

**CHABOT COLLEGE**  
**Fire Technology Program**



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**April 16, 2011**

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

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## **RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OPPORTUNITY:**

**T**he **Alameda County (CA) Fire Department** is accepting application for **Reserve Firefighter** until April 29, 2011 at 1700 hours.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION:**

- A valid Driver's License by time of appointment.
- Must be at least 18 years of age at time of appointment
- Must be in excellent physical condition. Hearing must be normal in both ears. Visual acuity must be correctable to 20/30 either eye.
- Must live within Alameda County or 25 miles travel distance to the Alameda County Station 15, 5352 Broder Road, Dublin, CA by the date of appointment.
- Candidates who do not currently possess Firefighter 1 and EMT are required to complete certification as a Firefighter 1 and EMT within 2 years of appointment as a Level 1 Reserve Firefighter or one year as a Level 2 Reserve Firefighter. Level 3 Reserve Firefighters must possess current State of California Firefighter 1 and EMT certifications.

**To view the job announcement and for more specific details about the position including how to apply, go to:** [www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm](http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm)

**F**or more information about the **County of Alameda**, visit their website at: [www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org)

**F**or more information about the **Alameda County Fire Department**, visit their website at [www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm](http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm)

# CHABOT COLLEGE 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

Looking for Fire Technology related courses to either become a firefighter or continue your education if you are currently a firefighter so you can prepare for promotion or become the best you can be at your current rank? Why not start at Chabot College in Hayward, California where we offer a variety of courses year-round to allow students to obtain their EMT certification or recertify as an EMT, obtain their Firefighter 1 Academy Certification, or a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology, or a two-year degree in Fire Technology, or just take various California State Certified classes.

- The following classes are now available in upcoming semesters!

Spring 2011 semester at Chabot College has begun! Presently, the only fire technology courses that are left that may have openings this spring semester are as follows:

**SPRING 2011 Semester:** (now through the end of May, 2011)

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 91A</b> (Wildland Firefighter-1 Basic) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> May 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> April 26, 28, 30, and May 1	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

**SUMMER 2011 Semester:** (mid June through early August, 2011)

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>	Wednesdays (pm)	1800 – 2005 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (Emergency Response – EMS First Responder)	Mondays & Wednesdays (all day)	0900 – 1450 hours

**NOTE:** The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2011 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and I with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. I would have liked to offer more classes in the summer time and in the fall; however the state budget crisis does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I think we are very fortunate if we get to keep the above courses that I have scheduled. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't

being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**T**he Fremont (CA) Fire Department is accepting application for **Firefighter/Paramedic (Lateral)** until April 25, 2011 at 0800 hours.

- To view the job announcement and for more specific details about the position including how to apply, go to: <http://fremont.gov/index.aspx?NID=443>

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

**F**or more information about the **City of Fremont Fire Department**, visit their website at <http://fremont.gov/index.aspx?nid=96>

**F**or more information about the **Fremont Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 1689**, visit their website at: [www.fremontfirefighters.org](http://www.fremontfirefighters.org)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 18, 2011  
Release #11-176

CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772  
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908  
HUD Media Contact: (202) 708-0685

## **CPSC and HUD Issue Updated Remediation Protocol for Homes with Problem Drywall**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are issuing an **updated remediation protocol** - <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/electrical031811.pdf> (pdf) for homes with problem drywall.

A **study** - <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/electrical031811.pdf> (pdf) conducted on behalf of CPSC by Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, finds no evidence of a safety hazard to home electrical systems. Sandia simulated long-term exposure of wiring and other electrical components to hydrogen sulfide gas, which is associated with problem drywall. Based on this study, CPSC and HUD staff, representing the Interagency Task Force on Problem Drywall, are no longer recommending the removal of all electrical wiring in homes with problem drywall. This change in the government's protocol may reduce the cost of remediation for many homes.

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After simulating more than 40 years of corrosive conditions that could exist in problem drywall homes, Sandia staff did not observe any acute or long-term electrical safety events, such as smoking or fire. Corrosion and blackening of the exposed electrical components did occur and was observed to be consistent with the characteristic corrosion reported to CPSC by thousands of consumers. Based on this study, it is the belief of the staffs of CPSC, HUD and Sandia that long-term exposure of wiring and other electrical components to hydrogen sulfide gases does not indicate a safety hazard to a home's electrical systems. With these changes, the remediation guidance for homes with problem drywall calls for the replacement of all:

- problem drywall;
- **fire safety alarm devices, including smoke and carbon monoxide alarms;**
- electrical distribution components, including receptacles, switches and circuit breakers; and
- gas service piping and **fire suppression sprinkler systems.**

CPSC and HUD staffs are also issuing updated **identification guidance** - <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/electrical031811.pdf> (pdf), which broadens the range of installation years of affected homes to include homes where drywall was installed as late as 2009. Importantly, the drywall installed in 2009 had been previously imported during the years 2006-2007 and does not represent any new importation of problem drywall.

The staffs of CPSC and HUD believe that following the **updated identification and remediation protocols** - <http://www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall/guidancesummary.pdf> (pdf) will enable homeowners to correctly identify homes containing problem drywall and comprehensively remediate those homes to address any potential health and safety issues associated with the problem drywall.

CPSC is in the final stages of completing its scientific investigation into problem drywall. For additional findings from the Interagency Drywall Task Force's investigation, visit [www.DrywallResponse.gov](http://www.DrywallResponse.gov)

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**T**he Alameda County (CA) Fire Department is accepting application for **EMS Quality Improvement & Education Coordinator** until April 29, 2011.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION:**

- A valid Class C Driver's License.
- A current valid California Registered Nurse License.
- The equivalent of three years of experience working with a pre-hospital care system and/or emergency room. Experience as a Mobile Intensive Care Nurse and/or Paramedic is desirable.

**To view the job announcement and for more specific details about the position including how to apply, go to:** [www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm](http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm)

**F**or more information about the **County of Alameda**, visit their website at: [www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org)

**F**or more information about the **Alameda County Fire Department**, visit [www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm](http://www.acgov.org/fire/index.htm)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:**

### **NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS APRIL 15!**

The application period for the first semester of National Fire Academy resident classes opens Friday April 15. The application period closes June 15. The first semester classes are scheduled from October 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012. All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

Course Catalog and schedules: [www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm)

#### **Download Application:**

**FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application (formerly FEMA Form 75-5) -**

<http://www.cpssc.gov/info/drywall/guidancesummary.pdf> (PDF, 629 Kb) Use this application if your course code begins with the following letters: R, N, O, P, or T.

#### **Tips to completing your application:**

**Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application -**

<http://www.cpssc.gov/info/drywall/guidancesummary.pdf> (PDF, 332 Kb)

**Completed applications for resident courses must be sent to the following address:**

Office of Admissions, Building I, Room 216  
National Emergency Training Center  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998  
Applications may also be faxed to **(301) 447-1441**.

For more information, please call the Admissions Office at (800) 238-3358, ext. 1035 or (301) 447-1035. Please share this with your organizations, friends and colleagues.

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



More and more people are making their homes in woodland settings, rural areas, or remote mountain sites. There, residents enjoy the beauty of the environment but face the very real danger of wildfire.

Wildfires often begin unnoticed. They can be ignited by the careless tossing of a cigarette, an unattended campfire, or from natural causes like lightning. They spread quickly igniting brush, trees, and homes.

- **Each year fire burns millions of acres of woodland across the United States.**

We can better live with the land by learning about the natural areas we inhabit and what we can do to reduce our risk of loss if wildfire occurs. Homes that survive almost always do so because their owners had prepared for the eventuality of fire. In a wildfire, every second counts!

Learn More by going to: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/wildfire.shtm>

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFO:**

- ***FIREHIRE* - APPLICATION PERIOD ENDING SOON!!!!**

**The next application cut-off date is May 6, 2011!**

Please remember that they **MUST** have your application packet and payment postmarked by the posted application cut-off date. If it is not received by that date, your application will be carried over to the next application period. Applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm)

You can also get an application mailed to you by calling their office at (800) 755-5891

- **OVER 20 DIFFERENT FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE HIRING OFF THIS LIST!!!**

**I**f you don't make this application cut-off date, you'll have to wait for future application filing deadlines:

- May 6, 2011
- October 1, 2011

**B**enefits of taking this test include:

- You're only taking one test (as opposed to separate tests for each fire department)
- The hiring list will be in effect for one year
- There is a chance other fire departments will hire off of this list

**Y**ou may be wondering, is any fire department going to be hiring? Of course! While the California budget crisis has impacted a number of their clients, and there are some agencies that do not have or do not anticipate any openings in the next year, there are always going to be some departments that will be hiring.

**W**hy then would a department participate if they were not planning on hiring? Well, number one, things can and do change. Just because a department does not have any openings as of this moment, does not mean that situation cannot change overnight. Firefighters retire, firefighters get injured, firefighters quit (usually to go to other departments), many times without any advance notice to the department. Number two, many fire departments are required to keep a current, active hiring list

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because of their civil service rules or union contract. Even if they do not anticipate hiring, many departments still have to have a current list. Why is that so? Well, just like number one, things can and do change. Additionally, it allows them to get the most current “best-of-the-best” candidates out there. Even though fire departments are facing severe (or potentially severe) budget shortfalls, it does not mean they won’t ever hire again. Departments will have to hire at some time in the future to fill vacancies from retirements, permanent injuries, etc. The question is when, and **the bottom line is that if you are not actively testing and on the current hiring list, you do not stand a chance at getting a badge!**

**T**he financial situation in the State is very dynamic and it is just a matter of time when it gets better (when exactly is anyone’s guess). If you decide not to test because of the budget problems, that is your choice. Many departments ONLY hire candidates from the Firehire testing process. So, if you don’t take the test, you don’t stand a chance.

**S**ome of the fire departments might have other requirements (view the Firehire web site at [www.firehire.com](http://www.firehire.com) for more specific information) such as:

- EMT
- Paramedic
- Firefighter – 1 Academy
- Firefighter – 1 Certificate

**F**or application materials or more information, visit their website at [www.firehire.com](http://www.firehire.com) or if you do not have internet access, call them at 1-800-755-5891. The following fire departments are expected to be participating (based on the information I had available at the time I printed this document) in this recruitment and will be using the list that is established to hire for open positions:

<u><b>Fire Department</b></u>	<u><b>Positions available</b></u>
• Albany Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• American Canyon F.P.D. –	Firefighter/EMT
• Central County Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Cosumnes Community Services F.P.D. –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Diamond Springs/El Dorado F.P.D. -	Firefighter/Paramedic
• El Cerrito Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Kentfield Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/EMT
• Larkspur Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/EMT
• Millbrae Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Mill Valley Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Mountain View Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• North County Fire Authority – Brisbane	Firefighter/EMT
• North County Fire Authority – Daly City	Firefighter/EMT
• North County Fire Authority – Pacifica	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Piedmont Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Redwood City Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Rio Vista Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Rodeo-Hercules F.P.D. -	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Ross Valley Fire Authority –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• San Bruno Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT
• San Mateo Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• San Mateo Fire Department –	Lateral Firefighter/Paramedic
• San Ramon Valley F.P.D. –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Vallejo Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic

**CPAT – Physical Ability Test Information**

They will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate. When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination. **The CPAT card/certificate must be dated LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD from the date of the written examination that you are participating in.**

**FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide**

The written examination material is based solely on the FIREHIRE Inc. Study Guide. The **NEW** Study Guide is available for purchase. **To score well, it is highly recommended that the candidates purchase the study guide.**

**WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES**

The written examinations will be held at the Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center at 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove, California. The written test is weighted 100%.

**Upcoming written test dates include:**

- May 17, 2011
- October 10, 2011

**ALS ASSESSMENT CENTER EXAMINATION**

If you are applying for a paramedic position, you must successfully complete the Advanced Life Support (ALS) assessment center.

**Upcoming ALS assessment center dates include:**

- TBA

**HIRING AND THE ECONOMY-PART 2**

Yes, the economy is hurting the fire service. There are numerous agencies that are not hiring what they anticipated or not hiring at all. It is unfortunate, but most fire agencies realize that it is cheaper to pay overtime than it is to hire new employees. It's all cyclic and it will turn itself around. **SO DON'T GIVE UP.**

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**FIREHIRE.COM NEWSLETTER:**



**Where Your Fire Service Career Begins!  
March 17th, 2011**

## LATEST NEWS

The May 17, 2011 examination is quickly approaching. You have until May 6th, 2011 to get your application packet and payment submitted.

You must also have a valid CPAT card or certificate submitted by the May 17th, 2011 examination date. It must be dated after May 17th, 2010 for it to be accepted.

We have seen some light at the end of the tunnel in these economic times. Sure, there are some agencies laying off and many others mulling that option. The fire service is very resilient and will persevere. They will need to hire just due to the fact that there are going to be retirements coming up and spots will need to be filled. Our suggestion is to make yourself more marketable. You need to continue your education and if you haven't already, get in a Firefighter-1 Academy. Utilize your EMT certification, get experience and apply to EMT-Paramedic school.

If you wish to re-test to improve your scores or you are renewing your annual test, you DO NOT have to submit another application packet. We keep everyone's application packet on file for at least 4 years. If you want to fill out an updated application packet, please feel free to do so. If you are new to the process, applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm). You can also receive an application via USPS mail by contacting our office at (800) 755-5891.

The fee to participate in the written examination is \$50.00. **There is a hardship fee of \$30.00.** The EMT-Paramedics are required to participate in an Advanced Life Support Mega-Code Assessment Center, which will be considered Pass/Fail. **There is no fee for the candidates in this phase of the examination process.**

## CPAT INFORMATION

**We will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate.**

When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination.

**The CPAT card/certificate must be dated AFTER MAY 17, 2010 for it to be accepted. You must submit a copy of it for your files. You may bring a copy of your CPAT card or certificate of completion to the written examination. You MUST bring a copy, not just show us your Card.**

## RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS

Between August 9th, 2010 and March 21st, 2011 the following agencies have conducted interviews with FIREHIRE candidates:

Piedmont FD

Rodeo-Hercules FD

San Mateo FD

Vallejo FD has just requested an updated Registry.

We will keep you updated. **If you are into Twitter, you can follow my tweets @fyrhyr. I'll try and keep you up to date on the current hiring of our contracted agencies.**

## COULD YOU BE NEXT?

April 16, 2011

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

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

### **USFA Announces the 2010 Annual Outstanding Research Award Winners**

March 31, 2011

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD – The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration announced today three fire service executives who will receive the **National Fire Academy's (NFA) 2010 Annual Outstanding Research Award** - ([http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/applied\\_research/awards.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/applied_research/awards.shtm)). This award recognizes **Executive Fire Officer Program** (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/>) students for their research projects. The award winning projects will be presented and defended during the **23rd Annual Executive Fire Officer Symposium** (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/graduate.shtm>) on April 29 – May 1, 2011, at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Sixty Applied Research Projects were evaluated at the 4.0 level during 2010, the highest number in the 26-year history of the Executive Fire Officer Program. In commenting on the announcement of the 2010 awards, Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines stated that "the task of selecting these outstanding applied research efforts becomes more difficult each year. This is a result of the overall increase in quality in recent years, and is a credit to all of our executive program participants and faculty. The Applied Research Projects selected this year provide evidence regarding the diversity and nature of the problems confronting today's fire and emergency services organizations."

The Executive Fire Officer Program provides 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 that attempts to resolve a problem or solution through the conduct of original research within six months after the completion of each of the four course areas.

Deputy Administrator Gaines further stated, "I know that an applied project is different than just a research paper. These projects require the authors to create new information and result in efforts to resolve problems or issues. The range of topics chosen this year for Applied Research Projects provides an illustrated example of the scope of issues that our senior executives must deal with. I sincerely congratulate the award recipients for their excellence."

