

# Hot Calls



## From the Director

**D**irector Kirk Smith provides the following updates from the office of the Director.

### Bradford Tower

On Wednesday, June 22 the new radio communications tower at the Bradford Central School was put online. The project, which leveraged grant funds, began in 2020 under the direction of Bill Kennedy. Though it took a bit longer than anticipated, due to COVID and supply shortages, we're pleased to report that radio coverage in that area of the county has now improved significantly. Sheriff Rumsey said it's nothing less than outstanding. Our neighbors to the west, in Steuben County, are also benefitting from improved communication provided by the new tower.

We continue to look for ways to utilize grant funds to improve coverage in our county. We are currently eyeing a location in the Town of Orange for the next tower project. Due to location and terrain, Orange severely lacks in coverage and we need to remedy that.

### New Deputy Fire Coordinators

Please welcome our newly hired volunteer Deputy Fire Coordinators Jake Burns (Car 7) and Brian Gunning (Car 9). Jake is a member

## Director cont...

and past chief of Montour Falls. Brian is currently serving as chief with Mecklenburg. Both Jake and Brian are well known in the county and bring many years of experience to the position. They will be an asset to county departments and to our office. Jake, Brian and the other Coordinators are all available to assist, so please reach out if you ever need anything.



*L-R: Jake Burns and Brian Gunning*

## Learn Not to Burn

The office would like to send a big shout-out to all the fire departments and individuals that attended Fire Truck Day at the schools. Whether you brought a vehicle, equipment, or knowledge, it made for an educational and memorable day for the children. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to help an important program like Learn Not to Burn!

# Odessa Banquet

**O**desa's newly elected line officers for the coming year:

- Chief Adam Mahnke
- 1st. Asst. Chief Steve Siptrott
- 2nd. Asst. Chief Richard Brown
- 3rd. Asst. Chief Mike Croft
- Deputy Chiefs
  - Mike Tomassi
  - John Jelliff
  - Rick Churches (Absent)
- Capt. Jeremy Hoffman (absent)
- Lt. Kyle Bailey (absent)

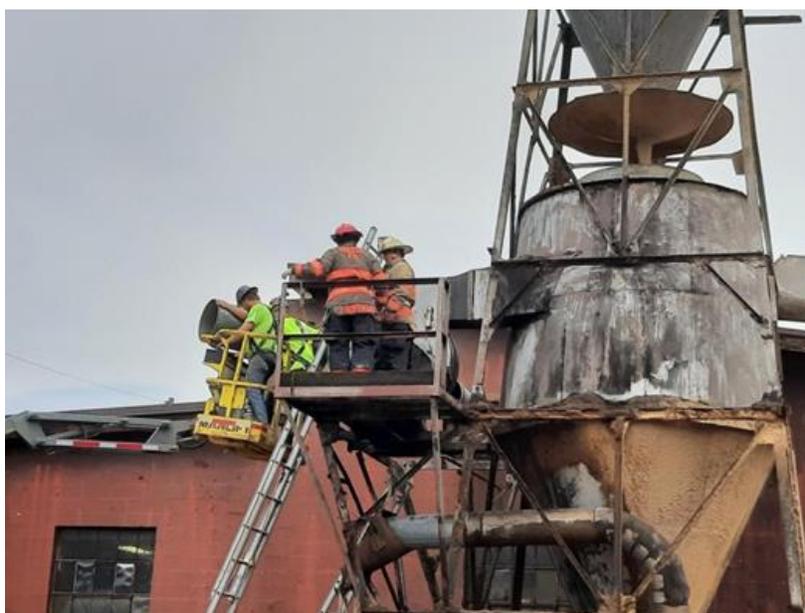


*Adam Mahnke is sworn in by Odessa Mayor Gary Messmer*



# Odessa: Wagner Hardwoods Fire

**F**ire at the Wagner Lumber in Cayuta brought out a heavy pre-plan response. The afternoon fire originated in a sawdust collection truck parked next to a processing building. The company employees were able to contain the fire till companies arrived. Heavy damage to the truck but minimal damage to the building. Mutual aid from Watkins, Montour Falls, Burdett, Schuyler County Emergency Management, Newfield, SCVAA.



## Watkins Glen: Structure Fire

**W**atkins Glen was called to a garage fire in Reading. Car 19 called for second alarm on the way in bringing Montour, Tyrone, Burdett, Schuyler County Emergency Management, and Dundee. The well involved structure was a total loss but nearby structures were saved.



