



Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention
and Control

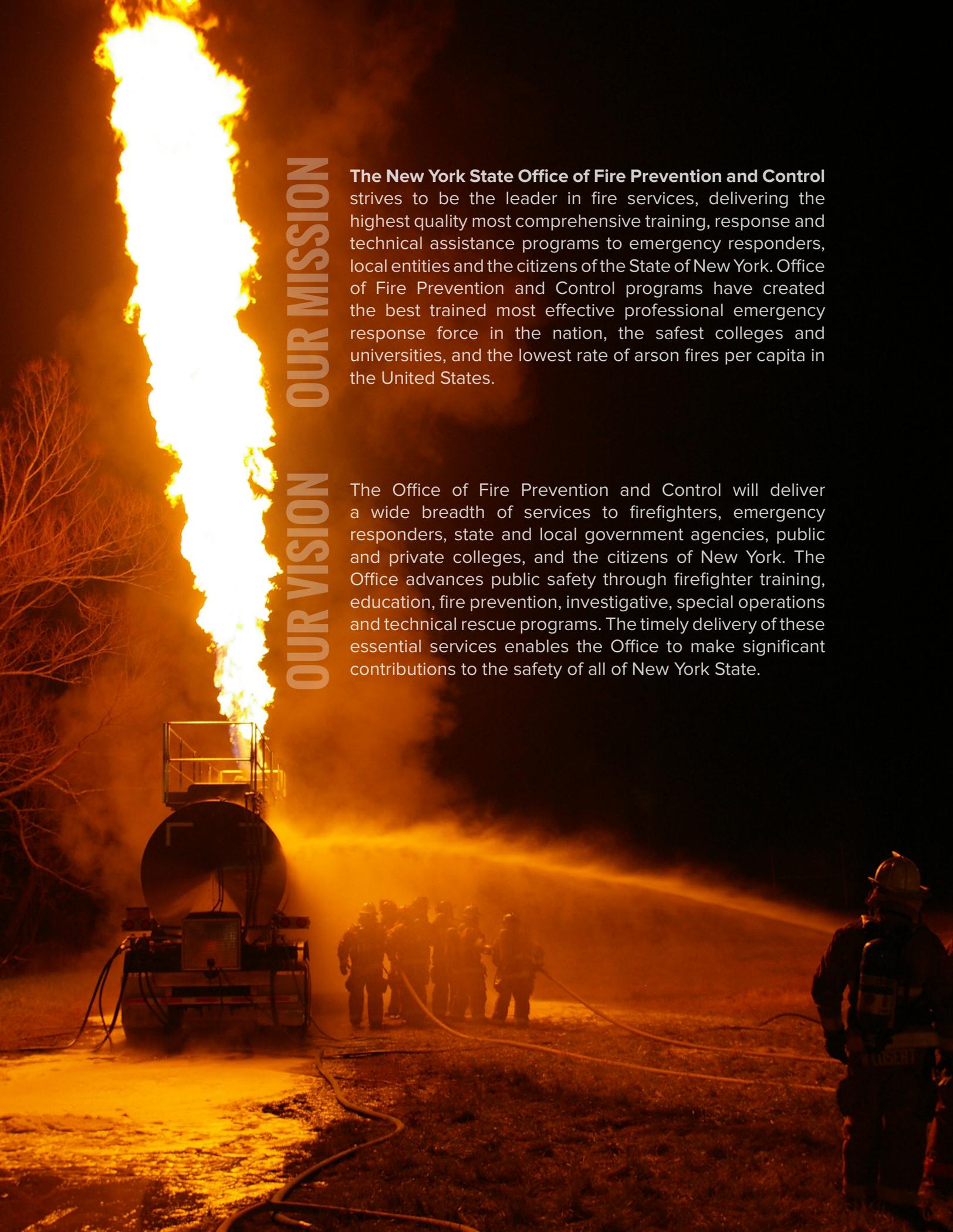
2012

YEAR IN REVIEW

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Patrick A. Murphy
Acting Commissioner

Francis J. Nerney Jr.
State Fire Administrator



OUR MISSION

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control strives to be the leader in fire services, delivering the highest quality most comprehensive training, response and technical assistance programs to emergency responders, local entities and the citizens of the State of New York. Office of Fire Prevention and Control programs have created the best trained most effective professional emergency response force in the nation, the safest colleges and universities, and the lowest rate of arson fires per capita in the United States.

