



## *September 2020 Newsletter*

### From the President's Perspective:

There is an old saying in warrior tactics that your best designed plans will disintegrate when you have first contact with the enemy. And you will need to revert to your training to complete the mission. Due to factors beyond our control or planning, our September meeting will be rescheduled for October. We need to come up with a different videoconferencing platform other than Zoom. Zoom is a good platform, but has some inherent security issues that are unacceptable to some organizations. We are diligently working on that; if anyone has suggestions, we are open to them at [president.nfassp@gmail.com](mailto:president.nfassp@gmail.com).

That issue above ties nicely in to one of my favorite topics for an advanced toolbox topic; one of plans, backup plans and emergency plans for when the feces meets the fan. When planning out a task and incorporating safe work practices, I like to have an A plan, a B plan (sometimes a C plan) as well as a plan for how to address an emergency. Do you know how to properly call 911 with a cell phone? Do you know the address where you are at, like your campsite or an outdoors club? How well stocked is your First Aid kit? When was the last time you had a First Aid course? While we generally audit Fire Extinguisher inspections at our workplaces, when was the last time you checked the ones in your home? Little details can become big ones real fast when things go wrong.

While the leaves are still green and the lawn keeps growing, the season of Fall is fast upon us. The first inkling I had as a kid that Summer was over was yellow School Busses rolling down the highway. No longer was my time my own to pursue what I wanted to learn, it was what the New York State Education Department wanted me to learn (though I did a lot of independent study; just not what the School wanted me to study). This year; be extra vigilant when driving in early morning and from mid to late afternoon; busses may be running longer times, students, bus aids and bus drivers may be distracted with COVID protocols required by Districts, and general distractions don't contribute to enhanced situational awareness. Stay focused and vigilant for people making bad decisions as well as stopped school busses.

Now is also the time to do inspections and winter preparations around your house. I found it's a lot more pleasant to get repairs and maintenance done when the weather is warm than when it's cold out! Get snow removal equipment ready for the first good snowfall now! For those of us old enough to remember October 12, 2006 and that snowstorm, I was glad I had my snowblower serviced. (In truth, I was bored on a rainy weekend in late September and wanted to do something in the garage.) The same can be said of vehicle service, now is a good time to schedule a garage event for your vehicle(s), new tires, maybe? It's a planning thing!

I'd be remiss if I did not comment on what is going on in our society at large. Civil courtesy and respect for each other is the lubricant that allows society to function smoothly. Practice it every waking hour; at home, in the workplace and in public. Not only will you gain respect yourself, but you serve as a model for others. I once stated in a presentation on workplace relations: "Treat others with respect and courtesy. If you see someone having a bad day, don't make it worse by your actions." Like good investments, you will be paid rich dividends.