## History: Smith's IGA September 1991

**T**his month's history is of the block fire Montour Falls had on the above date. The exact day I can't find. Jeff Confer was Chief at the time. The call came in about 1230 am. All 10 Schuyler County fire departments were called. Town and Country, Horseheads, Millport from Chemung. Dundee from Yates, Tompkins County Emergency Mgt. with air system.

The fire was fought with a snorkel from T&C, Arial from Watkins. A relay was done from Main Street to the Canal down Henry Street by T&C and Hector at draft. This was because village water system was running low. T&C 100' snorkel was on the corner of Henry and Main and Watkins on the corner of Main and Owego. They protected the fire from going up Main street! Staging was at the old Emmick car lot across the street from the fire. Tompkins County Fire Coordinator Jack Miller filled air bottles with a portable air compressor. Montour E-16 was on the corner of Henry and main with a deck gun operation. Odessa with E-23 as on the bridge and supplied T&C. Command Post was across the street from the fire out of C-15 and County C-3. Horseheads was in the rear in the alley with a tel-Squert and had heat damage to the engine.

This was one of the biggest operations I ( C-3 ) have been involved with. The effort kept the fire from extending up Main Street and to the north down Henry Street. Believe it or not a dog survived the fire on the second floor behind a couch where water was directed by Montour! It belonged to Don ("Thumbsy") Ayers who lived upstairs. Hats off to Jeff Confer and his officers at the time for a great job.

Video: <https://youtu.be/eIU4jeFmxkw?t=26>

# Remembering Those Who Led the Way

**M**emorial week end Fire Departments in Schuyler set out to remember those firefighters who have passed in different ways. From left to right, top to bottom: Burdett Ken Givens , Montour Falls Dick Simpson, Odessa Don Scott , set out flags and markers on graves. Mecklenburg does the same. Tyrone has a service at the most recent past member. Those others who mark memorial day please send in some pictures.



# Learn Not to Burn Wraps Up For the Year!

Odessa:



Watkins Glen:



# LNTB cont...

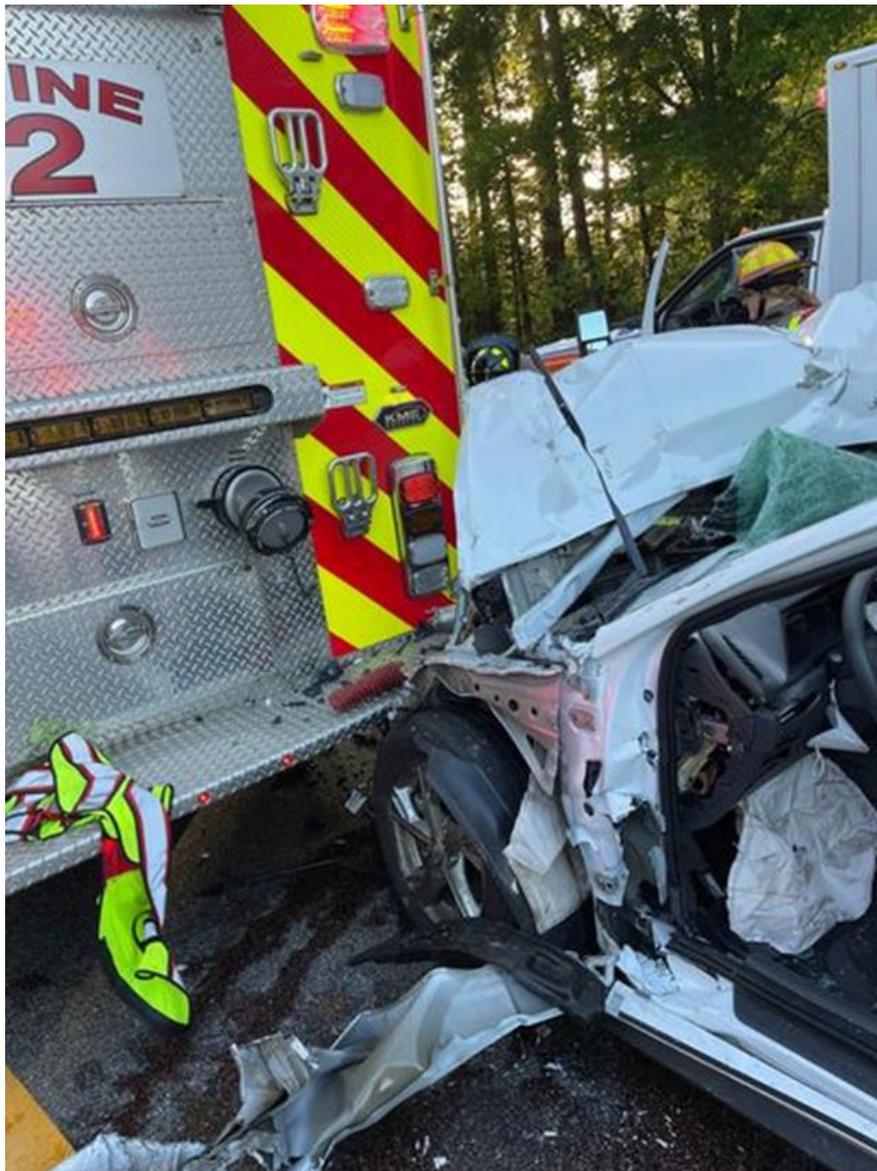
Montour Falls:



