

## ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**March 9, 2008**

**Volume 6 – Issue 11**

**S**ome of the features of this issue include:

- Firefighter safety information
- Numerous firefighter employment opportunities!
- Numerous firefighter training opportunities!
- CPAT testing information!
- Volunteers needed around the Bay Area – various EMS classes and opportunities
- Numerous fire service news stories to learn from – both positive and not-so-positive

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### ***FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – San Jose, CA:***



#### **San José Fire Department (SJFD) Upcoming Firefighter Recruitment**

**T**he San Jose Fire Department will be accepting applications for Firefighter EMT and Firefighter Paramedic for three days – **March 10 through March 12, 2008**; log on to [www.sanjoseca.gov/cityjobs](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/cityjobs) to apply.

**F**or more information about the **City of San Jose**, visit their website at: [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)

**F**or more information about the **San Jose Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.sjfd.org](http://www.sjfd.org)

**F**or more information about the **San Jose Firefighters Association**, [I.A.F.F. Local 230](http://www.sanjosefirefighters.org), visit their website at [www.sanjosefirefighters.org](http://www.sanjosefirefighters.org)

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :**

**G**o to [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) and click on **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous California State-certified State Fire Marshal (and other) classes currently available around the State of California, including college degree programs.

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## **FIRE SAFETY & PUBLIC EDUCATION INFO:**

**The following information comes courtesy of my good friend Brian Humphrey, Public Safety Officer with the Los Angeles Fire Department.**

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

Many are surprised to learn that the formal "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery!" campaign for carbon monoxide and smoke alarms is a once-per-year event, officially taking place only at the return to Standard Time each Fall. What about the change to Daylight Saving Time today (March 9, 2008)?

To keep you safe, Firefighters always emphasize the key message of Change:

- Test carbon monoxide and smoke alarms at least once each month.
- Change the batteries for these alarms at least once each year.

If you haven't tested your alarms within the past 4 weeks, test them now. If you haven't replaced the batteries within the past 12 months, do it today!

But wait, there's more...

Along with the LAFD reminder to Change, Check, Count and Clean, there are two important facts you need to know about smoke alarms:

- Smoke alarms have a ten year maximum lifespan.
- The most effective smoke alarms use a combination of ionization and photoelectric technology.

Do you remember the recent movie 'Titanic'? Believe it or not, the film with Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet debuted eleven years ago. If the smoke alarms in your home were installed then - or earlier, they are due for immediate replacement!

Our friends at the Consumer Product Safety Commission have some 'Good, Better and Best' advice about smoke alarms in an audio clip from their popular podcast:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/vnr/podcast/030708.mp3>

Oh, and don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour!

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey  
Firefighter/Specialist  
Public Service Officer  
Los Angeles Fire Department

LAFD Home Page: <http://lafd.org>  
LAFD News Blog: <http://lafd.org/blog>

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Berkeley (CA) Fire Department:**

**T**he **Berkeley (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter/Paramedic**, until March 31, 2008.

For more information on the application process, go to [www.berkeleyfire.com](http://www.berkeleyfire.com)

*You don't have to be a paramedic to apply; as long as you are enrolled in a paramedic school by the final filing date, you are eligible to apply (don't expect to get hired unless you successfully complete paramedic school).*

**F**or more information about the **City of Berkeley**, visit their website at: [www.ci.berkeley.ca.us](http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us)

**F**or more information about the **Berkeley Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.berkeleyfire.com](http://www.berkeleyfire.com)

**F**or more information about the **Berkeley Firefighters Association**, **I.A.F.F. Local 1227**, visit their website at [www.bffa1227.org](http://www.bffa1227.org)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:**

***The following comes courtesy of the U.S. Fire Administration:***

### ***Disasters and Fire Safety***

A wide range of natural disasters occurs within the United States every year. They can have a devastating effect on you and your home but one aspect that is often overlooked is the risk of fire during or after a natural disaster.

It is imperative that you know how to prevent fires and to stay fire-safe should a disaster occur. For this reason, during the month of March the U.S. Fire Administration is focusing on preparing families to deal with disasters in a "fire-safe" way.

For information and resources on Disasters and Fire Safety, please visit the USFA Web site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/).

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **2008 -2009 SCHEDULE OF COURSES** **CALIFORNIA FIRE ACADEMY AT MONTEREY BAY** **115 Colonel Durham St. - Seaside CA 93955** **(831) 646-4240 [nrodda@mpc.edu](mailto:nrodda@mpc.edu)**

#### **August 2008**

4 to 8 Fire Command 2A  
18 to 22 Fire Prevention 1A  
25 to 29 Fire Prevention 2A

#### **September 2008**

8 to 12 Fire Instructor 2A  
15 to 19 Fire Management 2A  
22 to 26 EMT Instructor Orientation  
29-10/3 Fire Investigation 1A

#### **October 2008**

6 to 10 Fire Command 2C  
13 to 17 Fire Management 2E  
20 to 24 Fire Command 1A  
27 to 31 Fire Investigation 2A

#### **November 2008**

3 to 7 Fire Instructor 2B  
17 to 21 Fire Prevention 2B

#### **December 2008**

1 to 5 Fire Prevention 1B  
8 to 12 Fire Prevention 3A

#### **January 2009**

12 to 16 Fire Instructor 1A  
26 to 30 ICS 300/400

#### **February 2009**

2 to 6 Fire Command 2B  
23 to 27 Fire Command 2E

#### **March 2009**

2 to 6 Fire Management 2C  
9 to 13 Fire Instructor 1B  
16 to 20 Fire Instructor 2C  
23 to 27 Fire Management 2D  
30-4/3 Fire Prevention 2C

#### **April 2009**

6 to 10 Fire Command 1B  
13 to 17 Fire Command 2D  
20 to 24 Fire Management 2B  
27 to 5/1 Fire Prevention 3B

#### **May 2009**

4 to 8 Fire Instructor 1C  
11 to 15 Fire Command 1C  
18 to 22 Fire Investigation 1B

#### **June 2009**

1 to 5 Fire Investigation 2B  
8 to 12 Fire Management 1  
15 to 19 Fire Instructor 3

# **EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:**

The **San Francisco Paramedic Association** is looking for **volunteers** for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

## **- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed -**

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thursday <b>April 24, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>April 25, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>May 8, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>May 9, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Wednesday <b>June 25, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>June 26, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li> </ul> <p><b>**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</b></p>
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

## **- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed**

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saturday <b>April 12., 2008</b> from 1230 to 1800 hours</li> <li>- Sunday <b>April 13, 2008</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours</li> <li>- Thursday <b>June 19, 2008</b> from 1230 to 1800 hours</li> <li>- Friday <b>June 20, 2008</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE: All of the above classes will be held at the San Francisco Paramedic Association – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116</b></p> <p><b>*** Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</b></p>
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.

<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sparamedics.org">director@sparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & EDUCATION INFORMATION:**

### ***Virtual Access To Executive Fire Officer Applied Research Projects***

In my role as the U.S. Fire Administrator, I am pleased to take a few minutes to make you aware of a significant effort underway at National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) [www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/) – one of the most tenured programs in the history of federal fire programs – began in 1985 and in 1990 a decision was made to require executive fire officers enrolled in the program to complete an Applied Research Project (ARP) - [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/applied\\_research/index.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/applied_research/index.shtm) for each of the four EFOP courses.

The purpose of the ARP is for the EFOP participant to identify an issue, problem, or opportunity that currently exists in the student's community and then to engage in research which creates new information in an effort to mitigate or solve the problem. When completed, the student's ARP is submitted to the National Fire Academy and formally evaluated using an academically based evaluation system and scale. The ARPs must achieve a minimally acceptable score of 2.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) and those ARPs that receive a score of 3.0 or higher are archived and available in full text for public review.

This collection of almost 10,000 ARPs is one of the most referenced sources of information in the NETC's Learning Resource Center (LRC). 2,615 research projects are accessible for public review and downloading via the LRC's Online Card Catalog - <http://lrc.dhs.gov/index.html>

The electronic archiving of the ARPs was anticipated in 1998 when EFOP participants were first required to submit an electronic copy of their research. Two years of ARPs were first made available electronically in 2002. During 2006 and 2007, work commenced on preparing and converting over 2,000 remaining ARPs for public access. USFA anticipates that the conversion of the remaining ARPs will be completed later this month, raising the total to almost 3,000 documents available online.

The result of this extensive effort is easier access to projects by existing EFOP participants who are engaging in research and the public. By using keywords within the Online Card Catalog search feature, a user may be able to identify documents which would be of benefit

in conducting their research wherever they may be. USFA acknowledges the assistance of Scientific Commercial Systems Corporation (SCSC) and their employees in assisting with this work.

As a graduate and proud alumnus of the Executive Fire Officer Program, I am pleased to tell you about this extensive effort to electronically archive these valuable research efforts and to announce their availability to both the fire service and public. This is a significant body of knowledge that will ultimately lead to this nation's continuing efforts to stop fires, prevent deaths and injuries from fires, and promote preparedness and prevention through efforts such as sprinkler legislation, smoke alarm propagation, and firefighter safety programs.

Gregory B. Cade  
U.S. Fire Administrator

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District (CA):**

**T**he Stanislaus Consolidated (CA) Fire Protection District will be accepting applications for the position of *Firefighter*, until March 28, 2008.

To view the job flyer, go to [www.scfpd.us/items/Job\\_Flyer\\_FF\\_2008.pdf](http://www.scfpd.us/items/Job_Flyer_FF_2008.pdf)

**F**or more information about the Stanislaus Consolidated (CA) Fire Protection District, visit their website at: [www.scfpd.us](http://www.scfpd.us)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **S-270 Basic Air Operations**

Dates: March 13-14 2008

Location and Schedule: Station 59/Byron Airport 08:30-1630

(CALFIRE Helicopter 106, CCCSO STARR One and the USCG Dauphine helicopters will be in attendance the 2nd Day)

Cost: \$175.00 Per Student

Instructors: Fire Captain Richard Carvalho

To Register: Please visit our website at [www.eccfpd.org](http://www.eccfpd.org) to sign up online.

This class is open to outside agencies and is filling up fast.

**AND:**

## **S-244 Wildland Fire Field Observer**

Dates: May 05-07 2008

Location and Schedule: Station 59/Round Valley Regional Park 08:30-1630

Cost: \$180.00 Per Student

Instructors: Fire Captain Richard Carvalho

To Register: Please Contact Patricia Hubbard 925-634-3400 ext 204

This class is open to outside agencies and is filling up fast.

**AND:**

## **Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations (LARRO)**

This class is a pre-requisite for Rescue Systems I

Dates: April 28-30 2008

Location and Schedule:

- Day 1 Station 59 0830-1630

- Day 2 Round Valley Regional Park 0830-1630

- Day 3 Round Valley Regional Park 0830-1630

Cost: \$275.00 Per Student

Instructors: Josh Sunde, Nevada County Consolidated Fire

To Register: Please visit our Training Bureau website at [www.eccfpd.org](http://www.eccfpd.org) to register online.

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## **FIRE SERVICE FUNDING INFORMATION:**

### **Department of Homeland Security Announces Application Period for FY 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants**

The Department of Homeland Security's Grant Programs Directorate will begin accepting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) beginning March 3, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EST) with the deadline for receipt of the applications no later than April 4, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. EDT. The AFG, which will be distributed in phases throughout FY 2008, will ultimately award approximately \$500 million.

Interested applicants can access the FY 2008 AFG application through the AFG Web site (<http://www.firegrantsupport.com>), the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) Web site (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>) and the Grants.gov Web site (<http://www.grants.gov>). The Web site contains important information about the AFG including the FY 2008 funding priorities and program guidance, a Web-based tutorial on the application process, a listing of frequently asked questions and other materials. Fire departments that have questions regarding this grant opportunity should contact the Help Desk at 1-866-274-0960 or email to [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). During the application period, Help Desk hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT. Additional Help Desk hours may be added if demand is high.

