



Emergency Service News

OBSERVE FIRE PREVENTION EVERY DAY

National Fire Prevention Month is celebrated every October to raise awareness about the importance of fire safety. The month-long event promotes life-saving practices and home fire safety education.

The theme for National Fire Prevention Month 2023 is “Cooking Safety Starts with You.” The theme highlights the importance of practicing safe cooking skills at home.

Cooking is the leading cause of all home fires in 2023 (49%) and continues to climb due to inattentive cooking practices, faulty appliances, and general negligence. Here are the five key steps to look out for to protect yourself and your family from a cooking fire.

1. Pay Attention to What You’re Cooking

It might sound obvious to some, but not paying attention while you’re cooking leads to hundreds of cooking-related house fires every year. People sometimes leave a pot on the stove or something in the oven, forget about it (or take a nap), and next thing you know, a fire has broken loose. Pay attention when using the stove, microwave, or other cooking appliance. Something as simple as burnt food leads to costly and dangerous fires.

2. Watch Your Surroundings

While paying attention to your food, don’t forget to look at your surroundings. If you’re not careful, there’s a large amount of potentially explosive items in your kitchen. Clothes, towels, and household cleaning products are all risky if near an open flame. To avoid accidental fires, keep objects away from your stove, microwave, and other open flames.

3. Pot Handles

It’s not always a fire starter. Whatever food you have heating up in your pans is scalding hot, and if someone accidentally knocks it over or onto someone, they’ll experience severe burns. To avoid such accidents, ensure the pan handles are always pointed to the side or towards the back of the stove. Anything left hanging over on the edge in someone’s walking path is dangerous stress.

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VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2023

Join us in honoring America’s veterans for their courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice.



Thank You
VETERANS

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



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TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR



The New York State 911 Coordinators' Association held its annual Fall Conference at the Penn Yan Seasons on Keuka Lake, Yates County, October 17-19. More than one hundred 911 emergency coordinators,

first responders, and communications industry experts, representing all 62 New York counties, were in attendance. In addition to training and networking opportunities, industry updates from state and federal partners, and a vendor showcase of the latest equipment and technology available, the Association also held an awards luncheon.

Genesee County Emergency Services Dispatcher Andrew K. Merkel was posthumously awarded the association's Telecommunicator of the Year Award. This Award is presented annually by the association that recognizes a 911 Telecommunicator for his/her accomplishments, sacrifice, and exceptional leadership skills. Dispatcher Merkel was nominated by Genesee County 911 Emergency Services Director Frank Riccobono on behalf of the entire communications staff at the Genesee County Sheriff's Office.

Dispatcher Merkel was hired by the Genesee County Sheriff's Office as an Emergency Services Dispatcher on October 1, 2011, and diligently served the citizens of Genesee County until his unexpected death on March 21, 2023, after a brief illness.

During his career at the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, Dispatcher Merkel was awarded four Commendations which recognized separate acts or projects that reflect courage, exceptional performance and dedication to both the profession and his agency. He also received a Meritorious Service award in recognition of his exceptional performance of duties sus-

tained over an extended period. Dispatcher Merkel also served as a Communications Training Officer, teaching the next generation of dispatchers.

Dispatcher Merkel was well respected by his coworkers and first responders throughout the county for his dedication and professionalism. His passion for public safety extended beyond the Genesee County Sheriff's Office, including volunteering with the Alabama Volunteer Fire Department; and prior to becoming a dispatcher, he spent six years working for Mercy EMS, Genesee County's local ambulance provider.

Director Riccobono stated, "Often, dispatchers are referred to as the voice of the first responders that you never see. This award is one way to show his family, friends, coworkers and dispatchers across the state that Andy's years of dedicated service will not be forgotten."

Dispatcher Merkel's wife, Kelly, was present to accept the award on behalf of her late husband. Kelly was accompanied by their daughter, Kaylee, and Dispatcher Merkel's parents, Kelly and Susan Merkel.



First row, left to right: Susan Merkel, Kaylee Merkel, Kelly Merkel, Kelly Merkel. **Second row, left to right:** Dispatcher John M. Eddy, Dispatcher Nathan L. Fix, Director Frank A. Riccobono, Sr. Dispatcher Jason W. Holman, Sr. Dispatcher John W. Spencer. Also present at the awards luncheon, but not pictured, were Undersheriff Bradley D. Mazur and Chief Deputy Joseph M. Graff.

