



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 2, 2009

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

NIOSH has released reports of probes conducted on three line-of-duty death incidents. Please take the time to read these investigative reports, as well as other reports in the future as well as from the past. If we fail to learn from history, we are doomed to allow history to repeat itself!

Documents released include details surrounding:

1. The circumstances of a blaze in California that claimed two firefighters;

On July 21, 2007, Contra Costa Capt. Matthew C. Burton, 34, and Engineer Scott P. Desmond, 37, perished while searching for occupants in a blazing home. In addition to the firefighters, two residents died in the fire.

NIOSH investigators concluded: "Key contributing factors identified in this investigation include failure to report the fire by the alarm monitoring company; inadequate staffing; the failure to conduct a size-up and transfer incident command; conducting a search without protection from a hoseline; failure to deploy a back-up hoseline; inadequate ventilation and inadequate training on fire behavior."

2. The crash of a tanker in New York that left the driver dead;

On July 8, 2008, a firefighter was killed in New York after he was ejected from the tanker he was driving. Investigators cited the lack of seat belt use as a primary factor in Ryan T. Barker's death. Barker, 25, a member of West Hill Fire Department, was returning to the station after a call when he lost control of the tanker on a curvy road.

3. A fatal wreck on a Montana road;

NIOSH investigators also followed up on a crash in Montana that left a firefighter dead. Jerry Parrick, 59, was seated in his personal pickup truck along a road to warn other motorists of another crash. A tractor hauling two trailers veered out of control and struck his vehicle. The investigators said factors included hazardous road conditions, the speed of the tractor-trailer, and non-use of a seat belt by the firefighter.

To read all three of the above reports in their entirety, including recommendations to prevent similar future occurrences, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=63455>

FIRE SERVICE HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION:

April 8, 2009

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: Kim Zagaris, Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Chief
Sheldon Gilbert, President, California Fire Chiefs Assn.
Lou Paulson, President, California Professional Firefighters
RE: CA FIRE SERVICE POLICY STATEMENT ON PACK TEST

To read the article on the internet, go to: <http://www.cpf.org/go/cpf/health-and-safety/health-and-safety-updates/health-and-safety-updates/pack-test-falls-short-as-fitness-test/>

From time to time questions arise concerning the "Pack Test" for physical readiness of firefighters; there is confusion on the purpose of the test, the need for the test and the effectiveness of the test. We are issuing this letter in the hopes of clarifying the issues that surround the test which include labor-management relations and the affect on the statewide Mutual Aid system. The National Interagency Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1 (310-1) establishes the minimum requirement for physical fitness levels for wildland firefighting positions for the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). The NWCG uses the "Pack Test" to demonstrate this level of work capacity.

The Pack Test is not intended to be a standard that demonstrates that an incumbent firefighter is "fit for duty". Rather, the Pack Test is used by federal agencies to evaluate the fitness of an individual who is a candidate to be considered for employment specifically for wildland firefighting. The Pack Test is a measure of an individual's "work capacity", not their ability to do his or her job successfully.

The Pack Test is a "functional capacity evaluation". It falls short of the NFPA firefighter fitness standards (1021, 1051, 1582 and 1583) and The Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative (WFI) in determining firefighter fitness for duty and ability to complete the job successfully. In 310-1, regarding qualifications, it states, "The NWCG recognizes the ability of cooperating agencies at the local level to jointly define and accept each other's qualifications for initial attack, extended attack, large fire operations and

prescribed fire.” Fire departments impose a false sense of security that is tied to the Pack Test as an indicator of fitness for duty. In some cases, fire chiefs have determined that the Pack Test is a requirement for certification under the California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS). The Pack Test is not a determination of fitness for duty and, physical fitness is not part of CICCS criteria.

Under NWCG policy and CICCS procedure, it is the fire chief that makes the decision on the fitness of the firefighters in his or her department. The use of the Pack Test for this purpose amounts to an incumbent performance issue. This begs the question, what constitutes incumbent firefighter fitness for duty? The big issue regarding the Pack Test or other “fit for duty” physical evaluation is what to do for the firefighters who do not “pass” the test. The International Association of Firefighters and International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFF/IAFC) WFI Task Force maintains the position that “the failure of an incumbent firefighter demonstrates the fire department’s (including labor, management and the individual) inability to prepare and/or maintain training skill and conditioning to perform the job specific functions required for fire department operations.”

There are no consensus standards or validated performance standards that have been developed for incumbent firefighters. In this case, physical fitness is a better predictor of successful job completion rather than physical performance. A performance test without an accompanying fitness program is worthless. Performance tests, including the Pack Test, have an acceptable (pass) time for completion of a task. The assumption in establishing pass/fail based on performance is that a shorter time to completion demonstrates successful job completion. However, speed is not a predictor of success; a task performed too fast may cause injuries.

Fire chiefs can establish performance tests. Imposing the standard will alter working conditions. After the standards are set, the effect of the standards on working conditions may have to be negotiated with the labor groups. What will be done with those firefighters who fail to meet the standards? Again, a performance test without an accompanying fitness program is worthless. Rather than an arbitrary demonstration of work capacity, fire departments should follow nationally established standards that have been endorsed by the international parent organizations for both management and labor.

The implementation of the Pack Test will also create a patchwork of requirements that could affect the statewide mutual aid system. If some departments require the Pack Test before they respond in mutual aid situations, this will create an artificial barrier that could delay or even preclude departments from responding. Additionally if certain departments are requiring the Pack Test for their personnel are they going to require automatic or mutual aid resources to also have the Pack Test completed before responding to fire events in their jurisdiction? These questions and others need to be addressed as quickly as practical as to not disrupt the current response system. The California fire service must implement and maintain a physical fitness standard that is driven by verifiable medical criteria and a process that evaluates each firefighter based on their expected job performance. The firefighter fitness programs should be positive in approach and not punitive.

The WFI is a complete medical, physical fitness and wellness program package. It is fully developed and continually evaluated for effectiveness in maintaining firefighters' physical and mental capabilities. These recommendations are referenced in NFPA standards 1021, 1582 and 1583. The IAFF, through formal policy, recommends that physical fitness programs emphasize the general health benefits to the firefighter as well as benefits to the fire department.

The IAFC endorses the Wellness-Fitness Initiative with these specific goals:

- Overcome the historic fire service punitive mentality of physical fitness and wellness issues;
- Move beyond negative timed, task-based performance testing to progressive wellness improvement;
- Require a commitment by labor and management to a positive individualized fitness/wellness program; and
- Develop a holistic wellness approach that includes: medical, fitness, injury/fitness/medical rehabilitation and behavioral health.

The California fire service will do well to adopt the same goals regarding firefighter fitness. This will provide a measurable and verifiable fitness standard for all firefighters for their local jurisdiction as well as responding to statewide mutual aid needs. To implement non-specific work capacity tests, such as the Pack Test, circumvents a legitimate physical fitness program from which the fire department will maximize the safety of the firefighters.

Kim Zagaris
Cal EMA Fire and Rescue Chief

Sheldon Gilbert
President, California Fire Chiefs Assn.

Lou Paulson
President, California Professional Firefighters

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSES BEING OFFERED INCLUDE:

- **S-460 (Finance/Administration Section Chief)** May 11 through 13, 2009 in San Jose, CA
- **S-440 (Planning Section Chief)** May 18 through 20, 2009 in Mountain View, CA
- **S-450 (Logistics Section Chief)** May 21 through 22, 2009 in Santa Cruz, CA
- **S-355 (Ground Support Unit Leader)** May 26 and 27, 2009 in Fremont, CA

Take care, and be safe,

Tom Reaves, Fire Chief, Foster City Fire Department

PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION COURSES:

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

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

Class sizes are limited, so register early!

How To Excel At Fire Service Promotional Exams!

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

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TOPICS TO BE COVERED INCLUDE:

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

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

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

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

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

Is your fire department interested in hosting one of these classes? If so, feel free to contact me at sprziborowski@aol.com for more information on how easy it is to do so; I will make it as turn-key as possible, and require only the use of a classroom. I will even handle registration!

FIRE SERVICE INFO FROM THE I.A.F.C.:

IAFC MEMBER ALERT

Contact: Terry Monroe, Director of Marketing
703-385-1610 • tmonroe@iafc.org • www.iafc.org

IAFC and Fire Recovery Raise Awareness of Cost Recovery Programs

Offers Option for Fire Departments Facing Budget Challenges

Fairfax, Va., Apr. 14, 2009... The IAFC and Fire Recovery USA are announcing a new initiative to inform fire departments about one option for offsetting their costs in a time of shrinking budgets and greater emergency response challenges.

This initiative comes at a critical time for fire department funding, as city and county officials confront the effects of the economic downturn. While these city and county officials don't want to reduce the levels of public-safety services, many fire departments have already been forced to take these drastic steps. As a result, officials and departments are searching for non-traditional measures to avoid levying taxes or decreasing service levels. Cost recovery is one measure that fire departments and their cities and counties are adopting. These departments are deciding to file claims against the at-fault driver in motor vehicle accidents to reimburse the fire department for the cost of emergency responses.

Although the process may vary depending on the applicable state law, generally the fire department's city or county will adopt an ordinance that sets forth the terms of their cost-recovery program. The ordinance is adopted by the city or county, and the fire department then has the authority to file claims for their emergency response services.

"In today's chaotic economic environment, governments and their fire departments are facing declining tax bases and resources while trying to maintain timely and high-quality emergency responses to their constituents," said IAFC President Chief Larry J. Grorud, CFO, MIFireE. "The IAFC is working to raise awareness about cost recovery, and we believe Fire Recovery USA provides our members with a service that will help them address some of their financial difficulties."

Troy Walsh, executive vice president of sales for Fire Recovery, commented on the joint initiative with the IAFC. "Many of us with Fire Recovery USA have spent our entire careers in and around the fire service and understand the challenges facing today's chiefs and their departments. Our company was formed specifically to help address their needs, and we are committed to delivering the very best service and results to the IAFC's members." Fire Recovery USA only pursues claims against those individuals who are at fault or create the need for an emergency response by a fire department to a qualifying event. Most of the claims are made against nonresident at-fault drivers. Most claims are less than \$450 and are limited to the costs actually incurred by the fire department in the emergency response.

Anticipating questions from citizens, Walsh said, "As citizens begin to understand the nominal size of the emergency response fee and the probable minimal impact on their insurance premiums, they generally become more accepting of the concept. When they realize that filing claims for emergency response fees is the only acceptable alternative for many fire departments, they come to accept the policy."

To learn more, visit the [IAFC's webpage on cost recovery](#) or [Fire Recovery USA](#). If you have questions about this new initiative, contact Terry Monroe at the IAFC (703-385-1610, tmonroe@iafc.org) or Mike Rivera at Fire Recovery USA, (888-640-7222, info@firerecoveryusa.com).

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Tactics & Strategy Workshop

June 13 and 14, 2009

Presented by Scott Goodwin & Associates

Location: Residence Inn by Marriott
1015 Montecito Drive
Corona, CA 92879

Topics Covered:

Size up	Incident Command System
Positioning & Tactics	Divisions & Groups
Fire Attack	Intelligence Gathering
Rescue & RIC	Decision Making based on Intelligence
Support	Simulations

Intended Audience:

Current Company Officers	Future Company Officers
Current Chief Officers	Future Chief Officers

Principle Presenter: Scott has over 30 years in the fire service, with over 20 years as a Company / Chief Officer. He has been an Incident Commander on thousands of incidents; Scott brings his unique but simple approach to command and simulations.

Cost: \$550.00 **Class size is limited to 10 students!**

Students will participate in 25 simulations over two days!

Email scottgoodwinassoc@ymail.com to reserve your spot in the class and to get pre-workshop information.

This workshop is guaranteed to improve simulation skills for your next promotional exam!

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

Application Period to Open: Fiscal Year 2009 Assistance to Firefighter Grants

The Department of Homeland Security has posted the FY2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Guidance on the AFG Website. The application period is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Applications for these grants must be received by Wednesday, May 20, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Nationally, the AFG awards, which will be distributed in phases, will ultimately provide approximately \$510 million to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. AFG awards aim to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

An applicant tutorial is available through the www.firegrantsupport.com website. The tutorial provides you with valuable grant information and will walk you through the preparation and submittal of competitive applications. In addition, the applicant tutorial will provide an overview of the funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Applicants who have questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grants opportunity should contact the help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at firegrants@dhs.gov. During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (EDT), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume and demand.

The AFG Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

For access to the FY09 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Guidance or FAQs - visit www.firegrantsupport.com/afg/.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

TAKE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES ON THE INTERNET REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2009 CLASSES NOW!

Fire Tech classes on the internet are available from Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. The following courses will be held completely on-line June 15 – August 5, 2009.

Fire Technology Classes

Fire Protection Organization
Fire Prevention Technology
Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
Building Construction for Fire Protection
Fire Behavior & Combustion
Fire Hydraulics
Apparatus & Equipment

After prospective students have applied to the college, they may register for classes on the internet (WebReg), by fax, mail or in person.

For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes, or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu

Finally, if the classes are full when you try to enroll, contact Dan Coffman, we may be able to permit you to enroll at Hancock College or elsewhere.

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



The losses from arson are staggering! There are many motives for arson, the crime of deliberately and maliciously setting fire. One particular type of arson - arson for profit, or economic arson - is the theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week, May 3-9. Arson for Profit occurs when businesses or individuals set fires to reduce financial loss, recoup initial investments, and dispose of depreciated assets usually for a payout from insurance
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companies. Referring to all types of arson, the Insurance Information Institute indicates that arsonists destroyed nearly \$900 million in insured property and killed 295 civilians nationwide in 2007 alone. By drawing people's attention to the astounding statistics, we hope to expand the resources and support necessary to reduce this crime.

[Learn More »](#)

FIRE SERVICE HEALTH & SAFETY INFO FROM THE I.A.F.C.:

IAFC MEMBER ALERT - Contact: IAFC Communications Department
703-293-0911 • www.iafc.org

IAFC Review Panel Cites Flawed Methodology in Cancer Presumption Report

Fairfax, Va., Apr. 29, 2009... The [IAFC](#) has issued the [findings of an expert panel](#) convened by the organization through the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section. The panel found a recently released report challenging cancer presumption laws for firefighters used flawed research methodology that produce predetermined outcomes. The National League of Cities' (NLC) report under review, ***Assessing State Firefighter Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Firefighter Cancer Research***, was a study of 17 previous studies and offered no new independent research data. The IAFC's panel of medical research experts questioned the NLC report's "subjective and highly questionable methodology," citing the lack of quantitative review, inconsistencies in published criteria for which studies were selected for inclusion and the inability of NLC investigators to reliably classify the studies included.

