

June 11, 2008

Important Information Regarding Volunteer Firefighter Training

FASNY, The Firemen's Association of the State of New York is contacting you as an interested party in Volunteer Firefighter training in order to make you aware of a potential shortfall of training funds and training hours generally made available through the Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

The attached resolution reflects the fact that the normal allocation of approximately 1.2 million dollars has not been increased which translates to a severe curtailment of the 77,000 hours of available training from all delivery methods. This hourly allotment is about half of what is necessary to deliver adequate training for this year.

While the training reports to the Governor and the legislature have highlighted this shortfall it is happening in the middle of a state budget crisis which has required across the board budget cuts. FASNY is sensitive to this but finds it necessary to bring this curtailment to light because of the safety ramifications of inadequately trained firefighters on the local level.

Failure to properly matriculate new recruits and advance firefighters in all training continuums has insidious results and the public's safety is at stake. FASNY's resolution is being sent to County Legislatures as well as State elected officials. We ask your help in bring this resolution as a sample to your fire department. **Please substitute your fire department for FASNY and communicate with the elected officials indicated in the resolution.**

In order to rectify this shortfall FASNY is urging the Governor and State Legislative leaders to review this situation and transfer or appropriate \$800,000 which will address this problem both this budget cycle and next.

CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

GOVERNOR DAVID PATTERSON CAN BE REACHED AT:

<http://161.11.121.121/govemail>

**SENATE: Senator Thomas W. Libous
1607 State Office Building
44 Hawley Street**

Binghamton, NY 13901

**phone: Broome: (607) 773-8771 Tioga: (607) 687-3399 Chenango:
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ASSEMBLY: Gary Finch
69 South Street
Auburn, NY 13021
315-255-3045
e-mail: finchg@assembly.state.ny.us
For towns of Lisle, Triangle, Nanticoke, Barker & Maine

Clifford Crouch
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e-mail: crouchc@assembly.state.ny.us
For towns of Chenango, Fenton, Colesville, Sanford,
Windsor, Binghamton, Conklin, Kirkwood and Dickinson

Donna Lupardo

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607-723-9047
E-mail: lupardod@assembly.state.ny.us
For towns of Vestal and Union and City of
Binghamton

Firemen's Association of the State of New York
107 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE LESIGLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO INCREASE THE FUNDING FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A REALISTIC FUNDING BASE TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF THE FIRE SERVICE PROTECTION WITHIN NEW YORK STATE.

WHEREAS, The Firemen's Association of the State of New York (hereinafter, FASNY) has identified the need for volunteer firefighters in order to deliver fire service protection and save the residents of New York State billions of dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, FASNY has identified the shortage of trained emergency response personnel and the initial training of new firefighters is crucial in developing enthusiastic, proficient and safety conscious volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has an obligation to train existing firefighters in advanced level training to advance the skills and knowledge of the New York Fire Service annually; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (“OFPC”) operates the sole training program which provides such initial firefighter training programs; and

WHEREAS, the current OFPC resource assignments are insufficient to support this level of training; and the current New York State budget will reduce the number of hours the OFPC Training section will be able to provide for training; and it has been identified that there is a significant shortfall within the OFPC budget to provide sufficient training funds to support the States need for the annual fire training program; and

WHEREAS, the basis for all levels of emergency response within the State of New York depend on well trained Volunteer Fire and EMS service.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York memorializes New York State to immediately increase the field training budget for the Office of Fire Prevention and Control by a minimum of \$800,000 to meet all of the needs of the State Fire Training Program; and be it further

RESOLVED, The Firemen’s Association of the State of New York memorializes New York State to conduct an in depth review of the training needs of the fire service to establish a realistic funding base for the delivery of fire service protection within New York State. Such review needs to reflect the size of the training base, the types of training that are required and the conditions that this service is expected to be delivered resulting in realistic funding of the program to properly accomplish what is expected; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor David Paterson, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; Senate Majority Leader, Joseph L. Bruno, 909 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; Senate Minority Leader, Malcolm A. Smith, 508 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247; Assembly Speaker, Sheldon Silver, 932 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Assembly Majority Leader, Ron Canestrari, 717 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Assembly Minority Leader, James Tedisco, 933 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Senator George H. Winner, 802 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12447; Assemblyman James G. Bascalles, 439 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248; Ms. Lorraine A. Cortes-Vasquez, Secretary of State, 41 State St.; Albany, NY

12231; Mr. Floyd A. Madison, State Fire Administrator; NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, 41 State St., Albany, NY 12231; Stephen Acquario, Esq., Executive Director, New York State Association of Counties, 540 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, NY 12207.