Eligible applicants for the FY 2008 AFG are limited to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations operating within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested applicants may submit two separate applications for consideration under each of the following two program areas:

- **Operations and Safety Program Area:** Eligible activities for fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations are limited to training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to facilities.
- **Vehicle Acquisition Program Area:** Eligible apparatus available to fire departments under this program area include, but are not limited to, pumpers, brush trucks, tankers/tenders, rescue vehicles, ambulances, quints, aerials, foam units, and fireboats.

The FY 2008 AFG will also allow eligible applicants to submit an additional application for a regional project through which multiple organizations, serving more than one local jurisdiction, may benefit directly from the activities implemented with the grant funds.

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## **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:**

### **USFA Releases Fire-Related Firefighter Injuries Report**

EMMITSBURG, MD. – Twice as many firefighters are injured each year performing fireground duties as there are fire injuries to the civilian population, according to a new report issued today by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). In 2004, there were an estimated 36,880 firefighter fireground injuries. The new report, *Fire-Related Firefighter Injuries in 2004*, was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of the U.S. Fire Administration, and is based primarily on analyses of the 2004 [National Fire Incident Reporting System \(NFIRS\)](#) Version 5.0 data.

"Everyday firefighters face great risks of bodily injury and possibly even death," said National Fire Data Center Director Alex Furr. "Firefighting, by its very nature, is an extremely dangerous job, and therefore it is important that we take steps to educate the fire service on improving firefighter health and safety and focus on injury prevention."

The report presents the details of firefighter injuries sustained at or responding to a fire incident. These injuries may be the result of operations at the fire scene or responding to or returning from an incident. Additionally, this report examines firefighter injury rates and fire-related injury characteristics. Eighty-nine percent of firefighter injuries reported to NFIRS in 2004 were associated with structure fires. Of these injuries, 76 percent occurred on residential properties. Injuries to the upper and lower extremities accounted for 30 percent of all reported fire-related firefighter injuries. An additional 20 percent of injuries were to the head, neck, and shoulder areas. For the nature of the injury, 34 percent were related to

sprains, strains, cuts, and wounds. Burns accounted for an additional 11 percent of the reported injuries.

[Download Report](#) (PDF, 2.5 Mb)

Note: You can also download it at:

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/2004\\_ff\\_injuries.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/2004_ff_injuries.pdf)

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Looking to expand your horizons and learn more about the fire service? Looking to get additional training from instructors around the country including the best in the fire service? Looking to see the latest and greatest fire service tools and equipment and apparatus? Looking to network with other fire service professionals around the country? If you answered yes to at least one of the above questions, then you should consider attending at least one major fire service conference per year. Here are some of the major ones and I would encourage everyone to attempt to attend at least one per year to keep yourself up-to-date and continue your education.

### **EMS Today Conference** – Baltimore, MD

March 2008 – [www.emstodayconference.com](http://www.emstodayconference.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [JEMS Magazine](#) and the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#).

### **Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)** – Indianapolis, IN.

April 2008 – [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Fire Engineering Magazine](#).

### **Firehouse Expo** – Baltimore, MD

July 2008 – [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Firehouse Magazine](#).

### **Fire-Rescue International** – Denver, CO (2009 is scheduled for Dallas, TX)

August 2008 – [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri)

- This annual event is hosted by the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#)

### **Pittsburgh Fire & Rescue Expo** – Pittsburgh, PA

September 2008 – [www.pittsburghfireexpo.com](http://www.pittsburghfireexpo.com)

### **Firehouse Central** – Las Vegas, NV

October 2008 – [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Firehouse Magazine](#).

### **Fire-Rescue Expo** – Las Vegas, NV

November 2008 – [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Fire Rescue Magazine](#).

**California (North and South) Training Officers Symposium** – Fresno, CA  
November 2008 – [www.norcaltos.org](http://www.norcaltos.org)

- This annual event is hosted by the [North and South California Training Officers Association](#)

**Firehouse World** – San Diego, CA  
February 2009 – [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Firehouse Magazine](#)..

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

**I**f you want to become a firefighter, have you started taking fire department examinations yet? If not, what are you waiting for? If you say you're not ready, you'll probably never be ready. If you want to wait until you finish your degree, then you're going to have wasted about two (or more) valuable years that could have been spent learning how to master the fire service testing process. You should be taking every fire service exam you qualify for – what's the worst that can happen if you take a test? If nothing else, you will hopefully start to learn your strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to become a firefighter.

Don't rely on us to provide you with every fire department that is accepting applications. We only send out a small fraction of the current open firefighter positions across the United States. If you truly want to become a firefighter, put your money where your mouth is and subscribe to a fire testing service that will notify you when fire departments across the United States are accepting applications.

**Two of the best fire testing notification services I have seen are:**

- [www.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.com)
- [www.firerecruit.com](http://www.firerecruit.com)

For less than \$100.00 per year (each), those companies (run by firefighters) will provide you with valuable testing information to help save you time and effort. Becoming a firefighter is not an easy task, and the badge will not drop from the sky into your lap. Don't wait for your friends to tell you about testing opportunities or expect to hear about them from us. That is not our job, to replace such companies.

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## **FREE FIRE PREPARATION INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE DON McNEA FIRE SCHOOL!**

**S**ome more firefighter testing tips courtesy of the [www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com) - The [Don McNea Fire School!](#)

### **HOW TO BECOME A PARAMEDIC**

Peoples' lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care of Paramedics. Incidents as varied as automobile accidents, heart attacks, drownings, childbirth, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. Paramedics provide the vital attention as they care for and transport the sick and injured to a medical facility.

In an emergency, Paramedics are typically dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of a patient's condition while trying to ascertain whether the patient has preexisting medical problems. Following strict rules and guidelines, they give appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patients.

Some paramedics are trained to treat patients with minor injuries on the scene of an accident or at their home without transporting to a medical facility. Emergency treatment for more complicated problems is carried out under the direction of medical doctors by radio, preceding or during transport.

Paramedics provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. In addition to carrying out the procedures described above, paramedics may administer drugs orally or intravenously, interpret electro cardiograms (EKGs), perform endotracheal intubulations, and use monitors and other complex equipment.

**Working conditions:** Paramedics work both indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. They are required to do considerable kneeling, bending, and heavy lifting. Many people find the work of an EMT exciting and challenging and enjoy the opportunity to help others. Paramedics employed by fire departments work 40-50 hours per week; those employed by hospitals frequently work between 40-60 hours per week; and those employed by private ambulance services work between 45-50 hours per week.

Paramedics held about 265,000 jobs in 2004. Most career Paramedics work in metropolitan areas; there are many more EMTs and Paramedics especially in smaller cities, towns, and rural areas.

**Training and other qualifications and advancement:** At the Paramedic level, the caregiver gives additional training in body function and learns more advanced skills than an EMT. Education for a Paramedic requires the individual to graduate from a school and take the National Registry EMT Examination to become a certified EMT/Paramedic. Extensive related coursework and clinical and field experience is required. Due to the longer training requirement, almost EMT/Paramedics are in paid positions rather than being volunteers. Refresher courses and continuing education are available for Paramedics at all levels.

**Job Opportunities:** Employment for Paramedics is expected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through 2012. Population growth and urbanization will increase the demand for full-time paid Paramedics, rather than for volunteers. In addition, a large segment of the population – the aging baby boomers – will further spur the demand for Paramedic services as they become more likely to have medical emergencies.

**Where can you find training to become a Paramedic?** Almost all community colleges and some state colleges and hospitals offer training and certification to become a Paramedic.

This training usually consists of between 750-1,500 hours of classroom and field instruction. Reaching this level will require a lot of sacrifice and studying on your part, but becoming a Paramedic will increase your chances of becoming a firefighter.

Approximately 10-20% of all fire departments across the country now require their fire applicants to become Paramedics even before they take the examination. Remember – you must first become an EMT before you can go on to become a Paramedic.

For those of you who are in the process of becoming a Paramedic and will be taking a certification test, please check our website periodically at the "EMT/Paramedic Review" link. We periodically update our examination questions database to help you pass this examination.

[View our list of over 650 Fire/EMT/Paramedic Colleges Across the County](http://www.firemanemtparamedic.com/fire_emt_paramedic_colleges.html) by going to [www.firemanemtparamedic.com/fire\\_emt\\_paramedic\\_colleges.html](http://www.firemanemtparamedic.com/fire_emt_paramedic_colleges.html)

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Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with their entry level seminars and products. Fireprep.com has over 250 pages of FREE information and careers articles to help you reach your goal of becoming a firefighter. Go to [www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com) and register for their free fireprep e-mail newsletter that features career articles by the countries top entry level authors. You will also be informed at no cost of firefighter examinations be given across the country. While at their website don't forget to review our award winning 'Ultimate Firefighter Exam Package'. This product has help hundreds of fire applicants finish in the top 2% of the exam process. Go to the link below to review the ultimate firefighter exam package. [www.fireprep.com/ultimate\\_firefighter\\_exam.html](http://www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html)

Don McNea Fire School - [dmfireschool@aol.com](mailto:dmfireschool@aol.com) - 1-800-989-FIRE

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## **FIREFIGHTER RELATED SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM:**

**NOTE:** All of the website links below were valid at the time of publishing; there is always the chance that the website links may not be valid when you attempt to open them up.

**The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatalities:**

Name:	Jack Lockhart
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	69
Gender:	Male

Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 49  
Date of Incident: 02/17/2008  
Time of Incident: 19:55hrs  
Date of Death: 02/17/2008

Fire Department: Dayton District Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 125 State Street, Dayton, PA. 16222  
Fire Department Chief: Barry Lockhar

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Lockhart was responding to a furnace explosion when he stated that he was not feeling well. He asked to have someone else take over the wheel and he would run radio for the call. Inside the radio room he collapsed and was taken to Armstrong County Memorial Hospital where he died of an apparent heart attack.

**Funeral Arrangements:** 02/21/2008

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Jack Lockhart at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 18 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations. "Please note, running totals of firefighter fatalities used on these initial notices do not necessarily reflect the number of firefighter fatalities used in totals for the (provisional) monthly year-to-date USFA firefighter fatality reports, or year-end (provisional) reports posted online ([http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm))

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>) and distributed via USFA listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (<http://www.FireHero.org>) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

**AND:**

Name: Michael J. Hays  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 64  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 9

Date of Incident: 02/19/2008  
Time of Incident: 1213hrs  
Date of Death: 02/19/2008

Fire Department: Brazos Canyon Volunteer Fire Dept  
Address: HC-75, BOX 92, Chama, NM 87520  
Fire Department Chief: T.J. Allard  
Fire Department Website: [www.brazoscanyonfire.org](http://www.brazoscanyonfire.org)

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Hays passed away from injuries received after an explosion at his fire station. Fire Chief Hays was at the station working on duties related to transition of his fire chief duties to a new departmental chief who was elected only three days earlier. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Michael J. Hays at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 19 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Vance Tomaselli  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 66  
Gender: Male  
Status: Paid-on-Call  
Years of Service: 27  
Date of Incident: 02/16/2008  
Time of Incident: 1254hrs  
Date of Death: 02/21/2008

Fire Department: San Bernardino County Fire Department  
Address: 157 W 5th Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-1012  
Fire Department Chief: Pat Dennen  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.sbcfire.org/>

**Incident Description:** On Saturday, February 16th, while operating fire apparatus enroute to a structure fire (cabin), Captain Tomaselli suffered a stroke. Tomaselli sideswiped several trees but was able to keep control of the engine until he reached a clearing, bringing the apparatus to a stop. He was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he underwent emergency surgery. Tomaselli remained in the hospital but was unable to recover from his injury, passing away late in the evening of February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Funeral Arrangements/Memorial Fund:** Additional information will be provided as available @ [http://www.sbcfire.org/whats\\_new/tomaselli.asp](http://www.sbcfire.org/whats_new/tomaselli.asp)

