



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**March 19, 2010**

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**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News!

**T**his latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities! Whether you are a future firefighter or a current fire service professional of any rank, you should find valuable information that will help keep you educated and informed, as well as up-to-date with the fire service.

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FOR CURRENT & FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS OF ALL RANKS:**

- **Note:** *The following information is a must read for ALL current and future fire service personnel, as the information is very timely and matter-of-fact. The fire service can no longer turn a blind eye to the activities of some of our own brothers and sisters who are potentially causing irreversible long-term damage to the credibility & trust the fire service is so well known for.*

### **Report: Reckless conduct endangers America's fire service**

Reckless and inappropriate conduct by a small minority of the nation's fire service is eroding the high moral ground occupied by firefighters, according to a new report.

Cheating, arson, theft, alcohol and substance abuse, harassment, discrimination, and misuse of departmental and personal information technology are among the ethical problems discussed in the White Paper issued Wednesday.

"We want to create a discussion about poor behavior and how to address that poor behavior," said Steve Austin, of Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, which drafted the document. Reducing firefighter misconduct has a practical application because funding, along with relations with officials and residents, depends on firefighters' reputations as "the good guys," according to Austin

***For more details, go to:***

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/769545-Report-Reckless-conduct-endangers-Americas-fire-service/>

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **Time to Check Your Smoke Alarms**

This weekend, March 13 and 14, we will all be setting our clocks to Daylight Saving Time. The time change is a good reminder to check your smoke alarms. According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than 66 percent of home fire deaths that occurred between 2003-2006 were in homes **without** a working smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke. Smoke alarms **must** be maintained! A smoke alarm with a dead or missing battery is the same as having no smoke alarm at all, so test your smoke alarm monthly by pushing the "test" button, if it has one.

Smoke alarms are powered by either a battery or are hardwired into your home's electrical system. Hardwired smoke alarms are usually equipped with a backup battery. If your smoke alarm is powered by battery, the battery needs to be replaced annually unless it is a long-life battery (check the owner's manual). All batteries should be maintained and replaced in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.

Choose an annual date, such as the time change, when you will remember to maintain your smoke alarm in tip top condition. Check the manufacturer's expiration date on the label, replace the batteries if needed, and clean dust away from the slots so that smoke can enter freely. All smoke alarms, hard-wired and battery powered, should be replaced every ten years. These simple steps will help ensure that you and your family will have the best chance of surviving if fire should strike. USFA has a fire safety campaign called *Install. Inspect. Protect.* which provides information about home smoke alarms and fire sprinklers. Please visit the campaign Web site at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/campaigns/smokealarms/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/campaigns/smokealarms/).

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Firenuggets.com**

PRESENTS

**H**ere are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2010 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

**Seminar #1:**

**Thursday, March 25, 2010** — "Proper Firefighting Mindset Leads to Strategic and Tactical Success": Presented by District Chief Dave McGrail, Denver Fire Department

Because most of our emergency responses don't turn out to be major events, we as human beings can slowly succumb to the deadly disease of complacency, and bad habits can quickly take hold. Even with the best of intentions, and clearly knowing what the "right thing" to do is; we can find ourselves taking short cuts, and relying on luck to get us out of trouble. It is only through the application of good habits, at every incident, that we can begin to ensure the best possible outcome. This interactive workshop will help the attendee identify the direct correlation between the development and application of good daily habits, and success on the fireground. The concept of the "Proper Firefighting Mind-Set" will be introduced and reinforced throughout the day. Fireground operations, from a small vehicle fire, to a fast moving fire on the upper floors of a high-rise building will be discussed. Slides, videos, and various real life case studies will be used to illustrate the result of both good habits and bad.

Attendees will leave energized, with a renewed dedication to the development of good habits, and their consistent application on the fireground.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

**Seminar #2:**

**Thursday, May 6, 2010** — "The Station Fire: An Incident Commander's Perspective": Presented by Deputy Chief Mike Bryant, Los Angeles County Fire Department

What started out on August 26, 2009 as a 10-acre brush fire in the Angeles National Forest above the City of La Canada rapidly turned into the largest fire ever recorded in the history of Los Angeles County and the tenth largest in California history.

Deputy Chief Bryant was one of the Unified Incident Commanders on the Station Fire. His presentation will be in two parts. Part one will include an overview of the command challenges and accomplishments throughout the Station Incident. Part two will include an overview of the events leading up to the sad and tragic deaths of two Los Angeles County firefighters while performing fire fighting operations at Fire Camp 16.

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

**Seminar #3:**

**Thursday, November 4, 2010** — "Fireground Responsibility" and "Leadership Lessons for the Fire Service": Presented by Battalion Chief John Salka, Fire Department, City of New York

"Fireground Responsibility": This is a program that examines a firefighter line-of-duty death and the investigation and report that followed. Several important contributing factors were

uncovered and are common factors in many firefighter fatalities. Chief Salka takes a look at the fire, the strategy and the tactics that were employed at this fire as well as the contributing factors. Each of the items that played a role in the fatality are examined and discussed and suggestions result that may prevent future fatalities on the fireground.

"Leadership Lessons for the Fire Service": This is a dynamic program that illustrates the importance of effective leadership in the fire service. There are many different elements that make leadership a powerful force in any organization and the fire service is no exception. Chief Salka will discuss Integrity, Inspiration, Innovation, Intensity and several other aspects of the effective and successful fire service leader. Whether you are an aspiring company officer or a chief, you will find this to be an inspiring and motivating program

For details on this seminar, go to: <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro10.htm>

**NOTE: All of the above seminars are going to be held at:**

**Carr Convention Center**  
4400 Rosewood Drive  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **USFA Releases Winter Residential Building Fires Report**

- *Report Shows Importance of Family Preparedness and Fire Safety*

Washington, DC — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the causes and characteristics of winter residential building fires – those that occur in January, February, and March. The report, *Winter Residential Building Fires*, was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

» Read [Winter Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 1.0 Mb)

"Our nation's residential building fire experience is collectively highest in the winter season," said Kelvin J. Cochran, United States Fire Administrator. "In the first three weeks of this February, 187 civilian fire deaths have been reported to the USFA. It is important each household be prepared and practice fire safety. The *Winter Residential Building Fires* topical report should be of great value to all firefighters and local journalists. Join with the USFA and share this information with your communities, have working smoke alarms, and take the necessary steps which can prevent fires."

The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2005 to 2007 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report, an estimated 108,400 winter residential building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent, and winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Approximately half of winter residential building fires are small incidents that are confined to noncombustible containers and rarely result in serious injury or large content losses. However, the other half of these types of fires are not confined and, on average, result in approximately twice the number of fatalities and injuries as all residential building fires.

The topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

Greetings,

The AFG workshop schedule is now available. The current list is not yet complete, as more times and dates may be added in the future. In addition, the current dates and locations are subject to change. Be sure to check back often. The list is searchable by the locations of workshop as well as times and dates. We also recommend that you search for workshops in neighboring States for workshops that may be more convenient. These free workshops will be held around the country to provide information about the submission of competitive applications under the 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grants program. The workshop lasts about two hours. Interested representatives from fire departments as well as representatives from non-affiliated EMS organizations are invited to attend the workshops. Information will be presented on program changes, program priorities, eligibility requirements, and the application process. General assistance in writing a competitive narrative for a department's grant application will also be covered. Registration is not necessary.

For more information, visit

<http://firegrantsupport.com/content/html/afg/Workshops/Workshops.aspx> or contact your AFG Regional Representative.

Regional contacts and telephone numbers are available at

<http://www.firegrantsupport.com/content/html/program/ContactUs.aspx>.

We hope to see you soon.

AFG Program Office

March 19, 2010

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

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## **EVERYONE GOES HOME NEWS ALERT:**



[Everyone Goes Home® Program and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Launch Firefighter Safety Video Contest](#)

March 3, 2010  
News Alert

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the *Everyone Goes Home*® program is pleased to announce their partnership with Fireman's Fund to launch the *Everyone Goes Home*® Safety Video Contest.

The contest, which runs until May 7, 2010, asks departments to show their safe culture by creating a video based on at least one of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. The 16 Firefighter Life Initiatives were developed by the American fire service in 2004 as a move toward reducing preventable firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries. In 2005, the *Everyone Goes Home*® program was developed to ensure that firefighters have the tools they need to reduce firefighter line-of-duty deaths and injuries and promote a culture of safety.

All departments, regardless of type or size are encouraged to submit their videos that focus on training, health and safety, and risk reduction. These resources may appear on the EveryoneGoesHome.com website for use by other firefighters across the country to promote safety within their department. Video submissions will be reviewed based on the official contest rules and judged for their quality content rather than their production quality.

- » **Read:** [The Full Article on EveryoneGoesHome.com](#)
- » **Download:** [Everyone Goes Home® Safety Video Contest Entry Packet](#)

» For More Information Visit: [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com)



The *Everyone Goes Home*® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is made possible through the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, with funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the generosity of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.



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## **PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSE:**

**B**y popular demand, I have scheduled more **promotional preparation courses** over the next few months! It's never too early to start preparing for your next promotional exam!

### **Next Scheduled Classes:**

- Wednesday **April 14** and Thursday **April 15, 2010** – Mill Valley, CA
- **June 2010** – Milpitas, CA (Go to [www.code3firetraining.com](http://www.code3firetraining.com) for more info – dates currently being finalized)

*Class size is limited, so register early!*

## **How To Excel At Fire Service Promotional Exams!**

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- Tired of not getting promoted off of your last fire service promotional examination?
  - Preparing for an upcoming promotional process?
  - Want to do so well you won't have to take the promotional examination again?
  - Then this class is for you!

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

- So you want to promote in the fire service? An overview of what to expect & prepare for.
- 11 steps for success in the promotional process.
- Creating a value-added promotional resume!
- What to expect on the written test
- Ace your promotional interview!
- Personnel counseling problems
- In-Baskets / Writing Exercises
- Teaching demonstrations / oral presentations
- How to smoke the emergency simulation portion of the assessment center!
- ICS, Strategy and tactics review
- Preparing for the position, not just the test
- Going from just checking the box to understanding what you're doing
- Managing the incident, from beginning to end
- Simulator practice and critiquing on various types of incidents, including: Structure fires (residential, high-rise, commercial, apartment, etc.), Wildland fires, Mass-Casualty Incidents, & Haz Mat Incidents.

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Instructor:** Steve Prziborowski, Battalion Chief and Master Instructor. Steve was recently named as the 2008 California Fire Instructor of the Year and has coached and mentored numerous personnel to get promoted or hired in the fire service.

**To Register:** Go to [www.code3firetraining.com](http://www.code3firetraining.com) for secure payment with Pay Pal, and most major credit cards. Or, if paying by Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Personal Check, email me at [sprziborowski@aol.com](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) for more information.

**More Info:** Contact Steve Prziborowski, 408-205-9006 or [sprziborowski@aol.com](mailto:sprziborowski@aol.com) - Also, visit my websites at [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) and [www.code3firetraining.com](http://www.code3firetraining.com) for more information to assist you with your next promotional examination or career development needs!

**Class Details:**

<b>Mill Valley, CA</b>	
<b>Dates:</b>	Wednesday <b>April 14</b> , <u>and</u> Thursday <b>April 15</b> , 2010
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Southern Marin Fire District Headquarters Classroom</b> 308 Reed Boulevard Mill Valley, CA 94941
<b>Time of class:</b>	0900 to 1700 hours each day
<b>Cost:</b>	\$220.00 for the two-day session

<b>Milpitas, CA</b>	
<b>Dates:</b>	June 2010 – Dates currently being finalized, go to <a href="http://www.code3firetraining.com">www.code3firetraining.com</a> for more information.
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Milpitas Fire Department Headquarters Classroom</b> 777 Main Street Milpitas, CA 95035
<b>Time of class:</b>	0900 to 1700 hours each day
<b>Cost:</b>	\$220.00 for the two-day session

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## **FREE FIRE CAREER NEWSLETTER!:**

Interested in becoming a firefighter or getting promoted in the fire service? Do you want to stay on top of what is going on with the firefighter hiring process or career development? If so, this new (Free) newsletter may be for you!

Brought to you by [www.firerecruit.com](http://www.firerecruit.com) & [www.firerescue1.com](http://www.firerescue1.com) – the first issue has the following features:

- ***What does your work ethic say about you?*** By Kim Alyn.
- ***Becoming a firefighter: 10 must-do things!*** By Steve Prziborowski
- ***Keep resumes short for fire service interviews.*** By Tony Vitalie
- ***Pre-interview fire station visits: are they helping or hurting you?*** By Tony Vitalie

To view the current issue and subscribe to receive future free issues, go to:  
<http://www.firerescue1.com/newsletters/FireRescue1-Career-News-Mar-10/>

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **U.S. Fire Administration Announces 2009 Outstanding Research Award Winners and Executive Fire Officer Program Honor Roll Inductee**

MARCH 17, 2010

Washington, DC - The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration announced today the four fire service executives who will receive the National Fire Academy's (NFA) 2009 Annual *Outstanding Applied Research Awards*. This award recognizes Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP) students for their research projects. The award winning projects will be presented and defended during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Executive Fire Officer Symposium on April 9-11, 2010, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. One fire officer will receive both the *Outstanding Applied Research Award* and induction to the *Executive Fire Officer Program Roll of Honor*. Captain Stephen Marsar of the Fire Department of New York will be inducted to the *Roll of Honor* for a grade evaluation of 4.0 received during his four year EFOP experience and for all four Applied Research Projects completed. Marsar is the sixth inductee of almost 2,800 alumni to be listed for this superior accomplishment in the 25 year history of the EFOP.

"This year our staff reviewed 56 Applied Research Projects which had been initially evaluated at a 4.0 academic level during 2009. In the 25 year history of the EFOP, this is the highest

number of 4.0 papers ever. This fact affirms something special concerning the 25th anniversary year of the EFOP: the quality of the Applied Research Projects completed within the EFOP is increasingly becoming better,” said U.S. Fire Administrator Kelvin J. Cochran. The EFOP is designed to provide senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various and challenging facets of fire administration. Over a four-year period, the officers continue their professional development in four courses at the National Fire Academy, which are recommended for either graduate-level or upper division baccalaureate credit equivalency by the American Council on Education. Participants in the program are required to complete an Applied Research Project in their organization which attempts to resolve a problem or solution through the conduct of original research within six months after the completion of each of the four course areas.

U.S. Fire Administrator Cochran continued, “The Applied Research Projects selected this year provide rich examples of research founded upon the belief that scientific approaches to real problems can produce data which will assist not only these communities represented by their EFOP officers, but respond to the complex problems that confront all fire and emergency services organizations across the United States. The range of topics chosen this year for the 2009 Outstanding Research Awards provides an illustrated example of the scope of issues that our senior executives must deal with. I sincerely congratulate them for their excellence. I also would like to commend and congratulate FDNY Captain Marsar for his record of excellence in completing four 4.0 projects. This effort is truly outstanding.”

***The 2009 Outstanding Research Award recipients are:***

- Executive Development Course Awardee: Michael Dell’Orfano, Assistant Fire Chief, South Metro Fire Rescue Authority, Centennial Colorado.  
[Turnout Time Analysis for South Metro Fire Rescue Authority](#) (PDF, 5.6 Mb)
- Executive Analysis of Community Risk Reduction Course Awardee: Donald Waldron, Fire Lieutenant, Londonderry Fire Department, Londonderry New Hampshire.  
[Developing a Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults in Londonderry, New Hampshire](#) (PDF, 2.5 Mb)
- Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management Course Awardee: Stephen Marsar, Captain, Fire Department of New York, New York City New York.  
[Developing Activation Protocols for the New York City Fire Department’s Incident Management Team](#) (PDF, 1.2 Mb)
- Executive Leadership Course Awardee: Michael Macey, Fire Chief, Laguna Beach Fire Department, Laguna Beach California.  
[Evaluating Laguna Beach Fire Department’s Association Between Cardiopulmonary Arrest Outcomes and Advanced Life Support \(ALS\) Time Standards](#) (PDF, 525 Kb)

To obtain a copy of the four 2009 Executive Fire Officer Outstanding Applied Research award winning projects, contact the U.S. Fire Administration, Executive Fire Officer Program, 16825 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, Maryland, 21727, or call (800) 238-3358, extension 1639, and leave your request on voice mail.

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**T**he **Clovis (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** until March 31, 2010!

### **MINIMUM TESTING REQUIREMENTS**

**NOTE:** These are entrance requirements to the competitive examination and do not assure a place on the eligibility list.

An applicant must be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or its equivalent and possess either a record of training on official letterhead verifying training or a current certification by the State of California in at least one of the following categories **by the Final Filing Date:**

- California State Fire Marshal Certified Firefighter I (FF-1) **OR;**
- Proof of completion (provide Certified Training Record or Letter) of a training program necessary to obtain a FF-1 certificate **OR;**
- Proof of satisfactory current attendance (provide letter from school) in a training program necessary to obtain a FF-1. The candidate must have their Fire Academy training **completed by June 30, 2010.**
  
- Possession of a valid California Emergency Medical Technician 1 (EMT).
  
- A completed City of Clovis Job Application and Supplemental Questionnaire.
  
- The CPAT (Candidate Physical Ability Test) certificate is required and must be submitted to the Personnel Office no later than **3:00 p.m. April 29, 2010. If you have successfully completed the CPAT exam it must be dated within one year of the final filing date.**
  
- Possession of a California Driver's License with a good driving record is required. However, it is not required that you submit a copy of your driver's license by the final filing date. The driver's license will be verified during the background process. If selected for the Firefighter position the incumbent must successfully obtain a California Class B Driver's License within 9 months of employment.

