



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

**April 11, 2009**

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**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News! This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities.

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### ***FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:***

#### **Firefighter “Near Miss” and Fatality After Action Reviews**

##### *NorCal Fire Training Officers’ Association*

Presents

##### After Action Reviews of:

- *Sac Metro Fire District: 2008 - Roof Collapse “near-miss”*
- *Contra Costa Co. Fire District: 2007 - Line of Duty Deaths*
- *Sacramento City Fire Department: 2008 - Flashover “near-miss”*
- NIOSH presentation on their Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation and Prevention Program

**April 22, 2009 from 0900 to 1600 in the**

Bank of America Building Auditorium  
555 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94104

- *The program is FREE for NorCal TO members and \$25 payable at the door for non-members.*

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING INFORMATION:**

Cal EMA (OES) has updated the **Strike Team (Engine) / Task Force Leader Manual** effective 3/19/09. This updated document contains several significant changes/additions;

- **2008 FIRESCOPE Statewide Channel Plan**
- **Motel guidelines**
- **Updated ICS mapping symbols (including 3 stripes)**
- **Updated Code of Conduct**

The manual is available and posted on the Cal EMA website:

[http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/ClientOESFileLibrary/Fire%20Documents/\\$file/STLManual2009.pdf](http://www.oes.ca.gov/WebPage/oeswebsite.nsf/ClientOESFileLibrary/Fire%20Documents/$file/STLManual2009.pdf)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

SUASI is providing Tuition FREE Incident Management Course in the bay area. If you have any city or district employees who work within your Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), or you have fire employees who have an interest in pursuing single resource overhead assignments, some of the prerequisite courses are being delivered here in the bay area.

As an example Foster City Fire is hosting Resource Unit Leader and Demobilization Unit Leader Course (S-347 & S-348) April 21<sup>st</sup> through April 24<sup>th</sup>. They are also hosting the Supply Unit Leader Course (S-356) April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please share this e-mail with the other OP Area Fire Chiefs within your counties as well as your employees.

**To view more information and to sign up, go to:**

<http://www.citygateassociates.com/IMT-training/>

### **CLASSES BEING OFFERED INCLUDE:**

- **S-358 (Communication Unit Leader)** April 13 through 15, 2009 in Morgan Hill, CA
- **S-360 (Finance/Administration Unit Leader)** April 14 through 17, 2009 in Morgan Hill, CA
- **S-430 (Operations Section Chief)** April 20 through 22, 2009 in San Francisco, CA

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

- **S-347 (Resources Unit Leader)** and **S-348 (Demobilization Unit Leader)** April 21 through 24, 2009 in Foster City, CA
- **S-356 (Supply Unit Leader)** April 27 and 28, 2009 in Foster City, CA
- **S-354 (Facility Unit Leader)** May 4 through 7, 2009 in Penngrove, CA
- **S-359 (Medical Unit Leader)** May 4 through 6, 2009 in Oakland, CA
- **S-460 (Finance/Administration Section Chief)** May 11 through 13, 2009 in San Jose, CA
- **S-440 (Planning Section Chief)** May 18 through 20, 2009 in Mountain View, CA
- **S-450 (Logistics Section Chief)** May 21 through 22, 2009 in Santa Cruz, CA
- **S-355 (Ground Support Unit Leader)** May 26 and 27, 2009 in Fremont, CA

Take care, and be safe,

Tom Reaves, Fire Chief, Foster City Fire Department

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## **PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:**

**B**y popular demand, I have scheduled some 2 day *promotional preparation courses* over the next few months around the State:

- Thursday **May 7** and Friday **May 8**, 2009 – **Union City, CA**
- Wednesday **June 3** and Thursday **June 4**, 2009 – **Milpitas, CA**
- Tuesday **June 30** and Wednesday **July 1**, 2009 – **Manteca, CA**
- Monday **July 27** and Tuesday **July 28**, 2009 – **Petaluma, CA**

*Class sizes are 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.

**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.

**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 our 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!

<b>Union City, CA</b>	<b>Milpitas, CA</b>	<b>Manteca, CA</b>	<b>Petaluma, CA</b>
Thursday May 7 <u>and</u> Friday May 8, 2009	Wednesday June 3 <u>and</u> Thursday June 4, 2009	Tuesday June 30 <u>and</u> Wednesday July 1, 2009	Monday July 27 <u>and</u> Tuesday July 28, 2009
<b>Union City F.D. Training Classroom</b> 33555 Central Ave. Union City, CA 94587	<b>Milpitas F.D. Training Classroom</b> 777 South Main St. Milpitas, CA 95035	<b>Manteca F.D. - Fire Station 1 Classroom</b> 290 S. Powers Ave. Manteca, CA 95336	<b>Petaluma Community Center</b> 320 N. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma, CA 94954
\$220.00 for the two day session	\$220.00 for the two day session	\$220.00 for the two-day session	\$220.00 for the two-day session

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & EDUCATION INFO:**

### **U.S. Fire Administration Announces 2008 Outstanding Research Award Winners**

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The United States Fire Administration announced today the four fire service executives who will receive the National Fire Academy's (NFA) 2008 **Outstanding Research Awards**. This annual award recognizes [Executive Fire Officer Program](#) students for their research projects. The 2008 award winning projects will be presented at the [21<sup>st</sup> Executive Fire Officer Symposium](#) on April 17-19, 2009, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

"Now more than ever our communities need tangible, real outcomes to provide direction in the delivery of emergency services to the jurisdictions that our Executive Fire Officer Program participants represent," said Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Dr. Denis Onieal. "The Applied Research Projects selected this year provide examples of research that is 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 Executive Fire Officer Program 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 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 six months after the completion of each of the four course areas.

#### **The 2008 Outstanding Research Award recipients are:**

Executive Development Course Awardee: Lieutenant Donald Waldron, City of Londonderry Fire Department, Londonderry, New Hampshire.

Paper: [An Analysis of Red Lights and Siren Use Responding to Emergency Medical Services Incidents](#) (PDF, 3.6 Mb, [Adobe Acrobat PDF Help](#))

Leading Community Risk Reduction Course Awardee: Fire Chief J. Barry Burnside, City of Clinton Fire Department, Clinton, Mississippi.

Paper: [Determining Fire Hazards When Educators Decorate Their Classroom in Clinton Mississippi](#) (PDF, 489 Kb)

Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management Course Awardee: Fire Chief Lee. A. Soptich, Eastside Fire & Rescue Department, Issaquah, Washington.

Paper: [Determining Core Emergency Scene Operational Standards for Eastside Fire & Rescue](#) (PDF, 533 Kb)

Executive Leadership Course Awardee: Battalion Chief Michael E. Boyle, Orange County (Ca.) Fire Authority, Irvine, California.

Paper: [Firefighter Rehabilitation in The Orange County Fire Authority: Are We Meeting the Need?](#) (PDF, 404 Kb)

"I know how challenging these projects are to complete, but yet how important they can be," continued Dr. Onieal. "The range of topics chosen this year for the 2008 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."

To obtain a copy of the four Outstanding Research Award 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. You can also obtain a copy of the individual projects from the U.S. Fire Administration's Web site at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>

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## **FIRE SAFETY INFO FROM THE I.A.F.C.:**

### **IAFC MEMBER ALERT**

Contact: IAFC Communications Department  
703-293-0911 • [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

## **Fire/EMS Safety Week**

### **First of Four Key Areas: Safety - Emergency Driving**

Fairfax, Va., Apr. 6, 2009... The [IAFC](#) and the [IAFF](#) are asking you to **Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility**. We're calling on all fire/EMS departments and all IAFF affiliates to participate in the 2009 [Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week](#) scheduled for June 14-20.

The recommended focus of this year's Safety Week will incorporate four key areas where standard operating procedures, policies and initiatives—along with the training and enforcement that support them—can limit fire and EMS personnel's risk of injury or death:

- Safety: Emergency Driving (Enough Is Enough—End Senseless Deaths)
- Health: Fire Fighter Heart Disease and Cancer Education and Prevention
- Survival: Structural Size-Up and Situational Awareness
- Chiefs: Be the Leader in Safety

To support your planning, we'll provide you with information about each of the 2009 key areas. Below is the first area for your consideration. Look for the second key area to be included in the May 1 **On Scene**.

**First of Four Key Areas:**

**Safety: Emergency Driving  
(Enough Is Enough—End Senseless Death)**

During Safety Week, we encourage all fire/EMS personnel to demonstrate they are truly dedicated to protecting themselves and the lives and safety of others by adopting an individual safe-driving code.

Start by never driving above posted speeds any time you're responding to or returning from an alarm or incident. Drive the fire apparatus or your personal vehicle with great respect for your coworkers and the community you serve, allowing for your safe arrival on the scene to provide assistance to others. Response times are important, but not at the expense of losing a life in the process.

It's been proven time and time again that wearing a seatbelt save lives. Start by saving your own by wearing a seatbelt every time you ride in any type of vehicle! No exceptions!

Driving through an intersection in front of oncoming traffic is one of the most dangerous things we do, putting all of the crew at high risk. You should always stop and ensure every other vehicle at the intersection sees your vehicle and allows you to drive through. Never assume they'll stop for you. Look the other driver in the eye and make sure they are stopped to allow you to proceed.

Keep watching the [Safety Week website](#) for more information on this year's program and planning resources developed by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section.

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**FIRE SERVICE INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE  
ADMINISTRATION:**

**USFA Announces Arson Awareness Week Theme for 2009**

EMMITSBURG, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the theme for the 2009 Arson Awareness Week: **Arson for Profit**. USFA and its partners will use the week of May 3rd to the 9th to focus public attention on the alarming statistics about Arson for Profit and hopes to expand the resources and support necessary to reduce this crime.

Arson for Profit, or economic arson, is when businesses or individuals set fires to reduce financial loss, recoup initial investments, or dispose of depreciated assets usually for a payout from insurance companies. The USFA is partnering with the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

"Each year firefighters and innocent civilians are needlessly put in danger, injured and killed as a result of arson fires," said Glenn A. Gaines, Acting United States Fire Administrator. "We

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

are pleased to partner with the law enforcement community on efforts to reduce the crime of arson."

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2005 an estimated 323,900 intentional fires reported to U.S. fire departments resulted in 490 civilian fire deaths, 3 firefighter on-duty deaths, 1,500 civilian fire injuries, 7,600 firefighter on-duty injuries and \$1.102 billion in direct property damage.

"Arson is a costly crime that's being fanned by the flames of recession. Firefighters and innocent families are endangered when desperate people illegally torch their homes, businesses and cars for insurance bailouts," according to Dennis Jay, Executive Director, Coalition Against Insurance Fraud. "Arson also is raising insurance premiums at a time of great stress on honest people's pocketbooks. All Americans are victims of arson, and we all must work to ensure fewer arson matches are ever lit."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2007 Uniform Crime Reporting statistics showed the average dollar loss for all types of arson was \$17,289. For structures, arson damages were \$32,364 on average and \$7,890 for motor vehicles. Arsons of industrial and manufacturing structures resulted in the highest average dollar losses—an average of \$114,699 per arson.

"Arson is one of the most heinous crimes imaginable. When the arsonist unleashes fire, he does so with a callous disregard for what the outcome will be. He cares not a whit about the firefighters that will risk their lives responding to the fire, the innocent victims that may be disfigured or killed, the neighboring residents or businesses that may suffer damage or destruction, the blight his deeds will leave on a community or the financial costs that burned property imposes on society," said Ken Finley, IAAI-CFI, President, International Association of Arson Investigators. "Please join us in our never ending fight against those who use fire as a vicious tool for their own gain."

The USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) states the two leading causes of civilian deaths are arson, at 28 percent, and smoking, at 18 percent. Arson is, by far, the leading cause of property loss, at 26 percent. Arson is an enormous problem in the United States, especially to outside and nonresidential structure properties.

David M. Wulf, Chief of the ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research adds, "In view of the economy and uncertainty within the housing market, arson for profit presents an increased concern to both fire service and law-enforcement agencies."

For more information, including a media kit for the 2009 Arson Awareness Week campaign, go to <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/aaw/>

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



2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week - June 14 - 20

April 9, 2009  
News Alert

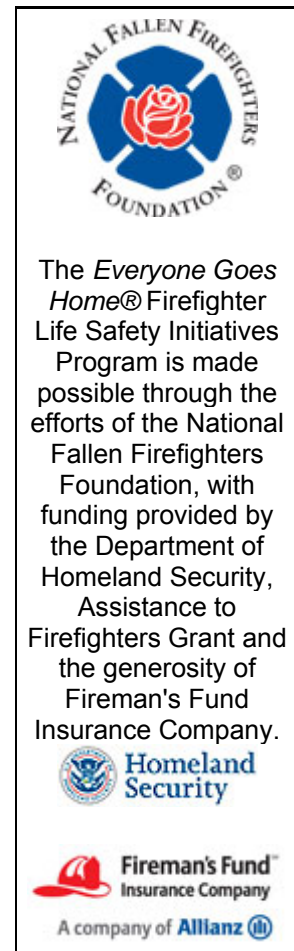
First of Four Key Areas: Emergency Driving

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- Survival: Structural Size-Up and Situational Awareness
- Chiefs: Be the Leader in Safety

» Read: [The Full Article on 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.

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

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

## **USFA Releases Outdoor Fires Topical Report**

WASHINGTON D.C. - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report examining the causes and characteristics of outdoor fires. The report, **Outdoor Fires**, was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of the USFA. This report is based on 2004 to 2006 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The report, part of the USFA's Topical Fire Report Series, shows an estimated 655,200 outdoor fires occur annually in the U.S. resulting in 50 civilian deaths, 875 civilian injuries, and \$154 million in property loss.

According to the report, outdoor fires peak in March, April, and July and account for 41 percent of all fires in the U.S. Together, trash or rubbish fires (47 percent) and natural vegetation fires (44 percent) account for 91 percent of outdoor fires. In 73 percent of outdoor fires, organic materials such as crops, grass, and trees are the items first ignited. Fires that are started unintentionally are the leading cause of outdoor fires.

The short 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.

**A copy of the report can be downloaded at:**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/index.shtm>

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

- **Assessment Center and Fire Simulation Workshops**
- **Instructor: Chuck Wilson**

### **Assessment Center Workshop –**

Designed for those who will participate in an Assessment Center on their Promotional Exam.

### **COURSE CONTENT:**

- Written Multiple Choice Exercises
- Leaderless Group Exercises
- In-Basket Exercises
- Oral Presentations
- Written Exercises
- Subordinate Counseling
- Practice Exercises
- NEW Student Workbook

Simulator Workshop -

Designed for those who will have a Simulation on their Promotional exam.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

- Strategy & Tactics
- S.P.A.R.S. Technique
- Initial Report Exercises
- Raters Sheets
- Exam Situations
- "Hot-Seat" For All
- Practice Simulation Exercises
- The "No-Zone"

**Instructor:** CHUCK WILSON

Chuck is recognized as one of the nation's leading instructors in Fire Department Promotional Testing. Most recently honored as the recipient of the Ed Bent Award as California Fire Instructor of the year for 2007. A Southern California Chief Officer with a Bachelor Degree from San Diego State. Senior Master Instructor in the California Fire Training System, Adjunct Instructor for 14 Colleges including Cal State, Los Angeles, and Texas A&M WMD Programs. An editorial contributor to The IFSTA 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> Edition Fire Instructor Textbook. This will NOT be a dry or boring class. Chuck has taught these classes to over 2500 students and proves you can have fun while learning. Exercises, Rating Sheets and Key Performance Elements are stressed.