OUR VISION

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control will deliver a wide breadth of services to firefighters, emergency responders, state and local government agencies, public and private colleges, and the citizens of New York. The Office advances public safety through firefighter training, education, fire prevention, investigative, special operations and technical rescue programs. The timely delivery of these essential services enables the Office to make significant contributions to the safety of all of New York State.



MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

I am pleased to present the 2018 New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) Year in Review Report. Shortly after World War II, OFPC was established as the Division of Safety in the state Office for Local Government. The Division was tasked with establishing a statewide fire mobilization and mutual aid plan, creating a standardized firefighter training program and adopting statewide emergency radio frequencies. The Division grew and expanded rapidly and in 1979 was codified as the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

As we approach our 75th anniversary, we reflect on where we started and where we are now. Over the years our mission set has grown along with our numbers. OFPC has taken on many new responsibilities all while remaining committed to training and supporting New York's Firefighters and First Responders to deliver competent fire and rescue services by presenting the most up-to-date information, training techniques and technologies.

The OFPC Fire Operations and Training Branch delivers our firefighter training programs in local firehouses, county and regional training centers and at the New York State Academy of Fire Science located in Montour Falls, NY. In 2018, work began on the construction of a Fire Operations Building at the Academy and is expected to be complete in time to host the Spring of 2020 Recruit Fire Fighter Training program.

Our Fire and Life Safety Branch conducts inspections and education programs and can be found on college campuses, in state facilities and special occupancies and at all types of public events in local communities. Public education and fire prevention continue to be the most efficient and effective way to keep New Yorkers safe from fire.

The Fire and Arson Investigation Branch's training program is considered one of the best in the nation and the OFPC Investigation team, recognized as New York's subject matter experts, is called upon time and again to conduct and assist in the simple to complex fire origin and cause investigations.

Our Educational and Operational Support Branch maintains the State's Fire Incident Reporting System, the Firefighter Training Records database and conducts the National Standard Testing for firefighter competencies, thus assuring that New York's Fire Service is second to none in the nation. This group also manages the logistics of OFPC's offices, fleet, and Fire Academy Operations.

The Swift Water and Flood Rescue Training (SWFT) Facility, located at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, NY. opened in mid-2018 and is the only facility of its kind in the United States. It is dedicated to First Responder Training, allowing our Special Operations Branch to educate local, state and federal rescuers to practice vital life-saving rescue techniques while controlling flood and swift water conditions so that students can progress safely in skill development. This Branch offers training and response support in hazardous materials incident mitigation as well as the many disciplines of technical rescue while also managing and providing staff to New York's only State Urban Search and Rescue team; New York Task Force 2.

I am very proud of the over 700 Full and Part Time OFPC employees and their dedication to training and the goal of helping New York's Fire and First Responder Services be the very best in the nation. Please take a few moments to view this document and see what Your OFPC has been up to in 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis J. Nerney, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Francis J. Nerney, Jr.



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EDUCATION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BRANCH

The **Educational and Operational Support Branch** administers a variety of programs and services in support of the functions of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, including:

- National Firefighter Certification Testing
- State Firefighter Certification, including Candidate Physical Ability Testing (CPAT)
- Administrative Support for Training, including scheduling, and printing
- Facilities Management at the Fire Academy, including food services, house keeping, and maintenance
- Manages vehicle fleet and staff uniforms
- Cancer Prevention
 - Administration of the Volunteer Firefighter Enhanced Cancer Disability Benefit
 - Developing guidelines for the fire service to help reduce and prevent carcinogen exposures
 - Training the fire service to reduce exposure to by-products of fire by performing post fire decontamination



Over 1,500,000 incident reports

OFPC is responsible for reporting all fire incidents to the US Fire Administration for statistical analysis. Below are the total number of incidents for the last three reporting years.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS

Year	Total Number of Incidents Reported in NFIRS
2017	1,547,678
2016	1,529,988
2015	1,517,754



OFPC has begun the work of transferring training records from Training Information Management System (TIMS) to the new Acadis learning management system. Acadis is a comprehensive web-based training and certification management platform that will serve the entire Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Acadis will be phased in over calendar year 2019.