FIRE TRAINING UPDATE

Since July 2023, the following training courses have been completed, are in progress or will be offered in Genesee County.

Personnel meeting the prerequisites are encouraged to participate in training programs to acquire the specified skills and knowledge as well as ensuring your safety, the safety of your fellow responders and the community you serve.

COMPLETED COURSES

Aviation First Responder – This 3-hour course was held on July 8 with (30) students participating.

Introduction to Class B Foam – This 4 hr. course was held on July 24 with (20) first responders participating.

Railroad Investigation & Safety Course—(16) firefighters participating in this 4-hr. Class held on July 17.

Basic Passenger Vehicle Rescue – This 15 hr. course was held from Aug. 8-12 with (11) students.

Battery Emergencies & Electrical Storage Systems – This 2-hr class, was held on August 14 with (21) students participating.

Firefighter II - Fifteen (15) responders completed this 42-hr. course which was conducted during the months of Aug. & Sept..

Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention – Twenty-three (23) firefighters attended this 2-hr class held on August 21.

Grain Bin Safety – The 4-hr. class was held on Aug. 16 with (20) participants.

Officer Development: Company Training & Community Risk Reduction – (9) students participated in this 12-hr. fire-officer module which concluded on Oct. 4, 2023.

Group Home & Disability Awareness for the Fire Service - (12) students attended this 3-hr class held on Oct. 16.

CURRENT COURSES

Fireground Strategy & Tactics for First Arriving Companies – Preparing officers for incident commander, this 15-hr course will run from Nov. 1 through Dec. 6.

Water Rescue Awareness Level—This 4-hr. class will be offered in the East and West Battalions in November (11/13/23 & 11/27/23)

Hazardous Materials Incident Command—Four (4) day-time offerings of this 16-hr. course are being held at the City of Batavia Fire Dept. during the months of January and February.



ESU UPDATE

The ESU Team has been busy training on Rope Rescue throughout the summer months. On Saturday, September 16th the ESU team participated in a Rope Rescue drill conducted on a private piece of property in Alexander, NY. The drill consisted of multiple evolutions where rope rescue technicians under the direction of a team leader performed rescues utilizing all of the necessary skills and equipment associated with rope rescue operations.



**I WANT YOU
TO BE A FIREFIGHTER**
Contact your local fire department or
Office of Emergency Management
for details.
Ems.dept@co.genesee.ny.us

MANAGING CHAOS WORKSHOP



The NYS DHSES Managing Chaos Workshop, held at Genesee Community College on October 5, 2023, whose target audience is for senior officials and decision makers strives to help senior leadership survive and thrive during a crisis. The workshop delivery team included members of academia as well as individuals working in crisis leadership rolls such as the Retired Police Chief of the City of Boston who had an active roll during the Boston Marathon bombing.

The team of presenters shared insight from crisis situations; sharing information, ideas and best practices regarding crisis leadership, crisis decision-making, and crisis communications.

Attendees included officials from the County, City, town and villages, representatives from fire/EMS and law enforcement, Emergency Management as well as School Superintendents.



WELCOME "LIZ" - NEW STAFF AT OEM



Elizabeth has a B.S. in Psychology and a Minor in Business Economics from Buffalo State College. She enjoys spending time with her family and close friends. Liz is also passionate about her dog "Bear," and spending the summers with her husband, Matt on Lake Alice.

Liz stated that she looks forward to the personal growth she will gain as part of the office. The staff of Emergency Management are excited to add her as part of the EMO team.

Welcome Liz!

On November 6th, Elizabeth "Liz" Allen will start as the Financial Management Assistant for the Genesee County Office of Emergency Management.

WINGS OVER BATAVIA AIR SHOW

Labor Day Weekend was a busy weekend for Genesee County first responders. After 25 years, the Genesee County Airport hosted an Airshow like no others have seen before.

The show started with the American Flag being parachuted in, while the star spangled banner was broadcast over the PA system. The evening included acrobatic maneuvers that lite up the sky. Along with the acrobatic planes, there was a presence off military aircraft that performed the Heritage Flight which consisted of the A10, F22, and the P51. The exciting evening ended with a display of aircraft flying through the fireworks display. Tora Tora Tora Pyro Team lite up the sky with a wall of fire for the event finale each evening.