**Class Locations and Dates:**

**Visalia, CA**

April 23 (AC) & April 24 (Sim)  
Visalia Fire Training Center  
6921 West Ferguson  
Visalia, CA 93291

**Roseville, CA**

April 25 (AC) & April 26 (SIM)  
Roseville Fire Department Training Center  
2030 Hilltop Circle  
Roseville, CA

**Register at:** [www.promotionalworkshops.com](http://www.promotionalworkshops.com)

Classes are \$110.00 per day, per class, Pre-registered  
\$120.00 per day per class at the door  
3% Credit Card fee  
\* Now Accepting Visa and Master Card \*

**For More Information, contact:**

CHUCK WILSON  
77-263 Maliko Street  
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96740-4468  
(310) 261-7795 Cell  
[cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com](mailto:cwilson@promotionalworkshops.com)

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## **PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY

### **Planning for Wildfire**

**D**evelopment in the wildland/urban interface, where wildland fuels meet and mix with urban development, is growing and has been on the rise for years. Wildfires that occur in these areas pose threats to citizens and homes, and they are complex challenges for firefighters. If you live in or near wildland areas, it is important to design and maintain your home and landscaping with wildfire safety in mind. If you follow simple steps to make your home fire safe inside and out, you not only reduce the threat to your property, but you help protect your home and family, too.

[Learn More »](#)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

<b>Class:</b>	<b>Fire Command 1C:</b> I-Zone Fire Fighting for Company Officers
<b>Date:</b>	May 4 – 8, 2009
<b>Hours:</b>	40
<b>Designed For:</b>	Fire fighters, company officers, and chief officers with limited wildland experience
<b>Description:</b>	This course is designed around the responsibilities of the Company Officer at a wildland/urban interface incident. It will bring the structural Company Officer out of the city and into the urban/interface; in other words, from his or her comfort zone into an area that could very well be quite unfamiliar.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	I-200, Fire Command 1A
<b>Certification:</b>	Fire Officer
<b>Class Size:</b>	25
<b>Restrictions:</b>	None
<b>Fee:</b>	\$325

### **Cancellation & Refund Policy:**

More than 2 weeks prior to class start date—\$25 processing fee  
Within 2 weeks of class start date—50% of class fee  
Within 24 hours or after start of class—no refund

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ PO # \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency / Company : \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Full Payment due 30 days in advance  
**Please send application and payment to:**  
Public Safety Training Group  
144 Contiente Ave. Suite 130 • Brentwood, CA. 94513  
(925) 240-5200 • Fax (925) 240-5256  
[www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com)

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

### **Former Fairfax County Fire Chief Named as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the United States Fire Administration**

Washington, D.C. - Acting Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Nancy Ward has announced the appointment of former Fairfax County Fire Chief Glenn Gaines as the new Deputy Assistant Administrator for the United States Fire Administration (USFA). A well respected member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and its Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Section, Chief Gaines has spent the past eight years as a principal architect and manager of both the Assistance to Firefighters and SAFER grant programs. In this new role, Chief Gaines brings to the position of Deputy United States Fire Administrator a keen understanding of the needs of career, combination, and volunteer fire departments and the issues affecting them during these unique times in our Nation's history.


“One of the top priorities of FEMA is to ensure the nation's fire service and residents are served by highly qualified fire leadership committed to the prevention, response, and recovery from fire in all communities,” said Acting FEMA Administrator Ward. “Chief Gaines brings to his new position the breadth and experience at all levels of government, including his service to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, which this nation and FEMA needs to further ensure a fire safe nation.”

Chief Glenn Gaines started as a volunteer firefighter and fire officer and rose through the various ranks until finally serving as Fire Chief of a metropolitan community serving a population of over one million people. Throughout his career, Gaines has served in key roles in the areas of training, prevention, and operations, as well as overseeing a nationally recognized Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team which has been deployed many times both within the U.S. and internationally to disasters. Chief Gaines holds a degree in Fire Administration and has served as an instructor at USFA's National Fire Academy since 1991.

## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:**


**FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY**

# LEARNING



**Media  
CENTER**

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - March 19, 2009



Knocking Down Cultural Barriers  
One Program, One Presenter at a time


Charlie Dickinson  
Kevin Cochran  
Dennis Rubin  
Tim Bendelbach

This Month's Feature  
[Knocking Down Cultural Barriers - One Program, One Presenter at a Time](#)



In order to prevent firefighter line-of-duty deaths we need to perform a risk assessment which asks - 'Are we ready, willing, and able to perform?' In addressing issues that arise from this question, we will begin to change the culture of our department to ensure that *Everyone Goes Home®*.

» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)

» Archive: [More Firefighter Life Safety Learning Media](#)



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.



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

## **CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:**

The 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.

Successfully 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**

6723 Sierra Court, Suite G  
Dublin, CA 94568

**Sacramento Area: **NEW!!****

1329 N. Market Blvd., #100  
Sacramento, CA 95834

To 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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

***- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center -***

**4 -day promotional preparation workshop**

**Monterey, CA** – May 18 through 21, 2009

Countless firefighters have been promoted using this curriculum! This workshop is unlike any other you will find. Students will receive their book, ***Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center***, published by **Fire Engineering**, which helps them identify strengths and weaknesses, utilize mock exercises, and build a plan for success. Their 9-step program includes 1) elimination of barriers, 2) assessment center orientation 3) the mentality, 4) knowledge, skills and abilities to be an excellent officer, 5) exercise-specific tools and key points 6) mock exercises, 7) common pitfalls and additional key points, 8) developing your plan/the self-assessment, 9) interviews.

Due to overwhelming demand from their students, they have expanded to add a day to their three-day workshop. This new four-day workshop deals with assessment centers and interviews for promotion and gives an additional day for hot seat time! Day one is focused on preparing for promotion and developing the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities. In addition, we focus on what assessment centers are, their components, and the best approach (that few people take). Day two, three and four allow students to perform the exercises and grade each other. This class is limited in size, due to the depth of instruction and involvement.

Students will participate in the following assessment center exercises: written essay, in-basket, modified in-basket, oral presentation, supervisory exercise, counseling/role-play, and emergency simulations. Students are evaluated by each other and the instructor. By sitting on both sides of the table, students see effective and poor behavior first hand.

The approach to this class is unlike any other, by truly helping the student prepare for both the test and the position. Personal counseling and coaching takes place during the exercises to give the aspiring officers as much potential for success as possible. This is not a canned class! They cater to the dynamic of the group each time.

- Cost - \$495.00 (Includes Fire Engineering book written by the instructor)
- 8 am - 5 pm each day.

For more information, or to register, go to their website at [www.trainfirefighters.com](http://www.trainfirefighters.com)

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## **FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FAIR:**

### ***CFFJAC Firefighter Recruitment Fair***

Even in tough economic times, the need for qualified firefighters is still keen. Many departments are hiring to replace retirees and fill other shortfalls.

If you know someone who has ever considered joining the ranks of California's finest in the fire service, you need to let them know about the CFFJAC's 2009 Firefighter Recruitment Fairs:

- **Saturday, April 25th**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the [CPAT Center in Sacramento](#)
- **Saturday, May 2nd**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the [CPAT Center in Livermore](#)
- **Saturday, May 9th**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the [CPAT Center in Orange](#)

Sponsored by the CFFJAC's Commission to Recruit Women in the Fire Service, the Firefighter Recruitment Fair provides an up-close-and-personal look at the women and men who serve on the front lines to protect millions of Californians.

#### Highlights will include:

- **Direct Recruitment:** Meet recruitment officers from fire departments throughout California and find out how to secure a future with their departments.
- **Candidate Physical Ability Testing:** Try your hand at the physical ability techniques needed to be a fire fighter and learn how to take, and pass, the industry-leading Candidate Physical Abilities Test.
- **"A Day in the Life of a Firefighter":** Watch presentations detailing the responsibilities and rewards associated with firefighting.

- **Meet and Learn from Working Firefighters:** Talk to firefighters from throughout the state about becoming a first responder.
- **Apparatus displays:** Take an up-close look at the "tools of the trade" including a fire apparatus on display.

Best of all, it's **FREE** to attend. So, what are you waiting for?

To RSVP your attendance, e-mail us at [womens-commish@cpf.org](mailto:womens-commish@cpf.org) or call (916) 648-1717.

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## **MARCH 2009 ISSUE – EVERYBODY GOES HOME NEWSLETTER:**



### [2009 Safety Summit: A Synopsis](#)

March 2009  
E-Newsletter

On Friday March 6th, the spring weather rolled into the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Along with it came fire service personnel from around the country on a quest to save lives. These 150 plus fire service members came to share a common goal of "saving our own" through the Everyone Goes Home(R) Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program. The purpose of the Summit was to learn, to educate, to network, and to find every way possible to reduce line-of-duty deaths.

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

### [Safety Summit Exceeds Expectations](#)

"It exceeded all expectations." This is what *Everyone Goes Home*® Program Director Rich Marinucci had to say about the Safety Summit held this past weekend in Emmitsburg. "We've been hearing many positive things. Many people who are not advocates say they are interested in getting involved. That's great."

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



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.



[Attending the Summit: What's it All About?](#)

Advocates from across the country are passionate about spreading the word about firefighter safety. About 150 people from both small and large departments spent the weekend on the campus of the National Fire Academy sharing ideas on how to get firefighters to not only accept but embrace safer habits.

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

**More March 2009 Articles:**

- [Yes, the Numbers Are Changing!](#)
- [Is Your Department a "Teaching" Department?](#)
- [Dangers of Lightweight Construction](#)
- [Everyone Goes Home® Champion Pilot Program Offered in N.J.](#)
- [Nationwide Fire Service Survey Ends March 31st](#)

» **More:** [View the Complete March 2009 Newsletter](#)

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



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

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

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

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name:	William Roger Vorwark
Rank:	Lieutenant
Age:	49
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	5
Date of Incident:	03/14/2009
Time of Incident:	1327hrs
Date of Death:	03/14/2009
Fire Department:	Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District
Address:	PO Box 345, <a href="#">301 W Dryden, Odessa, MO 64076</a>
Fire Department Chief:	Kevin Campbell

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Vorwark was working the third outdoor fire call of the day, mopping up hotspots, when he collapsed from an apparent heart attack. Vorwark's crew carried him back to their apparatus parked along the roadway nearby where they immediately began CPR and utilized their AED. All efforts to revive Lt. Vorwark, however, were unsuccessful.

**Incident Location:** [2261 SR H, Lafayette County](#)

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending, updates posted @ [www.mofirefuneral.org](#)

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Lieutenant William Roger Vorwark, C/o Odessa Fire & Rescue Protection District, PO Box 345, [301 W Dryden, Odessa, MO 64076](#).

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant William Roger Vorwark at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 20 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. 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:**

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

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**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Name: Gregory Carroll Cooke  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 60  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 20  
Date of Incident: Unknown, Late in the Week of 03/16/09  
Date of Death: 03/21/09  
Fire Department: Salem Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 4559 Swift Creek School RD, Whitakers, NC 27891  
Fire Department Chief: Paul Powell

**Incident Description:** Late in the week of 03/16/09, Firefighter Cooke was working at a woods fire when he went into cardiac arrest. He was transported by air to the Wake Medical Center in Raleigh, NC. On Saturday, 3/21/09, Firefighter Cooke passed away.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Thursday, March 26, 2009 @ 1400hrs at the Rocky Mount Memorial Park.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Flowers are accepted or memorial donations may be made to Salem Volunteer Fire Department, 4559 Swift Creek School RD, Whitakers, NC 27891 or to the American Cancer Society, 930-B Wellness Drive, Greenville, NC 27834.

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

To date, 21 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. 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: Nolan Schmidt  
Rank: Chief  
Age: 37  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 19  
Date of Incident: 03/23/09  
Date of Death: 03/23/09  
Fire Department: Hydro Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 248, Hydro, OK 73048-0248  
Assistant Chief: Dwight Slagell

**Incident Description:** On 03/23/09 at approximately 1030hrs, Chief Schmidt from the Hydro Volunteer Fire Department responded to a call of a fire in a soy bean storage bin at a grain elevator. While at the scene, Chief Schmidt was killed. An investigation into the cause of Chief Schmidt's death is pending. Three other firefighters, two of which are the brothers of

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Chief Schmidt, from this department were injured as well as a firefighter from the Weatherford Fire Department.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 22 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. 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: Robert Strang  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 60  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 29  
Date of Incident: 03/26/09  
Date of Death: 03/26/09  
Fire Department: Melbourne Fire Department  
Address: 1500 Hickory Street, Melbourne, FL 32901  
Fire Chief: Paul Forsberg

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Robert Strang responded to and operated at a commercial structure fire. Upon returning to the station, he went into his quarters. Approximately 40 minutes later, he was discovered to be unresponsive by another firefighter. Care was initiated on scene. He was subsequently transported to the local hospital where he passed away. An investigation into the cause of Lieutenant Strang's death is pending.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 23 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. 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: Mike Gilbreath  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 55  
Gender: Male

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 37  
Date of Incident: 03/27/2009  
Time of Incident: 0630hrs  
Date of Death: 03/27/2009  
Fire Department: Double Springs Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 279, 21 Main ST, Double Springs, AL 35553  
Fire Department Chief: Acting Fire Chief Pat West

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Mike Gilbreath was dispatched with his fire company to a “trees down call” on County Road 25. While working to clear the roadway, a vehicle coming around a curve over the rise of a hill was unable to stop in time before striking Chief Gilbreath. Emergency medical assistance was rendered on scene by other responders, including the Chief’s firefighter/EMT son. Chief Gilbreath was transported to the hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

**Incident Location:** 2840 County Road 25, Double Springs, AL (Grid: 16SDC57067646)

**Funeral Arrangements:** Chief Gilbreath was laid to rest on 03/29/2009.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Fire Chief Mike Gilbreath Memorial Fund, Traders and Farmers Bank, 10 Blake Dr, Double Springs, AL 35553. Tele: (205) 489-5011

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

To date, 24 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. 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: Robert Allen France  
Rank: Firefighter/EMT-Training Officer  
Age: 45  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 3+  
Date of Incident: 03/30/2009  
Time of Incident: 2030hrs  
Date of Death: 03/30/2009  
Fire Department: Stateline Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 411, Stateline, MS 39362  
Fire Department Chief: Joey Young

**Incident Description:** Firefighter France attended a fire training meeting at the Green County Emergency Services Office. Upon completion of the meeting he was returning to his home jurisdiction on his motorcycle when he struck a deer. France was treated on scene by

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

emergency services personnel and subsequently transported via helicopter to the USA Medical Center in Mobile, AL where he succumbed to his injuries.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Firefighter/EMT Robert Allen France, c/o Stateline Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 411, Stateline, MS 39362

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/EMT-Training Officer Robert Allen France at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 25 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2009. 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:	John William Jeffers
Rank:	Assistant Chief
Age:	54
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	Pending
Date of Incident:	04/01/2009
Time of Incident:	Pending
Date of Death:	04/02/2009
Fire Department:	Wellington-Greer Fire Protection District
Address:	PO Box 143, Wellington, IL 60973-0143
Fire Department Chief:	Ross Butzow

**Incident Description:** Following a meeting at the fire station, Assistant Chief Jeffers and other firefighters were testing fire hose. After reloading hose on an engine, Jeffers sat down on the tail board of the apparatus, stated that he wasn't feeling well, and asked to be taken home. A friend stopped by the next afternoon to see him and when there was no response at the door, the fire department was called. After gaining access to the home they discovered Assistant Chief Jeffers had passed away from a reported myocardial infarction.

