

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

NY'S SAFE GUN ACT INCLUDES PROVISION FOR LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR ANYONE WHO MURDERS A FIRST RESPONDER

While much of Governor Cuomo's SAFE act passed in January 2013, is very controversial, there is at least some good news in this for first responders in New York State. According to the Governor's FAQ page about the act, one of the provisions of the new law is that the "Murder of a first responder who is engaged in his or her duties will become a Class A-1 felony, with a mandatory penalty of life in prison without parole".

This comes following the murder of two West Webster Firefighters who were gunned down on Christmas Eve, 2012, as they responded to a fire. This is also the same as Mark's Law, which FASNY and other fire associations pushed for passage following the murder of Mark Davis, a firefighter/EMT with the Cape Vincent Fire Department. On January 9, 2009, Davis was called to provide EMS assistance on a man who became agitated, pulled out a gun and shot at EMTs as they tried to flee his residence, killing Davis. In 2012, this bill was approved by the New York State Senate, but never got out of committee in the Assembly.

This was included in the Governor's SAFE Act and is now on the books in New York to provide the stiffest possible penalty for any person convicted of killing a first responder who is carrying out his/her duties.