The 2010 Outstanding Research Award recipients are:

**Executive Analysis of Community Risk Reduction Course Awardee: Edward Fleming, Division Chief Orange County Fire Authority, Irvine California**

- *Emergency Plans at Santiago Elementary School: Are Current Plans Adequate for Responding to Wildfire Threats?* - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/efo44292.pdf> (PDF, 123 Kb)

**Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management Course Awardee: Darin Reid, Deputy Chief, Stanwood Camano Fire & Rescue, Camano Island Washington**

- *What Are the Efficiencies of a Mass Vaccination Drive-Through Clinic Compared to a Walk-In-Clinic?* - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/efo44292.pdf> (PDF, 673 Kb)

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**Executive Leadership Course Awardee: Stephen Marsar, Captain, Fire Department of New York, New York City New York**

*- Can They Be Saved? Utilizing Civilian Survivability Profiling to Enhance Size-Up and Reduce Firefighter Fatalities in the Fire Department, City of New York -*

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/efo44292.pdf> (PDF, 885 Kb)

To obtain a copy of the four 2010 Executive Fire Officer Outstanding Applied 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 review and download a copy of the individual outstanding research projects from the U.S. Fire Administration's website at [www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/efop/applied\\_research/awards.shtml](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/efop/applied_research/awards.shtml)

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

### **USFA Announces the 2011 Arson Awareness Week Theme**

March 31, 2011

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD – The United States Fire Administration (USFA) is pleased to partner with the International Association of Arson Investigators; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; USAonWatch; National Association of State Fire Marshals; National Volunteer Fire Council; and the Insurance Committee for Arson Control to announce the theme for the 2011 Arson Awareness Week: *Working Together to Extinguish Serial Arson*. USFA and its partners will use the week of May 1st to the 7th to focus public attention on the value of a collaborative effort with law enforcement, fire and emergency service departments, and the community to battle serial arsonists. The goal for this year's Arson Awareness Week (AAW) is to focus attention on serial arsonists and provide law enforcement, the fire service, and communities with tools and tactics to prevent arson in their city and towns. "A serial arsonist can paralyze a community with fear," said Glenn Gaines, Deputy United States Fire Administrator. "Each fire feels like a personal assault. Banding together as partners strengthens our resolve and can bring law enforcement, the fire service, and the public together to more effectively fight the crime of arson."

Many communities across the country are experiencing a rash of serial arson-related fires. Serial arson is defined as *an offense committed by fire setters who set three or more fires with a significant cooling off period between the fires*. These types of fires are plaguing many rural and urban communities causing significant loss of life and millions of dollars in property damage, adding to the suffering already caused by the current economic climate. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) reports that from 2009 – 2010 there were 88 reported serial arson incidents with an aggregate monetary loss of \$4.8 million. Arson in residential dwellings accounted for 49 percent of these incidents. The National Fire Protection Association reports that in 2007, three firefighters died and 6,100 were injured during response to intentionally set fires.

According to the USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data, from 2004 to 2006 an estimated 210,300 intentionally set fires occurred each year in the United States. Intentionally set fires account for 13 percent of fires responded to by fire departments across the Nation. These fires

resulted in an average of approximately 375 deaths, 1,300 injuries, and \$1.06 billion in property loss each year.

For more information regarding the 2011 Arson Awareness Week, go to [www.usfa.fema.gov/aaw/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/aaw/).

For more information regarding the Fire/Arson and Explosion Investigation curriculum, or any of the other courses offered at the National Fire Academy, go to [www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/).

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

The **Public Safety Training Group** in Brentwood, California will be offering a large number of State certified courses to assist you with getting promoted and/or with career development to be a better firefighter, better company officer, better chief officer, etc.

- **Training Instructor 1B:** April 18 – 22, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1A:** April 25 – 29, 2011
- **I-300 (Intermediate ICS):** May 9 – 11, 2011
- **I-400 (Advanced ICS):** May 12 – 13, 2011
- **S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior):** May 23 – 27, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1B:** May 23 – 27, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** June 6 – 10, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1C:** June 13 – 17, 2011
- **Fire Command 1C:** June 27 – July 1, 2011

To register for the classes, go to their website at [www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com) or call (925) 240-5200.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2011 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

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### **Seminar #1: Thursday, October 20, 2011**

#### **Mastering Fireground Command – Calming The Chaos**

- Presented by Battalion Chief Anthony Kastros, Sacramento Metro Fire District

The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death (LODD) operational causes on the fireground surround size-up, command, communications, accountability, and SOP's. This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will streamline the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these three key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test AND the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the Fire Service did! We will conduct extensive incident reviews, including actual video and audio of commercial structure, apartment, residential, wildland, fatal fires and saves.

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, and commercial fire incidents to get answers to the following questions...

1. How do I set clear tactical objectives, have clear communications and establish command presence on my fires?
2. How do I create a personal system that blends all of my classes, certifications, SOP's, ICS, and tactical fundamentals into a simple, street smart and effective way?
3. What are the trigger points and safety issues of Offensive, Defensive and Combination strategies?
4. What are the key points to Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage?
5. How do I really use ICS day-to-day and get beyond "checking the boxes"?
6. What could hurt me or my crew tonight?

For details on this seminar, go to: [http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11\\_kastros.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_kastros.pdf)

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**Seminar #2:** Thursday December 8, 2011

**Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground**

- Presented by Captain Mike Gagliano, Seattle Fire Department

The Point of NO Return is a dynamic, cutting edge presentation that is transforming the way the national fire service views Air Management, Tactical safety and Firefighter survival. This fast moving workshop utilizes dramatic audio/video, stimulating discussions, and everyday scenarios to create a synergistic learning experience where the students lead, as well as learn. At the center of the class are The Need, The Mandate, and The Solution. Each area will be covered in detail and gives the students practical information, along with drills, to take back to their departments. Among the topics covered are:

*The Rule Of Air Management (ROAM) ■ The point of NO return ■ How firefighters are dying in structures ■ The coming changes to NFPA 1404 and how they will affect you ■ Factors that affect the duration of a firefighter's air supply ■ READY checks (A new way to do buddy checks) ■ Review of close calls from Seattle, Phoenix, Ft. Worth and other cities ■ Practical methods to manage your air ■ CARA radio reports ■ Myths of air management*

These and other topics will make for a great day of learning and classroom participation. The consistent comment received from firefighters across the spectrum of experience is: "I wish I had this class years ago. I can take this and use it tonight."

For details on this seminar, go to: [http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11\\_gagliano.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gagliano.pdf)

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

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

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

### **New Website for Assistance to Firefighters Grants Programs**

Beginning on April 1, 2011, the website where first responders apply for all Assistance to Firefighters Grants Programs will change its current web site address from [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com) to the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants).

We are working to make all information more easily accessible and more user friendly for first responders and having two different web portals for information just didn't make sense. All applications for FEMA's fire grant programs including the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER), Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) and information on the Assistance to Firefighters Station Construction Grants (SCG) will now be located at [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants).

We are working to make all information more easily accessible and more user friendly for first responders and having two different web portals for information just didn't make sense. All fire grants program documents, awards announcements, grants management workshops, success stories and program application reports and statistics will now be available at [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants). In short, all the old info will be right there on the new site. Please update your bookmarks for future fire grants applications. Please visit us at [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants).

Regards,

Elizabeth M. Harman  
Assistant Administrator  
FEMA Grant Programs Directorate

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**American Health Education** in Dublin, California will be offering a number of State certified courses to assist you with getting promoted and/or with career development to be a better firefighter, better company officer, better chief officer, etc.

- **Fire Prevention 1B:** April 18 – 22, 2011
- **Fire Command 2E:** May 2 – 6, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1A:** May 16 – 20, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** June 20 – 24, 2011
- **Fire Command 2A:** July 18 – 22, 2011

To register for the classes, go to their website at [www.americanhealtheducation.com](http://www.americanhealtheducation.com) or call (800) 483-3615.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

If you want to become a firefighter, have you started taking fire department examinations yet? If not, what are you waiting for? If you say you're not ready, you'll probably never be ready. If you want to wait until you finish your degree, then you're going to have wasted about two (or more) valuable years that could have been spent learning how to master the fire service testing process. You should be taking every fire service exam you qualify for – what's the worst that can happen if you take a test? If nothing else, you will hopefully start to learn your strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to become a firefighter. Don't rely on us to provide you with every fire department that is accepting applications. We only send out a small fraction of the current open firefighter positions across the United States. If you truly want to become a firefighter, put your money where your mouth is and subscribe to a fire testing service that will notify you when fire departments across the United States are accepting applications.

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

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

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### STUDENT RECRUITEMENT FOR

- ***Emergency Medical Services Incident Operations***

The United State Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot course at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the newly developed 6-day course *Emergency Medical Services Incident Operations (P-147)*. The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering this pilot offering June 26 – July 1, 2011, with students to arrive Saturday June 25 and depart Saturday July 2, 2011.

**Course Description:** In this 6-day course, EMS personnel/officers/ supervisors review ICS and study proper incident command techniques for management of medium to large incidents involving multiple sick or injured patients. Topics covered include problem-solving and EMS functions within incident command, resource management, interagency and mutual aid, sizeup and strategy, tactics and action plans, EMS company operations, preincident preparation, incident organization, and strategic command.

**Student Selection Criteria:** Emergency response Fire personnel with responsibilities to implement the initial and early expanding EMS functions of an ICS at medium- or large-sized incidents.

**Class Size:** 24

April 16, 2011

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

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**Length:** 6 days

**Prerequisites:** ICS 100 level and ICS 200 level training. Preferred courses are Q462 and Q463 available through NFA Online at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov) . Chief's signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training

**Recommended prerequisite Course:** Emergency Medical Services Functions in the Incident Command System (F/W166)

**How to Apply:**

Students must complete a FEMA General Admissions application (FEMA Form 119-25-1). An electronic application is available on our website at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

Completed applications must be received by April 29, 2011 to:

NETC Admissions Office  
Building I, Room 216  
16825 S. Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend this pilot course until notified in writing by the Admissions Office.
- Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance for this pilot course. Attendance at the pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

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

Contact: International Association of Fire Chiefs  
Ann Davison, CAE - 703-537-4829 - [adavison@iafc.org](mailto:adavison@iafc.org)

## **Ready, Set, Go! Wildland Fire Program Now Available to All Fire Departments**

Reno, Nev., March 30, 2011...

Today, the **Ready, Set, Go!** (<http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>) program was launched nationally at **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) 2011** (<http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/IAFC/wui11/public/enter.aspx>) . **Ready, Set, Go!** (<http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/>) offers tools and resources for local responders to teach individuals who live in high-risk areas how to best prepare themselves and their properties against wildland fire threats. Today's launch also unveiled the program's online portal, [www.wildlandfireRSG.org](http://www.wildlandfireRSG.org), which offers local program participants educational resources, tools to manage the program, news and connections with other program participants and partners.

“Ready, Set, Go! is a dynamic program which was embraced by the firefighters and the citizens of Pigeon Forge,” said Chief Tony Watson of the Pigeon Forge (Tenn.) Fire Department, one of nine fire departments that have spent the last year piloting the program. “Through public-service announcements, informational packets and community outreach, we prepared the public for the threat of wildland fire. Through wildland training with state and federal resources, we prepared our firefighters to be the ambassadors of this program. Community stakeholders have partnered with fire department resources, and their involvement continues to shape the structure of our area.”

Ready, Set, Go! provides fire departments and other public-safety agencies with the tools, resources and guidance necessary to deliver the wildland fire safety message to individuals at the local level. The program is a three-step process that teaches homeowners to create their own action plan of preparedness, have situational awareness and leave early in the event of a fire—all with the goal of significantly increasing the safety of residents and firefighters.

The three-step process is easy to remember and implement:

**Ready** – Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Plan escapes routes. Make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.

**Set – Act immediately.** Pack your vehicle with your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media and your local fire department.

**Go – Leave early!** Follow your personal action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

“While this program can be implemented by any local response agency, we are encouraging fire departments to step up and lead this effort in their communities,” said Chief Jack Parow, president and chairman of the board of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC – [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)). “The fire service is uniquely positioned to understand the fire-risk environment and is typically a trusted voice that resonates with community members.”

Ready, Set, Go! was developed for national rollout by the IAFC with support from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fire Administration, U.S. Department of the Interior, Firewise and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). The program works in complimentary and collaborative fashion with Firewise and other existing wildland fire public education efforts. It amplifies their messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal we all share of fire-adapted communities.

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## **FIRE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS WORTH CHECKING OUT:**

- Fire Apparatus Journal: [www.fireapparatusjournal.com](http://www.fireapparatusjournal.com)
- Fire Chief Magazine: [www.firechief.com](http://www.firechief.com)
- Fire Engineering Magazine: [www.fireengineering.com](http://www.fireengineering.com)
- Firehouse Magazine: [www.firehouse.com](http://www.firehouse.com)
- Fire Rescue Magazine: [www.firerescuemagazine.com](http://www.firerescuemagazine.com)
- Journal of Emergency Medical Services: [www.jems.com](http://www.jems.com)

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

### **USFA Releases Restaurant Building Fires Report**

April 12, 2011

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics of restaurant building fires.

The report, **Restaurant Building Fires** – <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i1.pdf> (PDF, 829 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is based on 2007 to 2009 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

According to the report:

- An estimated 5,900 restaurant building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 75 injuries and \$172 million in property loss.
- The leading cause of all restaurant building fires is cooking at 59 percent and nearly all of these cooking fires (91 percent) are small, confined fires with limited damage.
- While cooking is the leading cause of all restaurant building fires as well as the smaller, confined restaurant building fires, electrical malfunction is the leading cause of the larger, nonconfined restaurant building fires.
- Nonconfined restaurant building fires most often start in cooking areas and kitchens (41 percent).
- Deep fryers (9 percent), ranges (7 percent), and miscellaneous kitchen and cooking equipment (5 percent) are the leading types of equipment involved in ignition in nonconfined restaurant building fires.
- Smoke alarms were reported as present in 44 percent of nonconfined restaurant building fires. In addition, full or partial automatic extinguishment systems, mainly sprinklers, were present in 47 percent of nonconfined restaurant building fires.

*Restaurant Building Fires* is part of the Topical Fire Report Series. Topical reports 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.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

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## **FREE FIRE SERVICE CAREER PREPARATION INFORMATION FROM THE DON McNEA FIRE SCHOOL:**

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

### How to become an EMT(Emergency Medical Technician)

Emergency Medical Technicians (known as EMTs) are trained to provide emergency care, including ambulance services. Peoples' lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care of EMTs. Incidents as varied as automobile accidents, heart attacks, drownings, childbirth, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. EMTs provide the vital attention as they care for and transport the sick and injured to a medical facility. In an emergency, EMTs are typically dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of a patient's condition while trying to ascertain whether the patient has preexisting medical problems. Following strict rules and guidelines, they give appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patients. At the medical facility, EMTs help transfer patients to the emergency department, report their observations and actions to emergency room staff, and provide additional medical treatment.

EMT Basic (also known as EMT I) represents the first component of the Emergency Medical Technician system. An EMT I is trained to care for patients at the scene of an accident while transporting patients by ambulance to the hospital under medical direction. An EMT I has the emergency skills to assess a patient's condition and manage respiratory, cardiac and trauma emergencies. The EMT Intermediate (EMT II and III) have more advanced training that allows the administration of intravenous fluids, the use of manual defibrillators to give life-saving shocks to stopped hearts, and the applications of advanced airway techniques and equipment to assist patients experiencing respiratory emergency.

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

**Training and other qualifications and advancement:** Formal training and certification is needed to become an EMT. All 50 states have a certification procedure. To maintain certification, EMTs must register usually every 2 years. In order to register, an individual must be working as an EMT and meet continuing education requirements. Basic coursework typically emphasizes emergency skills such as managing respiratory trauma and cardiac emergency and patient assessment. Formal courses are often combined with time in an emergency room or ambulance. The program also provides for instruction and practice dealing with bleeding, fractures, airway obstruction, cardiac arrest, and emergency childbirth. Students learn how to use and maintain common emergency equipment such as backboards, suction devices, splints, oxygen delivery systems, and stretchers. Graduates of an approved EMT training program who pass a written and practical examination administered by the state certifying them with the title of Registered EMT Basic. This course is also a prerequisite for EMT Intermediate and EMT Paramedic Training. EMT Intermediate training requirements vary from state to state. Training commonly includes 35-55 hours of additional instruction beyond EMT Basic coursework.

