

Hot Calls



Coordinators Corner

Major Gas leak leads to a major response of resources

At about 1500 hours on Oct. 3rd, a construction crew hit a major gas line Rt. 14 and Genesee St. area. This prompted a response from MFFD. On arrival C-15 declared a major incident and started requesting additional resources. Schuyler Sheriff, Watkins Fire, Odessa fire, Burdett, Beaver Dams, NYS Police, NYSEG Gas, Schuyler EMO, Town and Country, Horseheads, Millport, were all eventually called to assist at this incident. It was decided that evacuation was to take place up to Main Street. This included the Falls Home. This prompted the activation of transportation from Odessa-Montour School to assist at the Falls Home. Also, evacuation of residents south of the incident. The Falls Home relocated residents at Hanlon Elementary. Command and staging were located at MFFD. The evacuation of the Falls Home went extremely well. They were very well prepared.

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Trivia Question

Last issue trivia

Which is stronger: a solid beam ladder or a truss ladder ?

Truss Beam is the stronger Ladder

Ted Dudgeon of OFD got the answer

This month's trivia

When cutting a roof how deep should the cut be?

Coordinators Corner

Report on Falls Home Evacuation 10/03/2024

This report was done by car 4903 Schuyler County Emergency Mgt.

1. Responded to the initial call in Montour Falls ST RT 14 for major gas leak
2. Reported to Car 15 IC and told to assist Car 1 at Genesee St. but first advise Falls Home to shelter in place and prepare for possible evacuation. Did that
3. Then Car One Assigned me to staging at MFFD Station
4. Then assigned to go back to Falls Home and Assist with then ordered evacuation.
5. Mutual aid from Chemung County Departments along with Schuyler County Sheriff Deputies.
6. Falls Home had already moved all their clients to the day room which is just off the parking lot to the rear of the building. They were ready to evacuate! 72 people.
7. Buses from the Odessa-Montour Central School soon arrived with three 60 passenger buses. People started loading the buses and getting the walking group first. Then people with walkers second , and last people who had wheelchairs and power carts.
8. A handicap bus soon arrived along with handicapped vans from the falls home.
9. Staff accompanied each bus to help at the school. This made better cooperation from the residents
10. There was no panic, it was very orderly, and accountability was done by the Falls Home.
11. Town and Country, Millport, Sheriff's office worked smoothly along with Falls Home staff.
12. This is the best run by far I have ever seen in my career. This went better than any drill!!
13. The only thing to add was the time of day when this occurred, school had just let out, School buses still had drivers at their garage. Shift change at the Falls home, Shift change at the Sheriff office, school staff still on duty. Those factors plus the weather could make this task a lot more time and trouble to accomplish . Putting this on a dedicated channel would have helped. The other is the people we are dealing with take time to accomplish the task it just does and can't be done any faster.
14. It Took all hands to accomplish this task and should be part of any pre-plan.
15. My hat is off to all who did this operation!!!!



Clinton and other nearby Montour Falls streets were closed, and the neighborhood evacuated. The car shown here was enroute to pick up a family member from a nearby house.



A gas leak caused by excavation work next to the Catharine Valley Trail in Montour Falls Thursday afternoon led to the temporary evacuation of homes in an adjoining neighborhood. It also caused a shutdown of Rt. 14 from the juncture with Rt. 224 and running north -- with drivers instructed to take an alternate route to Watkins Glen. Emergency personnel announced later in the afternoon that the leak had been stopped, and that the displaced residents could return home. Officials said gas service to the village would be suspended.

Photo: A board overseen by officials stationed at the Montour Falls Fire Department during the leak kept track of where emergency personnel were being utilized.

County works to Educate the Public on Being Prepared.

