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## 2026 CCVFA Firefighters Bunker Gear & SCBA Donning Competition

Sponsored by: "TBD."

### 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. This year's competition will include both a **Standard Division** and a **new Over 50 Division**, open to all battalions.

The following link provides an example of what we are aiming for:

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/s0EOHMZybCk?si=2ZW2ZKYavgNQk-PK>

The competition will follow a timed format, culminating in one overall winner in each division.

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### Format

#### Participating Battalions:

Battalion 2, 3, 4 & 5

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### Time Trials (Open to All Battalions)

To allow broad participation and ensure fairness, two countywide time trial rounds will be held. Firefighters may participate in either or both rounds.

#### First Round – Time Trials

- **Date:** April 8, 2026
- **Time:** 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Niverville Fire Station
- Held prior to the CCVFA Quarterly Meeting



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## Second Round – Time Trials

- **Date:** Saturday, June 6, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- **Location:** Fire Training Center (PJ Keeler Emergency Services Building)

Times from these rounds will be used to determine battalion representatives advancing to the final competition.

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## Final County Battalion Round

One representative from each battalion, in each division (Standard and Over 50), will compete on stage at the **CCVFA Convention**:

- **Date:** Friday, July 24, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 PM
- **Location:** Columbia County Fairgrounds, Chatham, NY

This round will be **one attempt only**. In the event of a tie, competitors will repeat until a winner is determined.

### Matchups:

#### Open Division

- Battalion 2 vs. Battalion 3
- Battalion 4 vs. Battalion 5
- Winners advance to determine the overall champion

#### 50 and Over

- Battalion 2 vs. Battalion 3
- Battalion 4 vs. Battalion 5
- Winners advance to determine the overall champion



## Regulations

- **Gear Check:** All gear must be standard issue and properly fitted.
- **Judging:** Judges will time and ensure proper gear donning.
- **Penalties:** One (1) second per infraction for improper donning.
- **Fairness:** All battalions will use the same or similar gear and face identical conditions.

## Competition Rules

- **Gear Setup:** Gear may be laid out in front of the firefighter.
- **Starting Position:** Firefighters must begin at least 12 inches away from the gear.
- **Footwear:** Firefighters may start in socks.
- **Proper Donning:** All gear must be donned correctly (buttons, zippers, flaps, helmet straps). Firefighter must be on air to stop the clock.
- **Rescue Harnesses:** May be removed for the competition.

Once the firefighter believes they are finished, they must raise both hands and arms. The clock will stop at that point, and no further adjustments may be made. Judges will inspect for proper donning.

## Gear to Be Donned

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

### **NFPA Time Standard:**

NFPA standards allow 90–120 seconds to don full PPE and be fully on air.



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## Prizes and Recognition

- **Battalion Winners:** Personalized prizes awarded during the Friday night competition
  - **Overall Winners:** Trophy or plaque, with the winning company/department awarded a personal thermal imaging camera
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## Questions

Please direct all questions to:

**Competition Chairman:**

Michael Layman

[michael.layman@mellenvillefireny.org](mailto:michael.layman@mellenvillefireny.org)

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## Closing

This competition highlights the importance of quickly and correctly donning PPE—an essential skill that directly impacts firefighter safety and operational effectiveness. Fire service competitions have long fostered camaraderie, professionalism, and excellence, and this event continues that proud tradition.

We look forward to another exciting and competitive event at the **2026 CCVFA Convention**.