**Job opportunities:** Employment needs for EMT is expected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through 2012. Population growth and urbanization will increase the demand for full-time paid EMTs, rather than for volunteers in a department. In addition, a large segment of the population – the aging baby boomers – will further spur the demand for EMT services as they become

more likely to have medical emergencies. Opportunities for individuals will be best for those who have advanced certification such as EMT Intermediate and EMT Paramedic as clients and patients demand higher levels of care before arriving at the hospital. Where can you find training to become an EMT? Almost all community colleges and some state colleges and hospitals offer training for Emergency Medical Technicians. This is usually a 3-month course that can be completed as part of other curriculum at a college. For those of you who are in the process of becoming an Emergency Medical Technician and will be taking a certification test, please check our website periodically at the "EMT/Paramedic Review" link. We periodically update our examination questions database to help you pass this examination.

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

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

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



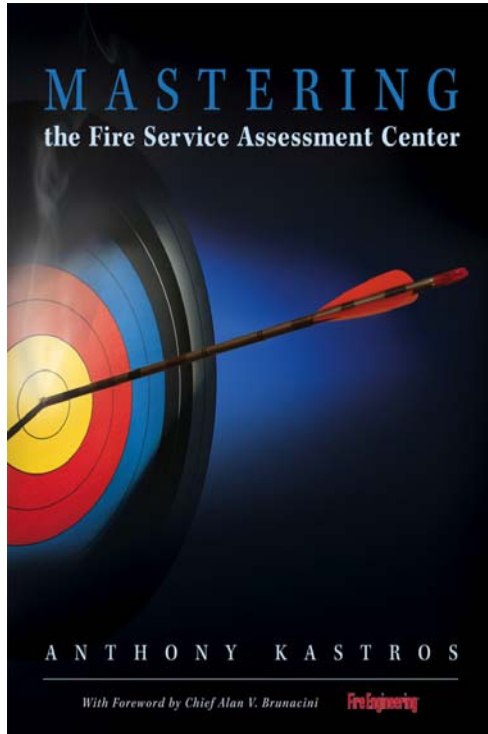
## **MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

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

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



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

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

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

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

**JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 1, 2011 – ANAHEIM, CA  
\$495.00\***

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CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

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

**Central U.S. Local Governments: Get Ready to ShakeOut!**

**Join Us** April 28, 2011 **Register Now!**  
for the Largest Earthquake Drill in Central U.S. History.

The Great Central U.S. **ShakeOut**

## Chabot College Fire & EMS News

**At 10:15 a.m. on April 28, 2011**, millions will "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" in The Great Central U.S. ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill ever! All local governments and their agencies (**including fire departments**) are encouraged to participate in the drill (or plan a more extensive exercise). More than 1 million people in communities throughout the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, and Tennessee will participate in this event. Major earthquakes may happen anywhere you work, live, or travel in the central U.S. The ShakeOut is our chance to practice how to protect ourselves, and for everyone to become prepared. The goal is to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes. Why is a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill important? As with anything, to act quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls on you. **Everyone can participate!** Individuals, families, businesses, schools, colleges, government agencies and organizations are all invited to register. Register today at [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/)

As a registered ShakeOut participant you will:

- Learn what you can do to get prepared.
- Receive ShakeOut news and other earthquake information.
- Set an example that motivates others to participate.
- Be counted in the largest earthquake drill ever!

### **How to Participate**

Here are a few suggestions for what local governments and agencies can do to participate. More information is at <http://www.shakeout.org/centralus/localgovernments/> .

### **Plan Your Drill:**

- Register at [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/register](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/register) to be counted in the Drill, get email updates, and more.
- Have a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill at 10:15 a.m. on April 28.
- You may also want to coordinate an exercise of your emergency plan.
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

### **Get Prepared for Earthquakes:**

- Check your emergency supplies and equipment; make sure they are accessible and functional.
- Inspect your facilities for items that might fall and cause injury, and secure them.
- Encourage employees to prepare at home.
- Provide first aid and response training for employees.

### **Share the ShakeOut:**

- Encourage employees to ask their friends, families, and neighbors to register.
- Agencies with outreach roles can include ShakeOut messaging in their routine activities.
- Posters, flyers, and other materials for promoting the ShakeOut are at [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/resources](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/resources).
- Share your experience at [www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/share](http://www.ShakeOut.org/centralus/share).



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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**R**.W. Jones & Associates will be offering a number of State certified courses to assist you with getting promoted and/or with career development to be a better firefighter, better company officer, better chief officer, etc.

- **Fire Command 1B:** April 18 – 22, 2011 (Class in Los Gatos, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 25, 30 & May 4, 2011 (Class in Sunnyvale, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 26, 28 & May 5, 2011 (Class in Sunnyvale, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 27, 29 & May 6, 2011 (Class in Sunnyvale, CA)
- **Confined Space Rescue:** May 9 – 13, 2011 (Class in Milpitas, CA)
- **Low Angle Rope Rescue:** May 17 – 19, 2011 (Class in Los Gatos, CA)
- **Confined Space Rescue:** May 23 – 27, 2011 (Class in Santa Clara, CA)
- **Low Angle Rope Rescue:** September 21 – 23, 2011 (Class in Los Gatos, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 26, 28, October 3, 5 & 7, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 27, 29, October 10, 17 & 19, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 30, October 4, 11, 13 & 18, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)

For more information and to register for the classes, go to their website at [www.ertnow.com](http://www.ertnow.com) or call (209) 406-2447.

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**H**ere is an opportunity to take one firefighter examination and be eligible to be hired by one of over 10 fire departments in the **Denver, Colorado** area! The following information was found on their website, which also includes an online application: <http://www.drco.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

**T**he next application filing deadline is May 6, 2011, to be eligible to take the next test on June 6, 2011!

**T**he Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on behalf of the member districts/departments, manages the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment (FIRE) program. Testing occurs twice a year. Candidates take one written exam and the results then determine an eligibility pool of qualified candidates for our 13 member departments. Files may be reviewed throughout the year as openings occur.

### **Minimum Employment Requirements**

- Be legally entitled to work in the United States and able to obtain a Colorado driver's license.
- Some departments hire candidates 18 years of age or older--others require applicants to be at least 21. There is no maximum age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED; having some college credits is desirable as are EMT/firefighter/paramedic certifications. Departments prefer applicants acquire an EMT certification prior to being hired, although not required to test.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Some departments will train hires with out-of-state firefighter certification for Colorado certification, but smaller departments require candidates to go through the reciprocity process with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)--call (720) 852-6735.

#### Fire Departments Participating

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Hawk Fire Department             | <input type="checkbox"/> North Metro Fire Rescue District          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder Fire & Rescue                  | <input type="checkbox"/> North Washington Fire Protection District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Heights Fire Department        | <input type="checkbox"/> Parker Fire District                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Littleton Fire Rescue                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Adams County Fire Rescue        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Longmont Fire Department               | <input type="checkbox"/> Thornton Fire Department                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville Fire Department             | <input type="checkbox"/> Westminster Fire Department               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain View Fire Protection District |  |

#### Online Application Process

Completing the application and paying the \$50 non-refundable fee confirms your seat. Candidates will receive special testing instructions via e-mail about a month before the test.

#### Deferrals

You may request to defer your payment (one-time) to the next test. You must call 303-480-6730 at least three business days prior to your test date to defer. Don't defer unless it's unavoidable because you may miss out on a recruitment process.

#### What Happens Next

You must score at least 70 percent (overall) to pass, but departments may set a higher score for their recruitments. Departments could contact you for further testing throughout the year so keep your contact information current within your online application.

#### Written Exam Used

DRCOG administers the New Generation CWH Management Solutions Exam to identify individuals who are most likely to be successful in the fire service. The test assesses skills and abilities that Denver-area firefighters know are essential for their jobs. The exam has 150 questions; applicants have three hours and 15 minutes to complete it. The test measures:

- **Basic educational skills (reading, writing and math),**
- **Practical skills (judgment and common sense),**
- **Interpersonal skills, and**
- **Emotional outlook (ethics, motivation and effectiveness under stress).**

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

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

**S**uccessfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at [www.cpatonline.org](http://www.cpatonline.org)

- NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to attempt to complete the CPAT as it is common for people to fail their first attempt and have to go back on another day for a retest. More and more departments are asking for a CPAT card within six months or one year of the date of their testing process and I've seen many candidates fail the CPAT (and even retests) and not be able to continue through a department's testing process because of their failure to plan ahead. Don't let this be you!

**CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

**Southern California:**

626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**

526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

**Sacramento Area:**

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

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

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

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

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	- <b>May 12, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>May 13, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>July 14, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>July 15, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>August 15, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>August 16, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>October 13, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- <b>October 14, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under Give) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.	
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.	
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.	
<b>To register / More information:</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a>	

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: David Hunsinger, Jr.  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 24  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 7+  
Date of Incident: 04/07/2011  
Time of Incident: 1745hrs  
Date of Death: 04/07/2011  
Fire Department: Tar Heel Rural Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 269 Tar Heel Ferry RD, PO Box 189, Tar Heel, NC 28392  
Fire Department Chief: David Hunsinger, Sr.  
Fire Department POC: Assistant Chief Robert O'Briant, II  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.tarheelfire.com>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Hunsinger, while responding to a brush fire call in his personal vehicle, was involved in a collision and passed away from injuries sustained from the accident.

**Incident Location:** Pending.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending.

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

To date, 26 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 23 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and three from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON GRAHAM, HOSTS OF:**

**[www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Hey,

8 Firefighters from Huntingtown & Prince Frederick VFD's (Calvert County, Maryland) were forced to bail out of a 10,000 square foot single family dwelling "mega McMansion" around midnight last night. When Firefighters arrived, they had light smoke coming from the second floor but then conditions quickly turned ugly. Reports are that members were operating inside, searching for fire, of what started as a chimney fire when the conditions rapidly changed. At one point, the chimney of the house collapsed into the roof, creating a rapid rush of air into the fire area. Conditions then rapidly changed with flashover-like conditions. Additional companies from Calvert County responded following the emergency. At this time, several Firefighters are in Washington DC MedStar's burn unit with serious hand, wrists, neck, ear, facial and minor respiratory burns (w/1 FF intubated and sedated for pain), however, they are all expected to survive and recover. This fire is on the heels of a MAYDAY fire yesterday in Prince Frederick's 1st due where there were reported FF's missing. The FF was found and several other FF's suffered burn injuries as well. We have some photos on our home page of this morning's fire and will post updates as we hope for their rapid recovery.

**CANADIAN DOUBLE LODD FUNERAL SERVICES**

Funeral arrangements for North Perth Fire Services Deputy District Chief Ken Rea and Firefighter Ray Walter who both died in the Line of Duty this week has been announced. The joint funeral service to honor the lives of both Firefighters will be held at the Listowel Memorial Arena on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 1400 hours. More information is available on the North Perth Fire Services website - <http://www.northperthfireservice.ca>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-20-11 / 0921 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

We just spoke with Chief Jon Rife of the Huntingtown VFD who had the fire last night, and all his FF's are doing well, considering the potential of last night's incident. **Of the 2 most seriously injured FF's who were air lifted to Washington Hospital Center, one of the firefighters is in stable condition with second degree burns to hands, neck, and face. He is expected to be released in two to three days. The second firefighter, the more seriously injured of the two, suffered respiratory burns, in addition to second degree burns to his hands, neck, and face regions. He is conscious and fully alert, but remains in serious condition. It is unknown at this time when he is expected to be released from Washington Hospital Center.** Their media release information is as follows:

At 2356 hours on Saturday February 19, 2011, the Huntingtown VFD was alerted for the reported Chimney Fire at 3380 Soper Road in Huntingtown. While en-route, firefighters received information that the owner was trying to extinguish the fire and believed it had spread to the attic. Units alerted were: Chief 6A (Montgomery), Chief 6C (Morris), Safety 6 (McKenny), Lieutenant 6 (Buckler), Engine 62 (Smith), Engine 61 (Gaylor), Squad 6 (Wallace), Tanker 6 (Robison), Brush 6 (Montgomery Jr), Ambulance 68 (Jeffery, M) and Ambulance 69 (Bevard). Chief 6C arrived to find smoke showing from the second floor eaves of a 10,000 square foot mega-mansion. Engine 62 arrived, laying a supply line, advancing the 400' pre-connect and began pulling the ceiling, at which time; they found fire in the attic spreading rapidly. Within seconds, conditions deteriorated significantly resulting in zero visibility and intense heat. Command immediately ordered evacuation tones. Due to high winds off the river, water supply issues, distance from the fire house, and the size of the structure (10,000 square feet), fire spread rapidly. Immediately thereafter, the second floor flashed over resulting in nine firefighters being injured, five from Huntingtown and four from Prince Frederick VFD's. **As a result of the unbearable**

**heat, several firefighters took extreme measures such as jumping out of windows and running through walls to evacuate the structure.**

Chief 6A immediately ordered a Full Second Alarm with two Tankers. Later in the incident, additional units were Special Alarmed to the scene. On scene were several ambulances and medics providing care to the injured firefighters. Although units from Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, and Prince Georges were utilized, fire spread in such a rapid manner that the home is considered a total loss. Two of the Huntingtown firefighters were seriously injured and transported by aviation to Washington Hospital Center. The other seven firefighters were transported to Calvert Memorial Hospital for evaluation and treatment. Subsequently, six of those initially transported to Calvert Memorial, two from Huntingtown and four from Prince Frederick, were transported to Baltimore Shock Trauma and Washington MedStar for follow-up evaluation and treatment for smoke inhalation. All seven firefighters have since been released. With regards to the two firefighters air lifted to Washington Hospital Center, one of the firefighters is in stable condition with second degree burns to hands, neck, and face. He is expected to be released in two to three days. The second firefighter, the more seriously injured of the two, suffered respiratory burns, in addition to second degree burns to his hands, neck, and face regions. He is conscious and fully alert, but remains in serious condition. It is unknown at this time when he is expected to be released from Washington Hospital Center.

The Huntingtown VFD appreciates all the Community, County, and State support that has been provided or offered. Respectfully, Fire Chief Jonathan Riffe, President Eugene Farrell  
MORE DETAILS HERE: [http://www.hvfd6.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News\\_ID=941](http://www.hvfd6.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=941)

### **GEORGIA FIRE APPARATUS ROLLS OVER RESPONDING TO A BRUSH FIRE-3 FF's INJURED**

3 Georgia Firefighters were injured when their apparatus rolled into a ditch just before noon on this morning. Coweta County FF's were headed to a brush fire when the truck tipped over near the intersection of Georgia 34 and Dixon Road. 1 of the Firefighters was flown to Atlanta Medical Center in Atlanta, the other two firefighters were taken to Piedmont Newnan Hospital and none of the Firefighters have life-threatening-injuries. We'll post more details on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-20-11 / 1519 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey

Florida Firefighters are investigating what started a brush fire that quickly grew to an estimated 100 acres near Punta Gorda in Charlotte County this afternoon. A Charlotte County Firefighter was airlifted to Lee Memorial Hospital after reportedly becoming trapped between two apparatus at the scene. The good news is that he was treated and released this evening. In a related incident, a Mustang, Oklahoma (near Oklahoma City) Fire Captain received facial burns today at a wildland fire and he too is doing well.