"If the National League of Cities is truly concerned about evaluating this issue 'objectively and scientifically' as they stated in their press release, then they need to look at all the data in a scientifically sound manner," said IAFC President Chief Larry J. Grorud, CFO, MIFireE. Those reviewing the NLC report likened the organization's conclusions—"a lack of substantial evidence" for presumption and a call to halt new presumption laws until further, high-level research can be done—to the tactics used by the tobacco industry.

"Data-based research is one of our strongest allies in reducing firefighter deaths, injuries and disease, but not if we frame the questions or manipulate the data with an end result already in mind," continued Grorud. "Rather than ignoring it, we ought to be looking closely at the ample data that does indicate a link between firefighting and cancer and how that data may support prevention. Future investments in research need to be forward-focused on preventing firefighter illness and deaths. This report offers the men and women of the fire service no path forward." Earlier today, the International Association of Fire Fighters ([IAFF](#)) issued their [assessment of the NLC report with a joint statement of the IAFF and IAFC](#) in regard to the report. The IAFC and the IAFF are committed to working together to ensure firefighters are guaranteed the protection they need when fighting for their lives against work-related cancers.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

• ***EMT & Firefighter 1 Academy Classes!***

Emergency Medical Technician I ~ Fire Academy Format Course

Applications are Now Available!

Class begins on Wednesday, June 24, 2009.

Application Deadline is 12 noon on Thursday, May 21, 2009.

See the application for more information. The EMT Course is not a requirement for the Firefighter 1 Academy, however, it is highly recommended.

Applications are also available on the website, www.ARCFire.org.

AND:

California Regional Fire Academy

Applications are Now Available!

Full-Time Class 09-7 and Extended-Format Class 09-8 both begin on Monday, August 24, 2009.

Application Deadline is 12 noon on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

See the application for more information.

Applications are also available on the website, www.ARCFire.org.

Thank you!

Mollie Povey
California Fire & Rescue Training Authority
4427 Dudley Blvd, McClellan, CA 95652
(916) 640-1420 Main
(916) 640-1422 Fax
www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH & SAFETY INFO FROM THE IAFC:

IAFC MEMBER ALERT

Contact: IAFC Communications Department
703-293-0911 • www.iafc.org

Cancer Presumption Report Under Review by IAFC

Fairfax, Va., Apr. 20, 2009... The [IAFC](http://www.iafc.org) is currently reviewing a study commissioned by the National League of Cities (NLC) that supports the NLC's position opposing the workers compensation presumption that cancer in firefighters is linked to the job. The IAFC, an ardent supporter of cancer presumption laws, is deeply concerned about the impact this report may have on critical firefighter protections, as well as future health and safety research.

The NLC study, ***Assessing State Firefighter Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Firefighter Cancer Research***, is a study of previous studies that, according to the NLC, "demonstrates inadequate scientific research to determine a link between working as a firefighter and an elevated risk of contracting cancer." An initial assessment suggests that the new study offers no new independent research.

The IAFC, through the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section, and the IAFF, have each assembled a high-level team consisting of doctorate-level academicians, medical physicians and fire service safety and health experts to thoroughly evaluate the report and provide a complete assessment and fact-based resources for the IAFC, the fire and emergency service community, and the communities they serve.

The IAFC will issue updated information as soon as it is available. Please watch for more information via email, on the [IAFC](http://www.iafc.org) and [IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section](http://www.iafc.org/safety) websites, and in [IAFC On Scene](http://www.iafc.org/on-scene).

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

CALM THE CHAOS! ***MASTERING FIREGROUND COMMAND***

2-DAY SIMULATION WORKSHOP

TODAY'S FIREGROUND SHOULD BE A CALM AND ORCHESTRATED EVENT, BUT OFTEN IT IS NOT!

FEWER FIRES, MASS ATTRITION, AND LITTLE OR NO COMMAND TRAINING HAVE CREATED AN ERA IN TODAY'S FIRE SERVICE WHERE THE SIMPLE "BREAD AND BUTTER" HOUSE FIRE IS A SENTINEL EVENT.

THE NIOSH TOP 5 LINE OF DUTY DEATH CAUSES ON THE FIREGROUND SURROUND SIZE UP, COMMAND, COMMUNICATIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SOP'S.

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PARTICIPATE IN SIMULATIONS FOR HOUSE FIRES, GARDEN/CENTER HALL APARTMENTS, COMMERCIAL, HIGHRISE, WILDLAND, MCI, HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS AND REVIEW ACTUAL INCIDENTS TO GET ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

- HOW DO I SET CLEAR TACTICAL OBJECTIVES, HAVE CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ESTABLISH COMMAND PRESENCE ON MY FIRES?
- 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?
- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIZE UPS AND ARRIVAL REPORTS AND HOW DO I BECOME GREAT AT BOTH?
- WHAT ARE THE TRIGGER POINTS AND SAFETY ISSUES OF OFFENSIVE, DEFENSIVE AND COMBINATION STRATEGIES?
- WHAT ARE THE KEY POINTS TO RESCUE, EXPOSURES, CONFINEMENT, EXTINGUISHMENT, OVERHAUL, VENTILATION AND SALVAGE?
- HOW DO I REALLY USE ICS DAY-TO-DAY AND GET BEYOND "CHECKING THE BOXES"?
- HOW DO WE GET SOP'S/SOG'S WORKING IN MY DEPARTMENT?
- WHEN DO WE CALL AN AUDIBLE ON THE SOP'S?
- WHAT COULD HURT ME OR MY CREW TONIGHT?

THIS INTENSE, HANDS-ON AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP HITS THESE ISSUES HEAD ON AND WILL SIMPLIFY THE COMPONENTS OF TACTICS & STRATEGY, SOP'S AND ICS. WE SYNTHESIZE THESE 3 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!**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- ✓ **CURRENT OFFICERS WHO DESIRE TO DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THEIR FIREGROUND COMMAND ABILITIES**
- ✓ **ASPIRING OFFICERS WHO DESIRE TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR THE ASSESSMENT CENTER TEST AND THE JOB**
- ✓ **TRAINING OFFICERS WHO DESIRE THE LATEST IN TACTICAL TRAINING**

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 SIMULATION STRATEGY AND TACTICS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. ANTHONY IS THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR THE SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE COMMAND TRAINING CENTER AND CURRENTLY A LINE BATTALION CHIEF SUPERVISING 10 COMPANIES.

**JUNE 18-19, 2009 - MONTEREY FIRE DEPARTMENT - \$250.00
GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

FIRE SERVICE HEALTH & SAFETY INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE U. S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION REGARDING THE H1N1 FLU

Release Date: April 29, 2009

Washington DC- In an effort to send a common message the U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) is working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other Federal partners to issue an Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Medical First Responder, and a specific 9-1-1 guidance document (see below) to the Nation's first responders. This is a dynamic process and we will provide additional information as soon as we receive the appropriate agency(s) approval. In addition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) link <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/> there is also a link for specific Pandemic Influenza information at www.EMS.gov.

"We are currently monitoring the H1N1 Flu information as it comes forward from the CDC and DHS medical experts. As a part of DHS/FEMA, the USFA is seeking to ensure our Nation's firefighters and their families are provided the information they need to stay safe," said Acting Assistant Administrator Glenn A. Gaines. "We know as firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) called to emergency medical responses and other emergencies across the Nation, there is always the concern for secondary exposure to fellow firefighters and families as firefighters return to their homes. As conditions change, we will work closely with you to ensure firefighters and EMTs have the most current information."

The U.S. Department of Transportation's *EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption and Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations for Protocol Development and 9-1-1 Personnel and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)* are available online at www.ems.gov (Click on Pandemic News). State and local EMS agencies should review these documents for additional useful information.

For the most current information regarding the outbreak of H1N1 Flu, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/SwineFlu/>

PARAMEDIC PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Applications for the fall 2009 Emergency Training Services Paramedic program in Santa Cruz, CA are now available on their website – www.emergencytraining.com! See below for more information about their program, including the requirements to apply.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A paramedic is a health care provider trained in the emergency care of patients who suffer from sudden illness or injury. Paramedics are trained in the highest level of Emergency Medical Services and function in the prehospital environment under the direction of a physician. The ETS/ROP Paramedic Program can usually be completed over the course of 9 months to 1 year. It is comprised of 1,234 hours of training divided into three categories: didactic (classroom), clinical internship and field internship.

Didactic sessions meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in the Fall and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the Spring, for approximately 25 weeks. These are 8-hour daytime sessions. Areas of study will include advanced instruction in topics such as: anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, drug administration, EKG interpretation, airway management, toxicology, pediatrics, chemical dependency, obstetrics and ALS strategies for all major medical and trauma emergencies.

After the 15th week of instruction, students begin clinical internships that last a minimum of 160 hours. Each student will be assigned a nurse preceptor, who will guide them through the practice of skills and techniques in a hospital setting. A typical clinical internship schedule will include 3, 8-hour shifts per week for 2 months. Some of the hospitals we maintain contracts with include: Stanford Medical Center, Kaiser Santa Clara and Dominican Hospital Santa Cruz.

The field internship phase consists of a minimum of 480 hours of active paramedic application. Each student is assigned to a paramedic unit to act as an integral member of the mobile intensive care team. The student, while under the supervision of a paramedic preceptor, will apply principles of paramedic care to patients in the field setting. We maintain contracts with AMR - the largest emergency care provider in the US, many fire departments in California, and a few out of state. A typical field internship schedule will include 2-3, 24-hour or 8-hour shifts per week for 3-6 months.

The ETS Paramedic Program is accredited by CAAHEP and ABHES.

Prerequisites

- All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Candidates must be currently certified as an EMT at the time of application.
- Candidates must be free from any felony convictions.
- Classes recommended for course preparation include: anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, and chemistry.

How to apply

There will be two Paramedic Programs scheduled per academic year. Applications will be available in the spring and fall. Applicants that meet all requirements will be accepted for a screening process. This process may include aptitude testing and an interview. The screening and interview process commences in the summer for entry into the fall program. Screening begins in the winter for entry into the spring program. Complete details will be included in the application packet. If you would like an application packet, please call the office and we will put you on the mailing list. The tuition is \$12,000. Tuition includes all books, uniforms and internship fees.

Career Opportunities

The ETS/ROP graduate has several career paths available. Paramedics are employed in private ambulance companies and fire departments. Salaries start at about \$35,000 per year. Salaries and benefit packages vary with each employer. To become employed at an ambulance company or fire department, an ambulance driver's certificate or appropriate class driver's license, as well as a high level of physical agility is required. Such employers usually require criminal background checks prior to hiring.

For a list of other paramedic (and EMT) programs, visit our website links section at www.chabotfire.com/Links.htm

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFO:

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

The next application cut-off date is May 31st, 2009.

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

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!!!**

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

- January 11, 2010
- July 5, 2010
- January 10, 2011

Benefits 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

You 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.

Why 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 over night. 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 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!**

The 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](http://www.firehire.com) testing process. So, if you don’t take the test, you don’t stand a chance.

Some of the fire departments might have other requirements (view the Firehire web site at www.firehire.com for more specific information) such as:

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

For application materials or more information, visit their website at 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>Fire Department</u>	<u>Positions available</u>
• Albany Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• American Canyon F.P.D. –	Firefighter/EMT
• Big Bear Lake F.P.D. –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Central County Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Cosumnes Community Services F.P.D.	Firefighter/EMT & 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

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- [North County Fire Authority](#) - Firefighter/EMT
- [Petaluma Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Piedmont Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Redwood City Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Rio Vista Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Ross Valley Fire Authority](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [San Bruno Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT
- [San Mateo Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- [South Lake Tahoe Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Vallejo Fire Department](#) – Firefighter/Paramedic
- [Woodside Fire District](#) – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic

CPAT 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. The address is 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove, California. The next written examination is going to be administered on July 13th, 2009, and is weighed at 100%.

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.**

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

*National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST)
The Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union &
The "Nobody Gets Left Behind" Training Group presents:*

“ F i r e D y n a m i c s ”

This program truly highlights the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST'S) partnership with the fire service. The NIST staff will use videos of their studies to show and re-enforce the data documented to show firefighters how convection, radiation and ventilation including wind, affect a fire. Other topics of discussion will include: building geometry, materials, furnishings and firefighting tactics. Attendees will leave with a copy of the presentation and videos so that they may share them with the members of their department to ultimately increase firefighter safety.

Instructor: Daniel Madrzykowski, PE – Dan is a fire protection engineer with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. His research includes: firefighting technology, firefighter LODD'S, suppression systems and fire investigations (Station Night Club fire). He has a Masters Degree from the University of Maryland. Dan is on the Board of Directors for the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, and chairs the IAAI engineering committee along with the NFPA Research Section. He is also a member of the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Service Training.

- **June 17, 2009 in San Jose, California**

OR:

- **June 18, 2009 in West Sacramento, California**

REGISTRATION

To Register for this class: www.leerescue.com/NGLB

Program Fee \$25.00 (Includes Lunch)

For information please email: nglbtraining@rescuenet.com

Locations:

- **Mexican Heritage Plaza - 1700 Alum Rock Avenue, San Jose, CA 95116 (June 17)**
- **Ziggurat State Office Building, West Sacramento, CA (June 18)**

Lee & Associates Rescue Equipment Inc.- (831) 338-7692 - www.leerescue.com / www.gearshop.com

FIRE SERVICE HEALTH & SAFETY INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

USFA Urges Continued Vigilance by Firefighters to Avoid Exposure to Carcinogens and Other Toxins

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has completed its review of a recently released study conducted by the TriData Division of the System Planning Corporation, analyzing firefighter presumptive cancer legislation and attempting to prove or disprove a correlation between firefighting activities and the occurrence of cancer. While this study is considered thoughtful and well-presented, its results are scientifically inconclusive, and indicate that more expansive study is in order. Acting United States Fire Administrator Glenn A. Gaines noted, "The results of this report clearly indicate that more study and analysis is necessary. It is much too early to abandon presumptive laws and benefits for firefighters who present with cancers. To make such a quantum leap at this point in time may be premature."

Added Administrator Gaines, "What is appropriate at this time is continued vigilance on the part of all firefighters to limit their exposure to toxins and known carcinogens by use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), by proper decontamination of PPE and other equipment, and by use of diesel exhaust removal strategies in fire stations throughout our nation." As a long time partner of all of the nation's firefighters and fire service organizations, USFA has regularly and continually supported research efforts, specific training, and other initiatives focusing on firefighter wellness and safety issues.

"As with all truly professional disciplines, the fire service must be willing to support independent third party research and reviews of our profession as well as its actions and approaches," said Administrator Gaines. "Just as importantly, and like other professions, we must also focus on prevention and mitigation strategies limiting exposure to toxins and carcinogens by firefighters, be they career or volunteer." Such strategies can include public education efforts to reduce the occurrence of fires and mitigation strategies that include adequate enforcement of fire and life safety codes. Additional mitigation strategies include the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all types of occupancies, including residences, throughout our nation.