**F**or more information about the **City of Clovis** and to obtain information about how to apply, visit their website at: [www.cityofclovis.com](http://www.cityofclovis.com)

**F**or more information about the **Clovis Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.cityofclovis.com/ServicesAndDepartments/Fire/Pages/FireDepartment.aspx](http://www.cityofclovis.com/ServicesAndDepartments/Fire/Pages/FireDepartment.aspx)

**F**or more information about the **Clovis Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 1695**, visit their website at: [www.clovisfirefighters.org](http://www.clovisfirefighters.org)

## **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>- Wednesday <b>April 21, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Berkeley, CA</a>)</li> <li>- Thursday <b>April 22, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Berkeley, CA</a>)</li> <li>- Tuesday <b>May 18, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Berkeley, CA</a>)</li> <li>- Wednesday <b>May 19, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Berkeley, CA</a>)</li> <li>- Tuesday <b>June 15, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li> <li>- Wednesday <b>June 16, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li> </ul> <p align="center">**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 and to register as a volunteer.</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>To register / More information:</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) 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>- Monday <b>March 22, 2010</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Tuesday <b>March 23, 2010</b> from 1030 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Monday <b>May 10, 2010</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours</li> <li>- Tuesday <b>May 11, 2010</b> from 1030 to 1700 hours</li> </ul> <p align="center">**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 and to register as a volunteer.</p> <p align="center"><b>NOTE:</b> <i>All of the above classes will be held at the S.F. Paramedic Association Offices in San Francisco – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302)</i></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.
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## **CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:**

**T**he Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter.

**S**uccessfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

### **CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

**Southern California:**  
626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**  
526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

**Sacramento Area:**  
1329 N. Market Blvd., #100  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**T**o see the **available dates** to take the CPAT at any of the above three locations, visit their website at [www.cpatonline.org](http://www.cpatonline.org)

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## **FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:**



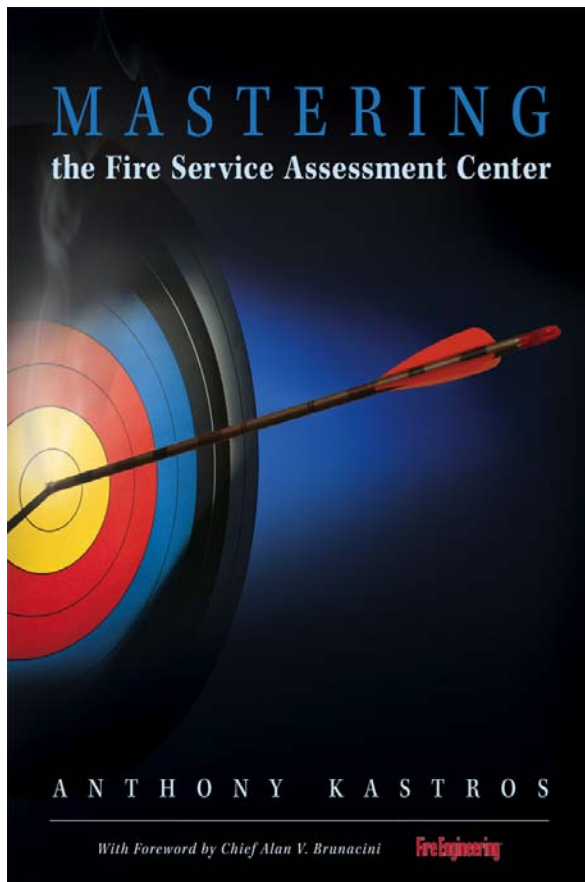
# MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**  
**BY FIRE ENGINEERING**

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, VISUAL RESUMES, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, VIDEO COUNSELING, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.
- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- PRACTICE EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND AVOID CANDIDATE PITFALLS.
- \* INCLUDES BEST-SELLING BOOK PUBLISHED BY **FIRE ENGINEERING**.



*"I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT SEMINAR THAT YOU GAVE IN PREPARATION FOR LA CITY'S FIRST EVER ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR FIRE CAPTAIN. BETWEEN WHAT I HAD BEEN STUDYING IN YOUR BOOK WITH FRIENDS AND WHAT WENT ON AT THE SEMINAR, WE ATTAINED SCORES OF 93.5% AND 100%. I REALLY LIKED THE FACT THAT YOUR INFORMATION ISN'T BASED ON TECHNIQUES OR GIMMICKS RATHER IT TEACHES HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE OUR ALREADY ACQUIRED SKILL SETS."*

*CHUCK - LA CITY FD*

*"I JUST WANTED TO DROP YOU A LINE AND LET YOU KNOW THAT I PLACED #1 ON OUR CAPTAINS LIST WITH AN OVERALL SCORE OF 95.36% AND I WAS PROMOTED LAST MONTH. THE PLAN THAT I PUT TOGETHER AFTER YOUR ASSESSMENT CENTER CLASS WORKED. YOUR METHODS ARE PROVEN. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR INSPIRATION THAT YOU GAVE ME TO PURSUE MY PROMOTION."*

*BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD*

*"I AM SO, SO HAPPY THAT I TOOK YOUR COURSE. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE DIFFERENCE IN ME BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY PROMOTIONAL PROCESS. I TOOK YOUR COURSE WITH SEVERAL OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM MY DEPARTMENT. I CAME OUT NUMBER 5 OF A LIST OF 47. THERE ARE THREE (3) OF US IN THE TOP 5 FOR CAPTAIN. THERE ARE 5 OF US IN THE TOP 10."*

*REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD*

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**ANTHONY KASTROS IS A 22-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK AND VIDEO SERIES, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER", BY FIRE ENGINEERING THAT FOCUSES ON ASSESSMENT CENTERS AND SIMULATIONS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.**

**MAY 4 - 7, 2010 - BERKELEY, CA**  
**MAY 18 - 21, 2010 - ANAHEIM, CA.**  
**JUNE 7 - 10, 2010 - EL DORADO HILLS, CA**  
- \$495.00\*

Go to [www.trainfirefighters.com](http://www.trainfirefighters.com) FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION  
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- **Looking to increase your fire service knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) or obtain some initial or continuing education?**
- **Check out some of the various fire service & EMS training conferences and seminars around the United States:**

**Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN**  
April 19 through 24, 2010  
Go to [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com) for more information.

**Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD**  
July 20 through 25, 2010  
Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

**Fire Rescue International – Chicago, IL**  
August 24 through 28, 2010  
Go to [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri) for more information.

**Firehouse Central – Dallas, TX**  
September 27 through October 1, 2010  
Go to [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com) for more information.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

If 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.firerecruit.com](http://www.firerecruit.com)

- [www.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.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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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name:	Jonathan Siemers
Rank:	Fire Chief
Age:	44
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	10
Date of Incident:	2/20/2010
Time of Incident:	1615hrs
Date of Death:	2/21/2010
Fire Department:	Clay Center Fire Department
Address:	504 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432
Fire Department Chief:	Dallas Cunningham

**Incident Description:** Upon completion of his shift during which he responded to an apartment building fire, Fire Chief Siemers returned home. Early the next morning, Fire Chief March 19, 2010

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Siemers complained of shoulder pain and subsequently collapsed from and succumbed to an apparent heart attack.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 10 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 9 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm).

**AND:**

Name:	Brian P. Waynant, Sr.
Rank:	Firefighter/Inspector
Age:	45
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	6
Date of Incident:	03/01/2010
Time of Incident:	2130hrs
Date of Death:	03/01/2010
Fire Department:	Wilmington Fire Department
Address:	300 N Walnut ST, Wilmington, DE 19801
Fire Department Chief:	Willie Patrick

**Incident Description:** Firefighter/Inspector Waynant died after being struck, while on foot, by an Amtrak train. The City of Wilmington is assisting the Delaware State Police and Amtrak Police with the ongoing investigation of the incident. Additional information will be made available by the Delaware State Police which is the lead investigating agency on this case. Incident Location: Area behind Mecco Circle.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Firefighter/Fire Inspector Brian P. Waynant, Sr., at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 11 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 10 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Gerard Marcheterre  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 50  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 10+  
Date of Incident: 03/06/2010  
Time of Incident: 2200hrs  
Date of Death: 03/06/2010  
Fire Department: Borodino Fire Department  
Address: 2500 Nunnery RD, Skaneateles, NY 13152-8938  
Fire Department Chief: Frank Marcheterre Jr.  
Fire Department Website: <http://borodinofiredept.org/>

**Incident Description:** While riding in a rescue pumper en route to a barn collapse caused by heavy snow in the town of Spafford, Firefighter Marcheterre's breathing became labored. An ambulance met the apparatus at the Spafford Fire Department on Route 41 and transported Firefighter Marcheterre to Cortland Regional Medical Center, where he succumbed to an apparent heart attack.

**Incident Location:** 660 Route 41, Homer, NY 13077

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 13 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 12 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Brian Rowe  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 66  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 03/05/2010  
Time of Incident: 2215hrs  
Date of Death: 03/05/2010  
Fire Department: West Fork Volunteer Fire Department

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Address: PO Box 14, RT 201, West Fork, ME 04985  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Rowe suffered a heart attack and died while en route to a rescue call involving a fatal snowmobile accident. The West Forks Fire and Rescue emergency medical personnel who had been at the snowmobile accident came to Rowe's aid and performed lifesaving measures, but Rowe succumbed to his injury.

**Incident Location:** Interconnecting Snowmobile Trail 87 near Moxie Pond.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Fire Chief Brian Rowe at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 12 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 11 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Kevin Swan  
Rank: Fire Police Captain  
Age: 69  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 03/10/2010  
Time of Incident: 0508hrs  
Date of Death: 03/10/2010  
Fire Department: Beacon Hose Co. No. 1  
Address: 35 N. Main St., Beacon Falls, CT 06403  
Fire Department Chief: Brian Cloney  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.beaconhose.com>

**Incident Description:** At 0508hrs on March 10, 2010, Beacon Hose Co was dispatched to a report of a structure fire. Fire Police Captain Swan signed on the radio network but did not arrive at the station or incident scene. Captain Swan was found unresponsive around 0800hrs inside his pickup truck in his driveway. The nature and cause of fatal injury is under investigation.

**Incident Location:** 20 Susan Street, Beacon Falls, CT 06403

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Fire Police Captain Kevin Swan at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 14 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 13 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Donald "Donnie" Adkins  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 32  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 10  
Date of Incident: 03/13/2010  
Time of Incident: 0630hrs  
Date of Death: 03/13/2010  
Fire Department: Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 190, 119 Tompkins AVE, Glasgow, WV 25086-0190  
Fire Department Chief: Marty Blankenship

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Adkins was part of a swift water rescue team working on a mutual aid rescue detail. He and two others were in a boat when the motor struck a piece of submerged material causing the motor to quit and the boat to drift away and capsize. Two team members made it to safety but Firefighter Adkins went missing. The men were attempting a rescue in the Beaver area at the time and had already fought the currents to rescue 11 people in another part of the county. After almost seven days of searching in challenging terrain under very difficult circumstances, a body has been recovered from Beaver Creek near the accident site where the rescue boat tipped over. Identification is pending autopsy.

**Incident Location:** Beaver Creek (@ Violet Lane), Raleigh County.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Donations in honor of Firefighter Donald Adkins can be made c/o the Glasgow Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 190, 119 Tompkins AVE, Glasgow, WV 25086-0190.

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

To date, 15 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 14 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 1 from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual

USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @  
[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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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 at [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 at <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 ([www.firehero.org](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.

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**FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS**  
**STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON**  
**GRAHAM, HOSTS OF [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

**44 YEAR OLD KANSAS FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY - MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

It is deep regret that we advise you that Clay Center Fire Chief Jonathan Siemers, 44, died this weekend in the Line of Duty. Upon completion of his shift during which he responded to an apartment building fire, Chief Siemers returned home. Early the next morning, Fire Chief Siemers complained of shoulder pain and subsequently collapsed from and succumbed to an apparent heart attack. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care, Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-10 / 1706 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Today, a Bronx judge incredibly overturned the convictions of the owner and former owner of a building where FDNY Firefighter John G. Bellew and Lt. Curtis Meyran died in the Line of Duty on Jan. 23, 2005 after leaping from the burning apartment window. 4 other Firefighters were very critically injured at that fire. A jury had appropriately convicted the defendants of criminally negligent homicide and reckless endangerment last year after prosecutors argued

that they knew about the illegal partitions that had turned the apartment building into a dangerous maze that left the firefighters disoriented. However, Justice Margaret L. Clancy of the NY State Supreme Court took the curious, bizarre and unusual step this morning of overturning the verdict because she felt prosecutors had failed to prove that the defendants the corporation that owned the building, and Cesar Rios, the building's former owner knew about the partitions. **ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE.**

Here is MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/yeb4nxx>

Here is the FIRE REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html>

**COP LOCKS UP BATTALION CHIEF FOR "BLOCKING" THE HIGHWAY:  
==OTHER COPS PROVIDE A DELICIOUS CAKE:**

Last week (February, 15, 2010) on Highway 101 in Montecito, California there was a traffic crash and all the usual traffic crash attendees responded included the fire department, EMS and in this case, the California Highway Patrol. The crash occurred on the center divide, there were 2 vehicles involved, 6 patients, 1 known minor injury. The squad crew pulled past the fire engine, then it blocks the lane to provide a safe working area, (per FD SOP). **Before we go further, it should be noted that the MFD normally have-and are quite proud of-the excellent relationship they enjoy daily with the CHP and area law enforcement officers. This is an isolated and rare incident.**

At this point the recently assigned (very new to that area) CHP officer tells the Battalion Chief that the apparatus cannot block the lane because it will cause too much traffic backup, and to move the rig. The Battalion Chief tells him no, that he needs his crew protected until they take up from the run. About one minute from the time the BC goes on scene, the BC is now on the radio asking for a CHP supervisor to be sent to the scene. Next thing the crew saw was the CHP officer handcuffing/arresting the Battalion Chief.

At this point, the Firefighters had not even made patient contact yet. The CHP officer then goes to the Fire Captain and tells him the same thing, move the engine or "I am going to arrest you and the (Fire Engineer) as well". Then the CHP Officer called for a heavy tow truck to tow the fire apparatus off the freeway.

The Fire Captain finally gave in as the fire dispatcher warned him that the heavy tow was 2 minutes out. Within a few minutes, the CHP officers supervisor showed up and un-cuffed the Battalion Chief. The original arresting officer then went back over to the Battalion Chief and gave him an "**obstructing a police officer with an investigation ticket**".

Turns out the CHP officer just transferred from Bakersfield to that area less than 2 weeks ago. The picture on our home page is the Battalion Chief sitting handcuffed against the center guardrail. The ticket still stands and they haven't heard what is up with the CHP officer, but he never backed down. It seemed like he never felt like he did anything wrong. See ya in Court.

So now, what is the next thing that should happen? Why, naturally, someone in the "public safety community" almost always attempts to "take the edge off" (lighten up the situation). Sooooo, some fun-loving Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Deputies stopped by the firehouse right after that incident with 2 cakes, and one had a file in it. Are those SBSO

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Deputies funny or what!? On a more serious note. the CHP Night watch Sergeant came over to the firehouse too and couldn't apologize enough. We're pretty sure this will be taken care of-both short term and long term.

Solution for any FD? Develop a plan way ahead of time involving Cops, Firefighters, EMS-everyone, so everyone is on the same sheet of music. WAY more Cops get struck than Firefighters-so we are protecting them as much as us. It's a win-win thing. And it saves the hassle of having to bake all those delicious cakes.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF TTEO INCIDENT VIDEO: <http://tinyurl.com/yzxb8wf>

**AND ON A SERIOUS NOTE, GO TO:**

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php>

and scroll down to the **YOUR VEST WON'T STOP THIS BULLET "MOVE OVER" VIDEO** related to POLICE OFFICERS being struck on roadways. This video is an excellent tool to help Fire Chiefs make the issue clear to Law Enforcement.

**COVER UP IN GEORGIA FATAL FIRE?**

CBS Atlanta requested thousands of pages detailing the inside workings of DeKalb County, from personnel files of firefighters fired to county e-mails exchanged between CEO Burrell Ellis, Fire Chief David Foster and Public Safety Director William Miller. The inside e-mails obtained by the media reveal what DeKalb County officials knew and when. **HERE** is more:

<http://tinyurl.com/yh3aj6t>

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-10 / 1300 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As you will recall, Buffalo (N.Y.) Fire Lt. Charles "Chip" McCarthy, 45, and Jonathan Croom, 34 both tragically died in the Line of Duty on August 24, 2009, when the first floor of the fire building collapsed into the basement, trapping them both. **The Buffalo News has the report and published it today.**

**NOTE**-This morning we spoke to qualified folks who are extremely and intimately familiar with the fire and they feel the report is accurate. However, one item that is a bit confusing is the fact that the 2nd member was missing for more like 40 minutes, vs an hour and a half-(as noted) which was when it was actually transmitted by radio. Amongst many points raised in the report is the fact that Firefighters and Fire Officers initially, when doing an accountability PAR, thought that only one of the Firefighters was missing and trapped-but then of course it turned out to be 2. Otherwise, this report paints an accurate initial look at this tragic fire loss according to those who know.

**HERE** is the link to the BFD's Double LODD preliminary report:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/2010/02/23/966973/bfds-preliminary-investigative.html>

**HERE** is the article about the report:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/2010/02/23/966980/how-two-heroes-died.html>

**FIRE OFFICERS ARRESTED IN QUARUPLE LODD:**

3 U.K. Fire Service Officers were arrested this morning in connection with the Atherstone-on-Stour tragedy in which 4 Firefighters died in the Line of Duty. The 3 went to a police station where they were questioned (and arrested) on suspicion of gross negligence manslaughter and offences under the UK's Health and Safety at Work Act. Firefighters Ian Reid, 44, Ashley Stevens, 20, Darren Yates-Badley, 24, and John Averis, 27, died while fighting a fire at a vegetable packing plant on November 2, 2007.

