

NIAGARA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026

VOLUME 31

Fire Prevention Month:

A Season for Awareness, Action, and Community Safety

October marks Fire Prevention Month, a nationwide reminder that protecting our homes, workplaces, and neighborhoods begins long before an emergency ever sparks. The goal is simple but powerful: build habits today that prevent tragedies tomorrow. At its heart, Fire Prevention Month is about awareness—understanding how fires start, how quickly they spread, and how small steps can dramatically reduce risk.

Across the country, fire departments use this month to highlight the everyday actions that keep families safe. Checking smoke alarms, practicing home escape plans, and staying mindful in the kitchen remain the most effective ways to prevent fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association, cooking fires continue to be the leading cause of home fires, yet they are also among the most preventable. A moment of attention can make all the difference.

Fire Prevention Month is also a chance to celebrate the firefighters and first responders who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. Their work underscores why prevention matters: every avoided fire is a saved life, a spared home, and a safer neighborhood.

As you move through the month, consider taking a few minutes to review your own safety routines. Test alarms, clear clutter from exits, and talk with your family about what to do if a fire occurs. These small steps create a culture of safety that lasts all year.



Check out nfpa.org for Safety Tips this October!

When the smoke alarm sounds, **get outside and stay outside.**
Go to your **outside meeting place.** Call 9-1-1 from a mobile phone or a trusted neighbor's phone.
Stay outside until the fire department tells you it is safe to go back inside.

Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!™

Test all smoke alarms at least **once a month** by pushing the test button.

Make sure smoke alarms **meet the needs** of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Replace smoke alarms **10 years** from the date of manufacture.

You could have as little as two minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Installation

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- When installing, follow the instructions that come with the smoke alarm.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound. It is important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with the bedroom doors closed.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall.

How to Choose an Alarm

It is important to purchase a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. The two most common types of smoke alarms are ionization and photoelectric alarms.

- For the best protection, or where extra time is needed to wake up or help others, both types of alarms or dual sensor ionization-photoelectric alarms are recommended.
- An ionization smoke alarm is more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is more responsive to smoldering fires.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen and bathrooms to reduce nuisance alarms.

Testing and Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working.

Replacement

- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms that do not have non-replaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The Leading Information and Knowledge Resource on Fire,
Electrical, and Related Hazards

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- ''' **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- ''' **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- ''' **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- ''' **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- ''' **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- ''' **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- ''' **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- ''' If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- ''' If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- ''' **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 4-10, 2026



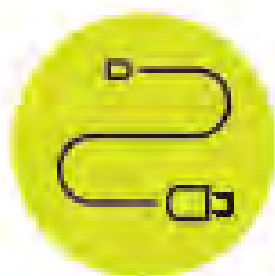
Safe Charging Is a **SUPERPOWER**

Charge into Fire Safety™

Safe charging means making smart choices every time you plug in. Everyday charging habits can help prevent lithium-ion battery fires.

Safe charging is a **SUPERPOWER!**

USE YOUR CHARGING SUPERPOWERS



CHEAP CHARGER? DON'T CHANCE IT.

Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer.

Why it matters: Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the chance of fire. Cheap or off-brand chargers may not meet important safety standards.



SOFT SURFACE? HARD PASS.

Charge on a hard, flat surface like a table, desk, or bare floor.

Why it matters: Devices and chargers create heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces like beds, pillows, and couches can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause a battery to overheat.



FEELS HOT? STOP USING IT.

Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, smells strange, leaks, smokes, or makes popping or hissing sounds.

Why it matters: A damaged battery can overheat and start a fire.



FULLY CHARGED? TIME TO UNPLUG.

Unplug your device when it is fully charged.

Why it matters: Leaving a device plugged in can increase heat and stress on the battery.



FOR TOOLS AND RIDES, CHARGE OUTSIDE.

Charge large items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside when possible. Do not block exits when charging.

Why it matters: These batteries are larger and store more energy. Fires can grow quickly if the battery fails.