**Funeral Arrangements:** 04/06/2009 at 1030hrs, the United Methodist Church on Main Street, Wellington, IL.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Memorials may be made to the Wellington-Greer Fire Department, the Wellington United Methodist Church or to the charity of the donor's choice.

**Tribute** is being paid to Assistant Chief John Jeffers at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

To date, 27 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 26 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one 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: John Weber  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 77  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 44  
Date of Incident: 04/04/2009  
Time of Incident: 2118hrs (discovered 2240)  
Date of Death: 04/04/2009  
Fire Department: Township Fire Department  
Address: 4601 E Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701-8111  
Fire Department Chief: Jack Running

**Incident Description:** The Township Fire Department was dispatched to a report of a brush fire. Firefighter Weber responded to the fire station to prepare the trucks for the call. After his colleagues returned to the station, they found Firefighter Weber had passed away. An investigation into the cause of Firefighter Weber's death is pending.

**Incident Location:** Brunswick Station #5, W5465 County Road Z, Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Funeral Arrangements: 1000hrs, 04/08/2009, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Highway 85, Rock Falls, WI

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Memorial contributions may be made to the Township Fire Department, 4601 E Hamilton Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701-8111.

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

To date, 28 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 27 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one 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)

**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 [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)**

**Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online 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](#) 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)**

Hey.....

A Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday (Friday) as was a civilian along with several others were injured in a fire in **Bangladesh's** largest shopping mall. According to one report: "The fire fighters simply don't have the equipment to fight such a massive fire. The building was built just five years ago, but unfortunately **there were no fire systems** put inside." Our condolences to all affected.

**FIREFIGHTERS AND OUR ARTERIES:**

Firefighters appear to be more likely than people in other professions to have prematurely narrowed arteries, increasing their risk for strokes and heart attacks, according to a new study. **Experts cite the smoke we work in, our eating habits and sleep patterns as potential causes.**

22 percent of a group of 77 firefighters studied by researchers at the University of Kansas averaged **39 years old but had the blood vessels of 52-year-olds** because of significant plaque buildup in their carotid arteries. The findings were presented yesterday at the American Heart Association's conference on cardiovascular disease in Palm Harbor, Fla. Here is more information worth checking out:

<http://health.usnews.com/articles/health/healthday/2009/03/13/firefighters-have-narrower-than-normal-arteries.html>

**FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND UNIFORM PANTS:**

As you may have read or heard, concerns have been raised by some Firefighters in South Florida related to the possibility of illness due to the uniform pants they were issued and wearing. NIOSH was contacted to evaluate the concerns and did so. Below are some questions and answers from the NIOSH health hazard evaluation related to antimony exposure among firefighters in Florida, February 2009.

**---What is antimony?**

Antimony is a silver-white metal that is found at very low levels throughout the environment, including air, soil, and food. It is used in the production of ceramics, glass, paints, fireworks, and batteries. Antimony compounds, particularly antimony oxides, are used as flame retardants in textiles, plastics, rubber, adhesives, and paper.

**---What health effects can antimony cause?**

Overexposure to antimony trioxide can cause irritation to the skin, eyes, nose, and respiratory tract. When ingested, it may also result in nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Toxicity from acute or chronic exposure to antimony trioxide in industry is rare. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the evidence that antimony trioxide can cause cancer in humans is inadequate, but there is some evidence that it can cause cancer in laboratory animals.

**---Why did NIOSH test the firefighters for antimony exposure?**

NIOSH was asked by the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Chief to determine whether firefighters had absorbed antimony through their skin from wearing uniform pants made from FireWear® fabric, whose FFR® (Fibrous Flame Retardant) fibers contain antimony trioxide for its flame retarding properties.

**---Why were firefighters concerned about antimony exposure?**

Prior to NIOSH's involvement, and prompted by unexplained health symptoms in one firefighter, a group of firefighters in Florida had been tested for antimony exposure using hair analysis. The hair tests suggested high antimony levels.

**---Which firefighters did NIOSH evaluate?**

NIOSH investigators evaluated 20 Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services firefighters who had not worn pants containing antimony for the prior four months. NIOSH investigators also evaluated 42 Tamarac Fire Rescue firefighters, who had worn pants containing antimony in the previous two weeks.

**---How did NIOSH test the firefighters?**

NIOSH investigators visited the two fire departments in Florida on February 3-6, 2009. They surveyed participants about personal characteristics, work history, and possible sources of exposure to antimony. They also collected urine samples to measure antimony levels. The urine samples were analyzed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health Laboratory.

**---What did NIOSH find?**

The urine levels of antimony for all the firefighters tested were not elevated regardless of whether or not they had been wearing uniform pants made from FireWear® fabric. The levels were similar to the urine levels of antimony found in the U.S. population. NIOSH investigators concluded that wearing the pants containing antimony trioxide does not cause elevated levels of antimony in the bodies of firefighters.

**---Why did NIOSH perform urine testing instead of hair testing?**

Urine testing is the most accurate, reliable, and valid test method for measuring antimony levels in the body. Hair testing is not a validated method for heavy metals testing (which includes antimony), and is not recommended by the American Medical Association (AMA) or CDC's sister agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry.

**---What are the normal levels for urine antimony?**

CDC has established ranges for urine levels of antimony in the U.S. population: 0.120–0.364 micrograms/ gram creatinine. This information helps scientists assess whether antimony

levels in specific groups are unusual. Similar information is not available for levels of antimony in hair..

**---Why is hair testing not an accepted method?**

NIOSH investigators believe results from hair analysis are unreliable. Accepted standards on methods for collection, storage, and analysis of hair are lacking. Problems also exist with the regulation and certification of laboratories conducting hair analysis. It has been shown that different laboratories can report different results for hair samples collected from the same person. In addition, hair analysis cannot distinguish between internal exposure (substances inside the body) and external exposure (substances that might stick to the hair, like those in hair care products).

**---Will NIOSH test the pants?**

NIOSH investigators do not think that testing the pants is necessary. First, if antimony was being released from the pants and absorbed through the skin, the urine tests would have indicated that firefighters wearing the pants had levels higher than 1) the U.S. population and 2) the firefighters not wearing the pants. Our results showed no differences between these groups. Second, a private technical consulting and engineering firm has tested the fiber in the past. They concluded that antimony trioxide exposures associated with use of clothing made from these fibers comply with the requirements of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

**---Are the pants containing antimony safe?**

NIOSH investigators consider the pants containing antimony to be safe to wear. They recommend that fire departments issue and firefighters wear station uniforms that comply with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1975 Standard. The pants made from FireWear® fabric are one type of pants that meet this standard. NIOSH investigators also recommend that firefighters follow garment label instructions when laundering station uniforms.

**---The garment labels suggest low temperature washing and laundering without chlorine bleach....is this to prevent release of antimony?**

No. The garment care instructions are consistent with instructions for fabrics containing cotton and FFR® fibers and ensure that the garment remains durable and does not lose color.

**---Is NIOSH planning to conduct further evaluation?**

NIOSH investigators do not think further evaluation of this issue is needed. The final reports of the NIOSH evaluation is currently being prepared and will be available next week at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>.

**REMEMBER PITTSBURGH:**

We remember **Pittsburgh Battalion Chief Charles G. Brace and FF Richard A. Stefanakis** who were tragically killed in the Line of Duty on Saturday March 13, 2004 when the bell tower of the Ebenezer Baptist Church collapsed following a multiple alarm fire. **RIP.**

Here is the NIOSH report on that fire: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200417.html>

Take Care,  
BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-09 / 0122 hours

**AND:**

**3 FRENCH FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-DURING TRAINING**

Yesterday, **3 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty in France.** 2 of the Firefighters were participating in a training session related to outdoor rescue operations in Ain County in the town of Cerdon and when, for a yet undisclosed reason, the detail went wrong, and the 2 Firefighters were drowned. The 3rd Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty after he fell 100' while attempting the rescue of the other 2 Firefighters. The Firefighters killed were respectively 30, 40 and 46 years old and leave 7 orphan kids. Additional details will follow.

**UPDATE: BANGLADESH FIRE: NOW REPORTED 4 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

**"I managed to escape but some of my colleagues were burnt to death. I heard one firefighter screaming but I could do nothing,"** an injured Firefighter said today outside the Bangladesh's biggest shopping mall where a big fire broke out on Friday. The fire, which began on the 17th floor of the 19-story shopping complex Bashundhara City in capital Dhaka Friday afternoon, lasted for eight hours before it was put out last night. **Seven people including four fire fighters were killed** in the fire and at least 18 others injured while two of them are still in critical condition. Reports are that the fire security system inside the building was not functioning well which caused more death. **There are some 2,500 shops, a cinema and cafes in the shopping mall.** Though the fire fighters were praised widely for their excellent performance, the lack of required equipment was blamed for their delay to extinguish fire. Details to follow.

**LONG ISLAND APPARATUS CRASH:**

A Bethpage (NY) FD vehicle responding to an emergency call collided with a car on Long Island, leaving the car's driver with serious internal injuries wounds. Reports are that 2 Firefighters were treated for minor injuries after the crash around 0800 Saturday. Nassau County police are investigating but say there was no criminal conduct. The Firefighters were responding in a Bethpage FD sport-utility vehicle on when they collided with the car at an intersection. It's not known how fast either vehicle was going or who was at fault.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-09 / 2152 hours

**AND:**

**MISSOURI FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-HEART ATTACK AT BRUSH FIRE**

We regret to advise you that he Odessa (Mo) Fire Department had a Firefighter Line of Duty Death earlier today. A Firefighter with their department collapsed while fighting a grass/brush fire today and did not survive. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced on completion here: [www.mofirefuneral.org](http://www.mofirefuneral.org)

**SERIOUS RESPONDING FIRE APP. ROLLOVER CRASH IN IOWA-RESPONDING TO GRASS FIRE:**

2 Firefighters and a civilian were injured yesterday in a crash involving a pickup truck and a City of Pulaski fire truck north of Pulaski, Iowa. FF Todd Lyn Garmon, 38 was air lifted from

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the scene to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. FF Michael Elliott Ashlock, 24, was taken to the Davis County Hospital by ambulance. The civilian, Rex B. Blackwell, 73 was transported by POV. The pickup, driven by Blackwell, was northbound and attempting to turn west on a street. The fire apparatus was also northbound responding emergency to a grass fire. The fire apparatus, driven by FF Garmon, attempted to pass Blackwell and struck his pickup on the driver's side....**the apparatus rotated clockwise and then entered a ditch, rolling several times before coming to rest on its top in the bottom of the ditch.** Reports are that at least 1 of the Firefighters was seriously hurt-updates will follow.

### **APPARATUS CRASHES WHILE RESPONDING TO A WORKING HOUSE FIRE IN ALABAMA**

A Spring Garden Fire Truck overturned trapping 3 Ff's inside for a short period of time while en-route to a structure fire at around 0530 hours this morning. The driver of the apparatus apparently lost control and overturned in a curve near the intersection. All injuries are reported to be minor.

### **"THE FIRE SPREAD FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE" RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION, FIRES AND YOU:**

In our continued effort to do whatever we can to help clarify the BS that some homebuilders associations are attempting to pass on (as reality) concerning residential construction and fire sprinklers, here is a story and clip worth of any FD's viewing. I know this FD and these Firefighters, in Graham (WA) and like most, these are well lead, well equipped and good no nonsense firefighters. But like many of us, their community is loaded with vinyl-wrapped, wood-chips-and-glue houses. Yesterday, 2 houses were completely destroyed and 3 more were seriously damaged from a fast-moving fire that had spread even before the FD arrived on the scene. Check it out.

**Thanks to our pal Bill S, the "FireGeezer" for this information:**

<http://www.firegeezzer.com/2009/03/15/lessons-in-lightweight-construction-contd/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-15-09 / 1426 hours

### **AND:**

Hey....

A **Clinton (SC) Fire Department fire apparatus collided with a school bus** on the way to an early morning fire today. The crash took place on SC Highway 72 . The Firefighter driving the apparatus was treated and was sent home with soreness from the accident, but was not seriously injured. No students were injured. The fire company was responding to a working house fire....there were people in the home at the time of the fire, but they were not injured.

**CONGRATS TO CHIEF GLENN GAINES** .....a 37 year veteran of the Fairfax, Virginia Fire Department, to the position of Deputy Assistant Administrator for the United States Fire Administration (USFA)....and he will also immediately begin serving as the Acting U.S. Fire Administrator. Glenn has a well known and **outstanding reputation** as a Firefighter, Officer and Chief and his appointment is a definite win for the Fire Service...his focus and successes in many areas but in particular, firefighter survival are well documented. National Fire Academy Superintendent, Dr. Denis Onieal (former Chief of Dept-Jersey City

NJ) had been in the "Acting" USFA position while also leading the National Fire Academy...another FF going above and beyond to do good for us.

**CLOSE CALL IN MINNESOTA:**

A Rochester firefighter was injured Saturday after using the **wrong type of fire extinguisher** at a fire in southeast Rochester. Firefighters had responded about 2020 hours Saturday to a cooking fire in the 1600 block of Marion Road Southeast. A deep fat fryer used to fry turkeys was on a deck and started a fire that spread, according to Fire Marshall Vance Swisher. Swisher said the firefighter, in his first year of service, suffered second-degree burns to his hands and face but didn't require hospitalization.

**TRUE "BROTHERHOOD" ON THE JOB:**

"I was either going to find him or I was going to die in there with him": The words of Doug Townshend, an Alexandria, Virginia career firefighter who is a volunteer with the Westmoreland VFD. Without any PPE, Doug searched the burning home next door, talking with his neighbor trying to get him to come to the sound of Doug's voice. **The neighbor is Doug's brother, Mike. They made it out. Barely.**

Check out **Dave Statter911's** great story.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/03/first-on-statter911com-off-duty.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-16-09/ 1359 hours

**AND:**

**TEXAS FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING TRAINING-IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

**Fire Engineer Greg L Cocke of the Fort Worth FD** died as a result of a training incident. Details to follow. He passed away on March 14, 2009 (last Saturday) following training. As always, our condolences to all affected.

**GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER: CARDIAC ARREST AT WORKING FIRE SCENE:**

A Crisp County Firefighter is undergoing treatment in the hospital after collapsing at the scene of a fire yesterday. FF Jonathan Windham, 40, went into cardiac arrest while he was gearing up to operate at a well involved house fire. FF Windham was first transported to Crisp Regional Hospital, then later in the afternoon transferred to the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon and as of this morning, is stable, talking and going through significant testing.

**WOMEN IN FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES:**

Their excellent annual conference (includes both hands on and classroom training sessions) is coming up in May, check it out here: [http://www.i-women.org/conference\\_detail.php](http://www.i-women.org/conference_detail.php)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-17-09 /1518 hours

**AND:**

Hey.....

A report came out this week related to the FEMA-sponsored study of firefighters aged 40 and over conducted by Saint Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta. They released the preliminary findings in the world's first study of first responders at risk of suffering sudden death or other significant cardiac events...and the news is that **Firefighters are known to have a three hundred percent (300%) increased risk for cardiac disease as compared to other segments of the population.**

"Preliminary findings show that **1/3 of firefighters had heart disease** that is unrelated to traditional risk factors, such as high cholesterol," says Dr. Superko. "Those results are astounding and point at job duties and environment as the primary determinants for early death in our country's first responders."