ACADEMY OF FIRE SCIENCE

The Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, Schuyler County, is the academic home of New York State's fire service.

The administration and residential building accommodates a total of 190 students in 68 double rooms, 6 single bed handicap rooms, 3 12-person dormitories, and 2 six bed dormitories.

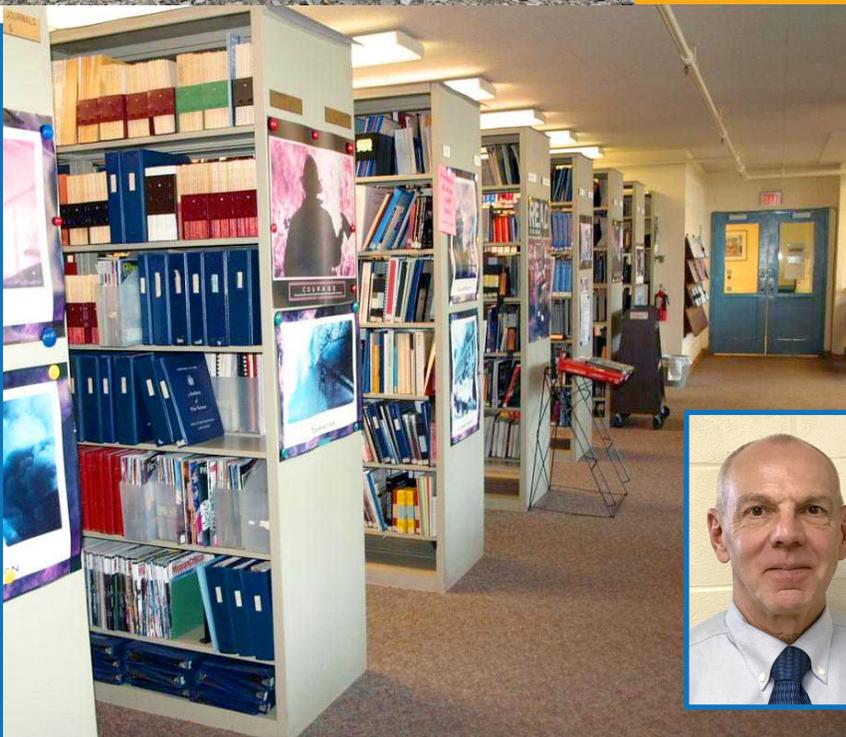
There are a number of improvements that are currently under way at the Academy including a north driveway that will dramatically improve safety by changing traffic patterns around the facility. Watch for the new signs to show you the way.



BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



In the Fall of 2018, construction began on a new Field Operations Building at the Training Grounds of the Fire Academy. This 20,000 sq. ft. building will house the Fire Academy apparatus and will have 2 classrooms in addition to locker rooms for turn out gear, restroom facilities, and turn out gear washing/maintenance areas.



ACADEMY OF FIRE SCIENCE LIBRARY

The Academy of Fire Science is home to one of the premier fire research and lending libraries in the country, with a database of over 58,000 print, software, and media items.

In the summer of 2018 the Office of Fire Prevention and Control welcomed new librarian **Dale Carpenter** to the Academy of Fire Science. The librarian is an integral part of the training and education that OFPC provides as evidenced by the welcome and high demand for assistance he received on his first few days on the job.



FIRE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING BRANCH

The Fire Operations and Training Branch delivers basic and advanced level fire service courses throughout New York State. This Branch is also responsible for providing on-scene emergency and routine technical assistance and is the primary office liaison with county and local fire service officials, and operationally coordinates fire service resources during an activation of the Statewide Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan. The plan is activated when local and regional fire resources have been exhausted and there is a need for mutual aid assistance.

