

# Hot Calls

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## From the Director

**A**s the new year quickly approaches, I want to give everyone a quick update on the proposed new ambulance service in Schuyler County. The proposal, as stands, will be a joint collaboration with Cayuga Health Systems, thus creating the new service, with wheels on the ground soon. There will be three ambulances staged across the county, with one each in Tyrone, Odessa and Watkins Glen. Each ambulance will have the ability to become fluid as needed, all with the hope of greatly reducing response times to all requests for ambulance services.

I look forward to working closely with each department over the next several months, to both help define our mission and meet the needs of our local first responders. The Emergency Management office staff is working diligently on obtaining additional grant funding for many future radio upgrades, and we're hopefully looking forward to sharing additional good news on that in the near future.

As always stay safe, and thank you for all you do.

Kirk

# Monterey: New Equipment

Off road ATV for fires. The vehicle also has tracks for difficult terrain plus snow.



# History

In the early 1960's the county experienced a dry spell as we are now. The trains ran from Elmira to Geneva and would start fires along the tracks from the coal ashes and sometime failed brakes that would overheat and throw sparks. The hillside between Millport and Montour Falls was primed by the dry leaves and caught fire in numerous locations in the valley and spread up the steep hills. Because it was so dry the fires would burn underground. This would cause the fire to continue to burn for several weeks even after many attempts to put it out. At that time there was appointed fire wardens that were hired by the state that could muster people at a 1.50 per hour to fight the fires. We were allowed to leave high school to fight these fires. Also Camp Monterey was active then and the prisoners were also brought to the scenes to help quell the fires and actually monitored them through the times when firefighters had to return to work. The picture shows the location of the fires where the current Catherine Valley Trail is now.



# Watkins Glen: Motel Fire

**W**ATKINS GLEN, N.Y. (WETM) — The busy streets of Watkins Glen were interrupted by sirens Sunday morning as fire trucks raced to a structure fire on State Route 14.

The fire broke out at the Chieftain Motel on SR 14 sometime after 11 a.m.



*Good stop was made by 1st. due companies.*

According to the fire chief at the scene, they reported to 18 News that around 11:36 a.m. the first truck arrived at the motel to find multiple rooms on fire.

A task force was dispatched as seven departments responded to the motel to start an initial attack on the northwest corner of the building. A trench cut was put in place onto the roof building in an effort to stop the fire from spreading to other parts of the building.

No injuries were reported as everyone was able to make it out of the building. Fire officials said that the first responders to the fire were able to check the rooms to make sure everyone was out of the building as more units arrived on the scene.

Traffic in the southbound lanes was blocked off for some time as trucks had to set up along that part of the road to stage water collection containers and hoses.

The full extent of the damage and how it started is unknown at this time as it's pending investigation. The fire was deemed to be in the cleanup stages between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.

State Police, Schuyler County Sheriff, Village of Watkins Glen Police, and Schuyler County Fire Investigators as well as New York State Fire were on the scene to assist and investigate.

# Motel Fire cont...



## Monterey: Camper Fire

**A** travel camper fire on CR22 was a total loss. No pictures were provided. Second alarm was activated but soon canceled. Beaver Dams Brought in to assist. EMO also assisted on the scene

## Odessa - Trailer Fire

**O**n July 27 at about 0500 a call for a porch fire at 3031 lot one St. Rt. 228 with smoke coming in the residence. On arrival of first officer found a working fire involving most of the trailer. All occupants were evacuated along with the trailer to the south of the fire. 2nd alarm was sounded and companies from Mecklenburg, Montour Falls, Burdett, and Millport covering. Fire as quickly knocked down with a blitz attack. Long time dealing with overhaul occurred. Thanks to all companies for a good operation.



## Trivia Question

**What is the easiest crime to commit and the hardest to detect?**

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

Our last trivia question:

**Question:** *Who had the first tanker in the county?*

**Answer:** *Beaver Dams was the first as far as I know.*

# Training in Odessa

The Odessa Volunteer Fire Department conducted training this Monday night (July 18th) on our MSA Thermal Imager Cameras. The Odessa Fire Department has a Thermal Imager Camera on both of our engines. These special thermal imager cameras assist our firefighters while working at structure fires in conducting search and rescue operations for trapped occupants as-well-as using the thermal currents to find the seat of the fire.

Tonight our members trained with a burn box that the members of the dept. built. Using hay and wood, a fire was created so members could have conditions that are similar to a structural fire. This box allowed our firefighters to stay in a safe environment while seeing the thermal currents through the thermal imager camera, that is radiated from a fire within a structure. Firefighters were also able to see the contrast of certain objects in relation to either the fire in the burn box vs those same objects in a cooler environment.