**Here are the details:**

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/health-care-hospitals/20090317/CL8510617032009-1.html>

...and here is some **previous** related info:

<http://www.stjosephsatlanta.org/news/02-24-09-Saint-Josephs-conducts-screenings-first-responders.html>

**Some Firefighter Heart Disease PREVENTION links:**

<http://www.healthy-firefighter.org/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-133/>

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/index.htm>

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

**NIOSH SCBA INFO:**

This info came out a while back, but just in case you missed it, NIOSH intends to revoke approval for Global Secure Safety Products, Inc. (formerly Cairns Air Inc.) SCBA's on December 31, 2009. Global Secure Safety Products, Inc. has ceased doing business, is no longer producing NIOSH approved respirators or replacement parts, and is not planning to resume production in the future. This notice effects all fire departments who use CairnsAIR SCBA. More details here:

[http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/pdfs/GSSPI1\\_11202008.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/pdfs/GSSPI1_11202008.pdf)

**NIOSH / PANTS UPDATE:**

Last week, we advised that NIOSH would have their final report out this week. The fact is that the final report of the NIOSH evaluation is currently being prepared and should be available next month(s) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-18-09 / 0050 hours

**AND:**

**LODD: FRENCH FIREFIGHTER SHOT / KILLED DURING A "CHECK ON THE WELFARE" RUN**

The Secret List [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

An 85-year-old man who is hard of hearing mistook a 32 year old Firefighter for a burglar and shot him to death in the southern French city of Belley yesterday. Neighbors had called the fire department because they were worried about the health of the old man. When he did not respond to shouts at the door, the Firefighters forced entry into the apartment. **The man mistook the noise for a break-in, locked himself in a room and fired a shot that struck and killed one of the firefighters in the Line of Duty.** The occupant, who collapsed upon being informed of his error, was taken into police custody. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

- **2 NEW NIOSH LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED:**

**TEXAS: WALL COLLAPSE KILLS FIRE CHIEF IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

On July 05, 2008, a 42-year old male Fire Chief was killed in the Line of Duty when he was struck by a collapsing brick parapet wall during a commercial structure fire...an automotive repair and upholstery business. The Chief grabbed an SCBA from the engine and pulled a preconnected 1 ¾-inch handline to the front door, assisted by a Firefighter who had just arrived in her personal automobile. The Chief worked the nozzle through the doorway (using tank water) while the other Firefighters established water supply. Less than 5 minutes after the engine arrived on scene and shortly after water supply was established, the brick parapet wall at the front of the structure collapsed, striking the Chief and burying him under the brick debris.

**HERE IS THE REPORT AND PHOTOS:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/FIRE/reports/face200821.html>

**PA. FIRE CAPTAIN ELECTROCUTED/LODD DUE TO AERIAL LADDER CONTACT WITH POWER LINES:**

On January 6, 2008, a 40-year-old male Fire Captain was electrocuted after coming into contact with a 12,400-volt overhead powerline. The victim and a Firefighter had been assigned to vent the roof of a structure and were using a tower ladder to get to the roof. The victim was in the process of maneuvering the platform beneath a three-phase overhead powerline when he contacted one of the powerlines with his neck and back. Two occupants of the apartment building died as a result of the fire.

**HERE IS THE REPORT AND PHOTOS:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/FIRE/reports/face200801.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-18-09 / 1555 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

As you know, 9 Philadelphia Firefighters were injured after 2 responding fire companies collided in Center City yesterday morning. Squirt (Engine) 43 and Ladder 9 were going to a fire at 12th and Locust Streets when they crashed near 8th and Lombard Streets. **Thankfully all members have now been treated and released.**

**UPDATE: MASSACHUSETTS APPARATUS CRASH:**

State officials are monitoring whether Provincetown (Cape Cod) Firefighter Elias Martinez III will retain his EMT certs after his role in a fire apparatus crash in November. Cops have accused Martinez of wrecking the PFD's only ladder Nov. 9 while driving under the influence of alcohol. The 21-year-old FF/EMT also faces a criminal charge of driving to endanger the public, and cops have cited him for speeding and failing to slow at an intersection. FF Martinez is certified as an emergency medical technician through April 1, state records indicate. If convicted of the criminal charges, Martinez could lose his driver's license. That loss would prevent him from qualifying for an EMT job. Martinez is currently on unpaid administrative leave with the PFD and a town meeting, voters will be asked April 6 to approve spending \$300,000 to replace the ladder truck. The total cost of a replacement is estimated at \$650,000. The town's insurance provider is expected to cover \$350,000 of the purchase. Martinez faces a pretrial hearing in Orleans District Court March 26.

### **It's Salad Time for FIREFIGHTER/EMS RECRUITS...**

A new study finds that many new Firefighters, paramedics and cops are overweight and obese. The study, was conducted by researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health. Researchers examined the health records of more than 370 firefighter and ambulance recruits and found that up to 75% of new recruits for emergency services in Massachusetts were either overweight or obese, a bad sign because of the job they are in. Additional details and photos on our home page.

Take Care-Pass The Salad.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-20-09 / 1255 hours

### **AND**

### **NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-CARDIAC**

We regret to advise you that Salem VFD (Nash County, N.C.) Firefighter Greg Cooke has passed away in the Line of Duty at Wake Medical Center. Firefighter Cooke was operating at a woods fire several days ago and apparently suffered a cardiac arrest on scene. He was eventually transported by air to Wake Medical Center in Raleigh where he died in the Line of Duty, yesterday, Saturday, March 21st. As always, our sincere condolences. Here is their website: <http://www.freewebs.com/salemvolunteer/index.htm>

### **VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER CHARGED IN ROLLOVER CRASH DURING TRAINING:**

6 Virginia Firefighters were injured in a crash involving their fire truck this morning around 0800 hours. They are all members of the Pearisburg Volunteer Fire Department and were reported to be out doing training. The apparatus encountered a slight curve in the road, the rig dipped off the pavement and hit a tree, went down an embankment and rolled several times. One of the firefighters was flown by air from the scene, the other firefighters were also injured but the extent of the injuries isn't known yet. The apparatus driver, FF **Daniel Johnson, 29 was charged by Virginia State Police with failure to maintain control, reckless driving and failure to wear a seatbelt. Speed was reported to not be a factor.**

**FIREFIGHTING & DANGER:** Some feel that it depends on what town you live in:

Here is an item Dave Statter sent to us....a great example of what's out there, what we deal with and how some, no matter what, do not "wanna" get it:

[http://www.chicoer.com/advertise/ci\\_11929256?IADID=Search-www.chicoer.com-www.chicoer.com](http://www.chicoer.com/advertise/ci_11929256?IADID=Search-www.chicoer.com-www.chicoer.com)

**BALTIMORE FIRE BUDGETS CUTS:**

3 million bucks and a couple of companies....more cuts in some of the heaviest fire load areas in our nation. This time it is in Baltimore. In this case, the Fire Chief is not hiding behind a mayor or city hall dwellers...in this case, the Chief, Jim Clack is publicly taking ownership for the cuts and discussing them online.

Interesting stuff...check it out:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/03/budget-priorities-in-baltimore-police.html>

As recently stated, no matter where you are, if companies are closed, it absolutely will affect the response...its all about what level of risk the community will accept....and what level of risk the firefighters have to deal with based upon the decisions at city hall.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-22-09 / 2051 hours

**AND**

**OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTER KILLED, OTHERS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: HYDRO GRAIN ELEVATOR FIRE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty and 5 others were hurt today at a fire at a grain elevator in Caddo County, Oklahoma. Initial reports are that the Firefighters ran out of air but that is preliminary. At least one additional Firefighter injuries are serious, but the others' injuries are not considered life-threatening. About 1030 hours this morning, a soy bean storage bin caught fire at the grain elevator in downtown Hydro. Hydro and Weatherford Firefighters responded, and one of the Hydro firefighters died in the Line of Duty, at the scene. One of the four Firefighters with minor injuries is from Weatherford and the rest are from Hydro. Hydro's firefighters are volunteers.....and the fire continues to burn as of 1500 hours, Hydro and Weatherford are in far southwestern Oklahoma. Additional details will follow.

**FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL-MANURE PIT**

A Firefighter battling a grass fire in northern New York fell into a manure pit and was rescued from possible drowning. Depauville FD recruit Kevin Zoll saved the 6-year veteran Ernest Ross on Friday at a farm in Clayton. Ross was cutting across a field toward a building where flames were spreading when he fell into an unmarked manure pit....it was covered with straw and looked like the field. FF Zoll crawled to the edge of the pit, reached out with a broom handle and pulled Ross in. Ross says that saved his life, than in a few minutes he would have been submerged. Dry and windy conditions led to multiple calls about grass fires.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-23-09 / 1618 hours

**AND**

Hey....

Yesterdays fire in Hydro, Oklahoma **killed their Fire Chief in the Line of Duty** and injured other members. The Volunteer Fire Chief died Monday while operating at a fire inside a

downtown grain bin, while other Firefighters were pulled from the fire and taken to hospitals. **The Hydro FD had just 10 members-3 from the Chiefs family.**

**Hydro Fire Chief Nolan Schmidt**, a father of two and a local mechanic was one of at least 5 Firefighters who climbed into the giant bin (photos on our home page) half full of soybeans. While inside, they became trapped for a yet to be determined reason or event. Firefighters later cut through the side of the metal bin to rescue Chief Schmidt and four other Firefighters, who were overwhelmed by the thick smoke. The injured Firefighters include:

- Hydro's Assistant Fire Chief Warren Schmidt, listed in **serious condition** at OU Medical Center.
  - Hydro Fire Capt. Paul Schmidt, who was listed in good condition at Integris Baptist Medical Center.
  - Hydro FF Allen Entz, who was listed in good condition at Weatherford Regional Hospital.
  - Weatherford FF Kyle Nonast, who was listed in good condition at Weatherford Regional.
- Firefighters in neighboring Weatherford responded to the Hydro fire about 1130 hours. Work was being done at the grain bin when a fire broke out.

**GETTING THE SECRET LIST NOTIFICATIONS ON YOUR PHONE THRU TWITTER:**

You can now follow FirefighterCloseCalls.com on Twitter at:

<http://www.twitter.com/theseclist> . Sign up to receive the latest Secret List notifications as a **TEXT MESSAGE** from FirefighterCloseCalls.com directly to your cell phone, phone device Twitter account, etc. As always, there is no cost for this feature.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 3-24-09 / 0845 hours

**AND:**

**ALABAMA FIRE CHIEF STRUCK AND KILLED BY MOTORIST**

**FLORIDA FIRE LT DIES FOLLOWING RUN**

**BRAZIL FIREFIGHTER MISSING FOLLOWING TRAINING**

We regret to advise you that we have been advised that Double Springs Fire Chief Mike Gilbreath has been killed in the line of Duty. Around 0630 this morning Chief Gilbreath was removing a tree from County Road 25. His FD had been dispatched for trees down...and while operating, a car struck him and killed him. His full time job was with the county road department. Ours sincere condolences to all affected.

**FLORIDA FIRE LT DIES FOLLOWING RUN**

Melbourne Fire Lieutenant Robert Strang died in the Line of Duty unexpectedly last night at Fire State 74 in Melbourne. Strang is a 29 year veteran with the department. Lieutenant Strang returned from a structure fire Thursday night. About 40 minutes later, he was found unresponsive in quarters...his crew initiated resuscitation efforts and he was transported to Holmes Regional Medical Center where resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. So far, no cause has been determined. The fire was at an office complex in downtown Melbourne. The department says Strang did not have any complaints prior to retiring to his quarters. Lt. Strang began his career with the Melbourne FD in February 1980. During his 29 years he was promoted through the ranks from firefighter to

Lieutenant....he also spent some time working with Orange County Fire Rescue. Strang is survived by an 18-year-old son and the Lt was scheduled to retire soon. As always our sincere condolences.

**FIREFIGHTER MISSING IN BRAZIL**

A Firefighter is reported missing in the City of Barueri, state of Sao Paulo, since Tuesday when he was testing a rescue boat engine in a dam area. Searches are being conducted by ground people, divers and an helicopter.

**FIRE DISPATCH DELAYED ON THE GRAND OPENING DAY OF THE NEW DISPATCH OPERATIONS:**

Witnesses: Firefighters took too long to respond. Sheriff (in charge of dispatch) says slow response time was partly 'human error and part technology error.'...all while the fire burned...a 14 minute delay.....

Here are details:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?83206>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-27-09 / 1245 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

We have reports that there was at least 1 FF ejected in an apparatus vs apparatus responding crash in Houston just a little while ago. As many as 10 people, including 8 Firefighters have been taken to hospitals after the responding rigs crashed and one of them rolled onto a car. Also among the victims is a woman who was riding her bicycle when the apparatus overturned and pinned her.

The apparatus was responding to a reported fire-which turned out not to be. At least 1 of the Firefighters was thrown from an apparatus and suffered serious injuries and one of the occupants of the car also suffered serious injuries. The pumper was reported to be responding northbound and the ladder was heading east, witnesses reported. The pumper t-boned the ladder from the side and the ladder then rolled onto the front half of a car. We have some pics on our home page-updates to follow.

Another REMINDER:

**Always STOP at red lights and stop signs. Always.**

**DON'T BUDGE your apparatus without everyone belted in.**

**NUMBERS: - ONE MILLION & ONE THOUSAND:**

On Friday, the **September 11th Families Association** welcomed the ONE MILLIONTH VISITOR to the 9/11 Tribute Center. The Tribute WTC Visitor Center is a visitor and learning center that opened September 2006, located at 120 Liberty Street in New York City across the street from the World Trade Center site. The visitor (actually a class) was with the Perry High School Band and Choir from Lima Ohio. They honored the entire class, giving them a plaque, a few small gifts and a tour of the Center. Now, over 1 million have visited, from wounded warriors, dignitaries, intelligence organizations, children from around the world,

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police and firefighters from across the world and our 9/11 constituencies - family members, survivors, recovery workers and residents. Through the outstanding efforts of 9/11 survivors, survivor families, retired FF's, police officers, and the volunteers and staff under the direction of former **FDNY R-2 FF Lee Ielpi and CEO Jen Adams**, they have made a tremendously positive representation of the American spirit following 9/11.

**If you have NOT** been to the **9/11 Tribute Center**, now is the time to plan a spring or summer trip with family, friends, firefighters..EVERYONE:

<http://www.tributewtc.org/index.php>

As a Firefighter, this is a NOT TO BE MISSED "bucket list" item for all of us, without question.

**ONE THOUSAND: 1000 Members Strong:**

A few weeks ago, the **IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section** exceeded 1000 members...with new members joining every week. Since 2005, the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section has been making progress...progress that matters. In just the 3 years they've been in existence, the work is measurable.

**Take a look for yourself:**

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

[http://www.iafcsafety.org/1225205517SHS\\_Org\\_Chart\\_11.08.pdf](http://www.iafcsafety.org/1225205517SHS_Org_Chart_11.08.pdf)

[http://www.iafcsafety.org/Safety%20PDFs/Final%20FFFIPP%20TF%20Report\\_7.11.07.pdf](http://www.iafcsafety.org/Safety%20PDFs/Final%20FFFIPP%20TF%20Report_7.11.07.pdf)

What many Firefighters don't know is that **you DO NOT have to be a CHIEF to belong to the IAFC**. An Associate membership, at a low cost exists for Non-Chiefs, such as Firefighters, Company Officers, Training and Safety Officers etc. And your involvement is needed and very WELCOME!

For more information about the IAFC SHS, please contact: [vlee@iafc.org](mailto:vlee@iafc.org).

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-30-09 / 1301 hours

**AND:**

(NOTE: While this is an update-we also put together loads of information, videos and related links that can be used to get this stuff out to educate your FF's. Included is a new video sent to us from the **South Australian Country Fire Authority** related to Apparatus Rollovers, check it all out and the update below)

Hey...