The airshow took more than a years' worth of planning involving many meetings as well as special aviation training for the involved agencies. Training consisted of identifying fuel shut off switches, battery isolation and information on how to operate the doors and or cockpit covers to gain access to a pilot in the event of an emergency. During the practice session held on the Friday before the show, first responders participated in a walkthrough of each aircraft that was performing in the

air show. The Town of Batavia Fire Department provided the primary fire protection for the event with the assistance of Alabama Fire, Elba Fire, East Pembroke Fire, City of Batavia Fire and Genesee County Emergency Management. Mercy EMS provided Emergency Medical Service for the event.

The weekend was a huge success and testament of the dedication of the first responders of Genesee County.





On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will occur and be visible to tens of millions of people in North America which hasn't occurred since 1925. The Moon will pass between the Sun and the Earth completely blocking the face of the sun, darkening the sky as if it were dusk. The whole event will take about two and a half hours, but totality will only last about four minutes. Remember that the closer you are to the centerline the longer totality will last.

Genesee County sits directly in the path of totality where viewers are expected to experience the eclipse beginning at 3:19 PM. Solar eclipse glasses or a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics of any camera lens, binoculars or telescope are necessary to avoid severe eye injury when viewing a solar eclipse.

Visit <https://visitgeneseeny.com/2024-eclipse> for more information about the 2024 eclipse, special events in Genesee County, to purchase solar eclipse glasses or GeneSEE the Eclipse merchandise.



PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING

Driving in Fall and Winter Weather

With fall here and winter weather fast approaching, it is important to remember that driving on wet leaves is equally as hazardous as driving on snow and ice.

Be sure to slow down your speed. It is harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. Also be sure to increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.

Don't crowd a snow plow or travel beside the truck. Snow plows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. If you find yourself behind a snow plow, stay far enough behind it and use caution if you pass the plow.

What to Do in an Emergency

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, stay focused on yourself, your passengers, your car and your surroundings.

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.
- Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm.
- Don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

Gas Up or Plug It In

- Keep your gas tank close to full whenever possible.
- For electric and hybrid-electric vehicles, decrease the drain on the battery. In general, lithium ion batteries have reduced energy at lower temperatures. Additionally, most all vehicle batteries will use battery power for self-heating in low temperatures. The battery drain due to heating can be minimized by keeping your electric vehicle as warm as possible during freezing temperatures. A common way to do this: plug your vehicle in at night during the winter, keeping the battery temperature in its optimal ranges.

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DARIEN FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Darien Fire has been busy this fall with a number of events.

On September 11, Darien Fire Department brought home the new Tanker 47 which was put into service on October 23 after responders completing their initial training on the new truck. The apparatus is equipped to serve as an Engine or a Tanker with a 1500 GPM pump, 3000 gallon tank, full complement of hose lines, ladders, port-a-pond and other equipment which was used on the previous trucks. This truck replaces two pieces of equipment – the 1994 Tanker and the 1996 Engine.



On October 13, Darien Fire assisted the Alexander and East Pembroke Fire Departments with Fire Prevention activities at the Alexander and Pembroke Elementary Schools. On October 20, Darien Fire personnel, along with the Corfu Fire Department, visited the Pembroke Intermediate School. The kids loved hearing about the trucks and especially getting in the seat that the firefighters ride when going to the fires!



We are looking forward to 2024. We have plans to purchase additional equipment and tools to help first responders serve our community and training opportunities planned with neighboring departments to better prepare us to work together at any emergency scene.

CITY OF BATAVIA FIRE DEPARTMENT SHARES FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

City of Batavia firefighters visited elementary schools throughout the City of Batavia during the month of October as firefighters and students participated in Fire Prevention Month.

City Firefighters treated students to an up close view of the City's fire apparatus, presented firefighters in personal protective equipment and educated students on fire safety. Over 400 students participated in the 10th Annual Fire Prevention Contest where the 1st place winner will receive a ride to school on a City Fire Engine. An award luncheon will be held for all 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Congratulations to the following contest winners:

Grade K-1:

- 1st Place:
- 2nd Place:
- 3rd Place:

Thomas VanRemmen, Jackson School
Everleigh D., St. Josephs School
Bryson Lee , Jackson School

Grades 2-3:

- 1st Place:
- 2nd Place:
- 3rd Place:

De'Aungelo Rolle-, John Kennedy School
Josephina Varland, St Paul Lutheran School
Claire Lutey, St. Josephs School

Grades 4-5:

- 1st Place:
- 2nd Place:
- 3rd Place:

Caleb Janis, St Paul Lutheran School
Raven Casey, Batavia Middle School
Lyla McClellan, St. Paul Lutheran School



FIRE PREVENTION AT OAKFIELD-ALABAMA ELEMENATY SCHOOL

Members of the Oakfield Fire Department brought important lessons on fire prevention and removed the fears that can sometimes come with seeing a firefighter dressed in full firefighting gear.