### **REMEMBERING JERSEY CITY FIREFIGHTER CARLOS NEGRON (LODD March 20, 1993)**

**"....as JERSEY CITY FF Walter Milne and another FF were struggling with a ladder in the snow, Carlos and his son were standing outside the Bodega on the corner. I told Carlos (who was off duty) to give them a hand. In a second or two, they slipped in the snow, lost control of the ladder, and hit a 13,000 volt high-power line. His son Carlos Jr. (16 years old at the time) saw the whole thing..."**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Those are the words of National Fire Academy Supt Denis Onieal, former Chief of the Jersey City, NJ Fire Department. Below is the entire story provided by the highly respected Jersey City FD Gong Club (<http://tinyurl.com/4k23537>) as we remember the Line of Duty Death of FDJC FF Carlos Negron.

There is not a single member of the Gong Club who cannot recall exactly where they were and what they were doing on the morning of March 20, 1993. The most devastating tragedy to strike the Club occurred on a clear, cold Saturday morning at 411 Palisade Ave., Jersey City. Fire Fighter Carlos Negron, who also was the Deputy Chief of the Gong Club, was off duty from the FDJC, near his home, picking up a few items at a neighborhood grocery. Cries of "Fire!" rang out and, like any fire fighter or buff, Carlos immediately sprang into action. The fire involved a three story mixed occupancy, a liquor store with apartments above. First Alarm units arrived and began stretching lines and laddering the building to search and ventilate. Carlos, assigned to the Hose and Equipment Shop, assisted his fellow fire fighters without hesitation, helping to search and stretch the first line. Truck Co. 7 was maneuvering a 35-foot ladder on a narrow sidewalk to reach the third floor. Carlos went to assist, but as the ladder was being moved, it brushed near an overhead high voltage line, sending a charge of electricity down the ladder.

Fire Fighter Negron and Fire Fighter Walter Milne were knocked unconscious by the electrical shock. Division 1, Deputy Chief Denis Onieal (who is today the Superintendent of the National Fire Academy), witnessed the incident and transmitted 2nd and 3rd Alarms plus called instantly for Emergency Medical Services. Both fire fighters were transported to Christ Hospital. Despite the efforts of emergency room personnel, Carlos succumbed to his injuries. Fire Fighter Milne spent nearly sixty days in the St. Barnabas Burn Center in Livingston, NJ. His recovery was miraculous; despite losing a finger and a toe, he remains on active duty today with Rescue Co. 1.

Carlos Negron was a lifelong fire buff who, for a time, lived next door to the Gong Club quarters in his youth. He joined the Club on January 11, 1973 and was appointed to the Jersey City Fire Department on June 1, 1981 and had worked at Eng. Co. 6, the Fire Prevention Bureau, the Central Office and finally the Hose and Equipment Shop during his thirteen year career. **His legacy lives on today; the Gong Club re-named its annual valor Award in his memory in 1993. That same year, Jersey City Fire Fighters and Gong Club members organized the Carlos Negron Memorial Run, which is held annually on the first Sunday of October. Proceeds of the eight 5 kilometer races benefit the St. Barnabas Burn Center.** A dedicated buff, fire fighter, father and husband, Carlos Negron will never be forgotten...and it's a story every Firefighter should know. And now you do.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-20-11 / 2123 Hours

### **AND:**

#### **South Africa Firefighter Run Over And Killed By Apparatus**

A Firefighter in the Western Cape of South Africa, has died in the line of Duty after the fire apparatus under which he was sleeping drove over him. Firefighter Harold Jacobs died while his crew members were fighting the fires in the Kleinmond area. FF Jacobs was sleeping in front of the truck during a break. The circumstances surrounding the accident are being investigated. **HERE** is more:

<http://tinyurl.com/5tj4qst>

#### **CHICAGO FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY INJURED**

Chicago Firefighters operated at a two-alarm fire at one South Side house that spread to two others and 1 Firefighter was taken to a hospital in fair-to-serious condition this morning. CFD Firefighters were called to the Englewood neighborhood dwelling about 0645 hours. The homes were occupied,

but it was not known how many people were displaced. None of the residents was injured. We'll post more as we get it.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-21-11 / 1034 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Another Outstanding time this week at FDIC! Before I go any further, a sincere CONGRATS to FDNY Firefighter Peter Demontreux of Ladder 132 who was presented with the Fire Engineering/FDIC Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award at yesterday's FDIC Opening Ceremony and General Session. Pete saved the lives of 2 men in a phenomenal fire rescue and was cited for performing his duty gallantly under extreme life-threatening conditions.

**HERE is more:** <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/123702/layout/no>

**CONGRATS TO THE FIRE ENGINEERING/FDIC FIRE INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**

**OK, as we said, another Outstanding time this week at FDIC!**

My first FDIC was in 1977, yeah, some of you weren't born yet. Cute. But to give you an idea, slide trays, slide carousels and overhead projectors were the tools of the trade and the exhibits had about a dozen apparatus. Things have changed and almost always to the better. FDIC is a tradition in the fire service and something every FF should experience. FDIC has a number of "traditions" and one of them that has been brought back in recent years is the relationship between ISFSI and FDIC. As some of you may know, FDIC was the ISFSI conference for many, many years, but was purchased by Fire Engineering several years ago. Without giving you a history lesson though, one of the most honored ISFSI traditions is the George D. Post Fire Instructor of the Year Award. Named after an honored ISFSI fire instructor from many years ago, it is THE top award for fire instructors in North America. Now called the **Fire Engineering/ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award**, it recognizes the "best of the best" fire service instructors.

This morning, the Fire Engineering/ISFSI George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award was presented to one of "our" own, **Division Chief Brian Kazmierzak** from the Clay Fire Territory near South Bend, Indiana. What some of you **may not know** is that Brian is the Director of Operations with us at The Secret List and [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com). Day to day, Brian works 24/7/365 with us to insure that literally everything "behind the scenes" is delivering The Secret List as well as FFCC gets done. Be it technical work or posting stories, to helping us get The Secret List sent and posted, Brian truly is our right hand man. Starting out as a reader and subscriber, he reached out and offered to help many years ago and the rest is history. In a nutshell, Brian Kazmierzak's high energy and enthusiasm IS what a veteran firefighter would recognize, and what a probationary firefighter would embrace as "what I want to be." In addition to being a Division Chief of the Clay Fire Territory and Director of Operations for [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com), Brian is the 2006 recipient of the Dana Hannon Instructor of the Year Award (from FOOLS Int'l) and the 2008 The Indiana Fire Chiefs Training Officer of the Year. Brian was also in the original Blue Card Certified Fireground Command Instructor Course ([www.bluecardcommand.com](http://www.bluecardcommand.com)) and serves as a Lead Blue Card Instructor and Train the Trainer Instructor. mYou know that feeling you get at FDIC? That "battery charged" feeling? Brian, because of his incredible enthusiasm, energy and dedication keeps that feeling alive year round and "passes it on" to each and every firefighter he meets, works with or instructs. He does it locally, throughout his state, across North America, and with his work with us at FireFighterCloseCalls.com. Through Brian's many roles, he is able to positively impact more

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Firefighters than most others are able to. And that exposure matters in keeping those folks "fired up" about this job.

You will be reading more today and in the days ahead at various fire service blogs and media sites such as [www.FireEngineering.com](http://www.FireEngineering.com), about Brian receiving this high honor, but we want to be the first to offer our heartfelt CONGRATS to our own "Kaz" as the **2011 FDIC/ISFSI INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**. Final note: Are YOU a fire or EMS Instructor? Do you BELONG to ISFSI?

If not, visit them at FDIC or go to [www.ISFSI.org](http://www.ISFSI.org)

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-24-11 / 1100 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As the last day of FDIC was unwinding today, Firefighters in Leslie, MI had an extremely **close call** that fortunately, ended up well. 10 Firefighters were hurt during a fire this morning that caused part of a building's roof to collapse in the community of Leslie. Leslie is north of Jackson and south of Lansing. The fire was reported just before 0700 at Moo's Bar & Grille in downtown Leslie, but a "mayday" was transmitted at 0918 hours when a patio-type roof on top of the building's 1st floor roof fell. According to members at the scene, the weight caused the floor to fall in, bringing several Firefighters down with it. Rapid intervention Firefighters rescued the trapped members. Most of the injured Firefighters suffered smoke inhalation and 5 were expected to be admitted - all are listed in stable condition and none of the injuries were considered life-threatening. In total 7 Firefighters were hurt in the collapse and the response to it, 2 more were treated for smoke inhalation and 1 member was hurt in a fall on a layer of ice. Injured firefighters came from the Leslie, Delhi Township, Onondaga, and Dansville/Ingham Township FD's. **We have more details and photos on our home page.**

**CONGRATS TO CHIEF SKIP COLEMAN:**

**2011 Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award**

Chief John F. "Skip" Coleman, who retired from Toledo (OH) Fire Rescue as Assistant Chief in 2008, was awarded the 2011 Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award at FDIC this week. Of his numerous achievements (see **LINK** below) Skip developed the "Oriented Method of Search" to teach to the recruits after reading "Surviving the Search and Rescue," written by psychologists in North Carolina. Chief Coleman was asked by his Assistant Chief to train the entire department in the procedure. This effective method is now in use in by FD's across North America. On a personal note, we have been friends with Skip for many years and there are few equally "stand up" men like Skip. We first taught together at FDIC's "Command Officers Boot Camp" (with veteran Chief Jim Murtagh, Ret Borough Commander-FDNY)...and without a doubt, Skip very, very richly deserves this wonderful honor. CONGRATS SKIP! **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/5rsx3l8>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-26-11 / 2221 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we join the IAFF in reporting the death of FDNY (ret) and IAFF General Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus Vincent J. "Vinnie" Bollon. Vinnie passed away March 28 while at home. Bollon served as General Secretary-Treasurer of the IAFF from 1988 to 2010. He was one

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

of the IAFF's longest-serving principal officers. He joined the FDNY in 1959 and was secretary-treasurer of the Uniformed Firefighters Association Local 94 and served as president of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Local 854. After retiring from the fire service, he was made President Emeritus of Local 854. He leaves his wife, Linda and their kids and grandchildren behind. The IAFF will provide information about the funeral as soon as arrangements are finalized at [www.IAFF.org](http://www.IAFF.org)

**2 EVENTS IN WASHINGTON DC NEXT WEEK:**

**CFSI:**

There are several EVENTS next week in DC, the primary being: THE CFSI DINNER & SEMINARS. If you are not already planning to attend the annual CFSI activities, check THIS LINK out asap: [http://www.cfsi.org/events/annual\\_dinner.cfm](http://www.cfsi.org/events/annual_dinner.cfm) and plan on attending this EXCELLENT event!

**FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL:**

Additionally, for those of you in the area or visiting, and are focused on FIREFIGHTER SAFETY and SURVIVAL, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments members FD's are hosting the 2011 Arrive Alive & Survive Conference for - Rescue - EMS - Safety, Health and Survival April 8-9, 2011 in Montgomery County. **MORE details HERE:** [www.mwcog.org/arrivealive](http://www.mwcog.org/arrivealive)

**GEORGIA FIRE RECRUITS, 82 of'em LAYED OFF**

More than 80 DeKalb County Fire recruits are getting laid off before they even become firefighters. County budget cuts are being blamed for the layoffs, which were announced on Monday. The fire department says the positions will be eliminated in two weeks, and that the action is necessary for the department to fulfill its \$7 million reduction, which was imposed by the Board of Commission in February. That was part of the \$33.6 million cut from the DeKalb County Commission's budget when they voted to reject a tax increase. DeKalb Fire Rescue says officials from the City of Atlanta were invited to meet with the displaced personnel, since they have positions that are currently available. That's GOOD news.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-29-11 / 1025 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A Cleveland (Ohio) FF had a very close call but his life was saved by his own actions, and those of his crew members. CFD's 44-year-old FF Kevin Brady works in one of the busiest house in the city. "It was just a pain I never felt before. I just knew there was something not right about it," he said. Brady was having a heart attack. And it turns out, he was experiencing the leading cause of death among firefighters nationwide. When FF Brady finished operating at a working fire on March 10, he noticed chest pain as he took off his mask. He alerted one of his fellow firefighters who immediately took him into the ambulance and got an EKG on him. **The EKG was transferred directly via the internet to the E.D. at the Cleveland Clinic. The cardiology fellow checked the readout on his Blackberry and mobilized the catheter lab.** Within minutes, Brady was in the cath lab having a stent put in to clear the blockage to his heart. Brady was out of danger by the time his wife Cathy, who is mother of their four young children, got to the hospital. Because Brady was treated very quickly, his has little to no damage to his heart and his doctors have given him clearance to return to work April 12 with no restrictions. **Good News. MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/46ncswj>

**FIREFIGHTER DEATH DOWN-AGAIN.**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

The USFA announced today there were 85 on duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2010, a 6 percent decrease from the 90 fatalities reported for 2009. The 85 fatalities were spread across 31 states. Illinois experienced the highest number of fatalities (9). In addition to Illinois, only New York (8), Ohio (8), Pennsylvania (7), and Kansas (5) had 5 or more firefighter fatalities. Heart attacks and strokes were again responsible for the deaths of 51 firefighters (60%) in 2010, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (58%) in 2009. Nine on duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, about half the number that died in association with wildland fires in 2009 and a third of the 26 such fatalities in 2008. 48% percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. **Eleven firefighters died in 2010 as the result of vehicle crashes, down substantially from 16 deaths in 2009**, and for the first time since 1999, none the of the deaths involved aircraft. Four firefighters in 2010 died in accidents involving firefighters responding in personal vehicles. Seven firefighter deaths involved fire department apparatus, one of which was a double firefighter fatality incident. These 2010 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2010. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July. **HERE is the entire report:** <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2011releases/010711.shtm>

**OUR CONDOLENCES: MINN FF DIES WHILE ON DOT DETAIL**

Friends, family, colleagues and Minnesota's governor packed a a church yesterday for the funeral of state employee Michael Struck, who died on the job last week. The 39-year-old Cleveland man and Minnesota Department of Transportation employee died March 22 when the backhoe he was operating tipped over and fell into a stream at Seven Mile Creek County Park, where he was performing flood-mitigation work. **Struck also was a volunteer firefighter in Cleveland, and his helmet and firefighting gear were prominently displayed in the church lobby.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-29-11 / 2242 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

NIOSH has recently released the following Firefighter Line of Duty Death Investigation Reports:

**LODD AFTER TRAINING:**

May 01, 2010 Firefighter suffers a fatal cardiac event after fire suppression training - Pennsylvania

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201021.html>

**LODD WHILE CONDUCTING A SEARCH:**

May 22, 2010 Firefighter dies while conducting a search in a residential house fire - Kansas

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201013.html>

**LODD DROWNING:**

Mar 13, 2010 Firefighter drowns after being thrown from his swiftwater rescue boat - West Virginia

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201009.html>

**LODD STRUCK BY VEHICLE:**

Feb 12, 2010 Fire police captain dies after being struck by a motor vehicle - Pennsylvania

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201006.html>

**DOUBLE FF LODD EJECTION FROM APPARATUS:**

April 16, 2011

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

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July 26, 2010 Chief and FF die after being ejected during a rollover crash - Virginia  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201019.html>

#### **TRIAL STARTS AGAIN IN ARSON FIRE THAT KILLED AN ARIZONA FF IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

A new trial is underway for Christopher Benitez, the man accused in the murder of a Phoenix Firefighter who died in the Line of Duty at a supermarket fire in 2001. (REPORT w/PHOTOS BELOW) In 2010, a jury could not reach a unanimous verdict, so the judge declared a mistrial. Firefighter Bret Tarver died when he became trapped in the fire. One of Tarver's Firefighters who was with him that day took the stand. He told jurors the fire was so intense they had to get out fast. "I have very little air in my tank and I believe at this point, I think Bret was out of his air. We need to get out now. The quickest way is to follow the hose line back to the entrance. At this point, we're in an unfamiliar building with no visibility and we are disoriented, we don't know which way is north, south, east, or west," said FF Cyrus Joy. Prosecutors say Benitez was angry after he was caught trying to steal beer at the store and set it on fire. Defense attorneys say Benitez didn't set the fire, someone else did. So we shall see.