In what is turning out to be such a horrible situation, a **preliminary investigation** indicates the responding HFD ladder truck ran a red light before crashing into the responding pumper at an intersection Monday morning. Both companies were responding to what had been reported as a possible fire when they crashed. The initial fire report was prompted by smoke testing of sewer lines in the area.

Before overturning and coming to rest on top of a car, the ladder truck **struck a bicyclist** and snapped an electric pole and tree. The collision injured 11 people, the bicyclist, Leigh Boone, 29, was critically hurt and remains in critical condition. HPD cops have stated that it appears that FF Warren Ducote, who was driving the rig will face charges of failure to use due

caution. However, the cops have not yet spoken with the drivers of either HFD apparatus. 9 Firefighters were taken to hospitals, but none suffered life-threatening injuries, with 2 remaining in the hospital for various fractures. Capt. Michael Mayfield, who has been on the job for 34 years, was listed in fair condition this morning at Ben Taub General Hospital. FF Brian Edwards, with 19 years on who was driving the pumper, was listed in good condition at Memorial Hermann Hospital. 1 FF was ejected in the crash.

Cops are also looking into the Opticom system to see what role it played in the crash.

We have received many e-mails about this story with numerous comments. Here are our thoughts:

**=Make It CLEAR What Your FD Policy and Local Laws Are...In Writing.**  
**=Train All Drivers To Insure They Are Qualified To Operate Apparatus.**  
**=STOP at Red lights and Stop Signs When Responding.**  
**=SLOW WAY DOWN in intersections no matter what color the signal is ...due to people turning right on red etc....expect someone to cross your path. EXPECT it.**  
**=EXPECT someone to pull into your path of response.**  
**=SLOW down so that if "something or someone" gets in your way-you have a shot at stopping.**

**=WEAR a seat belt. Everyone. Confused on HOW to wear a seat belt?....Here ya go:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfHzrEon9Js>

**(Have You Seen THIS Fire Apparatus Rollover Video from Australia??)**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=AU&hl=en-GB&v=-llz6mcZmCE>

**=DRIVE apparatus and emergency vehicles as if your family is on the road-and in your path.**  
**=MAKE SURE Your Drivers And Fire Officers Understand The Consequences Of An Apparatus Crash And What THEIR Level Of Accountability Will Be.**

While we are seeing improvement, especially with FF's wearing seatbelts, not all do it or get it. Simply put, be it this crash or any others, we know of no Firefighter that would NOT handle it different if they were given a chance to repeat history. **An apparatus crash, especially one like this, is the LAST thing ANY FF from ANY FD wants to happen.** While we are in the business of doing good, we can't do good if we don't arrive. Time IS critical getting to a fire-but we gotta get there. **The LAST thing the HFD FF's wanted was for this to happen.** Lots for all of us to learn from this crash-and more, as more facts come out. We pray for the recovery of the FF's as well as the civilians affected.

#### **FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER/OFFICER TRAINING INFORMATION:**

**Here are some more FIRE APPARATUS CRASH VIDEOS.... valuable for FF training:**

(Note-not all are FF's fault...but ALL demonstrate the seriousness of understanding what can happen)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS39g\\_f7ok](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS39g_f7ok) (Montage of FD crashes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYbbQXjm3xg> (Crash with 9-1-1 audio)

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeVUdv0d-ms> (Tower Ladder crash)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yikW53D13ok> (Fatal Apparatus Crash)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=AU&hl=en-GB&v=-llz6mcZmCE> (Australian FD Rollover Video Doc)

**RELATED APPARATUS SAFETY WEBSITES:**

[www.EmergencyVehicleResponse.com](http://www.EmergencyVehicleResponse.com) (Information and Training)  
<http://www.drivetosurvive.org/> (Information and Training)  
<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=602> (IAFC/USFA Emergency Vehicle Safety)  
<http://www.iaff.org/hs/EVSP/home.html> (IAFF/USFA Emergency Vehicle Safety Program)  
[http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/research/pages/Initiative\\_11\\_Emergency\\_Vehicle\\_Response\\_Safety/index.html](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/research/pages/Initiative_11_Emergency_Vehicle_Response_Safety/index.html)  
[www.IAFCSafety.org](http://www.IAFCSafety.org) (IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Website)  
[www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com) (THE site for Roadway Safety & Survival for FF's, EMT's and Cops)

**FIREFIGHTER FATALITY REPORTS:**

**And Lastly, Here Are 47 Reports of CRASHES THAT KILLED FIREFIGHTERS IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

[http://www2a.cdc.gov/NIOSH-fire-fighter-face/state.asp?state=ALL&Incident\\_Year=ALL&Medical\\_Related=ALL&Trauma\\_Related=0019&Submit=Submit](http://www2a.cdc.gov/NIOSH-fire-fighter-face/state.asp?state=ALL&Incident_Year=ALL&Medical_Related=ALL&Trauma_Related=0019&Submit=Submit)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-31-09 / 2035 hours

**AND**

**TRENTON, NJ FIREFIGHTER MANNY RIVERA SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES-LINE OF DUTY DEATH**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Trenton Firefighter Manny Rivera, who suffered an apparent heart attack while rescuing a victim from a working house fire on Feb. 9 has died in the Line of Duty. As you will remember, FF Rivera, 43, with 14 years on the job, climbed a ladder to reach the man who was hanging from a window. The Firefighter collapsed after bringing the man down and remained in a coma at Trenton's St. Francis Medical Center. Firefighter Rivera was the Father of five children. Additional details will be posted at <http://www.trentonfirefighters.com/index.htm> - Our sincere condolences to all affected.

**FIREFIGHTERS BURNED IN TEXAS:**

A 6-year-old boy started an accidental fire in a vacant Nolanville (Texas) mobile home yesterday that injured 3 firefighters. The fire burned 2 Firefighters (1st and 2nd degree) when fire broke through underneath the floor. One firefighter received burns to his foot and another to his arm and another Firefighter suffered a head injury when a fire hose cap struck her in the head while she was trying to connect it.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-1-09 / 0730 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

While we shouldn't be surprised as Firefighters **and we should**, at this stage of the game, understand that nearly EVERYTHING in today's structures off-gases toxins when burning, **our friends in communist China** bring us "just one more thing" to be concerned about. Chinese drywall, used in about 100,000 or more homes in numerous states may be the culprit in causing sickness and illness to those around it. So naturally, when some of "our friends" and the homebuilders associations build these homes, it gives us, as Firefighters "just one more thing to be concerned about".

**Here is a news link:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCxRWi67AuM>

Now while there is little we can immediately do to stop the drywall problem (google: Chinese drywall, the CPSC and others are on this issue) **and** it appears that some homebuilder associations continue to get very angry at the very thought of sprinkler-ing their match stick personal lumber yard dwellings, we can do something about the potentially cancer causing off-gassing issues from drywall and most other stuff at fires:

**=Don't breathe that crap. Ever.**

**=No Exposed Skin. None.**

**=Get the soot off of you and your PPE as soon as you get back to quarters. Always.**

**=Don't allow that crap on your skin-as your skin will absorb that crap. Everytime.**

Cancer is a disease that is of particular concern for members of the fire service. A number of previous studies have identified several cancers for which fire fighters are at increased risk.

**More resources and information on protecting ourselves here:**

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2006/12/22/firefighting-cancer/>

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org>

**CFSI DINNER TONIGHT:**

Kudos to Bill Webb, the CFSI BOD and the staff at CFSI for what promises to be a great day-and dinner this evening. VP Joe Biden, one of the fire services greatest allies is expected to keynote this evening.

**TONIGHTS AWARD WINNERS:**

=CFSI has selected the late **Stephanie Tubbs Jones** (D-Ohio) as the 2009 Legislator of the Year. Tubbs Jones served in the House of Representatives for nearly 10 years before her death last August. Tubbs Jones was a tireless advocate for fire prevention and education, especially on college campuses.

=They have also selected **Chief Steven Edwards**, Director of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) as the recipient of the 2009 CFSI/Motorola Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award. Steve's decades of leadership to both the local Prince Georges County, Maryland, National and International fire service is well known. A well deserved award.

**=The IAFC is also being honored** for its development and administration of the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System. **Created by former IAFC Executive Director**

**Garry Briese**, the goal of the Federal Fire Act Grant funded program is to prevent and reduce FF injuries and deaths by sharing related data.

=Also receiving an award tonight is the survivor advocacy group founded by the **National Fire Sprinkler Association, Common Voices** consists of six women who have been sharing their stories of personal loss to advocate for fire sprinklers. Since the group was formed in 2007, they have visited Capitol Hill on many occasions to meet with members of Congress to advocate for the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act.

### **TAKE HOME CARS ?**

What does this have to do with FF safety or close calls? Funding for FF staffing. Saved \$ can mean saved jobs and adequate staffing. Adequate staffing saves lives. **Read on.** Wanna get someone with gold on their sleeves to pay attention?...talk to them about take home cars and headquarters parking spaces. And while take home cars are **certainly necessary** at some FD's (vs Parks and Recreation Dept cars...ridiculous abuses like that)... the word "**necessary**" even at a FD can be real subjective. In our humble opinion, a FD take home car should be "taken home" when the "taker homer" is regularly subject to (and does) respond to a scene where their **very timely** arrival is critical to FF / civilian safety, life saving or "working incident" command/support roles. Generally that should mean that you live in or very close to your response area and you have to arrive within minutes of being alerted.

**Otherwise, what's the rush?** And while take home cars are certainly a benefit (and a taxable one as well), the issue is that when any community is looking at budget cuts including firefighter layoffs', no matter what the cost saving-take home cars "taken home" by folks who are not regularly responding to, or critically needed at emergencies are often, and often justifiably targeted. If cutting back anywhere can help save FF jobs directly related to fireground staffing-, we support it. **Park the non-critical cars - save a Firefighters critical job.**

**Here is a related article from Bill S @ FireGeezer:**

<http://www.firegeezer.com/2009/04/01/perks-remain-during-tight-budget/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-2-09 / . 0830 hours

### **AND:**

Hey...

While operating at a dwelling fire this afternoon, 2 **Cleveland (Ohio)** Firefighters were injured when there was a smoke explosion, according to CFD. The firefighters suffered second-degree burns and were taken to MetroHealth Medical Center. A lot of damage was done to the back of the building, we have a picture on our home page. **The owner of the home told fire investigators he heard an explosion** in his backyard. When he went to check, the homeowner found the propane tank on his grill had exploded. The homeowner says the grill was not in use at the time...the homeowner made it out safely and called firefighters. Firefighters say the fire took off quickly through the dwelling and the 2 Firefighters were injured when there was a smoke explosion as they opened an attic door....the FF's were

conducting a floor by floor search of the house at the time. More details will be posted on our home page.

**SMOKE EXPLOSIONS:** Here are some valuable TRAINING links:

"READING SMOKE...the Sequel" ...A Free Powerpoint from Chief Dave Dodson:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?68508>

**Article from Fire Engineering:**

[http://dev.fireengineering.com/display\\_article/227763/25/none/none/Feat/FLASHOVER-AND-BACKDRAFT:-A-Primer](http://dev.fireengineering.com/display_article/227763/25/none/none/Feat/FLASHOVER-AND-BACKDRAFT:-A-Primer)

**Article from Firehouse:**

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Firefighting-Strategy-and-Tactics/Dunns-Dispatch--Explosions-on-the-Fireground/14\\$53710](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Firefighting-Strategy-and-Tactics/Dunns-Dispatch--Explosions-on-the-Fireground/14$53710) (Info from Chief Vinny Dunn-Firehouse Magazine)

**Information from FireTactics:**

<http://www.firetactics.com/service.htm>

**APPLICABLE "SMOKE EXPLOSION" TRAINING VIDEOS:**

The following video is a fire in a Mixed Occupancy Balloon Frame 5 Story Building, just after midnight, in Vermont, almost 30 people in the building in apartments on the upper floors - did not want to evacuate. Initial conditions were nothing visible on the outside and light smoke on Division 2 - things went downhill rapidly a few minutes into the call around 0115 hours when conditions went from minor to major with smoke boiling from the upper floors. The Firefighters evacuated shortly after and the 2nd floor collapsed. In the end, the fire was seven alarms and 3 civilians lost their lives. Watching this, you're about a block away and the firefighters are at an 45° angle to the A-side of the structure. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaliilh\\_7nFI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaliilh_7nFI)

**Other sample video of a SMOKE EXPLOSION:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1\\_u-eAq5QU&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1_u-eAq5QU&feature=related)

**NOTE: BE SURE TO STUDY THESE "ART OF READING SMOKE" PPT SLIDES:**

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?68508>

**PA FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN CRASH WHILE ENROUTE TO THE FIREHOUSE:**

A Plains Township Firefighter (Luzerne County) was killed last night in a two-vehicle crash. FF Robert Kubick, 60, of Plains was killed in the crash. One of their career firefighters was going off sick-and FF Robert Kubick was called in to work last night to replace that Firefighter. While enroute to the station, FF Kubick's car was struck by another car in an intersection and he later died from his injuries. Mr. Kubick was 59 years old and had been with the department 35 years. He had no wife, children, his parents were deceased. As always, our sincere condolences. Additional details will be posted here: <http://www.ppffa.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-2-09 / 1345 Hours

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

**TO GET THE SECRET LIST NOTIFICATIONS ON YOUR PHONE THRU TWITTER:**

You can now follow FirefighterCloseCalls.com on Twitter at:

<http://www.twitter.com/theseclist> . Sign up to receive the latest Secret List notifications as a **TEXT MESSAGE** from FirefighterCloseCalls.com directly to your cell phone, phone device Twitter account, etc. As always, there is no cost for this feature.

**AND:**

Hey...

Cindy Schuenke, the Missouri Fire-Medic who was severely burned in a fire three years ago in St. Louis County, has filed suit against three fire agencies and numerous firefighters who responded to the fire with her, according to media. FF Medic Schuenke, 44, suffered severe burns March 29, 2006, while reportedly searching for the mother of a fellow firefighter in a burning dwelling. Her suit, filed last week in St. Louis County Circuit Court, **alleges that firefighters at the scene, and their commander there, made mistake after mistake. The suit also alleged that two fire chiefs had failed to train their fire personnel to properly handle such situations.**

The suit also names Grace Industries Inc., the maker of a personal alert safety system (PASS) device that Schuenke wore into the fire. The suit says the device failed to sound, therefore failing to alert rescuers to her predicament and location. In addition to numerous firefighters who responded to the fire, the suit names as defendants the Mid-County FPD, its chief, Tom Vineyard, and Capt. Ankenneth Corbin, the Incident Commander at the fire; University City and its chief, Steve Olshwanger; and the Northeast Ambulance and FPD and two of its firefighters who were inside the house with Schuenke. **The suit does not name Schuenke's employer, the Community Fire Protection District, as a defendant. She cannot sue that district because she is receiving worker's compensation benefits through it.**

**The suit accuses the Incident Commander of the fire of:**

- Failing to order that water be sprayed through the basement windows onto the source of the fire.
- Failing to order a search-and-rescue team to use a thermal-imaging camera in the search for the victim.
- Wrongly ordering Schuenke and other firefighters to enter the burning building because, among several reasons, it was improbable that Geneva Rooks was still alive.
- Failing to have a properly prepared rescue team ready to respond when Yahnke called for someone to help Schuenke.