Oakfield Fire Chief Sean Downing, Assistant Chief Pete Scheiber, EMS Captain Annette Johnson, FF Joe Bradt, FF Chad Hilchey, and FF Noah Toal, visited elementary students on October 17, 2023 to explain the purpose of the firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE) in an attempt to remove the anxiety that can sometimes come with seeing a firefighter in a dark, stressful environment. Firefighters donned their gear piece by piece to eliminate any chance of causing fear to a child.

Since the 1920s, October has been observed as fire prevention month.



FIRE PREVENTION 2023

Over the last few weeks, multiple Fire Departments traveled to the Genesee County Schools to Participate in Fire Prevention week! Below are some photos that represent what Fire Prevention and Education means to our Firefighters!



Fire Coordinator Patnode Explaining to the Pembroke 1st graders the importance of Fire Safety!



Stafford Firefighter Henning showing off the SCBA Mask at Wolcott Street School!



Bergen Safety Officer Cummings discussing Fire Safety and the importance of the tools on the Ladder 26!



Corfu Firefighter Lang talks about the importance of having a "meeting place" with the students at the Pembroke Primary School.

CHALLENGE COINS

The time has finally come!

The Genesee County Fire Advisory Board will be selling Challenge coins for \$15 a coin! The coin features a Maltese cross that shows the MANY disciplines that the office has to offer on the front side, and a photo of the Fire Training Center with sequential numbering on the face itself! The expected date for delivery will be December 1st!



Pre order now by texting or calling Tyler at (585) 813-2560!

GENESEE COUNTY JAIL UPDATE



BACKGROUND

The current Genesee County Jail, built in 1902 and expanded in 1985, is outdated and not meeting the needs of the people of Genesee County. It does not have the ability to house female inmates and is operating under variances from the Commission of Corrections

The new 101,377 square foot jail will have 184 beds in a four pod configuration and will also house the Jail Administration staff along with Genesee Justice.

PLANNING PHASE

Genesee County staff including members of the County Managers Office, Sheriffs Office, Engineering, and Facilities staff have been working with our architect partners at SMRT and construction manager, Pike since 2018 on the design of the building.

Construction commenced in May 2022 and is expected to be completed on time in March 2024.

The total bid amount for all six prime contractors was \$57.3 Million.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

There is a lot of work happening at the facility daily, at the peak of construction there were more than 100 workers onsite.

The contractors have moved onto the interior finishes phase of construction, all of the structural elements are in place and the building is weathertight. Landscaping is being installed, HVAC systems are being turned on and tested, permanent light fixtures are being installed, plumbing fixtures are being installed and flushed, and final painting and flooring is being completed.



PROJECT QUICK FACTS

- 55,000 CY Earthwork
- 115,000 Building Concrete Masonry Units
- 190 Ton Structural Steel
- 57.5 Ton HVAC Ductwork
- 19 Miles Electrical Wiring
- 1,800 Electrical Light Fixtures

GO HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS UPDATES

As the cold air begins to get a little sharper, days a little shorter, and all the signs of autumn surround us, it is an excellent time to remember important emergency preparedness steps and be proactive. A good guide for “being ready” involves three preparedness areas: checks, plans, and kits.



Checks



Plans



Kits

Make preparedness **checks**, ensuring everything is up-to-date:

- Smoke detector on every floor and near every sleeping area (test them monthly)
- Carbon monoxide detector on every floor at waist level (test them monthly)
- Fire extinguisher for each floor of your home

Make **plans** for cold weather power outages and other emergencies:

- Keep essential items stocked and available in anticipation of severe weather
- Aside from supplies and alternate sources of power or heat, remember the importance of ventilation and the dangers of carbon monoxide
- Portable generators should be more than 20ft away from your home, doors, and windows
- Keep tailpipes free from snow or other debris if a car is stuck in the snow with people inside
- Review and update plans to quickly evacuate your home during a fire or other emergency
- Review and update plans to quickly evacuate out of your local area, should you be advised to do so.