A Fire Brigades Union (FBU) spokesman said he could confirm the arrested men were fire service staff and members of the union and will be getting legal representation from the FBU. Last month, the union said it had been told three of its members would be questioned under caution over allegations of gross negligence manslaughter. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-24-10 / 1243 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

At least one Detroit Firefighter may have been hurt after a Detroit (MI) Fire Department ladder truck headed to a call was hit by an Amtrak train this morning. Ladder 13 was hit at the intersection of the railroad tracks near Lonyo and Kronk-we'll post some pictures and updates on our home page. The Ladder Company was responding to an 1133 hours call to handle a reported gasoline leaking from a car at a scene on the city's southwest side. There is no official word on how badly the Firefighter was hurt or whether anyone on the train was injured-but unconfirmed reports are that the injuries are not life threatening. Some witnesses are saying the apparatus and a Detroit police car were stopped on the tracks shortly before the collision after responding to an earlier accident involving a car and another vehicle. More to follow.

REMEMBER: The apparatus / train crash that killed Catlett (VA) Firefighters Mark Miller and Matt Smith in the Line of Duty when they responded to a vehicle fire on Route 28 around 1930 hours on September 28, 1989. HERE is the report and photos: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-048.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-1-10 / 1318 Hours

**AND:**

**ARSON RELATED: 2 CAL. POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

A second Fresno County law enforcement officer has died after being shot last week by a psycho, barricaded arsonist. At 0530 hours this morning the family allowed doctors to remove the life support that had sustained Reedley Police Officer Javier Bejar since he was shot Thursday. Now, law enforcement agencies in Fresno County are planning funerals for two decorated veterans who died when a paranoid security guard / suspected arsonist with an arsenal of weapons who said he preferred death to prison and would take officers with him if

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necessary. Officer Bejar, 28, joined the rural department in 2005 and served a tour of duty in Iraq after rising through the ranks as a teenage police Explorer Scout.

Authorities said he was shot with a high-powered rifle from 80 yards away by Rick "Ricky" Ray Liles, 51, as Bejar crouched behind his patrol car to back up sheriff's deputies and CalFIRE Investigators serving a search warrant on Liles at his mobile home in the village of Minkler. Liles died during the shootout, likely taking his own life with a gunshot to the head. Fresno County sheriff's detective Joel Wahlenmaier, 49, was also killed in the Line of Duty trying to serve the warrant with a CalFIRE Arson Investigators and backup from other officers. Liles apparently fired the AR-15 rifle through the front door of his trailer when officers tried to serve him with the warrant. Deputy Mark Harris suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-10 / 0625 Hours

**AND:**

(**Quick Note:** If you haven't, check out the incredible BACKDRAFT video from Chicago posted on our home page: it's another reminder of what can and does happen on seemingly "routine" fires to FF's, anywhere)

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Hey,

In what may be perfect to help you further understand and gain perspective in just how normal and well your life is going, a **British Firefighter was arrested on suspicion of manslaughter**. Why? Some cows were "spooked" by the responding fire apparatus siren so the cows charged and killed a farmer. Correct: the cops charged a Firefighter for "causing" that. WTF!?! Former Farmer Harold Lee, 75, suffered serious head and chest injuries after being stampeded by his own herd, who were apparently scared by the fire apparatus siren and flashing lights. The Former Farmer died in hospital 5 days after the incident in Somerset, South West England, last August. Following a 6 month investigation, police confirmed that a 49-year-old Firefighter from Somerset was arrested this week on suspicion of manslaughter by gross negligence. The Firefighter was bailed until this Friday. The farmer's son said he believed the death might have been avoided if the fire crew, who were responding to an emergency, waited until the cows were safely herded off the road before proceeding. More on this moooving story [HERE](http://firegeezer.com/2010/03/02/morning-lineup-march-2-3/) from Bill S @ FireGeezer:

<http://firegeezer.com/2010/03/02/morning-lineup-march-2-3/>

**HOMELAND SECURITY AND FIREFIGHTERS:**

Check out this EXCELLENT new site put together by noted experts and lead by FDNY's Dennis Smith: [www.HomelandVoice.com](http://www.HomelandVoice.com) . Dennis recently launched this new website dedicated to homeland security. As Dennis wrote us: "The Firefighters and First Responders have a more than dangerous profession, **but the strength of the new possibilities place us in an untenable position, balancing the love and responsibility towards our families with our dedication to protecting the public.** Check out the new site-there is LOTS in there about many issues no one else really wants to talk about.

**FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY PAGE:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

We have re-opened our TRAINING OPPORTUNITY PAGE. Essentially, if your organization is hosting a training for FUND RAISING or BENEVOLENT PURPOSES that will benefit Firefighters, EMT's etc-we'll post it on that page. For example, here is an outstanding Firefighter training program coming up in NYC that you might be interested in, check it out HERE: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/training-opportunities.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-10 / 1230 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A veteran Fire Inspector with the Wilmington (DE) Fire Department, reported to be on-duty, was struck and killed Monday night by a train near Newport. WFD Fire Inspector Brian P. Waynant Sr., 45, a city police officer before joining the fire department six years ago, was pronounced dead at the scene after being hit by a southbound Amtrak train at 9:30 p.m. Delaware State police, along with Amtrak police and the city of Wilmington are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death but no foul play is suspected. He is survived by his wife Cheri, a son and a daughter. A preliminary investigation has determined that the decorated fire inspector was on duty Monday night when the incident occurred but the circumstances leading to his tragic death-and determination of this being a line of duty death-have not yet been released. More to follow. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-10 / 2154 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

This is a follow-up to a recent LODD of a Firefighter in Worms-Dürkheim (Germany) that occurred in November of 2008. The newspaper Wiesbadener-Kurier reported today, that the Incident Commander of the fire committed suicide. Here is a link to the report in the newspaper:<http://www.wiesbadener-tagblatt.de/nachrichten/polizei/8532594.htm>

Here is a brief translation of the article:

Deep concern and dismay prevail in the Worms Fire Brigade and the entire City of Worms. Fire Officer Peter Jung, who had been Incident-Commander at the fire in November 2008 in the Rheindürkheimer silos, is dead. The 42 year old Jährige has taken his own life. The fire has now taken 2 Firefighters lives. As you may remember, the fire broke out in the processor loading dock of the malt silos, directly at the river Rhine. A 24-year old Fire Fighter from Rheindürkheim had been killed in the Line of Duty by falling concrete debris. Fire Officer Peter Jung was one of the seriously injured FFs. He has been a paraplegic and reliant on a wheelchair since the fire. A total of 7 Firefighters had been injured, 4 of them had been seriously injured. There were 200 firefighters operating at that fire. It was the first time in the history of Worms Fire Brigade that a Fire Fighter died in the line of duty. More information about the complete thing can be found on the German Firefighters Forum:

<http://www.feuerwehr-forum.de/f.php?m=612448#612448>

Our condolences to all affected.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 3-3-10 / 1512 Hours

**AND**

Hey,  
At this time, Firefighters are on the scene of a commercial building fire in Delavan, WI and have been operating there most of the afternoon. Initial reports are that 5 Firefighters have been injured after a tower ladder came in contact with electrical lines. Of the 4, 2 initially were reported serious but NLT, however, an update will follow soon. **HERE** is streaming video and related media and photos:

<http://www.walworthcountytoday.com/>

<http://walworthcountytoday.com/weblogs/video-today/2010/mar/05/live-video-delavan-lake-inlet-fire/>

<http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-100305-delavan-fire,0,6188980.story>

Updates to follow on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-5-10 / 1730 Hours

**AND**

### **GERMAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN RESPONDING APPARATUS CRASH-OTHER FF CRITICAL**

At around 1300 hours yesterday, a Thalfang (Germany) Volunteer Fire Department apparatus left the roadway and flipped over while responding to an emergency call. The driver of the truck was killed in the Line of Duty and the other FF on board was seriously injured. We have some photos posted on our home page. The Firefighter driving was 45 yrs old and leaves a wife and three children behind. The other FF is 33-yrs.-old and was flown to the hospital in critical condition. An unconfirmed report says that the 2nd firefighter has died, too-we are awaiting confirmation. Early reports say that the apparatus was responding with another fire company to a house grass fire when the truck drifted off the roadway, crashed through a guard rail and tumbled down an embankment. Thanks to Bill S at [www.FireGeezer.com](http://www.FireGeezer.com) for the heads up on this-he has more on his site. As always-our sincere condolences.

### **3 FIREFIGHTERS INJURED-AERIAL LADDER INTO WIRES IN HOUSTON FOLLOWING YESTERDAYS ELECTRICAL SHOCK INCIDENT IN WISCONSIN**

2 Houston Firefighters were taken to the hospital with minor injuries this morning after an aerial ladder touched a power line, causing the apparatus to become electrified and a tire to explode. The Firefighters were testing equipment at Station 51 in southwest Houston around 1030 hours. When the ladder touched the power line, sparks flew up and other Firefighters came over to see what was going on-that's when the tire exploded, causing the Firefighters to suffer ringing ears and headaches.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-10 / 1125 Hours

**AND**

March 19, 2010

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

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**MAINE FIRE CHIEF DIES RESPONDING TO A FATAL CRASH-MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

A snowmobiler who collided with a tree died last night around 2130 and the town's Fire Chief, who was responding to the crash, died in the Line of Duty after an unspecified medical episode. The helmeted snowmobiler suffered head trauma and internal injuries after striking a tree and was pronounced dead at the scene by The Forks Fire and Rescue. While driving his truck to the scene, The Forks Fire Chief Brian Rowe, 66, suffered a medical emergency and died in the Line of Duty. The Forks Fire and Rescue personnel who had been at the snowmobile incident came to his aid and performed life-saving measures, but those efforts were unsuccessful.

As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-10 / 1753 Hours

**AND:**

**NY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHILE RESPONDING - THIS LODD OCCURED NEARLY 8 YEARS TO NEARBY DOUBLE LODD**

It is with deep regret that we pass on to you initial details regarding yesterdays Line of Duty Death of Borodino (Onondoga County, NY) Firefighter Gerard Marcheterre. Initial reports are that FF MArcheterre was on the apparatus, responding to a structural collapse in the nearby Spafford FD's response area. While responding, FF Marcheterre was having difficulty breathing. They relayed this information to fire dispatch via cell phone because there isn't a mobile radio installed in the rescue pumper-as the county is apparently transitioning radio systems. They requested an ambulance meet them at Spaffords firehouse. A few minutes later they arrived and Spafford's firehouse advised Onondoga County Fire Dispatch to have EMS to expedite as it was now a full arrest. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

**8 YEARS AGO TODAY:**

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED** that yesterdays LODD falls just one day short (today) of the 8 year anniversary of the double LODD of Manlius (Onondoga County, NY) Lt. John "Gino" Ginocchetti (President of Manlius IAFF Local 3316) and FF Timothy J. Lynch that occurred at a house fire in Pompey Hill, 8 years ago-today. A new report from the State Department Of Labor details several problems that happened the night of a fire that claimed the lives of firefighters John Ginocchetti and Timothy Lynch.

This Double LODD fire resulted in several legal actions involving and affecting the Pompey Hill FD, the former County Fire Coordinator and the families (see links below). Additionally, the LODD's took a very, very severe life altering and emotional toll on the families of the 2 Firefighters killed. The Pompey Hill FD was issued three citations for problems with training, equipment, and communication from NY State. The reports also note that there were several violations with respiratory protection standards and issues related to training of the Incident Commander.

The direct cause of deaths for Ginocchetti and Lynch was found to be a combination of a 10' fall into the burning basement and the smoke and heat exposure. Other indirect causes

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

included the fact that Command at the fire scene did not maintain communication with attack teams assigned to do interior attack. The team assigned to the back of the building did not maintain communication and progress reports. Command refused the 700 gallons of water offered, and instead said that the fire was under control-when it was not. Communication problems between the teams meant that one group didn't know whether or not the other had entered the building-accountability and freelancing. Command gave orders without knowledge of the fire or the building, although the home owner was on scene to provide the information and that fire department procedures were deficient as well as issues related to staffing, backup and rescue teams.

**Kind of a "check list" for any of our own FD's.** Once again it's clear that the best way to honor Firefighters killed in the Line of Duty is to learn from what happened-and apply it to procedures and training to avoid repeating history. RIP Lt. John "Gino" Ginocchetti & FF Timothy J. Lynch.

**HERE** are several related articles and links of interest about the above fire:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?65297> (About the fire)

<http://www.volunteerfd.org/article/400128/> (About the fire)

<http://tinyurl.com/ylijpyww> (About IC Liability)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-10 / 1246 Hours

**AND:**

**PARAMEDIC ATTACKED BY SUICIDAL PATIENT AT EMS RUN IN BUCKS COUNTY, PA.  
LINE OF DUTY DEATH**

It is with sincere regret that we advise you that Bensalem EMS medics responded to the scene of a reported suicidal male around 1900 hours this evening-Bensalem is near Philadelphia. While operating at the scene, a 37 year old Paramedic was reportedly attacked by the suspected suicidal male. Following that, it is unknown exactly yet what happened but the Paramedic died in the Line of Duty. The suspect is in custody-additional details to follow. Our sincere condolences to all affected-especially his family and the members of Bensalem EMS/Rescue.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-10 / 2145 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As an update to last nights EMS LODD, it appears that the **Bensalem EMS Paramedic** was attacked and stabbed by that mentally disturbed patient. According to police: "Police and Bensalem rescue responded to a subject with mental illness call on Knights Road. The medics arrived shortly before police and the medics were approached by the subject and as a result of that, one of the medics was severely injured." The Paramedic later died in the Line of Duty, at the hospital. The 37 year old Paramedic leaves behind his wife and 2 daughters.

Check out [www.PhillyFireNews.com](http://www.PhillyFireNews.com) for the latest local area updates on this tragic incident.

**HERE** is a link to the Bensalem Rescue Squad/EMS who will also post additional details as they become available: [www.bensalemrescue.org](http://www.bensalemrescue.org) We will post additional updates on our home page as well.

**HONG KONG FIREFIGHTER KILLED-OTHERS CRITICALLY INJURED**

A Firefighter died in the Line of Duty this morning and 3 others were injured critically while operating at a fire in a Hong Kong factory Monday. Officials said the Firefighter was overcome by smoke on the fifth floor of the factory in the Cheung Sha Wan area. 47-year-old Senior Fireman Yeung Chun-kit was killed in the Line of Duty. The fire was in a 5th floor knitting factory in the Lai Cheong Factory Building at about 0820 hours (Hong Kong time). Firefighters had difficulty fighting the fire, hampered by fire and heavy smoke conditions along with access issues. FF Yeung was from a Rescue Company breathing apparatus team, he joined the Fire Department in 1984 and was promoted to senior fireman in 2005. He is survived by his wife and their 20-year-old daughter. Our condolences as always.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-8-10 / 0738 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Inspite of previous reports of traumatic injuries it has been determined that Bensalem Paramedic Dan McIntosh died of a heart attack. Bensalem public safety director Fred Harran says Bensalem's emergency workers are in mourning. Emergency medical technician Dan McIntosh, is the first paramedic to die in the line of duty in the township's history. McIntosh was responding to a report of a suicidal person on Sunday night. The patient ran away when McIntosh arrived to help. McIntosh suffered a coronary when he ran after the man. That patient is now being treated for his mental illness. No charges have been filed. McIntosh, a 13-year veteran of the Bucks County rescue squad, leaves behind a wife and two young children. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-8-10 / 1638 Hours

**AND:**

**CT FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHILE RESPONDING**

It is with deep regret that Beacon Hose Company # 1 announces the Line of Duty Death of past Asst. Chief and current Fire Police Captain Kevin Swan. At 0508 hours this morning, March 10, 2010, Beacon Hose Co was dispatched to a report of a structure fire at 20 Susan Street . FP 23 (Captain Swan) signed on the air and died in his vehicle of an apparent heart attack. Arrangements will be posted as soon as possible. This is their home page: <http://www.beaconhose.com/> As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-10-10 / 1458 Hours

**AND:**

March 19, 2010

**WALL COLLAPSE AT FIRE KILLS DUTCH (NETHERLANDS) FIREFIGHTER IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

**(FIRE VIDEO LINKS BELOW TO THIS FIRE AS WELL AS AN FDNY COLLAPSE VIDEO)**

44-year-old Firefighter Wiebe de Vries, of the Veendam Fire Brigade and also an officer of that municipality, was killed in the Line of Duty Monday when a wall collapsed at a working shopping center fire. He leaves behind his Wife and 3 children. One other Firefighter was hurt but with NLT injuries. As always our sincere condolences.

