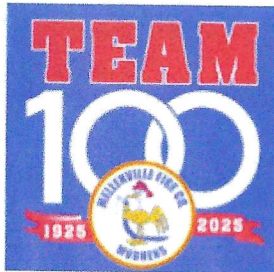


Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company

PO Box 81
Mellenville, NY 12544
MVFC2025@gmail.com

100th CCVFA Convention Committee



2025 CCVFA President
Michael Layman

2025 General Chairman
Jeff French

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2025 CCVFA Firefighters Bunker Gear & SCBA Donning Competition

Sponsored by: " [The French Firm P.C.](#) "

Overview:

The competition will feature the four Columbia County battalions (2, 3, 4 & 5) competing in a timed event to determine who can don their firefighting gear the fastest and most efficiently. The following link provides an example of what we are aiming for: [YouTube Link \(https://youtu.be/s0EOHMZybCk?si=2ZW2ZKYavgNQk-PK\)](https://youtu.be/s0EOHMZybCk?si=2ZW2ZKYavgNQk-PK). The competition will follow a timed format, culminating one overall winner.

Format

Participating Battalions: Battalion 2, 3, 4 & 5

Company Round:

Each company will hold a preliminary round at their respective fire station to determine a single winner, who will move on to the **Initial County Battalion Round** contest. The company round must be completed by **April 15, 2025**, and the winner's name and time should be emailed to mvfc2025@gmail.com to be entered into the next round.

Initial County Battalion Round:

Each company/department winner will compete against others within their battalion on their designated day. Each firefighter will be timed and the winner from each battalion will advance to the **Final County Battalion Round**. Each firefighter will get (2) attempts. The best time between the (2) attempts will be taken. In case of a tie, the firefighters with the tie will go again to determine an overall winner for each battalion. The **Initial County Battalion** rounds will be held at the **Fire Training Center (PJ Keeler Emergency Services Building)** on the following dates:

Battalion 2: **April 26, 2025 @9am**

Battalion 4: **May 3, 2025 @9am**

Battalion 3: **April 26, 2025 @9am**

Battalion 5: **May 3, 2025 @9am**

Sponsored by: **The French Firm P.C., Brett D. French, Esq. 125 Wolf Road Suite 103 Albany NY 12205**

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Final County Battalion Round:

One representative from each battalion will compete on stage at the CCVFA Convention on **Friday night, July 25th, 2025**, immediately following the Association meeting. This round is 1 attempt only. In the event of a tie, the firefighters will compete again until there is a winner.

Matchups:

- Battalion 2 vs. Battalion 3 (winner competes against the winner from 4 & 5)
 - Battalion 4 vs. Battalion 5 (winner competes against the winner from 2 & 3)
-

Regulations

- **Gear Check:** All gear used must be standard issue and properly fitted.
- **Judging:** Judges will be responsible for timing and ensuring proper gear donning.
- **Penalties:** Time penalties may be applied for improper gear donning, 2 seconds per infraction.
- **Fairness:** All battalions will use the same type or similar gear and face identical conditions.



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Competition Rules

- **Gear Setup:** Gear can be laid out in front of the firefighter.
- **Starting Position:** Firefighters must be at least 12 inches away from the gear before starting.
- **Footwear:** Firefighters may start in socks.
- **Proper Donning:** Once the clock starts, all gear must be donned properly (including buttons, zippers, flaps, helmet straps), and the firefighter must be on air to stop the clock.
- **Rescue Harnesses:** If your department uses a rescue harness, they may be removed for the competition, as not all departments use them.

Once the firefighter thinks they are done donning their gear, they must raise their hands and arms to signal that they are finished. The clock will stop when the firefighter's hands and arms are in the air and no further adjustments can be made at that point. At this point the judge will inspect the firefighter for proper donning. This format ensures a fair and competitive contest, highlighting both speed and precision in donning firefighting gear.

Gear to be Donned

- Turnout Coat
- Bunker Pants
- Structural Firefighter Boots
- Structural Firefighting Gloves
- Hood
- Helmet
- SCBA Pack
- SCBA Mask

NFPA Time Standard:

The standard is 90 to 120 seconds for donning full gear, including the mask and SCBA air pack, and being fully on air.



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Prizes and Recognition

- **Battalion Winners:** Each battalion winner will receive a personalized prize at the Friday night competition.
 - **Overall Winner:** The overall winner will be awarded a trophy or plaque, and their company/department will be awarded a personal thermal imaging camera.
-

Questions

- Please direct all questions and concerns to the following contacts below:

Competition Chairman: Chris Bleau rookie49er@gmail.com

CCVFA President 2024/2025 Michael Layman mvfc2025@gmail.com



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The Importance of Quick and Efficient Donning

Properly donning personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential for firefighter safety during operations. Ensuring that gear is worn correctly can significantly reduce the risk of injury. Our ability as firefighters to quickly and correctly don our PPE provides the communities we serve with the best chance for effective rescue operations and helps save valuable time on the fireground.

According to NFPA standards, firefighters should be able to don full PPE—structural boots, pants, coat, gloves, hood, and helmet—within one minute. Adding a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), face piece, and switching to SCBA air should take no more than an additional minute, totaling two minutes for complete donning.

This competition is designed to hone firefighters' ability to don their PPE and SCBA correctly and efficiently.

Fire Service Competition – A Tradition of Excellence

Competition has long been a part of the American fire service, with a history of building camaraderie and sharpening skills. Dating back to the 1700s, firefighters engaged in bucket brigade challenges and hose cart races. In 19th-century New York City, companies competed to be the first to extinguish fires, gaining not only glory but also financial rewards for their efforts.

Fire companies historically held contests for best-decorated hand-powered fire engines and the longest water streams. With the advent of steam engines, races evolved to see which team could produce a powerful stream of water the fastest. Today's competitions use modern equipment, with firefighters racing high-tech dragsters towing ladders and hoses.

Every essential firefighting skill lends itself to competition—whether it's ladder climbing, tagging fire hydrants, extending charged lines, or the foundational skill of quickly donning bunker gear.

Best Regards,



Michael Layman
CCVFA President



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