



Orange County Government
Office of County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

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County Executive Neuhaus takes part in Firefighter 1 graduation ceremony

Graduating class includes 31 men and women from 19 County Fire Departments

Goshen, N.Y. – Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus attended the County’s Firefighter 1 graduation on Wednesday night at the County’s Emergency Services Center in Goshen.

Neuhaus was joined at the graduation by Orange County Sheriff Carl E. DuBois, Commissioner of Emergency Services Brendan Casey, Assistant District Attorney Chris Borek and Legislator Kevin Hines, a Commissioner with the Cornwall Fire Department. Hines has served as a volunteer firefighter in Cornwall for 33 years.

“I was glad to recognize and congratulate these brave men and women,” said Neuhaus, a past graduate of the County’s Fire Training Program. “We appreciate their commitment to public service and their willingness to risk their own lives to save others. It takes a special person to become a firefighter and I commend the graduates, along with the training instructors, participating fire departments, and their friends and families on being a part of this impressive achievement.”

This year’s Firefighter 1 graduating class consisted of 31 men and women from these 19 County Fire Departments: Campbell Hall, Chester, Circleville, Cornwall, Cronomer Valley, Fort Montgomery, Good-Will, Goshen, Greenville, Greenwood Lake, Highland Falls, Mechanicstown, Montgomery, Orange Lake, Port Jervis, Salisbury Mills, Slate Hill, Walden and Washingtonville. Firefighter 1 is a comprehensive and intensive introductory course required to become an Interior Firefighter.

The class includes 129 classroom hours and additional take home assignments. Courses were instructed by Orange County Fire Instructors at the County's Fire Training Center in New Hampton and were comprised of classroom lectures and hands on training sessions.

"We are proud of this year's Firefighter 1 class and the commitment they have made to their communities," said Vini Tankasali, Orange County's Deputy Commissioner of Fire Services. "It takes much dedication and effort to become a firefighter and County Executive Neuhaus recognizes that. We are appreciative of all of the support that he provides to the firefighting community."

For more information, contact Justin Rodriguez, Assistant to the County Executive for Communications and Media Relations at 845.291.3255 or jrodriguez@orangecountygov.com.

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Fire Instructor Joe Andre, County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus, Deputy Commissioner of Fire Services Vini Tankasali, Training Chief Jim McCann and Fire Instructors Terry Ward, Brenda Kopp, and Tom Cosgrove at the County's Firefighter 1 graduation on Wednesday night at the County's Emergency Services Center in Goshen.