#### **HERE IS THE REPORT FROM THAT FIRE:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200113.html>

#### **HERE IS RELATED VIDEO:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx9oZUwhfa0>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-31-11 / 2207 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

Within the last hour, responding Indiana fire and EMS units going to a house fire, collided while enroute. At 6th Street and Hart in Vincennes (Knox County) a fire department rescue truck and an EMS ambulance crashed with entrapment and injuries. This occurred while they were responding to a working house fire with civilians trapped. We'll post updates as available.

#### **FDNY CANCER STUDY**

BEFORE you read the below, DID YOU KNOW THAT 345 Ground Zero workers have died of various cancers as of last June? OK, now read on: For the first time a NY city official is revealing a rise in cancer among firefighters who served at Ground Zero. Dr. David Prezant, the FDNY's chief medical officer, has found that firefighters who dug for victims at the World Trade Center are getting cancer at a higher rate than firefighters before 9/11 -- and some types of cancer are "bizarrely off the charts," say sources briefed on the seven-year, federally funded study. He has not yet disclosed the data, but sources say he has cited unusual rises in three blood cancers -- leukemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma -- as well as esophageal, prostate and thyroid cancers.

The bombshell report, planned for publication around the 10th anniversary of 9/11, would be the first to document a cancer-rate increase among rescue and recovery workers. Captain Al Hagan, head of the fire-officers union (UFOA), said he's alarmed. "I'm led to believe that the numbers for those cancers across all ranks in the FDNY of people who worked at Ground Zero is up significantly, and we're all very concerned about it, as are our families," he said. Steve Cassidy, president of the firefighters union, (UFA) said Ground Zero's "toxic stew" has proven lethal. "It's a fact that New York City firefighters are dying of cancer in record numbers," he said. "We have buried 10 firefighters in just the last 15 weeks, seven with cancer. On Sept. 10, 2001, they were young, healthy firefighters." HERE is the entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/3z6sz9g>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 4-3-11 / 1427 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As reported earlier, there was a fire apparatus vs EMS unit crash in Vincennes, Indiana this afternoon. Around 1430, the Vincennes FD turned out for a structure fire with entrapment at an apartment on Broadway. While responding, a Knox County EMS ambulance and Vincennes' FD apparatus collided at an intersection. **Pictures on our home page show the truck up on two wheels resting against a light pole.** 2 EMS members and 2 Firefighters were transported to Good Samaritan Hospital with what appeared to be non life threatening injuries, treated and released. **ALL WERE SEAT BELTED IN.** At the scene of the fire, an 80-year-old man suffered burns and was taken to Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis.

**RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS RUNS OVER AND KILLS A MAN LYING IN THE STREET**

A responding Winnipeg (Canada) fire apparatus ran over and killed a man who was lying in a Winnipeg street early this morning. The apparatus was traveling with its lights and siren activated around 0420 hours when the fire crew encountered something unexpected in the road. There was an object in the roadway, the truck struck the object and it turned out the object was a male. The male, in his 40's, was sadly killed. Cops said it's unknown at this time why the man was lying in the road. By all accounts, this was unavoidable.

**AMERICA'S FIRE SERVICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS WEEK**

It's CFSI week and if you are able to find them, your Federally elected official need to hear from you/us on the future of funding related to USFA, FIRE ACT, SAFER and related funding. **There has never been a time where funding has been more fragile and targeted.** **HERE** are the details on the CFSI events this week, **seeya there:** [http://www.cfsi.org/events/annual\\_dinner.cfm](http://www.cfsi.org/events/annual_dinner.cfm)

**AND HERE... ..is a commentary related to the FIRE ACT, SAFER and RELATED PROGRAMS:**

**"Taken for Granted, Taken Away--Fire department's need to step up and defend needed grants" - READ HARRY CARTERS COMMENTARY:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/topic/leadership-and-command/taken-granted-taken-away>

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-3-11 / 2054 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

3 years ago today, April 4, 2008, Firefighters from Colerain Township (Hamilton Co, OH) responded initially to what was a reported automatic alarm. While responding, the dispatcher upgraded the run, indicating from the occupants that escaped but were reporting a working house fire. Not long after that **Fire Captain Robin Broxterman**, 37-years-old, a 17-year veteran career Firefighter/Paramedic, and **Firefighter Brian Schira**, 29-years-old, a 6 month probationary, part-time Firefighter/EMT with Colerain Township both **died in the Line of Duty after a floor collapsed into the burning basement at that dwelling fire.** Following that tragic loss, the Colerain Township FD issued an **extensive** final report (**link below**) with valuable details on exactly what happened-and how it can be avoided again. Critical details such as the responsibilities of the "first due" officers and companies, importance of size-up, 360 walk around, charged hose lines, radio communication issues,

the basement being well involved before the FD arrival, potential fire growth from natural gas utilities and other information that's of great value to every Firefighter and Officer. The **NIOSH** report was also issued and is also linked below. As Colerain Fire Captain Steve Conn stated "**There was not one major mistake that caused the death of our 2 Firefighters. There was a perfect storm, a combination several little things that hit all at the wrong time.**" This was not unlike many structural fire Line of Duty deaths and related close calls.

**HERE is the FINAL report:** [http://www.colerainfire.com/Index\\_files/Page2184.htm](http://www.colerainfire.com/Index_files/Page2184.htm)

**HERE is the NIOSH Report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200809.html>

**HERE is a related article:** <http://tinyurl.com/3ef94j2>

#### **JAPANESE FIREFIGHTER OPERATING AT THE NUKE REACTOR-FIRST HAND REPORT**

Ken'ichi Kunisawa and his fellow Firefighters braved boiling nuclear reactors for more than 13 hours. He talks about radiation fears and why this wasn't a kamikaze mission. Watching television images of reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant smoking and exploding en route to a possible meltdown, FF Ken'ichi Kunisawa knew he would be joining the battle to end Japan's worst crisis since the Second World War. Now, almost two weeks after he and his team rushed to help cool down the overheating plant, the Tokyo firefighter remembers getting as close as six feet to the radiation-spewing reactors, acknowledges that he will have to be checked for contamination for months to come-and almost cheerfully, like most Firefighters, says he would do it again.

**HERE** is the entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/3csjwhj>

#### **INDIANA FF RECOVERING FROM SERIOUS INJURIES-FALL DOWN AN AERIAL LADDER**

A Bloomington FF is recovering from injuries after he fell down a ladder truck 30' while helping during a training exercise at the city's Public Safety Training Center. FF Johnson had been in the basket of an aerial ladder fire truck, next to a four-story tower, during rappelling and rope work training at the training center. On his way down from the basket and ladder, he slipped and injured his head and was not wearing a helmet. he is in critical but stable condition with a head injury, fractured vertebrae and an injured artery along his spine. His prognosis is good and is expected to eventually return to work.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-4-11 / 0953 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

San Carlos (California), like too many communities in the USA, have been trying to find a way to "cut" their fire department costs. So often, communities woefully forget that the cost cutting may very significantly and negatively affect emergency services. Well, in this California city, they have now received a last-minute bid from a for-profit company that claims it can save the city millions of dollars and they "claim" they will do a better job than the current fire department. The for-profit fire and emergency services company says it can save San Carlos millions of dollars and potentially put more firefighters on the street if the city accepts a 10-year contract to provide service once the joint Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department disbands in October. Wackenhut Services Inc submitted a 48-page proposal on Friday and says it offers "high-end fire-rescue services." For a first-year cost of \$4 million, the company says it could match San Carlos' staffing level of 20 people, including a fire chief. That would allow for a minimum of three firefighters at the city's two stations. For a first-year cost of \$4.6 million -- or \$2.5 million less than what the city pays now -- Wackenhut says it could provide a staff of 22, enough to cover both fire stations with a minimum of four people. The company also guarantees that in 10 years, the 22-person staffing option would cost no more than \$5.4 million annually. Wackenhut has also offered to give the city a 6 percent annual rebate if it doesn't meet

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agreed-to performance standards. In an effort to keep things as they are, the city's Firefighters have offered 10 percent pay cuts, according to a recent letter from Ed Hawkins, President IAFF Local 2400.

Wow, lot's of questions on this one. As we are all well very aware, the current political environment in many areas is ripe for this type of consideration. If any of us think that other cities, districts, villages and townships around the North America are not actively looking at options or being approached with similar proposals by for-profit companies, proposals that, in many cases excite those "who wanna save money and cut taxes no matter what" - we are be asleep at the wheel.

#### **HERE IS MUCH MORE:**

<http://tinyurl.com/6h7flbl> (Media)

<http://tinyurl.com/3n9pgeu> (Media)

<http://www.bsctfd.org> (FD Website)

<http://www.iaff2400.org> (Local Website)

#### **CALIFORNIA FOREST SERVICE FF DOWN-CPR**

A Forest Service FF in San Jacinto, Keenwild Station, California was engaged in PT with fellow crew members this morning. When re-grouping to start the hike back to the station, the employee collapsed. EMT personnel at scene immediately initiated care of the employee and administered CPR. The Crew Boss established communication with Forest dispatch and initiated a full medical response to his location. The patient was transported via stokes litter basket to the Keenwild helibase. The local paramedic ambulance crew met the patient and took over patient care until the arrival of a medivac helicopter. Care was then transferred from the paramedics to the medivac nurse and patient was transferred to Desert Memorial Hospital in Palm Springs for further diagnosis and treatment. We wish the FF a rapid recovery.

#### **POSITIVE NEWS FROM BOSTON: 1000 FF's TESTED, ONLY 2 FAIL**

Since the Boston launched random drug testing of Firefighters last fall, 57 percent of the Fire Departments union members have been tested, and only two have failed. The department said a total of 1,053 tests have been conducted since September 2010 when the random testing began following a long struggle between City Hall and the firefighters union, Local 718. Both Firefighters who failed were given 30-day unpaid suspensions and directed into the Employee Assistance Program.  
[http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking\\_news/2011/04/only\\_two\\_boston.html](http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2011/04/only_two_boston.html)

#### **SHOTS FIRED AT ALASKA FIREFIGHTER**

A Fort Wainwright soldier is being investigated for shooting at a Firefighter with a pellet gun. 4 soldiers reportedly pulled up in a vehicle alongside the Firefighter, who was running near a road on the post last week, and fired the gun. The Firefighter was hit by the pellets twice in the back and elbow, but not seriously injured. He is a Firefighter with the Alaska Fire Service at Fort Wainwright. The soldiers were apprehended by gate guards who were looking for the car. The suspects were questioned by Fort Wainwright authorities and released and the issue was handed over to the soldiers' chain of command.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-5-11 / 1803 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **FIREFIGHTER (Son of Fire Chief) KILLED WHILE RESPONDING IN NORTH CAROLINA**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter from the Tar Heel FD (Bladen County, North Carolina, Station 57) died in the Line of Duty last night after getting into a crash (in his personal vehicle) while

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

responding on a brush fire call. Firefighter David Hunsinger Jr. was killed in the crash: David is the son of Tar Heel Fire Chief David Hunsinger Sr. FF Hunsinger is married and has children. If the name of that FD sounds familiar, Tar Heel also experienced a Line of Duty death on September 22, 2006 when Firefighter Ronald Phillip Allen, Jr. was struck and killed by a motorist while performing hydrant markings. We will post more details later. As always, our sincere condolences. For updates please check out [www.FireNews.net](http://www.FireNews.net) as well.

**DC FIREFIGHTERS BURNED IN COLLAPSE-1 FF CRITICAL**

As the CFSI activities wound up in one part of DC this morning, in another part, 5 DCFD FF's were injured with one critically burned after a roof collapsed in a single family dwelling fire. DC Firefighters responded to the 800 block of 48th Place NE around 0030 hours this morning for a report of a house fire. Companies arrived with fire coming from a one story, single family wood frame dwelling, the 2nd alarm was sounded. The home was vacant but known to have homeless people within, according to neighbors, so the Firefighters went in to be sure no one else was trapped inside. Just after making entry, a part of the roof to collapse on top of the members. 2 of the Firefighters were able to escape from underneath the debris on their own. A 3rd Firefighter had to be rescued by the RIT FF's and 2 more Firefighters also sustained injuries during the rescue. 3 of the FF's were taken to Medstar's burn unit with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries and have been admitted but the 4th Firefighter who had to be rescued, is in critical condition and is being prepared for surgery as of this writing. The 5th member has minor injuries and will be treated / released. 3 of the injured firefighters are from Rescue Squad 3 in Anacostia, the 4th FF is with Truck 13 out of Trinidad. After the rescue, DCFD's Pete Piringier advised members were able to get the fire under control within 20 minutes. We wish them all a rapid recovery and will post updates.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-11 / 0607 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**DCFD Fire Fighter Charles "Chuckie" Ryan** (who is also the Chief of the Riverdale VFD in Prince Georges County, MD) remains in "critical" but stable condition at the Burn Unit of the Washington Hospital Center. Ryan sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns on over 40% of his body at that early Friday morning fire in northeast Washington, DC where he was working. Even though he remains intubated, medical staff had him up taking slow and measured laps around the Intensive Care Unit of the Burn Center. Family, close personal friends and Firefighters have had a constant presence at the hospital. Chuck has been able to communicate via facial expressions and written/typed words. Not surprising, of his very first communications was to inquire about the welfare of his crew members. **HERE are more updates and details:**

**IAFF LOCAL 36 DCFD:** <http://www.iaff36.org/>

**RIVERDALE VFD:** <http://www.riverdalevfd.org/index.php>

**FULL Coverage from DAVE STATTER911:** <http://tinyurl.com/3fk7ck5>

**REMEMBERING A HERO FIREFIGHTER: KEVIN APUZZIO, EAST FRANKLIN, N.J.**

On April 11, 2006, Foreman Kevin Apuzzio died while he and four members of the East Franklin Fire Department selflessly and heroically attempted to rescue 75-year-old Betty Scott inside a burning home. Foreman Apuzzio died when he became trapped after falling through a floor that collapsed into a well involved basement....he fell just a few feet from the front door. Mrs. Scott also died in the fire as Kevin and crew were attempting to remove her. While it is sadly but widely acknowledged, most FF LODD's can clearly be prevented. However, in this case, it is evident that Kevin died while he and his crew were heroically attempting a rescue - that based upon conditions and size up, was the right thing

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

to do. We take a moment to again remember Kevin, the Apuzzio Family and the members of the East Franklin FD, along with all area FD's that were impacted by the Line of Duty Death of Kevin. Rest in Peace. **HERE is the FIRE / LODD REPORT:**

<http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs/reports/eastfranklin.pdf>

**HERE are related VIDEOS:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hj0VIUjzhXs>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w05Y6saNYEw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1V164leZM1M&feature=related>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-11-11 / 1618 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

A Texas Firefighter was very critically burned at a wildland fire last weekend. Cactus VFD Firefighter Elias Jacquez suffered third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body Saturday while fighting that fire that charred 60,000 acres - about 94 square miles, about 40 miles north of Amarillo. FF Jacquez was airlifted to University Medical Center in Lubbock where he was in critical condition last night. We wish him a successful recovery.

### **COLLAPSE AT MARYLAND WORKING HOUSE FIRE-INITIAL REPORTS OF OCCUPANTS WITHIN**

Prince George's County (Maryland) Firefighters had a close call, after a roof collapsed in Beltsville yesterday morning. Firefighters arrived at the burning two-story, single family dwelling with an attached garage at around 1000 hours. **Heavy fire was very visible, but attempted entry as neighbors reported people inside. As members attempted entry, part of the roof fell in and they evacuated.** It required about 40 minutes to knock down the bulk of the fire. They operated with about 60 firefighter/medics, command officers and support personnel at the scene. With the exception of a family dog, no one was home. **HERE** is more w/photos and "on arrival" video:

<http://www.pgfdpio.blogspot.com/>

### **EMS HELICOPTER CRASH THAT KILLED 4 INCLUDING A FD EMT "ENOUGH BLAME TO GO AROUND"**

The Fed's are blaming the state of Maryland for a helicopter crash that killed four people in 2008, claiming the mistakes of a state-employed pilot, not federal air-traffic controllers, directly caused the accident. Some blame is that air-traffic controllers failed to properly direct Stephen H. Bunker, the pilot of the medevac helicopter carrying two automobile accident victims and two emergency medical technicians that crashed on its way to Andrews Air Force Base in rainy weather Sept. 28, 2008.

