

Hot Calls

Volume 12, Issue I

Written by: Rick Churches Send news to: rickshirc27@gmail.com

January/February 2025



Schuyler County Emergency Management Obtains Accreditation!

Good afternoon Director Smith,

On behalf of the Local Emergency Management Accreditation Council, it is my pleasure to inform you that your office has achieved accreditation as part of the Local Emergency Management Accreditation Program. This cycle of accreditation is valid for five years from the date of the attached letter.

We hope that you will be in attendance to the 2025 NYSEMA Conference to be recognized with your peers and our team will be in touch to coordinate further recognition.

Congratulations on this achievement!

*Sincere Regards,
Jennifer*

*Jennifer M. Wacha
Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management
NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services*

Comment by Rick Churches: We may think that this is not a big deal but it's a "Big Deal" It put Schuyler County on the same page as larger counties and required a lot of time for the whole staff. Congratulations to all.

Beaver Dams: House Fire

On December 21st at 2212 there was a chimney fire reported at 1252 County Road 19. First arriving units from Beaver Dams found a chimney fire that had extended into the house. A 2nd alarm was sounded and units from Beaver Dams, Montour Falls, Watkins Glen, Odessa, Burdett, Dundee, Millport, Corning Fire District, Tompkins Corners, CEMS Ambulance, Schuyler EMO, and the Sheriff's Office responded. It was a very cold night.



Mecklenburg: Chimney Fire

Mecklenburg responded to a reported chimney fire on a cold day on January 3. It was a small single-story home on Fitzgerald Road. It was determined that a downdraft caused smoke to come back into the house. Mutual aid was canceled and a check of the chimney showed that no clean out was present. Owner was advised not to use it till it was inspected.

Montour Falls: Trailer Fire

A trailer fire on Fitzpatrick Hill Road brought out second alarm companies from Burdett, Odessa, Watkins Glen and Millport. There was a quick knock down by the E-17 crew. Extensive overhaul caused a little more work for crews.

Montour: Camper Fire

A camper fire in Montour made for a spectacular sight in the night sky on County Road 8. C-15 arrived and reported a fully involved camper. Most of the second alarm was returned with Watkins Glen going on in.

The unit was not occupied at the time. This was another very cold fight.



Out of County Mutual Aid

As soon as the thermometer went down the county fire companies started responding to fires outside the county.

Fish Road House Fire

Mecklenburg responded to Enfield's Fish Road. This was a chimney fire that extended into the house. Several cold hours working on that one.

Ovid Block Fire

There was a block fire in Ovid on January 21st at 5 pm. An apartment fire over the Big M grocery store was called in . Three Schuyler Departments Burdett, Hector, Mecklenburg Responded The Main Street block was a total loss. During the night a structure fire in Trumansburg called out the same companies. Later that day there was a structure fire on Seneca Road for the same companies.

The following hours the next day Ovid again had a working fire in Willard. Mecklenburg was called to stand-by on that.



Buildings needed to be demolished following the massive fire Tuesday night in Ovid (Photo/Ovid Fire Department) Hector provided a water supply at the dry hydrant on Southtown Building Road all night.

Hornby House Fire

Beaver Dams and Monterey responded to a fatal fire in Hornby.



Picture by WENY

Mecklenburg's Annual Banquet

There were no changes for in line officers for the coming year. Officers from left to right are:

Fire Police Capt. Don Beckley, Rescue Capt. Kim Beckley, 3rd Asst. Albert Foote, 2nd Asst. Wayne Loper, 1st. Asst Carl Taber, and Chief Brian Gunning.

The company answered 129 calls for service for 179 manhours. The top responder was Wayne Loper and the Chief's Award went to Matt Ward. The Auxiliary gave the company a \$500.00 check.



Burdett's Annual Banquet

Kirk Smith swore in Jason Kelly and his line officers for the coming year.

The department answered 220 calls for service for the year.

Chase Richtmyer was top responder of the year and Ryan Barr was recognized for 25 years of service. They were also active in the Fire Prevention program. The department does numerous fundraisers to supplement their annual budget. They also do fundraisers for the good of people in need in the community.



From left to right: Jason Kelly Chief, Allen Burke 1st Asst, Cory Glover 2nd, Keith Caslin 3rd, Chase Richtmyer Capt., Chris Crout Lt., Ryan Barr Deputy Chief, and Curt Connelly Deputy Chief.

What Is the Future of the Volunteer Service?

By: Rick Churches

I get the privilege to travel at least once a year and sometimes several times to each company in the county. Thirty years ago and back further than that the firehouse was alive with traditions. We held fundraisers and contests and parades and countless get-togethers. Softball teams, bowling teams that just did not compete but built bonds. Families knew each other, kids grew up together Large families belonged to the fire service. Belonging to the fire service was not just about fighting fires- it was about pride, honor, and community. When you put on that department shirt it meant something.

Somewhere along the way things began to change, slow at first then all at once. People not wanting to participate. No one wants to take charge. Now if there are any parades where you use to get 10 or more in the line of march you are lucky to get one truck with a driver. The real kicker is the loss of camaraderie. We used to have each other's back without question either on the fireground or in life we were there. Now, too often it feels like we are quick to tear each other down. Instead of looking out for our brother or sister we have resorted to gossiping and spreading negativity. The bond we once had is going away. Now it seems everyone is for themselves. So if the volunteer service goes the way the ambulance had to recently, who do we blame? When there was a call we would all answer up, now we call and call to get people to respond. Last month I put in "Walk The Talk". We need to fix this. It will never be like it was but it has to be better than the direction we are going.

Rick Churches 49-Car 3

Trivia Question

What type of gas cylinder has a green label on it?

Email answers to Rick at rickshirlc27@gmail.com.

Our last trivia question:

Question: *When a nozzle is closed how does the pressure compare with the pumper pressure?*

Answer: *they should be about the same. I did get a reply that pumper pressure should increase. I get that.*

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Last Alarms



James R. Wallenbeck
Monterey

Upcoming Classes

We will be offering the following classes:

- BEFO, April

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