Future research efforts in the area of firefighter cancer must recognize the myriad dangers faced by firefighters throughout our country, be it asbestos in the older factories of the east, chemical and plating plants in the Midwest, or wildland fires that occur each year throughout the country. Any future studies must include methodologies to adequately recognize those firefighters who have already experienced legacy exposures, and must include definitive measures of the effectiveness of the improved PPE, decontamination equipment, and diesel exhaust systems placed in service over the past decade. Those fire departments lacking appropriate equipment to avoid and limit such exposures are encouraged to seek assistance and funds from the [Assistance to Firefighters Grant \(AFG\) Program](#) which presently is accepting applications for funds. The AFG Program has already and dramatically improved

the safety of firefighters since the program came into existence by valuing such safety initiatives and providing federal funds direct to local fire departments to assist them in such efforts. USFA stands ready and willing to assist with any new research efforts that can positively impact on firefighter safety and wellness in our nation.

For more information on all USFA programs and activities, visit the USFA at www.usfa.dhs.gov.

FIRE SERVICE RELATED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – SACRAMENTO (CA):

The [Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center](#) is looking for **fire dispatchers!** Below you will find their job announcement:

Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center
10230 Systems Parkway Sacramento, CA 95827-3006
Human Resource (916) 228-3058 - Fax (916) 228-3082

For additional information regarding employment contact:
jparker@sacregionalfire.ca.gov

Download an Application for Fire Dispatcher **Fire/EMS Dispatcher - Entry Level Only**

About the Position:

The position of Fire/EMS Dispatcher requires a dedicated professional who is enthusiastic about working with other professionals in the Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center. SRFEC is the 3rd largest fire dispatch center in the State of California. Under the general direction of the Shift Supervisor, the Dispatcher receives, properly interprets and relays information via telephone, radio and alarm systems; assists citizens with medical emergencies by instructing them, via telephone, on life saving procedures that can be performed prior to the arrival of trained medical personnel; analyzes and acts promptly to respond with assistance to emergency situations that are received; quickly and accurately utilizes a computer-aided dispatch system to initiate a response of necessary fire apparatus and personnel, ambulance, and other emergency assistance as needed to effectively handle emergency situations; utilizes a two-way radio system to communicate with field units; and maintains the status of all fire and medical apparatus and equipment within the system.

Salary Range: \$19.35 to \$20.85 per hour for Level A (must promote to Level B within 1 year)

Final Filing Date: Open Filing

2009 Dispatcher Testing Dates:

Test Date:

July 9, 2009

October 8, 2009

Deadline:

June 26, 2009

September 25, 2009

Minimum Qualifications:

Educational Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED certificate

Possession of:

- A valid Class C California Driver's License.
- A safe driving record.
- Ability to obtain a valid CPR certificate.

IMPORTANT

A typing certificate indicating a typing speed of at least 35 words per minute, corrected, and dated no more than 6 months prior to application submission, must be included with application.

(NO ON LINE TYPING CERTIFICATES, NO EXCEPTIONS)

For a current typing certificate you may contact: Sacramento Works Career Center (various locations), some temporary employment agencies like Appleone, Adecco, etc., your local adult education center, or look in the phone book under business services.

Ability to:

- Type 35 words per minute
- Learn, apply and maintain current knowledge of departmental rules, regulations, policies and procedures as well as information pertaining to fire and EMS dispatch.
- Learn and apply call interrogation, emergency medical dispatch, and fire dispatch techniques and procedures.
- Learn and demonstrate mechanical aptitude as required, in the operation and maintenance of voice radio, computer and computerized equipment.
- Quickly analyze information received from callers and adopt an effective, appropriate course of action.
- Read, understand and apply a variety of call-taking and fire dispatch information and materials.
- Understand and follow both oral and written instructions promptly and accurately.
- Communicate effectively in the English language in both written and oral forms.

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- Reason and act decisively under stressful and/or emergency situations.
- Perform routine building and grounds maintenance.
- Learn to operate and maintain 9-1-1 and business telephone equipment.
- Learn to operate and maintain the OES mobile dispatch vehicle and equipment.
- Establish and maintain effective work relationships with those contacted in the performance of required duties.
- Read and effectively interpret small-scale maps and information from a computer screen.
- Wear a telephone headset and be able to hear, distinguish and understand voices with fore and background noise present.
- Speak clearly in a well-understood voice, using good diction in the English language.
- Visually monitor multiple CRT screens simultaneously.
- Be independently mobile during limited staffing hours.
- Pick up and carry manuals, directories, etc. weighing up to 15 lbs.
- Sit or stand for extended periods of time.

Desirable Qualifications:

- Knowledge of principles, practices and procedures of modern public safety dispatch.
- The general functions of fire departments and other public safety agencies.
- Knowledge of and use of the Incident Command System in identifying the duties and responsibilities of each position and lines of communications and authority.
- Knowledge of the location of major streets, highways, public places and landmarks within Sacramento County.

Work Hours:

Persons hired from this recruitment will work a 3-day on-3 day off, 12-hour shift schedule. Specific workdays and hours may vary and will include working evenings, nights, weekends, holidays, some overtime, as well as rotating shifts.

Employee Benefits:

Employees may choose from several excellent health insurance programs. Dental and vision insurance programs are also provided. Employer contribution covers most of the costs for these insurances. There is employer-paid PERS retirement. Employer pays for Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Life insurance policies for each employee. Long-Term Disability Insurance is covered by employee contribution. The Center also participates in the State Disability Insurance Program. Each employee accrues 126 hours of paid sick leave per year and between 25.5 and 37.5 days of combined vacation and holiday pay (dependant upon length of service). Each employee receives an annual uniform allowance of \$350. Purchase of uniforms is required upon successful completion of Training.

Probation:

Persons who are accepted in this position are placed in probationary status for 12 months. During these 12 months, probationary dispatchers are evaluated monthly and are subject to dismissal without notice or cause.

Selection Process:

All applications will be screened. Candidates who meet the minimum qualifications will be tested. If there is a question regarding the applicant's qualifications, the Center will contact the applicant for additional details. If all portions of the application are not completed, *including attaching a typing speed certificate*, the application will not be considered. Those who pass the testing process will be placed on a hiring list according to their scores and may remain on the list for up to 1 year.

Examination Process:

The examination may include, but is not limited to...

- Role Playing Exercise
- Spelling Test
- Oral Interview
- Oral Directions Test
- Psychological Testing
- Written Language Tests
- Drug Screening
- Health Screening Examination
- Background Investigation

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT)
INFORMATION:

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
6723 Sierra Court, Suite G
Dublin, CA 94568

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

To see the **available dates** to take the CPAT at any of the above three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center -

4 -day promotional preparation workshop

Monterey, CA – May 18 through 21, 2009

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

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

Students will participate in the following assessment center exercises: written essay, in-basket, modified in-basket, oral presentation, supervisory exercise, counseling/role-play, and emergency simulations. Students are evaluated by each other and the instructor. By sitting on both sides of the table, students see effective and poor behavior first hand. The approach to this class is unlike any other, by truly helping the student prepare for both the test and the position. Personal counseling and coaching takes place during the exercises to give the aspiring officers as much potential for success as possible. This is not a canned class! They cater to the dynamic of the group each time.

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

For more information, or to register, go to their website at www.trainfirefighters.com

FIRE SERVICE HEALTH & SAFETY INFO FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

Interim Swine (H1N1) Flu Guidance for EMS, 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points Now Available

Emmitsburg, MD - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Health Affairs, National EMS Managers Association, National Association of State EMS Officials, and other Federal partners, including the United States Fire Administration, is pleased that [interim Swine \(H1N1\) Flu guidance](#) for EMS and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) for management of patients is now posted.

"The USFA has had the opportunity these past few days to work closely with the DHS Office of Health Affairs staff to ensure our nation's firefighters and EMS personnel have the most current information regarding the H1N1 virus," said Glenn A. Gaines, Acting Assistant Administrator of the USFA. "The days ahead may present additional challenges and the continued need for accurate and timely information. USFA will continue to work closely with our federal partners to ensure you have the right information at the right time to continue your response efforts in the cities and counties of this nation."

Coordination among PSAPs, the EMS system, healthcare facilities (e.g. emergency departments), and the public health system is important for a coordinated response to swine-origin influenza A (H1N1). Each 9-1-1 and EMS system should seek the involvement of an EMS medical director to provide appropriate medical oversight. Given the uncertainty of the disease, its treatment, and its progression, the ongoing role of EMS medical directors is critically important. The guidance provided in this document is based on current knowledge of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1).

The U.S. Department of Transportation's ***EMS Pandemic Influenza Guidelines for Statewide Adoption*** and ***Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: Recommendations for Protocol Development and 9-1-1 Personnel and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)*** are available online at www.ems.gov (click on News/Pandemic News). State and local EMS agencies should review these documents for additional information. For instance, Guideline 6.1 addresses protection of the EMS and 9-1-1 workers and their families while Guideline 6.2 addresses vaccines and antiviral medications for EMS personnel. Also, EMS agencies should work with their occupational health programs and/or local public health/safety agencies to make sure that long term personal protective equipment (PPE) needs and antiviral medication needs are addressed.

USFA is a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Both USFA and FEMA are a part of the Department of Homeland Security.

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FAIR:

CFFJAC Firefighter Recruitment Fair

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

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

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

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

Highlights will include:

- **Direct Recruitment:** Meet recruitment officers from fire departments throughout California and find out how to secure a future with their departments.
- **Candidate Physical Ability Testing:** Try your hand at the physical ability techniques needed to be a fire fighter and learn how to take, and pass, the industry-leading Candidate Physical Abilities Test.
- **"A Day in the Life of a Firefighter":** Watch presentations detailing the responsibilities and rewards associated with firefighting.
- **Meet and Learn from Working Firefighters:** Talk to firefighters from throughout the state about becoming a first responder.
- **Apparatus displays:** Take an up-close look at the "tools of the trade" including a fire apparatus on display.

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

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

INFORMATION REQUEST FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

U.S. Fire Administration Searching for Hero Stories

In an effort to reduce home fire deaths, recognize firefighters and highlight the importance of having working smoke alarms, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) needs your assistance.

The USFA is seeking real stories from men, women and children who have been saved from home fires by members of the fire service or who were saved because a working smoke alarm alerted them to the fire.

Do you know a family or individual who would like to share their story about how a firefighter or smoke alarm saved their life? If so, please encourage them to send their story to usfa@hagersharp.com. Their story could be featured in a future USFA fire safety campaign!

APRIL 2009 ISSUE – EVERYBODY GOES HOME NEWSLETTER:



[What a Difference a Day Makes...](#)

April 2009
E-Newsletter

As a career captain and volunteer fire chief, I believe that the *Everyone Goes Home*® and *Courage to Be Safe(sm)* programs have changed me personally by bringing the 16 Life Safety Initiatives to the forefront of my thoughts when showing up to work, teaching a probationary firefighter, or encouraging a veteran to think about their actions.

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

[Courage, Motivation, Inspiration](#)

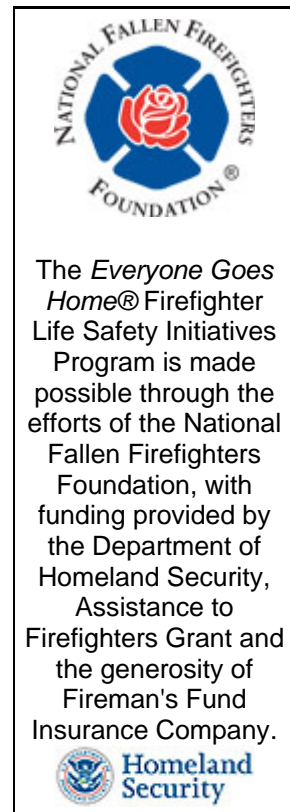
Where do you get the courage to change culture? Where do you get the heart, the will, the determination to make a difference in the fire service? How do you become a leader, gain the trust of your brothers/sisters, and continue to get the job done on a daily basis, both in and out of the firehouse?

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

[Strengthening Partnerships to Ensure That Everyone Goes Home®](#)

While he may be the new guy at the U.S. Fire Administration, Glenn Gaines needs no introduction to the *Everyone Goes Home*® program or the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

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



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



More April 2009 Articles:

- [Former Fairfax Co. Chief Named as Deputy Assistant Administrator for USFA](#)
- [Fire Prevention Education: It's Not Just For Kids Anymore](#)
- [Message from the Advocate Manager](#)
- [Walking the Talk: Training an Essential Part of Survival in Lidgerwood, ND](#)
- [2009 Safety Week Key Area: Emergency Driving](#)



- » **More:** [View the Complete April 2009 Newsletter](#)
- » **Archives:** [Everyone Goes Home® Newsletters](#)

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.firecareers.com
- www.firerecruit.com

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

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

USFA Releases Multiple-Fatality Fires in Residential Buildings Topical Report

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has issued a special report examining the causes and characteristics of residential multiple-fatality fires. The report, ***Multiple-Fatality Fires in Residential Buildings***, was developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). The report is based on 2004 to 2006 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

An estimated average of 250 fires resulting in two or more civilian fire deaths occurs each year in residential buildings. These fires are also responsible for 825 civilian deaths, 200 injuries, and \$33 million in property loss.

According to the report, 81 percent of multiple-fatality fires in residential buildings occur in one- and two-family dwellings with an additional 16 percent occurring in multifamily dwellings such as apartments, condominiums, town houses, and row houses. Thirty percent of multiple-fatality fires in residential buildings are caused by electrical malfunctions (15 percent) and unintentional or careless actions (15 percent). Fires caused intentionally (12 percent) or by smoking (11 percent) also rank among the leading causes of multiple-fatality fires.

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

A copy of the report can be downloaded at:
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/index.shtm>

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: James Harlow
Rank: Captain

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Age: 50
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 30
Date of Incident: 04/12/2009
Time of Incident: 0014hrs
Date of Death: 04/12/2009

Name: Damien Hobbs
Rank: Probationary Firefighter
Age: 29
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 04/12/2009
Time of Incident: 0014hrs
Date of Death: 04/12/2009

Fire Department: Houston Fire Department
Address: 1205 Dart ST, Houston, TX 77007
Fire Department Chief: Phil Boriskie

Incident Description: Houston Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire just after midnight in the 7800 block of Oak Vista in southeast Houston. Firefighters quickly called for defensive attack on the fire but Captain Harlow and Probationary Firefighter Hobbs of Station 26 were unable to exit the structure and succumbed to the fire. The incident remains under investigation.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Captain James Harlow and Probationary Firefighter Damien Hobbs at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 31 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 30 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Charles Fletcher Clough, Jr.
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 41
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 26

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Date of Incident: 04/15/2009
Time of Incident: 1945hrs
Date of Death: 04/15/2009
Fire Department: Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company
Address: PO Box 61, 203 N Church ST, Sudlersville, MD 21668
Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Chief Clough was responding as the sole occupant in a department SUV to a reported appliance fire when he was involved in a single motor vehicle accident. Clough was pronounced dead at the scene. Police are continuing the investigation.