Make grab-and-go emergency **kits**

- Basic first aid kit
- Grab-and-go kits for larger emergencies with useful supplies and essential medical needs

The 2023 national preparedness theme is preparing older adults for disasters. This is a good time to reach out to older adults in your life, making sure they know what to do and whom to contact during any severe weather or other emergencies. GO Health Emergency Preparedness supports these themes at the local county level once they are established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and www.Ready.gov.

To learn more about safety trainings and local public health emergency preparedness, visit GOHealthNY.org/phep. If you would like to sign up to be a volunteer with the GO Health VALOR Medical Reserve Corps, including both healthcare and non-healthcare members, complete an application at surveymonkey.com/r/MRC_Application.

For more information on general Health Department services, emerging issues, or current communicable disease information, visit GOHealthNY.org or call 585-344-2580 x5555.

PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING

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STOCK YOUR VEHICLE

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, and supplies you might need in an emergency, including:

- a snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper;
- abrasive material (sand or kitty litter), in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow;
- jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices (flares and emergency markers);
- blankets for protection from the cold; and
- a cell phone and charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

Plan Your Route

Check your local weather and traffic reports before heading out. If your roads are not in good shape, consider postponing non-essential travel until the roads are cleared. If you do have to go out, make sure you are prepared in case you become delayed while traveling. If making a long road trip when winter weather is forecasted, consider leaving early or changing your departure to avoid being on the roads during the worst of the storm.

Familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time. Plan enough time to stop to stretch, get something to eat, check your phone, and change drivers and rest..

IT'S VACCINATION TIME!



This fall we are once again encouraged to take protective measures against respiratory viruses by getting the flu shot and the updated COVID-19 vaccine. The new COVID vaccine is better formulated to target the circulating variants, just like the flu shot is targeted each year. With both flu and COVID-19 transmission expected to increase during the fall and winter seasons, getting both vaccines will provide meaningful protection against serious illness or hospitalization.

The flu and COVID-19 are both contagious, respiratory viral infections that can have similar symptoms, making it difficult to distinguish between the two illnesses. People with chronic conditions, including those that affect the lungs and heart, young children, elderly populations, and pregnant people have a higher risk of developing serious complications from the flu and COVID-19.

Adults and children ages 6 months and older are encouraged to get both the annual flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine. Both vaccines can be given at the same time.

WINTER SPORTS SAFETY

<https://healthmatters.nyp.org/winter-sports-safety-how-to-prevent-injuries-while-enjoying-outdoor-activities/>

Enjoying activities like skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, hockey and sledding are great ways to get outside during the long, cold winter months of Western New York, but they can also be dangerous.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people suffer injuries from these and other outdoor winter sports. Common winter sports injuries include fractures, sprains, strains, concussions and joint dislocations. The location of the injuries varies from sport to sport.

How to Prevent Winter Sports Injuries

Fortunately, most of these injuries are preventable. The following steps can help reduce your risk of injury during your favorite winter activity.

- **Shape up.** Stay in shape and condition muscles prior to participating in winter activities. "It's impossible to prevent all ligament injuries, but core strengthening, hip strengthening and stability training keep the arms and legs in peak condition, so you minimize your risk of injury.
- **Don't go from zero to 100.** Warm up with light exercises or stretches, and ease into the activity. Cold muscles, tendons and ligaments are more prone to injury.
- **Protection is a must.** Always wear the appropriate protective gear for the activity, like helmets, goggles, wrist guards, and knee and/or elbow pads.
- **Test your equipment.** Before going on your first run, make sure all your equipment is in good working order.
- **Learn how to fall.** Shoulder, elbow and wrist injuries can result from trying to brace during a fall. Take a lesson or two from a trained instructor, who will provide direction on how to fall correctly.

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DON'T WALK IN THE DARK

[://www.99walks.fit/blog/2022/2/4/9-tips-for-walking](http://www.99walks.fit/blog/2022/2/4/9-tips-for-walking)



Don't let the short winter days interfere with your walking practice! If you find yourself starting or ending your day with a walk in the dark, here are some tips to help keep you safe:

Grab a flashlight or a headlamp. A great way to keep your pathway lite-up is to use a flashlight or the hands-free option of illuminating your path is by wearing a headlamp. They're lightweight, super bright, and are easy to strap onto your head or hat.