## Do You Protect Your MVA Scenes ?

Crews from the South Hill Volunteer Fire Department and Southside Rescue Squad were dispatched to a two vehicle crash about 6:13 a.m. and crews protected the left lane as crews worked the scene. A second accident occurred but responders were protected by the blocking method.

As first responders, we respond to numerous emergencies each and every day with the mission and dedication to provide quality service to the victims and ensure we ALL make it home safely at the end of each and every incident," Chief Vaughn shared. "I can't stress enough the importance of slowing down and moving over when you see emergency vehicles operating on scene."



# Re-enactment Sends Sobering Message to Students at Watkins Glen High School

WATKINS GLEN, May 26, 2022 -- Students at the Watkins Glen High School got a dose of potential reality Thursday in the form of a mock re-enactment of a DWI accident staged by the school's Wellness Club in the student parking lot -- complete with a "corpse," an "arrest" and a Jaws of Life "rescue."



*Schuyler County Sheriff Kevin Rumsey addresses students gathered to watch the re-enactment at Watkins Glen High School.*

It was all followed by a sobering message during an assembly in the school auditorium.

The re-enactment was the first in five years at the school, which used to try to schedule them every other year. Part of the delay: the pandemic. It was timed this year to reach students before they celebrate graduation and reach the more carefree days of summer.

Schuyler County Sheriff Kevin Rumsey outlined the accident "facts" to the students gathered on the lawn at the far end of the parking lot. On hand were other police officers, soon joined by members of the Watkins Glen Fire Department arriving in one of their trucks, and members of Schuyler Ambulance.

The "accident" left a "pedestrian" lying "dead," and a passenger severely "injured" in the back seat of the wrecked auto being used in the exercise. It all required the removal of car doors and roof to extract the interior victim. The driver and another passenger were "arrested" and placed in the rear of a police vehicle, where one of them was heard exclaiming loudly -- whether in supposed pain or anger wasn't clear.

A helicopter was en route from Guthrie to join the re-enactment, but was diverted to what one police officer described as a "real world car crash."

After first responders and Fire Department paramedics and ambulance personnel and assorted investigating officers had completed the demonstration, the pedestrian "corpse" rose and headed back with the other students into the school. The Sheriff and Fire Department personnel offered students at the assembly some insight into accidents like the one just

# Plan For the Worst

By: Gail Foote

After a previous review of the requirement and need for 2/in-2/out and the importance of calling a Mayday, it is time to consider the rescue stage of a Mayday. 2/in-2/out is not necessarily a formal dedicated crew prepared to affect a FF rescue. If sufficient resources are present from the outset they may act as such throughout or a RIT assignment may be made. The Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC), or Team (RIT), has become commonplace throughout the Fire Service and there are many acronyms for a RIT. Since inception the concept was gradually accepted by the fire service even to the point of an NFPA Standard on training; but no specific standard for a RIT makeup, equipment, or scene activity is in place.

Some departments have a dedicated unit assigned to RIT duties, while others may assign a crew enroute to the incident or once on scene. One way to prepare for a RIT at a fire is to think about a three-phase methodology. This procedure written in an SOG and combined with regular training can provide organized preparation and not a “we’ll see what we have then take care of it” mindset. The three-phase approach a department may consider for a RIT are: Assignment, Staging, and Deployment.

