

NFPA / OSHA / CODE ISSUES

The existing Tupper Lake Fire Station fails to meet numerous State and National Codes. In addition, there are several FEMA and NFPA codes which the present facility would fall short on or not be in compliance with at all. In constructing a new facility, compliance would be met and safety, health and design assurances would be established. Below, we have listed a sample of the various areas of concern with respect to Tupper Lake's existing station:



NFPA 1500 sets a variety of standards for Fire Station safety including providing facilities for disinfecting, cleaning, and storage of equipment. Specifically, NFPA 1581, *Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program* establishes standards for separate areas for Turn-out gear washing and drying, and keeping contaminated gear separate from living areas. Further, the standard requires the installation of eye wash and body deluge stations, including cleanser and sanitizing dispensers located throughout the station. The goal is to prevent the spread of industry prevalent diseases such as MRSA, which is commonly contracted during contact with patients on EMS calls.

NFPA 1720, *Standard for the Organization and Deployment ... to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments*, sets a standard for Volunteer Fire Departments' response times at 14 minutes, to be met on average, 90% of the time. This time is calculated from initial dispatch to the first firefighting apparatus arrival on site. While the Tupper Lake Fire Department currently has acceptable response times, having volunteer crews in quarters, available to respond even quicker, would be a great public safety improvement. It is proven that fire doubles in size every thirty seconds. If the station provided improved training and fitness facilities, the attraction for volunteers to be in quarters more often would increase. Volunteer recruitment and retention, critical elements in maintaining department staff, would be encouraged with in-house training programs and fitness facilities, and also contribute to overall department morale. Each plays a major role in contributing to response times, which is key to community safety. **The proposed option will satisfy these NFPA standards.**



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

A recently enacted OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) regulation addresses requirements for SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) cleaning and maintenance facilities. Personal SCBA equipment is a critical lifeline to an individual firefighter's survival in an IDLH (Immediate Danger to Life and Health) atmosphere. Malfunctioning or improperly maintained SCBA equipment could spell the difference between responder life and death. The regulation calls for a clean, hard surface (stainless steel) work area, including a three-bay stainless steel sink for proper washing, disinfecting and drying of SCBA components. Critical parts, such as the O-ring and diaphragm, need to be inspected after every use by properly trained users. Should a cleaning area that is dirty or perhaps contains residue from previous work (metal filings, dust, etc) allow these foreign particles to enter the regulated breathing apparatus internal areas, a future malfunction is almost guaranteed. **The proposed option will satisfy this regulation.**



In the post-9/11 era, New York State adopted the International Building Code which includes new definitions for Fire Station constructability. These guidelines define Fire Stations as *Essential Facilities* which requires them to remain operational for the public good in the event of a major disaster, such as a severe earthquake, or environmental loading from flood, wind or snow. A new Tupper Lake station would include such structural integrity. **The proposed option will satisfy these Essential Facility guidelines.**



The existing Station does not meet all of the required ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) statutes. Rest rooms are not wheelchair accessible and threshold ramps as well as remotely activated door openers are not provided. All of the station's meeting, kitchen and administration areas are located on the second floor, accessible only via a stairway. There is no elevator. **The proposed option would upgrade the entire facility to 100% ADA compliance.**