952,232

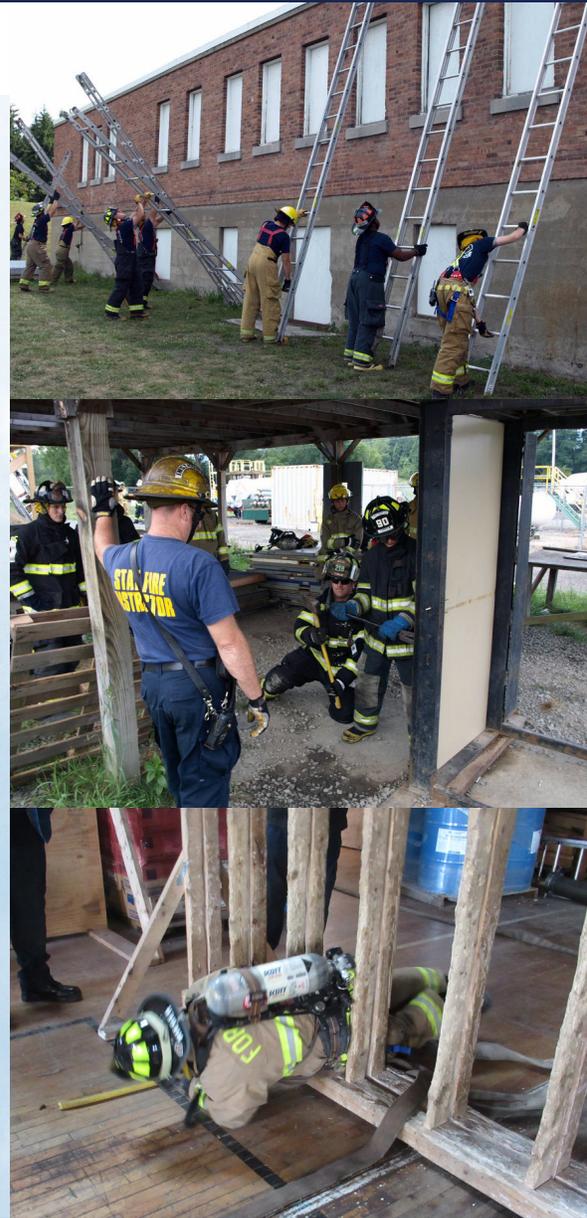
STUDENT CONTACT HOURS

46,471

STUDENT COMPLETIONS

3,350

COURSE OFFERINGS



FIRE OFFICER 1 GOES MODULAR

As demand for Fire Officer training continues to increase, OFPC has implemented a new modular delivery method for the Fire Officer I course. It is hoped that this will allow for more flexible scheduling and allow counties to choose the order in which the course is taught.



The Fire Ops Center

The Fire Operations Center (FOC) is an integral part of the NYS Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan which tracks fire resources during large scale deployments. In 2018, there were more than 2 dozen FOC activations.



Recruit Firefighter Training Program (RFFT)



On Monday February 26, 2018, The Fire Academy RFFT program commenced class 18-1. 60 career recruit firefighters from all across NYS began the program. 57 recruits graduated Friday May 11, 2018. This marks the single largest class in the 34 year history of the program. The second class, 2018-2, began July 22, and 21 recruits graduated October 4, 2018. The RFFT program is 11 weeks in length and will encompass over 500 hours of formal training and physical conditioning.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS BRANCH

The **Special Operations Branch (SOB)** provides education, refresher training and emergency technical assistance in areas of Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue. SOB also has an emergency response component made up of full-time staff members and is an integral part of the New York Task Force-2 Urban Search and Rescue Team.

THE SWFT FACILITY

A New and Exciting Venue

Flooding is the most frequent and costliest natural hazard faced in the state of New York. To address this reality, construction began in March 2017 on a new, state-of-the-art Swift Water and Flood Training (SWFT) complex at the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC). Completed in May 2018, SWFT was opened for training of external partners in July.