**Killed in the crash were Ashley Younger, Maryland State Police Pilot Stephen J. Bunker, 59, of Waldorf; Trooper 1st Class Mickey C. Lippy, 34, of Westminster, a state police flight paramedic; and Tonya Mallard, 39, of Waldorf, an EMT with the Waldorf Volunteer FD, died in the Line of Duty on Sept. 27, 2008.** The helicopter: Trooper 2, crashed in Prince George's County Walker Mill Regional Park, killing everyone aboard except Jordan Wells, one of the automobile accident victims, who suffered severe injuries. In its latest filing, the Fed's says Bunker failed to properly assess the risk of landing the helicopter and executing an approach to the base's runway, and that he attempted to descend too quickly. **"The injuries ... were solely and proximately caused by the conduct of the pilot in command, an employee of the State of Maryland," the United States claims. The government also faults Maryland State Police for a "lack of adherence to**

**effective risk management procedures" and a "lack of training, supervision, flight following, and oversight."** On the other hand, Robert D. Schulte, a Baltimore aviation lawyer representing the family of Mickey Lippy, a paramedic who died in the crash, said he believes the evidence shows Bunker did all he could under difficult conditions to safely land the helicopter. "It is a time-honored tradition in aviation crashes to blame the pilot, for the simple reason that they're usually not around to defend themselves," Schulte said **"You had a bunch of controllers asleep at the switch, and I think we'll be able to prove that."** Maryland officials claim that at times during the night, FAA controllers were "slow to respond, made the pilot repeat his requests, and offered no assistance." In addition, the state claims, the controllers "had agreed that each would work only half the shift while the other would take an extended break." **HERE IS MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3deoum8>

#### **RESTAURANT BUILDINGS FIRE REPORT:**

The USFA has issued a special report looking at the characteristics of restaurant building fires. The report (link below), Restaurant Building Fires, was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is based on 2007 to 2009 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

**HERE it is:** <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i1.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-12-11 / 0900 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

While the number of fires is on the decline, Firefighter deaths are not, as most of you know, but a new University of Georgia study (**LINK TO STUDY BELOW**) helps explain why. Researchers in the UGA College of Public Health found that **cultural factors** in our work environment that promote getting the job done as quickly as possible with whatever resources available, lead to an increase in LODD's.

"Firefighting is always going to be a hazardous activity, but there's a general consensus among firefighting organizations and among scientific organizations that it can be safer than it is," said study co-author David DeJoy, of the Workplace Health Group in the College of Public Health. "As a society, we ought to make the effort to make it safer." DeJoy and his colleagues analyzed the investigations in terms of the core culture of the firefighting profession. **Firefighting culture should not be construed as one of negligence, said DeJoy, but one based on a long-standing tradition of acceptance of risk. A job that relies on extreme individual efforts and has too few resources leads to the chronic condition of doing too much with too little, he said.**

**"If you get used to taking risks, it's easy to take a little more risk,"** DeJoy said. "Most of the time when we take risks, like walking across the street or driving a car, nothing bad happens. This level of risk gets ratcheted up and becomes part of normal activity." Acceptance of risk becomes extremely perilous in a situation in which adverse events can happen at any time and margins of safety are very thin, he added. Sound familiar? **HERE IS THE STUDY:** <http://tinyurl.com/3pakxny> (**Also see below regarding an EFO award**)

#### **NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH: SENTENCING:**

A Bronx man, who started a fire in an apartment building in Yonkers (NY) on October 2, 2009, leading to the death of one city fireman and serious injuries to two others, was sentenced yesterday in Westchester County Court to 20 years to life in prison. Arsonist Rafael Roldan, 34, previously pled guilty to murder in the second degree and two counts of assault in the first degree, all felonies. **Firefighter Patrick Joyce died from injuries when he had to jump from a 3rd floor window to escape. The other 2 members's, Lt. Joseph Murray and FF William Kanych, also jumped and**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**were seriously injured.** The fire, at 149 Waverly Street, was called in minutes after 0100 hours. Two fires were located, one in a front room and another in the rear of the house on the same floor. The first fire was extinguished, but the second one quickly blew up to the top floor in a stairwell. Once on the top floor, the fire burned through a door and entered a room where the three firefighters were located. RIP FF Joyce.

**FDNY EXPANDS THEIR "NO LIGHTS/NO SIRENS" RESPONSE POLICY:**

Thirty percent of FDNY's runs are for non-fire, non-life threatening incidents. The number of non-fire and non-life-threatening calls received by them has nearly doubled over the past 20 years. They now account for nearly 300,000 of 1 million annual runs made by FDNY apparatus. **Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano has ordered units to begin to slow down.** Under the Fire Department's new "modified response" policy, trucks will now respond to some calls here at a reduced speed - obeying all traffic regulations - without the use of sirens and lights. Expansion of the program into Staten Island and Brooklyn follows a six-month trial in Queens, where accidents involving FDNY units were cut by 32 percent. The changes being put into effect by the FDNY safety program will not affect full-scale responses to fires and other life-threatening emergencies. Under "modified response," only the first-due units will respond emergency, allowing fire officers to determine what further response is needed.

**HERE IS MORE FOR YOU TO READ, 1 Media and 1 From FDNY:**

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/pr/2011/040511\\_1811.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/pr/2011/040511_1811.shtml)

[http://www.silive.com/opinion/editorials/index.ssf/2011/04/for\\_the\\_fdny\\_a\\_proportional\\_re.html](http://www.silive.com/opinion/editorials/index.ssf/2011/04/for_the_fdny_a_proportional_re.html)

**FDNY CAPTAIN WINS FEDERAL FIRE SERVICE AWARD**

Congrats to FDNY Fire Captain Steve Marsar, (EFO) Engine 8, just 1 of 3 fire officers from across the country, was selected to receive the National Fire Academy's 2010 Annual Outstanding Research Award. The award recognizes Executive Fire Officer Program students for exceptional research projects. Captain Marsar's project, titled **Can They Be Saved? Utilizing Civilian Survivability Profiling to Enhance Size-Up and Reduce Firefighter Fatalities in the FDNY**, (also presented at FDIC last month) was selected as the Executive Leadership Course award winner. The National Fire Academy said it was chosen from among the more than 60 Applied Research Projects submitted this year, the highest number in the program's 26-year history. Fire chiefs from Orange County Fire Authority, Irvine, Calif. (DC Ed Fleming), and Stanwood Camano Fire & Rescue, Camano Island, Wash (DC Darin Reid) also received awards-congrats to them as well. The 3 award winning projects will be presented and defended during the 23rd Annual Executive Fire Officer Symposium, which runs from Apr. 29 to May 1, 2011, at the NFA in Emmitsburg, Md. CONGRATS!

**HERE** is the document: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/efo44310.pdf>

**HERE** is more from USFA: [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/applied\\_research/awards.shtml](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/applied_research/awards.shtml)

**HERE** is more from FDNY: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/insider/events/2011/040411a.shtml>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-13-11 / 1454 Hours

**AND:**

**OHIO FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Randy Boley, Shreve, Ohio, of the Clinton Township Volunteer Fire Department, Wayne County, died early this morning between 0300 and 0600 hours. Firefighter Boley's last run was 1000 hours yesterday 04/11/11. Firefighter Boley was a 30+ year veteran of the fire service. He leaves behind a wife and 3 children. As always, our sincere condolences goes out to the Boley Family and the Clinton Township VFD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 4-12-11 / 1057 Hours

**AND:**

**TX FF LODD - OTHERS INJURED IN WILDLAND BURN OVER (The Secret List)**

We regret to advise of you the Line of Duty Death of a firefighter from Eastland VFD who was trapped in a burnover where a total of 8 firefighters were trapped. There is no update on the conditions of the other firefighters involved. The fire is 55 miles from Abilene and 115 from Fort Worth, TX. More information will be posted on our homepage as it becomes available. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 4-15-11 / 1829 Hours

**AND:**

(**QUICK NOTE:** A few days ago we sent out details on the Univ of GA's FF study, but their opening statement was incorrect. " While the number of fires is on the decline, Firefighter deaths are not" That's wrong and we should have corrected it as we are on a measurable decline of FF LODD's that had 2010 LODD numbers as low as they were in the 70's. Additionally, the article we referenced is one that people have to pay \$41.95 but we sent an e-mail to: [dmdejoy@uga.edu](mailto:dmdejoy@uga.edu) and were sent a copy at no cost)

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Hey,  
In Pinellas County (Florida), cops have locked up a 20-year-old man who fired an AK-47 assault rifle at responding Firefighters yesterday. Calvin Teodoro Foronda, of St. Pete Beach, faces two counts of aggravated assault on a Firefighter and two counts of aggravated assault on a Paramedic. **Luckily none of the members were hurt.** It started when St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue was dispatched for reported seizures. On arrival, a woman who came to the door wouldn't let them in - but then she said everything was okay and they could check out the man, who was later determined to be her boyfriend. About the same time, a different man came running out of the home, screaming for everyone to "run." Moments later, paramedics heard a gunshot. **They took cover.** The cops arrived and arrested Foronda, who they said was the shooter inside the house and the person who had been having seizures. It appears he and his girlfriend were under the influence of drugs. No kidding. He remains in the slammer. No kidding.

**GOOD NEWS UPDATE: DC FIREFIGHTERS IMPROVING**

<http://www.dcffburnfoundation.org>  
<http://www.riverdalevfd.org>  
<http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/2011/04/chueck-ryan-update-blood-drive-and-fund.html>

**"JUST SAY NO TO FIRE DEPT CUTS" (Via FACEBOOK) - At Least In This Georgia Town:**

The Firefighters and this community have been very responsive in expressing their views and in pouring out support for **not** cutting the fire department budget. An extensive telephone and Face-Book campaign has been started by citizens and FF's together to let the city hall dwellers know how the community feels about this. Check it out...

<http://tinyurl.com/3p3ku4t>

<http://tinyurl.com/5v23tjp>

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/pages/Concerned-Citizens-of-Byron-Georgia/201811469858971>

<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/profile.php?id=100000340372772>

### **NO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS IN PA**

Politicians in the PA House of Representatives voted Wednesday night to go backwards when taking care of their constituents and PA Firefighters by eliminating a statewide mandate that would require sprinkler systems to be installed in new sfd's. Sadly the House passed the bill on a vote of 129-68 to send the bill to Gov. Tom Corbett to sign into law. The state Senate voted 33-17 to also repeal the mandate Tuesday. The bill repealed a law in the Uniform Construction Code that went into effect on Jan. 1 which said all new one- and two-family homes were required to install sprinkler systems. Although the residential sprinkler mandate is removed, the law would require builders to offer sprinkler systems to buyers at the point of sale, which the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) naturally says is a "proactive" step to improve safety standards. **Sprinklers would still be required in new town house construction.**

### **OUR CONDOLENCES**

Murphys Fire Protection District (CA) Battalion Chief Dennis Powers passed away peacefully at his home with his family at his side 2 days ago. Chief Powers had faced a long and hard battle with cancer over the last three years. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-15-11 / 0929 Hours

### **AND:**

### **UPDATE TX WILDLAND FF LODD (The Secret List)**

We regret to advise of you the Line of Duty Death of FF Gregory Simmons, 51 from Eastland VFD who was trapped in a burnover where a total of 8 firefighters were trapped, of which 2 others were injured. FF Simmons was an 11 year veteran of the department. The fire is 55 miles from Abilene and 115 from Fort Worth, TX and the Texas Forest Service reports over 300 acres have burned. More information will be posted on our homepage as it becomes available. Our sincere condolences to the family of FF Simmons and the Eastland VFD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-16-11 / 0900 Hours

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## **FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM:**

### **NOTE:**

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

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### **Budget Related Items:**

**Shoring up the City of Sparks' \$4.6 million budget shortfall for the 2011-12 fiscal year appears contingent on whether employee unions are willing to accept a 6 percent reduction in health care coverage. Rather than asking for salary and wage reductions, as has been done in past**

years, city management is seeking a cut to health care benefits. But if a 6 percent reduction is not accepted, the city will have to raid other funds to cover the \$1.2 million needed to avoid maximum layoffs. Several police and fire positions would be eliminated as a result of the first budget proposal, and several council members have expressed an unwillingness to allow this to happen:

[http://dailysparktribune.com/view/full\\_story/12442363/article-City--Cut-benefits-or-cut-people?instance=secondary\\_stories\\_left\\_column](http://dailysparktribune.com/view/full_story/12442363/article-City--Cut-benefits-or-cut-people?instance=secondary_stories_left_column)

Hopes for quickly securing pay cut agreements from San Jose (CA) employee unions to help close a massive budget shortfall began to fade Friday as some city leaders called for holding off on a tentative deal with firefighters and talks with other workers began to falter. Councilman Sam Liccardo in a last-minute proposal Friday said the City Council should hold off on Tuesday's scheduled vote approving the tentative deal with firefighters. The agreement calls for a 10 percent salary cut, some operational changes and reduced health insurance while the two sides continue talks about pension reforms. "Painfully," Liccardo said, "it's just not enough." [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_17648268?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17648268?nclick_check=1)

Early Tuesday morning, Clark County (NV) Fire Department administrators met with about 50 employees in the County Commission chambers, many of them inspectors, to say layoffs may be coming and that a counselor will be available for people to talk to about it. The potential for cuts comes as the Fire Department experiences a large decline in demand for fire inspectors, who enforce building codes in the construction of homes and businesses. Construction has fallen off dramatically since the building boom of the mid-2000s, so inspectors' workloads have dropped:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/22/county-fire-inspectors-warned-possible-layoffs-bui/>

Overtime costs, as well as firefighters cashing in accumulated holiday and vacation pay, might push the Reno (NV) Fire Department's budget over the edge, requiring the budget to be augmented, more firefighters to be laid off or more browned-out fire stations:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110324/NEWS/103240348/Overtime-other-pay-looks-exceed-firefighter-budget>

About 213 Costa Mesa (CA) employees — nearly half of the city's workforce — can expect layoff notices on Thursday, officials said. More than 90 firefighters, 50 city maintenance workers, 30 dispatchers and a dozen city jail staff are among those being notified that their jobs will be outsourced in six months:

<http://www.dailypilot.com/news/education/tn-dpt-0317-layoffs-20110316,0,7267542.story>

Faced with increasingly dire budget projections that will force layoffs and cutbacks in city services, the San Jose (CA) City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to accept Mayor Chuck Reed's budget blueprint that seeks to address skyrocketing pension costs. "We have a budget deficit next year expected to be \$105 million -- and probably significantly more," Reed told the council Tuesday. And even if the city succeeds at getting its 11 employee unions to agree to 10 percent cuts in pay and benefits in the next fiscal year, it would reduce the deficit by only \$38 million, forcing the city to reduce services and jettison employees. In other news, the council voted 9-2 to accept a deal in which city firefighters agreed to reduce their pay and benefits 10 percent for the next two years to avoid further layoffs. The deal also includes some operational changes and reduced health insurance:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_17682730?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17682730?nclick_check=1)

DeKalb County (GA) laid off 82 firefighter recruits Monday to help meet budget cuts. Eliminating the recruits will help preserve jobs for about 810 existing firefighters/paramedics in DeKalb, Fire Chief Eddie O'Brien said:

[http://www.ajc.com/news/dekalb/82-dekalb-fire-recruits-888796.html?cxtype=rss\\_news](http://www.ajc.com/news/dekalb/82-dekalb-fire-recruits-888796.html?cxtype=rss_news)

Riverside County (CA) supervisors today began weighing a budget that could force them to close eight fire stations, cut manpower in specialized gang task forces and reduce the deputies staffing the jails and patrolling the unincorporated areas. The cuts were proposed to the key public safety departments as county officials shape the 2011-12 fiscal year budget:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20110329/NEWS01/110329006/Riverside-County-considers-public-safety-cuts-?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFrontpage>

A San Jose city councilman has dared to touch the so-called "third rail" of local politics. City Councilman Pierluigi Oliverio is calling for a reduction in firefighter staffing levels in favor of more police officers. San Jose is the only city in Santa Clara County that staffs its fire engines with four firefighters. Other cities have only three. "We may want to do this when we have money, but the reality is that we don't," said Oliverio. "The consequence of maintaining this is the layoff of too many police officers." Oliverio said that he believes firefighters should be laid off so that the city can afford to save police officers' jobs. "Police officers in this time, in this year, are more needed," said Oliverio. "The residents tell me that again and again."

