

What's In Your Station?

Schenectady Fire Department, New York Hazmat 1, Engine 1

The Schenectady Fire Department is located just a few miles west of Albany, New York. Home to the once huge General Electric Plant. With 114 firefighters the departments staffs 4 stations operating 4 Engines, 2 Towers, 2 ALS Rescues, and the Schenectady County Hazmat unit. All Schenectady Fire Departments units are ALS and all members of the Schenectady Fire Department are trained to the Hazmat Technician level. Many in the department have achieved the New Your State Hazmat Specialist certification. The Department's history dates back to 1835 when several volunteer departments were formed in the area. The Schenectady Fire Department, as is organized today, began on January 1, 1900 This department is the first Fire Department to charter a local in the IAFF. Their local number is 28, which is the date in February when they were issued their charter. Philadelphia and Chicago flipped a coin for the rights to Local 1. Obviously Philadelphia won. A sad note is that over the past 10 years the department has been forced to close 6 stations.

The department covers an area of about 12 square miles and a population of 75,000. Major interstates, railroads and industry are within their first response area. Much of the surrounding area is covered by volunteer departments.



The Schenectady Fire Department houses the Schenectady County's hazmat response vehicles. Currently an older model Mack furniture type vehicle and two trailers are housed at their Station 1. The majority of the entry suits and clean-up equipment is stored inside the large unit while decontamination and specialize equipment is carried in the trailers. Due to the configuration of the main vehicle all metering devices are kept inside the Station and carries to the vehicle during responses. Both of the trailers sport an exterior showering system plumed to the starboard side of the trailer. A new Heavy Rescue style vehicle is in the planning stage. On all Hazmat Responses Engine and Tower 1 also respond as part of the team. As you can see in the picture a large supply of equipment had just arrived as part of a Federal Grant.

Visit their web site at www.fire.schenectady.ny.us for more information.