SWFT features a swift water channel, an urban flood simulator, a three-acre pond and a high-angle rope rescue tower. Fire protection specialists stationed in Oriskany provided training on SWFT to first responders from across the state.



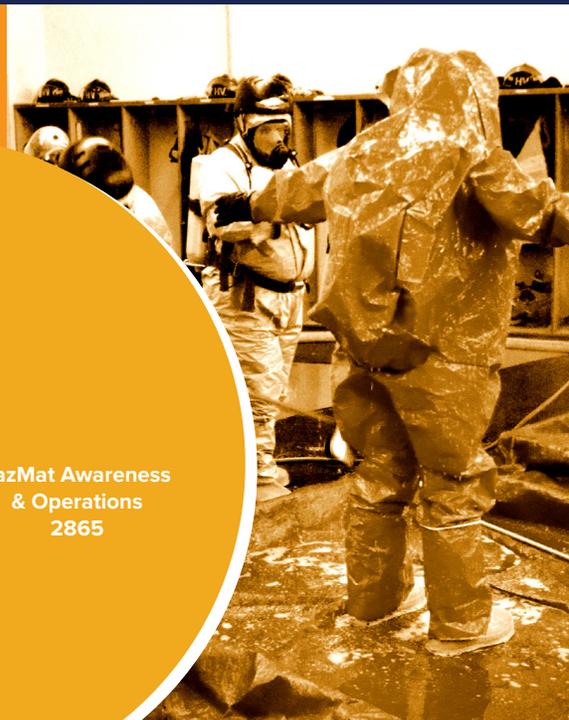
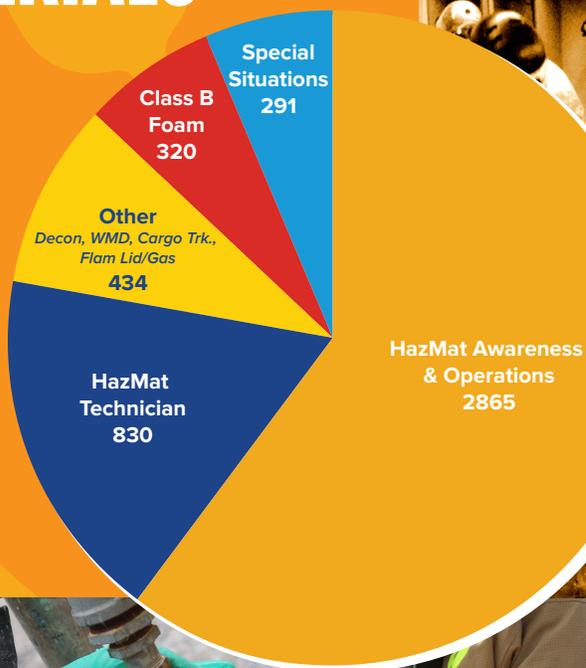
Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS) Response

SOB has had a sUAS program since 2013, beginning with two DJI Phantom sUAS with GoPro cameras. In 2017, the program was upgraded with four DJI Matrice 210 quadcopters with visual and thermal spectrum cameras, as well as two Mavic Pro quadcopters for rapid deployment missions. These units have been instrumental in providing advance imaging of potential and ongoing emergencies, which can be used to assist in decision making and efficient resource deployment. These sUAS are also used extensively by OFPC Investigations staff to provide aerial photography and videography of active investigations. Recently the four Matrice 210 units were upgraded with remote drop mechanisms which allow the delivery of a payload such as a personal flotation device (PFD) to individuals in need of assistance, as well as delivering remote metering equipment at a hazardous materials incident. SOB currently has five FAA certified pilots throughout New York State, ready to provide assistance to both State and Local agencies upon request.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING

OFPC is required to annually report on the hazardous materials emergency response training program, pursuant to Executive Law 156-a. The training offered by OFPC meets or exceeds federal occupational safety and health regulations pertaining to hazardous materials response, the professional qualification standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Minimum Standards for Firefighting Personnel in the State of New York. In 2018, OFPC trained 4,740 first responders.