OUT OF SIGHT? NOT IN FLIGHT.

When on a plane, keep devices where you can see them while charging. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on the plane. Tell a flight attendant if you notice a problem with your device, such as if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell.

Why it matters: If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to be able to respond quickly.

— Working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan can help make a life-saving difference. —



BATTERY SAFETY STARTS BEFORE YOU PLUG IN

Buy products listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, ETL, or CSA.* Listed products meet important safety standards.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The Leading Information and Knowledge Resource on Fire,
Electrical, and Related Hazards

nfpa.org/education | ©2026 NFPA®

*The listing of specific commercial products or services herein is solely for educational purposes and does not imply endorsement by NFPA, nor discrimination against similar services not mentioned.



Thank you for dropping by to see our team at NCES at the Niagara County Fair!



Did you spot Sparky?



Another fun year at the FAIR!



Popular new swag at our table this year...
Hacky sack!





On August 20th, staff from Emergency Services participated at the Pre-K & Kindergarten Jamboree at Niagara Falls High School Field House where they offered free child ID cards for new pre-k and kindergarten students. Of course the visit wasn't complete without an appearance from Sparky!



25 Years since the 9/11 attacks on America



Chief Luca Quagliano, City of Lockport FD, and Fire Coordinator Jonathan Schultz, reflect on the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the United States of America at a remembrance ceremony in the City of Lockport overlooking the Erie Canal. Chief Quagliano vouched and encouraged the younger generation to continue this traditional ceremony forever to never forget.





9/11
Memorial
Stair Climb
We will never forget!



When: September 11th, 2026
Where: Whirlpool State Park
Niagara Falls, NY
Registration: 5:00PM
Ceremonies: 5:45PM
Stair Climb: 6:00PM



MCC1





 RobShots



 RobShots





Firefighter One Graduation- 2026

On Wednesday, August 19th, Lewiston #2 Fire Department hosted our Firefighter One Graduation. On behalf of Director Schultz, the staff at NCEM, and our New York State Fire Instructors, congratulations to the graduates from the 2026 Firefighter One classes. We are proud of your service and commitment to your companies and communities. Keep up the good work and thank you for all that you do. Thank you to Lewiston#2 Fire Company for hosting the graduation and providing refreshments!

GRADUATES

Timothy Aldape
Thomas Amoia
Alfred Bax
Zachary Cannello
Christopher Chenier
Jacqueline Connelly
Kenneth Dillon
Kalen Drury
Louann Durfey
David Gurski
Kalvin Johnson
Liam Keelty
Jawahar Lingaria
Madison Magill
Benjamin Majewski
Joseph Misztal
Scott Olson

Matthew Randle
Steven Ribis
Brian Shillenn
Levi Siegmann
Jonathan Spinks
Nicholas Strieff
Luke Sutherland
Michael Swanson Jr
Quinn Walton
Douglas Ward
Gavin Watts
Jessica Wawrzynski
Caden Wick
Logan Wolfe
Abigail Zimmerman
Louis Zimmerman