Incident Location: 541 Sudlersville Cemetery Road near Duhamel Corner Road
Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In memory of Fire Chief Charles Fletcher Clough, Jr., c/o Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company, PO Box 61, Sudlersville, MD 21668.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Charles Fletcher Clough, Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 32 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 31 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Patrick Reardon
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 42
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 14
Date of Incident: 04/11/2009
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 04/21/2009
Fire Department: New Haven Fire Department
Address: PO Box 374, 952 Grand AVE, New Haven, CT 06510-4924
Fire Department Chief: Michael Grant

Incident Description: After remaining in the hospital in critical condition, Firefighter Reardon passed away as a result of a serious head injury sustained after he reportedly had a seizure and fell in the firehouse.

Incident Location: Dixwell Fire Station, corner of Goffe Street and Webster Street.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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

To date, 33 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 32 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Dennis M. Simmons
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 63
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 7
Date of Incident: 04/21/2009
Time of Incident: 1800hrs
Date of Death: 04/21/2009

Fire Department: Stafford County Fire Department
Address: 636 E 4th AVE, St. John, KS 67576
Fax: 620-549-3744
Fire Department Chief: nterim Chief TJ Rockenbach

Incident Description: Firefighter Simmons was returning to the fire station following a grass fire when he suffered a heart attack. He was transported to the Central Kansas Medical Center where he passed away a short time later.

Funeral Arrangements: Service will be held Saturday, April 25, 2009, 1030 hrs., Bryant Funeral Home, 1425 Patton RD, Great Bend, Kansas, 67530.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial contributions in honor of Firefighter Simmons may be made to the County Fireman's Relief Fund in care of the funeral home.

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

To date, 34 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 33 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @
http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Thomas L. Risk
Rank: Captain/Pilot
Age: 66

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Contract
Years of Service: Pending

Name: Michael Wayne Flynn
Rank: First Officer/Co-Pilot
Age: 59
Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Contract
Years of Service: Pending

Name: Brian Joseph Buss
Rank: Crew Chief
Age: 32
Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Contract
Years of Service: Pending

Date of Incident: 04/25/2009
Time of Incident: 1000hrs
Date of Death: 04/25/2009
Fire Department: Neptune Aviation Services, Inc.
Address: 1 Corporate Way, Missoula, MT 59808
Fire Chief: President Kristen Schloemer Nicolarsen

Incident Description: An air tanker (Neptune Tanker 42) under contract to the United States Forest Service was lost when it crashed in the Oquirrh Mountains, Utah. The crew of three was lost in the incident. The aircraft and crew were responding from Montana to battle a wildland fire in New Mexico at the time of the incident. The cause of the crash is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Incident Location: In the Oquirrh Mountains, East of Stockton, UT (12TUK9474).

Funeral Arrangements: Pending, updates will be posted @ www.neptuneaviation.com.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Cards and letters may be sent for the Risk Family, Flynn Family, and Buss Family, c/o Neptune Aviation Services, Inc., 2 Corporate Way Missoula, MT 59808. A "Brian Buss Memorial Fund" has been established for his two daughters at the First National Bank of Montana, 201 N. Higgins Ave., Missoula, MT 59802, Tele: (877) 362-6752.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Thomas L. Risk, First Officer Michael Wayne Flynn, and Crew Chief Brian Joseph Buss at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 37 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2009; 36 from incidents that occurred in 2009 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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

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

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS
STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF
DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON
GRAHAM, HOSTS OF www.firefighterclosecalls.com

Hey...

That crash between two Houston fire apparatus is now a **fatal crash....and a FF who was driving one of the rigs has been charged.** The victim was riding her bicycle when the 2 responding apparatus crashed. As you recall, 2 responding Houston apparatus collided at that intersection while headed to the call last month. A total of 11 people were hurt.

Ms. Leigh Boone, 29, the bicyclist, died this afternoon (Saturday) after spending 2 weeks in critical condition. The crash forced the ladder truck to roll over on top of Boone as well as an sedan. The driver of the Infiniti escaped with minor injuries, and has retained an attorney. Unfortunately, Boone suffered intense trauma and has now lost her life. 9 Firefighters were also injured in the horrific, fatal crash. 7 of the 9 Firefighters who were injured were treated right after the crash. Brian Edwards, the driver of the pumper, was released from the hospital 2 days ago and Captain Michael Mayfield is still hospitalized. Cops say the ladder truck driver, FF Warren Ducote, caused the crash when he ran through the red light.

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. FF/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. We take a moment to 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.nj.gov/dca/dfs/eastfranklin.pdf>

HERE is a related VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w05Y6saNYEw>

And lastly, with FDIC just a week away, we remember 2 friends..2world known fire service greats:

Chief Tommy Brennan (Fire Engineering/FDIC/FDNY & Waterbury, CT)
<http://www.pennwellbooks.com/tombrennan.html>

Chief Ed "Big Ed" McCormack (ISFSI & FDIC former Exec Director & MA Fire Academy)
<http://www.rfi411.org/Losing.pdf>

We lost these good men 3 years ago. Their being gone continues to be felt regularly in a fire service that they greatly and very positively impacted. Rest in Peace.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-11-09 / 1930 hours

AND:

2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HOUSTON, TEXAS

We deeply regret to advise you that **2 Houston Firefighters have died in the LINE OF DUTY** at a dwelling fire in Houston late early this morning. Very early reports indicate that a 53 year old Captain and a rookie Firefighter lost their lives. The fire occurred in southeast Houston around midnight at a dwelling fire. HFD Captain Tommy Dowdy did confirm both Line of Duty deaths. Additional and very preliminary info indicates that Firefighters were inside the house doing a search (there was a victim who was rescued) and attacking the fire. But at some point, the fire conditions became very heavy and all of the firefighters were ordered to get out of the house. Upon accountability, it was realized that 2 Firefighters were unaccounted for and still inside the structure. The fire conditions at this point were very heavy....as soon as Firefighters were able to get back in, they found the two missing Firefighters. At least one person was inside the home when the fire started and that person was rescued by Firefighters. More details to follow. **Our most sincere condolences to the HFD and all the members and families of the fallen Firefighters.**

WEST VIRGINIA FF CHARGED IN ARSON-FF FROM THAT FIRE REMAINS CRITICAL:

A Berkeley County, W.Va., volunteer Firefighter was charged yesterday with setting a fire that resulted in serious injuries to another firefighter last week. James Luther Blackford II, 30, of Martinsburg, was charged in connection with Tuesday's fire that destroyed a barn. FF Kenneth Ayers of the Baker Heights VFD, who also responded to the call, was critically injured when part of a barn wall fell on him, fracturing bones in his face. Ayers' condition is improving and he's scheduled to have facial surgery on Monday. Tuesday's barn fire is one of about 11 in Berkeley County since early March that are being considered arson.

FIRE STATION DESTROYED IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

Yesterday morning, April 11, the Silverbluff FD (SC) and surrounding area was hit by a tornado. They lost their station, new Tanker pumper along with there first out pumper and a brush unit. Luckily no one was at the station at the time but members were on the way to the station to render aid to the community....when it struck. Upon arriving at the station Chief Kerry Green found what you see here. The Silverbluff FD is located on Hwy. 278 in Aiken County SC. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers though the long weeks and

months ahead. We have pictures posted on our home page. **In case the pictures don't show up (we are doing scheduled maintenance, Dave Statter has them up as well. www.Statter911.com**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

4-12-09 / 0710 hours

AND:

**UPDATE: HOUSTON DOUBLE LINE OF DUTY DEATH
A CAPTAIN & A PROBIE LOSE THEIR LIVES IN A WORKING HOUSE FIRE**

The fallen **Houston Firefighters** who died in the Line of Duty this morning have been identified as **Capt. James Harlow, 50, and Damien Hobbs, 29**. Captain Harlow has been on the job since 1979. Hobbs was a probationary firefighter who graduated from the HFD Academy in March. HFD responded on this 1st alarm, a 4000 square foot house fire just after midnight and initiated an interior operation,...the homeowners, an elderly couple, had made it out of the house safely. Reports are that it looked like they were getting a good knock on the fire when fire conditions changed drastically. The 2 Firefighters were found in the house around 0130 and while life saving measures were initiated, they could not be saved. Additional details to follow.

PENNSYLVANIA FIRE CHIEF & FIREFIGHTER REMAIN IN THE BURN UNIT:

2 Kulptown Firefighters injured while burning leaves behind the firehouse remain in the burn unit. The Firefighters suffered burns to their faces Friday afternoon when a small fuel tank ignited near a pile of leaves they were burning near the firehouse. Chief Chris Carpenter was in satisfactory condition...the other firefighter's name has not been released and his condition could not be obtained. Both Firefighters are sedated and have not yet been able to give an account of what happened...but reports are that the pair were burning leaves about 2:30 p.m. when they were injured. The Firefighters were able to call for help and that firefighters and paramedics responded to the station and then the men were taken to Reading Hospital and transferred by helicopter to the burn center in Chester County.

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY (MD) FIREFIGHTER/MEDIC CONTINUES TO IMPROVE:

On Saturday, Fire Fighter/Medic Daniel McGown spent his last night in the ICU of the Burn Unit at the Washington Hospital Center. He rested, walked and even ate food from one of his favorite sub shops. He talked and those that know Dan, know that he can't help himself and he talks a lot. Today, Sunday, April 12, 2009, marks a tremendous indication that he has recovered to the point of being moved into a step-down room and leaves the watchful confines of the ICU. His medical condition has been upgraded to "fair." With this move to a regular room, however, is warnings from the medical staff - continue to rest and limit your talking to allow the healing process to continue. The "limit your talking" recommendation is something hard for Danny to follow ...and who can blame him. To assist FF/Medic McGown with following medical advice it has been requested that visitors wait until he is released to visit him. An influx of visitors, while comforting, would interrupt his ability to rest and limit his talking. **Visitors are discouraged from making the trip to the Burn Unit and the McGown family is requesting that everyone keep Daniel in their thoughts and prayers**

and contact him by E-mail, My Space or Face Book. Daniel has his computer with him at the hospital: DRMcgown@co.pg.md.us

....drop him a line! Our thanks to PGFEMS Mark Brady for the excellent updates and information.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

AND:

Hey...

2 **Manitou Park NJ Firefighters** were injured yesterday while operating at a scene of a MVA. A portion of a telephone pole came down on top of the 2 Firefighters as they were working on a single vehicle MVA where the vehicle was partially wrapped around the telephone pole. The injuries to each Firefighter is NLT but one required surgery at the Jersey Shore Medical Center, a Level 1 Trauma Center. The 1st FF was struck in the head by the falling pole, he was wearing his helmet at the time of impact. The 2nd FF was also in gear. The pole glanced off the 1st Firefighter and struck the 2nd Firefighter in the back and leg area...fracturing his leg. Reports are that they were beginning to secure the vehicle when the top half of the telephone pole broke lose and came down upon the two Firefighters.

HOUSTON DOUBLE LODD UPDATE:

All information related to the funerals are available here, as is the condolence book:

<http://www.local341.org/index.cfm?section=1>

Federal NIOSH investigators will examine whether heavy winds accelerated the early Easter Sunday fire that killed two Houston firefighters in the Line of Duty, while searching for an elderly couple who had already fled their burning residence. "One of the things that we're looking at is the issue of wind-driven fire, did the wind cause the fire to accelerate?" said Tim Merinar program manager for the Firefighter Fatality Investigation Program. Merinar said Houston fire officials asked the group to delay its investigation until after services are held for the two fallen firefighters, **Capt. James Harlow, 50, and rookie Firefighter Damion Hobbs.**

VERY SERIOUS APPARATUS CRASH INJURES:

On the way to a forest fire at Pischk-mountain (County of Bruck, Austria), a tanker of the Volunteer Fire Brigade from Trofaiach fell down 70 meters after the wayside broke away under the tanker's weight (16 tons). All 9 firefighters on board have been seriously injured and transported to 5 different hospitals in the area. We have posted photos on our home page.

Watch This: FIRE HOUSE "KITCHEN TABLE" DISCUSSION VIDEO:

Here is a "working fire" clip that is worth watching and worthy of some discussion at the kitchen table:

<http://bestfirefightervideo.com/index.php/Close-Call-Videos/Firefighter-Helmet-Camera-Close-Call-Mayday-Firefighter-Removed.html>

Our discussions included, -The role of all FF's on the fire ground, -Command and control, -Hoselines, streams use and size, -Accountability, -Ventilation and FF mayday/rescue.

THE EXPLODING MANIFOLD:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Many fire service sites have posted the emails going around regarding the manifold "explosion" in Lambertville, NJ. The IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section (www.IAFCSafety.org) has reached out to the LFD as well as will meet with SnapTite at FDIC next week to find out the facts-and pass them on to you.

In the meantime, Dave Statter heard from a neighboring Fire Chief who offered this advice:

- 1) Test and inspect all your manifolds (and all appliances) to ensure the don't have cracks
- 2) Make sure the relief valve activates
- 3) Place all manifolds in compartments (the one in question was secured to the tailboard)
- 4) Wear PPE while conducting tanker/tender fills.

Photos Here: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?83213>

Details Here: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/04/more-on-manifold-explosion-from-new.html>

UPDATE: PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY FIREFIGHTER HEADING HOME!

Fire Fighter/Medic Daniel McGown has been given his walking papers from the Burn Unit. Medical staff has approved Daniel McGown to leave the hospital and continue his recovery at home. This will enable him to obtain more rest and fight off infection within the comfortable surrounding of home. His recovery and rehabilitation will require many more visits to the Burn Unit on an out patient basis. FF/Medic McGown will depart the Washington Hospital Center today, Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 12:30 PM. He will leave by way of the front doors of the hospital.

FDIC TIME!

We are looking forward to seeing you at FDIC next week! Here is ALL you need: www.FDIC.com

Please keep in mind that there will be an **EXCELLENT FUNDRAISING PARTY** for the NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS on THURSDAY EVENING. YOU are INVITED! Here are the details: <http://www.stopdroprocknroll.com/>

So until then, we'll see ya in the classes, the halls, the NEW STADIUM and on the streets on Indy!