**HERE** are videos showing some scenes from the fire:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHuhNRiaW44&translated=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J8wbVDEQNo>

**FIRE COLLAPSE VIDEO FROM FDNY'S SAFETY COMMAND:**

Below is a video from a recent taxpayer fire at Bronx Box 55-3563. There was a partial roof collapse, followed by a collapse of the front parapet and exterior wall. **Operations at this fire were changed from an offense to defensive attack because of heavy fire and concerns about the structural integrity of the building.** Prior to the collapse all units were withdrawn and collapse zones were established. A radio announcement was made over the tactical and command channels by the Incident Commander. Suddenly without warning the front parapet and exterior wall collapsed. There were no injuries as a result of this collapse because collapse zones were established early on and all members remained out of the collapse zone. **HERE** is the video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF45e\\_VP0xl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF45e_VP0xl)

(If that link fails, try this: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?103372> )

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-11-10 / 1515 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The paraplegic who "drove with a stick" and then struck and killed Delaware City (DE) Firefighter/EMT Michelle Smith in the Line of Duty as she treated an injured motorcyclist on Dec. 20, 2008, was sentenced **to life in prison plus 26 years, today.**

The life sentence for Joseph M. Taye Jr., who was operating his car's pedals with a stick because he does not have use of his legs, was a minimum mandatory because Superior Court Judge Jerome O. Herlihy ruled that the victim, Michelle Smith, was a Firefighter acting in the line of duty when she was killed. The additional time of 26 years came from assault charges related to Taye striking and further injuring the motorcyclist, Edward Reiss, and Taye fleeing after the accident. At the hearing today, Taye, sitting in a wheelchair and dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit, broke his silence and admitted to his reckless behavior and offered an apology to Smith's family and the entire emergency responder community. "I'm deeply in debt to you. There is no gauge (to measure it)," he said. "Michelle did not deserve this and for that I'm deeply sorry."

Taye, 29, said he was surrounded by cars that night, saw the fire truck and was looking at it as he passed. Then, he said, the car in front of him swerved and he slammed into the parked police car at the scene and blacked out. According to prosecutors, Taye's car then struck

Reiss and Smith, sending her body flying. Taye also said it was not an excuse -- and he knew his comments would not affect his mandatory sentence -- but he explained that he was angry about losing the use of his legs and had been in denial about his disability. "I hated being paralyzed. I got so wound up in trying to look normal that I ignored the consequences," he said.

**Before Taye spoke, Michelle Smith's mother Joanne Newton -- who was wearing a button with her daughter's picture on it -- told Herlihy that Taye's crimes deserved the death penalty. "If he hadn't done what he did, if only he cared, we wouldn't be standing here," she said, between tears. Her 29-year-old daughter's death "plays over and over in our heads every day," she said, recalling Smith's daughter standing by her mother's hospital bed saying, "Mommy you can't die. I need you and you need me."**

Deputy Attorney General Sean Lugg told the judge that Taye "earned" his life sentence through his selfish, reckless actions in a quest for immediate gratification. He said Taye chose to ignore his own children -- who were visiting him that weekend -- to go out to a go-go bar with a friend. He chose to drive himself there -- using a stick rather than getting the proper equipment for his car or proper training. He chose not to ride with that friend. And then he chose to drive himself home, where he chose to drive at a high rate of speed, chose what lane to drive in and chose to pass the fire truck.

The judge also noted that no one has ever identified the person who picked Taye up after the accident and helped him flee the scene. Herlihy concluded with several observations "that need to be said," though they were not a factor in his sentence. **Since overseeing this trial, Herlihy said he has noticed how few people actually give proper deference to emergency crews on the road. "Too many drivers in this state are too cavalier about paying attention to emergency vehicles," he said. "I just see too much of it."**

And despite presiding over thousands of trials, Herlihy said nothing has stuck with him like the vivid, eyewitness testimony about what happened to Smith's body after it was struck. "I don't look at pictures of firefighters standing at the scene of an accident the same way anymore," he said, adding he thinks that one motorist like Taye "could wipe out three or four of them." The courtroom was packed with some 40 firefighters today from eight companies. Outside the courtroom, Delaware City Chief Jamie Rosseel said, "I think we all agree justice was served." **(Details for this Secret List from DelawareOnline.com)**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-11-10 /1545 Hours

**AND:**

## **WEST VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER MISSING-PRESUMED LODD DURING WATER RESCUE DETAIL**

A West Virginia Firefighter was lost and presumed to have died in the Line of Duty in Raleigh County overnight, after the boat he was in capsized. The Firefighter from Kanawha County, whose name was not released still this morning, was in the Bradley area on a mutual aid rescue detail when a boat that he and several other firefighters were in turned/flipped over. The other firefighters who were in the boat are OK, however the 1 FF did not

surface. Numerous West Virginia, Mid-West and Eastern USA counties were hit the hardest by flooding Friday night and Saturday morning. While it is too early to gather any additional facts on this event, this is a grim reminder of the dangers that water related operations present to us-and the need for related PPE when operating, including flotation devices.

**NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER DOWN:**

Firefighters in the shore town of Longport NJ are operating at a 2nd alarm residential fire as of this writing. There are several reports that a FF is down at that location-with CPR in progress but it is unconfirmed. We'll post additional as it becomes available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-13-10 / 1257 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The Longport (NJ) VFD Firefighter operating at that structure fire earlier today became unresponsive and went down for a yet disclosed reason. The Firefighter was revived after performing CPR and the use of an AED. That FF is now alive, resting and in stable condition in a nearby hospital. Our thanks to LVFD Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton for the update.

**FDNY MAYDAY**

This afternoon, FDNY had a "mayday" transmitted. When the Chief of the 13th Division arrived on scene of the below fire. he transmitted an urgent message: "A Mayday has been transmitted by Ladder Co. 127" , and then a 2nd alarm was transmitted. The fire is in Queens at 89th Ave. between 164 and 165 Streets in Jamaica. The fire is on the 2nd and 3rd floors on the exposure 4 side of a six story "H" type building. The Firefighter has been located and is enroute to the hospital by FDNY EMS and is reported to be stable. Companies are still operating. We'll update as needed on our home page with audio links as well.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-13-10 / 1635 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**A team of South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division agents are reviewing records from the Charleston Sofa Super Store blaze for signs of criminal negligence on the part of commanders who oversaw the attack on the inferno in which 9 Firefighters who were killed in the Line of Duty.**

The Ninth Circuit Solicitor requested the review after meeting with relatives of 2 fallen Firefighters who died in the June 18, 2007, fire. Family members of Captains Louis Mulkey and William Hutchinson gave the Solicitor eight binders of materials they say prove that Fire Command Officers exposed Firefighters to unnecessary and deadly risks with insufficient training and leadership.

**(SEE LAST ITEM BELOW RE: FIREGROUND COMMAND OFFICER TRAINING)**

Solicitor Wilson already has the results of an 18-month criminal investigation into the fire conducted by Charleston police. She received that case file in late 2008, but she has held off deciding on possible charges until all studies of the fire have been completed. One major federal study -- a computer model to reconstruct the blaze -- is said to be a few months from completion.

Previous reports have faulted the actions of commanders. A May 2008 report by a city-appointed panel of fire experts cited command failures as a predominant factor in the Fire Department's unstructured and uncoordinated response to the blaze, which exposed firefighters to "excessive and avoidable risks." The reports, however, haven't touched on whether those actions rose to the level of criminality.

Randy Hutchinson, his mother and Mulkey's parents are pushing for SLED to officially reopen the criminal investigation and conduct an independent inquiry into the actions of former Fire Chief Rusty Thomas and others. They contend that Charleston police have an inherent conflict of interest in the matter and they have little faith that police investigators even considered negligence by officials at their sister agency.

**HERE is the entire Charleston Post and Courier piece:**

<http://tinyurl.com/yb5wzlr>

**REMEMBERING PITTSBURGH's and YELLOWKNIFE's FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS**

This week we remember 2 Pittsburgh Firefighters who were tragically killed in a collapse while operating in the final stages of a church fire on St Patrick's Day, March 13, 2004. Battalion Chief Charles Brace, 55 was acting as an Incident Safety Officer and Master FF Richard Stefanakis, 51 were performing overhaul, extinguishing remaining hot spots (3+ hours after the initial alarm) inside the church vestibule when the bell tower collapsed on them-killing them and injuring 20+ firefighters. A backdraft occurred earlier in the incident that injured an additional six firefighters. The call came in at 0845, the backdraft occurred at 0928 and the collapse occurred at 1214 hours. **This is a link to the NIOSH report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200417.html>

**In Yellowknife, Canada**, two more tragic deaths happened on March 17 of 2005...5 years ago this week...when 2 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty while operating at a detached saw shed fire...a saw shed. An outside shed used to saw lumber at a home supply business....what's that value? A simple shed. **So they died for what...? A shed.**

Yellowknife Fire Lieutenant Cyril Fyfe, 41, and Firefighter Kevin Olson, 24, (a probie and newlywed) were inside the burning shed when the part of the roof-and all that was on it-came down on them. They were crushed by the building roof and the weight of ice, snow and firefighters on that roof. Other firefighters were on top of the roof opening up...and they escaped without serious injuries. Take some time this week to remember the families, friends, fellow firefighters and fire officers of Pittsburgh Battalion Chief Charles Brace, 55, Firefighter Richard Stefanakis, 51, as well as Yellowknife, Canada Fire Lieutenant Cyril Fife, 41, and Firefighter Kevin Olson, 24. Read about the fires that killed them and do something with the info:

HERE IS MORE:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?42852>

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/maillist/archive.php?id=SecretList&issueID=474>

<http://www.iaff.org/Comm/SpotLight/06Stories/031406yell.htm>

**FIRE COMMAND OFFICER TRAINING:**

- **It's really a good question: What qualifies "so and so" to COMMAND or TAKE COMMAND of a fire?**
- **Ever heard an officer on the radio so anxious to TAKE COMMAND of an incident without even knowing what is going on? Some do it even before they arrive on the scene. Some never do it.**
- **What training do your Officers receive? What qualifies someone to COMMAND a fire?**
- **Training? yep. Experience? Yep. It's a real valid and perhaps subjective question.**

There are numerous Firefighter Line of Duty deaths every year while operating inside of an IDLH structural fire hazard zone (along with thousands of other injuries).

According to NIOSH Firefighter LODD reports, over 90% of these fatalities are due to 3 major factors;

- 1) inadequate incident command and control
- 2) poor situational awareness and decision-making
- 3) lack of initial and ongoing size-up of fire location and the effect the fire is having on the buildings structure elements.

Realizing that the fire service has been missing a comprehensive, NIMS Type IV and V, hazard zone (structural fires!) incident management certification system, has lead to the development of a new command officer certification program. This program is one that thousands of fire officers across North America are going through right now. It's a comprehensive, certification based program that uses Chief Alan Brunacini's Fire Command textbooks for the programs curriculum and training. The Fire Command Incident Management System is based on numerous local Type IV and V responses and has been used by hundreds of fire departments world- wide for over 30 years. **Training on commanding structural fire responses: Single family dwellings. Multi-family dwellings. Commercial buildings. Building fires.**

Chief Bruno has put together an outstanding 2-1/2 day seminar- (the first annual Hazard Zone Management Seminar related to structural fire command) which is the result of the collaboration of many national experts and world-renowned speakers in the fire service. It will take place at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN on October 18th to 20th, 2010.

To view a full seminar overview go

HERE: [www.regonline.com/hazardzoneseminar](http://www.regonline.com/hazardzoneseminar)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-10 / 2105 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Some of you hopefully remember the excellent FDNY video "Brothers in Battle" from years ago, produced by the late brothers: Ray and Brian Hickey. Ray died from cancer in 1993, Brian was killed on 9-11-01-he was Captain of Rescue 4 and an original TSL member. There are many cool documentary style fire service/firefighting videos like that one-but that seems to stand out as "the standard" benchmark.

**HERE is a very UNIQUE video about RUSSIAN FIREFIGHTERS that we think you will find of interest:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-ZJDG1Kw2Y>

**IF YOU ARE A FIRE CHIEF:**

**YOU NEED** to sign up for ISO's FREE service: Fire Chiefs Online, a special secured website with information and features that can help improve your ISO Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) **and can be especially helpful in these TOUGH BUDGET TIMES.**

On this site, you'll be able to fill out **YOUR** Community Outreach Questionnaire to let ISO know about the latest improvements in **YOUR** fire department, water supply, and alarm system. You can access an interactive map of **YOUR** fire-protection area. You will have access to valuable reports on commercial buildings in **YOUR** jurisdiction as well as access:

- information on building construction, occupancies, and hazards
- information on sprinkler systems
- estimate the Needed Fire Flow for buildings
- register and manage additional staff for access from your FD.

This is a reminder for **FIRE CHIEFS TO SIGN UP HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/yjw5syl>

**HERE** is ISO's latest newsletter for the **FIRE SERVICE:**

<http://www.isomitigation.com/community-fire-protection-news/2009-12-15.html>

**CHEMICAL SUICIDE CLOSE CALL:**

Here are some details from [www.FireSpecialOps.com](http://www.FireSpecialOps.com) regarding another H2S close call. Many of the bulletins about Chemical/Detergent suicides mention the important of "looking for a warning note" on the car, since almost all the previous chemical suicides in the US, the victim placed a warning sign on their vehicle. In the most recent case in North Carolina ( <http://firespecialops.com/2010/03/16/chemical-suicide-trend-continues-this-time-no-warning-sign-was-posted/> ) no warning sign was present was a elementary school teacher used a chemical mixture to take her life. A responding police officer was exposed to the chemical vapors. This could have just as easily been an Fire or EMS crew. Although it's a good idea to "look" for a warning note to be posted, responders should not "Depend" on the presence of a warning note to tip them off. That buck of chemicals on the passenger seat, or the nasty rotten egg odor is just one clue.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-16-10 / 1312 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**GEORGIA EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HEART ATTACK IN THE UNIT**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that an Upson County (Georgia) EMT has died in the Line of Duty. EMT. EMT Tim Cochran had a heart attack on March 3, 2010 while he was in his EMS unit, and he was found slumped over the wheel in full cardiac arrest. Unfortunately he died on March 16, 2010, at approx. 1500 hours at the age of 57. Funeral Arrangements - Visitation (today) Wednesday March 17, 2010, 1700 to 1900 Coggins Funeral Home - 321 Hannahs Mill Rd. - Thomaston, GA 30288-2808 - Ph 760-647-9881/ Funeral Thursday March 18, 2010 East Thomaston Baptist Church 11 AM / 206 Park Lane - Thomaston GA. 30288-3727. As always, our most sincere condolences.

**UP TO 125 FIREFIGHTER LAYOFFS IN TOLEDO, OHIO**

Pink slips are scheduled to go out to 125 Toledo Firefighters this Friday. The President of the IAFF local says if those layoffs go into effect, it would be "devastating" for the city. City leaders have two weeks left to come up with \$48 million to balance the budget. The Mayor (former Fire Chief Mike Bell) wants union concessions or else. Dozens of Toledo Firefighters walked into Government Center yesterday afternoon and packed council chambers. They were scheduled to get their 30-day notices yesterday, along with 125 police officers. But in the final hour of discussions, the mayor scrapped firefighter layoffs. Toledo City Council member Michael Ashford says, "Firefighters were able to ante up some money, some concessions. We don't know what those concessions were. But it was good enough for him to withdraw his potential layoffs for firefighters off the table." The mayor says no agreement was reached. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday. If no agreement is reached, IAFF Local 92 [www.iaff92.org](http://www.iaff92.org) - plans to argue the layoffs violate the contract's minimum-staffing requirement. We'll keep you advised as this, along with many other related issues continue to unfold around the Country.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-17-10 / 1044 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A Morgan County (GA) Firefighter is in critical condition at the Atlanta Medical Center after his vehicle rolled over this morning. Morgan County Firefighter Kevin Stephenson was responding from his home to the firehouse when he was involved in a single vehicle crash. FF Stephenson was enroute to the fire station to respond to a call. FF Stephenson was air lifted to AMC and is suffering from partial paralysis. The Morgan County FD is awaiting more information on the full extent of his FF Stephenson recently got married and is the Father of a 16-month-old baby. We'll post more details as they become available.

**FIRE SPRINKLER ARROGANCE & PROFIT MARGINS:**

A fire sprinkler media interview with Assistant Chief Jason Ober is being used **against** the PA Fire Service by the PA Builders Association in an attempt to remove sprinklers from the code for residential structures. Check out these details Chief Don Konkle, PSESI Executive Director and the below letter from the PA Builders Association to the PA Legislators. As Don explains: "The Builders Association is working in the state capital everyday to have fire sprinklers removed from the code - and they are making progress. The builders say sprinklers are not cost effective. That the cost of sprinklers will drive potential home buyers

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

from the market. What the builders are willing to do is allow Civilians and Firefighters to die so they can protect their profit margins.

How arrogant can they be? So far they are doing real well in the arrogance scale." How proud the Nat'l Association of Homebuilders must be!

"The builders got light weight construction in the code and we got dead and horribly injured civilians and firefighters! It is time to protect our brothers. It is time to make your voice heard be for it is too late. It is time to sign up and use PESLA at [www.pesla.org](http://www.pesla.org) or use the link from [www.pfesi.org](http://www.pfesi.org) we will be posting letters to the editor for your local paper and letters to your elected official. It is time to act now. It time to save a Firefighters life - stand up and do it today.

Below is yesterday's letter from the PBA to the members of the legislature.

**It is time to respond to this crap."**

Pennsylvania Builders Association, 600 N. Twelfth St., Lemoyne, PA 17043 Fax (717) 730-4396

To: Pennsylvania General Assembly

From: Lou Biacchi, Director of Government Affairs [lbiacchi@PaBuilders.org](mailto:lbiacchi@PaBuilders.org)

Subject: Mandatory Residential Sprinklers: Cost vs. Benefit

Date: March 17, 2010

The cost/benefit of a mandate of sprinkling requirements in new homes is a critically important question. Certainly, no one argues the cost/benefit of sprinkling requirements for buildings of mass occupancy: malls, office buildings and the like. Nationally recognized construction codes for many years have had such requirements.