FIREFIGHTER ONE GRADUATION

CLASS OF 2026

Wednesday, August 19th 2026

Lewiston #2

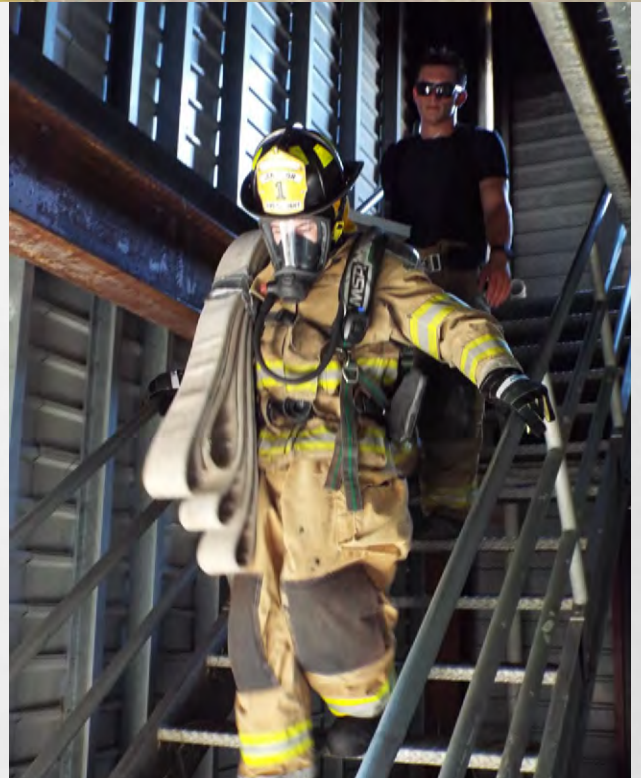
Fire Department

1705 Saunders Settlement

Road, Niagara Falls

New York 14304

6:00pm



HOMES SPARED AS TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN IN OLCOTT



Follow the yellow line that outlines the path of the tornado “swirl marks in the field”

National Weather Service met with Jon Schultz, Director of Emergency Services at Krull Park one day following a severe supercell thunderstorm. After completing a damage survey in Krull Park, National Weather Service confirmed a tornado made landfall in Olcott on September 2, 2026 at 6:07PM. It was given a rating of EF1 with an estimated peak wind of 105 mph, a width of approximately 70 yards, and path length of 0.67 miles.

Director Schultz would like to remind residents the importance of understanding WEA’s (Wireless Emergency Alerts)



For safety information on tornado events visit the National Weather Service (QR Code below)

TORNADO TERMINOLOGY



Tornado Watch

Weather conditions could lead to the formation of severe storms and tornadoes. **BE PREPARED:** Know your safe location. Be ready to act quickly if a Warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching.

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, meaning a tornado is occurring or expected soon. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.

Tornado Emergency

An exceedingly rare situation with a severe threat to human life and catastrophic damage due to a confirmed violent tornado. **TAKE ACTION:** There is imminent danger to life and property. Immediately seek refuge in the safest location possible.



Continuing the Mission

Jon Schultz has been full speed ahead with his unceasing advocacy to ease the topic of mental health importance amongst first responders. He and some of the Critical Incident Support Team (CIST) members delivered a presentation titled, *The Calls We Carry*, at the National Homeland Security Conference (NHSC) in Louisville, KY in August. The presentation starts with Jon's shared experiences and struggles, then leads to the focus of breaking the stigma and learning key indicators to look for amongst all our first responders. In conclusion, it provides detail to how his office worked to develop the Critical Incident Support Team, what it took to get the program operational and how it is working successfully in our county for our first responders.

Upon Jon's return from the NHSC, he, alongside Dave Budz, from OpOverwatch, interviewed on LCTV to deliver an emotional and powerful story of how he responded and ultimately powered through his own trauma.

In recent weeks, Jon presented *The Calls We Carry* at the Disaster Preparedness Commission Conference and won't stop there. The topic of mental health for first responders is growing and one by one we are turning skeptics into believers that 'It's Okay to not be okay. You are not alone!'

LCTV - OpOverwatch Trauma Truth



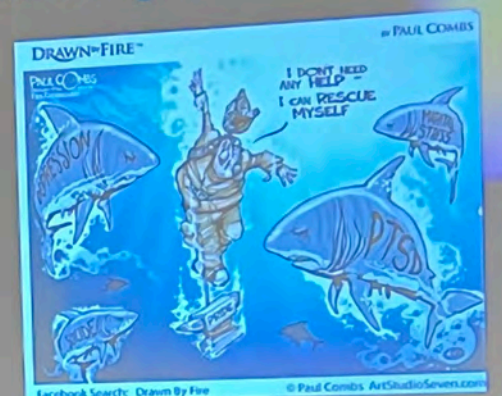
Disaster Preparedness Commission Conference