**Tribute** is being paid to Captain Vance Tomaselli at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/)

To date, 20 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Shane Stewart  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 33  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 3  
Date of Incident: 02/23/2008  
Time of Incident: 0615hrs  
Date of Death: 02/23/2008

Fire Department: Ault-Pierce Fire Department  
Address: 205 First St., PO Box 1069, Ault, CO 80610  
Fire Department Chief: Scott Wagner

**Incident Description:** Captain Stewart responded to an emergency medical call in the town of Ault, CO, as sole occupant of Engine 3 (1995 Pierce Pumper Tanker - 2000 gallon tank), stationed at the Pierce Station. While enroute, Engine 3 was involved in an accident at Weld County Roads 33 and 88, in which the apparatus reportedly left the gravel covered roadway and turned over. Captain Stewart was ejected from the vehicle and passed away from injuries sustained.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Services on 02/28/2008 at 1000hrs, Union Colony Civic Center, 701 10th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631. Apparatus line-up will be at 0900hrs at the Civic Center. Information contact either Greeley FD, (970) 350-9500, or Eaton FD, (970) 454-2115.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Farmers Bank, 119 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Ault, CO 80610 970 834-2121

**Tribute** is being paid to Captain Shane Stewart at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 21 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Joey Turner  
Rank: Firefighter

Age: 48  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: < 1 (8 Months)  
Date of Incident: 02/21/2008  
Time of Incident: 1030hrs  
Date of Death: 02/22/2008

Fire Department: Homerville/ Clinch Company Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 91 W Dame, PO Box 535, Homerville, GA 31634  
Fire Department Chief: Danny Strickland

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Turner collapsed and went into respiratory and cardiac failure while participating in a training evolution at the Georgia Fire Academy.

**Funeral Arrangements:** 02/27/2008, 1400hrs @ Homerville Congregational Methodist Church, Highway 441 N., Homerville, GA 31634

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Firefighter Joey Turner, C/o Homerville/ Clinch Company Volunteer Fire Department, 91 W Dame, PO Box 535, Homerville, GA 31634

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Joey Turner at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 22 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Rafael Vazquez  
Rank: Fire-Rescue Lieutenant  
Age: 42  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 7  
Date of Incident: 03/03/2008  
Time of Incident: 1220hrs  
Date of Death: 03/03/2008

Fire Department: Palm Beach Fire-Rescue Department  
Address: 50 South Military Trail, Suite 101, West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
Fire Department Chief: Fire Rescue Administrator Herman W. Brice  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.pbcrf.org/>

**Incident Description:** During a lunch break from a department mandated training session on "strategy and tactics," Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Vazquez was shot and killed at a Wendy's

restaurant by a deranged gunman, who injured several others before turning the weapon on himself.

Incident Location: 1376 North Military Trail, Palm Beach, FL (USNG: 17R NK 8842 5323)

Map view -

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=19&usng=17RNK8842453231&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Donations to assist the Vazquez family may be sent C/o: Union Office, 2328 S. Congress Avenue, Suite 2C, Palm Springs, 33406. You can also call (561) 969-0729. Checks can also be dropped off at any Palm Beach Fire-Rescue station. In the comment area of checks, please make note that the donation is for the Vazquez family.

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire-Rescue Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 23 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Brad Holmes  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 21  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: Unk  
Date of Incident: 02/29/2008  
Time of Incident: 0600hrs  
Date of Death: 03/05/2008

Fire Department: Pine Township Engine Company  
Address: 545 Barkeyville RD, PO Box 627, Grove City, PA 16127  
Fire Department Chief: Christopher Holmes  
Fire Department Website: <http://fire.pinetownship.org/>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Holmes and another firefighter (Lt. Scott King) were attempting to rescue a 44-year-old female resident from the second floor of a burning duplex, when conditions in the building rapidly deteriorated and the firefighters became trapped.

The two firefighters were rescued by a rapid intervention team and transported to the hospital. Lieutenant King has since been released from the hospital, but Firefighter Holmes, after several days in critical condition at the Mercy Hospital Burn Unit, succumbed to his injuries in the morning hours of 03/05/2008.

The female resident of the structure did not survive the fire. According to [FirefighterCloseCalls.com](http://FirefighterCloseCalls.com), the fire has been ruled accidental by the State Fire Marshal, sparked by a hair dryer on the living room couch on the first floor.

**Incident Location:** 132 Garden Way, Grove City, PA (USNG: 17 TNF 7625 5645)

Map view -

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=18&usng=17TNF7625956450&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** A fund has been established at North West Savings Bank, 200 S. Center Street, Grove City, PA 16127 ATTN: FF Brad Holmes.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Brad Holmes at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 24 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name:	Roger Dennis Jr.
Rank:	Fire Engineer
Age:	55
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	34
Date of Incident:	02/29/2008
Time of Incident:	1604hrs
Date of Death:	02/29/2008

Fire Department:	San Antonio Fire Department
Address:	115 Auditorium Circle, San Antonio, TX 78205
Fire Department Chief:	Charles N. Hood
Fire Department Website:	<a href="http://www.sanantonio.gov/safd/">http://www.sanantonio.gov/safd/</a>

**Incident Description:** Fire Engineer Dennis became ill while on duty at Fire Station 40. Dennis was transported to the hospital where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation for Fire Engineer Dennis will be held Thursday, March 6 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lewis Funeral Home, 811 S. Ww White, San Antonio, TX. Funeral services will be held Friday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at the Living Way Christian Center, 13285 N I-35, Live Oak, TX.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** None reported.

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Engineer Roger Dennis Jr. at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 25 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Nicholas Picozzi, Jr.  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 35  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 7  
Date of Incident: 03/05/2008  
Time of Incident: 0830hrs  
Date of Death: 03/05/2008

Fire Department: Lower Chichester Fire Company  
Address: P.O. Box 1084, 1540 Huddle Street, Linwood, PA 19061  
Fire Department Chief: Ray Fuller Sr.  
Fire Department Website: [www.lowerchi39.com](http://www.lowerchi39.com)

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Picozzi became trapped when fire conditions rapidly deteriorated in the basement of an unoccupied single family residential structure. Three other firefighters were injured, one taken to the Chester-Crozer Hospital Burn Unit and reported to be in fair condition; two others treated at the hospital for smoke inhalation and released. The cause of the fire is under investigation but is thought to be related to two large trees near the residence falling on a 13,000-volt primary distribution line.

**Incident Location:** 100 block of Moser Street, Upper Chichester Township, PA (USNG: 18S VK 6164 1246).

Map view –

<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=19&usng=18SVK6164112465&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Nicholas Picozzi, Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 26 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Victor Isler  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 40

Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 15+  
Date of Incident: 03/07/2008  
Time of Incident: 0700hrs  
Date of Death: 03/07/2008

Name: Justin Monroe  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 19  
Gender: Male  
Status: Part-Time (Paid)  
Years of Service: 3+  
Date of Incident: 03/07/2008  
Time of Incident: 0700hrs  
Date of Death: 03/07/2008

Fire Department: Salisbury Fire Department  
Address: 514 E Innes ST., Salisbury, NC 28144  
Fire Department Chief: Robert Parnell  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.salisburync.gov/FIRE/>

**Incident Description:** Firefighters Isler and Monroe passed away from injuries suffered while on a hose line battling a multi-alarm fire at Salisbury Millwork, a supplier of cabinetry and wood trim. At least three other firefighters were injured, though none seriously, as they tried to rescue the pair.

**Incident Location:** 1905 S Railroad St., Salisbury NC 28144 (USNG: 17S NV 4587 4559).  
Map view –  
<http://www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=17&usng=17SNV4587145595&disp=h>

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending. Updates will be posted @  
<http://www.salisburync.gov/FIRE/>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending. Updates will be posted @  
<http://www.salisburync.gov/FIRE/>

Fire Chief Parnell asked that his heartfelt thanks be expressed for all the support and prayers he and his entire department have received from the fire service community around the world.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Victor Isler and Firefighter Justin Monroe at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 28 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**Some more firefighter safety and training information, courtesy of Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder and Gordon Graham, hosts of [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

Hey...

A Riverhead (Suffolk County, L.I.N.Y.) Fire Officer was arraigned today for allegedly taking out a utility pole while driving drunk in fire apparatus. Captain Robert Block is being charged by the cops with DWI and endangering the welfare of a child. Captain Block was arrested yesterday after he allegedly crashed into the pole while driving back from the Village of Greenport parade. The cops said the Captains 8-year-old son and another Firefighter, who was injured in the crash, were also in the apparatus.

As utility crews replaced the pole today, the Riverhead FD, naturally, took a lot of heat. "We notified the police department," said Commissioner Bill Kelly. "And we've been doing our own internal investigation. It puts a black eye on every member of this department." Captain Block, with 10 years of service has been suspended. While there is no question that the Captain has provided more than a decade of good service to the Department, the D.U.I. issue again is brought to light in the fire service. Here are some related thoughts on the FF DUI issue in case you missed them the last time...

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/secretPHPmessage.php?issueID=398>

There is a lot that can be done to avoid this from happening again in any FD....we just have to want it. Brotherhood? Pah-leez. Ignoring the booze problem in our departments allows real bad stuff to happen...eventually...and we chose to ignore it a lot for a variety of reasons. Dealing with the booze issue at any FD is difficult for any member of any FD...but it doesn't take away the need to still deal with it directly or indirectly. Or, just ignore it and let history repeat itself...not knowing who they will hurt or potentially kill. This latest DUI amongst "us" is another warning from an incident that is real bad-and could have been horrific. Maybe this can help: <http://www.withthecommand.com/2003-May/OH-BillyG-AA.html>

More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL and THINK.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-17-08 / 2128 hours

**AND:**

A Dayton (PA) Firefighter died in the Line of Duty in Armstrong County. The Dayton Firefighter was responding to a call last night when he died of a medical condition at the Dayton Fire Station. The Firefighter's name has not been released but the Firefighter had been with the department for at least 40 years. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-08 / 0830 hours

**AND**

Hey...

As most know, the National Association of Homebuilders has worked very, very aggressively to block attempts throughout the United States for mandatory residential fire sprinkler systems. Below is a link to a recent article related to some of their other activities....but first....

**MUST SEE "FF's In Da' House' VIDEO:** Speaking of RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS, take a look at this outstanding video put out by the Fresno FD and their Chief, Randy Bruegman, a long time Secret List member. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgIE5lnsGrw>

And...here is that article about the National Association of Home Builders, one of the top 10 corporate donors to politicians, about how they have stopped contributing to congressional candidates after they failed to get what they wanted in recent anti-recession legislation. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/13/AR2008021303699.html>

**ADDITIONAL FF SMOKE INHAL & CYANIDE INFO:** Here is the JEMS supplement "Smoke Inhalation & Hydrogen Cyanide Poisoning" loaded with outstanding information: [http://www.jems.com/resources/supplements/Smoke\\_Inhalation\\_and\\_Hydrogen\\_Cyanide\\_Poisoning.html](http://www.jems.com/resources/supplements/Smoke_Inhalation_and_Hydrogen_Cyanide_Poisoning.html)

#### **FIREFIGHTERS WORKING / BLOCKING THE ROADWAY ISSUES:**

Here is a brand new update related to PUBLIC SAFETY HI-VISIBILITY VESTS for use by us....<http://www.respondersafety.com/fullstory.php?60212>

Most of you have seen the video of the Police Officer arresting the Fire Captain in Missouri- the same Fire Captain who was then awarded \$18,000.00 last week because the cop was wrong. If not, here is the video:

<http://www.kmov.com/video/topvideo-index.html?nvid=217818&she=1>

**The issue of PROTECTING ALL RESPONDERS (Fire, EMS and of course, the Cops)** seems to still be a hot one. Below are some great statistical resources from our partners at [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com) . This listed below info is of great value in helping local police folks (and some of our own folks) understand why we need to manage traffic, why we block, who it protects and how local plan solves a lot of problems ahead of time.