And by the way, as much as I BEGGED HIM, Bobby H WILL NOT allow me to do the run **again** this year....so I will see you at the exhibits on Saturday!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-14-09 / 1200 hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

AND:

MARYLAND FIRE CHIEF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE RESPONDING ON A RUN

We regret to advise you that it has been reported that Chief Charles Clough Jr. the Fire Chief of the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Department, Station 6 in Queen Annes County (Maryland) was tragically killed in the Line of Duty earlier this evening while responding on a fire call. The crash reportedly occurred approximately 8 miles northeast of Church Hill on Route 300 around 2000 Hours. We will have more details in the morning. Our sincere condolences to all affected, especially the members of SVFD and the family of Chief Clough.

Here is the company website: <http://www.svfc6.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-15-09 2120 hours

AND:

Hey...

A **Charles County** (Maryland) couple reportedly drove through a red flashing light at the intersection in New Market on Easter Sunday and reports are that they were struck by a Mechanicsville VFD Firefighter on the way to answer a fire call. FF Brian Copsey, 24, was flown to a shock trauma center. Carlton Keith Wright was killed in the crash and his wife was also taken by medevac to a trauma center. It appears that the civilians passed through the red signal in the path of FF Copsey, who had the right of way. Details will follow.

W T F !?

CITIES SAY: FIREFIGHTERS are NOT AT A HIGHER RISK FOR CANCER?

Well here we go....it doesn't take a brain (or any other kind of) surgeon to know that FIREFIGHTERS ARE exposed to known cancer causing carcinogens when operating at or near a fire.

Studies have proven FIREFIGHTERS ARE AT A HIGHER CANCER RISK...including this info:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/firefighters-with-cancer-get-more-support-43022742.html>

<http://healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/3750/>

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Cancer-Risk-Twice-as-High-for-Firefighters/46\\$51967](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Cancer-Risk-Twice-as-High-for-Firefighters/46$51967)

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2007/01/29/100000-firefighters-are-not-wrong/>

BUT NOW...**LEAVE IT TO CITY HALL DWELLERS**, concerned because more States are acknowledging the proven need for CANCER PRESUMPTION, to come up with "their own study" claiming that FIREFIGHTERS are NOT at a greater risk for certain types of cancers. The National League of Cities has released their "independent" report today titled **Assessing State Firefighter Cancer Presumption Laws And Current Firefighter Cancer Research**, ...and they claim that there is inadequate scientific research to determine a link between working as a firefighter and an elevated risk of contracting cancer. In the report, researchers from **TriData Corporation** "independently" (in the report, titled as being from THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES) concluded there is a lack of substantive scientific evidence currently available to determine that firefighters face risks greater than the general population. WTF?! If so many other "independent" studies from the medical community have proven that Firefighters ARE at a greater risk for CANCER, then where did this info come from?

Donald Borut, Exec Director of the National League of Cities, said that their study demonstrates the need for more high-level research into cancer and firefighters....and urged that "States should not pass laws requiring cities to take on difficult financial burdens with no clear scientific connection between illness and occupation"

AND THAT'S THE ISSUE: Financial "burdens" vs. the proven burdens of Firefighters contracting cancer due to their work as Firefighters....and what appears to be diversionary tactics by the National League of Cities to stop Firefighters who may contract-or have contracted firefighting cancer, from being treated fairly.

HERE IS THE PRESS RELEASE:

<http://news.prnewswire.com/ViewContent.aspx?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/04-16-2009/0005007228&EDATE=>

HERE IS THE National League of Cities/TriData REPORT:

<http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/40F46B09F9954BB09EBDB32B92800A78/Presumption%20Report%202009.pdf>

We will have much more on this, very soon.

MORE FIREFIGHTER LAYOFFS:

OHIO FIRE CHIEF TELLS THE COMMUNITY:

-----MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS ARE WORKING.

-----DO NOT EXPECT FIREFIGHTERS TO DO INTERIOR OPERATIONS INITIALLY.

In a worst-case scenario, the police and fire departments of Mansfield (OHIO) will be laying off 25 more employees, in addition to the four they each lost Monday. Fire Chief John Harsch said he isn't sure what to think. He said employees in the human resources department told firefighters they would lose 25 more employees. According to the Chief, and **RIGHTFULLY SO**, he told the elected officials and public: "We'll cease being...an interior attack fire department and go to an exterior fire department to protect exposures...It won't be safe for the firefighters to go in the house...we will not risk (our) personnel for property....I would recommend citizens have a few working smoke detectors if they don't already..." The Chief makes good sense. No matter what, working smoke detectors solve some problems but also, if ANY FD doesn't have enough staffing on the 1st alarm, the public should not expect us to do more than we are realistically and capable of doing.

A MUST READ FOR ALL FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRE OFFICERS:

HIGHLY DETAILED CALIFORNIA DOUBLE LODD REPORT IDENTIFIES ISSUES SUCH AS.....

- SIZE UP
- COMMAND AND CONTROL...
- IMPORTANCE OF A CHARGED HOSE LINE...
- PPV CONTRIBUTING TO THE FIRE PROBLEM...

Lot's for all of us to learn. On July 21, 2007, Contra Costa, California Fire Captain Matthew C. Burton, 34, and Fire Engineer Scott P. Desmond, 37, were killed in the Line of Duty while searching for occupants in a working house fire. NIOSH has just released the report....**emphasized in the report was that there was limited command, control and coordination at the scene, the firefighters were searching without a charged hose line and that positive pressure ventilation contributed to the fire intensity and spread.**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200728.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-16-09 / 1230 hours

AND:

2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY DURING TRENCH RESCUE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 2 Brazilian Firefighters died yesterday in the Line of Duty during a rescue attempt in a confined space in the City of Bauru, State of Sao Paulo. A 28-year-old Fire Lieutenant and a 35-year-old Fire Sergeant were engulfed by the collapsing dirt while trying to rescue a 64-year-old construction worker, that also died. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

FIRE TECHNICIAN KYLE WILSON-AN LODD... NOT IN VEIN:

As yesterday was the 2 year anniversary of the Line of Duty Death of Prince William County (VA) Firefighter Kyle Wilson, we wanted to pass on to you how his loss is being looked upon as a way to affect change at the local, state and national/international level. As you remember, Firefighter (Technician) Wilson died in a house fire performing a search for the occupants. The International Association of Fire Chief's (IAFC) Safety, Health & Survival (SHS) Section (www.iafcsafety.org) was asked by Prince William County Fire Chief Kevin McGee to form a task force to address the "national" recommendations in Kyles tragic death.

The IAFC's SHS Section's national task force has been formed and consists of fire chiefs (headed by D/C John Sullivan from Worcester, MA) who will review the national recommendations and develop a plan of action to address them. After FF Wilsons death, Prince William F & R formed an investigation team consisting of members of the department and neighboring-jurisdictions and spent 8 months performing a detailed investigation to determine the facts and recommendations. The report identified actions to implement at the local, regional, state or national level and the IAFC SHS will be developing an implementation plan for the national level items.

HERE is more information on the task force:

<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=39008>

HERE is the PW Report: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?59686>

HERE is the NIOSH Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200712.html>

AND PLEASE NOTE..that here is a way Firefighters, families and friends can further help SUPPORT the Kyle Wilson Memorial Fund. The 2nd Annual "Kyle Wilson 10k Walk/Run for Fitness" will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, rain or shine. The Kyle Wilson Memorial Scholarship Fund has been set up to benefit students who wish to attend the George Mason University Athletic Training Program....

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

More details here from Dave Statter911:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/04/remembering-kyle-r-wilson.html>

SURGEON GENERAL, HOMEBUILDERS, FIREFIGHTERS, SMOKE AND CANCER:

There will be much more coming about yesterdays "release" by the National League of Cities (who will do whatever it takes to find anything for their members to not have to support Firefighting cancer presumption) and their contracted report by TriData. But if the issue is about saving money, we could have saved "the league" a bunch. Here is some simple factual and proven info that they don't have to pay for:

=SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoke Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.

=SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Avoiding Smoke Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

=SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

So, Sherlock, since fires create toxic cancer causing smoke and if you are a Firefighter, you will be required to be in and around smoke....then you have a greater chance of getting cancer than the general population. Nahh..that's just too simple and definitely NOT what they wanted to hear. Or MAYBE they should work with the Nat'l Assoc of Homebuilders to get sprinklers....uh, wait, nevermind.

More to follow.

So...JUST IN CASE, WEAR your SCBA, DON'T breathe that crap and REMOVE the soot from you and your PPE when you get back to quarters-or sooner...because 100,000 FIREFIGHTERS are not wrong:

<http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2007/01/29/100000-firefighters-are-not-wrong/>

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

GOT DUCTWORK?

ANOTHER STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING REMINDER...to quote Georgia Pacific:

"In the event of an actual fire, you should immediately take any and all action necessary for your safety and the safety of others without regard for any fire rating of any product or assembly."

Check out Georgia Pacifics XJ 85 Engineered Joists with "pre-cuts"...

<http://bestfirefightervideo.com/index.php/Training/Georgie-Pacific-Introduces-Innovative-XJ-85-Engineered-Joists.html>

Now...consider the burn time with pre-engineered floor joists with the addition of all these cutouts.

PLAN AHEAD. KNOW YOUR 1st DUE. STUDY THE CONSTRUCTION. DO A 360 SIZE UP. SMOKE or FIRE SHOWING? ODD's Are The Structure Has Already Failed.

HOUSTON FIRE APPARATUS STRUCK

A drunk driver in Houston slammed into a traveling mobile taco stand being pulled by a pickup truck this morning. It actually drove the trailer forward and impaled it on the back of the truck that was towing it. The driver who caused the crash suffered minor injuries. While a fire truck blocked off the road, another driver slammed into the fire truck. No matter where we are: EXPECT the UNexpected.

MARYLAND LODD FUNERAL INFORMATION:

Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company Chief Buck Clough: <http://www.svfc6.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-17-09 / 0900 Hours

AND:

Hey...

A heartfelt CONGRATS to Chief John Tippett from Montgomery County (MD) who has accepted the position of Deputy Chief of Operations for Charleston FD in South Carolina. With over 32 years of experience, John has had a very positive impact on the fire service through his field operations experience as well as his highly motivated efforts with the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System. I have had the pleasure of working with John for many years thru Fire Fighter Close Calls and our partnering program, Near Miss, and there are few finer Chiefs out there. The CFD is a fine FD and John is a fine man-this is a win-win for all affected...and there is no question in our mind that Chief John Tippett will never forget the tragic loss of the Charleston 9 as he takes on his new duties, responsibility and command. **Good Stuff-congrats John!**

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER MAYDAY/CLOSE CALL REPORT:

Around 1:30 a.m. on October 2, 2008, Companies from Montgomery County (MD) responded on a run and they discovered smoke coming from a house and called for assistance. E703 reported a basement fire with fire showing from a basement window. A 'House fire' dispatch assignment and a 'RID' (Rapid Intervention Dispatch) was dispatched. Upon the arrival of other units from FS03 on the scene, an interior attack was initiated by E703 and a Rescue Group was established with a subsequent search of the house performed. **During the search efforts a member from RS703 (the driver) fell through the first floor over the room of origin and into the fire below.** A 'mayday' was initiated for the trapped firefighter, and a 'Task Force' assignment was requested. The trapped firefighter was able to self extricate himself from the basement. The injured firefighter was treated on the scene and transported to the Washington Hospital Center, Med Star Burn Unit. He was hospitalized for an extended period.

HERE is what happened (the official report, photos and audio

traffic):<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/FireRescue/operations/reports/08frederickave/>

HERE is previous information from Dave Statter911:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/10/pictures-and-details-from-house-fire.html>

A FIRE CHIEF ORDERS A STAND DOWN FOR HIS FIREFIGHTERS SAFETY AND SURVIVAL:

Chief Eugene Jones, Acting Fire Chief of the Prince Georges County Fire/EMS Department in Maryland has ordered a **STAND DOWN** for the entire organization. We thought the members of THE SECRET LIST would find this of interest and value...our thanks to Chief Jones and Staff for sharing this document and their focus on the safety of all their members. While the below information is PGFEMS specific, it can clearly be used as a model for other FD's to consider.

Beginning April 20, 2009, all Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department personnel will undergo a firefighter "Stand Down" for firefighter and

emergency medical service personnel safety. The focus of this stand down is for all personnel to ensure a thorough knowledge of basic firefighting operations.

During the stand down all personnel should focus on the following subjects:

- =General Order 6-1, Fireground Standard Operating Procedures
- =General Order 6-4, Mayday Procedures
- =Air Management and Emergency Operations of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- =Crew Integrity

The military style "Stand Down" is designed to raise the level of awareness towards firefighter safety, and call attention to the unacceptable number of injuries and poor practices plaguing the fire and EMS service. All non-emergency activities should be suspended in order provide an opportunity for personnel to correct issues that have been identified as problems for the safety of our personnel. Supervisors should emphasize the importance of crew integrity by not allowing personnel to work alone under any circumstance. All career/volunteer supervisors and employees/members are directed to focus on all of the scheduled activities (copy attached) beginning April 14, 2009, and continuing through each shift until April 17, 2009. These activities were chosen based on a departmental injury and associated recommendations from various offices of the Fire/EMS Department. All completed training rosters shall be forwarded immediately, via Battalion Chiefs, to the Fire/EMS Training Academy.

Daily Activities Schedule April 14 through April 17, 2009:

SCBA

- =Review the necessity for and mandate the use of PPE and SCBA
- =Ensure all appropriate PPE is properly worn on every incident as required
- =Ensure SCBA is utilized in IDLH atmospheres, especially emphasize the use of SCBA during overhaul and carbon monoxide incidents
- =Review the emergency operational procedures for SCBA and PASS devices

=SCBA inspection methods

- =Ensure SCBA and PASS devices are 100% operational
- =Inspect SCBA face pieces for cracks and other defects

All personnel will view the associated SCBA Emergency Operations Power Point presentation (by accessing the attached web link) and participate in the following SCBA emergency operations exercise:

- =Regulator failure
- =Face piece failure
- =Air conservation
- =Emergency Breathing Support System (EBSS), Buddy Breathing
- =Pass Device Activation
- =Reference Department Standard Operating Procedures
- =General Order 08-13: "Personal Protective Equipment (with all Interim Revisions)"
- =General Order 08-17: "Respiratory Protection Program"

Emergency Operations Safety

- =Review standard operational assignments, responsibilities, tactics and strategies
- =Emphasize crew integrity and eliminate freelancing
- =Emphasize completion of assigned tasks and following incident command procedures - ensure RIC and safety officer duties are assigned and completed
- =Follow proper radio procedures and communication model
- =Review emergency operational procedures
- =Review unit and personnel accountability procedures
- =Review emergency SCBA and other self rescue "Saving Our Own" operations
- =Review Mayday activation and response procedures
- =General Order 06-01: "Fireground Standard Operating Procedures for Structural Fires"
- =General Order 06-04: "Mayday Procedure"
- =All personnel will participate in a "Mayday" training exercise, following the procedures outlined in general Order 06-04.

