



County of Erie

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Erie County Firefighters,

I wanted to reach out to you all and give you an update on what's going on now, and what to expect for the future as it concerns the Fire Safety Division and the county. Myself and the entire staff here at the academy have been switched from our daily duties and have been running the Logistics Division of the COVID-19 operations since March 14th, however we would like to emphasize that we are available to assist you and your department in any way. All training courses that were in progress at that time have been postponed until further notice. When we do shift back into "normal" operations, we will work with all the instructors and get those classes back up and running. All courses that had not started yet were cancelled and we will re-schedule those and start over. If you were previously rostered in those classes, we will have you re-submit an application once the new dates are added to the schedule. Logistically it would be too hard to try and contact each student to see if they were still available for the new dates. We will work hard to get those classes that were not added yet to the schedule by the end of the year. We will let everyone know about tower dates and the training drills we run at your stations as soon as we can.

We've had a lot of questions about this year's FF1 Bootcamps. We are planning to run 2 Bootcamps this summer. As soon as we get clearance to start classes, we will proceed. For "saving the date" purposes, we are planning Bootcamp orientation for Saturday May 23rd. Bootcamp 1 skills weekend will be 6/20-6/21 followed by camp running 7/13-7/24. Bootcamp 2 skills weekend will be 6/27-6/28 followed by camp running 7/27-8/7. **WE WILL NOT BE TAKING ANY APPLICATIONS FOR BOOTCAMPS YET.**

We understand the difficulties you are all dealing with at this time as fire departments and individuals taking care of your loved ones. We are going to hold a conference call for all Erie County fire department chiefs on Tuesday April 7th at noon. We will try and answer any questions you have and discuss best practices as far as recommendations go from our health officials. If you have a question, we would ask that you submit it before hand to Fire@erie.gov with "question" in the subject line. Chiefs will be getting an email through IaR with the link for the conference call.

Stay safe everyone and look out for each other.

Chris Couell FC-1