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/03/31/san-jose-councilman-calls-for-fire-dept-cuts-to-bolster-police-dept/>

The city of St. Louis (MO) has been awarded a federal grant worth \$3.2 million, aimed at sparing 30 firefighters from imminent layoffs. The Department of Homeland Security notified U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan's office Wednesday morning that the city had received the grant. In the afternoon, Carnahan announced it via phone to about 30 firefighters gathered at the union hall. But the two-year grant will not solve the problem of rising pension costs. Despite a rebounding investment market, the city must pay \$23.1 million in the next fiscal year to firefighter pensions, about \$5 million more than this year and nearly double that of two years ago:

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article\\_2e2303f3-81a9-54e8-ba09-c394f16297e0.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_2e2303f3-81a9-54e8-ba09-c394f16297e0.html)

Manchester (NH) Alderman Jim Roy is bringing forward a proposal that would eliminate all six of the Fire Department's district chiefs and use the money to retain some of the 22 firefighters slated for layoffs in the mayor's budget. Although the plan would increase the number of on-duty firefighters, Fire Chief James Burkush opposes the plan, saying it would mean drastic change to the way the department is run. "These positions are vital in our command structure and will certainly affect the efficiency and safety (of) our fire fighting staff and the citizens of Manchester," wrote Burkush in a letter to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen last week. These chiefs oversee staff at fire scenes and serve as top level supervisors and administrators during daily shifts. "The district chiefs are fundamental to the command structure of our organization. Without them, operations would be severely impacted."

<http://www.firehouse.com/topic/leadership-and-command/nh-city-mulls-all-district-chiefs-15-firefighters>

San Carlos (CA), which has been hustling to find a cheaper way to provide fire service, has received a last-minute bid from a Florida-based company that claims it can save the city millions of dollars and do a better job. Wackenhut Services Inc., a 50-year-old company headquartered in Palm Beach Gardens, submitted a 48-page proposal on Friday. The company says it offers "high-end armed and unarmed security personnel, paramilitary protective forces, law enforcement officers, fire-rescue services," among other services, to government and

commercial customers in the United States and abroad. San Carlos spends about \$7.1 million a year for fire services it jointly provides with Belmont, according to Assistant City Manager Brian Moura. For a first-year cost of \$4 million, the company says it could match San Carlos' staffing level of 20 people, including a fire chief. That would allow for a minimum of three firefighters at the city's two stations. For a first-year cost of \$4.6 million -- or \$2.5 million less than what the city pays now -- Wackenhut says it could provide a staff of 22, enough to cover both fire stations with a minimum of four people. The company also guarantees that in 10 years, the 22-person staffing option would cost no more than \$5.4 million annually. "That's something you need to step back and think about," Moura said. "If the council goes in this direction, it could save \$1.7 million over the current level of pricing, and have a higher level of service, a decade later." [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_17772757?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17772757?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick_check=1)

Petaluma (CA) council members have dire budget choices before them this week that could drastically affect the citizens and employees of the entire city. With current spending trends, the council is looking at a \$2.3 million budget deficit for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, and \$3.6 million in 2013. If nothing changes, that balloons to \$15 million by 2015. But since revenues aren't anticipated to rise much to help narrow the gap, City Manager John Brown has laid out several options for cutting spending. And much of those may be shouldered by employees, whose salaries make up more than three-quarters of the city's general fund budget. At today's City Council meeting, Brown will ask the seven-member council to decide whether he should set a goal of cutting \$3.6 million over the next year, two years or more. He recommends the city cut \$4 million in an effort to build up the reserve fund that was drawn down to nearly nothing over the past three years. Of several potential spending cuts, one likely to generate concern is fire department cutbacks. Reducing minimum staffing or closing one of the city's three fire stations on a rotating basis could save more than \$1 million a year, but would have to be negotiated with the firefighters' union:

<http://www.petaluma360.com/article/20110404/COMMUNITY/110409839/-1/community?Title=City-Council-faces-deficit-cuts-tonight>

The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council voted Wednesday to once again postpone taking action on a tentative agreement with the firefighters union, pending results from a city audit of firefighter sick-day use and overtime expected to be released next week. The tentative agreement between the city and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1607 would save the jobs of 33 firefighters by barring union layoffs during the contract period in exchange for \$3 million in concessions. In early February, the City Council voted to conduct an audit of the fire department after Clark County officials reported widespread abuse of sick leave by county firefighters:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/apr/06/nlv-city-council-again-delays-action-firefighter-c/>

Reno (NV) City Council will be asking city firefighters for pay concessions if the fire union wants 10 laid-off firefighters possibly put back to work. City Council agreed to seek a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for \$2.5 million to cover pay for 10 firefighters for two years. But as a condition, the city agrees it will not lay off any firefighters during that time. The council already is counting on firefighters to cut their pay and benefits by 7.5 percent to help balance their next budget starting July 1:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110406/NEWS/104060428/Reno-seeks-federal-grant-rehire-10-firefighters?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cs>

Channel 2 Action News has confirmed yet another twist in the on-again, off-again firing of 82 DeKalb County (GA) fire recruits. On Wednesday, the 82 recruits were told they were fired, again. A county spokesman told Channel 2's John Bachman that DeKalb County Fire Chief Edward O'Brien needs to cut \$7 million from his budget and after first firing the recruits on March 28, the chief thought he had figured out a way to keep them. Turns out, he did not. "It's a tough call," said DeKalb County spokesman Burke Brennan. "Would we have served them better by withholding information from them?" said Brennan:

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/27457710/detail.html>

A \$6.8 million federal grant will allow Phoenix (AZ) to hire 42 new firefighters and keep them on the payroll for two years. The newly awarded grant is called SAFER, for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response. The grant helps fire departments deal with staffing woes stemming from layoffs or attrition, said Phoenix Deputy Fire Chief David Carter, who is in charge of training. "Since 2008, the number of firefighters (in Phoenix) has dropped by 100 because of hiring freeze and retirements," Carter said. "Next month, we are slated to lose 35 members because of retirement." This is the second year in a row that Phoenix has been awarded a SAFER grant through the Department of Homeland Security. Last year, the Phoenix Fire Department received \$4.4 million to pay the salaries of 28 new firefighters. The 28 firefighters completed their training in January. The grant covers their salaries for two years. After that, the city will have to find money to pay their salaries. "They were all advised up front that this is grant funding," Carter said. "They were told, 'you guys are at risk two years from now,' Hopefully, (in 2013) there will be sufficient funding to keep them on. We're keeping our fingers crossed." The 42 new firefighters will be in the same position in two years. Department officials will need to find a way to continue to cover their salaries after the grant money runs out. The starting salary for a Phoenix firefighter is \$44,038:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2011/04/07/20110407phoenix-will-hire-42-firefighters-federal-grant.html>

Salinas (CA) budget proposal would eliminate the Salinas Fire Department Paramedic program, saving approximately \$350,000 per year:

<http://www.kionrightnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=14354063>

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**Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:**

- *Someone asked why I run these stories that tend to make the fire service look not-so-professional at times. Well, besides the fact they are public knowledge, I think it is critical for all of us in the fire service – current and future personnel – to learn from not only the good, but the not-so-good of others. Good, bad or indifferent, fire service personnel are in the public eye since we are paid by the taxpayers and they have a right to hold us accountable for our actions since they are paying for us to be here. In today's world, the key to success is building and maintaining positive working relationships with the public, not to mention the elected/appointed officials, since all of them are the ones that ensure we still have jobs and that we get what the community we work for feels is appropriate, reasonable, cost-effective and efficient, in regards to staffing and the number of fire stations and resoures.*

Local 2 Investigates is digging deeper into a city of Houston (TX) lawsuit against its own firefighters. The city is suing three Houston Fire Department firefighters. They were accused of using a racial slur while on duty, but then they won their jobs back. So why is the city still suing them? <http://www.click2houston.com/news/27313494/detail.html>

Firefighters across Nevada have been under heavy scrutiny for over a year. Accusations of padded overtime and sick leave abuse have led to major calls for reform. But it is also causing a political firestorm and a formal complaint with the state about North Las Vegas. The firefighters and the city council in North Las Vegas thought they had a deal -- give up pay bumps and keep 33 jobs. Then sick leave abuse became an issue elsewhere, and the spotlight got hotter: <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/14274016/i-team-fallout-in-sick-leave-scandal-felt-by-north-las-vegas-firefighters>

Charlie LeDuff finally catches up with Detroit's (MI) Fire Commissioner. Fred Wheeler gives the reporter the silent treatment. When will they learn? Charlie LeDuff isn't going away. And either are the Detroit Fire Department's image problems if this is how they deal with the bad news. It doesn't matter that you don't like Charlie LeDuff or any other reporter. A public official refusing to talk to reporters who have questions about legitimate stories is only asking to be ambushed. That's exactly what happened to Commissioner Fred Wheeler. A public official who then gives that reporter the silent treatment while the reporter and a photographer are chasing after him down the street isn't going to look very good on television. That is also what happened to Commissioner Wheeler. LeDuff wants answers about another broken down ambulance on an emergency call and information on whether Commissioner Wheeler is meeting the city's residency requirements for appointed officials:

<http://statter911.com/2011/03/22/charlie-leduff-finally-catches-up-with-detroits-fire-commissioner-fred-wheeler-gives-the-reporter-the-silent-treatment/>

A 19-year-old former member of the Stafford (NJ) Volunteer Fire Company pleaded guilty today to setting a string of nine blazes in Ocean and Burlington counties that injured two firefighters. One of the fires consumed 540 acres of woods in Barnegat last March. Ryan A. Dellane of Stafford's Manahawkin section pleaded guilty before Superior Court Judge Wendel E. Daniels to nine counts of aggravated arson and two counts of aggravated assault on firefighters: <http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20110323/NJNEWS10/110323002/-1/NJTOWNS/Ex-NJ-firefighter-admits-setting-nine-fires-may-face-20-years?odyssey=nav|head>

Richard Fiorito, a driver for Holley (NY) Volunteer Ambulance, has been charged with endangering his own children, a four-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy. According to WHEC-TV, Fiorito left them home alone while he answered an emergency call Friday night:

<http://statter911.com/2011/03/22/priorities-holley-new-york-volunteer-accused-of-leaving-his-own-toddlers-home-alone-to-answer-ambulance-call/>

Grant County has launched an investigation into allegations against a New Mexico volunteer fire department chief whose actions during the Quail Ridge Fire earlier this month might have led to the loss of at least one home, Grant County Manager Jon Saari said Wednesday. The complaint was filed against Whiskey Creek Volunteer Fire Department Chief Justin Toney by the department's secretary, Matthew G. Robertson, and was sent to the state Fire Marshal's Office and the Grant County administration. According to Robertson's complaint, during the March 7 fire that destroyed 13 homes, "there was at least one residential structure lost as a result of Chief Toney's failure to allow his crews to follow the incident commander's instructions." Robertson, who has been with the department since July 2010, according to his complaint, also alleges that Toney conducted a live fire training exercise in February without a safety officer present. "As a result, one firefighter suffered minor first-degree burns, another firefighter's gear was damaged to the extent of needing replacement and the chief denies any and all responsibility for the incident," Robertson states in his complaint:

[http://www.lcsun-news.com/new\\_mexico-news/ci\\_17688539](http://www.lcsun-news.com/new_mexico-news/ci_17688539)

Las Vegas (NV) firefighters are pushing back against Clark County Commissioner Larry Brown, who has become an outspoken critic of firefighter payroll abuses since he began his campaign for Las Vegas mayor. On a website titled, "Larry Brown is Confused," members of the city firefighters union blast Brown for failing to distinguish between Las Vegas firefighters and Clark County firefighters. County firefighters have come under attack recently for gaming sick-leave policies to accrue more overtime. City firefighters, on the other hand, have curtailed sick leave by more than 10 percent since 2008:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/29/las-vegas-firefighters-larry-brown-confused/>

The chief of a Northern New Mexico volunteer fire department was arrested Tuesday after calling in multiple police and fire agencies to a several-acre brush fire in the community of Lyden, north of Espanola, and erroneously claiming people were trapped in buildings. Eddie Velarde, 53, the chief of the Velarde Volunteer Fire Department, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and faces a potential \$500 fine, said to Jake Arnold, a spokesman for Rio Arriba County Sheriff Tommy Rodella. "He was calling for a mass evacuation (of surrounding residents) with all these agencies responding under the false belief that this was a much larger emergency," Arnold said. "Numerous times at the scene, he was yelling about people being trapped when the fire was nowhere near any structure."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/new-mexico-chief-arrested-scene-brush-fire>

Stockton (CA) City Manager Bob Deis broke the news to the Fire Department Wednesday that Chief Ron Hittle was on leave, and an "Acting Chief" was appointed in his indefinite absence. The announcement was sent via email, and its subject line - "Acting Chief Calkins" - precluded any suspense by effectively declaring that Deputy Chief Lance Calkins was taking command of the Fire Department:

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110331/A\\_NEWS/103310321/-1/a\\_news](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110331/A_NEWS/103310321/-1/a_news)

Photographs of nude men, some in provocative poses, were among the images displayed at Victoria (TX) Fire Station No. 2 that led to the dismissal of two Victoria firefighters. About 10 photographs were joined together in a montage that included a scantily clad crotch shot, a shot of one nude man kissing another nude man's body, a cartoon of two men kissing, a shot of one nude man looming over another with his hands on his shoulders, a bare-chested man and a shot of a man's scantily clad rear end. After a complaint was filed with the city last month and an internal investigation conducted, the two firefighters were fired, according to a city news release Wednesday:

[http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/apr/07/sl\\_fire\\_department\\_folo\\_040811\\_135400/?news](http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2011/apr/07/sl_fire_department_folo_040811_135400/?news)

The Firebird Society of Bridgeport (CT), which represents the city's minority firefighters, is calling for the firing of a white firefighter the group said used the n-word in conversation last month. "What we've heard is he used the word in general conversation among people at fire headquarters, including an African-American female," said Donald Day, a retired Bridgeport fire captain and former regional director for the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters:

<http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Firefighters-ask-for-harsher-punishments-for-1329477.php>

San Diego (CA) firefighters have agreed to a new labor contract, but they're not happy campers. The firefighters say they feel betrayed by a ballot initiative that would give new department hires 401(k) retirement plans instead of traditional pensions. For the sixth time in seven fiscal-year bargaining cycles, Firefighters Local 145 has accepted a salary freeze and made pension concessions that reduce take-home pay by six percent:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/politics/Local-Firefighters-Feel-Betrayed-119634819.html>

After roughly three years on the job, Cambria's (CA) Fire Chief Mark Miller has been fired by Cambria Community Services District's General Manager Tammy Rudock. In her three-line news release Tuesday, Rudock said the firing is a confidential personnel matter, therefore couldn't comment. Rudock, who manages the district that oversees the department, does not need board approval to fire employees. Shock, surprise and anger surged through Cambria as the news of Miller's firing spread. The popular fire chief accomplished a lot during his tenure and gained allies among firefighters and townspeople; and is even getting support from some people who opposed his enforcement. Apparently, in the process, he had alienated Rudock:  
<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/04/12/1560053/cambria-fire-chief-is-fired-by.html>