Add a reflector to your back. We often think about lighting our path so we can see where we're going, but traffic approaching from behind may not be able to see you. Try wearing a reflector on your back that will catch the light from anyone approaching you from behind.

Gear up. Reflective vests, bands, belts and sashes will help you be seen, and a whistle will help you be heard in case of an emergency. Make sure you also have your mobile phone with you in case you need to get in touch with someone for any reason.

Walk someplace familiar. Walking in the dark is not the time to explore new terrain. Stick to places you know, which can not only help keep you from getting lost, but also help you avoid any uneven surfaces that may trip you up.

Tell someone where you're going. This is a good rule of thumb all the time, but it's especially important when you're out walking in the dark. In case of an emergency, having someone to call or look out for you is always for the best. You may even consider bringing a friend with you and "buddying" up!

Wear bright colors. Dark colors and darkness just don't mix. Instead, put on some brighter colors that might stand out to any oncoming traffic that might not see you if you blend into your surroundings.

Dress for colder temps. When the sun has set, temperatures tend to dip considerably, so keep that in mind when you head out for a walk after dark. Add an extra layer (or two!) of warmth to keep you cozy.

Walk against traffic. Just as important as it is for oncoming traffic to see you, it's important for you to also see oncoming traffic. It helps you make sure you stay in the clear in case others on the street aren't aware of your presence.

Be aware. Keeping your head up and ears open while walking in the dark will help keep you safe from surprises, like other pedestrians, animals or traffic that might come out of nowhere. It may also show any on-lookers that you are paying attention to your surroundings and prepared to act if necessary.

A lack of sunshine shouldn't keep you inside when a walk in the dark may be just the thing to kick off or wind down your day. As long as you follow a few safety precautions, you'll find that nothing can stop you from getting the exercise you need to stay happy and healthy all year long.

HOW TO PREVENT SPORTS INJURIES

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- **Know and follow safety rules.** For example, stay within the marked ski and snowboard trails, and learn how to safely get on and off the ski lift.
- **Know your limits.** Choose slopes and maneuvers that match your skill level.
- **Stop when you're tired.** Accidents are more likely to occur when you're fatigued.
- **Layer up.** Clothes that become damp from sweat can lower your body temperature. Wear a breathable base layer, add one or two insulating layers, and a water and windproof outer layer to ensure you stay warm and dry. Make sure to wear appropriate socks and footwear as well.
- **Stay hydrated.** Drink water before, during and after the activity.



Thanksgiving is a wonderful time to gather with friends and family, eat delicious food, watch football (or the parade!), and travel to visit loved ones. While enjoying the holiday, and as things might get hectic, it is important to always keep safety in mind.

Top **safety hazards during the Thanksgiving holiday** include:

- **FIRE** ... kitchen fires, candles and outdoor deep fryers
- **FOOD** ... choking and poisoning, cuts and burns during food preparation
- **TRAVEL** ... car accidents, driving while intoxicated or distracted

KITCHEN SAFETY

- Keep children away from the stove.
- Do not leave the house while the turkey is cooking.
- Ensure the kitchen floor is kept clear and doesn't have any trip hazards.
- Keep matches, lighters, candles and knives out of the reach of children.

Thanksgiving is the #1 day of the year for cooking fires. Kitchen safety is even more important than usual during busy holiday times, when more people might be working in the kitchen to prepare a large meal.

HOLIDAY FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

- Keep baking soda on hand to put out kitchen fires.
- Do not leave food cooking or the stove unsupervised.
- Make sure smoke alarms are working.
- A household fire extinguisher should always be nearby.
- Do not leave candles burning unattended and do not burn candles near flammable items.
- Follow all instructions carefully when using a deep fryer and monitor closely!

Incidents of choking and food poisoning increase during the holidays, especially around Thanksgiving, as people are preparing and consuming more food than usual. .

FOOD SAFETY

- Always wash your hands after handling raw or under cooked poultry.

- Use separate cutting boards for raw meat and produce to prevent cross-contamination.
- The USDA recommends cooking the turkey at a minimum of 325 degrees. Use a food thermometer and cook the turkey to an internal temperature of 165 to 180 degrees to ensure the turkey is cooked thoroughly and to avoid illness caused by consuming under-cooked poultry. Store leftovers within 2 hrs. or toss them.