The suit also accuses a University City assistant chief and battalion chief of failing to recognize "that Corbin was mismanaging the fire scene, had lost control of the fire scene, and was exposing firefighters ... to a heightened and unreasonable risk of danger." The two should have removed Corbin as incident commander, the suit says. Schuenke has since had several surgeries, amounting to more than \$1.16 million in medical costs. Here is the entire article:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/B900B8B75F25CAD68625758D000A3E8F?OpenDocument>

**VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS CHARGED WITH "FAILURE TO WEAR SEAT BELT" IN CRASH:**

Two FF's in Spotsylvania County were charged yesterday after an early morning apparatus crash sent them to the hospital with injuries. ...the firefighters were responding to a house fire. The truck crossed the road's double yellow line and crashed into an embankment. The truck's driver, FF Andrew Debord, was charged with failure to maintain control of a vehicle and failure to wear a seatbelt. The front seat passenger and officer in charge, Michael Gray II, also was charged with failure to wear a seatbelt....they were taken to the hospital for examination but were thankfully, released.

**AND IN CONNECTICUT: A FIREFIGHTER IS HAND CUFFED:**

New Haven FD Lt. Filipe Cordero started out to help a woman apparently overdosing on drugs, but instead ended up in handcuffs in the back seat of a police car. Nice. Details of what happened Wednesday might be in dispute, but the end result is not, and Thursday the chiefs from both departments launched a joint Internal Affairs investigation into the matter. Fire Lt. Cordero ultimately was released and finished his shift. He was not charged. Here is more: [www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/04/03/news/new\\_haven/a1 -- almostarrested.txt](http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/04/03/news/new_haven/a1--almostarrested.txt)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-3-09 / 2200 hours

**AND**

Today is the one year anniversary of the Line of Duty Deaths of 2 Ohio Firefighters. As you will remember, on Friday, April 4, 2008, **Captain Robin Broxterman**, 37-years-old, a 17-year veteran career firefighter and paramedic, and **Firefighter Brian Schira**, 29-years-old, a six-month probationary, part-time firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician with Colerain Township (Ohio) Fire & EMS died in the Line of Duty after the floor they were on collapsed into the burning basement at that dwelling fire. Many members of our area community along with the fire service will remember them in a memorial service this morning. **But there is another way that ANY Firefighter and Fire Officer can remember them:**

Following that tragic loss, the Colerain Township Fire/EMS Department issued a preliminary report (**link below**) with initial and valuable details on what happened based upon the information available at the time. Critical details such as the importance of size-up, 360 walk around and other information is of great value to any Firefighter and Officer. A more in-depth final report is being developed and is expected to be released later this year along with the NIOSH report. As stated in the preliminary report "the department will never forget the ultimate sacrifice made by Captain Robin Broxterman and Firefighter Brain Schira in their service to the community. **By sharing the knowledge gained** from this very tragic and painful incident, the Department will ensure their sacrifice was not in vain and hope that other fire departments can avoid a similar tragedy"

**Here is that preliminary report which has already proven to have lead to the saving of OTHER Firefighters lives:**

<http://www.coleraintwp.org/uploads/LODDPriliminaryReportFinalVersion4.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-4-09 / 0700 hours

**AND:**

**Illinois FF LODD-Following Training (The Secret List) [www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FirefighterCloseCalls.com)**

It is with deep regret we advise you of the **Line of Duty Death of Assistant Chief John Jeffers of the Wellington-Greer, IL FPD**. A/C Jeffers was conducting hose training the evening of Wednesday April 1, 2009. After reloading hose on the engine, A/C Jeffers sat on the tail board of the engine and stated he wasn't feeling well and asked to be taken home. A friend stopped by the next afternoon to see him and there was no response at the door. The Fire Department was called and when they gained access to the house and found A/C Jeffers DOA on the floor. No additional details are available at this time.

**Arrangements are as follows:** Visitation Sunday April 5, 2009, Brown-Alkire Funeral Home 309 E Washington St Hoopeston, IL 60942 4 to 8 p.m. with a Fire Department walk thru at 6:00 PM. Firefighters are to meet at the Hoopeston Fire Station 5:30 PM 301 W Main St # 2 Hoopeston, IL 60942. The Funeral will be Monday April 6, 2009 at the United Methodist Church on Main Street, Wellington, IL 60973

Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 4-4-09 / 1300 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

The Houston apparatus crash has only started to unfold as a living **nightmare** for all involved....and if this case isn't enough to convince....(no matter what FD you belong to)

--Fire Chiefs to establish clear POLICY on exactly how THEIR apparatus will be driven no matter what,

--Apparatus/EMS Drivers to STOP at all red lights and stop signs, prior to going thru,

--Fire Officers to SUPERVISE to insure their drivers do as directed by policy,

-And Departments to ENFORCE their policies,

**....than not much else will.**

As you know, the FF who was driving the apparatus that ran the traffic signal-causing last weeks crash, has officially now been charged with failure to use due caution. That leaves legal doors wide open. HFD FF Warren Ducote ran a red light, causing the crash that injured 11 people. Both Houston rigs were responding what was initially a reported fire call-but turned out to be public works crew smoke-testing sewer lines. Cops determined that FF Ducote ran a red light while headed northbound and was broad-sided by the engine company westbound....the engine had the green light.

**FIRE APPARATUS RACING TO A SCENE?**

Say it isn't so....but the local Houston media-as expected-is all over last weeks crash and did this report last week about concerns that fire stations and companies "race" to get to the scene first...

[http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou090401\\_mp\\_fire-truck-crash.93f582df.html](http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou090401_mp_fire-truck-crash.93f582df.html)

**ONE VICTIM-And Her ATTORNEY-SPEAK OUT:**

The media also got ahold of Jotika Ramchandani - and her attorney - and she says she honestly doesn't know how she is alive today. She describes the moments after that fire department ladder truck crushed her car. She can't say exactly what she was thinking at the time. She never lost consciousness despite the force of the impact. She did get out through one of the back doors of that car and then staggered across the street for help. She was treated and released from the hospital the day of the wreck.

**READ: She says she has a lot of lower body pain and that she is taking a lot of pain medication to cope.** She says she has constant nightmares now about being trapped, about free falling. She is considering seeking counseling now to help her deal with that.

How do you think **that** is going to end up?

**AND THEN THERE IS** the bicyclist who was involved in the crash..she remains hospitalized. Leigh Boone is in critical condition.....

And finally, THE FIREFIGHTERS have all been released and thankfully should all recover, at least from their physical injuries. GOOD FIREFIGHTERS WANTING TO DO GOOD-without a doubt...that's why they were RESPONDING. But for reasons that have been described and whatever other reasons, this "simple response" will now last a lifetime for so many involved...and it's just only started.

- **Wrecked Apparatus.**
- **Hurt Civilians.**
- **Hurt Firefighters.**
- **Attorneys.**
- **More Attorneys.**
- **Criminal courts.**
- **Civil Courts....**
- **You-and Your Family...**
- **DO NOT Wanna Go Thru This.**

**UPDATE: OKLAHOMA LODD:**

Here is an update/followup related to the HYDRO (OK) FIRE CHIEF LODD & related rescues: <http://www.ksw.com/Global/story.asp?S=10132751>

**UPDATE: TGI TEST BURN:**

Here is a Powerpoint of a TGI test burn conducted 4/4/09:

<http://faculty.sunydutchess.edu/walsh/POWERPOINT/BUILDING%20CONSTRUCTION/buildingconstruction.htm>

Video of the above test burn to follow at a later date...but....

**HERE is a RELATED video:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo5ZtBXJiHo>

**OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES:**

April 11, 2009

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

To the Police Officers, EMS Members and Firefighters in Pittsburgh following the assault and murders of 3 of the PPD's Finest:

Police Officers Eric Kelly, Stephen Mayhle and Paul Sciuolo II, Rest In Peace.

**FOR MORE INFO GO TO:**

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

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-6-09 / 1430 Hours

**AND:**

**WISCONSIN AND MISSISSIPPI LINE OF DUTY DEATHS**

(**NOTE:** We neglected to also post the fact that this past Saturday April 4th also marked the anniversary of the **FDNY multi Line of Duty Death loss of 6 Firefighters** at the Bronx marquee collapse. Here is an excellent link to educate all of us: [http://nyfd.com/3rd\\_ave\\_4-4-56.html](http://nyfd.com/3rd_ave_4-4-56.html) )

**WI FF DIES IN STATION DURING A RUN**

It is with deep regret to report the **Line of Duty Death of Firefighter John Weber** of Township Fire Department in Eau Claire, WI. On Saturday, April 4, 2009, The Township FD was dispatched to a report of a brush fire. Fire Fighter John Weber responded to the station to ready the trucks for the fire fighters as he had done so many times before...sometime after the trucks had left the station John passed away and he was found in the apparatus bay when the trucks and personnel returned to the station, approximately an hour and a half after the initial call. All indications are that John passed away from natural causes. John was 77 years old. If anyone has any questions, please contact Township Fire Department at 715-834-6868. Our sincere condolences in his passing.

**MS FF DIES IN CRASH RETURNING FROM DUTY RELATED MEETING**

**Firefighter Robert France, of the Stateline VFD** attended a fire training meeting at the Green County Emergency Services Office. Upon completion of the meeting he was returning to his home jurisdiction on his motorcycle when he struck a deer. FF France was treated on scene by emergency services personnel and subsequently transported via helicopter to the USA Medical Center in Mobile, AL where he succumbed to his Line of Duty related injuries.

**REMINDER-PLAN NOW...2009 FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL WEEK: JUNE 14-20:**

The **IAFC** and it's Safety, Health and Survival Section and the **IAFF** are asking you to Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility. They, along with most fire service organizations are calling on all fire/EMS departments and all IAFF affiliates to participate in the 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week scheduled for June 14-20. Here are the details:<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=306>

**NEW YORK MULTI-SHOOTING AUDIO:**

Here is some of the Police and Fire/EMS Dispatch audio from the shooting in Binghamton, New York on April 3rd. You can hear the initial dispatch along with police officers finding the car barricading the door in the rear. Our thanks to Monroe County Fire Wire for this link: <http://www.mcfw.com/?p=1517>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-6-09 / 2230 hours

**AND:**

**FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AFTER BEING STRUCK BY BRANCH**

We regret to advise you that Firefighter was killed this morning when a burning tree branch collapsed and struck him on the head in New Zealand. The volunteer fire service from Willowby, south of Ashburton, had been called to a tree fire in around 0430 Hours this morning. When they arrived a single tree was burning...the FF's had just got out of the fire apparatus and apparently the firefighter who was killed walked around the front of the truck and at that stage a branch has fallen down and struck him on the head. The Firefighter had initially been treated at the scene, but had died within half an hour of the accident.

**UPDATE: FLORIDA FF LODD.....also STRUCK BY A FALLING TREE----REPORT REVEALS FACTS & THE FAMILY OF THAT FALLEN FIREFIGHTER PREPARES TO SUE:**

An investigation report blames the Volusia County (FL) Fire Service for the Line of Duty death of a Firefighter 17 months ago ....and, expectedly, Fallen Firefighter's family states that they are ready to sue.

FF John Curry was killed in November 2007 while learning to cut down trees in the event of a wildfire. An internal investigation says FF Curry and other trainees were sorely unprepared and didn't have the basic skills or supervision they needed to train safely. The report further says the county failed to provide a safe workplace, so now all Firefighters will be required to be retrained. It also states that the county had violated safety issues, writing that "inexperienced and untrained trainees were placed in positions they were not prepared to perform." FF Curry had never been trained for the drill, but was assigned as a spotter for a man to cut down a tree. The tree wasn't cut correctly and, instead of falling at an expected angle, it twisted 135 degrees off its stump. At that point, the instructor realized the tree was falling on the escape path, so he ran into the woods. But apparently FF Curry didn't know that and, when he ran to the escape route for safety, he was hit and killed by the tree.

**THE ATTORNEY SPEAKS OUT & THE FD RESPONDS.**

Attorney Geoff Bichler believes Volusia County knowingly placed their Firefighters in a dangerous situation with inadequate training. "This is a case of such gross negligence it should be a crime. The blood of John Curry is on the hands of this agency based on these failures," Bichler said. "We wouldn't agree with that assessment at all. We have excellent training," said Dave Byron, Volusia County spokesman. The county said it will comply with all the recommendations in the report.

**SIZE UP, SIZE UP, SIZE UP.....**

For what we consider an excellent example of WHY a size-up, including a 360 of the structure, especially in dwelling fires, is so critical....GO to our home page and check out the top pictures under the subject of "Keep Your Eyes Open" [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

**REMEMBER THIS FIRE? ODD'S ARE YOU KNOW THE PICTURE OF THIS FIREFIGHTER:**

All of us should...the OUR LADY OF ANGELS FIRE in Chicago.

Retired Chicago Fire Captain Richard Scheidt, a subject of one of the grimmest and most iconic newspaper photographs in Chicago history, has died. He was 81. On Dec. 1, 1958, FF Scheidt, his face drawn in sorrow, carried the wet, lifeless body of 10-year-old John Jajkowski Jr. from Our Lady of the Angels grade school on the West Side. The fire, one of the worst tragedies ever, killed 92 children and three nuns. Scheidt, a member of Rescue Squad 1, carried the bodies of 20 children from the school. Jajkowski was the first. Scheidt was forever haunted by the memory. <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?83814>

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS FIRE:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QD3M0qvtSTk> (VIDEO)

<http://www.olafire.com/> (WEBSITE / BOOK)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our\\_Lady\\_of\\_the\\_Angels\\_School\\_Fire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_the_Angels_School_Fire) (Wiki)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqlQNop05o8&feature=related> (Tribute with fire scene photos)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyslGbvSdxE&feature=PlayList&p=E91AAE39E0DA1E72&playnext=1&playnext\\_from=PL&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyslGbvSdxE&feature=PlayList&p=E91AAE39E0DA1E72&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=1)

(Tribute with fire scene photos)

**And Finally.....RESCUE ME: Starts tonight:**

<http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/rescueme/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-7-09 / 1900 hours

**AND**

Hey....

A Prince George's County Firefighter was critically injured this morning while operating at a house fire. At 0201 hours this morning, companies were alerted for a fire in a carport attached to the house. Firefighters from the Largo Co. #846, with a crew of 6 Firefighters, were first due and arrived to find a vehicle and carport burning with extension into the 2-story single family dwelling. Firefighters entered the dwelling and were operating when a MAYDAY was transmitted. Firefighters from Kentland Co. #833 quickly located the Firefighter in a 1st floor living room, sounded the MAYDAY and removed the injured Firefighter by way of a window. The Firefighter had sustained severe burns to his face and head and transported to the Washington Hospital Center Burn Unit. **He is listed in critical/stable condition.** 2 other Firefighters sustained minor burn injuries and it is anticipated that they will be treated and released from the same Burn Unit. The critically injured Firefighter is a 21 year-old-male (will be 22 in May) and is a 4-year career member of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department. Updates to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-09 / 0615 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

That Prince George's County Firefighter hurt this morning remains in **critical/stable** condition at the Washington Hospital Center Burn Unit. **Fire Fighter/Medic Daniel McGown**, 21, (22 in May 2009) and a 4-year career member, sustained severe burn injuries to his face with respiratory involvement while operating at that house fire this morning. Fire-Medic McGown is intubated and sedated....the Doc's advise that the next 72 hours will be critical. FF/Medic McGown was part of a crew of six from Engine 846 (Largo). According to PG officials, something went wrong in the kitchen area and FF McGown, attempting to get out, ended up unconscious in the living room. A crew from Station 833 (Kentland VFD) **heard a PASS device** and discovered the downed firefighter. A "mayday" was called and then Firefighter McGown was carried through a window of the home to the outside. Due to McGown's condition paramedics decided not to wait for a medevac helicopter and drove the firefighter to the burn facility.

