



County of Erie

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An Overview of How Fire Training is Delivered in Erie County:

The New York State Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) and Erie County Fire Safety are partners in delivering firefighter training. State employed fire instructors (SFIs) deliver state fire training courses, while the instructors and courses are selected, scheduled and coordinated by the Erie County Division of Fire Safety.

Erie County is OFPC's largest customer for outreach training with 18 SFIs and 2,350 training hours projected for 2005-2006.

Communities served by the Erie County Fire Service benefit from fire protection provided by approximately 5,000 volunteer firefighters and first responders. Demonstrated statistics indicate that at least 500 new recruits join the volunteer ranks each year in Erie County.

In the past we have struggled to deliver enough courses to satisfy the growing demand for training from both new candidates seeking basic training (Firefighter 1); as well as experienced, seasoned firefighters thirsting for higher knowledge and advanced courses. The projected 50% increase for FY05-06 will begin to satisfy the training needs of our fire service.

If County Fire Instructors were available to serve as fourth (safety) members of state fire instructor teams to deliver hands-on and live fire training, we would be able to increase each NYS OFPC Firefighter 1 class size by 25% - a dramatic increase given the current backlog of firefighters needing training.

Our county's volunteer fire companies rely heavily on our County Fire Instructors to supplement hands-on training outside of what is delivered in state-run courses. Most volunteer fire companies lack the facilities, props and certified instructors to conduct their own training programs. State courses and NFPA Standards require non-combustible training buildings in which to perform live structural fire training. No fire company in Erie County owns a live fire training facility.

County Fire Instructors performed 360 outdoor training evolutions for volunteer fire companies in 2004. An average of 15-25 firefighters participated in each of those trainings, bringing the total number of firefighters trained in 2004 alone to 5,400. The fire service looks to our instructors for their thorough knowledge and extensive experience in our field. Many of our instructors are revered as experts in our industry.

County Fire Instructors devoted 2,330 man-hours to training our county's volunteer fire service last year. The equivalent cost of this training, not including travel and the cost of props, materials and facilities, is estimated at \$116,500 that would be borne by the volunteer fire service.

How State & County Courses Get Scheduled

- NYS OFPC assigns annual training hour allotment to Erie County
- Fire Departments or Fire Councils submit course requests to Erie County Fire Safety Office by published semester deadline
- Course requests are pooled by course name, geographic region, and days-of-week requested
- SFI qualifications and availability are matched to course requests
- Course details are confirmed with requesting department and SFIs
- Training course schedule is published via fax, web and e-mail

Without our county fire instructors, the only people able to use our facilities would be State Fire Instructors in conducting state-run training courses. This would preclude the use of our training facilities by other county agencies, other government entities and the fire service at large.

The lack of qualified, timely and appropriate training has a direct impact on the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. If new candidates cannot be trained, by OSHA/PESH regulations for their own safety, the fire chief may have to prohibit them from participate at the incident scene.

If new candidates cannot participate, they may become impatient, disinterested and disappointed with their volunteering experience. Simply, they may leave the volunteer fire service as quickly as they joined it.

Eventually there may not be enough volunteer firefighters to train, leaving communities with understaffed, under-trained fire protection – an outcome that no one can afford.

The following chart briefly outlines who delivers which training in Erie County.

TRAINING	STATE	COUNTY
<p>NYS OFPC State Fire Training Courses in General</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (18) Part-Time Fire Instructors employed by NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrated, scheduled and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used our facilities to deliver hands-on and classroom training</p>
<p>NYS OFPC Basic Firefighter Training (Firefighter 1)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (18) Part-Time Fire Instructors employed by NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> High Demand Course - requested by virtually every new recruit in Erie County</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Administrated, scheduled and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used our facilities to deliver hands-on and classroom training</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Used Part-time County Fire Instructors (Eliminated) to act as safety officers and facilitators to deliver hands-on and live fire training</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Had planned to increase each class size by 25% by using Part-time Fire Instructors (Eliminated) to act as fourth (safety) members of instructor team to deliver hands-on and live fire training.</p>

TRAINING	STATE	COUNTY
<p>NYS OFPC EVOC-Emergency Vehicle Operations Course</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High Demand Course - requested by virtually every fire department in Erie County <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Requisite to NYS OFPC Apparatus Operator-Pump and Apparatus Operator-Aerial Devices Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (11) Part-Time Fire Instructors employed by NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High Demand Course - requested by virtually every fire department in Erie County <input type="checkbox"/> Administrated, scheduled and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> Used our facilities to deliver hands-on and classroom training <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (3) Part-time County Fire Instructors (Eliminated)
<p>NYS OFPC Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Accident Victim Extrication Training <input type="checkbox"/> HazMat Technician <input type="checkbox"/> HazMat Incident Command <input type="checkbox"/> Bus Rescue <input type="checkbox"/> Principles of Fire Investigation <input type="checkbox"/> Wildland Search & Rescue <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative Fuel Technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by Full-Time Fire Protection Specialists (FPS) employed by NYS Office of Fire Prevention & Control (OFPC) <input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled by respective NYS OFPC Bureau Chiefs or Deputy Chiefs according to availability of FPS staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Administrated and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> Used our facilities to deliver hands-on and classroom training
<p>NYS OFPC Fire Police Course (Hand-off Course)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> State provided curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities and Instruction not available through NYS OFPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High Demand Course - requested by virtually every firefighter in Erie County <input type="checkbox"/> Administrated, scheduled and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> Used our facilities to deliver hands-on and classroom training <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (2) Part-time County Fire Police Instructors (Eliminated)

TRAINING	STATE	COUNTY
<p>NYS OFPC Mask Confidence Course (Hand-off Course)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> State provided curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities and instruction only available from NYS OFPC at Fire Academy in Montour Falls, NY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High Demand Course - requested by virtually every interior firefighter in Erie County <input type="checkbox"/> Labor Intensive Course – requires low student-instructor ratio <input type="checkbox"/> Administrated, scheduled and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> Used our facilities to deliver hands-on and classroom training <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered locally by Part-time County Fire Instructors (Eliminated)
<p>Erie County Fire Radio Communications Course</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities and instruction not available through NYS OFPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> High Demand Course - required by every firefighter (radio system user) in Erie County <input type="checkbox"/> Administrated, scheduled and coordinated by County Deputy Fire Coordinator, Fire Coordinator, Part-time Training Records Clerk (Eliminated) and Full-time Facility Scheduler (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (2) Part-time County Fire Radio Instructors (Eliminated)
<p>Fire Department Drills: Hands-on Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities and instruction not available through NYS OFPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (33) P/T County Fire Instructors (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> County Fire Instructors performed 360 outdoor training evolutions for volunteer fire companies in 2004. <input type="checkbox"/> An average of 15-25 firefighters participated in each of those trainings, bringing the total number of firefighters trained in 2004 alone to 5,400 <input type="checkbox"/> Only 3 out of 94 Volunteer Fire Companies have roof ventilation simulators <input type="checkbox"/> Only 6 out of 94 Volunteer Fire Companies have any other props, simulators or facilities to deliver hands-on training
<p>Fire Department Drills: Live Fire Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities and instruction not available through NYS OFPC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Delivered by (33) P/T County Fire Instructors (Eliminated) <input type="checkbox"/> None of the 97 Volunteer, Combination or Career Fire Departments have facilities to deliver Live Fire Training