

Hot Calls

Volume 1, Issue 4

September/October 2014



Calendar:

Hector Pancake Breakfast	2nd Sunday of every month
Firematics Day	September 13

Inside this issue:

Firefighter Profile	2
Schuyler Ambulance	3
Dispatching	4-5
EMD	6
Calls / Mutual Aid	7-9
Training	10
Seneca Swim	11
Last Call, Upcoming Classes	Back

Reminder: Firematics Day 9/13

There is still time to attend Firematics Day on September 13 in Odessa, even if you haven't yet made reservations - just show up! This will be a seminar on fire tactics given by

Scott Eaton, Lieutenant. with the Ithaca Fire Department. Registration and coffee will be from 8:00 a.m. to 900 a.m. Class starts at 0900am and goes to 1200. Lunch will be served with a

Show and Tell of new and different equipment from around the county during the same time. Out of county departments are welcome.

WGFD Receives Grant

Watkins Glen Fire Department has received a grant for the replacement of their current tanker. Delivery is some time away but this is a great form of funding for them. The total is about \$300,000 with \$15,000 being

a matching portion for the village. We look forward to

seeing the finished product.



Firefighter Profile: Gail Foote

Schuyler County has always been a county where the emergency services in fire and EMS have always been volunteer. The people who have served the various organizations that provide these services have other jobs and do the volunteer work in their spare time. Some of the members would like to do the work full time. One of those is Gail Foote.

Gail and Kathy Foote lived in Hector for several years. Gail had a love for the fire and EMS service. He belonged to the Hector Fire Department for many years and worked his way up through the ranks to become chief. He served several terms as chief but had a real passion to do more. They became tired of the cold winters and Gail knew that if he wanted to become a career firefighter he would have to move out of Schuyler County. So they decided to sell their small farm and move to Florida where there were more opportunity to become a career firefighter. He put himself through Florida State Fire College and after graduation he took the firefighter test and eventually was hired in the Brooksville Fire and Rescue.



This was located several miles from home and not where they really wanted to be but it was a good start. A transfer came up in the Alachua County Fire and Rescue outside of Gainesville, Florida. He started as a firefighter then went through Paramedic school; he worked on an Ambulance covering both the county and the city of Gainesville. The pace was sometimes very busy, answering 30 calls in a 24 hour shift.

The opportunity for promotion came in the form of Training Officer for the department. Gail applied and, with his background in both fire and EMS, he was promoted to Captain. He has since developed many

company training programs and also worked at a BOCES-type school where high school students can take Firefighter I or EMT classes, allowing them to join a department upon graduation. Once age 21, they could then be hired.

So, if your ambition is to become a paid firefighter or paramedic it is very possible with a good education in fire science or EMS. It is possible to be hired locally but the odds are better if you are open minded and don't mind relocating. The base is a good education, which is offered locally. Check with the Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) or Southern Tier EMS Council (EMSTAR) for further information.

Schuyler Ambulance

NEW AMBULANCE

The 2011 Chevrolet Van style (Type II) ambulance will replace two older ambulances. It is very compact and does not have as much room as the older Type I and three ambulances. Steve Copp encourages rescue squads to come and do in-service on the new rig.



WINNER DRAWN FOR NASCAR RAFFLE

Bart Beasley of Montour Falls was the winner of the NASCAR tickets. He said he has tried several times before and glad his name was picked.