WEB LINKS:

Internet Link for Firefighter Stand Down Training, 2009

SCBA Power Point and Student Roster

[http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov//Government/PublicSafety/Fire-EMS/About/academy.asp?nivel=foldmenu\(10\)](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov//Government/PublicSafety/Fire-EMS/About/academy.asp?nivel=foldmenu(10))

NIOSH Fire Fighter Fatality Reports

<http://www.cdc.gov/Niosh/fire/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200531.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SAFE TRAVELS TO FDIC...We'll Seeya There!

BillyG

The Secret List 4-17-09 / 2030 hours

AND

This Secret List is a "first" -- being written by Brian K. I am the FirefighterCloseCalls.com Director of Operations. While Gordon and Billy will not be happy about me doing this, they can get over it. I wanted to share with you 2 bits of good news about **Gordon Graham** and **Billy Goldfeder**, who have both recently been honored.

Chief Goldfeder has been honored by the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. It is no secret how Billy G feels about firefighter survival, and as he has lost many close fire fighting friends to cancer, his passion is obvious. For his efforts in promoting the network and for his fire fighting cancer education advocacy, Chief Goldfeder was awarded the "2008 Dallas Jones Memorial Award" at the FCSN's Gala in Los Angeles, which was hosted by Jay Leno in late 2008. The award is named after the well known California firefighter and labor advocate, Dallas Jones, who served 32 years with Los Angeles County Fire Department and Local 1014, Jones died in May of 2008 after a valiant battle with lung cancer.

From the moment he came to the fire service, Jones made it his calling to serve those with whom he served. Half of his 32 years as a member of IAFF Local 1014 were spent as its President, and Dallas guided his local through some of its most tumultuous and successful times in the 1980s and 1990s. While president of Local 1014, Jones served the first of two

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

tenures as CPF Secretary-Treasurer, a post he held from 1994 until 1999. He also served on the California State Board of Fire Services. In 1999, Dallas Jones was tapped by California Governor Gray Davis to serve as the Director of the Office of Emergency Services. In that post, he not only directed the state's response to numerous natural and human-caused emergencies, but also earned a reputation as one of the nation's most influential emergency management experts. In 2004, Jones returned to his most cherished role, the fire service labor movement. He won election for a second time as CPF Secretary Treasurer that year, and continued in that post until his death. Dallas was survived by his wife, Lily, his sons Brian and Michael and daughter Anna Dallas who, along with FCSN (www.Firefightercancersupport.org) founder and President Mike Dubron, also a Los Angeles County Firefighter, presented Chief Goldfeder with the award. Billy's wife Teri along with close friends were on hand for the surprise event.

And now, congratulations to Billy's partner in www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com and www.EMSCloseCalls.com, Commander Gordon Graham. Gordon is receiving the California POST Lifetime Achievement Award this month. POST, the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) was established by the California Legislature in 1959 to set minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement. The POST organization, with more than 130 staff members, functions under the direction of an Executive Director appointed by the Commission. In 1995 Gordon was the first recipient of the Governors Award for excellence in California Law Enforcement training. Gordon is now being recognized with the POST "lifetime achievement award". Gordon is also the first double winner - both the individual award and now the lifetime achievement award. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be presenting it to Gordon who will have his family on hand for the great honor.

As most of you may know, Gordon is a 33-year veteran of California Law Enforcement. His education as a Risk Manager and experience as a practicing Attorney, coupled with his extensive background in law enforcement, have allowed him to rapidly become recognized worldwide as a leading professional and speaker in both private and public sector organizations with multiple areas of expertise. Speaking to both law enforcement as well as fire service agencies, Graham and Goldfeder became friends in the early 90's. Not long after that, Graham suggested to Goldfeder the idea of a website, focused on fire fighting risk management which was exactly how www.Firefighterclosecalls.com was born. While never a firefighter, Gordon's contribution and support has very significantly impacted the fire and EMS community. Today, Gordon and Billy run the most visited non-commercial, non-profit fire service website worldwide. With millions of visitors worldwide each month, www.Firefighterclosecalls.com is just one more way that Gordon Graham has unselfishly given to the public safety community.

Congratulations to Commander Gordon Graham and Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder.

And as you are used to reading,

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

Brian K

TheSecretList 4-14-09/1652hrs

AND

Hey....

A Rainbow Volunteer Fire Company (**White Oak,PA-Allegheny County**) rescue apparatus was responding on a call this morning and it rolled. The apparatus was trying to navigate a private narrow roadway when the road apparently shifted. 4 Firefighters were on the rig at the time and all injuries are reported to be NLT. We have more on our home page including some pictures.

FF CANCER UPDATE: THE IAFC AND IAFF RESPOND TO TriData/NLC Document:

As you are aware, last week, the National League of Cities released an irresponsible, misleading and confusing document produced by a management consulting firm, TriData, incredibly claiming there is no relationship between fire fighting and certain cancers. The NLC has worked against every single piece of presumptive legislation that protects fire fighters and their families....and it appears they will go to any length on their mission to save their paying membership cities money...no matter what.

The IAFF and the IAFC are on this ...and will be providing factual information related to the issues of fire fighting cancer. Both the IAFC and IAFF are ardent supporters of cancer presumption laws, and are deeply concerned about the impact this report (paid for by the NLC) may have on the truth and clear facts related to critical fire fighter protections, as well as future health and safety research. The IAFC, through the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section, and the IAFF, have each assembled high-level teams consisting of doctorate-level academicians, medical physicians and fire service safety and health experts to thoroughly evaluate the report and provide a complete assessment and facts.

Please watch for more factual information via email, on the IAFF website, as well as the IAFC and IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section websites and related media..

www.IAFF.org

www.IAFC.org

www.IAFCSafety.org

www.FireFighterCancerSupport.org

NEW JERSEY MANIFOLD CATASTROPHIC FAILURE UPDATE (SYNOPSIS)

Snap-tite Hose received notice of a catastrophic failure of a 5 way manifold in New Jersey thru their dealer. Following are some points of note from the email accounts they received. (See entire report info below)

1. A loud noise 'like a freight train' was heard before the failure occurred.
2. The gauge on the manifold did not register an increase in pressure (this was mentioned several times).
3. The local water company notified fire department personnel that they had 'high pressure on the hydrant' requiring manual control of the pressure at the pump station.
4. The relief valve on the manifold did not relieve.

The fire department also submitted several photos of the failed appliance which are posted. Snap-tite's history with these units is very good. They are rarely returned for warranty repairs and there have been no warranty catastrophic failures.

CONCLUSION:

It is apparent from the evidence provided that the cause of this failure was a severe over-pressure condition, such as water hammer. Fire Department personnel state that they were careful not to create any conditions that might result in water hammer. The actions of the water authority should be closely examined as they did admit that they had caused an overpressure in the system. Improper operation of a valve in their system could have set up a water hammer condition which traveled through the hydrant and to the manifold.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Water hammer is an extremely destructive force and must be prevented at all costs.
2. Due to the significant damage caused to this appliance, Snap-tite Hose highly recommends a thorough inspection of other components which may have been subjected to this pressure. Attempting to compress the relief cartridge in a vise to loosen the corrosion spike. This would include other appliances, hoses, connectors, adapters, and perhaps truck piping and pumps.
3. Relief valve maintenance is critical to the safety of personnel and equipment. The guidelines for appliance maintenance and testing as established in NFPA 1962 are highly recommended. We recommend that all relief valves be immediately tested for proper operation, and that a schedule be created and maintained.
4. All appliances should be service tested annually as recommended by NFPA 1962.

NOTE: The ENTIRE REPORT from Snap-Tite is on our home page, under NEWS/UPDATES. Please check it all out for the entire document. Thanks for their sharing of this information.

And lastly, thanks for your kindness on behalf of Gordon and I regarding the earlier TSL. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

FROM FDIC....

BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-09 / 2230 hours

AND

Hey...

A New Haven Firefighter who suffered a brain injury in a firehouse fall has died in the Line of Duty. **Patrick Reardon, a 14-year veteran of the department**, had been in critical condition at the Hospital of Saint Raphael since April 11, when he fell at the Dixwell fire station and hit his head. He died Tuesday afternoon. Our sincere condolences to all affected by the tragic loss of FF Reardon.

FIREFIGHTER CHARGED IN NORTH CAROLINA APPARATUS CRASH:

A volunteer firefighter will be charged in connection with a head-on collision involving a fire apparatus yesterday morning. North Carolina Highway Patrol investigators say that Joseph Gregory, a firefighter with the Woodleaf VFD, crossed the center line on the roadway and he then struck an oncoming car driven by a civilian. Both drivers had minor injuries and were taken to the hospital, the rig was not responding to a call at the time of the accident. Troopers say that Gregory will be charged with driving left of center. Photos will be posted on our home page.

MARYLAND RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS CRASH-FF's BELTED IN:

Seat belt use is credited with minimizing injuries of 5 Anne Arundel County, Md. firefighters last night when their engine crashed. The Riviera Beach engine was on an EMS run when the driver lost control following a left turn....the rig then struck a utility pole. The officer was pinned for about 20 minutes before being extricated by rescue personnel. All were transported with NLT injuries.

UPSET FIREFIGHTERS:

Perhaps you have read about San Antonio's Fire Chief who is taking heat from some of his Firefighters because he, as chief, wants greater control organizationally over when Firefighters should go into a burning building. Well, he should and MUST. That's why he is the Fire Chief. The Chief is like the head coach of a pro-team. The team must do what the head coach wants or they will have a much greater chance of losing the game. Sometimes when the boss wants something done a certain way-as long as it is legal and won't hurt us, we simply do it. Just do it. Old school thinking. Sometimes the boss must be the boss. Odd's are some won't like you, if you are a boss. That's why not everyone can be the boss. Sometimes decisions are made without warm, cozy input. Just do it. In this case, the Fire Chief is requiring the 1st due officers to SIZE UP the building on arrival and act based upon conditions. Not a particularly new theory or requirement. And one that has proven to save Firefighter and civilian lives, and property.

In pro-sports, the players get paid no matter what, win or lose. In firefighting, if we lose the game, we may lose our own members in the Line of Duty. Sometimes the Line of Duty death of a Firefighters is necessary. Most times it is not. It depends on conditions. Sometimes it's not all about what we want or like. Sometimes Firefighters don't fully understand why a command officer will not let them inside. Sometimes it really gets them angry....but that's OK, there are many many good examples of firefighters being alive and angry. Alive and angry firefighters are good. It gives us the chance to help them get un-angry.

The policy that now requires the 1st due officer to do a size-up, has angered some of the city's firefighters, who say it's their job to save people and property, even when it means putting their lives on the line. "We have always learned that you never know if someone is in a building unless you search it," said their local President. "Somebody who doesn't want to do that is probably in the wrong line of work."

Well, it depends. It ALWAYS depends on CONDITIONS. Determining CONDITIONS as a part of a size up, are what determines if we go in or not (and in most cases we do-as we should)...and size-up determines everything else we do until we start packing hose. That fact

is found in every fire tactics book written by FIREFIGHTERS and FIRE CHIEFS for the past 30+ years. It is nothing new. You will not find any seasoned Firefighter, Company Officer or Chief that will suggest Firefighters go in without an initial size up of some kind. If so, they are probably in the wrong line of work.

You must size up. Seasoned Fire Officers, Firefighters and the survivors of Firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty in non-sized up buildings can confirm that. Size up. Simple proven logic that any seasoned veteran fire officer who has commanded fires will back up. And even with confirmed victims, there is still some level of initial size-up. You must size-up. But sometimes it's tough for a Firefighter to understand that. And that's understandable. That's why there are coaches and players. And that's why there are Chief Officers, Company Officers, Driver/Engineers and Firefighters. Each should clearly understand their role in coordination with the others and have the training and experience to go along with it. And all of us, at every rank must accept that sometimes, we just need to follow orders.

It's not always about what we "wanna" do or what we like.

Check out the entire piece here:

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/New_emphasis_on_safety_upsets_some_firefighters.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE AT FDIC.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-22-09 / 1430 hours

AND:

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Check out the entire media piece here:

http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/New_emphasis_on_safety_upsets_some_firefighters.html

The Homebuilders Tried....BUT THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE SERVICES WINS!

The builders tried to get the ICC sprinkler requirement excluded from the Pennsylvania Building Code.....

Here are the details: <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/fullstory.php?84744>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE AT FDIC.**

BillyG

The Secret List 4-22-09 / 2200 hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

FDIC / NAT'L FALLEN FF's FOUNDATION INFORMATION:

THURSDAY AT 1900 HOURS...not to be missed...is the 8th annual.....Stop, Drop, Rock 'n' Roll that will be held during FDIC on **Thursday, April 23, 2009** at the historic Indiana Roof Ballroom (1 block from the Convention Center). Your \$15 donation includes all of the music, fun, food (Buffet from 7 - 9 pm) and refreshments that **Stop, Drop, Rock 'n' Roll** has to offer -- and you will be helping the programs of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation!

DETAILS HERE: <http://www.stopdroprocknroll.com/about/>

See ya There!

ADDITIONALLY: Motorola is doing research at FDIC. They would really appreciate it if you could participate in one or more of these sessions. The major topic is the Future Firefighter Communications focus groups and for every participant in those focus group discussions, **they will make a \$50.00 donation to the NFFF** for the contribution of your time. The research sessions will be held at the 2nd Floor of the WESTIN Hotel, in the "House Room" during exhibit hours.

