



News Release

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Fire Companies Respond to Coarc Alarm

Mellenville, NY: Shortly before 7:30 a.m. this morning, a fire alarm at Coarc's Mellenville headquarters building signaled CIA Security. Mellenville Fire Company responded first to the location at 630 Route 217 and requested mutual aid from Claverack, Churchtown, Greenport, Philmont and West Ghent fire companies and Columbia County's Fire Coordinators. Coarc employees safely evacuated the building, located at 630 Route 217. Coarc clients had not arrived from the morning's bus routes at that time.

Smoke was contained in an administrative section of the building and there was no additional fire damage. Mellenville Fire Company officials determined that an electric motor burned out in an air conditioning unit, which blew smoke down into offices in that section. The Columbia County Department of Public Works provided facilities at Ockawamick for Coarc personnel and arriving clients until they could enter the Coarc building around 8:45 a.m.

"We are grateful for the immediate response of the Fire Coordinators and the volunteer firefighters from A.B. Shaw Fire Company, Churchtown Fire Company, Greenport Fire Department, Greenport Rescue Squad, Mellenville Fire Company, Philmont Fire Company and West Ghent Fire Company," stated Bruce Drake, Coarc Associate Executive Director. "The safety and well-being of individuals experiencing disabilities and our employees are Coarc's priorities at all of our offices, programs and residences throughout Columbia County. Volunteer fire and rescue companies are very important in the circle of support for the individuals we serve."

Coarc is a Columbia County, NY, nonprofit organization serving 500 individuals. Its mission is to expand abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their individual goals. Coarc provides vocational and employment services, residential and supportive community services, day activity programs, service coordination, legal and family support services, children's services, community habilitation, respite services, recreation opportunities, traumatic brain injury services and contract manufacturing. Coarc is supported through state and federal funding, and by individual and corporate members, donors and foundations. It is a chapter of NYSARC, Inc. More information is available at www.coarc.org or 518-672-4451.

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