For the first time, the codes require, beginning this year for townhouses and beginning next year for single family homes, mandatory residential sprinkler systems. Our home builders believe policy makers must address the cost/benefit question of this mandate. Every lost life is to be mourned. But to say, as some of our opponents have stated, that no cost is too great to save a life; well, we strongly question such a statement and urge you to also question it. The truth is, in our society, a cost-benefit analysis is always necessary on any public policy issue. Automobiles sold in this country are required to contain many safety devices: requirements on brakes, tires, seatbelts, airbags, etc. Yet nearly 30,000 plus Americans die every year in vehicle accidents. Certainly, policy makers could prevent those thousands of deaths by increasing safety standards in automobiles to the point that no one would ever die in a car crash, but then, of course, very few citizens would be able to afford to drive those super-engineered cars.

Statistics published by the Fire Analysis and Research Division of the National Fire Protection Association show that if your home is equipped with a hard-wired smoke detector, as required in nationally recognized codes for many years, you have a 99.45% chance of surviving that fire. The argument regarding the cost/benefit of sprinklers comes down to less than six-tenths of 1%.

During testimony in Commonwealth Court on March 1, PA Fire Commissioner Edward Mann was asked the following question: "Is there a cost that you would consider too high for sprinkler systems - a cost figure above which you would say sprinklers are too expensive and not worth it, given what they do?"

He answered "no."

But there is not unanimity among firefighters. Many have spoken to our members, questioning this mandate. Firefighters recognize that the absence of smoke alarms in existing homes is the number one cause of residential fire deaths. I urge you to click on this link <http://www.wjactv.com/news/22005695/detail.html> and view a video news clip from WJAC-TV Altoona/Johnstown. It features an interview with Richland Township, Cambria County Assistant Fire Chief Jason Ober, who like many fire-fighting professionals is also concerned about this mandate and believe there are other public policy alternatives that make more sense.

Building today for a better tomorrow®

PA Builders Association-Arrogance at it's Best.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-19-10 / 0824 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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## **FIRE SERVICE 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.

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### **Budget Related Items:**

- To really get a pulse on how some of our taxpayers (the ones we work for) feel about the fire service, please take the time to not only read the articles below, but also the reader comments that follow many of the news stories. Some of those comments are very negative, and if we are not careful, we really run the risk of losing credibility and respect with the public (not to mention funding), which could have serious long-term effects on the stability and perception of our American Fire Service. While it is true everyone (including taxpayers) are allowed to have their opinion, we would be naïve to turn away, get emotional, not acknowledge, or even discount the comments made. Knowledge can be power, and if used properly, can attempt to turn negative attitudes into positive attitudes, which can and will pay dividends in the long run.***

Continued efforts to balance Arizona's budget have recently swept state fire program funds that may cause heartache for Lake Havasu City in the future. Arizona Department of Fire, Building and Life Safety, which includes the Office of the State Fire Marshal, has suffered severe program cuts, staff cuts and staff reorganization measures, according to a state memorandum that was circulated the department Jan. 7. This week is the last week of service for State Fire Training Director Paul Wobesol who submitted his letter of resignation in the aftermath of the cuts:

<http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2010/02/22/news/doc4b82200ba6c8d887194186.txt>

The impact of city budget cuts on the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department started to be felt Monday with the shutdown of ladder trucks at two east-side fire stations. With those trucks out of service, the eight firefighters who were staffing the trucks have been moved to other stations, enabling the Fire Department to staff two additional medic units: [http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news\\_display/141523632.html](http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/news_display/141523632.html)

Mesa (AZ) is facing a frustrating Catch-22 that could lead to increased fire response times even as the city has a plan to become more efficient. The city's fire chief last week told crews that a pending budget cut and shrinking staff will mean fewer fire trucks can be on the streets, and it will likely take longer to respond to emergencies. In April, the City Council approved an effort that would dispatch smaller crews on low-priority calls while ensuring that traditional four-person crews responded to others. But the more efficient model involved the fire department breaking away from the city's dispatch center, and that required some new equipment and specialized training. The city put that effort on a temporary hold as it figured out whether it could afford it at a time when the city may be forced to cut its budget by up to 10 percent:

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/150919>

Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Friday called on all city employees to take pay cuts, including police officers and firefighters, saying that it would be the only substantive way to alleviate the need to slash 4,000 city jobs:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-la-budget20-2010feb20%2C0%2C3506694.story>

Speaking for Reno (NV), Sparks, Sierra Fire and airport firefighters, Sparks Fire Fighters President Kevin Cavanagh urges the Washoe County Commission to work towards a regional fire department, removing boundaries, multiple dispatching and other obstacles to maintaining service. "The community is hemorrhaging financially," Cavanagh told the commission at a workshop Monday night. The commission reviewed a fire study that recommends the county and Reno create a regional authority to provide fire protection: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100223/NEWS/100223024>

Amid continuing budget shortfalls, Santa Barbara (CA) city leaders on Thursday will discuss the possibility of closing city Fire Station No. 3, at 415 E. Sola St. Fire Chief Andrew DiMizio is faced with cutting about \$2.1 million, or 10 percent, for 2011, and the department — as well as the rest of the city — faces severe budget shortfalls even for the current year. With such a huge gap, only cutting wages and benefits — which make up about 85 percent of the fire department budget — can make that kind of dent, though other proposals will be presented at Thursday's budget meeting, DiMizio said.

Whenever there's a vacancy — such as sick leave or vacation — the department back-fills the position, which leads to thousands of dollars in overtime. Closing the station could save about \$1.4 million annually, DiMizio said:

[http://www.noozhawk.com/michelle\\_malkin/article/022210\\_santa\\_barbara\\_fire\\_station\\_closure/](http://www.noozhawk.com/michelle_malkin/article/022210_santa_barbara_fire_station_closure/)

Watsonville (CA) Firefighters are steamed after city officials reported a looming \$5 million deficit and said public safety overtime and pension costs are part of the problem. After making concessions worth \$450,000 last year to help balance the city's budget, firefighter Darrell Flanagan said he and his colleagues expected appreciation, but instead think officials are making them scapegoats. Last year, all employees were asked to give up 10 percent of their salaries as sales and property taxes fell in the recession. Most agreed to furloughs to achieve the reduction. But since firefighters and police are essential personnel, making furloughs undesirable, they were asked for concessions equaling a 7.5 percent pay cut:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_14449801?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14449801?nclick_check=1)

Firefighters and residents brought their fight to bring back Rescue Unit 3 to the Vancouver (WA) City Council on Monday night, as Fire Chief Don Bivins justified his decision to cut the medical response vehicle as his only option. Bivins said his choice was to get rid of Station 3's medical rescue unit or shut down an entire engine company. The loss of the unit, done through voluntary retirements of four firefighters, cut the remaining \$425,000 Bivins had to trim from his department's budget. "There aren't good alternatives to eliminating Rescue 3," he said, noting that the station, in Vancouver Heights, will not close. A fire engine remains at the station, which is the busiest in the city. "It's the least bad of all the decisions before us. It has the least impact to the community of all the options we could consider."

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2010/feb/23/fire-chief-defends-his-call-to-cut-rescue-unit/>

Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire & Rescue does not support proposed \$120 million urban renewal increase in Tualatin as it stands to significantly reduce revenues for the fire district:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/tualatin/index.ssf/2010/02/tualatin\\_valley\\_fire\\_rescue\\_does\\_not\\_support\\_proposed\\_120\\_million\\_urban\\_renewal\\_increase\\_in\\_tualatin.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/tualatin/index.ssf/2010/02/tualatin_valley_fire_rescue_does_not_support_proposed_120_million_urban_renewal_increase_in_tualatin.html)

Las Vegas (NV) city officials announced this morning that 171 current city employees would lose their jobs under a budget reduction plan that would help the city meet a \$70 million shortfall by July 1, the start of the 2011 fiscal year:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/feb/25/las-vegas-city-officials-recommending-171-employee/>

In a unanimous vote, hundreds of Phoenix (AZ) firefighters have agreed to take a 2 percent pay cut and four furlough days over the next two years. When cuts to benefits packages are factored in, firefighters are giving up nearly 3.5 percent. "We've had about 400 people in the last two days show up and vote unanimously ... to cut our pay and benefits packages," said Capt. Rich Bauer of the Phoenix Firefighters Association. According to the United Phoenix Firefighters Association, that move will save three engine companies and more than 40 jobs. Pete Gorraiz said the Phoenix Fire

**Department will still lose 40 positions. Because that loss will be offset by retirements that will happen by this summer, however, it is very unlikely that any firefighters will be laid off:**

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Firefighters-unanimously-agree-to-pay-cuts-furloughs-to-save-jobs-85338357.html>

**No police officers or firefighters will lose their jobs after all. Senior centers and libraries will stay open. But Phoenix's (AZ) financial crisis will force city leaders to make other tough cuts: Phoenix will lose 520 positions and will slash \$64 million in services under a revised budget proposal unveiled Thursday:**

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/02/26/20100226city-of-phoenix-budget-plan.html>

**A Nevada Senate bill being considered today would give local governments authority to force its employees, including teachers, firefighters, police, and city and county workers, to take unpaid days off if their contracts are adjusted:**

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/feb/25/bill-would-let-local-governments-force-unpaid-days/>

**Pueblo's (CO) city government has dodged employee furloughs, layoffs or more drastic budget measures since 2008 largely by leaving dozens of city jobs vacant, cutting expenses and taking money out of reserves. It's a juggling act that new City Finance Director Sam Azad doesn't believe can be sustained into 2011 — especially if city tax revenues remain flat. City Manager Jerry Pacheco told council this past weekend that the estimated personnel costs (\$52.7 million) for the city's 703 authorized employees this year are exceeding the city's estimated general tax revenues (\$52.1 million). The city has 72 vacant jobs, an informal 10 percent cut in the city work force that has kept actual personnel costs closer to \$50 million and helped balance the 2010 budget:**

<http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2010/02/26/news/local/doc4b8789e667183531065974.txt>

**San Diego (CA) Fire Department brownouts are not causing serious delays in call response time:San Diego (CA)Fire Chief Javier Mainar says the department has responded to about 5,800 calls while the station/apparatus brownout plan has been in place. He says three of those calls were flagged as having been possibly affected because engines that would have responded were not in service.“I've looked closely at them. I agree in two cases that they did,” he said. “But you're talking two cases out of 5,800 hundred responses where we could have gotten there and made the fire smaller, not allowed it to spread as far. Or where we could have helped someone who was injured, not life threatening, but injured, and maybe alleviated their pain more quickly.”**

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/mar/01/sdfd-brownouts-havent-impacted-many-calls/>

**A \$7.9 million Carson City (NV) budget deficit will likely lead to cutting 30 city jobs, said City Manager Larry Werner. Fire Chief Stacey Giomi said the cuts as outlined on the city's priority list equate to losing six firefighters and one fire inspector.“We could be looking at Station 3 (on Snyder Avenue) being closed at least some of the time,” Giomi said. “We are already understaffed, so this would definitely increase our response times, and time is the name of the game for us.” As it is, Giomi said, staffing**

hasn't changed in about 25 years, while the number of calls has more than quadrupled from about 1,800 calls a year in 1984 to 7,600 a year now:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20100303/NEWS/100309953/1070&ParentProfile%3D1058>

The Phoenix (AZ) city budget was passed on Tuesday evening after a marathon session. The session began at 10 a.m. at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix and with a 7 - 2 vote council members adopted the budget, which will end up saving hundreds of jobs but it will do so by the imposition of a 2 percent food tax which will go into effect April 1: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/Phoenix-city-council-still-divided-on-2-percent-food-tax-increase-86048917.html>

Clark County (NV) leaders, looking at a \$200 million shortfall, are slashing services, eliminating positions and cutting salary packages, but they are unable to gain control of runaway overtime costs, the biggest chunk of which is paid to county firefighters. A study by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce found that county firefighters are the second highest paid in the entire country. The average salary is now more than \$100,000 a year and the firefighters union has been unwilling to budge on further increases. Several firefighters working at McCarran International Airport earn more than the airport's manager. Two dozen make more than the county manager. Some make twice as much as the sheriff or district attorney. In 2007, a firefighter raked in more than \$600,000 through all sorts of creative and flexible goodies that have been added to the contract over the years:

<http://www.lasvegasnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12080159>

The city of Sutherlin (OR) is continuing its contract negotiations with Douglas County Fire District 2 for a possible fire service agreement. Facing a revenue drop from decreased permitting and building fees, the city of Sutherlin is working towards alleviating some of that budget pressure, by contracting out its fire service. Sutherlin city officials are working on a deal with Douglas County Fire District 2 to turn over fire fighting and ambulance services to that district:

<http://www.kmtr.com/news/local/story/Sutherlin-discusses-contracting-out-fire-service/SSscAvSCzUe5KDeuFpvIFA.csp>

San Diego's (CA) fire department has been operating under a money saving strategy for about a month. Under the plan, up to eight fire engines can be idled each day and their crews reassigned to cover for sick or absent firefighters. The plan saves money but could also impact the department's response times:

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/2010/mar/04/fire-station-cutbacks-response-times/>

If you live in the city of Los Angeles (CA), it could take longer for an ambulance to reach you, and you might have to pay more for your care. The L.A. City Council is considering a cutback on ambulances and raising fees for treatment to help with the city's budget deficit. The City Council is considering closing down 10 basic life-support ambulances to cut down the budget deficit, something the firefighters union strongly opposes. "You're already closing nine ambulances every day in this city, as you know, in 15 fire companies under the brown-outs that are currently in effect. This

would close 10 more, for a total of 19 ambulances," said Pat McOsker, president, United Firefighters of Los Angeles:

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los\\_angeles&id=7305524](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/los_angeles&id=7305524)

As police officers and firefighters across the Phoenix (AZ) Valley prepare for massive layoffs, Glendale will likely avoid major reductions in public safety, city officials say. City Manager Ed Beasley has outlined nearly \$8 million in cuts to public safety in his latest budget proposal released last month, but none of the cuts involves layoffs for sworn officers or firefighters. However, more than two-dozen civilian employees in the Police and Fire departments could lose their jobs and some vacant officer and firefighter positions would go unfilled until revenue improves:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/glendale/articles/2010/03/04/20100304-glendale-police-fire-layoffs.html>

Mesa began taking fire crews out of service Sunday — only to halt the cost-cutting move on Monday after upset elected officials discovered what happened and objected. Some City Council members heard of the brownouts as they were put into place Sunday morning and quickly asked that every crew return to the street. "I blew my top," Councilman Scott Somers told the Tribune. "Smoke came out of my ears, and I made it clear that was not an acceptable solution to our budget issue."

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/151636>

The city of Houston (TX) will consider furloughs for police officers and firefighters as it weighs options to save money, Houston Mayor Annise Parker said in a letter released Wednesday. "The letter was not a surprise to us," said Gary Blankenship, the president of the Houston Police Officer's Union. "We knew, early on, that the economic times in Texas and across the states are tough."

<http://www.kens5.com/news/Mayors-budget-plan-to-consider-police-firefighter-furloughs-87327307.html>

The state of California (CAL FIRE) has made an offer to San Carlos to provide it fire services that is up to \$2 million lower than it currently pays for funding its share of the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department. While both cities face structural deficits, San Carlos City Manager Mark Weiss is prepared to completely overhaul how the city operates by outsourcing critical city services as it faces a \$3.5 million ongoing deficit. The two cities have bickered for years over how fire services should be paid for and nearly scrapped its joint-powers agreement a few years ago when the fire department operated as the South County Fire Authority. The two cities agreed on a funding formula that considers property values and population, for instance, that has caused San Carlos to increase its share of funding the joint fire department by 19.5 percent, from \$5.2 million in fiscal year 2006-07 to \$6.2 million this year. However, even if the two cities split the cost 50/50, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection proposal was called significantly better by San Carlos Councilman Andy Klein yesterday. "It is a much better deal," Klein said. "It has nothing to do with our relationship with Belmont. It has to do with providing services at lower cost:

[http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article\\_preview.php?id=126779&title=State%20offers%20city%20fire%20deal](http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=126779&title=State%20offers%20city%20fire%20deal)

The Los Angeles City Council is scheduled to consider today a proposal to cut costs by taking 10 of the fire department's least-used ambulances out of service for half of each day. The Fire Department is already working with 15 fewer fire trucks and nine fewer ambulances under the so-called Modified Coverage Plan put into effect last August to reduce its \$52 million deficit by \$39 million. Pulling out an additional 10 ambulances for 12 hours each day would save the city an estimated \$3.5 million during the last three months of this year and \$23 million during the next fiscal year, according to a report submitted by a working group composed of Councilman Greig Smith, the chiefs and union leaders of both the fire and police departments, and budget and legislative analysts: [http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci\\_14638611](http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_14638611)

Three Baltimore (MD) fire companies would be permanently closed, several recreation centers shuttered and the Police Department's helicopter grounded under Mayor Stephanie C. Rawlings-Blake's proposals to close the city's \$121 million budget gap: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ax-could-fall-baltimore-stations>

A consultant's report in 2007 summarized the Surprise (AZ) Fire Department's challenges in two words: significant growth. As residents poured into Surprise, fire officials had to struggle to serve newcomers. "Because of growth in Surprise there are not enough fire stations, fire apparatus, firefighters properly trained and equipped, or support staff to oversee the Department," wrote California-based consultant Citygate Associates LLC. Then the recession arrived. Explosive growth slowed in Surprise, which had seen its population rise from about 31,000 to more than 100,000 in a decade. Far-flung developments, such as the Asante community in northwest Surprise, weren't filling up as expected. The Fire Department's plans to build more stations and add firefighters and equipment stalled. "The brakes just came on," Fire Chief Mike White said. Consultants had recommended Surprise have 13 fire stations by 2010. Instead, the city has seven permanent stations and one that's been "temporary" for more than eight years. Surprise just doesn't have the money to build more, White said:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/surprise/articles/2010/03/12/20100312-surprise-fire-department.html>

