

Bureau of Fire – Public Safety Report

October 2025

1. Busy Month Continues

Another busy month with structure fires, motor vehicle accidents (MVAs), and brush fires. I want to thank all EMS personnel, firefighters, 911 dispatchers, and police officers for their continued cooperation and dedication.

2. Statewide Burn Ban Implemented

Due to increased fire risk and ongoing dry conditions, Governor Hochul has implemented a statewide burn ban effective October 2 through October 15. The situation will be reevaluated before the ban's expiration.

3. Sullivan 180 – Healthiest Fire Department Challenge

Several Sullivan County fire departments completed the Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department Challenge at the County Parade on September 6.

- 1st Place: Grahamsville Fire Department**
- 2nd Place: Kauneonga Lake Fire Department**
- 3rd Place: Smallwood Fire Department**
- 4th Place: Jeffersonville Fire Department**

Thank you to all departments for your hard work and commitment to health and wellness. Special thanks to Lindsay Wheat and Sullivan 180 for organizing this important initiative — because taking care of our own is a top priority.

4. 9/11 Memorial Services

The Bureau of Fire was honored to attend 9/11 memorial services held throughout the county.

5. Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Parade

We participated in the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Parade on September 6 in Monticello. Despite a rainy start, it turned out to be a great day.

Thank you to all emergency service organizations who took part, and to the Monticello Fire Department for hosting and celebrating their 150th anniversary — congratulations!

6. Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA)

The Bureau of Fire participated in the County Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) in partnership with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

7. County-Wide Elopement Drill

We took part in a county-wide elopement drill at The Center for Discovery, alongside our emergency services partners.

8. Annual Past Presidents Dinner

We attended the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association Annual Past Presidents Dinner. Congratulations to the following honorees:

- Firefighter of the Year: Mark Johnstone (Liberty) & Joseph Hand (Rock Hill)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Thomas Dempsey Sr. (Bloomingburg) & Craig Burkle (Narrowsburg)

9. Recruitment & Retention Efforts

The Recruitment and Retention Task Force continues its efforts to attract new members, attending several outreach events this month.

10. Training Update

Training classes are going well. We are currently working on the winter class schedule.

11. Fire Prevention Week: October 5–11

This year's theme is:

“Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.”