FF/Medic Daniel McGown is the son of retired Prince George's Deputy Fire Chief William "Bill" McGown. Bill served with the Fire/EMS Department for nearly 25 years before retiring in April 2006. He is currently serving as the Deputy Director of Public Safety Communications. Bills daughter, Kimberly McGown Blackistone, is a 7-year career FF/Medic with the Department. Our sincere prayers go out to the McCowan Family, friends and all members of the PGFEMS Department. Updates to follow....we have posted additional info and photos on our home page, News/Updates.

Here is a LINK with pictures from **Dave Statter**:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/04/pgfd-firefighter-critically-burned.html>

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: PASS ALARMS**

...Generally speaking, so often, when we exit the fire building, we drop our SCBA's without securing the PASS alarm/shutting the SCBA down...so then, a few moments later-the alarm sounds, and "eventually" we go back-or "someone" goes back, and shuts it down. We have ALL been on a scene where PASS alarms are chirping-it has become a "common" fireground sound-that's the problem. HOW will we know WHERE that sound is coming from and if it is an SCBA "just laying down"...or a **FIREFIGHTER DOWN?**

**REMINDER:**

- Secure your SCBA before walking away from it.
- When HEARING any PASS Alarm on the fireground-**QUESTION IT-ADVISE COMMAND-WHATEVER** your SOP is...**but DO NOT ignore that sound.**

**WEST VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS INJURED LAST NIGHT:**

2 Firefighters were injured while operating at a fire that destroyed a barn last night in Berkeley County. We have posted more here:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?83857>

**UPDATE: FLORIDA FF LODD FIRE REPORT:**

We have posted a PDF copy of the report issued by the State of Florida Fire Marshal related to the Line of Duty Death (at training) of the Volusia County FF. The report is on our home

page under News/Updates. The report states that FF John Curry, killed in the Line of Duty during that training-when a tree fell on him, was a result of improperly trained firefighters and an unsafe workplace. The Volusia County officials dispute that...and naturally, the attorneys are all on board.

**THE CRITICAL ROLE OF DISPATCHERS---And PASSING ON Information:**

We'll have more on this soon, but here is a link related to the murders of those 3 Pittsburgh Police Officers on Saturday-and how the **dispatch center call taker failed to pass on information** known. Information known to dispatchers and call takers is useless...unless responders also know...and know timely. The part-time dispatcher was hired in November...she went through 320 hours of training, which took about 13 weeks to complete...since she worked 24 hours a week. That means she started taking calls in late February or early March....

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s\\_619698.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s_619698.html)

**ITALY SUFFERS:**

As you know, Italy had a terrible earthquake 48 hours ago, 235 people died, 1700 injured and 17,000 are homeless. Over 2,500 Italian FF's are operating at the scene. Several FF's from that area have written us and wanted us to pass on this line and related information.

<http://www.corriere.it/english/>

We wish them the best during this horrible time.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-09 / 1100 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

For those of you on "Facebook"...a group has been created: "**BE STRONG FIREFIGHTER DANIEL MCGOWN**" ...As you know, at 0200 this morning, FF/Medic McGown responded on Engine 846 from the Kentland's Largo Station, on the way to the house fire (details below) fire. They had a fire, which appears to be arson, spreading from a carport and into the home Herrington Drive. FF/Medic McGown was on a hose line in the kitchen when the ceiling caved in, knocking him down and stripping the protective mask from his face. FF/Medic McGown suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns to his face and respiratory track and remains in critical but stable condition at Washington Hospital Center's burn unit.

**ALSO IN WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER: WEST VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL:**

A Baker Heights Firefighter injured while operating at that barn fire last night is also being treated for life-threatening injuries at Washington (D.C.) Hospital Center. FF Kenneth Ayers, 45, was taken to City Hospital in Martinsburg for treatment and then taken to Fairfax Inova Hospital in Falls Church, Va., He later was transferred to Washington for treatment of facial and head trauma...and is listed in critical condition. FF Ayers and another firefighter from Bedington VFD were hurt when a gust of wind got underneath tin on the barn roof and pushed a timber in one of the sidewalls out and down on them as they were attacking the fire. The firefighter from Bedington was treated and released.

**FIRE SPOTTER AIRCRAFT CRASHES IN WISCONSIN-POSSIBLE LINE OF DUTY DEATH:**

A Wisconsin State Department of Natural Resources plane being used to help spot grass fires crashed this afternoon, killing at least one person. The crash occurred about 1430 Hours in a field about six miles southwest of Marshfield. The plane was being used to help observe a wildfire as firefighters worked on the ground. Our condolences to all affected....details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-09 / 1730 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

As of this morning, Prince Georges County FF/Medic Daniel McGown is stable. Reports are that he did wake up yesterday afternoon and the staff of the Burn Center had him sitting up and coughing which is a good thing. They plan on having him up this morning and possibly out of bed walking. FF McGown has 2nd degree burns to his face and respiratory burns. The Dr's are not as concerned with the facial burns but of course are keeping a close eye on his airway...but as of this morning, things are cautiously optimistic for FF/Medic McGown.

**MAYDAY, OPERATIONAL AND COMMAND RADIO TRAFFIC:**

Thanks to DCFireFeed.com for this link to the dispatch, operational and **MAYDAY** radio traffic from yesterdays fire in Prince Georges County (MD) where FF/Medic Danny McGown was injured. **TAKE TIME** to listen to the entire audio with particular note to command presence on the radio: <http://www.dcfirefeed.com/archives/87harrington.wav>

**MORE excellent information and local coverage from Dave Statter:**

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/04/fireground-audio-from-mayday-during.html>

Don't Ignore This Sound.....

**IMPORTANT REMINDER REPEAT: PASS ALARMS**

...Generally speaking, so often, when we exit the fire building, we drop our SCBA's without securing the PASS alarm/shutting the SCBA down...so then, a few moments later-the alarm sounds, and "eventually" we go back-or "someone" goes back, and shuts it down. We have ALL been on a scene where PASS alarms are chirping-it has become a "common" fireground sound-that's the problem. We tend to IGNORE the sound for the first few minutes...DO NOT IGNORE THE SOUND. HOW will we know WHERE that sound is coming from and if it is an SCBA "just laying down"...

....or a **FIREFIGHTER DOWN?**

**REMINDER:**

---Secure your SCBA before walking away from it.

---When HEARING any PASS Alarm on the fireground-**QUESTION IT-ADVISE COMMAND-DO WHATEVER** your SOP Directs...but **DO NOT ignore that sound.**

---When we HEAR a PASS Alarm-**ACT as if it is an EMERGENCY Until It Is CONFIRMED Either Way.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-9-09 / 1000 hours

**AND:**

Hey....

Here is a piece related to apparatus driving. It is called "**We Run Red Lights For a Living- Inside The Mind of a Fire Apparatus Driver**". While the **intent** of the interview and discussion may have been positive, we're not so sure the article does much to help apparatus drivers get it...or the public to understand the issues either. Check it out:

<http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?83995>

...and Now A Word From "**Inside The Mind**" of Fire Fighter Close Calls...

**It's OUR TIP OF THE DAY!**

**-STOP at Red Lights-** Proceed When Clear.

**-STOP at Stop Signs-** Proceed When Clear.

**-SLOW Down-** So You GET There.

**-Belt Up-** Avoid Ejection.

**SURGERY PLANNED FOR WEST VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER:**

Baker Heights (WVA) FF Kenneth Ayers remains under sedation at Washington Hospital Center. FF Ayers sustained critical injuries Tuesday evening after being struck by a large wooden timber while fighting a barn fire in Berkeley County. He has since undergone a blood transfusion and may have to undergo complete facial reconstruction surgery next week...his arm was also broken in multiple places. FF Ayers has been a member of the Baker Heights Volunteer Fire Department for one year. He was previously a firefighter with the Bay District VFD (MD) for several years. He has a fiancée, one daughter and a grandson.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-10-09 / 0530 hours

**AND**

**FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY- APPARATUS CRASH (Paderborn, Germany)**

**Other Firefighters Critical & Civilians Injured and Killed (Photos on our home page)**

Earlier today (Friday) in Paderborn (Germany) a taxi cab with 5 passengers crashed into a responding ladder truck from the Paderborn Fire Brigade. The ladder company was on a run to a fire with 3 FF's on board when 2 other cars, a Toyota and a Ford, with 4 occupants between them, were also involved in the crash. The ladder was responding with blue lights and siren and then...a taxi occupied with 5 persons came along. The vehicles crashed in an intersection. The impact threw the ladder against a traffic light pole/mast, ripped it from the anchor and pulled it down. The apparatus slammed over the crossing into the opposite lane, collided with the Toyota and the Ford, and landed on its side...when then a fire broke out in the rear part of the apparatus.

Because of the impact, the taxi was thrown into the roadway. Due to his severe injuries, a 46 year old man who was sitting in the back seat of the taxi was DOA on the scene. His 40 year

old wife, who was sitting in the back seat too, died later in hospital. **A 48 year old Fire Fighter who was sitting on the right side of the apparatus was transported to Paderborn Hospital in critical condition - he died there. The other 2 Firefighters (31 and 21 years old) were seriously injured and are in Paderborn hospital with critical injuries but it appears right now, that they have a good chance of survival.**

The taxi driver (43 years old) suffered life threatening injuries, two other occupants of the taxi, of which one man (47 years old) was sitting in the front passenger seat and a 56 year old man, which sat on the backseat, were seriously injured too. As far as the Toyota, with which was also hit by the TTL, two young men, 18 and 17 years old, are seriously injured. The 38 years old driver of the Ford and his 36 year old wife had NLT injuries. We will have more details on this crash later. We have posted photos on our home page. **As always, our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the Firefighters involved.**

#### **OKLAHOMA WILDLAND FIRES: 1 Firefighter Burned.**

One firefighter suffered severe burns fighting the fires in Oklahoma. The Firefighter, who was burned in Lincoln County was treated and transported and is reportedly in serious condition. Details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-10-09 / 1130 hours

#### **AND:**

Hey...

2 Pennsylvania Firefighters were injured this afternoon while apparently burning leaves near the Kulptown Fire Company in Union Township, Berks County. The Firefighters had been burning leaves near a pavilion behind the fire company when there was a reported explosion of some kind. "Somehow" a small tank of fuel ignited, which led to the Firefighters being burned. They were transported to Reading Hospital in an unknown condition. We wish them a rapid recovery.

#### **PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FF IMPROVES:**

More positive news from the Washington Hospital Center Burn Unit today. Fire Fighter/Medic Daniel McGown remains listed in a stable critical condition; however, he continues to show positive signs of improvement. He walked around the Burn Unit ICU again last night, this time with less assistance. He had a bronchoscopy (scope) performed this morning. This is a procedure that allows the doctor to look at his airway through a thin viewing instrument called a bronchoscope. The results were encouraging in that the damaged area appears to be superficial in the lungs. There is some edema present. Edema means there is swelling caused by fluid in his body's tissues. Dan has a slight fever which is not unexpected with his injuries and is being treated appropriately. He will undergo another scope tomorrow and if his injuries continue to improve then the intubation tube may be removed. The remainder of the day involved rest and more walks around the Burn Unit.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-10-09 / 1645 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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### **The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:**

Lake Havasu City (AZ) is looking at more firefighter layoffs. One of the departments that could be hit hard by the reduction in force is the fire department. The Lake Havasu Firefighters Association has already been proactive in trying to keep personnel. On March 13, the association, along with local fire officials, came to an agreement with the city allowing local firefighters to accept a reduction in salary and loss of holiday pay in order to save three jobs within the department. One firefighter has already been laid off, while three more are on administrative leave, pending the council's decision Tuesday: [www.havasunews.com/articles/2009/03/22/news/doc49c6fcc2746c8288101092.txt](http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2009/03/22/news/doc49c6fcc2746c8288101092.txt)

The City of Columbus (OH) is actually trying to decide whether the fire department needs to continue its paramedic program – something they've done for 40 or so years: [http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2009/03/22/alsruns.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/03/22/alsruns.html?sid=101)

Last year, Grand Junction Colorado's five fire stations answered more than 13,000 calls to the tune of \$13 million. Those history-making figures represent an alarming trend for a department that is marking its 120th birthday this year. As the weather warms and fire season heats up, fire officials say they've got to be creative—and cooperative—to get the job done:

[http://www.krextv.com/index.php/site/article/fire\\_department\\_struggles\\_to\\_cope\\_with\\_extra\\_demands/2070/](http://www.krextv.com/index.php/site/article/fire_department_struggles_to_cope_with_extra_demands/2070/)

Leaders of cash-strapped Santa Rosa (CA) on Tuesday gave police officers and firefighters a standing ovation after their unions agreed to forgo pay raises totaling more than \$4 million over the next two years, to help avoid layoffs – that's teamwork: <http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20090324/NEWS/903249892/1033?Title=Santa-Rosa-firefighters-police-forgo-raises>

Salinas (CA) police and firefighters remained firm Tuesday night on rejecting an across-the-board pay cut of 10 percent being taken by other employee groups. And one public safety group refused to take any pay cut at all:

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20090325/NEWS01/903250316/1002/NEWS01>

Faced with a historic budget deficit, the city of Sacramento (CA) is collecting little more than a third of the general fund's largest non-tax revenue source, and there's little the city can do about it. Over the past four years, the SFD has collected 36 percent of the more than \$127 million in ambulance bills it has sent to the sick and injured, according to department figures: [www.sacbee.com/topstories/story/1763544.html](http://www.sacbee.com/topstories/story/1763544.html)

The Reno (NV) City Council has accepted salary and benefit concessions from six employee unions that were offered to avoid layoffs and save the city \$1.2 million. Reno firefighters are the latest group that voted for cuts that will save \$532,000. City officials had said 12 firefighters would have been laid off without concessions: <http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/41919307.html>

Only two years after it was activated, the Jess Ranch fire station will no longer be staffed by dedicated fire personnel every day due to budgetary constraints, according to officials. "We've had to make some adjustments because of the economy," said Apple Valley (CA) Fire Protection District Chief Doug Qualls: [www.vvdailynews.com/news/valley\\_11741\\_article.html/apple\\_burns.html](http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/valley_11741_article.html/apple_burns.html)

This story comes from Colorado, and really shows how desperate (or creative, depending on how you look at it) are having to get to generate revenue. Next time you're in a fender bender, you could end up with more than just a cracked bumper and some chipped paint. If the fire department shows up, they may hit you up for what are called "accident response fees" or "rescue fees." Critics call them a "crash tax." <http://cbs4denver.com/investigates/Crash.Tax.Fire.2.972814.html>

Numerous revenue shortfalls in the current fiscal year's budget have resulted in the decision to layoff of one firefighter/paramedic, reassign another firefighter/paramedic, and institute a 10 percent salary reduction at the Carmel Valley Fire District in California: <http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=10083054>

Butte County (CA) is forced to shut two fire stations due to budget shortfalls: <http://www.newsreview.com/chico/content?oid=932639>

The alarm bell is sounding at the Miami-Dade (FL) Fire Rescue Department, and it has nothing to do with a four alarm blaze. Chief Herminio Lorenzo is signaling the alarm over the possibility of a scorched earth budget. Lorenzo says, "I'm talking about fire engines and rescue trucks that would have to be cut from the service. That means response times go up. That means our ability to protect the community is going to be hindered." <http://cbs4.com/local/herminio.lorenzo.miami.2.973436.html>

Raising utility franchise fees for residents and businesses, browning out fire stations and closing city hall on Fridays are being considered by the Reno (NV) City Council: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20090331/NEWS18/90331056/1321/NEWS>