Common Mental Health Challenges:

Responders may experience:

- Burnout
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Post-traumatic stress
- Substance misuse
- Compassion fatigue

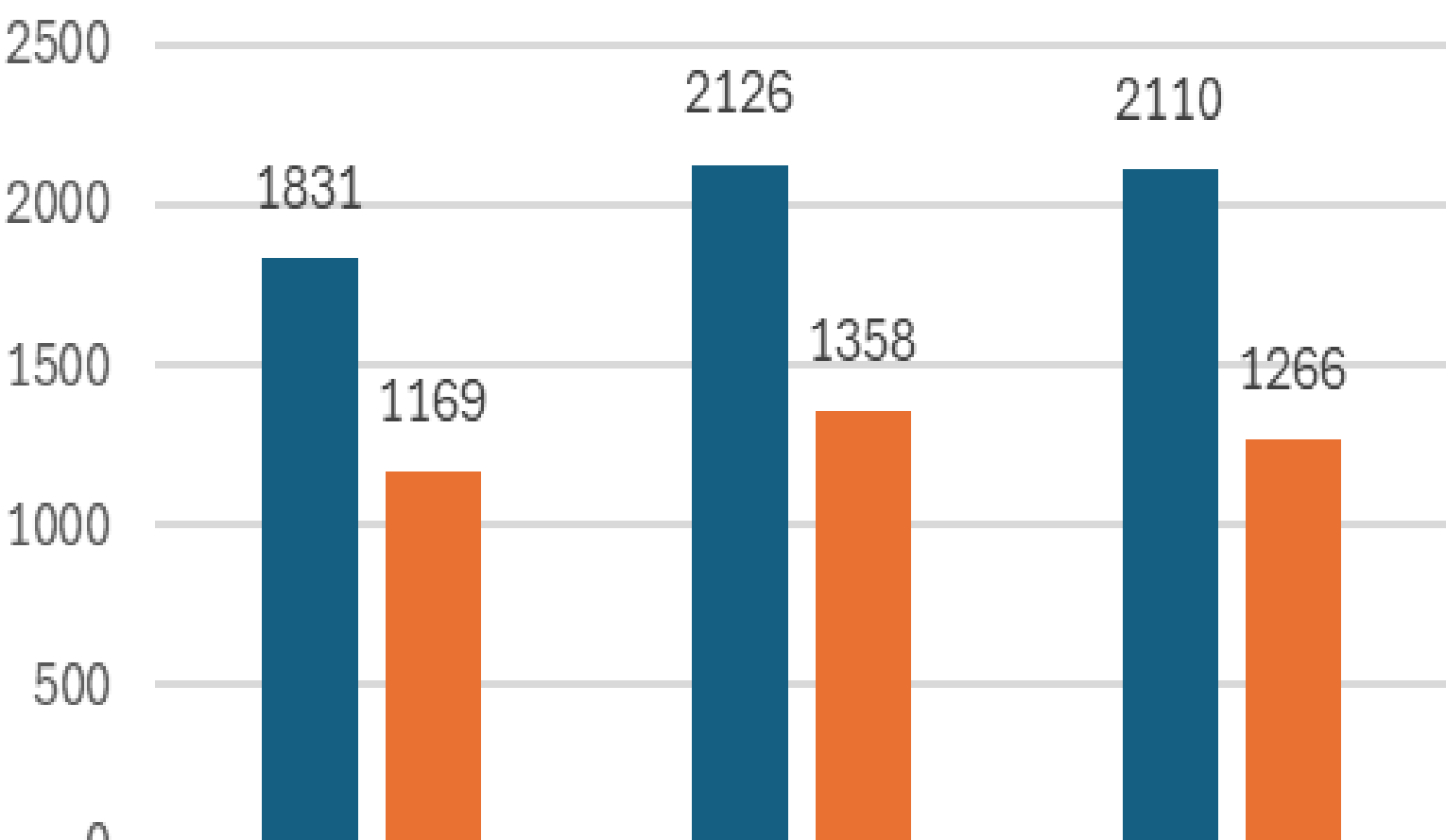


Welcome, Becky!



