

Please contact your State Legislators. In Broome County your Legislators are:

Senator Libous

<http://www.tomlibous.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=DYNAFORM&SEC=%7B4E462E9F-4CFA-485D-8695-A682C2B7EAC8%7D>

And ONE of the following:

Assemblyman Gary Finch gary@garyfinch.com

Assemblyman Cliff Crouch <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=107&sh=con>

Assemblyman Donna Lupardo <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=126&sh=con>

----- Original Message -----

From: [FASNY LEAP Team](#)

Sent: Friday, October 09, 2009 3:08 PM

Subject: Help Ensure Firefighter Training Hours

Help Ensure Firefighter Training Hours

In a meeting held earlier this week FASNY, the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs and the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York petitioned the Office of the Governor's Counsel and the NYS Division of the Budget expressing concern regarding Firefighter training funds, particularly as they apply to entry level training courses available to newly recruited volunteers.

The Department of State's Office of Fire Prevention and Control administers the training hours and deploys State Fire Instructors to conduct local training for new recruits through its outreach program. This program has been systematically under funded during periods of budget shortfall and now faces severe cuts.

Governor Paterson has announced budget curtailment at every state agency level, at a time when entry- level firefighter training has become critical. Local recruitment programs have been successful only to find the new recruits losing interest because of the inordinate wait time for basic training.

New York Volunteer firefighters get only 57% of all training hours requested. The lack of trained volunteers creates an enormous cost shift to local governments, which must hire personnel to fill the void created in the pipeline of new recruits.

The concern of the volunteer emergency response community is for the safety of responders and the citizens of the communities they serve. If current austerity trends continue, 33% of newly recruited volunteers will go untrained, and the volunteer fire service may lose the potential for more than 1,000 interior firefighters.

We are asking your help to urge the Governor and your State Legislators to properly fund the entry level firefighter training courses when they come to Albany to deal with the State's budget

crisis.

Thank you,
FASNY