



FIRE AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION COMMITTEE

February 26, 2011

Dear Fellow Firefighters and Friends –

The Fire and Accident Prevention Committee of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association is hosting a Safety Seminar on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at the Greene County Emergency Operations Center - 25 Volunteer Drive, Cairo, NY, 12413. There is no registration fee.

Topics for the Seminar will be:

“The First Responder and Autism”

“Everyone Goes Home”

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States. The Center for Diseases concluded in a study released in December 2009 that the prevalence of Autism has risen to 1 in every 110 births and 1 in 70 boys. Recognizing the signs of Autism and knowing effective ways to approach a person on the autism spectrum can minimize situations of risk to both the individual and the first responder.

Presenter for **“The First Responder and Autism”** will be Interior Firefighter Christopher Sparano from the Alphaus Fire Department, Town of Glenville. Firefighter Sparano has been recognized by the Albany Chapter of the Autism Society of America for his knowledge on this subject. You will learn how to recognize the signs of Autism and knowledge on how to interact with those individuals.

Every year in the United States too many firefighters are killed or injured when going to, on the scene of, or returning from an incident. **“Everyone Goes Home”** is a program developed to reduce these occurrences through the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and with funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to the Firefighters Grant and the generosity of the Firemen’s Fund Insurance Company. This program developed 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives which provides suggestions relating to safety: incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.

Presenter for this topic will be Fire Protection Specialist, Andrew Jones from the Fire Services Bureau, NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control. FPS Jones will explain the initiatives and make suggestions on how these can be useful in assuring that your firefighters become safer when called upon to fulfill the duties of your department.

Registration is scheduled for 8:30 am with the Seminar to start at 9:00 am and will end at approximately 3 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Please try to attend or send representatives to this timely and important seminar. The safety of your members and the communities they protect must be a primary consideration for your department.

If you should have any questions please contact me at yickielyce@hotmail.com subject line: **HVVFA Safety Seminar** or by telephone at 518 469-2260 (cell).

Have the Courage to be Safe.

Firematically,

Victoria Dichian

Victoria Dichian
Chairperson