Niagara County EMS is happy to welcome a temporary EMT to our team! Within just a few weeks, Becky has completed all necessary training to officially join her platoon on September 28th as we begin the fall season. Becky has a background in commercial EMS and volunteer Fire/EMS.

Niagara County EMS Response Data



	2024	2025	2026 Jan 1 - Sept 17
Total Requests	1831	2126	2110
Total Transports	1169	1358	1266

Upcoming Events:



ADAM'S FIRE COMPANY CHICKEN BBQ

= DRIVE-THRU ONLY =

SAVE THE DATES!

SEPT	OCT	NOV
13	4	3

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
YOUR LOCAL FIRE COMPANY!



NIAGARA COUNTY

TRUNK OR TREAT



JOIN US
IN YOUR SPOOKIEST COSTUMES!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10th 2026
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM FREE EVENT

SUNY Niagara
3111 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT RD
SANBORN, NY 14132 LOT #4



Meat Raffle

Lewiston Fire Company #2

1705 Saunders Settlement Road, 14304
Route 31 in Colonial Village

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Doors open at 5 pm, Wheel spins start at 6 pm

Benefit for Lewiston Fire Company #2
firefighting and ambulance service

An exciting night of fun and meat prizes!

Meat from Melloni's Meats & Catering

TICKETS Pre-sale: \$10 per person. At the door: \$12
Tables of 8 available for \$75 (pre-sale)



Admission includes two drinks (pop; or for 21+ beer, wine, well drink)
Bring your cooler, snacks, and drinks. ****No outside alcohol!****
Cash bar: Beer, wine, drinks, and pop for sale (alcohol for 21+ only!).
Snacks available for purchase. ATM on premises.

Basket Raffle! 50/50! Bring lots of \$1 bills!

Call, text, or email today for your tickets:
Bruce 716-514-2859, Lew2Meat@yahoo.com



HARTLAND VOL. FIRE CO.

8945 Ridge Rd. Gasport

FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

HALLOWEEN MORNING
10/31/26 8-12



GOOD FOOD
STRONGER
COMMUNITY

MENU INCLUDES:

- French Toast with a variety of toppings
- Scrambled Eggs
- Breakfast Sausage
- Hashbrowns
- Variety of Milk by Hoover Dairy

\$15 FOR OVER 10
\$10 FOR AGE 3-9
FREE UNDER 2 YEARS

SPECIAL
TREAT FOR
ANYONE IN
COSTUME!

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
SOLDIER FAMILY READINESS GROUP

Stronger Families
Stronger Tomorrows



Supporting
Those Who
Serve

FIVE ALARM STEAK ROAST

Saturday October 17th, 2026

5- \$500 Cash Prizes
Beer and Soft Drinks included
Steaks Cooked to order
More Firey Fun with 90 West

Doors Open at 6:00pm
Donations \$50.00
Ticket admits one



RAPIDS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Christmas Raffle

TICKET

DOOR PRIZE
\$1,000 CASH

\$20 TICKET

SATURDAY 12/5 5:00 PM

PRIZES INCLUDE

1. \$500 AMAZON GIFT CARD	11. SKYLIGHT CALENDAR
2. NINJA SLUSHI XL	12. BILLS MAFIA PACKAGE
3. BUFFALO SPORTS TEAM TICKETS	13. KINDLE GIFT BASKET
4. IPAD	14. BEATS STUDIO PRO HEADPHONES
5. GAMING SYSTEM (FIRE COMPANY'S CHOICE)	15. GARMIN SMART WATCH
6. NIGHT OUT PACKAGE	16. TOOL CHEST
7. 75-INCH SMART TV	17. JBL PARTYBOX
8. RAY-BAN META GLASSES	18. COUPLES MASSAGE
9. FLASHFORGE 3D PRINTER	19. SMOKER
10. \$300 TOPS GIFT CARD	20. HIS & HERS BIKES

INTERESTED IN TICKETS? PLEASE CALL 716-434-4502 OPT 7 OR REACH OUT TO A MEMBER!
UPDATES WILL BE POSTED ON FACEBOOK.