POUGHKEEPSIE BUILDING COLLAPSE

Date: June 18, 2018
Time: Approx. 1600 hours
Location: 15-21 Academy Street, Poughkeepsie, NY

Strong Thunderstorm cell caused the structural failure of several upper floors of a 7 story ordinary constructed building to collapse. The collapse damaged 4 additional structures, trapping 2 individuals

OFPC Personnel 56



FIRE AND ARSON INVESTIGATION BRANCH

The Fire and Arson Investigation Branch provides fire and arson investigation training, in accordance with state and national standards, to personnel from fire, law enforcement and prosecutorial disciplines. The Branch's Fire Investigation Technical Assistance program affords our local, county, state and federal partners access to personnel and resources to conduct on-scene fire investigations, review cases and prepare for legal proceedings, and perform various specialty services. Branch staff maintain certifications in various fire, law enforcement, and investigation subject areas.



February 19, 2018

Watertown Fire Department responded to fire in a vacant commercial structure at 108 Newell Street in the City of Watertown, Jefferson County. During the suppression efforts two firefighters were injured, one seriously, when a corner of the five story structure collapsed on them. OFPC personnel were assisted by the Watertown Fire and Police Departments in conducting the investigation into the fire. OFPC Investigation Branch personnel determined that the intentional fire was ignited on an upper story of the structure. Personnel from the Special Operations Branch assisted Investigators by documenting the scene using an Unmanned Aerial System. Watertown Police subsequently arrested two teenagers on Arson, Assault, Burglary and Reckless Endangerment charges for their involvement in the fire.



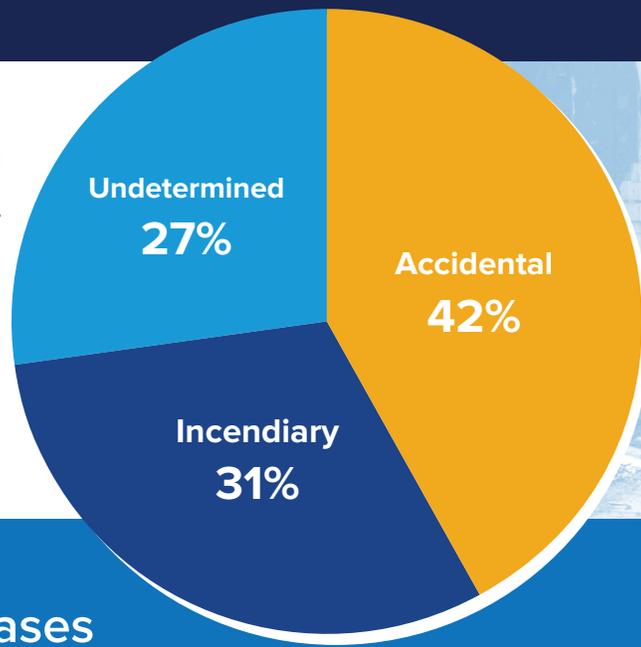
April 2, 2018

Fire heavily damaged a residence at 2753 State Route 145 in the Town of East Durham, Greene County. First responders arrived to find flames throughout the structure and an occupant who had escaped from the residence. It was reported that there were five family members trapped within the structure. Tragically, those five occupants became victims of the fire. Members of the OFPC Investigation Branch were requested to conduct the investigation working alongside personnel from Greene County Emergency Services and the New York State Police. OFPC Investigators worked to locate, document and removed each of the victims and then processed the scene to determine that the fire started in a first story living room area.