Emergency Management has been working with the Office of the Aging on educating people about being self-sufficient for 72 hours. Also, they need to have a go bag to keep important documents and medical information and other important items handy in the event of just such a thing that happened Oct.3. They also had NYS in to provide a one-night class on being prepared for any type of emergency. This was very well attended. As we teach the kids in school, we should also teach adults the need to be ready every chance we get. Information is available through EMO and Office of the Aging. With the storms that have ravaged the country, places that have never seen flash floods, high winds, and related weather events. These places are faced with enormous challenges they just did not expect.

THANKSGIVING FIRE SAFETY

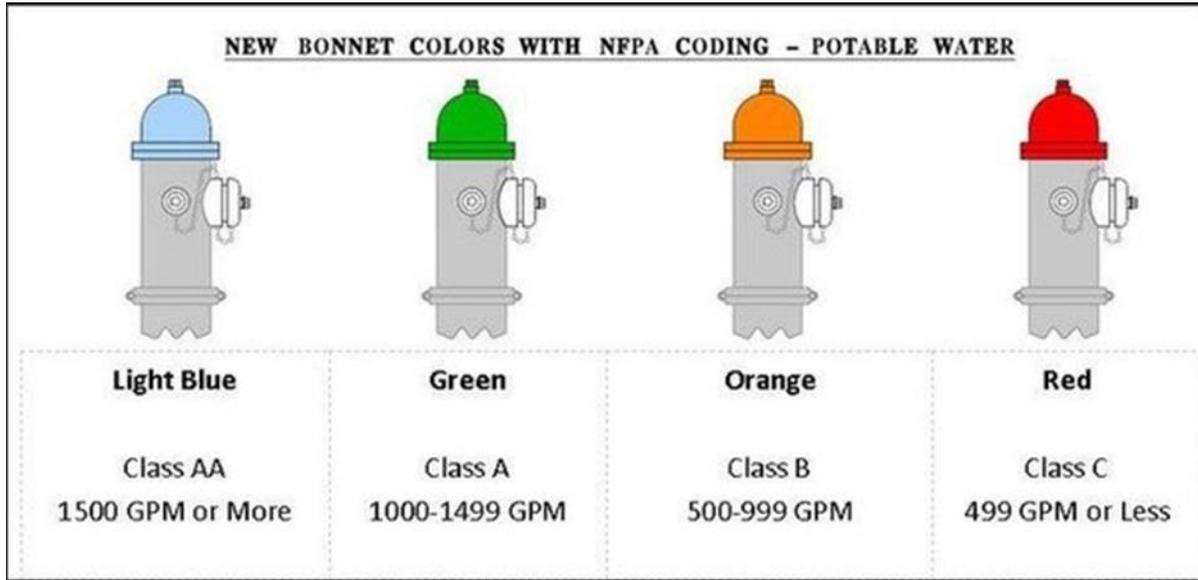
Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

1. When simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
2. Stay alert. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
3. Keep anything that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from the stovetop.

NFPA and Underwriters laboratories do not endorse or test deep fried turkey units.

1. Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
2. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.
3. If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear path out of the home, and that someone has called the fire department.
4. Keep a lid nearby when cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

Why are fire hydrants painted different colors?



For those of us that have fire hydrants the colors mean the amount of water available at any given hydrant. Drivers and officers should know the location of hydrants and what color they are.



How many gallons of water at this hydrant?

History

Reporting Emergencies before Radios

A while back we did an article on early fire phones. Still need to know what companies did before radios. Hector, Burdett, and Beaver Dams would be ones to find out how they operated. Most fire departments used telephone systems to request mutual aid. I remember my dad when he was fire chief in Montour Falls would answer the phone at home from a department requesting mutual aid. He would in turn call the hospital who answered Montour's emergencies and give them the request and they would blow the local alarm to alert firefighters. Crude system but it worked.



Fire protection districts were determined by the local phone service. That determined the boundary lines. Local phone companies had their own operators who also had alarm buttons to activate the station whistles. All you had to do was dial zero to report an emergency.

Anyone remembers those days please email us and let us know.

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Last Alarms



Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- None at this time.

Visit our website for more information:

www.schuylercounty.us/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