#### **Traffic Hazards to Fire Fighters While Working Along Roadways**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hid12.html>

#### **National Traffic Incident Management Committee (NTIMC) Traffic Incident Fact Sheet**

<http://www.transportation.org/sites/ntimc/docs/TRAFFIC%20INCIDENT%20FACTS.doc>

#### **(NTIMC) National Unified Goal Responder Safety Brochure**

<http://www.transportation.org/sites/ntimc/docs/ResponderSafety3xFinal.pdf>

#### **The Officer Down Memorial Page <http://www.odmp.org/search.php?adv=1>**

Use the advanced search feature to pull up "Struck by Vehicle" incidents - Over 729 officers

killed when struck by vehicles. Also check "Vehicular assault" numbers which are mostly struck by vehicle cases.

### **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund**

Causes of Law Enforcement Deaths (1997-2006) - 151 officers struck and killed by vehicles  
<http://www.nleomf.com/TheMemorial/Facts/causes.htm>

### **USFA - Roadway Operations Safety**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/roadway.shtm>

### **NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigations and Prevention Program**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/> ...the following LODD reports that apply:

**2 Firefighters were struck on an interstate;** one was killed, and one with serious injuries.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9927.html>

**Firefighter dies after being struck** by a tractor trailer truck.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9938.html>

**Assistant Chief is struck and killed** at road construction site

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200337.html>

**Fire Police captain dies after being struck** by motor vehicle while directing traffic

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200316.html>

**Firefighter killed while walking across** an Interstate highway at an MVA

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200313.html>

**Fire Captain killed, two fire fighters and police officer injured when struck** by motor vehicle

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200238.html> ;

**Firefighter dies and an off-duty fire fighter is injured after being struck** by a truck

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200235.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-19-08 / 1453 hours

**AND**

Hey...

In New Mexico earlier today, Fire Chief Michael Hays was tragically killed today at an explosion at the Brazos Canyon fire station when he stopped in to pick up the mail. Some reports have the Chief as recently retired as the Chief but still a member of the FD. We will have more details on this in the morning. We have some photos that have been posted on our home page.

**FIRE CAPTAIN HAS STROKE WHILE RESPONDING:** A 60-year-old captain with the San Bernardino County Fire Department suffered a severe stroke Saturday while responding to a

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structure fire in the San Bernardino Mountains. Capt. Vance Tomaselli remained unconscious Sunday night. Captain Tomaselli and another Firefighter from the county's Angelus Oaks Station 15 were dispatched and he suffered the stroke while driving to the fire. As a result of the stroke, the Captain lost control of the engine and crashed into a tree. Neither Firefighter was injured as a result of the crash. The other firefighter radioed for help and the captain was airlifted to Loma Linda University Medical Center.

**FATAL RESPONDING CRASH:** A Bayou Cane Fire-Rescue (LA) unit responding to an emergency crashed into a taxi cab at a busy intersection in Terrebonne Parish on Friday night, and the crash left the car's driver dead. The Bayou Cane VFD apparatus was on its way to another wreck, its lights flashing and siren on when it struck the cab at the intersection. Police said the fireman driving the vehicle, identified as Cody Hebert, 23, was driving when he saw that traffic at the intersection was backed up.

One witness stated that "The fire truck was moving really fast. It nailed him". Both said they thought the cab was trying to move out of the fire truck's way when it was struck. The impact smashed much of the driver's side of the vehicle into the car, killing the cab passenger, who was seated in the rear passenger side of the vehicle with her seatbelt on, farthest away from the impact of the crash.

After the victim was removed from the vehicle, the naturally distraught Bayou Cane firefighters huddled into a circle and said a short prayer. The driver of the fire truck, submitted to a volunteer breath test and no alcohol was found in his system. The driver of the cab will also be tested at the coroner's office. Louisiana State Police officers are still investigating the exact cause of the accident.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-19-08 / 2150 hours

**AND**

Hey...

Today is the 5th Anniversary of the infamous Station Nightclub Fire in West Warwick, R.I. On a winter night, the fire literally ran through the nightclub just after the band Great White had taken the stage. Pyrotechnics lit onstage torched flammable acoustic foam on the walls, and in minutes, the building flashed-over and was fully involved. Besides the 100 people killed, 200 others were injured (numerous horrific burns) and more than 100 others escaped. Last year, the club owners reached plea agreements with the state: Michael Derderian was sentenced to four years of prison on work release, and his brother Jeffrey to community service. Band manager Daniel M. Biechele had earlier received a four-year prison term; he and Michael Derderian will be paroled before serving out their terms. **While we remember this nightmare of a fire, we also must remember the FIREFIGHTERS that responded, performed numerous rescues and continue on with this fire as a part of their careers.** Here are some links for your interest and learning:

<http://www.projo.com/extra/2003/stationfire/> (Outstanding coverage of the fire-from then until now)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G514Oj7jOCo> (5 Year Anniversary Video Coverage)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwdEXZmK9lk> (Amateur Video of the Fire)

[http://realex.nist.gov:8080/ramgen/RI\\_Fire\\_Broll.rm](http://realex.nist.gov:8080/ramgen/RI_Fire_Broll.rm) (NIST B-roll fire simulation)

[http://www.nist.gov/public\\_affairs/releases/RI\\_finalreport\\_june2905.htm](http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/RI_finalreport_june2905.htm) (Full NIST Report)

Speaking of **NIST**...take a few minutes to also check out: [www.FIRE.gov](http://www.FIRE.gov) . This outstanding website from the "**firefighting scientists**" at NIST is for them to share their firefighting related findings with us. From flashover to tactical operations to tracking lost firefighters to structural collapse to actual fire recreations-this site is loaded with must have info at no cost.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-20-08 / 1524 hours

**AND**

Hey...

It doesn't take long (watching the news or as a FF or even after being a subscriber to TSL) to figure out that life's plans can be altered the moment we least expect it. And every once in a while a loss very close to us jolts us and reminds us of just that. And...every once in a while, you meet a young kid, born to be a Firefighter, who leaves us way too soon. That was our family friend Ricky Muth. Ricky tragically died Wednesday, February 20, 2008 from a non-FD related accident near Winchester, VA. Ricky was born August 2, 1979, the son of our wonderful friend, the late Fire Chief & Fire-Rescue Commissioner Ray Muth, Sr., his surviving Mom, Donna and the Brother of Loudoun County FF Ray Muth Jr. Ricky is also survived by his wife Jennifer, his two small children Jake and Cali, his grandfather and many family and friends. Ricky was a former Lt with the Ashburn VFRD Co. 6 in Loudoun County (VA) and also was a member of the Rouss VFD in Winchester (VA) and the Kentland VFD in Prince Georges County, MD.

Sometimes we take "executive privilege" to share the words on TSL about someone who we knew and who made a difference in the fire service. Ricky was quite a character and like many of us, took his time in figuring life out...but there was never any question that Ricky was a Firefighter from the day he was born. Our deepest condolences and heartfelt loss and love to the entire Muth family as well as all affected by this untimely and shocking loss. For those in the area and interested, memorial details are here:

<http://www.endersandshirley.com/?pagetype=memlist>

**RESPONDING FIREFIGHTER CHARGED IN DEPUTY SHERIFF DEATH:** A responding MO. Volunteer Firefighter involved in the October crash that killed Greene County Deputy Sheriff Gary McCormack, has been charged in the accident. FF Joshua C. Douglas, 25, was arraigned yesterday on a misdemeanor charge of careless and imprudent driving resulting in an accident. He pleaded not guilty. In late November , a Missouri Highway Patrol report found the Ebenezer volunteer Firefighter at fault in the Oct. 6 accident that killed McCormack, the

first on-duty death of a Greene County deputy in 40 years. When the crash occurred, both FF Douglas and Deputy McCormack were responding to a crash with "unknown injuries" shortly after 0400 hours. FF Douglas was driving toward his fire station as Deputy McCormack, traveling more than 90 mph, was speeding to the accident scene. Both men had on emergency lights and sirens. At the intersection, FF Douglas faced a stop sign. Deputy McCormack did not.

As the report stated, this crash occurred as a direct result of FF Douglas not stopping or slowing for the stop sign. And while this was a horrifically tragic event, and clearly if FF Douglas stopped at the stop sign this could have been avoided, the Deputy traveling at more than 90 mph to any event requires fair mention as well. At 90 mph, no matter what, no vehicle can be quickly slowed down, safely stopped or controlled. Our condolences go out to all affected.

THE FIRE CAPTAIN LOCKED UP ISSUE. We blew it last week when we posted the story about the Fire Captain getting arrested on the scene by a Cop without looking at the big picture. While we definitely supported Fire Captain David Wilson's fiscal award in Court from Police Officer Todd Greeves following the wrongful locking up at the scene, we failed to point out the other "wrongful" stuff done as seen on the video.

As you know. the cop ordered that the fire apparatus be moved to accommodate passing traffic and arrested Captain Wilson for ignoring him and he was then released after 23 minutes and never charged. He sued, and won, claiming civil rights violations that subjected him to anxiety and humiliation.

One part of the issue we failed to raise (but many of you didn't!) is the fact that the captain, as seen on the video, arrived and did a "standing jump" arrival off the moving apparatus, clearly was unbelted when that occurred and totally missed numerous issues of PPE and related safety stuff as seen on the below video.

Why mention it now? When Firefighters watch the below video, and particularly Fire Officers who are expected to enforce the policies as well as Firefighters who are expected to follow the policies, it shouldn't be looked at for just the ridiculous behavior of the cop. The fact is that the Captain, who was clearly in the right for attempting to block the scene for the safety of his personnel, totally missed the mark in some of the others tasks performed at the scene which could have lead to more tragic headlines which would lead to more very personal anxiety and humiliation. Here is the complete video:

<http://www.kmov.com/video/topvideo-index.html?nvid=217923>

NEW MEXICO FIRE CHIEF LODD UPDATE: Services for former Brazos Canyon VFD Chief Michael J. Hays will be held on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 1000 hours at El Mason Church (Assembly of God Church) in Chama, New Mexico. Burial will be at 1500 hours at the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. A fund has been established to assist Ramona Hays, widow of deceased Fire Chief Michael J. Hays. Cash donations may be made to the Michael J. Hays Memorial Fund in care of Bank of America.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-21-08 / 1933 hours

**AND:**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Captain Vance Tomaselli of the San Bernardino County F.D. (Calif) has died in the Line of Duty after suffering a stroke while driving an engine company on a fire call last Saturday. According to reports, he was trying to tell his fire dispatchers that he knew something was wrong with himself, and he was trying to get off the road when he sideswiped a tree. At noon last Saturday, the 60-year-old Fire Captain and a trainee were responding to a structure fire in Angelus Oaks. If Tomaselli had lost control of the engine, the rig likely would have plunged down a mountainside, a SBCFD spokesman said. That could have killed both occupants. Instead, Captain Tomaselli negotiated the turn where other firefighters came to his aid and summoned a medical helicopter....he probably saved the life of his crew member. Captain Tomaselli, who joined the Fire Department 27 years ago, underwent surgery Saturday, but succumbed to his medical emergency. Our sincere condolences to all affected by this loss.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-08 / 1454 hours

**AND:**

GA FF LODD: We regret to advise you that a basic Firefighter student who collapsed yesterday while participating in a non-burn training evolution at the Georgia Fire Academy, has died in the Line of Duty. While in full gear during a drill, FF Joey Turner, a 48 year old Volunteer Firefighter from Clinch County collapsed from an apparent sudden cardiac arrest. He received immediate on-scene care to include CPR and the use of an AED before being turned over to local EMS. He was transported to Monroe Co. Hospital in critical condition and once stabilized, was transported to the Medical Center of Central Ga. This afternoon the family made the difficult decision to remove life support. Our condolences to all affected by the loss.