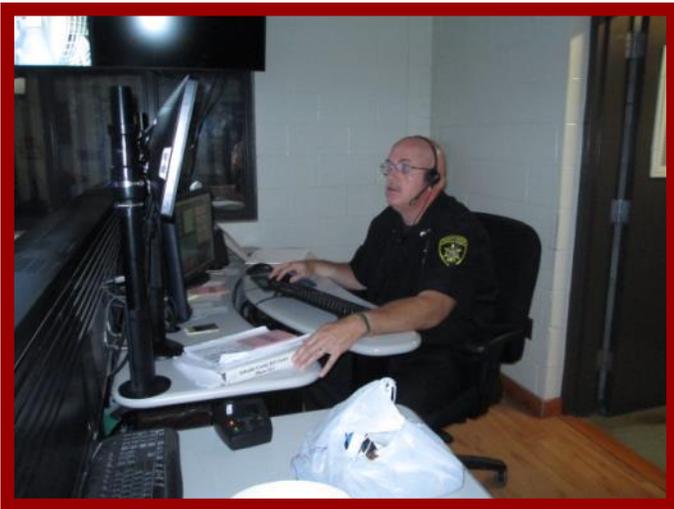
Dispatching

According to Sgt. Steve Lawton it is easier to teach dispatchers who have experience in EMS and Fire. All dispatchers get training in basic fire and EMS culture as well as law enforcement, but it is one phase of training that they don't need to cover with those with experience.

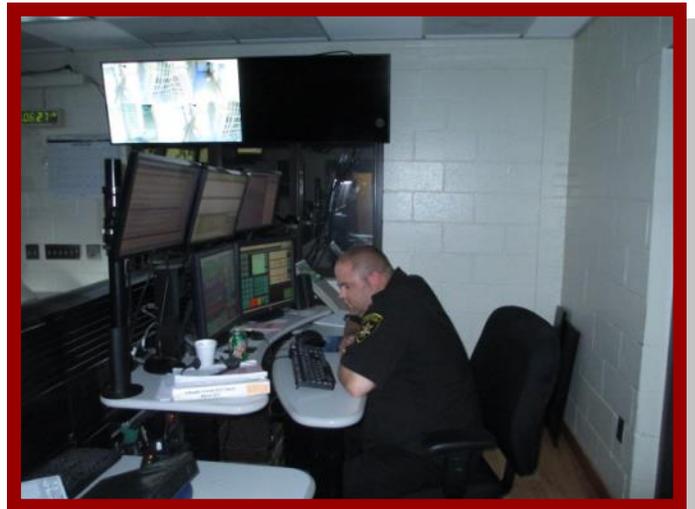
Dispatchers are also firefighters:



Steve Lawton, Montour Falls



Chris Ward, Mecklenburg



Jud Smith, Watkins Glen



Darci Kasprzyk, Burdett



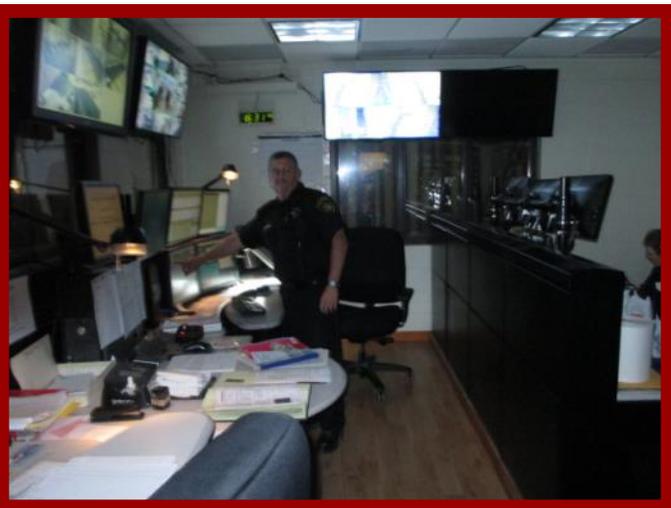
Lisa Karius, Odessa



Kirk Smith, Beaver Dams



Jessica Conklin, Watkins Glen and Schuyler Ambulance



Dan Walker



Justin Kibbe.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)

“EMD” Emergency Medical Dispatch. Why is this done? NYS has set the regulations for Public Service Answering Points (PSAP) in New York State. There are several criteria that have to be met in order to be a qualified PSAP. One is that there must be at least two qualified dispatchers on staff 24/7. Another is they have to be able to dispatch all fire, police, and ambulance agencies in their assigned area. Part of that process includes effectively doing EMD. This system is not only a state-wide system, but a nationally and internationally recognized system, as well. Twenty one countries use the current system of “EMD”. This is regulated by the National Academy of Emergency Dispatchers formed in 1988. There are more than 33,000 emergency dispatchers around the world. There is most likely more now given this information is a few years old. This was started because there was a need to triage calls and give pre-arrival instructions over the phone. This was not done before because of the liability of untrained dispatchers giving wrong information when they have not been

authorized to do so. Another reason for the standards is this allows PSAPs, such as Schuyler County, to receive monies from the 911 surcharge on both landline and cellular phones we use.