Stockton (CA) Firefighters demonstrate what can be an effective method at educating their elected officials on what it is firefighters actually do. The average citizen, no different from many elected and appointed officials, have no clue to what we actually

do for a living. Stockton has taken the I.A.F.F. Fire Ops 101 program and put it to good use to actually get some of those elected officials (who make the decisions relating to budgets, after hearing what their citizens want) into our shoes for a day to see what it is we do. I'm surprised more fire department union locals don't participate in this program; it isn't easy and it takes a lot of work, but it can pay off dividends in the long run with building and maintaining positive working relationships with your elected officials: [www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090329/A\\_NEWS/903290311](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090329/A_NEWS/903290311)

More from Stockton (CA). Residents of another city in Northern California faced a financial bombshell Tuesday night. Stockton's city manager unveiled a plan at the city council meeting to close a \$31 million deficit that includes laying off dozens of police officers & firefighters: [www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=57142&provider=top](http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=57142&provider=top)

San Jose (CA) firefighters Friday offered to forgo raises in the next budget year as a goodwill gesture to help the city save money as it faces a more than \$61 million deficit and the likelihood of layoffs in some departments. The offer sent to city management and City Council members makes firefighters the first San Jose employee union to offer a wage freeze to ease the city's current budget woes:

[www.californiachronicle.com/articles/yb/128157736](http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/yb/128157736)

North Las Vegas (NV) firefighters are taking one for the team. The International Association of Firefighters Local 1607 agreed to defer a 3.5 percent annual cost-of-living increase to ease the stress on the city's budget. Pay raises will be deferred to later years, and the city has agreed to extend the firefighters' contract two years to 2014: [www.fox5vegas.com/news/19115820/detail.html](http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/19115820/detail.html)

Palo Alto's (CA) firefighters and police are "extremely wealthy and overpaid," and the relatively modest budget cuts proposed by those departments are "a blatant insult" to the community, Vice Mayor Jack Morton said at a city council meeting Monday. During discussions on how to confront the city's growing budget shortfall, he singled out the fire department for reducing its current-year budget by just \$39,000 at a time when the community services department is slashing more than 10 times that amount. "It's almost like the fire department giving the city the finger," he said. In a tirade that drew public rebukes from fellow officials, Morton went on to rip the firefighters union for trying to "blackmail" city council members who would stand up to its demands. "They basically try to get you defeated politically if you raise this issue," he said after the meeting: [http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci\\_12088651](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_12088651)

More from Palo Alto (CA). Lambasted this week as selfish and overpaid by Palo Alto's vice mayor, local police and firefighters are now being asked to help the city close its budget deficit: [http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci\\_12113688](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_12113688)

Fire officials in Hoboken (NJ) said they have received word that a total of 10 battalion chiefs and captains are being laid off. These superior officers are likely to be rehired since under Civil Service rules they have bumping rights, but will be returned to positions that pay significantly less, officials said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-career/articles/478944-4-battalion-chiefs-6-captains-mailed-layoff-notices-in-NJ/>

Bremerton (WA) Firefighters unanimously accepted wage and hiring cuts for the rest of the year as part of the city's effort to cut spending. Union members agreed to 2 percent wage cuts as well as postponing five new hires and promotions until next year: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2009/apr/08/bremerton-firefighters-agree-to-pay-cuts/?partner=RSS>

The economic downturn has slammed the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System fund (the retirement system for government employees such as firefighters – similar to what most states have in place). Another good reminder to not put all your eggs in one basket and assume the retirement system will be strong when you retire and need to start collecting from it; have other mechanisms in place to save money and prepare for your retirement: <http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20090330/UPDATE/90330005>

Denver (CO) firefighters have avoided the ugly specter of layoffs by making concessions which another public safety agency (law enforcement?) refused to do at the request of Mayor John Hickenlooper. Gestures like this can go a long way in building relationships not only with the elected officials, but the community who pays for us to serve them: <http://cbs4denver.com/local/firefighers.denver.concessions.2.977835.html>

Times are definitely tough in Columbus (OH), where the elected officials are determining whether the extra \$6.5 million paid for paramedics over basic EMTs is actually worth it: [http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2009/04/05/ems.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/04/05/ems.html?sid=101)

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**Public Relations Nightmare Stories:**

A second New York City firefighter was hauled into court yesterday for running a major pot operation out of a Queens basement, officials said: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Second-FDNY-Firefighter-Arrested-in-Pot-Operation/46\\$63247](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Second-FDNY-Firefighter-Arrested-in-Pot-Operation/46$63247)

What does it actually take to get terminated at a fire department? Good question. In Bridgeport (CT), a 19-year city fire lieutenant terminated in July 2007 for shoving a captain at a fire scene has returned to work under a decision by state labor arbitrators: [http://www.connpst.com/ci\\_12064881](http://www.connpst.com/ci_12064881)

The Boston (MA) firefighter at the wheel of a deadly ladder-truck crash caused by brake failure admitted yesterday he was court-martialed by the Air National Guard for cocaine use: <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1164247>

A New York volunteer firefighter was charged Saturday with setting a fire that ripped through a crowded apartment house, killing a woman and three of her children. Caleb

Lacey, 19, a volunteer member of the Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department, set the fire as a staged rescue attempt that went awry, said Nassau County homicide detective Lt. John Azzata. "The suspected motive is what arson experts call 'hero' or 'vanity' \_ to be the savior and appear to have saved individuals," he said:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/03/21/ap/national/main4881377.shtml>

And in a related story, the "hero syndrome" as mentioned above in the story about the volunteer firefighter, is not just limited to firefighters. Nurses, police officers and security guards all have been accused of intentionally worsening a patient's condition or planting small bombs in the hope that they will be the ones to later save the patient's life or warn people away from the future explosion:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63186&sectionId=46>

A former Palo Alto (CA) firefighter who received workers' compensation after a back injury has pleaded no contest to lying about whether she had found another job, authorities said Monday. Tanya August, 39, entered her plea before Judge Rise Pichon in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Wednesday. August was ordered to pay \$20,000 in restitution to the city of Palo Alto. She will be sentenced April 27 on one count of making a false or fraudulent material statement for the purpose of obtaining compensation:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/06/BA9Q16TIV3.DTL>

The South Milwaukee (WI) fire chief could learn whether he will stay on as chief. Chief Jay Behling admitted to using a racial slur while on the job. The South Milwaukee Firefighters Union wants Behling to lose his job:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63290&sectionId=46>

New Haven (CT) Fire Department Lt. Filipe Cordero started out to help a woman apparently overdosing on drugs, but instead ended up in handcuffs in the back seat of a police car:

[www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/04/03/news/new\\_haven/a1\\_-\\_almostarrested.txt](http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2009/04/03/news/new_haven/a1_-_almostarrested.txt)

The Fire Chief of the District of Columbia (DCFD) Fire Department is in the hot seat over a donation of fire apparatus to another country:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Chief-on-Hot-Seat-Over-Engine-and-Ambulance-Donation/46\\$63307](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/DC-Chief-on-Hot-Seat-Over-Engine-and-Ambulance-Donation/46$63307)

A Milwaukee firefighter was fired and a department paramedic resigned Monday over accusations that they shot what department officials described as a derogatory video at a city firehouse and posted it on YouTube:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/42169397.html>

Overtime costs for Clark County (NV) firefighters keep flaring up like a stubborn blaze. As the recession squeezes property tax revenue, the county is looking harder for ways to reduce firefighters' overtime, which last year grew to almost 15 times what it was in 2001: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/42072982.html>

John David Berken should not be a Forest Lake (MN) firefighter, his background check suggested. The city's former mayor ordered his hiring anyway. As Berken was charged Wednesday with setting a blaze that charred a north metro nature preserve, city leaders were forced to explain how a man with a criminal past became a firefighter: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63377&sectionId=46>

The culmination of a nearly two-month-long investigation into allegations of misconduct by Maricopa (AZ) Fire Department Battalion Chief Brian Tate has led to his resignation: <http://www.85239.com/NEWS/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?mid1=390&&ArticleID=5661&&name=c&&id=1>

Dallas (TX) Fire-Rescue's highest-ranking civilian woman has filed a complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission alleging that she and other female employees in the male-dominated fire service were subjected to sexual discrimination and harassment. Leanne Siri-Edwards, 50, says she was demoted in February after complaining about lewd e-mails and sexual discrimination by high-ranking fire officials. "The chief openly stated that the problem was I was a woman": [http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_news/176595/25/none/Sex\\_harassment\\_claim\\_filed\\_against\\_Dallas\\_%28TX%29\\_Fire-Rescue](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_news/176595/25/none/Sex_harassment_claim_filed_against_Dallas_%28TX%29_Fire-Rescue)

For two days, fire officials apparently missed the body of a man who had been living inside an East Garfield Park home where a fire broke out Monday morning, Larry Langford, spokesman for the Chicago (IL) Fire Department, said Wednesday: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63376&sectionId=46>

Police will cite a Houston Fire Department ladder truck driver in a recent crash. Authorities say he caused accident, which injured 11, by running a red light: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/headline/metro/6358691.html>

Omaha (NE) Fire Captain Darren Bates learned Wednesday that the city had formally fired him after he had been cited by law enforcement officials during a prostitution sting in a neighboring town: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/03/26/MN7M16MU0P.DTL>

Three out of four paramedic, EMT and firefighter recruits in the Boston area are overweight, a troubling trend that shows the obesity epidemic is weighing down even young rookies, according to a new study out today. Researchers reviewed pre-placement medical exams for 370 Boston-area firefighter and ambulance recruits over three years. They found that only 22 percent, or about 1 in 5 recruits, had a normal weight, according to the Boston University study. **Nearly 44 percent were overweight and 33 percent were obese**, according to the study published today in the journal Obesity: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Study--Boston-Area-Recruits-Overweight-/46\\$63143](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Study--Boston-Area-Recruits-Overweight-/46$63143)

The Seattle (WA) mayor's office is revealing an investigation into Seattle's Fire Department. In a document released Wednesday from the Ethics and Elections

**Committee, a lieutenant inspector cost the city almost \$200,000 because of failure to submit proper paperwork:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63136&sectionId=46>

**The Federal Emergency Management Agency plans to review the city of Pittsburgh's (PA) purchase of a \$977,550 firehouse ventilation system with a federal grant, in light of two vendors' complaints that they were prevented from competing for the work, FEMA officials said yesterday:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63102&sectionId=46>

**Despite efforts to contain costs, San Jose (CA) continues to post more and costlier bills for workers' compensation than comparable California cities and counties:**

[http://www.orovillemr.com/news/ci\\_12110934](http://www.orovillemr.com/news/ci_12110934)

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**A critical report on the Boston (MA) Fire Department's apparatus maintenance program (or lack thereof) is a must read for ALL fire service personnel, of all ranks. How safe are your apparatus? Could this happen in your department?**

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Critical-Boston-Apparatus-Maintenance-Report-Can-Serve-as-Learning-Tool-to-Fire-Departments/46\\$63166](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Critical-Boston-Apparatus-Maintenance-Report-Can-Serve-as-Learning-Tool-to-Fire-Departments/46$63166)

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**Nine Philadelphia firefighters were injured after two fire trucks collided in Center City Thursday morning. Authorities said Engine 43 and Ladder 9, both based near 21st and Market Streets, were en route to a blaze at 12th and Locust Streets when they crashed near 8th and Lombard Streets:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63145&sectionId=46>

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**The Buffalo (NY) Fire Department is struggling to try and reduce firefighter overtime costs, a challenge many departments face:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63096&sectionId=46>

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**A must read for any current or future fire officer – yes – you may find yourself getting sued for your actions or non-actions at an emergency scene – by one of your coworkers. Cindy Schuenke, the firefighter-paramedic who was severely burned in a fire three years ago in north St. Louis County (MO), has filed suit against three fire agencies and numerous firefighters who responded to the blaze with her. Schuenke, 44, suffered severe burns March 29, 2006, while searching for the mother of a fellow firefighter in a burning house in Vinita Terrace. Her suit, filed last week in St. Louis County Circuit Court, alleges that firefighters at the scene, and their commander there, made mistake after mistake. The suit also alleged that two fire chiefs had failed to train their fire personnel to properly handle such situations:**

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/B900B8B75F25CAD68625758D000A3E8F?OpenDocument>

**A Supreme Court case examines whether white firefighters were discriminated against for a promotion at the New Haven (CT) Fire Department:**

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chic-fighters\\_bdapr05%2C0%2C6675981.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chic-fighters_bdapr05%2C0%2C6675981.story)

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**There was a familiar face at the annual Congressional Fire Services Institute's annual dinner Thursday night, but his title had changed. As usual, the longtime fire service advocate received a thunderous ovation when he walked onto the stage. "Why wouldn't I come?" quipped Vice President Joe Biden, indicating that the annual CFSI dinner will always be on his calendar. Biden said President Obama has already demonstrated his appreciation for responders' courage and dedication:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=63323>

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**Prince William County (VA) is seeking to upend generations of tradition by centralizing control of the fire department under a single countywide chief and eliminating a system that gave wide latitude to volunteer departments on matters of training, finances and scheduling. In today's world, it just doesn't make sense to have so many different fire jurisdictions in the same immediate area, especially when we're all doing the same basic job with the same basic mission:**

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=175640>

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**Vice President Joe Biden says the Obama administration is committed to getting firefighters the equipment, training and additional staffing they need to do their jobs:**

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63097&sectionId=46>

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**In the State of Washington, Jefferson and Clallam County officials are discussing the possibility of combining emergency dispatch operations into a regional dispatch center for the whole North Olympic Peninsula. Another example of regional areas consolidating critical functions such as dispatch operations to help increase efficiency and the level of service being provided to the communities served and the personnel who work for those agencies. No one department has enough resources to handle the big one; the more departments that can share dispatch operations and eliminate boundaries to ensure the closest apparatus respond, based on GPS and regardless of jurisdiction, the better:**

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20090325/news/303259991>

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**On Monday night, the High Country and Colorado Sierra Fire Protection District boards of directors voted unanimously to move forward with the Timberline Fire Authority and the merger process of the two districts:**

[http://themountainear.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=252&Itemid=2](http://themountainear.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=252&Itemid=2)

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Nine firefighters and two civilians were injured in Houston (TX) this week when two fire trucks rushing to a scene collided:

[http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou090330\\_tnt\\_fire-truck-crash.8727bffd.html](http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou090330_tnt_fire-truck-crash.8727bffd.html)

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The **Chicago (IL) Fire Department** is looking into what it says is an increase in firefighter suicides and attempts in the last year in hopes of putting together outreach programs to prevent more, officials said Friday. The department's union president said there have been a half-dozen suicides and an undisclosed number of attempted suicides in the last year, an "above average number," prompting department officials to organize open counseling sessions and a family day to address the outbreak:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-firefighter-suicides-28-mar28%2C0%2C7866871.story>

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For those looking for a way to beat the recession with a stable career, carrying a badge or a hose might be the way to go. Hundreds of job seekers were at Colorado Mills Saturday talking to fire and police departments based in Jefferson County. Some agencies, like the Lakewood Police Department need to fill 25 jobs in 2010. Other agencies are hiring as well in the careers that are generally regarded as recession proof:

<http://cbs4denver.com/recession/police.firefighters.jobs.2.965108.html>

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Oakland (CA) Firefighters demonstrate a true act of class by going out of their way to provide support for their law enforcement counterparts, who recently lost four police officers, who died in the line of duty attempting to subdue a criminal. It is critical for every firefighter to have a working relationship with their law enforcement partners; you'll never know when we'll need them to bail us out on duty and vice versa:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/03/26/MN7M16MU0P.DTL>

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***Please don't just be safe out there - make it safe! Also, 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 Stay Safe!

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

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

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