Join Us For a

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

and Basket Raffle

Sunday OCTOBER 18TH 2026
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
or sold out

DINNER \$14.00

Basket RAFFLE
\$5.00 for 1 sheet
\$20.00 for 5 sheets

DRAWING STARTS AT 2:30 PM
Winners will be called!

Hosted by:
OLCOTT FIRE COMPANY LADIES AUXILIARY

Olcott Fire Company
1691 Lockport-Olcott Road
Olcott, NY 14126

Thank you for supporting your local fire company!

PEKIN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY EST. 1935

CHOWDER SALE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 2026 11:00 AM until SOLD OUT

PRE-ORDERS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!

CALL OR TEXT TO ORDER
716-344-6979

Please specify Name & Number of Quarts when ordering

PEKIN FIRE HALL • 3024 UPPER MOUNTAIN RD, SANBORN, NY

SOUTH LOCKPORT FIRE CO.
5666 S. TRANSIT RD.

SLFC Christmas & Holiday MEAT RAFFLE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22
DOORS OPEN AT 1:00 PM
1ST DRAWING 2 PM

50/50 & SIDE RAFFLES!

TICKET PRICES:
\$10 PER TICKET
\$80 - TABLE OF 8

FREE BEER, WINE & POP!

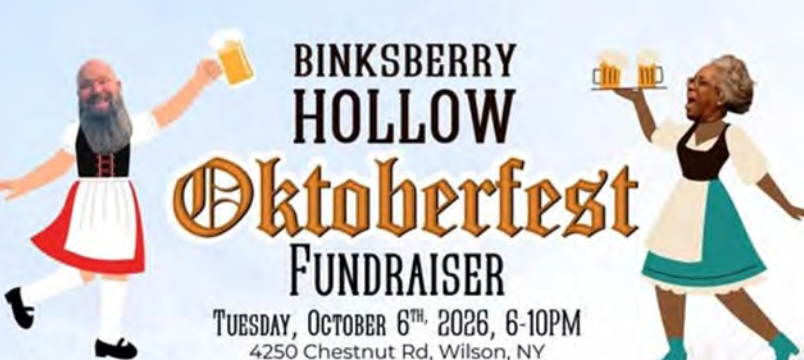
NO FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE RAFFLE. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS

NO OUTSIDE DRINKS OR ALCOHOL PERMITTED

PROCEEDS BENEFITTING SOUTH LOCKPORT FIRE CO.

SCAN HERE TO ORDER TICKETS!

FOR TICKETS & TABLE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT TONY:
716-523-6690
AHEARY@SOUTHLCKPORTFIRE.COM



BINKSBERRY HOLLOW

Oktoberfest FUNDRAISER

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2026, 6-10PM
4250 Chestnut Rd, Wilson, NY

SPONSORED BY:



Svenson Environmental Services, Inc.
Niagara Falls, USA | Established 1917

100% OF THE PROCEEDS GO TO
SOUTH WILSON VOLUNTEER
FIRE COMPANY

LIVE MUSIC FROM
The Bergholz German Band
& Whirling Disc Entertainment

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
AND CHECK OUT OUR EXCLUSIVE VIP PACKAGES!



Tickets include all food, soda, and draft beer.
*Cash bar will be available!