To give an idea of how important it is to screen the calls, New York City ran 1,309,795 EMS calls in 2013 and Los Angeles City ran 339,379 EMS calls for the same year. Even though Schuyler County never gets even close to those numbers, there needs to be standard method of dispatch, whether it’s for one million calls or for 3,000 calls. It helps to prioritize the urgency of the call and what should be sent. It is also intended to reduce the number of “code 3” runs therefore reducing accidents in response. The other side of EMD allows for pre-arrival instructions to be given over the phone. This is everything from CPR to delivering a baby. It’s the same in New York City as it is in Schuyler County.

Calls are prioritized in an alphabetical listing:

Omega

Lowest priority. Usually no ambulance.

Alpha

Basic life support call. No emergency. Cold.

Bravo

Rescue Engine, hot. BLS ambulance, cold.

Charlie

Rescue, hot. ALS ambulance, cold.

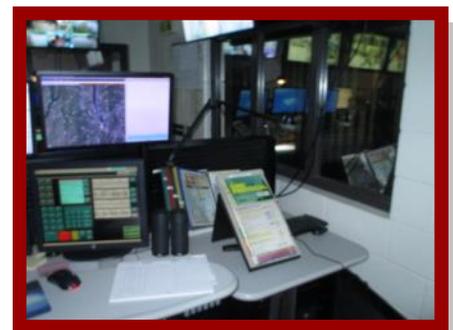
Delta

Rescue, hot. ALS ambulance, hot.

Echo

Highest priority. Hot. Response all agencies.

Complaints are listed from 1 to 33. That’s why you hear the call “1 alpha 1” would be non emergency abdominal pain.

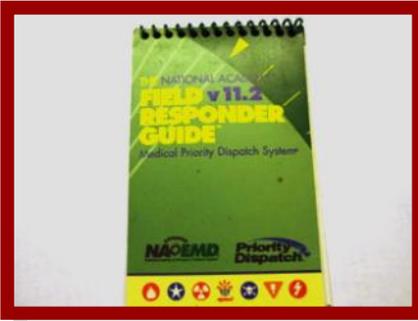


The above is a picture of the dispatcher unit of EMD they get their information to triage the call.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Responders use a pocket guide to see what the code is referring to, much like state protocols for EMS.



Schuyler dispatchers answer about 80-100 calls per shift with the overnights

being a little less. Of those, there is an average of 6-10 are 911 calls. But as we know, that can change in a heartbeat and double or more on some days.

Dispatchers answer calls for the Highway Department, Health Department,



Watkins Glen Police Department, and the county's Sheriff Office besides their duties to fire and EMS. They also monitor the jail and control the doors. They monitor video cameras for county facilities and handle walk-in complaints. They may give instructions for CPR on a child one minute and have turn around and handle a dog complaint the next. It is a very stressful job. They do it very well. There are a total of 9 full-time dispatchers and 3 part-time. Next time you see one of them tell them "thanks" for a great job!

Storm Leaves Damage Behind in Reading



The damaged home on County Road 27.

Severe thunderstorms, that possibly included a tornado, swept through northern Schuyler County late Sunday afternoon, leaving behind downed trees and property damage, but no reported injuries. The Schuyler County Sheriff's Office said most of the

damage occurred in the Town of Reading, where the Watkins Glen Fire Department responded to a report of serious damage to a home on County Road 27, where a portion of the roof was ripped off, with the rest of it stripped nearly bare. Three people home at the time were not injured but

Story and Picture
by
Odessa File

"required assistance in getting out," said Fire Chief Judson Smith. The home "was stabilized as best as possible but is still unsafe for occupancy," Smith added. Assisting at the scene were the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management Office, the Red Cross, and the Town of Reading Code Enforcement Officer. The National Weather Service "has yet to confirm a tornado touched down," said Smith, "but will be investigating the incident."