More than 500 anxious Sparks (NV) city employees should know before April 5 how much they will have to cut from their paychecks and, for some, if they still have a job. According to assistant city manager Steve Driscoll, Sparks has asked all employees, both full- and part-time, to cut 7.5 percent from their salary and benefits in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The cuts would continue through the 2011-2012 fiscal year when employees will be asked to cut an additional 7.5 percent from their paychecks. This would mean that city employees will be making 15 percent less in 2012 than they were making when they were hired:

[http://dailysparktribune.com/pages/full\\_story/push?article-Anxiously+Awaiting+the+Cuts%20&id=6731648&instance=home](http://dailysparktribune.com/pages/full_story/push?article-Anxiously+Awaiting+the+Cuts%20&id=6731648&instance=home) news 1st left

Palo Alto's (CA) firefighters union has filed papers for a November ballot measure that would block the city from laying off any firefighters as it tries to meet a projected \$9 million budget gap: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci\\_14689689](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_14689689)

California State officials looking for ways to increase funding for state firefighting efforts are debating whether to sock every homeowner in California with a surcharge on their insurance or whether to levy a special assessment only on property owners in so-called State Responsibility Areas. The state Legislative Analyst's Office this week came out in favor of the specialassessment solution. Such a charge could mean that owners of homes in the rolling ranchlands or forested canyons in places such as Calaveras County would be billed an extra \$500 a year. The proposal already is drawing fire from groups that advocate on behalf of rural areas. "We are strongly opposed to it," said Paul A. Smith, senior legislative advocate for the Regional Council of Rural Counties. He said such an assessment would unfairly burden rural residents with the cost of fire protection when the benefits affect the entire state by protecting watersheds and forests. It also would undermine local fire agencies in rural areas, Smith said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/politics-and-law/calif-mulls-rural-tax-firefighting>

It's not just police anymore. Pink slips are scheduled to go out to 125 Toledo (OH) firefighters on Friday. The president of the firefighters union says if those layoffs go into effect, it would be "devastating" for the city. City leaders have two weeks left to come up with \$48 million to balance the budget. The mayor wants union concessions or else: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvq/story?section=news/local&id=7334797>

The city of Erie (PA) will close one of the city's six fire companies within the next 30 days to comply with an arbitrator's award that requires staffing changes at the Erie Bureau of Fire, Mayor Joe Sinnott said:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100316/NEWS02/303159924>

It started with months of debate over firefighter layoffs, the fear of lengthier response times and the potential for tragedy. In the end, the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department avoided losing any first-responder jobs. The budget process began late last year when the Fire Department anticipated cutting as much as \$25.8 million, or 144 firefighter positions. The proposal would have eliminated three engine companies, two alarm-room dispatchers and other key public-safety resources. Union concessions and projected revenue from the city's new 2 percent tax on groceries saved nearly \$14.5 million, which allowed the department to maintain those engine companies. Civilian employees who cover fire-prevention efforts and others who take 911 calls will be impacted by the remaining \$9 million budget reduction at the Fire Department, which forces fire officials to reassign or avoid filling 28 sworn positions:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2010/03/18/20100318phoenix-fire-cuts-effects-phx18-ON.html>

A group of business people is calling on the city to end "financial waste" in the Omaha (NE) Fire Department and lay off 64 firefighters. Dave Nabity, a financial adviser, former Republican gubernatorial candidate and one of the leaders of the Omaha Alliance for the Private Sector, said Thursday that the Fire Department is overstaffed and "grossly top heavy." He said the firefighter layoffs would save the city \$6 million:

<http://omaha.com/article/20100318/NEWS01/100319552>

Rolling Meadows (IL) Alderman Brad Judd's proposal to consider privatizing the fire department as a cost-cutting move has ruffled the feathers of firefighters and residents. While he wouldn't go into specifics until the meeting, Judd said he wants to look at hiring a private company to provide ambulance and firefighter services at a lower cost than what the city pays now:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/funding-and-grants/ill-city-mulls-privatizing-fire-dept>

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**Public Relations Nightmare Items:**

The controversy over racial bias, testing and firefighters that blew up at both the Supreme Court and the Senate last year returns Monday, this time as the justices decide whether blacks who were not hired in Chicago (IL) because of their test scores are due damages for years of lost wages. The potentially \$100-million civil rights case comes before a high court that has already shown its skepticism toward such claims. Last year, the justices ruled for white firefighters in New Haven, Conn., who said they were victims of illegal racial discrimination when the city threw out the results of a promotion test. The whites had earned high scores and would have gotten nearly all the promotions. City officials dropped the test results because they feared being sued by blacks who were denied promotions. By contrast, the city of Chicago was sued for illegal discrimination by more than 6,000 African Americans who earned "qualified" scores on an entry-level test given by the Fire Department, but who lost out to mostly white applicants who had higher, "well qualified" scores. "This case is the flip side of Ricci," said Benna Solomon, deputy corporation counsel for Chicago, referring to the New Haven case. "It illustrates the tension that public employers face."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/la-na-court-firefighters22-2010feb22%2C0%2C4245079.story>

An attorney's request for a client's patient-care report last spring led to the discovery that more than 10,000 ambulance-transport records were missing from the Anne Arundel County (MD) Fire Department's electronic reporting system. The records were lost on a \$274,000 reporting program the county purchased in July 2005 -- despite the fact the state offers a similar filing system for free. It took three years to implement the program and cost an extra \$108,716 in county funds to maintain it between 2007 and 2009, said Division Chief Michael Cox, a county Fire Department spokesman. And after just one year of use, serious flaws in the system were discovered. Thousands of transport records were unaccounted for. Patient-care reports had not been sent to the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services in Baltimore, a monthly requirement. And the county could not bill insurance companies for the outstanding transport reports under the ambulance-billing program that began last April:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/md-dept-loses-ems-reports>

The Las Vegas Fire Department chief is urging his firefighters to avoid spending time at the gym during work hours and not to "abuse sick leave" as his department battles poor public perception during its stand to avoid pay cuts and layoffs. The chief's Feb. 10 e-mail to all staff, obtained by the Review-Journal through a public records request, sheds light on the department's struggles to win over the public and bureaucrats.

"Spending 2-3 hours a day at the gym like some crews do is just the kind of actions that tear us down," Fire Chief Greg Gammon wrote. The image of firetrucks sitting in gym parking lots for hours is one of the biggest complaints Gammon has heard from the public, he said last week. "There's a perception that's out there that they're at the gym more than they should, and all I can do is remind them ... just be mindful of the public perception right now," he said:

[http://www.lvrj.com/news/chief\\_-be-aware-of-perceptions-85026097.html](http://www.lvrj.com/news/chief_-be-aware-of-perceptions-85026097.html)

CBS Atlanta (GA) News has more tough questions about a deadly fire in Dunwoody in late January. CBS Atlanta requested thousands of pages detailing the inside workings of DeKalb County, from personnel files of firefighters fired to county e-mails exchanged between CEO Burrell Ellis, DeKalb County (GA) Fire Chief David Foster and Public Safety Director William Miller. CBS Atlanta News asks, does the e-mail indicate the county knew just hours after the deadly fire, that a deadly mistake was made, and feared the county could be sued because of it? Five days after the fire, the fire chief wrote an e-mail to CEO Ellis, "This morning we will meet with the family of a citizen who died in a fire. Fire rescue crews did not follow department guidelines because of lack of discipline." The next day, four firefighters were fired, then the fire chief resigned, and later a fifth firefighter lost his job:

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/22639945/detail.html>

An arbitrator's ruling that grants Portland (OR) firefighter-turned-chef Tom Hurley more than \$100,000 in disability payments that were cut off when he refused to return to a light-duty job threatens to unravel the 2006 reforms voters approved to curtail abuses in Portland's unique public safety disability fund:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/03/arbitrators\\_ruling\\_threatens\\_t.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/03/arbitrators_ruling_threatens_t.html)

Speeding on his way to a fire didn't keep a Texas volunteer firefighter from being ticketed, nor did it keep a judge from finding him guilty. Robert B. "Brian" Richardson, who also serves as an Erin alderman, attributed his ticket for going 77 mph in a 30 mph zone to an "ongoing" conflict between firefighters and Erin police, as well as disagreements between Richardson as alderman and police:

<http://www.theleafchronicle.com/article/20100223/STEWART01/100222015>

Three Warwickshire (England) fire officials have been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter in connection with the deaths of four firemen in a warehouse blaze in 2007:

<http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/Warwickshire-Fire-Officials-Arrested-On-Suspicion-Of-Manslaughter-Over-Deaths-Of-Four-Firemen/Article/201002415558490?f=rss>

Buffalo (NY) City Officials say the city will reimburse the firefighters union for most expenses related to the funerals of two firefighters who died last year, but it will not put up money for alcohol served at the receptions. "It would be foolish for the city to engage in underwriting alcohol-related expenses," Comptroller Andrew A. SanFilippo said Tuesday. The city has a long-standing unwritten policy of not paying for alcohol, SanFilippo said, claiming liability issues and other concerns:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/2010/02/23/966378/dispute-grows-over-expenses-for.html#>

In the wake of the collision between two fire trucks responding to the same emergency, the Anne Arundel County (MD) Fire Department has changed the way it dispatches Calvert County's Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department on mutual aid calls into Anne Arundel. In a statement to STATter911.com, Anne Arundel County Chief John Robert Ray said the decision to "limit but not eliminate" Dunkirk's responses was made "in the interest of public and firefighter safety".

<http://statter911.com/2010/02/23/anne-arundel-reduces-responses-by-dunkirk-vfd-after-collision-between-two-rigs-volunteer-chief-disputes-police-report-makes-own-accusations-about-career-staff-crash-highlights-problems-between-bor/>

An Orlando (FL) firefighter caught cheating on a promotion test just got a better job as a supervisor. WFTV covered the cheating scandal for several months, but none of the firefighters involved lost their jobs over it. Two years ago, Orlando Assistant Fire Chief Rudy Johnson said he didn't cheat after listening in on radio transmissions for advance information on the test. "It was broadcast over open air," Johnson said. He said his managers told him to lie. "If we just tell them we didn't violate rules or break any rules, it's over. They were more concerned about the image of the fire department than the truth," he said. Johnson was suspended and demoted one rank. He was assigned to the public information office. But this week, new Orlando Fire Chief John Miller put Johnson in charge of a whole shift, more than 100 firefighters. WFTV was tipped off by firefighters who don't think it's right. "Are there no other assistant chiefs who didn't cheat who would be qualified to be the supervisor of an entire shift?" WFTV Kathi Belich asked: <http://www.wftv.com/news/22662117/detail.html>

A member of the Wallington (NJ) Volunteer Fire Department has been charged with two misdemeanor crimes after igniting fireworks that eventually crashed through the window of an apartment building into a baby's nursery. Clifton resident Ronald Serafin, 25, a rookie member of the department who has been a volunteer for less than a year, was charged with possession of illegal fireworks and criminal mischief. Serafin was ringing in the New Year at the Park Row Fire House when one of the fireworks he was setting off atop the roof of Fire Company Number 3's building, malfunctioned: [http://www.northjersey.com/news/85300532\\_Volunteer\\_firefighter\\_charged\\_after\\_setting\\_off\\_fireworks.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/85300532_Volunteer_firefighter_charged_after_setting_off_fireworks.html)

Three firefighters are expected to surrender Thursday on assault charges from the Brooklyn bar brawl that injured a group of cousins, the Daily News has learned. A spilled drink sparked the melee at the Salty Dog in Bay Ridge and video captured several firefighters throwing punches last month. Nearly a dozen active and retired firefighters from Engine 310/Ladder 174 were drinking in the popular FDNY watering hole at the time of the brawl - and investigators said more firefighters could face charges. One law enforcement source said additional firefighters could be arrested "depending on what the first three tell us."

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2010/02/25/2010-02-25\\_firefighters\\_to\\_surrender\\_in\\_bar\\_brawl.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2010/02/25/2010-02-25_firefighters_to_surrender_in_bar_brawl.html)

A Canadian firefighter is facing a careless driving charge following a fatal collision between a fire truck and a car just north of Toronto:

[http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local\\_story\\_055221758.html](http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local_story_055221758.html)

Accused of trying to, in her words, "screw the department" for laying off co-workers, a Lehigh Acres (FL) firefighter is joining them on the unemployment line. Back in December, Sarah Fritz got suspended for asking laid-off firefighters to retaliate by donating their sick time to her. Wednesday, she was fired for breaking the rules again. Fire Chief Don Adams says she falsified hours to fulfill ride time requirements for paramedic school. Fritz's teacher requested documentation over the span of four months. Based on the fire department's formal investigation, while on duty Fritz falsely recorded 162 hours of ride time she submitted to Edison State College. The investigation also says she submitted ride time hours that were signed off by an employee who was not actually on the duty the day she completed them - a violation of the department's and school's policies. Abner Adorno signed off on some of Fritz's hours under question. He has been demoted. Rich Billian also admitted to falsifying documents and he received a written reprimand. We tried to speak with him, but he declined to comment: <http://www.abc-7.com/Global/story.asp?S=12038775>

Questions about whether the city of Joplin (MO) follows its own policies in meting out disciplinary action arose Wednesday in a personnel hearing for a firefighter. Tom Robertson contends that he was unfairly punished for a minor firetruck incident because of his work to force the city to prop up the ailing Police and Firefighters Pension Fund: [http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local\\_story\\_055221758.html](http://www.joplinglobe.com/local/local_story_055221758.html)

The Frankfort (KY) City Commission suspended a Frankfort firefighter without pay and benefits for three months for fighting outside The Dragon Pub Feb. 5. But Brian Olds says he was only doing his civic duty by breaking up a fight outside the bar: <http://www.state-journal.com/news/article/4778325>

A Colleton County (SC) paramedic and firefighter was fired over a video he posted on Facebook. On February 11, Jason Brown was called into the director's office and questioned about the video he posted the previous night. The Facebook post takes you to a YouTube-like site, where a video almost three minutes in length shows an exchange between two cartoon characters at a hospital. One is a doctor, the other a paramedic. In a letter of dismissal Brown provided, Colleton County Fire-Rescue Director Barry McRoy said, "You [Brown] displayed poor judgment in producing a derogatory video depicting a member of this department with a physician which is implied to be at Colleton Medical Center:" <http://www.live5news.com/Global/story.asp?S=12047151>

The widow of Tommy Adams, the Shreveport (LA) Fire Department battalion chief who died from injuries suffered in a fall from a fire truck, has sued the city over the medical treatment he received from his colleagues, saying the way they treated him immediately after the accident led to his death. The suit was filed against the city but it questioned the actions of Adams' colleagues: <http://www.ktbs.com/news/widow-of-firefighter-sues-city-over-his-death1/>

A Napa County (CA) Fire Department engine tumbled down a steep embankment while responding to a call early Saturday morning, but none of the three firefighters inside were seriously injured, Napa County Fire Marshal Pete Munoa said. The engine was

responding to a report of a tree down in the Deer Park area of unincorporated Napa County just north of St. Helena when the right wheels of the engine veered off the roadway on a narrow, unlit street at about 1:30 a.m., according to Munoa. The fire engine rolled 360 degrees down a steep embankment, traveling about 40 feet before crashing into a pine tree, Munoa said:

<http://www.ktvu.com/bartshooting/22694626/detail.html>

Beaufort County (SC) EMS and the Bluffton Township Fire District have denied allegations in a lawsuit filed in December by a Bluffton woman who said an ambulance's delay at an unmanned security gate in her neighborhood led to her husband's death:

<http://www.islandpacket.com/2010/02/28/1155692/beaufort-county-ems-fire-district.html>

A Clark County (NV) Fire Department captain has been charged with using the Internet to meet someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl for a sexual encounter. Martin Bernard Vohwinkel, 55, was arrested Friday by Henderson police in a parking lot where he was expecting to meet the girl, according to his arrest report. But the "girl" was a detective who had arranged the meeting after seeing a Craigslist.com ad for a casual encounter with a "very young girl," the report said:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/clark-county-fire-captain-arrested-after-placing-ad-on-craigslist-85872182.html>

A south Weld County (CO) woman and former volunteer firefighter will spend the next three years on probation while paying off more than \$11,000 in costs for a series of fake suicide and ambulance calls she made to authorities last year:

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20100303/NEWS/100309925/1005&parentprofile%3D1001>

Clark County's (NV) firefighters call in sick almost twice as often as rank-and-file county employees and at about four times the rate of management. Those numbers, included in a county compensation study, have one commissioner claiming firefighters are gaming the system in an effort to accrue more overtime. Firefighters who call in sick are replaced by colleagues who are paid overtime. "They have figured out how to play the system to their benefit and take advantage of every single opportunity in their contract to maximize their pay and minimize the benefit to the taxpayer," Commissioner Steve Sisolak said:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/07/firefighters-profit-sick-leave-policy/>

Capt. Troy K. Gore, an officer detailed to the Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department's recruitment team, was placed on paid leave yesterday over allegations that he proposed a scheme to bring in more minority candidates by doctoring the city's computerized application process. Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers announced the move and said he was opening an investigation into an e-mail sent last Sunday by Gore. The e-mail prompted Club Valiants Inc., the African American firefighters organization that for five decades has challenged hiring practices in the department, to denounce the actions of Gore, one of its highest-ranking members. In the e-mail to what Gore described as the Valiants' leadership, he asked if any fellow members had already created "dummy" applications, presumably to test the new system. Each

applicant is assigned a log-on and password; Gore asked for those log-ons and passwords so new candidates would still be able to apply after the Feb. 5 deadline:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/philly-ff-leave-recruiting-scheme>