ST JOHNSBURG FIRE CO

CHOWDER SALE



Saturday October 3, 2026

Chowder ready @ 10:45

7165 Ward Road NT 14120

TERRY'S CORNERS VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

~ THE WORLD'S BEST GUN RAFFLE 2026 ~

ONLY 2,000 TICKETS SOLD

FREE PARTY on November 8, 2026

Noon - 4:00 PM for TICKET HOLDERS ONLY

Please make arrangements to purchase your ticket by October 31, 2026. Prizes are awarded in a gift certificate form and winners are responsible for all applicable taxes and background checks. We appreciate your past support of our Biggest Fundraiser. Again - **Thank You!** Jeff Baes, Chairman

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT.

ALL TICKETS ARE PURCHASED AT \$20.00 EACH

PREVIOUS TICKET HOLDERS WILL BE GIVEN FIRST CHANCE AT RE-PURCHASE / ALL TICKETS WILL BE SOLD FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

MAIL PAYMENT TO: Jeff Baes; 4011 Wruck Road; Gasport, NY 14067 • (716) 523-2181

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Terry's Corners Fire Co., Inc.

\$20.

Wendelville Vol. Fire Company

CHOWDER

Sale

SATURDAY, OCTOBER. 17

11:00 AM





WILSON FIRE CO. #1

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE



Wilson Fire Co. #1 Sportsman Raffle
October 3, 2026

2025 SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Doors Open at 1:00 PM • Drawing Starts at 2:00 PM

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED - TICKET HOLDERS ONLY

winner need not be present to win

TICKETS SPONSORED BY: SIEGMANN FARMS

Prizes provided by: Johnson's Country Store

www.wilsonfirecompany#1.com

DONATION \$20.00

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR RAFFLE PRIZES & MORE INFO!

SUPPORT LOCAL • WIN BIG • MAKE A DIFFERENCE

From the desk of the Fire Coordinator

Even though summer has come to an end the vibrance of summer is still hanging on. If you can get out there and enjoy these last few beautiful days! I truly hope you all had an opportunity to slow down, relax, and recharge with family and friends over the summer.

Summer 2026 has been as busy as ever! Mother Nature clearly wasn't happy this year, 2 significant rain events that caused Countywide flooding and a tornado just to top off the summer. Thank you to all the responders who went above and beyond during these events.

I also want to give a huge shout-out to everyone who participated in this year's 9/11 Step Challenge, 25 years since that fateful day. It is truly inspiring to see our first responders, their families, and members of our community come together each year to honor and remember those we lost on September 11th.

It is more important than ever that we remember: **"We Will Never Forget."**

The Niagara County Fair was another wonderful event this year, and Sparky was there to help spread some fun, safety, and education throughout our community. A huge shout-out to Bill, Chelsea, Lara and Miranda, for all their hard work and making it such a success!

As we head into fall, remember to stay positive, keep your head held high, and keep an eye on your fellow responders. The challenges we face today can help build the strength we need for tomorrow. Stay vigilant, take care of yourself, look out for one another, and most importantly—**Never Give Up!**

Once again, thank you to all of our First Responders for everything you do each and every day, and for continuing to serve and protect our communities. Your dedication, courage, and commitment never go unnoticed.

Stay safe, stay strong, and take care of one another!

Thanks for all you do,



Total App users 8,997 (and counting)



DOWNLOAD TODAY and share with friends and family

PREPARE NIAGARA



An app developed by our office to help communicate to the Niagara County community in the event of an emergency to keep the public safe and informed.

<https://apps.myocv.com/share/a58414094>

Our next newsletter will be going out on October 1st, 2026. If you would like to have an article published please feel free to get into contact with us at NCEM@niagaracounty.gov and we will get everything put in accordingly. We kindly ask that all articles be received no later than **two week's prior** to the next newsletter (date listed above).

Thank you for all that you do.

Stay safe out there!



NIAGARA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

5574 NIAGARA STREET EXT
LOCKPORT, NY 14094

716-438-3171

NCEM@NIAGARACOUNTY.GOV

[HTTP://WWW.NIAGARACOUNTY.GOV/FIRE](http://WWW.NIAGARACOUNTY.GOV/FIRE)

