. His wife, Linda, and their son got to attend.



Tyrone: Structure Fire

On September 21st at 3:47 am fire at 667 CR23 was called in. First arriving officer C-17 reported a working fire, a fully involved 2 story home. A single occupant was out of the building. A second alarm was sounded soon followed by a third. Mutual aid was called from Dundee, Wayne, Hammondsport, Watkins Glen, Beaver Dams, Bradford, along with Tyrone. Schuyler EMO, and the Sheriff's Department also assisted.



Defensive operation from the start was the order of the night. Water supply between the lakes by Hammondsport was provided and maintained a good water supply for the night. Red Cross was called for the single occupant. Long job of overhaul was initiated.

Odessa: Logging Processor Fire

A fire in a logging processor on Steam Mill rd. Odessa Fire District brought out both Odessa and Mecklenburg on October 13. A fully involved unit on arrival was quickly knocked down but total loss for the operator Morgan Logging. This shows some of the unusual hazards we have in the districts. Companies were out about two hours.

Article and
Photo by
Odessa File



Monterey: Structure Fire

Structure Fire in Monterey on Evergreen Hill Road brought out a second alarm response. Fire was knocked down in good order.

No pictures or further information was provided.

Beaver Dams: Structure Fire

About 0230 hours on Beaver Dams Moreland Rd. smoke alarms woke a husband and wife to a fire in their attached garage. They escaped with the husband burning his hand as they exited the house. They called 911 and got in their car and moved out on the road. A second alarm sounded followed by a third. The garage had a firewall between it and the house. It kept the fire in check with some extension in the attic where the fire wall stopped. Aggressive exterior attack to the garage and then the house attic. Very little fire damage occurred to the house its self.

Firewall shown that helped stop the fire. Car -15-1 and Car-15 recovered personal items for the homeowners



Joint Training: Water Supply

October 25th a water supply drill was conducted in Odessa. 10 departments were involved in dumping, filling tankers at different sites trying to maintain a high water flow at a simulated fire. Over 30,000 gallons of water was pumped and transported during the drill.



Montour Falls: Garage Fire

At 0030 on November 12th Montour Falls was toned out for a garage fire attached to a house. First arriving Sheriff deputy confirmed an active fire in the garage. 2nd alarm was transmitted and Watkins Glen, Odessa, Burdett responded with Beaver Dams covering. First due engine 16 arrived and made a quick hit on the fire knocking it down. Second alarm companies were soon returned. There was minimal damage to the home. Good quick job.



Odessa: Out of County Mutual Aid

Odessa responded to assist Horseheads Town and Country Fire Company on this garage fire. Notice that was the third one in this month's series. Good stop was made.



Second Fire in two days in Horseheads district two streets from the first fire also brought out Odessa for mutual aid.



Mayday is Not a Dirty Word

By: Gail Foote

“Mayday!” is probably the most chilling word heard on a fire ground. It signifies a FF is in trouble. Yet that single word is just as likely to be the last one a FF wants to transmit, at least for him or herself. Asking for help admits defeat, I give up, or I’m not up to the job. Our mindset is such that we do not wish to ask for help except as a last resort. Views like that have no place on the fire ground and especially in the event of a Mayday. Most basic training does not teach what to do if in trouble. Even if it were, annual practice at an minimum should be a requirement.

The U.S. Fire Administration has a program titled Firefighter Safety: Calling the Mayday. It is a good starting point for Mayday training. The course site is: <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/517> . Log in is required, or registration for an ID if not already obtained. The course is a one-hour online class but some years ago it was offered as an 8-hour classroom and practical lesson. The course describes a Mayday, when to call, and presents scenarios for a student to go through a repetitive need to call. This repetition helps to instill a form of muscle memory should the need arise.

The scenarios place the student in four simulated situations that require a Mayday report: fall, stuck, trapped, and collapse. It can be simple to set up your own practice field with these stations and need not be elaborate. The goal is for the student to recognize they are in trouble, call for help (“Mayday” x 3), give appropriate information, (LUNAR; UCAN; or other), then set off their PASS and attempt to mitigate the situation.

The LUNAR: (Location/Unit/Name/Air/Resources needed), and UCAN: (Unit/Conditions/Actions or Air/Needs) are good mnemonics that can be useful for Command and a rescue team in the event of a Mayday. But unless one were to recite, practice, or just think about the specifics every day it is easy to confuse or forget the meanings. At a minimum a firefighter in trouble should relay Who they are, What is wrong, and Where they are.

The practical scenarios are to be conducted with full PPE, SCBA, on air, and a blacked-out mask. In my practice of presenting the class there were times a FF had to wait for the PASS to self-activate if they were in a position that made them unable to manually activate or had difficulty otherwise. Consider for a moment what we do on the fire ground or during training when our PASS begins to initiate – we shake to reset it. The same transpired in the scenarios ... a form of muscle memory.

These occurrences underscore the importance of Mayday training on a regular basis, at least annually but quarterly would be ideal. Low frequency events are those that require more attention to be prepared for. It is unfortunate that the USFA Mayday course no longer presents a practical portion.

There is a video that is part of the course. It is viewable on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISobWWcNUZU> , or search for NFA Mayday Video. It can be sufficient as a stand-alone option instead of the USFA course. If you would like information about conducting practical training, feel free to contact me at programmanager@townofbronson.org

To paraphrase Dr. Burton Clark in the Mayday video, “...you may not get a second chance” to call a Mayday.

Train Safe to Stay Safe

Gail Foote is a former member of Valois-Logan-Hector; retired from Alachua County Fire Rescue in FL; and is currently Assistant Chief and Program Manager for Recruitment and Retention with the Bronson Volunteer Fire Department in Bronson, FL.

Fatalities

24 fatalities were listed in last month's Firehouse Magazine. 14 were listed as COVID-19 cause. This is the highest LODD list that I have seen since they have been keeping track! Most LODD deaths are preventable. We need to continue to follow safety procedures when responding and working directly with the public. Vaccinations do work to prevent death and hospitalizations!

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Last Alarms



Randy Stone
Odessa

Peter Coats
Mecklenburg

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- *None at this time.*

Learn more here:
<http://www.schuylercounty.us/564/Fire-EMT-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