Assignment is when crew members are advised they will be a RIT. It may be the start of a shift, when units are responding to the scene, through pre-fire planning, a mutual aid agreement, or other process. The members assigned should determine their roles (especially the leader), who will be responsible for what equipment and discuss the equipment needed and where to find it. As noted earlier at least two members must be outside to provide emergency rescue if required. The minimum for a two-person crew can be thought of as four hands/four tools. In the absence of a RIT bag this can mean rope, imager or light, Halligan and a complete SCBA.

Staging occurs once on scene. The needed tools are obtained, a check with Incident Command is done for where to stage, and the RIT leader completes a 360 walk-around while the tools and equipment are double-checked. Preferably the staging area would be near enough to observe actions but far enough to not get tempted to be drawn into any lengthy assistance. NFPA, OSHA and NIOSH allow for one RIT member to be utilized in some capacity elsewhere as long as they can be called away if needed to perform a rescue (so much for being “rapid”). This practice is useful for departments with a reduced number of staffing available but should be done on a limited basis if possible. Ideally the RIT will be rested and



## Plan For the Worst, cont...

prepared to move at a moment's notice. Staging includes being sure PPE and SCBA are completely donned, air cylinders are on, and tools are double checked and arranged. Radio communications should be monitored closely. Also consider a charged hose line if possible, or at least have another crew with one.

Deployment is when the feces hits the rotary oscillating device. This could be a Mayday call, a reported downed FF, or a FF unaccounted for. An initial Mayday notification could come from the FF in distress, others on scene, the IC, or even Dispatch. Whatever the source, deployment should not commence until directed by the IC. Strict accountability will need to be maintained at all times. When deployed the RIT reports to the area indicated by the IC. A rope bag is vital and, before the search begins, anchored at a stable point outside the designated entry location. A momentary pause once inside the entrance and at periodic intervals allows the RIT to listen for a PASS alarm, shouting, tapping, an SCBA low air alarm or the regulator breathing noise. A thermal imager can be invaluable to help rule out areas to physically search. With an imager and the rope as a "bread crumb" trail to the exit, a typical right hand/left hand search pattern may not be necessary especially if sounds of distress are heard.

The only thing rapid about a RIT is not taking time to assemble a crew when a Mayday incident occurs. In the event of a FF emergency, it is best to have a procedure in place to systematically provide for a favorable outcome. An SOG that spells out expectations and paired with regular training can go a long way towards accomplishing such a result without chaos reining.

With the problem of limited manpower inhibiting a dedicated RIT, at the very least FF's should practice individual procedures for assisting a downed FF (drags, securing an air supply, etc.) as part of 2/in-2/out or an interior crew. These will be explored in a later article.

Whether you consider a three-phase process or some other procedure, in the end the best RIT is one not needed... no matter what it is called.

### Train Safe to Stay Safe

Gail Foote is a former member of Valois-Logan-Hector; retired Training Captain from Alachua County Fire Rescue in FL; and currently Assistant Chief and Program Manager for Recruitment and Retention with the Bronson Volunteer Fire Department in Bronson, FL. [programmanager@townofbronson.org](mailto:programmanager@townofbronson.org)

## Re-enactment cont.

staged.

One of those speakers said drivers under the age of 20 are "three times as likely" to be involved in a fatal accident than someone over 20. More than 40,000 people died in traffic accidents last year, he added. "We don't want something nasty like that to happen to you, which is why we are here."

The entire program would not have happened, said Watkins Glen High School Principal Kyle Colunio, without the efforts of senior Anya Simpson, who lobbied for and organized the event with the help of Wellness Club advisor Margaret Swinnerton and the Schuyler County Coalition on Underage Drinking and Drugs (SCCUDD).



*Left: A pedestrian "corpse" lies in front of the car used in the re-enactment.*

*Right: Paramedics work to extract a "victim" from the back seat after removing doors and the car roof, which is in the foreground.*

## Trivia Question

### Who had the first tanker in the county?

Email answers to Rick at [rickshirlc27@gmail.com](mailto:rickshirlc27@gmail.com).

Our last trivia question:

**Question:** In a hose line which pressure is greater: Static pressure, flow pressure, or residual pressure?

**Answer:** Static Pressure

Last month's winner: Dick Robertson

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
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# Last Alarms



*None*

## Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- EMT Original - 9/6 @ Watkins
- EMT Refresher - 9/6 @ Watkins

**W**ant to be notified of our upcoming courses? Join our mailing list! Send requests to [jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us](mailto:jgeck@co.schuyler.ny.us)

**For more information, visit:**

[www.schuylercounty.us](http://www.schuylercounty.us)  
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