Colorado FF's Injured in Explosion: 7 Firefighters were injured this afternoon when an explosion blew out the front of a bakery and two other businesses on this afternoon. A restaurant fire in downtown Durango spread to adjacent businesses and there was some kind of an explosion. One report is that 3 Firefighters were blown from a roof. A total of 7 Firefighters were taken to the hospital, but they had non life-threatening injuries. More details posted.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-08 / 2242 hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you that a Fire Captain (age 34) with the Ault-Pierce Fire Protection District (Colorado) rolled their apparatus this morning and was killed in the Line of Duty on a

rural road. The Firefighter was responding to a medical emergency around 0630 hours when the truck rolled in an intersection. The rig was a tender/tanker-pumper and it ran off the left side of the road, overcorrected, then ran off the right side, rolling one-quarter time and ejecting the driver. More details to follow. As always, our most sincere condolences go out to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SLOW DOWN. SEAT BELTS.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-08 / 1345 hours

**AND:**

Very tragically, the Ault-Pierce (Colorado) Fire District Captain was not wearing a seat belt when he died in the Line of Duty this morning. Captain Shame Stewart, 33, lost control of the fire apparatus he was driving to a medical run, rolled the truck, was ejected and pronounced dead at the scene. No one else was in the apparatus. Captain Stewart had been a Volunteer Firefighter since August 2004. Captain Stewart was married and leaves behind 2 elementary school-aged children. His brother and father are also volunteer firefighters for the Ault-Pierce district. The Colorado State Patrol said the apparatus ran off the left side of the road, overcorrected, then ran off the right side, rolling onto its roof. Our deepest condolences to all affected but especially the wife, kids and family of Captain Stewart.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Gotten Serious about SEAT BELT use at your FD yet?

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-08 / 2320 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

We have been advised that on Friday evening, a Bagley (AL) Firefighter was injured in an acquired structure burn training fire. FF's were training in an abandoned house when a veteran Firefighter ran low on air and became disoriented. At some point, the FF removed his mask and consequently received burns to his face and significant injury to his lungs from breathing the smoke and superheated air. The FF is presently in UAB's Burn unit on a ventilator to help his lungs heal. Additional details to follow...please keep this FD and especially the FF in your thoughts and prayers.

**MORE FF TRAINING GONE WRONG..INFO:** While all the details are not out yet related to what happened above, we are again reminded of Firefighter training events gone wrong. Clearly, the strict following of NFPA 1403 can go a long and proven way to minimizing injury and death. Take a look at these:

**LIVE FIRE TRAINING....DO IT THIS WAY:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2005-102/>

**DO NOT DO IT THIS WAY:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ettaSkqxLJk>

**HI-RISE/WIND DRIVEN FIRE INFO:** Here is a link to a NY Times article on the outstanding fire behavior experiments being conducted with week by NIST and FDNY:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/25/nyregion/25fan.html?em&ex=1204088400&en=1dbd35d71ce4501e&ei=5087%0A>

If that link won't work, we have the info and a few pics on our home page.

**BOSTON REPORT:** Here is a link to the report that is causing significant "discussion" in Boston, specifically related to the tragic Line of Duty Deaths of BFD Firefighters Warren Payne and Paul Cahill. On Friday, Fire Comm. Roderick Fraser ordered his FD's Board of Inquiry to scrap their original report and conduct a new probe incorporating a review of the toxicology and autopsy results. [http://www.bostonnow.com/files/media/pdf/BOI\\_Report.pdf](http://www.bostonnow.com/files/media/pdf/BOI_Report.pdf)

**VIDEO: FIREFIGHTERS INJURED IN EXPLOSION.** Thanks to Dave Statter 911 for the link to this video of the FF's in Durango, CO. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YokKrpLiaSU> 9 Firefighters were injured, though only one remained in the hospital yesterday. Durango D/C Allen Clay was upgraded from fair to good condition. Chief Clay suffered chest trauma when he and several other Firefighters were thrown from the roof when Le Rendezvous exploded.

### **NIMS EXPLAINED.**

While we CLEARLY understand the needs for the concept of NIMS, sometimes we think goals get "lost" from idea to implementation. For example, if the idea is to use "common language"..then why don't we use common language or plain English? Why isn't "The 4th Floor" at a fire "The 4th Floor" anymore? Anyway-we have dug high and low to determine some of the answers on how the NIMS was developed, the terminology and some related changes that, at least to us, have caused more confusion.

We have found out that **FIRE** folks are not responsible for much of the confusion. Those responsible are folks who had never been to an emergency...until one day, where they were found developing NIMS-and that's how that happens. But, in our satirical research, we were actually able to find a video clip showing an individual who reportedly took the lead in developing NIMS terminology...and what he did prior to his job as the NIMS Official International Jurisdictional Interoperational Communications Language Interpretation On-Site Coordinator. After viewing this clip, you may better be able to understand how things end up the way they do and why sometimes those "interpreting" what we do, don't always understand what we do...and how it doesn't *have* to be *real* complicated. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF-AcR14Km8&feature=related>

Have A Nice Day.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-08 / 1259 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

**LODD note**-we have just posted a tragic story about a South Korean FF who was killed in the Line of Duty today while operating by himself at a structural fire. Our condolences to all affected.

**TEXAS FF'S INJURED:** The massive wildfires stretching across Sterling, Reagan and Irion

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counties in Central Texas are approaching 500,000 acres. 3 Firefighters were injured in Archer County when two fire apparatus collided head on after one swerved around a car that pulled out into the road. One of the Firefighters was airlifted to an area hospital..he has survived but his condition was unknown. We wish the FF's in Texas the best in gaining control over those fires. Word is their efforts have been outstanding with no deaths and few structures destroyed.

### **C.A.D. SAYS:**

....Computer Aided Dispatching is of course what we are referring to. You may have been following the recent story in Texas where the Dallas PD & Dallas FD are dealing with many questions about the death of a police officer. The concern is the time it took to get EMS to Senior Corporal Victor Lozada. The motorcycle officer died last Friday while riding in a motorcade for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. It took nearly 11 minutes to get a DFD ambulance to the crash scene. Officials admit it took five minutes just to get the city's new automated 911 system to dispatch an ambulance. The system failed to recognize a street viaduct as an acceptable address in its database. The automated system then sent an ambulance to the closest address in the database, which was several blocks away on North Houston Street. Officers had to eventually flag down another ambulance near by.

While not referring to that case specifically, it is another example where CAD says to do this or CAD says to do that. And while CAD may only be as good as the software, the hardware and the data placed in the system, a most critical factor in any CAD system must be the FIRE DISPATCHERS.

CAD is a great tool but so many systems are developed by folks who do not do the dispatching. And while no one group should be the solution to any one problem like that, so many CAD systems are designed, developed and installed without asking some of the folks who will use it....or depend on it. Then it is in, up, running and problems come up. Sometimes the problems are really bad. Headline making problems. Lawyer hiring problems. Funeral going problems.

Years ago, we had some dispatchers who I felt were the absolute best in the business. They averaged "call handling time" (from the time the phone rang until the time the tones went out) of 30 seconds. **THIRTY SECONDS.** It was amazing to watch these FIRE/EMS TRAINED dispatchers get calls out "right now" ! And it mattered-a lot. The quicker we get there-the quicker the fire gets hit and the quicker we go home. Or the quicker Grandpa gets defibrillated. Or the quicker Mom gets extricated. The goal is to get the alarm dispatched quickly and accurately.

Some of you may not be great fans of your dispatchers. Your concerns may be valid ..or may be lame. Make sure that you have spent time visiting, learning and understanding what your dispatchers do and how it works "down there" before you go insane without reason or qualification. Just because you are a "listener" to the radio doesn't mean you have a clue as to what the dispatchers do. It isn't as easy as it seems down there-dealing with the public..and us.

We have sat in some CAD meetings where the vendors and the purchasers (none of whom were dispatchers or field personnel) were actually OK with losing call handling time...but

gaining great stats!? **W T F !?! STATS?!** Stats are nice AFTER we effectively do our job ...but a priority of getting good stats vs "how fast can this system-used by our trained fire dispatchers...process a run?" That's insane. Nothing else matters than getting the companies on the road as quickly and efficiently as possible.

**Nothing Else Matters.** When Mrs. Smith dials 9-1-1, she wants us there 5 minutes ago. And while we have to get there, and get there without getting ourselves hurt or killed, one of the BEST ways to reduce RESPONSE TIME is to reduce call handling and call processing time. FD's may be surprised to see how long it takes to get a run transmitted to the due companies in some dispatch centers. Sometimes it is caller problems. Sometimes it is dispatcher training issues. Sometimes it is dispatch staffing issues. But sometimes it is CAD. No matter what, the goal is to get that run out with the critical information: Where is it? What is the phone # you are calling from? What is it? Boom. **Tones**...or stay on the phone after tones for EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) or other related needed info. But until the tones go out....we can't help that person having their BAD day. And while dispatcher training is a major concern and issue in some areas, the BEST trained dispatcher can literally be disarmed from doing a great job if the CAD system creates problems. If the CAD system gets in the way of allowing FIRE DISPATCHERS from doing their job, help stops. And, the dispatchers must have the training, skills and authority to do other than what "**CAD SAYS**" if it makes sense to do that. In other words, dispatchers trained to recognize what is right-what is wrong-and have a system, authority and skills to fix that problem...right now.

There are many dispatch centers that used "paper cards" and no CAD system to process their alarms for many years-and the call handling times were excellent-and they did it very well. **Real well.** So well that tones went off before the caller hung up. That fast. Of course, time moved forward and the world became more automated, CAD systems came along as a supposed aid to help the entire process. And there are many CAD systems that do just that-they enhance our ability to get to that run...right now!

Unfortunately though, there are many CAD systems that are focused on being so much else to a department or local government, where those designing it and those purchasing it have often forgotten what the CAD system is for: getting help to the caller very quickly, accurately and efficiently. And in order to do that, if the role of the dispatcher has not been included in the entire start to actual implementation process, the outcome is predictable.

If a trained, professional FIRE dispatcher can get a call out 50% faster without waiting for CAD to tell'm what to do...how does using or purchasing that CAD system like that make sense? It doesn't. At least not to the person that just stopped breathing or whose basement is on fire. That is the only reason we exist. Sometimes that is forgotten. A CAD system should enhance the ability to get help to callers-not slow it down but also offer some "cool" other record keeping features to distract us from the real mission of rapid call handling, processing and alarm transmission.

Once the system is up and running, who is making sure it actually does work as expected without it getting in the way of getting help to those who need it? How often is the system monitored for quality control? Call handling times? FORGET what "CAD SAYS" and go to the radio and phone tapes and do some real quality control and time evaluations. After all, CAD TIMES are only as good and as accurate as those entering the times or pushing the buttons-

be it from mobile terminals or at consoles. By periodically listening to the actual tapes-with automated time logging, you can truly see how long it takes your caller's emergency---possibly the worst day of their life---to be handled. A good rule of thumb for some FD's, Fire Chiefs and Dispatch Center Chiefs are to "pull times and tapes" routinely but also on all "serious" calls such as working fires, civilian deaths or near death injuries and related life threatening emergencies. It can't hurt and can pay off big time in evaluating what matters.

Planning ahead and considering the role of the dispatchers (the ones who make it all work) in the process of CAD and related equipment development can make a positive difference. Going to visit other dispatch centers as a part of the process is a big deal as well. And when you go, also talk to those who don't wear suits. Talk to the dispatchers who, hopefully can tell you the good and the not so good about their CAD. Ask, if the CAD system could be ordered again, what would be done differently and why?