The quote of the week comes from Chicago's (IL) fire commissioner. Read the reaction of John Brooks to sexual harassment claims. *"I have never sexually harassed any woman or man in my life. I do not proposition women. I don't have to. Women usually proposition me. God has blessed me like that:"*

<http://statter911.com/2010/03/06/the-quote-of-the-week-comes-from-chicagos-fire-commissioner-read-the-reaction-of-john-brooks-to-sexual-harassment-claims/>

The same Georgia Fire Department (DeKalb County Fire Department) where the chief and five firefighters were fired following a poor response to a fire that turned fatal had an interesting situation on Wednesday. There was fire through the roof of a Stone Mountain home after the fire department returned for the third time within 24-hours. The original call was apparently for a dryer fire:

<http://statter911.com/2010/03/05/rekindles-dekalb-county-georgia-house-destroyed-following-two-earlier-responses-for-a-dryer-fire/>

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors Tuesday approved making changes to pensions rules for city workers. Currently, pensions are based on the salary earned in the last year before retirement. Later this year, voters will decide whether to change the formula to the average salary of the last two years before retirement. One of the reasons behind the change is a procedure called "pension spiking." The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury reported last year many firefighters, police officers and sheriff's deputies would change duties in the last year before retirement, earn a higher salary, and enjoy those benefits during their pension years:

<http://cbs5.com/local/sf.pension.spiking.2.1532446.html>

A multimillion-dollar federal court verdict threatens to deplete the city of Fresno's (CA) self-funded insurance pool at the worst possible time -- just as city revenues are evaporating faster than City Hall can cut costs. City officials now must find \$3 million to replenish their insurance reserves just as they hunt for more than \$7 million in other cuts to close a persistent and growing budget gap. Although the city is appealing the verdict, officials say that if they lose, they could be forced to lay off more workers or further cut services. The November federal court decision -- a nearly \$2.5 million gender-discrimination award, with attorney's fees still to be decided -- came in a lawsuit filed by Michelle Maher, who was forced out of the Fresno Fire Department's training academy in 2005:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/03/02/1843125/gender-suit-weighs-heavily-on.html>

An internal Boston (MA) Fire Department inquiry into a fatal firetruck crash last year blamed brake failure that was caused in part by inadequate maintenance, according to a report released yesterday. The report also cited poor driver training and improper truck brake adjustments performed by firefighters who were not licensed mechanics:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/03/09/boston\\_fire\\_department\\_panel\\_blames\\_brakes\\_management\\_for\\_fatal\\_truck\\_crash/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/03/09/boston_fire_department_panel_blames_brakes_management_for_fatal_truck_crash/)

**Portland (OR) firefighters union sticks it to the city:**

[http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/steve\\_duin/index.ssf/2010/03/portland\\_firefighters\\_union\\_st.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/steve_duin/index.ssf/2010/03/portland_firefighters_union_st.html)

A department's firing of a firefighter-medic over a video he posted on Facebook was extreme but likely legally safe, a session at EMS Today was told on Friday. Jason Brown created the three-minute clip — featuring a responder and a doctor — on an animation program before posting it on the social networking Web site. After being alerted to the clip last month, his supervisors at Colleton County, S.C., Fire-Rescue terminated his employment, claiming the video created an embarrassing situation for the department. Steve Wirth, of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth LLC, a national EMS-industry law firm, told a session at the conference in Baltimore that employees of public agencies — unlike private — do have some constitutional rights in the workplace. "It does include the right to speak out on matters of public concern. But the same protection does not apply to matters of private concern, including employment related issues and grievances about work policy generally," he said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/768034-Attorney-SC-firing-over-Facebook-video-likely-legal/>

**Nassau County (NY) police arrested the Hempstead Fire Department Chief and a second man for allegedly holding a man at gunpoint in what investigators described as an act of vigilantism following a Hempstead gunfight on Sunday afternoon. The 29-year-old man was walking on Tompkins Avenue about five blocks from a shooting about 15 minutes earlier when a red Hempstead Fire Department sport utility vehicle occupied by three men pulled up next to him and one of the men demanded that the victim not move at 2:30 p.m., police said. The driver and fire chief, 51-year-old Michael Charles of Hempstead, got out of the truck along with an unknown passenger while 33-year-old Brian Schuck of Freeport, a New York City firefighter, remained seated in the back of the truck pointing a shotgun at the victim, police said:**

<http://www.longislandpress.com/2010/03/09/hempstead-fire-chief-charged-with-menacing/>

**Washington D.C. City Council members are angered over a growing number of allegations of misconduct by D.C. Fire and EMS. A number of high-profile cases involving the department came to a head following the death of 2-year-old Stephanie Stephens. Chief Dennis Rubin finds himself in the hot seat. The most recent case is a heart wrenching story of how D.C. medics allegedly refused to transport Kimberley Kelsey to the hospital last December. She says medics diagnosed her standing in her doorway and then left without her. "One of the paramedics told me there was no reason to transport me to the hospital because I don't sound like I'm having shortness of breath. I was like how can he diagnose me? He's not a doctor," Kimberley Kelsey told FOX 5:**

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/local/dc-council-upset-over-ems-complaints-031010>

**Washington DC Police are conducting a review of the paramedic who provided care to a dying two-year-old girl. Homicide detectives will try determine if the EMS worker was criminally negligent:** <http://statter911.com/2010/03/11/dc-police-conducting-review-of-paramedic-who-provided-care-to-dying-two-year-old-girl-homicide-detectives-will-try-determine-if-the-ems-worker-was-criminally-negligent/>

**A former Ukiah (CA) volunteer firefighter has been arrested on suspicion of embezzlement after an investigation which led to the recovery of Ukiah Fire Department equipment worth \$6,000 in Lake County:**

[http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci\\_14655053](http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_14655053)

**If Las Vegas can't get the desired wage concessions out of its employee unions, the city should simply fire everyone and offer to rehire them to work a shorter workweek, Mayor Oscar Goodman said Wednesday. "I'm trying to save jobs. I really am," Goodman said. "If it's a strong-arm tactic, so be it." "If it's legal, I'm going to propose it to the council. I think it's the only way we're going to save jobs:"**

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/goodman-says-city-should-fire-all-workers-87255622.html>

**The Court of Appeals on Thursday reinstated a \$1.5 million award to one of four women who successfully sued Fire District 5 for sexual harassment. Meanwhile, the appellate court rejected the fire district's request for a new trial. A Clark County (WA) judge had reduced a \$1.5 million award to \$400,000 for former Fire District 5 employee Valerie Larwick after the June 2007 trial. A seven-woman, five-man jury concluded that District 5 and its administrator, Marty James, had made crude sexual comments to four women who worked at the district's Northwest Regional Training Center in Orchards. James stayed on after the verdict but retired last year. In what was the largest verdict against an employer in county history, the jury awarded the plaintiffs a total of \$3.53 million:**

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2010/mar/11/award-in-fire-district-sex-harassment-case-reinsta/>

**The former Washington D.C. fire chief tasked with merging his firefighting and emergency medical services divisions to improve a beleaguered ambulance service now says the department should be divided, in large part because the "culture" of the historically white fire service makes employees indifferent to treating needy city residents. Adrian H. Thompson, who led the department from July 2002 through December 2006 and took the initial steps to merge the responsibilities of the department's civilian EMS work force with its uniformed firefighters, said he no longer thinks the plan can work. "It's not working," Mr. Thompson said in an interview with The Washington Times. "It's a cultural issue. They're not going to change the culture of this department."**

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/mar/12/ex-chief-regrets-dc-fire-merger-with-ems/>

**Shoshone (ID) Fire Chief Steve Stock remains on a leave of absence and his future as chief remains in limbo until Shoshone City and Rural Fire Department commissioners meet on Tuesday. Commission members haven't said why, on March 9, they dismissed both Stock and training Capt. Dean Richardson. But Fire Commissioner Ellis Gooch told the Times-News that they failed to provide adequate notice of the meeting under the Idaho Open Meeting law, so their actions are invalid:**

[http://www.magicvalley.com/news/article\\_cb6f834c-4ba5-5155-8e4f-d670a8e894a4.html](http://www.magicvalley.com/news/article_cb6f834c-4ba5-5155-8e4f-d670a8e894a4.html)

A supervising inspector for the Sacramento (CA) Metropolitan Fire District is suing the agency, alleging she was sexually harassed by her former supervisor and that the district fostered a hostile work environment. Lisa Barsdale, 39, claims in the lawsuit that former Deputy Fire Marshal Steve Broderick, now retired, began to stalk and sexually harass her in April 2008. The suit also names recently retired Fire Chief Donald Mette, who oversaw the department when the alleged harassment took place. The suit, filed in December in Sacramento Superior Court, is the latest in a string of legal troubles for the department, which endured a sex scandal several years ago involving more than a dozen firefighters, including supervisors:

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/03/14/1086993/sexual-harassment-alleged-at-sacramento.html>

Washington DC Fire & EMS Department Chief Dennis Rubin takes full responsibility for mistakes made surrounding the death of a two-year-old girl. Read his testimony here:

<http://statter911.com/2010/03/12/watch-testimony-of-dc-fire-ems-department-chief-dennis-rubin/>

Las Vegas (NV) firefighters use about 60 percent more sick leave than other city employees, according to figures obtained by the Sun. Those numbers parallel [a recent Clark County compensation study](#) showing county firefighters call in sick almost twice as often as rank-and-file employees and about four times the rate of management. Elected officials and the public have reacted strongly to the Sun's findings published last week. Clark County Commissioner Steve Sisolak said the figures show county firefighters are gaming the payroll system because those calling in sick are replaced by colleagues who are paid overtime:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/14/fireghters-burn-through-sick-leave/>

The posting of Mayor A C Wharton's photo beside pictures of Adolf Hitler and Osama bin Laden at a fire station may have been an attempt to ridicule a directive ordering city leaders to place the framed picture of Wharton in their divisions. Memphis (TN) Fire Department officials said Thursday the department had launched an investigation to find out who juxtaposed a Wharton photo with those of the infamous mass murderers: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2010/mar/12/posting-wharton-photo-beside-pictures-historic-vil/>

In the week Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman delayed his resolution challenging an arbitration award for firefighter-turned-chef Tom Hurley, Fire Commissioner Randy Leonard has come up with a way to get around it. Leonard has directed the fire chief to rescind Hurley's 2007 termination and return him to disability leave, but then order Hurley to return to a longstanding light-duty job in the Fire Bureau that's already been part of bargaining. The chief has identified two traditional light-duty jobs in the Fire Bureau that Hurley would be medically qualified to fill:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/03/randy\\_leonard\\_asks\\_portland\\_fi.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/03/randy_leonard_asks_portland_fi.html)

Some Omaha (NE) paramedics are under investigation for letting a boy talk on an emergency radio:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nebraska-paramedics-investigated-after-boy-handed-radio>

There's been another Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) arrest within the Albuquerque (NM) Fire Department. The deputy chief told Action 7 News the drunken driving arrest makes an even dozen for city firefighters since the beginning of last year. "Everyone knows that it's illegal and there's just no excuse for it," said Albuquerque Fire Department Deputy Chief Craig Sadberry. On Tuesday night, Albuquerque police on Osuna Road pulled over firefighter Michael Gutierrez, a 6 1/2-year veteran of the department. The criminal complaint shows Gutierrez ran a stop sign. The officer gave him a Breathalyzer and said Gutierrez blew over a .08. Gutierrez was stationed at Engine 1 downtown, but this isn't the first time he's been in trouble. He was arrested for an altercation in Tempe, Ariz. He was also suspended for taking a vacation day without having one:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/firefighter-dwis-disappoint-nm-chief>

Albuquerque (NM) Fire Department officials for the past few months have been wrestling with how to write some teeth into a policy that deals with firefighters who get arrested driving drunk. On Tuesday, they were confronted with yet another example of the need for such a policy when, according to a criminal complaint filed in Metropolitan Court, Michael Gutierrez, a 29-year-old, six year AFD veteran, drove away from a Northeast Heights strip club and was arrested on suspicion of DWI. Gutierrez is the 12th Albuquerque firefighter arrested on drunken driving charges since January 2009. Another half-dozen have been arrested on other charges, including public affray and domestic violence, during that time frame:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/772388-Firefighter-arrests-prompt-NM-department-to-rethink-policy/>

A fired DeKalb County (GA) fire captain is fighting to get his job back. Tony Motes testified Wednesday at an administrative hearing that he didn't have enough information to save a woman who died in a house fire on his watch:

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/22869662/detail.html>

Gilroy (CA) city officials sent out a news release Tuesday evening slamming the city's firefighters union for "delay tactics" in its negotiations with the City of Gilroy. "I think it's unconscionable," Councilman Perry Woodward said regarding the firefighters' stance. "Just last week, the firefighters wrote a letter to the editor (of the Gilroy Dispatch) implying that they were negotiating with us - I think that includes responding to the city's proposal in a reasonable timeframe. That's just not what's happening." The [city's prepared statement](#) claims that the International Association of Firefighters Local 2805 has been willing to meet with the city, but that the union "has not provided a constructive response, or even made the effort to provide a counterproposal." As a result of the failed negotiations, the council voted 6-1 to revert to a two-station model and to close the Sunrise Station in northwest Gilroy during most of the next fiscal year. Councilman Peter Arellano cast the dissenting vote:

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/264010-city-slams-fire-union-as-uncooperative-in-negotiations>

The Kewaunee (WI) Police and Fire Commission last week terminated a firefighter for driving over a fire hose in January when the department was battling a fire downtown:

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100317/GPG1008/3170763/2068/GPG10/Firefighter-terminated-after-hose-hit>

**A former state and federal prosecutor turned associate circuit judge will investigate sexual harassment allegations against Chicago Fire Commissioner John Brooks:**  
<http://www.suntimes.com/news/cityhall/2106558,CST-NWS-brooks17.article>

**The Sparks (NV) city council claims to have been 'blind-sided' by fire union president's talk of consolidation:** <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100312/SPARKS/100312017>

**A federal judge on Monday affirmed a nearly \$2.5 million gender discrimination verdict in favor of a woman who was forced out of the Fresno (CA) Fire Department's training academy. U.S. District Judge Oliver W. Wanger denied the city's motion for a new trial and its contention that the evidence did not support the jury's verdict. Taken together, the rulings make it more likely that Michelle Maher -- a single mother and former professional mixed-martial arts fighter -- will emerge victorious in her lawsuit, and that the cash-strapped city will have to shell out \$2.46 million, plus attorney fees that could top \$1 million:**  
<http://www.fresnobee.com/2010/03/15/1860344/woman-forced-from-fresno-fire.html>

**The NAACP is calling for an investigation after a black fire captain in Moss Point (MS) said he found a hangman's noose in the fire house. Rodger Mann said it's not the first time such a thing has happened. Mann said he found the noose earlier this month in his sleeping quarters, and took his complaint to the city's Board of Aldermen. But after what he calls a lack luster response from city leaders, he contacted the NAACP:**  
<http://www.wlox.com/Global/story.asp?S=12166763>

**Fort Pierce (FL) police have brought a firefighter to the St. Lucie County jail, after a paramedic intern reported seeing a man peering down at her from the ceiling as she was taking a shower in the women's bathroom at the fire station; the firefighter is now on unpaid administrative leave:** <http://www.wpbfl.com/news/22884539/detail.html>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

**An 80-year-old woman fulfills her dream to become an honorary firefighter with the Chico (CA) Fire Department:** <http://www.knvn.com/content/localnews/story/80-Year-Old-Woman-Fulfills-Dream-As-Honorary/DQBI6EeaxEur0K6VsuNZsw.csp>

**For the first time in Escondido's (CA) history, a labor union has agreed to forgo pension contributions made by the city. The concession came from the Escondido Firefighters Association, whose 85 members will pay all pension contributions for this year and next, the duration of a new contract that the City Council approved this week. In addition, the union agreed to give up 46 of 138 hours of holiday pay. The concessions will save the city \$630,000 over two years. In return, the city will give the union, whose members include captains, engineers and firefighter/paramedics, a 6 percent pay raise each year for two years. The raise will apply to base pay, which**

averages \$75,000 a year, said Mike Diaz, president of the firefighters union:  
[http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci\\_14675055?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci_14675055?nclink_check=1)

In a time of tightening budgets and ballooning unemployment figures, the Maricopa (AZ) Fire Department's local union has decided to make several concessions to provide economic relief to the city of Maricopa. The fire union, Professional Fire Fighters of Maricopa Local 4561, and its 50 members voted unanimously last week to forego an automatic 2.5 percent raise written into their contracts, give back five of the 11 paid holidays they receive and a \$50 per firefighter uniform allowance received. "We want to help the city in any way we can," said union president Dan Ashton. The combined moves are expected to save roughly 5 percent of the money budgeted for firefighter salaries, which consumes roughly \$6.5 million of the department's \$8 million budget: [www.inmaricopa.com/NEWS/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?mid1=430&&ArticleID=7851](http://www.inmaricopa.com/NEWS/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?mid1=430&&ArticleID=7851)

For Manny Souza and Corey Kendrick, it's truly the little moments in their friendship that make the difference. Souza, 41, is a volunteer "big brother" with the organization Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada. He's been matched with his "little brother" Kendrick, 17, since 2003. Souza, a Sparks firefighter, said he was inspired to volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters because his own father died when he was 18 months old. When he was a teenager, his boss at the gas station where he worked, Louis Sandberg, took on an unofficial role as Souza's mentor:  
<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100315/LIV/3150309>