IN 2018... 189 REQUESTS FOR INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE

Cause determinations:

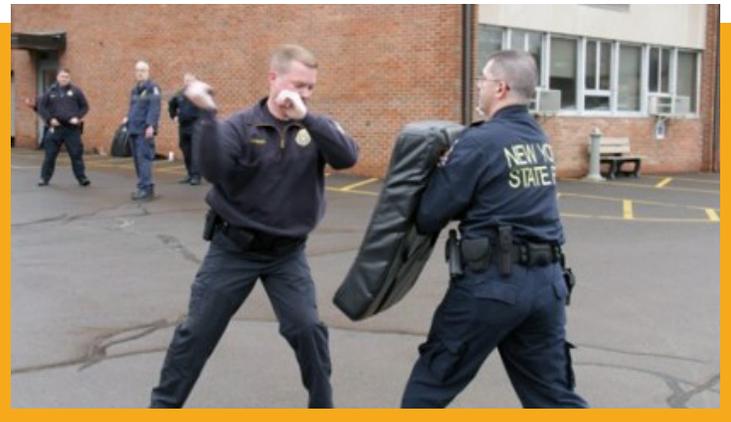
Note: there was 1 naturally occurring fire



- 14 arrests or indictments
- 5 convictions related to 4 cases



OFPC graduated its 12th offering of the Canine Accelerant Detection Course. Four teams, including two assigned to the Fire and Arson Investigation Branch, were certified to assist fire investigators across New York. The 2018 course saw graduation of the 50th OFPC trained canine team since the first course in 1993.



OFPC's stature as a law enforcement agency continued to expand by delivering requisite DCJS peace officer training to our staff. In 2018, the fourth offering of the Basic Course for Peace Officers and second Initial Firearms Course managed solely and delivered largely by OFPC personnel. In addition, those courses included student participation from outside agency partners, another means by which we continue to support our client group.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY BRANCH

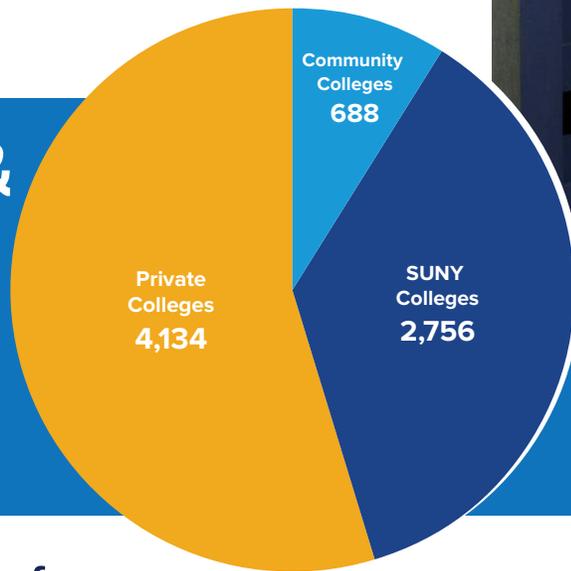
The Fire and Life Safety Branch is responsible for inspections of colleges, universities and many state agencies and authorities. The Branch also invests considerable time in prevention and education activities and assuring the public's safety through oversight of sparking devices, fireworks and pyrotechnic displays.

A Total of 22,311 Inspections



All Colleges & Universities

outside NYC per Education Law 807b



Total College Building Count: 7,578

Inspections of State Agencies and Authorities

3,402	Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (Includes group homes that are certified by OPWDD)
2	Department of Labor
223	Power Authority
12	State Insurance Fund
40	Department of Transportation (Republic Airport)
20	Department of Health (Wadsworth Laboratory)
612	Gaming Commission (Race tracks)
14	DHSES (SPTC and Fire Academy)
16	Central New York Regional Market Authority
1,719	Department of Environmental Conservation
375	Canal Corporation
608	Department of Agriculture and Markets (State Fair Including Vendor Spaces)
2	Education Department
100	Office of General Services

Total Life Safety Code Surveys Conducted for OPWDD in 2018 : 2,516

7,145 Total State Building Count



In 2018...

