

FIERCE GARAGE FIRE DRAWS THREE ALARMS



On October 23, 2021, around 2 p.m., the Little Ferry Fire Department responded to fire at Chizzy's Truck & Auto Repair on Bergen Turnpike. The fierce blaze quickly went to three alarms. It took about an hour to bring the fire under control. About 75 firefighters participated.

Two injuries were reported; a worker sustaining minor burns had trouble breathing and a firefighter with a minor injury.

The building was a total loss, including several vehicles that were inside at the time of the fire.



Several area departments provided Mutual Aid either at the scene or in coverage to include Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Hackensack, Hasbrouck Heights, Lodi, Moonachie, Ridgefield Park, Rutherford, Wallington, Wood-Ridge. Photos provided by Little Ferry Fire Department. ###

NJNY VFA WEBSITE

The website is up and running thanks to the efforts of Achilles Gatanas of the Haworth, NJ Fire Dept.

Please send me any information on new trucks, new firehouses or any information that you want to share and we will endeavor to put it on the website or the Signal whichever is the quickest. Tell us about future events in your department that you want to publicize. All information can be sent to me at www.njnyvfa@gmail.com or www.gses7320@gmail.com

DEATH BEBENEFIT BENEFICIARY FORM

Since July 1, 2021, this association has paid out 6 Death Benefits to the beneficiaries of deceased members. During that same period, we have turned down six (6) death benefits due to the beneficiary predeceasing the member. The NJNY VFA is up and running. If you go to the Forms section you can download the NEW Beneficiary Form, fill it out and email it or send it by US Mail to our Financial Secretary, John Schwedhelm. His mailing information is on the form.

INFORMATION FROM OUR ANNUAL NJ FIRE CHIEFS MEETING.

By Secretary Chris Assenheimer

Our Association Annual Meeting was help via "Zoom" this year and we thank all of you that "attended" this meeting. We also thank our First Vice President Tony Correia for setting up the online meeting and making it work! This meeting was held on Sunday September 12, 2021.

There was no in-person training session this year, instead we hosted an online seminar on Friday September 10, 2021 which featured Curt Varone and Gordan Graham, both courtesy of Lexipol Thanks to Chief Scott Eskwitt for scheduling these speakers for our Association. Both speakers gave terrific presentations!

Of interest this year, re-elected to one of the Southern Trustee Office's was Glen Roemmich. Elected to one of the Northern Trustee Office's was Ron Stokes. Both Offices are for three-year terms.

Ed Mullen was re-elected as Treasurer and Chris Assenheimer was re-elected as Secretary. Both Offices are for two-year terms.

Samantha Eckert was awarded the Walt Fortnum Scholarship. Zachary Butcher and Cooper Stine were awarded the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association Scholarships.

Currently, we are actively seeking Scholarship Applications, Valor Award Applications, and, Fire Chief of the Year Applications for our 2022 Annual Meeting. Please spread the word to your Companies, Department's, and Mutual Aid Associations. Additional information can be found on our website: www.njchiefs.com or by contacting one of our Officers by email or by telephone.

At our last Executive Board meeting on October 27, 2021 Northern Trustee Vincent Corsaro was elected Trustee Chairman. Congratulations Vinny!

We are always seeking members to help with our committees. Should you be interested in serving, please reach out to one of our Officers.

Wishing you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday season and a safe a prosperous new year!

COLD WEATHER SAFEGUARDS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PUMPER

By Jerry Naylis

As we enter the winter months and the days continue to be a little shorter until the spring thaw comes, the temperatures drop and we have to bundle up. The colder temperatures have a major impact on fire apparatus and especially pumpers. This is the time of year to remember one of those basic lessons from grammar school – water freezes at 32° F.

We need to take some special precautions when the thermometer drops. Some purists advocate that the pump should be drained and run with a dry pump to prevent ice from forming in and around the pump. Others say that we are not out of quarters that long and we shouldn't worry. That may be true of many types of calls, but not totally true for all types of calls. You could get called to fire where the need is for your personnel but you don't need to stretch a hose line from your apparatus. If you have a wet pump and you park it for several hours, the cold temperatures can cause the water in the pump and piping to freeze causing significant. All this can be avoided if you make sure to drain the pump if you have to stand by for an extended period of time.

An alternative to draining the pump is to engage the pump, open the tank to pump valve and the tank fill valve allowing water to circulate. This action will prevent the water in the pump and the tank from freezing. Remember that if you opt for this approach the discharge pressure should be kept below 100 psi to prevent damage to the onboard water tank.

Another good practice is to open drain valves (aka bleeder valves) for all discharges and to leave them open while driving back to quarters. This allows any accumulated water to drain preventing the small amount of water from freezing and damaging the drain valve. It's also a good idea to open all the discharges just in case there is any residual water lying in the discharge piping that could freeze up. Once the water is drained out, make sure to put the cap back on the open threads or to reconnect the preconnected hose lines.

Cold temperatures and ice can also have a damaging effect on gaskets. This is a good time to check the gaskets and replace them if damaged. While doing this preventive maintenance, check the integrity of all discharge valves to make sure they are not leaking. A leaking discharge valve will allow water to enter the discharge piping and to pressurize the piping. A leaking discharge valve can be spotted when the pump is engaged and flowing water, such as circulating water from the tank and back to the tank. Look at the individual discharge gauges. If the discharge gauge for any of the discharges reflects pressure while the valve is closed, the likelihood of a leaky discharge valve should be suspected. Make sure that you take immediate corrective action to repair the leaky valve. And do not use the discharge until the repair is made. Removing a cap from a pressurized discharge could result in serious injury to the member removing the cap and others in the immediate area.

Pressure sensing lines between a discharge valve and the pressure gauge on the pump panel can freeze up during extended pump operations. You should consider some way to provide a little bit of heat to this area to prevent the sensing lines from freezing. One method is to use a light positioned under the pump panel or in the pump cavity to warm the area of the sensing lines. Others have incorporated some form of permanent lighting to provide heat to the sensing lines. Regardless of the method you use, you need to be aware that the small amount of water in the sensing lines will be subject to freezing during extended operations if the temperatures drop well below freezing.

Knowing the precautions to take during extremely cold weather could mean the difference between making it through the winter with no problems or experiencing devastating damage like a cracked pump housing, split discharge piping or broken valves due to water freezing in the pump and associated parts of the pump. Take the few minutes needed to plan on how to deal with cold temperatures to protect your pumper.



EXTRICATION REQUIRED FOR ROLL OVER

On Thursday, October 28, 2021, a two car accident at Summit and Springfield Avenues required the services of the Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department to extricate the female driver out of her rolled over car. Firefighters removed the windshield and safely extricated the victim. Two injuries were reported and treated. Photo provided by Tony Greco Photography. ###