When someone needs "us" ...they usually need "us" quick. Sometimes REALLY quick. A part of that "response" includes civilians knowing to call us quickly. Once that call is answered, the call takers, the dispatchers and the dispatch supervisors have to get us on the road...right now, with the right info. They need to operate as if it is THEIR family member that just called needing "**right now**" help. A CAD system is a major "link" (weak or strong) in getting help to those who need it quickly. The last thing anyone involved in the process needs is a CAD system that suggests information that makes no sense along with dispatchers who have not been trained or do not have the training or authority to recognize and immediately correct the problem. If what "CAD SAYS" makes no sense, what's the plan?

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-26-08 / 2203 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

For Firefighters who plan on attending, Captain Shane Stewart's funeral has been scheduled for 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Union Colony Civic Center, 701 10th Ave., in Greeley. The 33-year-old Stewart died in the Line of Duty early Saturday morning when his fire apparatus rolled and he was ejected. He was a Captain on the Ault-Pierce Fire Department, and he left a wife and two young children.

In addition to losing a firefighter and friend, the department also has to face the fact Stewart wasn't wearing his seat belt when he crashed. "He did everything right," said spokesman Capt. Roger Moore of the Eaton Fire Department. "He wasn't speeding or driving recklessly. **But he wasn't wearing a seat belt, and he died...if there was anything good that can come of this terrible thing,** Moore said sadly, **"it would be that other firefighters will understand how important seat belts are."** Our sincere condolences to the Ault-Pierce FF's, the affected friends but especially the family, wife and kids of Captain Shane Stewart.

**NEW FIRE SERVICE STANDARD?** Have you seen information related to the NEW NFPA supposititious standard related to Firefighters, apparatus and seat belts? Several Fire Chiefs and Union Leaders have supposedly pushed for this:

**NFPA 1901-3-2-1-0-NRT-Effective** \_\_ \_\_ \_\_, Section: A-The Fire Chief, Commissioner, Director or related head of the fire department shall develop strict policy related to the safety of their firefighters and related personnel and provide applicable training to ensure understanding and qualification. Section B-Any member of the fire department, fire company, fire district will be immediately suspended and recommended for termination, pending review based upon local law and departmental procedures for failure to wear their seat belt on any fire department vehicle, while the vehicle is moving. Section C-The officer of the offending firefighter will be immediately suspended pending review for failure to supervise their firefighters and failure to enforce policy as required, including their apparatus driver/operator, as detailed in their job description. Section D-The fire department, supervisory and corporate officers shall hold the firefighter(s) personally and professionally responsible for their own actions, specifically related to the wearing and use of seatbelts on all departmental apparatus. Section E-The fire officer on said apparatus or the unit, company or crew leader will be held responsible as the unit supervisor for the health and safety of their personnel at all times.

We will keep you advised as to the progress of this supposititious, mythical and NRT (not really true) national standard. Or, just adopt something like that locally which is the only way all this stuff will get fixed anyway.

**UNBELTED MORONIC BONEHEAD:** Have you heard about the New Zealand driver who used a fake car seat belt to fool police so he didn't have to wear his seat belt? **Well, he sure fooled them!!** The "seat belt faker" was killed in a head-on crash. Ivan Segedin refused to wear a seat belt while driving and had been fined 32 times in the past five years for not wearing one. Segedin, 39, predictably died in a crash on July 22 last year from multiple injuries when his car crossed the road and collided head-on with an oncoming vehicle. Though his car was fitted with seat belts, an extra belt with a long strap had been knotted above the seat belt on the driver's side, providing a belt to simply sit over the driver's shoulder. This created the illusion that a seat belt was being worn when it was not. It also created a non-illusion as to the qualifications that he head for the title of moron. His fatal injuries were caused when he was thrown forward on to the steering wheel in a low-impact crash. His fake seatbelt was found, unharmed.

Reminds us of the Firefighters who disable or hide/sit on seat belts and seat belt alarming devices in their apparatus...and the Officers who literally look the other way. Sharp....real sharp. Once again: BMA.

Take Care-**BUCKLE UP: IMAGINE Your Family Going Thru What Captain Stewart's Family Is Going Thru Now..**

BillyG

The Secret List 2-27-08 / 1145 hours

**AND:**

**LODD:** A French Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday at the real busy Cours Lafayette shopping area by a huge blast that occurred around midday. The explosion happened following the arrival of Firefighters. Over 1,000 people were evacuated from the area where fires went on to destroy several buildings. Over 160 Firefighters operated at the

scene, one of whom, a 35 year old father of two, was killed in the Line of Duty, and 40 more people were injured. President Nicholas Sarkozy sent a letter to the family of the dead firefighter to express his condolences and also praised the fire service for their rapid reaction to the disaster. The explosion is said to have taken place just half an hour after the gas leak was reported. Our condolences to all affected.

**DHS & FEMA BROADCAST:** are now moving into the implementation phase of the National Response Framework (NRF). The Framework explains how officials and responders at all levels of government will work as a team in responding to disasters of all types and sizes. As one of the first steps in implementation, FEMA will be conducting a nationwide broadcast on the NRF on March 5, 2008 from 1:30 – 2:30 PM EST from the studio of the National Preparedness Network located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD. The NRF document and supporting information can be obtained at: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/>

### **FIREFIGHTERS / FIRE OFFICERS / FIRE INSTRUCTORS & "YOUNG" Firefighters.**

Are you one of those young generation Firefighters? Find it a challenge to communicate with the older Firefighters and Officers? Why? Just because they don't answer your text messages? Text *what*?! Are you an older firefighter? One that "just doesn't get" the "Gamer Generation" because they want to "check everything out on the World Wide Web? Isn't what you tell them good enough? Think these "kids" know it all? **They probably do.** Reminds me of the "generation gap" in the 60's and 70's....only this new generation (and the ones coming up right behind them) at least to me, provide a uniquely hopeful future...for the FIRE service as well. We recently did a Thru The Smoke Radio Show for [Firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com) and discussed the issue at length....and have more planned on that subject. We also recently found 2 very cool videos (one given to me by my own Daughter) that may help us older ones, understand (*a little better*) the interesting challenges that we have (and will have) with the current and upcoming generation of FF's:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-ZVCjfWf8&feature=related>

...and today's young Firefighters:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGCJ46vyR9o&feature=related>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-29-08 / 0736 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

This morning the Grove City VFD (PA) was dispatched to a dwelling fire with reported persons trapped at a side by side duplex. Additional alarms were called for from the Pine Twp FD and a RIT from East End VFD. The 1st in crews initiated fire attack and started a search on the less involved side. The already difficult conditions deteriorated further and the evacuation signals were sounded via radio and apparatus air horns. The RIT was in the process of assisting with laddering the building when one of the Firefighters from the search team came out the front door. He advised that there was still one Firefighter still upstairs. The RIT was deployed and found the other Firefighter. He was removed from the building within minutes. Both firefighters were transported to Grove City Medical Center with serious burns.

Both firefighters were transferred to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh. As of 1000 hours, 1 Firefighter was in surgery and in critical condition and the other Firefighter was in stable condition. A civilian is also reported to have been killed at that fire. Updates to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-29-08 / 1215 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

A cowardly gunman dressed in a suit and tie walked into a Wendy's restaurant in Palm Beach County (Florida) at lunchtime today, killing a Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Lieutenant who was on his lunch break. The lunatic then went on shooting four others before turning the gun on himself. The Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Lieutenant was taking a lunch break from training and met his wife and child at the restaurant. The 42-year-old Firefighter and his family had just left the restaurant when he returned to retrieve a toy his child had left behind. The Lieutenant was shot in the back as he stood at the counter.

Our condolences to all those affected.

**PA CANCER LODD:** It is with deep regret that we report the line-of-duty death of Lieutenant Jay L. Ervin of IAFF Local 655 - Bradford, Pennsylvania. Brother Ervin, 50, died on Saturday, March 1, 2008 from kidney and bone cancer. The visitation will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Home in Bradford. The funeral will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 1 p.m., also at the funeral home. Expressions of sympathy or condolences can be sent to Local 655 at P.O. Box 273, Bradford, PA 16701.

FOR MORE INFORMATION RELATED TO FIREFIGHTER CANCER GO TO:

[www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org](http://www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org)

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-3-08 / 1714 hours

**AND:**

A Quebec Firefighter is missing and presumed as a Line of Duty Death this morning after operating at a dwelling fire in Varennes, about 30 minutes drive north of Montreal. The fire started around 2300 hours last night in the basement of the dwelling. The man and woman who lived in the home got out. As Firefighters were working, 3 members were trapped in the dwelling for a yet to be disclosed reason. Reports are that 2 were able to escape, but the 3rd was unable to get out or be rescued. There also may have been a collapse inside the house. We just received unofficial word that the missing Firefighter remains have been located and removed. Additional info will be posted. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-4-08 / 0845 hours

**AND:**

We deeply regret to inform you that 21 year old Pine Township (PA) Firefighter Brad Holmes has died in the Line of Duty, passing away this morning after being burned over 75 percent of his body in a house fire last Friday that also took the life of a civilian. FF Holmes (who is also the President of the FC) is the brother of the Pine Township's Fire Chief, Chris Holmes and the son of their Assistant Chief, Joe Holmes. FF Holmes and Firefighter Scott King were doing a search and attempted rescue into the burning duplex. Conditions in the building rapidly deteriorated and the Firefighters became trapped on the second floor....and they were rescued by a rapid intervention team. FF King has been discharged from the hospital. Our deepest condolences to all affected-additional info will be posted later.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-5-08 / 0655 hours

**AND:**

**This Firefighter LODD is separate from the earlier LODD that was in Western PA.** Companies in Upper Chichester, Delaware County (PA) were operating at a working dwelling fire around 0900 this morning when conditions changed drastically resulting in at least 1 FF trapped. RIT teams on the scene as well as special called rescue companies (from PA and the State of Delaware) worked on the removal of the missing Firefighter who was in the building for a lengthy period of time. The member was eventually located and removed and has since died in the Line of Duty....other Firefighters involved in the rescue were also injured. The occupants of the house were rescued without injury. Updates will follow later. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected. Here is a link to photos from the scene:

<http://www.nbc10.com/slideshow/news/15500491/detail.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-5-08 / 1125 hours

**AND:**

**FLA. FIRE LT MURDERED:** Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Lt. Ray Vazquez will be honored Friday in a public "Line of Duty" funeral at the Cruzan Amphitheatre in suburban West Palm Beach. The services will begin at 1100 and a procession to the Dorsey-E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens in Lake Worth will follow. Vazquez will be cremated.

42-year-old Lt. Vazquez was on duty (he had left training for lunch) when he was shot point-blank from behind, killing him. A FD Lieutenant, Vazquez had returned to the restaurant to exchange the toy from his 4-year-old son's kids' meal when he was murdered. He met his wife (a Police Officer) and kid for lunch. Here is a link with more details:  
[http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local\\_news/epaper/2008/03/05/0305shoot.html?imw=Y](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/localnews/content/local_news/epaper/2008/03/05/0305shoot.html?imw=Y)

**2 PA. FIREFIGHTER HOUSE FIRE LODD's:** 2 Pennsylvania Firefighters died in the Line of

Duty Wednesday of injuries suffered at working house fires....and both came from families devoted to their local FD.

FF (and Fire Company President) Brad Holmes, 21, died five days after he and a partner entered a burning house in Grove City, about 50 miles northwest of Pittsburgh, to search for a woman who was trapped.

Lt. Nicholas Picozzi Jr., 36, a Firefighter in suburban Philadelphia, died in the Line of Duty after he and three colleagues became trapped in a morning house fire that may have been sparked by downed power lines. "The whole (Picozzi) family worked in the fire department. That's what makes it even harder on us," Chief Ray Fuller Sr. of the Lower Chichester Fire Department said.