AND:

It is with deep regret we report the Line of Duty Death of **Stafford County Fire Department, KS FF Dennis Simmons**, 63, of Radium, KS died Tuesday afternoon when he suffered a heart attack, while returning to the fire station following a grass fire. Stafford County firefighters, first responders & EMS personnel all responded to the scene and were assisted by Great Bend Fire Department Ambulance. He was then transported to Central Kansas Medical Center where he later died. FF. Simmons served Stafford County as a volunteer firefighter for 7 years. He leaves behind a wife and 3 children. Our sincere condolences to all affected by this loss.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE AT FDIC.**

BillyG

The Secret List 4-23-09 / 2130 hours

AND:

THREE FIREFIGHTING CREW MEMBERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-AIRCRAFT CRASH

A Firefighting plane bound for southern New Mexico crashed in Utah, killing the pilot and two crew members. The twin-engine plane failed to clear Stockton Pass in the Oquirrh (O-kur) mountains on Saturday and slammed into a mountain. The pilot was Tom Risk, 66, of Littleton, Colo., and crew members as Mike Flynn, 59, of Alamogordo, N. M., and Brian Buss, 32, of Alberton, Mont. Government officials say the crew of Neptune Aviation of Missoula, Mont., was bound for southern New Mexico to help fight a 19,000-acre wildfire there. The wreckage of the plane, a twin-propeller P2V Neptune with a 100-foot wing span, was located about 1300 Saturday. Search and rescue crews on foot and all-terrain vehicles retrieved the bodies and turned them over to the state medical examiner. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

REPORT "SURFACES" RELATED TO THE LINE OF DUTY DEATHS OF SIX FIREFIGHTERS

In the early hours of Nov. 29, 1988, two arson fires were set at a construction site in southeast Kansas City, one in a security guard's truck and one in a trailer loaded with 25,000 pounds of explosives. The trailer blew up, instantly killing six firefighters:

=**Thomas Fry,**
=**Gerald Halloran**
=**Luther Hurd,**
=**James Kilventon Jr.**
=**Robert D. McKarnin**
=**Michael Oldham**

The pre-dawn blasts shook the Kansas City area and touched off one of the most far-reaching criminal investigations in the city's history. Defense attorneys say they were never given key evidence that could have helped five defendants convicted in the 1988 explosion that killed the six Kansas City firefighters.

The attorneys say the evidence - a one-page police report - could have been used to implicate other suspects in the case and help prevent a guilty verdict in the 1997 trial that sent five defendants to prison for life. The police report, obtained as part of an ongoing investigation by The Kansas City Star, raises additional questions about the whereabouts of two security guards on duty at the construction site where six firefighters died. The guards later testified for the prosecution at the federal trial.

"We did not receive that document, and it obviously would have been something we would have used to impeach the testimony of the security guards," said Pat Peters, one of the defense attorneys.

HERE is more: <http://www.kansascity.com/105/story/1162352.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4/26/09 - 0600 hours

AND

Hey....

A **Charles County (Maryland) Firefighter** suffered burns to his back early this morning in a two-alarm fire that displaced a family of two adults and four children in the town of Indian Head. The fire was reported at 2:37 a.m. and caused extensive damage. The Firefighter was injured when he fell through a section of floor that had collapsed. He was taken to the burn unit of Washington Hospital Center for treatment of injuries that were NLT. The adults and children who live in the house were home at the time of the fire, but escaped. The fire may have started with an outdoor barbecue grill and spread to the house from there.

**MICHIGAN CUTBACKS...Lead To Firefighter Injuries, Civilian Death?
SAY IT ISN'T SO.**

Here is an update to the story from Flint, Michigan yesterday morning. One of the Firefighters burned is a Lieutenant and the local IAFF VP. He was part of the crew trying to get to a man trapped on the second-floor of a burning home late Monday night. Without water they were forced to back out. The closest engine company had been moved due to layoffs implemented a day earlier. The man who lived in the house was later found dead. There are also some very appropriate comments from the battalion chief.

Cutbacks leading to Firefighter injury and civilian death?

WTF DID THE CITY HALL DWELLERS THINK WOULD HAPPEN??

Shoot, we could have provided them with a "consultant report" without asking any leagues of cities or tri-data-filled reports for their tainted and self serving opinions. This isn't rocket science gang, less than adequate staffing along with firehouse cutbacks have absolutely proven to have lead to FIREFIGHTER (as well as civilian) INJURY and DEATH....but unfortunately some in-and out-of our business disagree, or are willing to risk lives...other than their own. Thanks to DaveStatter911 for passing this along and these links while we were traveling yesterday:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2009/04/flint-firefighters-say-cutbacks-delayed.html>

FDNY FIRE OFFICER LIFE SAVED FOLLOWING 9/11:

While "life goes on" for most....so many Firefighters, Police Officers and EMS members continue to suffer horrific illness from operating on 9/11. One positive story is about is an FDNY Lieutenant who suffered life-threatening injuries on Sept. 11....he is set to be released from the hospital with a new lung today. FDNY Lt. Martin Fullam, of Annadale (Staten Island) is set to be released at noon today from Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital. FDNY Firefighters and fire officials have planned a sidewalk celebration at the entrance of the Washington Heights hospital. Lt. Fullam suffered severe lung damage in the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Doctors say the lung transplant saved his life. We wish him a rapid and successful recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Great to see so many of you at FDIC. Hats off to Bobby, Diane, Eric and the crew of Staff and Instructors who made it an absolutely OUTSTANDING week.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-29-09 / 0830 hours

AND:

Hey....

In the last few weeks, due to the **reckless and irresponsible** paper issued by the National League of Cities/Tri-Data related to Firefighting cancer, the IAFF and the IAFC have worked in coordination and cooperation to ensure Firefighters and elected officials are provided with the actual **facts**.

=Yesterday the IAFF and IAFC issued a joint statement concerning the **tobacco industry-style** cancer presumption assessment that the NLC paid a management consulting firm, TriData, to produce. **The compelling body of evidence of an epidemiological correlation between fire fighting and cancer has been used by 28 states and seven Canadian provinces to create responsible presumptive laws.** Those laws recognize that fire fighters absolutely work in a uniquely dangerous environment that exposes us to carcinogens that cannot be completely controlled by PPE and safety procedures, placing fire fighters at an increased risk of developing certain cancers.

=**The attack on factual evidence by the National League of Cities and TriData is not new.** The paper produced for NLC by TriData is not credible and is reminiscent of the strategy and spin once used by the tobacco industry, which denied for years that smoking causes lung disease. **The NLC's paper is just as intellectually dishonest today as those cigarette company claims were back then.**

=The National League of Cities' (NLC) report under review: "Assessing State Firefighter Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Firefighter Cancer Research"...was a selective review of 17 previous studies and offered no new independent research data. For example, the IAFC's panel of medical research experts questioned the NLC report's "**subjective and highly questionable methodology,**" **citing the lack of quantitative review, inconsistencies in published criteria for which studies were selected for inclusion and the inability of NLC investigators to reliably classify the studies included.**

BE SURE TO READ the Joint IAFF/IAFC statement here:

http://www.iaff.org/Comm/PDFs/IAFF_IAFC_Cancer_Statement.pdf

READ the IAFC Member Info Here:

<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=39211>

OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTERS DIES IN HIS OWN HOUSE FIRE

Michael Cobb died Tuesday night....the fire was reported at about 10 o'clock at Cobb's home, located in the Osage area of Mayes County. The Osage and Pryor FD's responded to the fire, which destroyed the home. While putting out the fire, a body was discovered inside and it's believed to be the body of Michael Cobb, a Volunteer Firefighter for the Osage Fire Department. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

A SAD STORY FOLLOW-UP:

Like many others, it is unbelievable what they have done to the Flint Fire Department in MI. To put it in perspective, in 1985, 110 firefighters were on duty per shift. As of Sunday, they are down to 18....do the math, they have anywhere from 2-6 working fires a shift. It is unfair for the citizens or elected officials to expect 110 FF service from 18 members...**the results are predictable.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-30-09 / 0600 hours

To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to www.firefighterclosecalls.com

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.

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

San Bruno (CA) city staffers presented the City Council with strategies Tuesday night for closing the \$2.2 million budget shortfall that is anticipated with the start of the new fiscal year in July. One other highlighted area was \$125,000 in potential overtime budget savings from the Fire Department, which would be met through brownout days — when one piece of equipment would be shelved to save funds — and cross-staffing with other cities' fire stations, whose equipment would supplement San Bruno's:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_12258138

Contra Costa (CA) firefighters have agreed to delay wage increases for two years in recognition of “current, unprecedented economic circumstances,” according to the office of Contra Costa County Supervisor Susan Bonilla of Concord. The members of United Professional Fire Fighters Local 1230 agreed to defer to 2011 of a 2.5 percent raise scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2009, and to 2012 a second raise of 2.5 percent scheduled for Jan. 1, 2010. In return, the county extended all other terms of the firefighters’ contract for two years. “As firefighters, we experience on a daily basis the hardship many families in our community are facing,” said Local 1230 President Vincent Wells. “We wanted to work with the county in maintaining the level of public safety we have always provided ... We are willing to defer our raises out a few years with the hopes that the economy will turn around.”

<http://www.ibabuzz.com/politics/2009/04/29/contra-costa-firefighters-agree-to-defer-pay-raises/>

Nearly 10 percent of Orlando Florida firefighters could soon lose their jobs. "This fire department would be severely crippled," said Union President Steve Clelland. The firefighter's union is butting heads with city leaders over dollars. Union leaders say the city is threatening to layoff 46 firefighters if the union does not find a way to trim millions of dollars from its contract:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63632§ionId=46>

The latest draft of Tempe's 2009-10 operating budget calls for eliminating nearly 50 vacant jobs and cutting hours at the city's only library but decreases the amount of Fire and Police department positions that were targeted for elimination in an earlier budget proposal:

www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2009/04/14/20090414tr-budgetupdate0415-ON.html

With local governments cutting spending and reducing staff, the Northwest Valley Firefighter's Association in Arizona made a case Saturday for why its members should be spared the budget ax. Officials from around the West Valley took part in Fire Ops 101, a one-day course designed to help them understand what it is firefighters really do. Instead of complaining, these firefighters are actually taking the time to do something proactive, and something that many firefighter union locals have done to help maintain staffing in their community:

http://www.yourwestvalley.com/articles/firefighters_5815_article.html/truitt_fire.html

The president of San Bernardino's (CA) firefighter union on Monday denounced staffing reductions at nine of the city's 12 fire stations, saying the budget-cutting move jeopardizes public safety. "We need four people on every engine and every truck," President Scott Moss said. "That's a goal that the city has committed to. But now, in most of the stations we're down to three. And that doesn't work." Interim City Manager Mark Weinberg said eliminating the eight vacant positions will save the city about \$1.2 million a year. Until now, the department has staffed those slots with firefighters working overtime, Weinberg said. The city has been cutting since February to resolve a \$9 million deficit in the \$150 million general fund. Wonder if they have tried Fire Ops 101 as mentioned in the story above?

http://www.pe.com/localnews/politics/stories/PE_News_Local_S_layoffs14.42bab80.html

Clark County (NV) is hoping the union that represents about 770 firefighters will agree to a deal to help the county battle budget cuts. County officials have already made agreements with unions for police and most other county employees, but not with the International Association of Firefighters. The firefighters are scheduled to receive 3 percent cost of living raises July 1. The police union agreed in March to not take an increase, and other county employees represented by the Service Employees International Union agreed to trim their raises and cap merit raises:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/apr/12/clark-county-seeks-deal-with-firefighters-union/>

Some Clark County (NV) commissioners question why the firefighters' union refuses to trim its pay raises the way other unions have in an impending budget crunch. "I'm disappointed that the firefighters have not come to the table when the other unions are," Commissioner Steve Sisolak said. "Everyone needs to participate." Firefighters get 3 percent cost-of-living raises yearly plus as much as 6 percent in step increases. About 70 percent of firefighters are at the top of the wage scale and receive longevity pay instead of step increases. Each 1 percent pay raise costs taxpayers \$1.2 million a year, county officials estimate: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/43760282.html>

The Professional Fire Fighters of Maricopa (AZ) Local 4561 has formed a labor-management committee to discuss ways in which money can be saved in ways other

than through a reduction in staff. While various proposals were looked at, the key element to the negotiations with the Maricopa Fire Department was the restructuring of the pay scale, which union President Richard Jackson would save the city close to \$30,000 per year. "The impetus with our economic situation was money," Jackson said. It became more pressing for us to do this in order to save jobs."

http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20303571&BRD=1817&PAG=461&dept_id=594499&rfi=6

A tentative labor agreement has been reached with San Diego's (CA) firefighters and a deal with the city's largest employee union is close, officials announced Tuesday. Consensus on a contract with San Diego City Firefighters Local 145 was reached at the last minute, but its members still need to ratify it, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced. Firefighters agreed to about \$5.8 million in pay and benefit cuts. Sanders' lead labor negotiator said a deal is also close with the San Diego Municipal Employees Association: <http://www.10news.com/news/19181939/detail.html>

San Diego (CA) City firefighters have agreed on a two-year contract that includes giving up all of their holiday hours and picking up a larger share of retirement contributions, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced yesterday. The firefighters union, representing about 1,400 firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical technicians, is the first of the city's three unions to ratify labor contracts that could help retain city jobs and close the city's massive budget gap:

<http://www3.signonsandiego.com/stories/2009/apr/18/1m18contract232543-firefighters-ratify-contract-cu/?metro&zIndex=84477>

Calls for fire service in Spokane (WA) have gone up, but the number of firefighters may be going down. Layoffs are possible, officials told Fire Department employees Tuesday during the biannual State of the Department. It would take 15 positions to trim nearly \$1.3 million from the department's budget, they said:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/apr/15/city-firefighter-layoffs-possible/>

Police officers, firefighters and other unionized workers in Redwood City (CA) have tentatively agreed to forego salary increases in the next fiscal year to help the city cut a multimillion-dollar budget deficit, officials said Tuesday:

http://www.mercurynews.com/peninsula/ci_12145063?nclick_check=1

It could be like finding nickels and dimes under the couch: Add up enough of them, and you're talking serious money. That's what the Flagstaff City Council will learn tonight, when it discusses a consultant's report that concludes there is nearly \$1 million in uncollected and new fees that could be charged if the council wants to recoup the full cost of user services. Increases in various recreation, building and engineering fees are being proposed as well as charging for non-emergency services from the police and fire departments:

http://www.azdailysun.com/articles/2009/04/14/news/20090414_front_194487.txt

San Bernardino (CA) City Council members who rejected a proposal to restore funding for a dozen firefighting jobs said Tuesday that while they favor the concept, they don't think City Hall has the money. "It's something that we need to work on," 6th Ward

Councilman Rikke Van Johnson said. "Unfortunately, if we do it right now, we have to subtract somewhere else." The council acted in February to cut a dozen firefighting jobs from the city budget. The decision, which was projected to save as much as \$1.6million, was part of the council's effort to solve a \$9million deficit. The council approved more than 50 layoffs in February. The cuts were especially deep for library and parks and recreation services. No firefighters were laid off by February's budget cuts, but the decision did reduce staffing on multiple engine companies. Eight firefighting jobs that were vacant but previously filled by firefighters working overtime shifts have been taken off San Bernardino's payroll:

http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_12196391

The Longview firefighter's union has agreed to freeze wages for two years in an effort to help the city bridge its \$1.5 million budget gap. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 828 is the fourth of the city's five employee unions to make wage concessions this spring. In March, members of the Employees Bargaining Association, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO Local 1242-CL, and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3375 - Chief Officers Association agreed to take nine unpaid days off this year, which amounts to a 3 percent pay cut. "This is a significant sacrifice," City Manager Bob Gregory said at Thursday's council meeting. "I really want to applaud them for their willingness to step up during this difficult time:"

http://www.tdn.com/articles/2009/04/24/area_news/doc49f15dba6fff0105038975.txt

San Bernardino (CA) City firefighters have been hanging fliers on doors to alert residents that "things have changed." Eight vacant firefighter positions, typically filled with firefighters on overtime to maintain staffing levels, were recently cut from the department to save \$1.2 million. No one was laid off. Fifth Ward Councilman Chas Kelley has put the item on Monday's City Council agenda. He said approving the cuts in February was an "oversight" and he hopes fellow council members "will agree and restore these vital positions that are needed to save lives."

http://www.sbsun.com/ci_12172421?source=most_emailed

The days of local free ambulance rides are over -- sort of. The last two fire departments in Snohomish County (WA) that have been offering no-cost rides -- the Edmonds and Lynnwood fire departments -- have started sending bills to patients' insurance companies. Other county departments have been doing that for nearly 30 years. Ambulance fees in the two cities can cost \$800 plus mileage for victims of heart attacks and other serious trauma. The fees help pay for a vital service that tax dollars don't completely fund, officials said. In Edmonds and Lynnwood, however, collection policies could leave nearly \$1 million owed to the public unpaid in 2009:

http://www.enterprisewspapers.com/article/20090412/NEWS01/704129847/0/ETPZ_ONEMC

The city of Ashland (OR) announced Friday it will have to cut \$14 million to balance next year's budget, requiring layoffs in fire and other departments. The proposed \$81 million budget, which would go into effect July 1, includes no increases in property taxes. "To achieve that, the city needs to lay off two firefighters, the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) coordinator, two utility workers and a park technician,"

said City Administrator Martha Bennett. "We also have reduced a police records clerk to half time, reduced seasonal positions in parks and recreation and shifted staff in parks and recreation to cover certain jobs."

