

BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

Binghamton and Cortland Fire Departments Graduate Eight from Binghamton Fire Academy

On the afternoon of Friday April 22, 2011, eight recruits officially graduated from the Binghamton Fire Department Fire Academy. Five of these men (Ryan Hrebin, Jesse D'Onofrio, Lee Pancoast, Nick Griswold, and Josh Graupman) will be joining the ranks of the Binghamton Fire Department along with four other new hires (Chris Gilfillan, Paul Bailey, Greg Maney, and Mike Maney) that were already working on shift, they had previously graduated from the fire academy. The other three recruits (Eric Corwin, Steve Zelsnack, and Jeremy Watkins) will be traveling up I81 to



join the ranks of the Cortland Fire Department.

These eight, all hired in January spent fourteen weeks in the academy. During those fourteen weeks the recruits spent hours learning and practicing skills needed for a career as a firefighter. There was also many tests that had to be taken in order graduate with their New York State Certificate of

Completion of an accredited Fire Academy and to obtain a whole list of other certificates that includes National Firefighter One, National Firefighter Two, Firefighter Survival, Truck Company



Operations, Emergency Vehicle Operator, Pump Operator, Aerial Operator, Accident Victim Extrication, HAZMAT Technician, and various others.

On a daily basis the recruits would partake in P.T. which consisted of upper and lower body exercises along with running and practicing for the CPAT or Candidate Physical Ability Test. In early April the recruits travelled to Utica Fire Departments training facility to test out with New York State Instructors on the CPAT. All of the recruits passed the exam with no problem. The class finished up their training with two final live burns. One at the Vestal Fire Departments training facility and one at the Town Of Binghamton Fire Departments training facility where the recruits were put to the test and asked to mesh everything they had learned into real time scenarios.

The graduation ceremony took place at the Binghamton Fire Department Training Site where the recruits were led into the ceremony by bagpipes. The recruits were then given final words of wisdom by Chief Thomas, Training Instructor Allen, Union President Holleran, and Mayor Ryan before a slide show of the recruit class was shown. Both Binghamton Fire Chief Thomas and Cortland Fire Chief Glover then accepted command of the recruits from Training Instructor Allen, each of the recruits were given their badges and assignments and then officially deemed firefighters.

We would like to wish all of these new firefighters a long and safe career in the fire service



Photos and information provided by Nick Griswold and Asst. Chief Rick Allen