

Secretary's Musings

Volume 42, Issue 2

December 2008

2009 Edition of Chaplains Manual & Training DVD

The New York State Association of Fire Chaplains is proud to announce the publication of the 2009 edition of "A Chaplains Manual." This manual includes a section of general information along with sections of updated prayers and ceremonies. Also included are a new ceremony for the graveside, a section of scripture readings from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions, and a suggested protocol for fire department funerals.

The association is also pleased to present a new 3 part training DVD. The three parts of this DVD, entitled "Chaplain Training Series" are:

Part 1: *The Role of the Fire Chaplain*

Part 2: *Line of Duty Death*

Part 3: *Unexpected Injury or Death Notification*

Place your order on the enclosed order sheet.

Holiday Greetings from the Chief Chaplain

On behalf of myself, the deputy chiefs, officers, and the Board of Directors, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and the happiest of New Year to all.

Chief Chaplain Rich Holst

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference will be held at the NYS Academy of Fire Science in Montour Falls, NY, on April 26-29, 2009. Training is being planned, arrangements are being worked out and information will be available in late February. Mark your calendars now and make plans for a great conference.

2009 Dues

The 2009 renewal notices are being sent out with this communiqué. Please take time to review and fill out the information requested. This information is what we have listed for each member and we wish to keep things current. Especially check the information for email, phone numbers, and training information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** 2009 Editions of Chaplains Manual & Training DVD
- 1** Letter from the Chief Chaplain, 2009 Conference & Dues
- 2** Levels of Chaplains and NIMS Compliant
- 2** CATSM vs. CISM
- 2** Special Thanks

Level of Chaplains

In our NIMS Plan of action, we have established a three tiered level of chaplain activity. Level One chaplains are available to be deployed outside of the state of New York for any possible emergency while Level Two chaplains are available to be deployed inside the state of New York for any possible emergency situation. Level Three chaplains are all other chaplains in the association.

With each of the upper levels of availability, there are certain training credentials that are expected to be met and certified. Copies of these certifications are to be in your personnel file with the association.

The plan of action can be found at

<http://www.nysafc.org/NIMS-Plan-of-Action.pdf>.

NIMS Compliant

All members are encouraged to be trained in NIMS Courses 100, 200, & 700. Courses 100 & 700 are introductory courses and Course 200 is a more detailed class. All firefighters are to be trained to this level. Please send copies of your certification to the Executive Secretary.

CATSM vs. CISM

In the past few years there have been questions about the effectiveness of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Recently the NYS Department of Health has stated that the CISM model is not acceptable for use. The association began training at the last conference on Comprehensive Acute Traumatic Stress Management (CATSM). All chaplains are encouraged to be trained in this model.

Special Thanks

Special thanks go out to the many people who had a hand in updating the 2009 "A Chaplains Manual." We begin with the committee of Treasurer Ed Billia, Secretary Ken Hessel, Past Chief Dan Bitsko, Deacon Jim Hanly, Chief Rich Holst, and now deceased Past Chief Greg Brennan. We also wish to thank all who helped proof the material, especially 2nd Deputy Chief Barrie Lyn Foster, all the members who have donated material to be added to the manual and to Past Chief Bill Miles for getting the manual printed.

We also wish to thank Past Chiefs Tom Tobin, Wayne Jagow and Bill Miles in producing, editing, and copying the new DVD, "Chaplain Training Series."

Both of these projects have taken hard work, lots of time and dedication, and patience in order to make these materials available.