VLH FD: MVA

VICTIM AIRLIFTED FROM CLUTE AFTER 414 CRASH

A Burdett man, Philip J. McIlroy, 32, was injured Saturday night in what a dispatcher described as "a one-vehicle crash with ejection." The accident occurred at about 10:30 p.m. on Rt. 414 between Burdett and Hector. Schuyler County Sheriff's Deputies were on the scene investigating. No cause or further details of the crash were available. Schuyler Ambulance transported

McIlroy, of 4173 Phelps Road, Burdett, to Clute Park in Watkins Glen, where the fire department had set up a landing zone for the Guthrie Air Lifenet 77 helicopter, which arrived at about 11:15. The transfer was delayed while McIlroy was treated in the ambulance, but he was soon wheeled on a stretcher to the chopper, which



Emergency workers transfer the crash victim to a Guthrie Air Lifenet helicopter for transport to Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre.

minutes later lifted off, heading for Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre.

OFD: Structure Fire

↑ Story and Pictures by Odessa File ↓

The fire occurred on a Friday morning 07:45. It was reported by passers by. The fire started in the laundry room and progressed into the attic space. Mutual aid from Montour Falls, Mecklenburg, Burdett, Newfield, Community of Van Etten and Erin. It was a very warm morning.



Twin plumes of smoke rise from the house.



Thick smoke billows out of the David Stackhouse home.

WGFD: Propane Leak

On Saturday afternoon of August 16th the Watkins Glen Fire department received a report of an odor of propane in a residence on the Church Road. Upon arrival the officers sized up the scene and found that a 300 pound propane tank, that had been filled that morning, was leaking around the valve forming a ball of ice over the valve and a vapor cloud around the tank. The department quickly set up a portable monitor applying a fog to

the tank to disburse the propane vapors, simultaneously they checked and began to ventilate the home. With the time expected for the propane service company to respond the Chief requested mutual aid from several departments to establish and maintain a water supply for an expected extended operation. Tankers from Dundee, Tyrone, Montour Falls, Burdett, and Odessa responded to the scene while an engine from Montour Falls set up a fill

site at a nearby dry hydrant. The service company arrived on the scene and corrected the problem with the tank. While the situation was corrected fairly quickly, Watkins Glen FD and the officers did a good job of sizing up the incident, establishing and executing an operational plan to bring about a safe resolution to this incident. This is another fine example of how well the departments of Schuyler County work together.



Training: Burdett & VLH Extrication

This as an opportunity for both departments to not only trade ideas on extrication but also to get to know each other and see what equipment is available to use in accident situations.



Seneca Swim for Emergency Volunteers of Schuyler County

The 2nd Annual 1 mile swim for the will benefit the Schuyler County Volunteer Ambulance. Buoys will mark a 0.5 mile towards East Shore where swimmers will return to Clute Park.

This is a fun event, it is not a race. It will be for all ages male and female (youngest age is 13 years old as of the date of the swim) Date of event is Saturday, August 23th, Preregistered swimmers will have signed consent forms along with their donations due August 16th.

Visit
www.2senecaswim.com
for more information.



**SCHUYLER COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

106 Tenth Street, Unit 36
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8200
E-mail: scemo@co.schuyler.ny.us

Web: www.schuylercounty.us
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SchuylerEMO
Twitter: twitter.com/SchuylerEMO



Last Alarm



George "Bud" Confer
Montour Falls Fire Department,
Past Chief

Upcoming Classes

- *EMT Original*
- *EMT Refresher*
- *FAST*
- *Firefighter Survival*
- *Fire Police*
- *HazMat Ops Refresher*
- *Intelligence Liaison Officer*
- *Rescue Technician Basic*
- *Strategy and Tactics for the Initial Company Operations*
- *Water Supply*

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

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and
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