

Burglary in Town of Niagara leads to shelter in place

Submitted by the Town of Niagara Police Department and Acting Chief Craig Guiliani
On Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 5:12 p.m., officers from the Town of Niagara Police Department were dispatched to 8521 Porter Road (Royal Park Apartments) for a Burglary in progress.

Upon arrival, a Town of Niagara officer approached the rear of the apartment in question and

observed a male attempting to exit the upper window. That male reentered the apartment, displayed a firearm out the same window, and subsequently fired three rounds at the Town of Niagara officer. That officer was not struck and was able to retreat to cover.

Town officers, along with deputies from the Niagara County Sheriff's Office and New York State Police, covered the front of the apartment, where three males exited and

were taken into custody without incident.

Information was given that four males entered the apartment. Out of an abundance of caution due to shots being fired at officers, a shelter in place was issued to area residents, and the NCSO Emergency Response Team was activated to clear the apartment.

NCSO ERT and Lewiston Police Department K-9 Shadow cleared the apartment. No other suspects were located.

The shelter-in-place has been lifted, and the scene has been deemed secure and safe.

The Niagara Sheriff's Office criminal investigation bureau is continuing with the investigation. Further information will be released when it becomes available.

Agencies assisting included the Niagara County Sheriff's Office CIB, ID and ERT; New York State Police; Lewiston Police and K-9 Shadow.

House fire in Wilson

Submitted by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office

On Jan. 18, at 11:45 p.m., the Niagara County Sheriff's Office communications center received 911 calls reporting a residential structure fire at 140 Harbor St., in the Village of Wilson.

Upon arrival, deputies found three residents to be evacuated from their fully engulfed home. A 35-year-old male was transported to ECMC, and was listed in serious condition in the burn unit. A 5-year-old child was transported by ambulance

to Oishei Children's Hospital, then transferred to Strong Memorial Hospital in critical condition for his burns. A 41-year-old female was uninjured and accompanied her son to the hospital. Three dogs were rescued by deputies from the fire scene

and given to neighbors for safekeeping at the owner's request.

There is no property damage estimate available at this time, and the cause of the fire is under investigation by the Niagara County Origin and Cause Team.

Hochul announces state cancer prevention efforts to protect firefighters & their families during Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

Newly announced decontamination protocols reduce firefighters' exposure to toxic contaminants by 85%

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the state's Office of Fire Prevention and Control will begin new outreach efforts to help protect New York's firefighters and their families from the threat of cancer. State fire officials initially launched a similar outreach program in early 2020, which was placed on hold due to the pandemic. This new initiative coincides with January's Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, raising awareness among the fire service on how to develop life-saving protocols for cancer prevention, and to support those who've already received a cancer diagnosis within their fire departments.

"The state's firefighters bravely risk their own lives and safety every day to protect their fellow New Yorkers," Hochul said. "Sadly, cancer is a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of all of our fire service members, and we are committed to ensuring that these heroes have the most up-to-date guidance

and information so they can enjoy a long, safe career and live a healthy life."

New York State Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Jackie Bray said, "The brave women and men of New York's fire service protect us from danger every day. However, too many lives of firefighters are being lost to cancer. During Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, we are ramping up efforts to educate the fire service and mitigate their risks of exposure to carcinogens found in smoke. I am proud of our state fire team for leading the way on this initiative, providing in-person training sessions and distributing decontamination kits to fire departments across the state."

Hochul's team stated, "Studies have shown firefighters are at a higher risk of cancer than the general public, largely due to their exposure to an increased level of toxins found in smoke at struc-

ture fires. To ensure New York's firefighters are not only aware of this threat but also know how to limit their own risk, state fire officials developed basic protocols for decontaminating firefighting gear following a response call and will be traveling throughout the state to promote their use by firefighters. Research has shown that fire service members can take simple and inexpensive steps to reduce their exposure, as well as protect their families, to toxins and other carcinogens by up to 85%."

State fire officials have begun working with counties across the state to schedule firefighter decontamination reduction and cancer prevention classes. At these meetings, state fire officials will distribute firefighter decontamination kits to attendees. These kits contain information on decontamination immediately after incident response, and items such as a five-gallon bucket, post-fire wipes, hose, detergent, brush and spray bottle.

New York State Fire Administrator Jim Cable said, "We are thrilled to continue our program educating members of the state fire service on immediate steps they can take to protect themselves following an

incident response. Sadly, cancer is now the leading cause of firefighter deaths in the nation. Our goal is to reduce occupational illness by educating our brothers and sisters in the fire service on specific measures they can take to reduce exposure to contaminants and lower their health risks."

Hochul's team said, "If firefighting turnout gear is not decontaminated properly after a fire, firefighters risk exposing harmful chemicals to their firehouses and homes, potentially harming coworkers and family members. According to two studies conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), firefighters are currently being diagnosed with cancer at a nearly 10% higher rate than the general public, and experiencing cancer-related deaths at a nearly 15% higher rate.

"To combat these trends, DHSES and OFPC have established basic, inexpensive protocols which will go a long way in limiting firefighters' exposure to harmful chemicals often found in smoke.

"If exposed during a response, firefighters should:

- √ "Perform on scene gross decontamination, stop the exposure, and stop the spread of contaminants to the apparatus and station.
 - √ "While on scene, use post-fire wipes to reduce exposures.
 - √ "Shower as soon as possible and put on clean clothes.
 - √ "Wash tools, equipment and apparatus after fires.
 - √ "Transport gear in nonporous containers such as a clear garbage bag.
 - √ "Wear only clean gear, including hood."
- Starting this month, state experts

will travel across New York to bring these protocols directly to firefighters via in-person educational sessions at local fire departments. At each session, firefighters will view a live demonstration of the new decontamination protocols, a new educational video that details the protocols and the risks facing firefighters, and have an opportunity for a Q&A with OFPC personnel involved in developing the protocols. Additionally, OFPC is expanding its entire roster of firefighting classes and trainings to include a section on cancer awareness and prevention education."

New sessions are being scheduled on a rolling basis. Firefighters looking to attend or host an educational session can view the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control's training calendar, or contact their county's fire coordinator.

The Office of Fire Prevention and Control delivers a wide breadth of essential services to firefighters, emergency responders, state and local government agencies, public and private colleges, and the citizens of New York to help ensure the safety of all stakeholders. OFPC advances public safety through firefighter training, education, fire prevention, investigative, special operations, and technical rescue programs.

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