A Detroit (MI) fire lieutenant's continuing battle with the city over his job will play out today in Macomb County Circuit Court. Lt. Mike Nevin said the city claims he was fired for allowing members of his rig to take a door from an abandoned house in 2009:  
<http://www.freep.com/article/20110411/NEWS01/104110332/1101/Celebrate-Valentine-s-Day-dinner-out/Detroit-fire-lieutenant-s-firing-over-salvaged-door-goes-court?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

After three years of on-again, off-again negotiations that haven't gone anywhere, the Menlo Park (CA) Fire Protection District board on Tuesday may force firefighters to take its last offer - no raises but nearly \$800 more per month toward health and retirement benefits. And although firefighters may grumble, there's little they can do about it unless union representatives and district officials suddenly see eye to eye, or a state labor board rules next month that their unfair labor practice complaint has merit. "This won't be settled by us or them, the courts will decide it for everybody," said John Wurdinger, president of the Menlo Park Firefighters Association, which represents about 90 firefighters. Since the two sides began talking in 2008, an economic recession has turned the district's initial offer from one that was considered an insult into one that looks a lot more tantalizing today. At the time, the district offered to give most firefighters a 20 percent raise over four years. The union immediately said no: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_17853778](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17853778)

A Brentwood (CA) man will be sentenced to life in prison for posing as a firefighter to kidnap a 17-year-old Bay Point girl out of her family home, and then raping her for hours before leaving her nude, bound and blindfolded on the side of a road in 2005:  
[http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci\\_17848418?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/crime-courts/ci_17848418?nclick_check=1)

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Tacoma (WA) officials say they can pay firefighters raises due them this year, add a special benefit program to induce veterans to retire early, continue step increases and still save money under a new labor agreement. City Council members unanimously approved the complex new agreement with Tacoma Professional Firefighters Local 31 on Tuesday night. Union members ratified it last month. Overall, the deal will save the city's general fund an estimated \$771,000 over the next four years and its emergency medical services fund about \$54,000 during the same period, according to a memo to the council from city finance director Bob Biles:  
<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/03/23/1596024/firefighter-labor-agreement-expected.html>

The Allen Park (MI) City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to rescind layoff notices that were sent to the city's 26 firefighters last month after officials said they would be forced to shut down the department if concessions were not made. The vote came after City Attorney

Todd Flood said officials with the fire department as well as police department worked to negotiate concessions for personnel in both departments:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110323/NEWS02/103230465/0/NEWS06/Allen-Park-City-Council-votes-rescind-plan-lay-off-fire-department?odyssey=nav|head>

Arcadia (CA) firefighters visit the hospital annually to train young children to join their ranks. The program is part of their involvement with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, an organization that raises money and awareness for childhood cancer research. Every year firefighters at the Arcadia station volunteer to shave their heads in honor of the young patients and to raise funds for cancer research. Last year's fundraiser earned more than \$40,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/star/ci\\_17681399](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/star/ci_17681399)

The Orangewood Elementary School is receiving a special gift from the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department. Teaming up with Ear Candy Charity, a non-profit music organization, firefighters collected 20 donated instruments to give to Orangewood students. Many students didn't have the money to afford purchasing or renting instruments, and as a result of budget cuts, had been forced to improvise instruments with belts and rope:

<http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/education/instruments-donated-3-24-2011>

San Carlos (CA) can count on firefighters in its joint department with Belmont to cut their pay by 10 percent as the city plots a course for the future of its fire services, according to the president of the firefighter's union. Ed Hawkins, president of the International Association of Firefighters Local 2400, sent a letter to San Carlos earlier this month saying the union is open to pay cuts. The letter was one item presented to the city council Monday evening as part of a monthly update on fire services. "Labor costs can also be reduced via discussions with us," Hawkins wrote in the March 3 letter. "I have privately proposed a 10 percent total compensation reduction to several city council members. We now offer that as another option for consideration." The Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department is slated to dissolve in October and the future of San Carlos' fire services remains uncertain:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_17723603?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_17723603?nclick_check=1)

Clark County (NV) Firefighter Steve De Pue was off-duty and working in his garage when he heard his neighbor's smoke detector shriek. De Pue went into the neighbor's smoke-filled garage. Flames were beginning to engulf the kitchen, and he could hear a woman's voice in the house. He found an extinguisher and doused the blaze, then escorted the woman outside. De Pue was among the dozen Clark County firefighters who received awards Tuesday for valor beyond the call of duty. "It's really important that we recognize some of our employees when they go above and beyond, when they do things that are special," Fire Chief Bertral Washington said:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-citizen-honored-for-saving-lives-118884509.html>

The Sacramento (CA) Metropolitan Fire District has negotiated concessions with its firefighters union that will save \$28 million over three years, officials said Friday. Without the concessions, the district would have had to close six to eight fire stations, interim Fire Chief Kurt Henke said at a news conference at district headquarters on Hurley Way. The district has 39 stations. "It means we will be able to keep the same service levels we have now," Henke said. On an annual basis, the savings represent 7 percent of the district's expected payroll costs this fiscal year. In its budget approved last year, the district planned to spend \$134 million, or 91 percent of its budget, on payroll costs, which include medical and pension expenses. The concessions were negotiated with Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 and ratified by 85 percent of its members, said Maurice Johnson the union's vice president. They

include employees having to make contributions to the pension plan, reduction of incentive pay and reduced holiday leave:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/26/3505143/sac-metro-accord-with-union-cuts.html>

North Las Vegas' (NV) audit of its fire department found no pervasive abuse of sick leave, the city announced Thursday. The city audit found that last year, the 176 fire department employees took an average of 4.6 sick days per person and worked an average of 16 days of overtime. "I'm happy the results of a city audit showed the same numbers the fire chief had been telling us all along. There is no sick leave abuse or overtime abuse within the North Las Vegas Fire Department. In fact, the fire chief has had strict controls in place to assure there would be no abuse and our sick leave is reportedly the lowest in the county," Mayor Shari Buck said in a statement:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/apr/14/city-audit-shows-no-firefighter-sick-leave-abuse-n/>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

U.S. still unprepared for threats, 9-11 panel chiefs say. Major recommendations by a bipartisan commission that investigated the 9/11 terrorist attacks remain unfulfilled nearly 10 years after the attacks, the commission chairmen told the Senate Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday. Former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., and Republican former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean said the federal government had made "considerable progress" in implementing several of the 9/11 commission's recommendations, but that it had languished or failed to implement other key suggestions. "The terrorist threat will be with us far into the future, demanding that we be ever vigilant," Hamilton told lawmakers. "We have done much, but there is much more to do."

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/03/30/111289/us-still-unprepared-for-threats.html>

NIOSH: Virginia ejection Line Of Duty Deaths (LODDs) show need for seat belts as both firefighters died as a result of injuries from being ejected; the fire department had no written SOP requiring seat belts:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1006877-niosh-va-ejection-lodds-show-need-for-seat-belts/>

Comprehensive study reveals patterns in firefighter fatalities. The four major causes they identified were under-resourcing, inadequate preparation for adverse events during operations, incomplete adoption of incident command procedures and sub-optimal personnel readiness:

[http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110412171208.htm?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/04/110412171208.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29)

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

Instead of a person, Cambria's (CA) new, temporary fire chief could be a department: CalFire/County Fire. Tammy Rudock, general manager of the Cambria Community Services District, and Cal Fire Acting Chief Robert Lewin were to have met late Wednesday afternoon to begin developing an interim agreement between the two agencies. Under such an agreement, Cal Fire would temporarily provide chief-officer coverage and management of the CCSD fire department: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/04/14/1562227/cambrias-new-fire-chief-could.html>

**Is the Clark County (NV) firefighters push to unify departments a smoke screen? Motives behind firefighters' desire to consolidate are questioned:**

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/20/push-unify-smoke-screen/>

**A Northern California city is proposing to share fire services with a neighboring city that could possibly save both millions of dollars. Redwood City's council on Monday approved a proposal to form a joint fire department with San Carlos that could save Redwood City as much as \$1.5 million and San Carlos up to \$1.2 million a year. Redwood City fire Chief James Skinner told the *Palo Alto Daily News* that under the proposal, they would provide staffing for San Carlos' two fire stations for about \$5.9 million a year. That's less than the \$7.1 million San Carlos paid this year: <http://www.kpsplocal2.com/news/state/story/Redwood-City-seeks-joint-fire-dept-with-San-Carlos/5yw8SeeiXEWtATvsgvanoA.cspX>**

**Relentless in his criticism of county firefighters over sick leave and overtime pay, Clark County (NV) Commissioner Steve Sisolak is again on the attack, this time seeking to curtail taxpayer spending that compensates firefighters for conducting union business. A bill in the Legislature would advance that fight by banning the use of taxpayer money to support union activity on behalf of any local government worker in Nevada. But a top union official says that idea lacks merit because the private sector also compensates employees for union business. Figures provided to Sisolak by county staff showed that taxpayers spent \$974,967 from 2006 through 2010 to reimburse the base pay of county firefighters who took leaves of absence to attend arbitration sessions, meetings and other union functions. Factoring in the time-and-a-half in overtime paid to firefighters who replaced those on union leave, Sisolak said the cost to taxpayers is considerably higher:**

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/mar/26/another-firefighter-perk-fans-flames/>

**The San Diego (CA) City Council's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee Wednesday forwarded to the full council a five-year plan to strengthen the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department by adding new stations and staff. The four members of the committee could not agree to recommend passage to the council because of a lack of funding sources. The major recommendation from the "Citygate Working Group Report" is to restore eight fire engines taken out of service on a rotating basis this year to save \$11.5 million. Mayor Jerry Sanders reportedly will phase the engines back into service in the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. He is scheduled to release his budget proposal Thursday:**

<http://www.cbs8.com/story/14442897/plan-to-beef-up-fire-department-receives-council-committee-approval>

**The Baltimore (MD) City Fire Department has abandoned hiring procedures established in 2004 that were designed to make the department more diverse, the WBAL-TV 11 News I-Team has discovered. The fire academy's May class of graduates is motivated, dedicated and determined, but there's little diversity, WBAL-TV 11 News I-Team reporter David Collins said. Nearly all of the 45 cadets are white men except for five African-Americans and three women. Of another class of 45 cadets that started instruction Wednesday, 29 are Caucasian, 12 are African-American and all of them are men. Baltimore City Fire Chief James Clack admitted there's plenty of room for improvement. "Is it as diverse as I'd like? No -- both from the standpoint of minorities and women," said Clack, who was appointed chief in 2008. In a city where African-Americans make up 63.2 percent of the population, the 11 News I-Team could find little evidence that the department is actively seeking minority candidates. A city representative told the I-Team that the Fire Department's last recruitment efforts took place more than two years ago when officials visited 20 places, including schools, churches and community events. The 11 News I-Team attempted to contact representatives at all 20**

locations, but half had no recollection or documentation to support the Fire Department's claim. "I'm very upset if that's actually true that people weren't actually at these events because I know that the department paid overtime to people to staff these booths," Clack said: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/baltimore-city-fire-dept-abandones-hiring-procedures>

After nearly a year of talks, Palo Alto's (CA) management and its firefighters are preparing to take their heated labor dispute to binding arbitration. The city and Palo Alto Professional Firefighters, Local 1319, have been mired in contract negotiations since late May but have failed to reach an agreement. Though both sides said this week that they have made some progress in recent weeks, they are also preparing for a three-member panel to settle the dispute. City Manager James Keene said the two sides made virtually no progress between May and February, when he declared the negotiations to be at an "impasse." The conversations have since improved, though an agreement has yet to be reached: [http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/story.php?story\\_id=14716](http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/story.php?story_id=14716)

Paradise (CA) may soon be leasing a chief from Cal Fire-Butte County for three to four months, until the Paradise Fire Department can recruit a permanent chief. Town Manager Chuck Rough is recommending the Town Council approve an agreement to contract for Division Chief Rob Cone for the next few months. Rough described the deal as a "win-win situation" that keeps the town's budget level through the fiscal year and actually saves the town. The contract cost is \$11,391 a month, or \$600 less than its former chief's salary and benefits: [http://www.oroillemr.com/news/ci\\_17739309](http://www.oroillemr.com/news/ci_17739309)

When a big red Arlington (TX) fire engine rolls up in front of a home for a medical call, residents know help has arrived. For the city, however, it's a pretty expensive house call. That's why the Fire Department is conducting a pilot program at Station No. 2 in which it sends an SUV with a two-person squad to certain medical calls instead of a fire engine with a crew of three or four, said Assistant Chief Alan Kassen, who oversees the fire rescue division. Station 2, which serves the east side from roughly Division Street to Mayfield Road, is the city's busiest. Fuel costs are part of the study, which is expected to last 90 to 180 days. The larger trucks, which run on diesel, get 3.6 miles per gallon, compared with 10 to 12 mpg for the gasoline-powered Chevrolet Suburban used by the squad, Kassen said. During the first 25 days of the study, the squad had responded to an average of 7.1 calls a day. Over the course of a year, that would be almost 2,600 calls. Based on current fuel prices and the call volume, the squad format could save \$4,600 a year just at Station 2, Kassen said. The Fire Department also wants to reduce the wear and tear on its larger trucks: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/04/03/2971571/arlington-experiments-with-sending.html>

A consultant's report encourages a merger of three San Mateo County (CA) fire departments but says the cities would have to close two stations and build a new one to realize significant savings. City councils in Millbrae and San Bruno are expected to decide at their meetings Tuesday whether they want to come up with a plan on how to merge with Burlingame and Hillsborough, which operate as the Central County Fire Department, officials said. Despite the prospect of having to shutter two fire stations and come up with the money to construct one, mayors from both cities support fusing the three services. "I feel we should go forward, definitely," said San Bruno Mayor Jim Ruane. "It just makes sense to consolidate." [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_17823242?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17823242?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick_check=1)

An experiment in joint management begins Monday, April 11, for the cities of Piedmont (CA) and Albany. The Piedmont City Council on Monday evening signed off unanimously on an

agreement for a one-year pilot project already signed by Albany, which sets up the sharing of the fire chief services of Ed Tubbs:

<http://piedmont.patch.com/articles/one-fire-chief-two-cities-a-municipal-experiment>

Paradise (CA) firefighters may someday wear CAL FIRE uniforms. With Paradise Firefighter Association support, Paradise's town manager is asking the town council Tuesday night for permission to explore that option. The first step in the process is to figure out the cost. To do that, the town would formally ask CAL FIRE for a cost estimate through an RFP, or Request For Proposals, Town Manager Chuck Rough said. Essentially, the town would ask CAL FIRE what it would cost to cover the town of Paradise. Then, looking at a "menu" of options, the town would pick and choose services it could afford. Only then would the town be able to figure out if the deal made both financial and public safety sense, Rough said. CAL FIRE Division Chief Rob Cone, who was hired as the temporary Paradise Fire Chief on Tuesday, said the menu would be like that of Burger King's. "Have it your way," he said in a conversation with Rough and The Post Friday afternoon. The town may choose between numbers of stations, engines and staffing, or choose the status quo - whatever is best for the customer. Rough said studying the option didn't mean the town would automatically buy into the agreement, but there was a real possibility of saving money:

[http://www.paradisepost.com/news/ci\\_17804705](http://www.paradisepost.com/news/ci_17804705)

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

Also, thanks to everyone for their continued support over the years. You may not agree with all of the information contained within these newsletters, but remember why the information is being included: to better prepare you for a career in the fire service, to prepare you for promoting in the fire service, and to just keep you up-to-date with what is going on in your fire service. Even more important than that, this information will hopefully keep you safe and may just save your life or the life of a brother or sister firefighter! Take care and don't just stay safe – make it safe!

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

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