The Odessa Volunteer Fire Department continues to train so that we can keep our community safe when we respond to emergencies either in our jurisdiction or mutual aid to our numerous partners in adjacent communities. These thermal imager cameras assist our firefighters in our continued efforts to keep your community safe. We are thankful to have this important equipment on our apparatus and a community that continues to support our agency.



## Fire Prevention Week October 9-15

**T**his year we should make an effort to promote having an escape plan and working smoke alarms. The above fire started on the porch had the family not been able to go out the second exit this most likely would have been a fatal fire. The whole family would have been lost. With increased response times it's not likely that when they make that 911 call and they can't get out they are in serious trouble. All departments need to drive home the point that no one lives at the fire station and it could be up to 25 minutes or more before an engine arrives to help. That most likely will be too late!!

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is aware that there is a controversy about which type of smoke alarm is most appropriate to protect people in their homes. In accordance with our mission to reduce life and economic losses due to fire, we offer the following guidance regarding home smoke alarms.

The body of scientific knowledge about fire, smoke and smoke detection has developed over many years and is extensive. The USFA has either fully or partially funded a number of research efforts, including a recent study by the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Center for Fire Research. Other contributors to this knowledge include the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the National Fire Protection Association, Underwriters Laboratories, the Home Fire Safety Council, the Residential Fire Safety Institute, the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, and distinguished academics with expertise in smoke alarm and sensor technology. The body of research reflects the following:

There are two types of smoke alarms in general use for home smoke alarms: photoelectric and ionization. These smoke alarms sense the presence of smoke differently.

The type of smoke produced by a fire depends on the type of fire. Flaming fires produce a different type of smoke than smoldering fires.

Both smoke alarms will detect the smoke from either a smoldering fire or a flaming fire. It has been established and well known for many years that:

Ionization smoke alarms tend to respond faster to the smoke produced by flaming fires than photoelectric smoke alarms.

Photoelectric smoke alarms tend to respond faster to the smoke produced by smoldering fires than ionization smoke alarms.

In some full-scale fire tests, the difference in the time to alarm between ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms was found to be trivial. In other full-scale fire tests, the difference in response time was considerable.

Based on this information, the USFA provides the following guidance to the public and to state and local legislative bodies that may be grappling with the issue of the proper type of smoke alarm to select for use in a residence:

*(Continued on page 9)*

# New Jersey FF Charged in Engine Collision that Killed Two People

By: *FireHouse.com*

**A** New Jersey firefighter, who was driving an engine, has been charged with reckless vehicular homicide in connection with a double fatal crash earlier this year.

Lawnside Firefighter John T. Gibson, 29, also was charged with third-degree hindering apprehension or prosecution, NJPen reported.

On Jan. 19, Gibson was behind the wheel of the Lawnside fire engine responding to a cardiac emergency when the collision occurred in Magnolia.

Prosecutors, according to the paper, said Gibson allegedly “drove the truck into the opposing lane of travel, against the designated flow of traffic, and around other vehicles” that were stopped at the intersection. The engine continued, and struck a Nissan Sentra, driven by John Bishop, 68. Both Bishop and his passenger, Marie Endicott, were killed.

In addition to being a firefighter, Gibson also was a Lawnside police officer. Reporters have been unable to determine if Gibson is still active in either capacity.

If convicted, charges of vehicular manslaughter can result in a sentence of five to 10 years in prison, a fine of as much as \$150,000, and loss of license, the paper reported.

## *(Fire Prevention Week Continued from page 8)*

We cannot state that one type of alarm is better than another because every fire is different.

Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because no one can predict what type of fire might start in a home, the USFA recommends that every home and place where people sleep be equipped with either (a) both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms, or (b) dual sensor smoke alarms (which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors).

The location of a smoke alarm within a home may be more important than the type of smoke alarm present, depending on the location of a fire. The USFA recommends that users follow the manufacturer’s guidance on the recommended location of smoke alarms in a home.

Additional information on smoke alarms can be found on the USFA, CPSC and NIST websites.

**SCHUYLER COUNTY  
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# Last Alarms



**Shane Coats**  
*Mecklenburg*

**Dick Jenkins**  
*Montour Falls, Odessa,  
Elmira Heights*

## Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- None at this time.

**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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Suggestions!**

**T**o 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](mailto:rickshirlc27@gmail.com)