FF Holmes, of the Pine Township Engine Co., had burns over 75 percent of his body when he died early Wednesday at UPMC Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh. The fire that caused his death also claimed the life of Patricia Andrews-Smith, 40, **who had returned to the burning building to try to rescue her dog.** Firefighter Scott King was injured but survived. The fire was caused by a hair dryer found running on a couch and has been ruled an accident. Holmes worked among family at the all-volunteer fire department in Pine Township. His brother, Chris, is the Fire Chief and their father, Joe, is Assistant Chief. FF Holmes, who ran the department's Web site: <http://fire.pinetownship.org/> was remembered for his devotion to his work and his interest in computers. In a message posted on the site Wednesday, Fire Chief Chris Holmes wrote: **"This morning my brave little brother lost his fight against his burns he sustained last Friday trying to rescue a woman from her apartment ... Brad is and will always be my HERO."** FF Holmes wasn't married and was extremely dedicated to his Fire Company.

Lt. Picozzi, a seven-year Lower Chichester Fire Department veteran, was married with 2 children. His father is a Fire Police officer for the Delaware County squad while his mother works with the ladies' auxiliary. The fire may have started when a large tree in the area came down, pulling down electrical wires, investigators said. Here is their site: <http://www.lowerchi39.com/>

**TEXAS HEART ATTACK LODD:** San Antonio Fire Engineer Roger Dennis Jr. (age 55) died after suffering a heart attack on Feb. 29...he collapsed while on duty as a paramedic at Fire Station 40. Dennis joined the department in June of 1973 and was promoted to the rank of fire engineer in October of 1984. Funeral Information. Visitation for Firefighter Dennis will be held Thursday, March 6 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lewis Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held Friday, March 7 at 11 a.m. at the Living Way Christian Center, 13285 N I-35, Live Oak, Texas.

**CANADIAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT HOUSE FIRE.** On March 4th 2008, Firefighter Mathieu Émond of the Varennes Fire Dept has died in the line of duty while fighting a house fire in Varennes. He leaves behind a wife and daughter and extended family, as well as his fellow members of the Varennes FD where he's been a volunteer firefighter for two years, and the Longeuil FD where he was starting a career. A book of condolences has been posted online on the City of Varennes website, you may send your messages of sympathy to his family at: <http://www.ville.varennes.qc.ca/condoleances.php> (It is in French Canadian but

easy to figure out). More information regarding the funerals will be posted as it all becomes available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-08 / 0001 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

A Baltimore City Firefighter was seriously injured in a fall from a responding fire apparatus yesterday. FF/PM Bryan Isaacs was taken to Shock Trauma and is in very serious condition. Initial reports are that he was standing up getting geared up in the back of the rig ...and when the engine made a turn, he fell out. Keep him and his family in your thoughts while making sure this doesn't happen at your FD. Updates will be posted on our home page as well as:

<http://www.iafflocal734.org/>

**LOWER CHICHESTER PA LODD UPDATE:** Funeral arrangements for Lower Chichester FD Lt Nick Picozzi are as follows: Viewing will be Monday from 1530 to 2100 at Holy Savior Church on Ridge Road in Lower Chichester. The funeral mass will be held Tuesday at noon at the church, with burial to follow at Lawn Croft Cemetery.

**PINE TOWNSHIP PA LODD UPDATE:** There will be a special Firefighter Memorial service at 7 this evening (Friday), for Pine Township Engine Company FF Brad Holmes. Participants will hold a procession on foot to the Cunningham Funeral Home in Grove City. On Saturday, noontime services will be held at Grove City College.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **SEAT BELTS.**

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-08 / 0120 hours

**AND:**

There has been at least 1 Firefighter killed in the Line of Duty and at least 2 others are seriously injured/ burned in Salisbury, North Carolina this morning. **One media source is now stating that 2 Firefighters are dead.** Firefighters were operating at a commercial lumber yard fire when there was a collapse and related problems. The Charlotte FD has sent a full assignment, a PIO as well as a USAR response. Companies from Kannapolis, Mooresville, Concord and others are on the scene. Here are some media links:

[www.WCNC.com](http://www.WCNC.com)

[www.WSOCTV.com](http://www.WSOCTV.com)

[www.WXii12.com](http://www.WXii12.com)

We will update later this evening as additional information is provided. As always, our sincere condolences go out to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-08 / 1130 Hours

**AND:**

Hey...

We want to remember that yesterday was the 6-year anniversary of the LODD's of Firefighters Timothy "TJ" Lynch and John "Gino" Ginochetti of the **Manlius NY FD**. Please take a few moments to read and learn from this very detailed report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200206.html>

**NORTH CAROLINA LODD UPDATE:** With several structural fire LODD's in the past few days, and most involving very young Firefighters.... yesterday 2 more Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty....and one was a kid. Most lately have been very young, trained and dedicated but very young Firefighters.

**Ray, Brad, Nick, Roger, Mathieu, Justin and Victor were all Firefighters who were killed in the Line of Duty this week.**

Salisbury FF Justin Monroe was a dedicated, trained, gung ho "always wearing a FD t-shirt" 19 year old Firefighter. And it looks like firefighting was all the 19 year old kid ever really wanted to do. Lisa Monroe said her late son was just 14 when he joined the Miller's Ferry FD Junior program. From that point on, he was set on becoming a Firefighter. FF Monroe eventually got part-time jobs with the Salisbury and Spencer FD's, as well as serving as a volunteer for Miller's Ferry. He was working on his fire technology degree. And now he is one of two Firefighters who were killed in the Line of Duty at the commercial building fire yesterday.

As you know, Salisbury Firefighters Justin Monroe, 19, and Victor Isler, 40, both died from injuries while operating at the cabinetry and wood trim facility fire in Salisbury, NC. 3 other Firefighters were hurt and burned but NLT....they were involved in the attempted rescues of Monroe and Isler. FF Isler had moved to North Carolina from New York last summer to accept a position with the Salisbury FD. A former FDNY paramedic and member of the Deer Park FD (Suffolk County, Long Island) he is survived by his wife Tracy and their two kids, ages 13 and 15.

Reports are that the fire had been contained in the company's showroom and then the fire apparently spread to the production side of the building. **Our sincere condolences in this tragic loss for the SFD, their members but especially the families of FF's Monroe and Isler.** Here are some link to photos, video and related info:

<http://www.wxii12.com/video/15529931/index.html>

<http://www.salisburypost.com/area/302791850943274.php>

**GOOD NEWS IN BALTIMORE:** Baltimore Firefighter Bryan Isaacs remains hospitalized but improving after falling out of the apparatus while responding to a house fire around 1420 on Thursday, as Engine 6 responded to a report of a house fire. **Odd's are: Another avoidable seat belt issue.**

**ANOTHER BAD WEEK FOR NORTH AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES:**

You may have read the comments by Rich Duffy, Health and Safety expert for the IAFF and an active member of the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Board of Directors. Rich told the media that Firefighters should NOT risk their lives if there are no people to save. "As a rule, we do not go into a burning building and risk our own lives to protect property," said Rich.... "In a case like this, the officer in charge sets up a defensive perimeter to keep the fire from spreading, and then fight the fire from the outside." **Expert Advise for Every Firefighter, Fire Officer and Chief. Career. Volunteer. Whatever.**

While this has been a week of Firefighter LODD funerals, and the days ahead will now be the funerals of Salisbury Firefighters Monroe and Isler-take time to read and learn about each of the fires. Read and study them alone and think. Forget the b s firehouse testosterone filled pant grabbing discussions about saving stuff that doesn't have a name, or doesn't have kids or parents. Just think about what is worth it and what isn't. This has nothing to do with being brave, dedicated or courageous. It has everything to do with thinking about what we are getting hurt or killed for. And if we love being Firefighters so much, making some few personal cultural and organizational changes so we can keep being Firefighters as long as possible. Fires will still get put out. Lives will still be saved. We'll just be around longer to do that stuff. Sometimes we do have to take extreme risks for people. **But not for stuff.**

And while thinking, don't think for a second that the people who own commercial buildings with stuff inside expect you to die for their crap. And if they do, your family doesn't. The people who own those buildings have insurance and a chance to sprinkler stuff if they care that much. We have to ALWAYS do our best to stop the fire. But we also have to continue to move forward and think about what is worth it and what isn't when it comes to us getting hurt or killed. Think about the people whose pictures are in your wallet. Think about who is in your wallet and in the wallets of those you work with at the firehouse. Sometimes we have to risk our lives for people-that's the nature of the business we are in. But we also have to look back and think about what is worth it and what isn't. **In so many cases, it isn't.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. THINK.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 3-8-08 / 1621 hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter from West Milford Co. 1 (New Jersey) was killed in the Line of Duty this afternoon. He was operating interior (in his PPE/SCBA) at a working dwelling/kitchen fire when he went down. He was rescued from the building by the Firefighters with him and immediate efforts were started from EMS (who was on the scene) ...he was transported but succumbed to his injury at the hospital. It appears to be medically related but the cause has not be officially been determined. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 3-9-08 / 1730 hours

**AND:**

An **18-year-old** Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty after part of a house in Val-des-Monts (north of Ottawa, Canada) collapsed on him this afternoon. The fire was reported to be out at the time it collapsed, and the young Volunteer Firefighter was the only one inside the building. The fire started at 1345 hours on the second floor of the dwelling and then around 1545 hours, the 18-year-old Firefighter was inside the building, when part of it collapsed. No other Firefighters have been reported to have been injured.

**Details will follow on the loss of another very young North American Firefighter.**

**NJ LODD UPDATE:** Veteran West Milford (NJ) Firefighter collapsed while battling a fire today....Raymond Barrett, 62, was on the scene of a house fire when he collapsed inside the building, No one else was injured in the blaze, which appeared to start in the home's attic and was called in by a neighbor at 2:49 p.m., police said. The home's residents were not there when the fire started. Former Chief Barrett had been a volunteer firefighter for several decades.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-9-08 / 2045 hours

**To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

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**The fire service is losing a great member to retirement, my good friend Ed Trigiero, Assistant Chief of the Arcata (CA) Fire Protection District. I had the pleasure of getting to know Ed and his lovely wife Anita while he served for many years on our Nor Cal Training Officers Board of Directors. Ed, you'll be missed, but you definitely made a positive difference in regards to fire service training in California! Enjoy your retirement!**

For the full story, go to: [http://www.times-standard.com/ci\\_8376147?source=most\\_email](http://www.times-standard.com/ci_8376147?source=most_email)

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**From Sacramento (CA) comes a story about a dismissed investigator from the Sacramento Metro Fire Department who says he was told to be silent about sex scandal.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.sacbee.com/291/story/742683.html>

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**A very close call: A Colorado Fire Chief is nearly hit personally at the scene of a vehicle accident, while his vehicle is hit twice.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58532&sectionId=46>

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**A few California cities are finding out the benefits of sharing fire services, especially in these times of reduced budgets and increased costs.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.theadobepress.com/articles/2008/03/07/news/news04.txt>

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**A story from the L.A. County Fire Department where a Fire Captain has been given the green light to sue over the “animal house” conditions in one of their fire stations in Inglewood. For those future firefighters and**

For the full story, go to: [http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci\\_8474607](http://www.dailybreeze.com/ci_8474607)

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**This one goes in the file of stories that makes us proud to be firefighters (and we wonder why it is tough for us to sometimes be considered as professionals): N.Y. volunteers suspended for crashing party in fire truck**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/laborissues/articles/387474/>

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**From Detroit (MI) comes a story about how a fire station was subject to a copper thief. Stealing copper is big business these days, and this shows even the fire department is not immune from such thefts.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58524&sectionId=46>