Three Hillsboro (OR) Firefighters will travel to Seattle March 7 to take part in the 19th annual Scott Stair Climb. This grueling event challenges firefighters from across the country to climb 69 flights of stairs at the Columbia Center (formerly the Bank of America Tower) in the shortest amount of time while wearing their full firefighter gear, boots and air pack. The event is a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society which provides blood-cancer research and patient services:  
<http://www.oregonlive.com/news/argus/index.ssf?/base/news/1267566685144110.xml&coll=6>

As Phoenix (AZ) Valley cities struggle to spare firefighters from budget cuts, the first thing to go often is money for fire prevention and education. More than ever, the Foundation for Burns and Trauma is helping lead efforts to keep homes safe by partnering with fire departments and installing free smoke alarms from Mesa to Surprise:  
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2010/03/01/20100301smokealarms0301.html>

A new labor contract ratified Tuesday by Escondido (CA) firefighters includes 6 percent pay raises, but the agreement will actually save the city \$315,000 per year by reducing holiday hours and requiring employees to pay their own pension contributions instead of the city. The firefighters are the first city labor union to agree to pension changes since the recession created momentum behind such proposals. But the concessions will not reduce how much employees will receive when they retire, which has been the No. 1 goal of pension reform advocates:  
[http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article\\_59a16d43-0798-5c19-a538-9c2b6ff464ea.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/escondido/article_59a16d43-0798-5c19-a538-9c2b6ff464ea.html)

**Next week, firefighters and others will sacrifice hair for pediatric cancer research:**

<http://www.eaglevalleyenterprise.com/article/20100224/NEWS/100229991/1054&ParentProfile%3D1001>

**Sacramento (CA) Metropolitan Fire District plans to staff all its engines with paramedics in an effort to increase services for ratepayers:**

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/02/25/2565956/all-metro-fire-district-engines.html>

**Eagle Mountain (UT) firefighters could not save an english bulldog name Delilah from a house fire a few months ago. Firefighters said when they heard about Delilah's five-year-old owner, Samantha Clark without a friend to help keep her company when she goes to treatments for brain cancer, they decided they needed to get her a new friend – a new bulldog:**

<http://www.fox13now.com/news/kstu-firefighters-gift-little-girl-with-new-puppy%2C0%2C1993078.story>

**Leaders of a volunteer rescue team in Longmont (CO) say the recession is forcing them to make some changes. Now the rescuers may become teachers. The team hopes to turn their idea into a money-making mission to help upgrade their apparatus and equipment:** <http://cbs4denver.com/local/Longmont.Emergency.Unit.2.1542324.html>

**A brand new state-of-the-art Ladder Truck was put into service in January thanks to management and labor coming together to find a solution for extra staffing without impacting the budget. In 2007, Fire Chief Mark Burdick completed a 52-page three-year needs assessment plan that identified a need for a new ladder truck at a cost of \$865,000. "It takes about one year to build one and the truck was ordered," Burdick said. "And, then, the economy tanked. We needed 18 bodies to staff a ladder company, four per day for three shifts and two extras per shift to cover leave time." The executive board of the union approached Burdick and said, "Don't you think we can work together to creatively solve this problem and staff this new ladder truck?"**

<http://www.glendalestar.com/articles/2010/03/04/news/news02.txt>

**Being named after a saint doesn't necessarily make you one, but having the hair shaved completely off your head for a great cause might just make the cut. Alameda (CA) Fire Department firefighter and paramedic Patrick Corder is raising money for the third annual St. Baldrick's event at Children's Hospital Oakland. The event, the department's first, is one of several philanthropic events that Alameda Firefighters Local 689 participate in (or sometimes host) throughout the year:**

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/localnews/ci\\_14513399](http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/localnews/ci_14513399)

**A year is plenty of time to forget just how badly your legs burn and your lungs heave when you sprint up 69 flights of stairs. "I've never had a workout hurt as much as this. My legs hurt, my lungs hurt, my back hurts, even my arms hurt. Pretty much everything hurts," said Kory Burgess, 27, of the Missoula Rural Fire Department, who was the first of 1,555 firefighters to reach the 73rd-floor observation deck of the Columbia Center on Sunday. "You kind of forget the pain throughout the year."**

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2011285003\\_firefighters08m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2011285003_firefighters08m.html)

The Sun City West (AZ) Fire District's volunteer Fire Corps program continues to make its mark on the community. At a fire board workshop meeting Tuesday, fire district officials reported on the progress of projects on which the Fire Corps volunteers are working. In total, the 14-member volunteer group, which was started in early 2009, is saving the district time and allowing it to provide services it would not otherwise be able to provide, Fire Chief Rob Biscoe said: <http://www.yourwestvalley.com/news/fire-14049-program-city.html>

North Washington (UT) Fire Protection District (NWFPD) will be conducting a food drive for a local food bank:

<http://www.examiner.com/x-39474-North-Washington-Fire-District-Examiner~y2010m3d15-Fire-District-to-collect-food-for-local-food-bank>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

Six errors are cited in the deaths of fire captain and rookie firefighter in Houston (TX). The failure to fully assess a burning home and then entering the smoky blaze without two-way radios or thermal imaging equipment may have contributed to the deaths of a veteran Houston Fire Department captain and a rookie firefighter battling a wind-whipped house fire last Easter, according to an investigation by the State fire marshal's office: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/6880242.html>

Two Fairfax County (VA) firefighters were struck by an SUV driven by an EMS supervisor Tuesday evening as they attempted to help a cyclist who had been hit by a car. The injuries are not life threatening:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=97567&catid=188&GID=MDIKbwxE2vwxW4ld5Qcqfp41EuNM2fwxr/Q4EliV9+o=>

Hamden (CT) Firefighters and cops are being praised for bravery when a Treadwell Street man who didn't want to go to the hospital pointed a loaded gun at the firefighters who went to his home to help him, authorities said Friday. Firefighters stayed calm as the man, 66, was holding the .38- caliber revolver while they asked him about his medical condition and took his blood pressure in his room in the basement of the condominium Thursday afternoon. He told firefighters he would shoot any police officers who came in, according to police Capt. Ronald Smith:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/763006-conn-firefighters-held-at-gunpoint-by-patient/>

Firefighter survival: 10 ways to stay safe – The Houston (TX) Fire Department 'Rules of Survival' offer take-home messages for every firefighter:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/columnists/Tom-LaBelle/articles/763410-Firefighter-survival-10-ways-to-stay-safe/>

A must read for ALL current and future company officers and chief officers - A team of South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division agents is reviewing records from the Sofa Super Store (Charleston, SC – June 2007) blaze for signs of criminal negligence

on the part of commanders who oversaw the attack on the inferno in which nine firemen died, authorities said. Ninth Circuit Solicitor Scarlett Wilson requested the review after meeting with relatives of two firefighters who died in the June 18, 2007, inferno. Family members of captains Louis Mulkey and William Hutchinson gave Wilson eight binders of materials they say prove that commanders exposed fire crews to unnecessary and deadly risks with insufficient training and leadership:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/mar/14/sled-reviews-records-for-signs-of-negligence/>

Fire departments around the Denver (CO) metro area are installing security cameras and alarm systems after seven break-ins in the last three weeks. Those areas hit include Westminster, Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties, Federal Heights, Thornton, Southwest Adams County, North Metro and Sable-Altura Fire Districts. "We've got somebody that's burglarizing the stations and burglarizing our ambulances and doing it with potentially our people in the next room," said Deputy Chief Bill Work, Westminster Fire Dept. The thieves are ripping out vaults onboard ambulances, and taking the narcotics paramedics rely on to save lives:

<http://cbs4denver.com/local/ambulance.thefts.fire.2.1521547.html>

One firefighter suffered minor injuries when an Amtrak passenger train hit a Detroit (MI) fire truck on the scene of a car accident this morning:

<http://freep.com/article/20100301/NEWS01/100301028/>

More from Detroit, including video and a slide show: Detroit's Ladder 13, parked on the railroad tracks is hit by an Amtrack train – the Detroit Fire Commissioner calls the incident “a disservice to the citizens” and adds: “I’m very upset,” said executive fire commissioner James Mack. “I’m going to make it known that this is not acceptable and we’ll do some training.”

<http://statter911.com/2010/03/01/breaking-news-detroit-tv-station-reports-fire-truck-hit-by-amtrak-train/>

As areas of the West continue to struggle with drought conditions, another year of tinder dry grass and the threat of large wildland fires await. To prepare for the coming wildland season, the University of Nevada, Reno Fire Science Academy is offering a Wildland Fire Academy that provides a set of classes meeting all applicable National Wildland Coordinating Group standards. The FSA's Wildland Fire Academy curriculum consists of Wildland Firefighter (FFT I), NWCG S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior, NWCG S-230 Crew Boss/Single Resource and NWCG S-231 Engine Boss/Single Resource. Each of these classes may be taken individually or as an entire block. Students who successfully complete one or all of the courses and the subsequent position task book will receive the FSA NWCG-compliant Red Card displaying the updated qualifications. In addition to the upcoming Wildland Academy, the FSA offers wildland fire courses year-round:

[http://www.elkodaily.com/articles/2010/02/27/news/local\\_news/doc4b88d4ba0d2e9367252154.txt](http://www.elkodaily.com/articles/2010/02/27/news/local_news/doc4b88d4ba0d2e9367252154.txt)

Three Houston (TX) firefighters had a close call Saturday when they were shocked in a training exercise in southwest Houston. The firefighters were working on a ladder

truck off Bellaire and the Southwest Freeway and ran into a problem with power lines. According to the fire department, a more experienced firefighter was showing a younger firefighter some equipment, but one of the ladders got a little too close to the power lines and that sent a shock waves to three firefighters:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7316009>

A police officer's dashcam captures his police car being truck on the side of highway. Watch video from Brooklyn Heights (OH) as it should hit home for all of us in the fire service as we work frequently in similar situations and have had similar results:

<http://statter911.com/2010/02/28/dashcam-captures-ohio-police-officer-struck-on-side-of-highway-watch-video-from-brooklyn-heights/>

The FDNY aims to transform firefighter safety culture - "The message we want to tell everybody is not to tell you to stop doing your job – our job is to save lives, that's why we become firefighters," he said. "But we are not going to put ourselves in harm's way if we don't have to."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/768791-FDNY-aims-to-transform-firefighter-safety-culture/>

Video catches backdraft that injured 4 Chicago (IL) firefighters:

<http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2010/03/video-catches-backdraft-that-injures-4-chicago-firefighters.html>

The First Amendment does not protect a fire chief who was disciplined after commenting on what he considered the inadequate funding of his department at a news conference at the scene of a fatal fire, a federal appeals court ruled today. The First US Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an appeal by Randolph (MA) Fire Chief Charles D. Foley Jr., who sued after the town disciplined him for his comments on May 17, 2007, the day that a fire killed two children, a 17-year-old and a 10-year-old, in his town. The appeals court said the Supreme Court has recognized that "governments have an interest in exercising some degree of control over their employees' words and actions in order to ensure the efficient provision of public services." The court also said it was clear Foley was "speaking in his official capacity and not as a citizen:"

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2010/03/appeals\\_court\\_f.html](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2010/03/appeals_court_f.html)

They are the most wired vehicles on the road, with dashboard computers, sophisticated radios, navigation systems and cellphones. While such gadgets are widely seen as distractions to be avoided behind the wheel, there are hundreds of thousands of drivers — firefighters, police officers and paramedics — who are required to use them, sometimes at high speeds, while weaving through traffic, sirens blaring. The drivers say the technology is a huge boon for their jobs, saving valuable seconds and providing instant access to essential information. But it also presents a clear risk — even the potential to take a life while they are trying to save one:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/11/technology/11distracted.html?hp>

Radio traffic & video from a crash involving Washington DC's Rescue Squad 1 - three civilians are hurt:

<http://statter911.com/2010/03/12/radio-traffic-video-from-crash-involving-dcs-rescue-squad-1-three-civilians-hurt/>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

The California Highway Patrol is investigating why a firefighter was handcuffed for refusing to move a fire engine from a freeway in Santa Barbara County. CHP Capt. Jeff Sgobba says the incident on Feb. 15 was rare, regrettable and embarrassing:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/02/23/state/n080116S75.DTL&type=newsbayarea>

Facing public criticism and political pressure, the doctor in charge of approving paramedics to work in Whatcom County (WA) is maintaining his requirement that the staff of a fifth Medic One unit complete field evaluations before operating. Dr. Marvin Wayne says to do otherwise would undermine his standards for medical excellence for Medic One, and go against decades-long requirements he's had:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/03/05/1097916/doctor-stands-behind-requirements.html>

The City of Oakdale (CA) and Oakdale Rural Fire District began a partnership that involves shared equipment and blended staff schedules — an arrangement that protects the public while saving taxpayers' money. The partnership is set up as a six-month trial, but leaders of both organizations are hoping it will lead to an ongoing integration of services:

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/03/01/1069776/agencies-team-up-to-better-serve.html>

Snohomish County's (WA) largest fire district could get a whole lot bigger. Officials for Fire District 1 are scheduled to meet Tuesday with their counterparts at Fire District 7 to discuss a possible merger. Advocates say merging the districts could streamline a host of fire and emergency medical operations, save money and provide better service to a combined 280,000 residents:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20100308/NEWS01/703089910>

The federal economic stimulus program is turning out to be a headache and a windfall for the Gilbert Town Council as it tries to decide whether to build a new fire station using a \$3 million grant: <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/151063>

Thieves who broke into Westminster (CO) fire stations and stole narcotics from ambulances also took uniforms that investigators worry will allow them to pose as firefighters to steal more drugs: [http://www.denverpost.com/ci\\_14458500](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_14458500)

The tension between public, private emergency responders in the Las Vegas (NV) are is disturbing – an editorial:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/tension-between-public--private-emergency-responders-disturbing-88354722.html>

**San Francisco (CA) firefighters hail fire station trade to art museum. Under the deal, the Museum of Modern Art will expand into an old fire station (currently being used as station 1) and pay more than \$14 million for a modern station:**

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/763739-San-Francisco-firefighters-hail-fire-station-trade-to-art-museum/>

**A Superior Court judge threw out a lawsuit filed by former San Diego (CA) firefighters union leader Ron Saathoff that sought to force the city to honor a retirement benefit granted to him in 2002 but terminated two years ago. In the same ruling, Judge Yuri Hoffman threw out claims by a group of city firefighters who sued to reinstate a benefit that allowed them to use annual vacation time to buy extra years of service for calculating their ultimate pension. It was the second time since December that a judge has thrown out a lawsuit seeking reinstatement of the "presidential leave" benefit. The benefit allowed the presidents of labor unions to combine their city salary with their union salary for purposes of calculating their pensions:**

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/mar/18/firefighters-retirement-lawsuits-are-thrown-out/>

**The Boulder (CO) Fire Department has received a \$12,500 thermal imaging camera from 500 For Life, a charitable organization dedicated to helping firefighters and fire victims by providing them with thermal imagers:**

[http://www.dailycamera.com/news/ci\\_14678766](http://www.dailycamera.com/news/ci_14678766)

**Joseph L. Washington was sentenced Thursday to probation for mishandling asbestos removal at the Northeast (MO) fire district headquarters while he was president of the district's board. Telling Washington, 67, that he was "too old for a speech," District Judge Charles Shaw sentenced Washington to one year of probation. The felony stemmed from the removal in November 2008 of asbestos-laden tiles from the Northeast Ambulance and Fire Protection District's administration building in Beverly Hills. Washington later was fire chief for the district; he left that job in December:**

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/B18673D7BF953009862576EB000BC21C?OpenDocument>

**The City of Newark (CA) Fire Department agrees to contract with Alameda County Fire Department. By the time the next fiscal cycle begins, fire engines in Newark could bear the name of the Alameda County Fire Department. City Council members have voted in favor of a five-year contract with the countywide department, a move that could save Newark as much as \$3.4 million over the life of the deal. "This was a difficult decision, but in these tough economic times, I do not think that (cost savings) is something that can be overlooked," said Vice Mayor Al Huezco. With the unanimous 5-0 vote, the only hurdle remaining for the merger is approval of the contract by the Alameda County Fire Department board of directors:**

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci\\_14480682?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci_14480682?nclick_check=1)

**Washington D.C. residents who require emergency medical assistance are in good hands despite a "major breakdown in protocol" when a paramedic declined to take a toddler to the hospital who was struggling to breathe, Fire Chief Dennis Rubin claims. D.C. police are investigating the death of 2-year-old Stephanie Stevens to see whether**

there was criminal negligence by the paramedic crew that responded to her home Feb. 10 but did not to take her to the hospital. Stephanie's mom called 911 a second time, 10 hours later, as the girl's breathing worsened. She died the next day. A similar case from December of not transporting a 911 patient, though not fatal, also is under review. "I see them as total failures," Rubin said under questioning from D.C. Councilman Phil Mendelson, chairman of the public safety committee. "I would hope that they're exceptions."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/dc-chief-ems-not-broken-despite-total-failures>

**Vandals damage Boise (ID) Fire Department vehicles and equipment:**

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/Vandals-damage-Boise-Fire-Dept-vehicles-and-equipment-87706212.html>

Florida Highway Patrol troopers say a two-vehicle crash Tuesday at Mile Marker 21 on Cudjoe Key was caused by a 37-year-old woman driver who was shaving her bikini area while her ex-husband took the wheel from the passenger seat:

<http://statter911.com/2010/03/07/maybe-this-is-what-was-going-on-in-that-suv-blocking-the-path-of-the-erie-fire-engine-if-so-then-i-truly-understand-why-they-didnt-move/>

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***Please make every day a learning opportunity and train like your life depends on it – because it does!***

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. Even more important than that, this information will hopefully keep you safe and may just save your life or the life of a brother or sister firefighter! Take care and don't just stay safe – make it 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)  
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