PET SAFETY

The Veterinary Medical Association warns that turkey and chicken bones should never be given to pets because they can splinter and pets may choke. Dogs should be kept away from any dish that has onions, leeks, garlic, raisins, grapes or chocolate, as those foods can be hazardous to your dog's health.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL SAFETY

With Thanksgiving being one of the most travel-heavy times of the year, it is important to be prepared before hitting the road and to drive defensively, especially during bad weather.

- Buckle up, every trip.
- Make sure your vehicle is well maintained.
- Plan your route ahead of time.
- Carry an emergency kit in the car.
- Be aware of weather conditions.
- No texting while driving.
- Do not drink and drive.

OBSERVE FIRE PREVENTION-

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4. Keep Your Kitchen Clean

A clean kitchen is a safe kitchen.

Clutter can turn into kindling for a fire in the kitchen, and a greasy stove top can make putting out fires more difficult. By keeping your kitchen clean, you are reducing the possibility of a fire from starting but also increasing your ability to put out a fire quickly.

5. Kid and Pet-Free Zones

If you have children or pets, you know they sometimes have a mind of their own. In the case of the kitchen, keeping them out protects everyone. All you need is one pan knocked over one switch turned on, and there can be a fire.

Instead, put up baby gates around the kitchen and train your pets that the kitchen is not an area for them. Trust us; it will save you a lot of trouble and stress.

6. Buy a Fire Extinguisher

If you haven't already, now is the time to invest in a small kitchen fire extinguisher. You never know when an accident will occur, so it's best to have the tools necessary to prevent something even worse from happening.

<https://allegiantfire.net/news/fire-prevention-month/#:~:text=National%20Fire%20Prevention%20Month%20is,8th%20until%20the%2014th%2C%>



GET YOUR GENESEE COUNTY FIRE TRAINING CENTER APPAREL TODAY!

T-Shirts - \$15!

Long Sleeve - \$20!

Hoodies - \$35!



Must be a member of an authorized public safety agency to order.

EMAIL: TYLER.LANG@CO.GENESEE.NY.US

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Participating in elections is one of the key freedoms of American life. Many people in countries around the world do not have the same freedom, nor did many Americans in centuries past.

No matter what you believe or whom you support, it is important to exercise your rights.

Vote—November 7, 2023!

IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER!!

Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, etc. are just around the corner and this is a great time of year for families and friends to reconnect. But they can also present seasonal safety hazards.

HOLIDAY DECORATING TIPS

During the holiday season, there is an average of approximately 160 decorating related injuries - half of those injuries are associated with falls. Here are some tips to make your holiday decorating safer:

- Never use furniture as a ladder.
- Follow the 1-to-4 rule for extension ladders: for every four feet the ladder rises, move the base out one foot from the structure.
- Always keep three points of contact on the ladder: two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand.
- Inspect the ladder for any damage prior to using it.
- Use the right ladder for the task at hand.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS



Between 2015 and 2019, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) indicates an average of 160 home fires, per year, started with Christmas trees. Those fires resulted in an annual average of two deaths, 12 injuries and over \$10 million in property damage.

- Avoid electrical fires by purchasing lights from reputable retailers and only those approved by nationally recognized testing labs like UL, Intertek or CSA.
- Inspect both indoor and outdoor lights for broken sockets, frayed wired and loose connections.
- Don't overload outlets with too many electrical devices. This could cause a fire.

FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Being aware of fire safety tips can have a big impact in helping to keep your home safe while you are decorating during the holidays.

Even with all those Christmas tree fires, cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires and injuries. According to the NFPA many fires occur on Thanksgiving and Christmas day. Here are some holiday fire safety tips:

- Avoid using candles if possible. Consider using battery-operated ones.
- Mantels are beautiful when covered with stockings and greenery. But these items are flammable. If you use your fireplace frequently, consider hanging these decorations somewhere else.
- Be sure to check the Christmas tree. Make sure it has plenty of water and it isn't near heat sources.
- When cooking, pay close attention to what you're doing and your surroundings.
- Keep a fire extinguisher close by.
- Be sure you have smoke detectors at least 10 feet from your stove, and test them monthly.





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Ready Genesee App
(for planning, preparedness and county specific alerts and updates.)
<http://readydl.com/landing/eoc36037/index.html>

Genesee County Web Site
<http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/>

Emergency Management Page
<http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/ems/index.html>

Emergency Management Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/GeneseeOEM/>

Ready Genesee Web Site
<http://www.readygenesee.com/>