**And another story from Detroit, where the fire department has really taken a major beating in regards to fire station closures and staffing reductions, primarily because of the extremely sad state of the economy. Citizens want top notch public safety service, but when the economy is so bleak, and the money just isn't there, it makes it really challenging to just provide an adequate level of service as the City of Detroit is attempting to do:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58514&sectionId=46>

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**A Colorado Firefighter academy is looking for recruits! A great opportunity if you live in Colorado or are interested in moving or working there.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2008/feb/28/fire\\_academy\\_seeks\\_recruits/](http://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2008/feb/28/fire_academy_seeks_recruits/)

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**A sad story from Missouri where a police officer arrests a fire captain while on the scene of a vehicle accident and the fire captain is doing what he is thinking is most appropriate to ensure the safety of his personnel, the other first responders and the patients they were providing service to. Some people forget that law enforcement and fire sometimes have different, competing priorities on the roadways. Law enforcement wants (is required, as best as they can) to keep the roadways open at all costs, and we want to provide a protective, safe working environment. We have to respect them and they have to respect us, and we need to come to a compromise of some sorts. It is a fact that lanes closed can lead to additional accidents, no problem there. However, the quicker we finish our activities and the safer we are, the better off everyone, including the officer is. Unfortunately law enforcement and fire service personnel tend to have hungry egos and sometimes let our emotions (tempers) get the best of us, and here is a good example of such. In the end, the fire captain prevailed, but it should never have gotten this far.**

**Lesson learned? Use your apparatus as safety support vehicles to block traffic, but do what it takes to be proactive and educate your law enforcement counterparts on what your intentions are and if they don't agree, bring it up their chain of command and do what it takes to come to a working agreement BEFORE something like this happens. It's not us versus them (law versus fire). We're both on the same team. Invite your law enforcement folks over to the fire station for a meal or coffee, or just a warm place to do their reports. You'll eventually build up a good working relationship to hopefully reduce such situations in the future.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://video.aol.com/video-detail/cop-arrests-fireman-giving-aid-jury-awards-18k/2034982847>

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**Even though some folks don't like to use the "R" word (recession), the budget crisis in California and the rest of the country is starting to show it's face:**

The first story comes from CAL FIRE, where the State of California is looking at closing 20 fire stations. For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58526&sectionId=46>

Budget cuts are not being limited to California; here is a story from Bend, Oregon where the fire department is looking at having to close a fire station due to the lack of funding:

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=7960552>

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**A story from San Diego County (CA) where it is stated that fire safety in general is failing, due to a lack of funding, resources, and personnel.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/urban-interface/articles/385101/>

**And a similar story from San Diego County where a study is suggesting a consolidation of the numerous fire agencies to ultimately provide a more cost-effective and efficient level of service, something that is not now occurring:**

<http://www.10news.com/news/15346579/detail.html>

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**From Oregon, the story of a fire department bookkeeper who admitted to embezzling 1.6 million dollars from the fire district she worked (past tense) for. So, maybe another good reason to consider background checks and psychological examinations for non-sworn fire department positions? Yes, they're costly, but they would have been a lot cheaper than what she admitted to taking and the district will probably never see the entire amount returned.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.examiner.com/a-1230767~Ore\\_bookkeeper\\_admits\\_embezzling\\_1\\_6\\_million\\_from\\_fire\\_district.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1230767~Ore_bookkeeper_admits_embezzling_1_6_million_from_fire_district.html)

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**An interesting story from the Las Vegas (NV) area where the Henderson Fire Department has chosen not to respond to ringing fire alarm calls due the high likelihood of them being false. This is a practice already in place by many police departments due to high call volume, unless there are additional phone calls reporting an emergency is occurring.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/feb/18/fire-alarm-doesnt-mean-fire-department-coming/>

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**From Orange County (CA) comes a great firefighter safety story relating to hydration – a few minutes of reading may just save your life or the life of one of your co-workers.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/23207973/>

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**Just when the LA City Fire Department was attempting to fly under the radar, two fire captains are awarded \$1.6 million dollars in a hazing follow-up case, after a jury found that race played a factor in their disparate level of punishment.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.knbc.com/news/15478820/detail.html>

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**Two Oregon Chief Officers are resigning after violating department policies for using department related equipment for personal business.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080219/NEWS/802190322/-1/NEWS03>

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**More from Charleston, South Carolina as the department struggles to make drastic changes to it's culture, operations, and entire way of doing business. This first article is about the Fire Chief, who many want to see go, but he is deciding he wants to stay:**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/mar/02/rusty\\_thomas\\_i\\_will\\_not\\_leave\\_here32423/](http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/mar/02/rusty_thomas_i_will_not_leave_here32423/)

**The second story from Charleston, this one titled "Up from the ashes," about the changes they are having to make to reduce the chances of losing any more firefighters in the line of duty in the future.**

For the full story, go to: [http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/mar/02/up\\_from\\_ashes32424/](http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/mar/02/up_from_ashes32424/)

**Remember – if we don't learn from history, we are doomed to allow it to repeat at some point in the future!**

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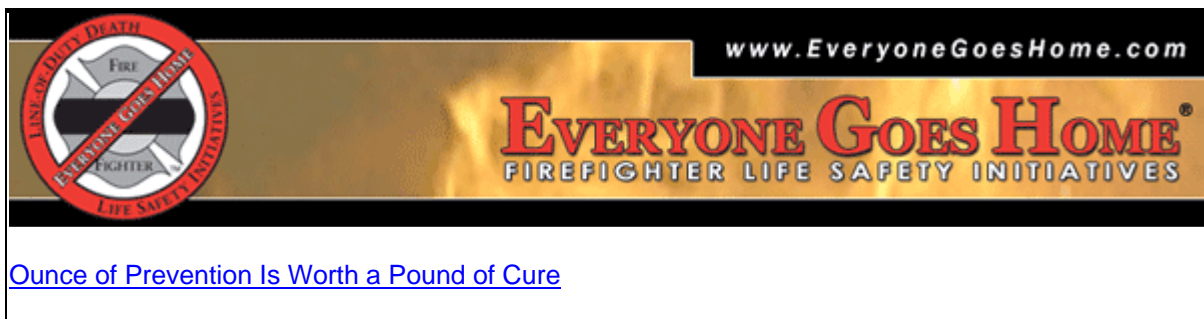
**A real tragedy – A New York Captain is charged with DUI behind the wheel of a fire engine, with his son at his side; what a great role model.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58390&sectionId=46>

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**Below you will find the February 2008 issue of the Everyone Goes Home newsletter – a great fire service training and safety resource for all of us to learn from.**



This article describes Ben Franklin's journey as he learns of a need for better ways to combat fires and uses perseverance, intelligence, and ingenuity to fulfill that need.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

#### [Developing a Safety Culture in the Fire Service](#)

Firefighter deaths and injuries continue to be a problem for the US fire service. Over the last 20 years, the fire service has seen significant improvements in safety standards, equipment, and practices. Despite these changes, firefighter death rates are actually on the increase. From 1995 to 2004, the firefighter death rate increased from 4.94 firefighters per 100,000 fires to 6.64 firefighters per 100,000 fires.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

#### [Maintaining Acceptable Safety Performance](#)

A cultural change requires patience, time, continuous communication, and long-term support. Communication is the key. Culture change is achieved one small step at a time. Small successes are used to support larger efforts. It is necessary to start changing small parts of the organization first and then expand efforts. All those who want change must carefully model the desired behavior, in this case firefighter safety.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

#### **More February 2008 Articles:**

- [Firefighter Safety: Turnout Coat/DRD Information](#)
- [Seat Belts Save Texas Firefighters in Rollover](#)
- [Has Your Dept. Taken the National Fire Service Seat Belt Pledge?](#)
- [Virginia Firefighter Life Safety Advocate Program Update](#)

» **More:** [View the Complete February 2008 Newsletter](#)

» **Archives:** [Everyone Goes Home® Newsletters](#)

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**A Philadelphia (PA) Fire truck collides with a car in route to a fire; no firefighters were injured but it appears the driver of the other car was. Be safe out there folks, I hate to sound like I'm preaching, but we must do what it takes to reduce the number of accidents we're involved in. Stop at red lights and stop signs, slow down and always be on the defensive expecting civilians to be a potential hazard to you and your crew.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.nbc10.com/news/15363959/detail.html>

**And on the subject of arriving safely at an incident, here is a great article titled :Back to Basics: 10 Essentials of Emergency Vehicle Driving."**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Fire-Department-Safety-Officers-Association/articles/385055/>

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**The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CA) is finding itself in a situation that is very tough to justify in today's tight budget situations virtually all of us are finding ourselves in – upgrading the class A uniforms we wear for special fire service events (Funerals, Promotional Ceremonies, etc.).**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1108272/>

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**The City of Vallejo (CA) is finding itself going bankrupt – apparently the first in California, due to the rising costs of running a city. This is not surprising in some ways, and may be a sign of the times for additional cities depending on how much their costs continue to rise while revenues remain flat or are reduced.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci\\_8303701?source=most\\_email](http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_8303701?source=most_email)

**And a related story of how the sudden retirements have caused additional overtime, which is putting an additional strain on the city and the personnel:**

[http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci\\_8335679](http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_8335679)

**And another story:** [http://www.thereporter.com/ci\\_8367189?source=most\\_email](http://www.thereporter.com/ci_8367189?source=most_email)

**The latest news from Vallejo is that the City has struck a deal with the firefighter's labor union to hopefully avoid bankruptcy:** [http://news.aol.com/story/\\_a/vallejo-strikes-deal-to-avoid-bankruptcy/n20080229012409990008](http://news.aol.com/story/_a/vallejo-strikes-deal-to-avoid-bankruptcy/n20080229012409990008)

**Another related story:** <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local&id=5995119>

**And another story how the tentative union deal fuels protests at City Hall:**

[http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci\\_8429016](http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_8429016)

**And another story about a late night deal saving the city from bankruptcy:**

<http://www.nbc11.com/news/15484132/detail.html>

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**An Oregon man is arrested for impersonating a firefighter and a paramedic.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080223/NEWS/802230332/1001>

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**Not everyone is always happy to see us....here is a story about some Los Angeles Firefighters who are greeting by gun fire upon their arrival at a call.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.dailynews.com/breakingnews/ci\\_8448154](http://www.dailynews.com/breakingnews/ci_8448154)

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**A really critical and educational story for all of us in the fire service: “Modern home construction methods are problem for firefighters.”**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/health/story.aspx?storyid=68998>

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**Who says fire departments aren't hiring? The Clark County (NV) Fire Department (who actually covers the Las Vegas strip), recently graduated 24 recruit firefighters.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/15409640/detail.html>

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**Some might say this is a thankless job, but my hats off to the new Fire Chief of the Baltimore Fire Department, who appears to be taking the time to start off on the right foot, something not every Fire Chief is able to do. The Baltimore F.D. has had their share of problems over the last year or two, and hopefully this may be a positive turning point.**

For the full story, go to  
[http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_news/158550/25/none/New\\_Baltimore\\_fire\\_chief%27s\\_steadiness\\_wins\\_praise](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_news/158550/25/none/New_Baltimore_fire_chief%27s_steadiness_wins_praise)

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**Please be safe out there and make every day a learning opportunity – because it is!**

**Also, thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years. You may not agree with all of the information contained within these newsletters, but remember why the information is being included: to better prepare you for a career in the fire service, to prepare you for promoting in the fire service, and to just keep you up-to-date with what is going on in your fire service. Take care and Stay Safe!**

**Steve Prziborowski**, Editor/Publisher – Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:**     [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)  
**Chabot College web site:**                             [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**\*\*\* PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-  
WORKERS\*\*\***

**The Fine Print:**

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.
- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at [sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu](mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu) and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at [sprziborowski@aol.com](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.
- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – [sprziborowski@aol.com](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.