

Watertown Daily Times - Ogdensburg Fire Department trains to aid corrections officers

By Larry Robinson

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OGDENSBURG - Members of the Ogdensburg Fire Department have completed a training drill with the state Department of Corrections to prepare for the potential situation of having to remove an injured prison guard.

In what is being deemed “a continuing program of cooperation between the City and the state Department of Corrections,” several members of the Ogdensburg Fire Department took part in a joint extrication drill on the grounds of Riverview Correctional facility.

The security environment of a prison facility can often make rendering aid to an injured officer inside difficult.

The purpose of the drill was to simulate a medical emergency of a corrections officer in the prison guard towers overlooking the vehicle entry area and prison exercise yards, according to fire officials.

Entry and egress spaces are restricted in that area and therefore allow limited options for fire and rescue crews to remove a patient.

City fire officials said a training mannequin was used to simulate an injured person and rescue crews were required to use the fire department’s aerial truck ruck to remove the patient from the guard tower.

“While this scenario is rare, the possibility of it occurring is an incentive to practice such low-frequency, life threatening events,” the Ogdensburg Fire Department said in a release. “It provides good problem solving, team-oriented training and confidence building for all participants.”

The Ogdensburg Fire Department and the state Department of corrections will continue to work together on future training projects to provide potential assistance in the event of an emergency, the fire release said.