

TBFD FIRE TIMES

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100 % Volunteer Since 1948

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A quarterly newsletter published to keep you informed by the Town of Batavia Fire Department, Inc.



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New Open Burn Regulations from NYS DEC

Chief Robert Hunt

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has adopted new regulations designed to reduce air pollution. Chapter III Air Resources, Subchapter A, Part 215 addresses open burns. First, the old burn barrel that was used to burn household trash has been rendered illegal in New York.

Please check the official DEC website as listed below, but, in brief, the new regulations stipulate that nothing will be burned in an open fire except:

- a) downed branches less than 6" in diameter and less than 8 ft. long, but not between March 15 and May 15.

- b) outdoor cooking devices when actually used for cooking or processing food.
- c) attended cooking and camp fires provided that only charcoal or untreated wood is used as fuel.
- d) onsite burning of organic agricultural wastes. (If you grew it on the land, you can burn it but only on the same plot of land)
- e) smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops.
- f) ceremonial bonfires where not prohibited by law.
- g) prescribed burns performed according to Part 194 of the title.
- h) fires approved by the

Director of the Div. of Air Resources required as a response to an outbreak of a plant or animal disease.

Farmers, your ability to burn waste has been changed by this regulation.

If you have any questions, please check the DEC website. (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/reg/4261.html>)

This article is a synopsis of the regulation only and does not reflect the entire regulation.



Winter Safety Tips for the Home

There are things that you need to do during the home heating season to prevent house fires.

- If you have a fireplace or wood stove, make sure your chimney is cleaned.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire - especially in a fireplace or wood stove.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a

supplemental heating device.

- Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm.
- Give space heaters space by keeping them at least 3 feet from anything that can burn. Turn off heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow in the event it is needed.
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.

An Unlimited Water Supply Drafting Training at Dorman Road Bridge

Rural fire departments all have the same problem when faced with extinguishing large fires. Where do you get the water when municipal water supply lines end?

Modern fire apparatus allows us to "draft" from standing water sources such as swimming pools, lakes, ponds and streams.

Recently, we trained on the bridge on Dorman Road over the Tonawanda Creek.

The engine was set up on the bridge and a lengths or "hard suction hose" was extended over the side of the bridge, down under the surface of water below. By creat-



ing a vacuum in the pump, water is drawn up through the hard suction hose and into the pump where it can be used to fight the fire directly or to fill tankers that transport the water to a distant location.

In this drill, we supplied another engine positioned ahead of the engine pictured. We practiced fighting the fire from the distant engine.

Each firefighter that attended the training is either one step closer to becoming a pump operator and driver or is brushing up on their skills to make them better at operating the equipment.

The Long Journey

In the last edition of the TBFD Times, I discussed how various innovations have made a fire fighters job safer. This month, let me tell you about the suit that we wear. We call it PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). It is designed to protect us from a number of different dangers.

Our PPE or "gear" is an ensemble of different pieces. Our coats and pants are each composed of an outer shell, made of a fire resistant material. Some believe that the material is fire proof, but in reality, the material resists burning only and is not designed to allow the fire fighter unlimited access to open flame. Contained within the shell is a vapor barrier membrane over a quilted lining. Besides heat, steam, caused by burning items and by super

heated water from our hoses, can inflict severe burns if we were not protected by a vapor barrier. Reflective striping allows us to be seen even in the darkest nights.

Our helmets are designed for protection and functionality. It is shaped with a wide brim in the back so that water won't run down our backs. By tradition, the front leather shield indicates the department information of the fire fighters. We have chosen to display the department name as well as the firefighter's department identification number. You will see that many firefighters have affixed small pieces of equipment to their helmets. Many carry a flash light there as well as wedges that are used to chock doors open or to temporarily plug a flowing sprinkler head.

Safety

By 1st Asst. Chief Randy W. McIntire

Fire boots are designed to be fire, puncture, chemical and water resistant. They must also offer support and comfort and be warm in the winter.

Our fire gloves are made of a variety of different materials, but generally have a leather outer shell with a vapor barrier and offer some protection against blood and body fluids.

We protect our eyes with safety glasses, goggles or the face piece of our self contained breathing apparatus.

You can see our equipment is highly specialized and provides us almost miraculous protection against many dangers.

Carbon Monoxide - A Silent Killer



Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by incomplete burning of various fuels. Primary sources of

CO are your operating open flame furnace, hot water heater and gas stove. A burning fire place is a great producer of CO.

Under normal conditions, CO is harmlessly vented to the outside through your chimney. Problems arise when the chimney becomes plugged by burnt deposits, bird's nests, snow etc. Having no place to go, the CO leaches into your house.

On average, about 170 people die in

the US every year. About half occur during a power outage. Thousands are treated each year for CO poisoning.

Many of us use generators during temporary power outages. If you use a generator, make sure that it is positioned outside where the exhaust will not enter your garage or living quarters.

If you feel sick with persistent headaches, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and or dizziness, you may be experiencing CO poisoning. Higher levels of CO or prolonged exposure, may lead to mental confusion, vomiting, loss of muscular coordination, loss of consciousness and ultimately death.

The Technical Corner

So how can you prevent CO poisoning? Make sure your appliances are installed properly. Have them inspected yearly and while there, have them inspect your chimney for blockages, corrosion, disconnected or loose connections in the flue.

Never operate gas powered generators or equipment in or near enclosed spaces such as your garage or near open doors or windows.

Never heat your home with a gas clothes dryer, range or oven.

Above all!! **Install a Carbon Monoxide detector.** It may save your life!

Thanks For Your Support

Thank you for supporting our motorcycle raffle this year. This year's winner of a 2009 Harley Davidson Fat Boy (model FLSTF) with security system and custom paint Black Ice Blue Ice was from Pine City, New York.

Proceeds from the raffle are used to purchase equipment without using tax dollars giving the residents of the Town of Batavia Fire



(Pictured is last year's Fat Boy)

District more "bang for their (tax buck."

This past year was our 10th Annual Raffle and we look forward to the 11th.

Please check our website for the latest information on the 2009 Motorcycle Raffle and get next years as it becomes available.

Be Safe!

Change your Battery!

Many people do not know that a smoke detectors functionality degrades over time and therefore it is recommended to replace them every 10 years. If your smoke detector is old . . . replace it.

Some smoke detectors now come with a 10 year non-removable battery, which allows you to replace the detector at the estimated life of the unit. Although virtually maintenance free for 10 years, these detectors as well as all other kinds, should be tested at least once a month.



I WANT YOU

Help Your Community - Volunteer Now!

We are always looking for more help. We can promise you times of fun, times of great challenge, times of great personal reward and satisfaction, times of deep sorrow, times of sheer panic...and all this with no pay!

We have activities occurring each Monday evening between 7 and 9 p.m. so come on down, see what we do and pick up an application or visit:

www.townofbataviafire.com

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Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. has initiated the BeFireSmart Fire Safety Pledge and will give away ten \$10,000 grants to fire departments across the US that display a commitment to fire safety. Please go to <https://www.befiresmart.com/fire-safety-pledge/default.aspx>, answer 10 easy fire safety questions and credit the Town of Batavia Fire Department. The ten communities with the most completed quizzes will earn grants for their fire department. Please hurry! The results will be announced in December 2009.