Sparkling Devices

Total Permits Issued: 1,340
Total Permit Inspections Completed: 1,734
(Includes follow up inspections)

Pyrotechnic and Fireworks Display Permits for State Property

Fireworks: 74
Proximate Audience: 29
Special Effects (Movie Sets, etc.): 13
Flame Effects: 5

Fire Prevention Outreach

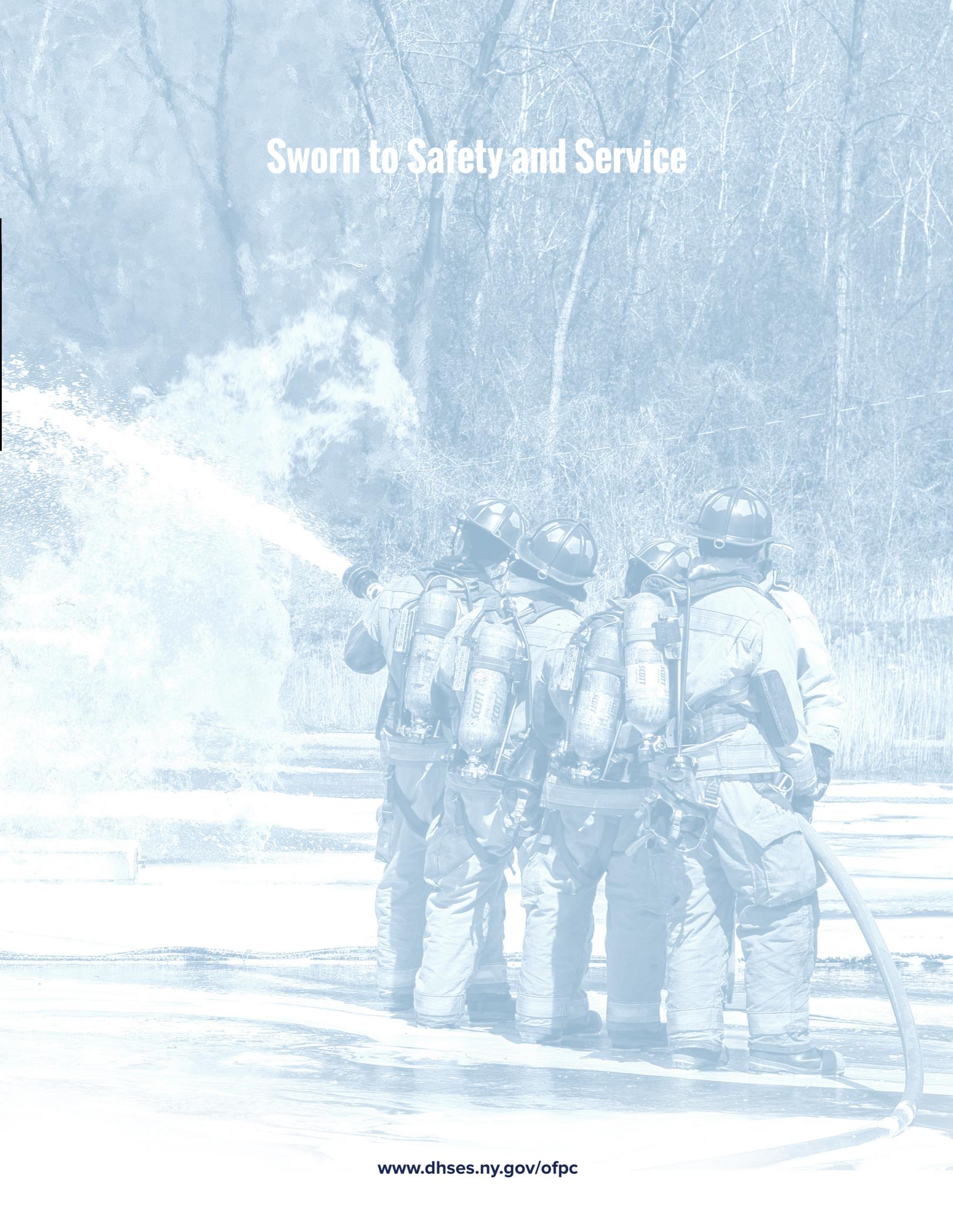


NEW FIRE ALARMS AND FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS COURSE OFFERINGS

New training courses were unveiled in 2018 that are designed to provide firefighter and officers a better understanding of fire alarm and suppression systems and the related emerging technology. Additionally, the training discusses various tactical considerations available to officers when interacting with fire alarm and sprinkler systems.



Sworn to Safety and Service





Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention and Control

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