



Safety First: Broome/Tioga (SCFPA) County Fire Police do an important job.

When you are driving and come upon an accident most people know what to do: slow down, look for authorities, and follow their instructions. It seems common practice, however every day emergency responders put their own lives at risk in order to save others.

But it doesn't have to be this way. If more people knew about Fire Police and what to look out for, what they do, etc. then their lives would not be in peril.

The South Central Fire Police Association is a voluntary organization of 90 members whose duty is to serve and protect firefighters and the general public. Fire Police are often times the first people the general public will meet when coming upon a fire or accident.

Fire Police are specially trained in traffic control and it is their duty to protect firefighters and apparatus, while on the other hand protecting the general public from the danger of the fire and fire fighting operations.

On occasion, fire police also assist regular police: they perform road closures, traffic control, crowd control at public events, missing persons searches, parade details, salvage, security, and other miscellaneous tasks as requested.

When on duty, Fire Police are accorded peace officer status. That means Fire Police have the authority to enforce the law and make arrests. Disobeying a Fire Officer's a request is the same as disobeying a Sheriff's Deputy or a State trooper. Assaulting a A fire policeman is a felony.

How do you recognize a fire police officer? It varies, but most times a fire police officer will be wearing an orange raincoat and yellow construction hat with a Fire Police emblem. In hot weather, a reflective orange and yellow vest may be worn instead.

They are the ones standing in the road or intersection telling you, the motorist, which way to detour. They use flashlights, whistles, orange flags, road flares and cones to try and increase their visibility and assist you.

Fire Police organizations exist in 14 states including Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. They must take an oath of office and be sworn in by a municipal clerk or official, mayor, magistrate, judge, sheriff or justice of the peace—depending upon jurisdiction and local authorizing laws.

Under New York State law, Fire Police must complete a 21-hour Fire Police certification course outlined by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice.

After which, each Fire Police member is required to take an oath of office by either Chief/Assistant Chief of the supporting fire company or the town, county or city clerk's office.

The Broome / Tioga County chapter (SCFPA) currently has around 90 members and emergency services personnel can join (they will need to complete the 21 hour fire police course within 1 year).

They meet every other month on the second Thursday @ 18:30 with a lite meal at different fire stations.

The meetings usually have guest speakers of interest to emergency responders and the law enforcement community. They also get the chance to meet the Fire Chiefs of each station.

For more information or if you are interested in joining, call President Ivr Solen @ 607-221-8347, Ron Materese, Treasurer @ 607-754-4038. or Norm Davis, Past President @ 607-343-1050

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