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090413/NEWS/904130309>

This one is great for overall public relations, especially when you read the comments from readers – if you don't think situations like this are not hurting firefighters around the world, think again. Clark County (NV) County officials hoping to finalize their budget by mid-May are frustrated that they aren't even close to getting concessions from the firefighters union to help curtail a \$114 million shortfall. Administrators are still shaking their heads over the 10-page March 27 letter they received from Ryan Beaman, president of the county firefighters union, which has about 770 members. Beaman's position, which some county officials have called "arrogant," is summed up in the second sentence: "We are happy to report that the financial health of the County is not as bleak as you have been led to believe." Beaman did not offer firefighter concessions, but listed other sacrifices the department could make:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/apr/23/shortfall-looms-large-fire-union-holds-out/>

Public Relations Nightmare Stories:

The Cincinnati (OH) Fire Department is having a sit-down with its bosses after a series of high-profile embarrassing incidents. "We will not allow, nor tolerate the unacceptable behavior of the very few to tarnish the reputation of the rest of us," City Manager Milton Dohoney said in an earlier video message to city workers nearly two weeks ago: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63444§ionId=46>

It's sad when a department has to offer incentives to their personnel – just to do their job correctly. Granted, this was something that was probably agreed upon by labor and management, and it is extremely important to fill out paperwork correctly, but in today's tough times, this one will not help our industry. Again, read the comments from the public below the article to get a feel for public sympathy (or lack thereof). Few job tasks are more mundane — or universally despised — than filling out paperwork. One normally doesn't even get an "attaboy" for doing paperwork because it is expected as part of the job. That is, unless you happen to be lucky enough to work as a paramedic or emergency medical technician for Las Vegas (NV). As reported Wednesday by Joe Schoenmann in the Las Vegas Sun, those employees get bonuses for filling out paperwork properly. These bonuses aren't simply gold stars or coffee mugs. They're cold, hard cash, more than \$600,000 worth last year alone. The paperwork for transporting someone to the hospital is worth \$20 for an EMT and \$30 for a paramedic: www.lasvegassun.com/news/2009/apr/23/not-your-typical-job/

Some firefighters do the dumbest things – an article discussing the ever-increasing number of firefighter videos on the internet that are not doing much for our credibility or for positive public relations, not to mention firefighter health and safety: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Columnists/Jason-Porembo/articles/484809-Some-Firefighters-Do-the-Dumbest-Things/>

All D.C. firefighters have been ordered to cease using the Pearson VUE Facility at the College of Southern Maryland for EMT testing after allegations surfaced that tests performed there could have been compromised, perhaps by cheating, a department spokesman confirmed to ABC 7 News Thursday. According to a statement, the allegations are "that members utilized outside materials during the National Registry Emergency Medical Technician examination process."

[http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/DC-Fire-Probes-Allegations-of-Cheating-on-EMT-Test/1\\$9411](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/DC-Fire-Probes-Allegations-of-Cheating-on-EMT-Test/1$9411)

A Clark County jury Friday convicted retired Portland (OR) firefighter David F. Gaul, 56, of beating and strangling to death his 90-year-old mother in her Hazel Dell-area home last year: www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/04/retired_portland_firefighter_c.html

A Tacoma firefighter charged with vehicular homicide in the death of a motorcyclist has been placed on paid administrative leave:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/northwest/story/706194.html>

The biggest fire to strike the Shawnee State Forest (OR) in 20 years was set by a volunteer firefighter, Ohio forestry officials said today. Michael W. Thompson, 22, of Stout, a volunteer with the Nile Township Fire Department, was charged with arson in Portsmouth Municipal Court today. He's accused of setting at least two fires Friday that have consumed more than 1,500 acres of the 63,747-acre forest:

www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2009/04/27/shawneefire.html?sid=101

After being found guilty of reckless driving, Bend (OR) Deputy Fire Marshal Susie Lovisco received her sentence Thursday morning: a ninety day drivers license suspension, mandatory traffic safety school, twelve months probation and a sixty seven dollar unitary assessment: <http://kdrv.com/news/local/113316>

Probably not the best way to do business – how would you like to have a loved one struck by a fire engine that was only using it's lights and siren to attempt to determine possible response times? Trying to build up data on response times, Greenwich (CT) fire trucks were sent out last week on mock calls throughout town with their lights and sirens activated to see how far they could get in four minutes, a nationally recognized standard for firefighting. But the move caught police brass off guard, prompting them to call for the practice to stop because of safety and liability concerns." We would never support going lights and sirens in an emergency vehicle without a bona fide emergency," police Chief David Ridberg said. "We expressed our concern to them and they stopped." http://www.connpst.com/ci_12253537?IADID=Search-www.connpst.com-www.connpst.com

A multimillion-dollar pension-kickback scandal has widened, with a consulting firm for a Los Angeles (CA) city retirement fund getting sued by federal regulators and one of its partners being arrested on criminal charges:

www.insidebayarea.com/california/ci_12271666

Former San Jose (CA) Deputy Fire Chief James H. Carter got an extra \$285,000 last year — a check that exceeded the total pay of any of the city's top-ranked officials.

Former Assistant Police Chief Charles "Tuck" Younis, who now serves as chief in Los Altos, collected more than \$243,000 on top of his salary and pension. Two other San Jose police officials last year took home checks for more than \$200,000 each. These retired public safety officials didn't win the lottery. Instead, they benefited from city policies that are under scrutiny as San Jose confronts staggering budget deficits: letting longtime employees cash out unused sick and vacation leave when they retire. The policy cost taxpayers \$7.8 million in 2008, up from \$5.5 million the year before, according to pay data requested by the Mercury News. That's about one-tenth of next budget year's projected \$78 million deficit: www.orovillemr.com/news/ci_12119850

A man whose brother died of a heart attack hours after being told by a D.C. paramedic that he suffered from acid reflux says his family is outraged to learn that fire officials had prior warning that the paramedic needed retraining. "It's just a slap in the face to my family," said Anthony Givens, 36, the brother of Edward L. Givens of Northeast, who died at his home in December after the call to D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/484633-DC-inaction-a-slap-in-the-face-to-victims-relatives/>

The city of South Milwaukee (WI) all-white Police and Fire Commission decided Wednesday to suspend Fire Chief Jay Behling 90 days without pay for using the N-word five times in front of employees of the all-white Fire Department: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63445§ionId=46>

Two Milwaukee (WI) firefighters lose their jobs after posting a video on YouTube that shows them using derogatory language and racial slurs. On the video, the cameraman asks Marcus Eastern if he likes being a firefighter. Eastern replies, "Yeah, it's alright. It'll do now until I stop selling dope." <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63620§ionId=46>

A Pleasure Ridge Park (KY) Fire Department captain is off the job and under investigation for committing an alleged hate crime. A police source, who asked not to be identified, told WLKY that Capt. Robert Heil showed up for work recently wearing Klan robes and that detectives were investigating whether it was a practical joke gone wrong or an actual hate crime: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63621§ionId=46>

On June 12th last summer, four Sacramento City (CA) firefighters were sent to fight the Humboldt fire in Butte County. There was Santino Viramontes, Arthur Leclair, Nathaniel Green and their supervisor, Captain Mark Ramirez. They drove from Sacramento to the fire line in Butte County. The next day, the afternoon of June 13th, the three Sacramento firefighters and their captain were pulled off the fire line and sent to Red Bluff, to get some rest at a motel. It turns out they did more than just sleep. They partied in Red Bluff while they were on the clock, getting paid by the public: <http://cbs13.com/investigations/Sam.Shane.Investigates.2.993157.html>

A Deschutes County (OR) Circuit Court judge found Bend Deputy Fire Marshal Susan Lovisco guilty of one count of reckless driving and not guilty on three counts of reckless endangering stemming from a July 4, 2007, driving incident in an Awbrey

Butte neighborhood; not sure what the outcome will be in regards to whether she will receive some form of progressive discipline (up to and including termination) for the fact that she will lose her license for 90 days and she may be required (as most fire department personnel are required) to have a current, valid driver's license:
http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090422/NEWS0107/904220396/1001/NEWS01&nav_category=NEWS01

A great, eye opening article from Fire Rescue Magazine discussing the need for increased fire apparatus driver training, situational awareness, and accountability. They say that history repeats itself. Unfortunately, it seems true, especially when it comes to the number of fire apparatus accidents that have killed or injured numerous firefighters in the past month. Three major cities—Boston, Houston and Philadelphia—have all experienced major accidents, as have numerous smaller volunteer departments around the country:
http://www.firerescuemagazine.com/articles/vaccaro/vaccaro_30APR2009.html?utm_source=bm23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=more+%26raquo%3B&utm_content=SPRZIBOROWSKI%40AOL.COM&utm_campaign=FireRescue+Magazine+eNews+-+Volume+0032

Authorities in Thousand Palms (CA) say a man, who pulled a gun on firefighters treating him for a seizure, was arrested at a local hospital:
http://www.ktla.com/landing_news/?Man-Having-Seizure-Pulls-Gun-on-Firefigh=1&blockID=264041&feedID=171

Despite countless hours of practice and planning by the Orange County Fire Authority before last November's devastating Freeway Complex fire, firefighters disregarded orders and put others and themselves at risk, a report released Thursday said. In the midst of a fire that raced through three canyons and directly into Yorba Linda, off-duty crews commandeered fire engines, driving engines into the firefight without telling superiors what they were doing or where they were going:
<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/fire-water-engines-2374126-homes-linda>

Tools of the trade – fitness and firefighting:
<http://www.svherald.com/articles/2009/04/15/opinion/commentary/doc49e5936bca79a046736955.txt>

What does it take to get fired from a public safety agency? Not sure. Two Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies have been sentenced to three years of probation and community service for beating a firefighter while they were off-duty:
<http://www.kcba.com/Global/story.asp?S=10240743>

A very smart public relations move by the Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire Department: having a citizen's fire academy, and getting a positive review from the mayor who attended and now has more appreciation for the work the fire department is doing to serve their community: www.westlintidings.com/opinion/story.php?story_id=123982403782915800

This from a Washington State Fire Chief – who is very grateful that his community passed a bond measure to replace two fire stations – quite a feat in today's tough economic times. “On behalf of everyone at the Burien/Normandy Park Fire Department, I want to say thank you for supporting our November bond measure. This is the first in a series of communications to keep you updated on the progress we are making on the bond to replace our two fire stations for Burien and Normandy Park (WA) . This was the first bond in the history of the fire department, and it passed by 66 percent even in this tough economy. Thanks to you, our firefighters and emergency personnel will have safe and healthy stations from which to serve you and your family.”
http://www.highlinetimes.com/articles/2009/04/16/news/local_news/news01.txt

This week, all 180 members of the Canton (OH) Fire Department received vests marked with the words “Fire Dept” and featuring pockets they can use. Yet, like body armor for police, the vests are designed to protect them from bullets and shrapnel:
<http://www.cantonrep.com/news/x1098182570/Canton-firefighers-get-new-bulletproof-vests>

An article from www.firerescue1.com related to firefighter safety, specifically regarding SCBA use:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/breathing-apparatus/articles/482812-Safety-Rules-for-SCBA/>

Inside a burning building, fire doesn't discriminate between Matthew Marcarelli and Gary Tinney. Inside the New Haven (CT) Fire Department, however, skin color has put them on opposite sides of a lawsuit that could transform hiring procedures nationwide. This week, the Supreme Court will consider the reverse discrimination claim of Marcarelli and a group of white firefighters. They all passed a promotion exam, but the city threw out the test because no blacks would have been promoted, saying the exam had a "disparate impact" on minorities likely to violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-scotus-firefighters-lawsuit%2C1%2C6226259.story>

A study released yesterday claims there is inadequate scientific research to determine a link between firefighting and cancer. The 174-page document titled "Assessing State Firefighter Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Firefighter Cancer Research," was prepared by TriData for the National League of Cities -- a non-profit association of cities and state municipals leagues. According to the study, 24 states (including California) currently have presumption laws that allow firefighters and emergency medical service providers who contract cancer to qualify for benefits:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=63483>

A man is arrested in Pittsburgh (PA) for posing as a firefighter and attempting to have people give him money they may have believed was going for charity:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=63605§ionId=46>

An investigation ordered by Seattle (WA) Mayor Greg Nickels has found that Fire Chief Greg Dean did not retaliate against a whistle-blower by demoting him, but the mayor is ordering reforms in the department in response to a recent ethics scandal:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2009098688_whistleblower22m.html

This is why it is critical to keep your contact information current when you are on a firefighter hiring list. The City of Cleveland (OH) recently hired recruits from a hiring list that was 11 years old (they had not hired anyone in a long time due to layoffs and other budgetary problems. Robert Heard planned to become a Cleveland firefighter in 1998. The maintenance worker passed the entrance exam and the city told him he would be called to the Fire Training Academy as a cadet. The training finally started -- 11 years later. Heard and 26 others entered the 17-week academy last week. Their chance to become firefighters was delayed a decade while Cleveland laid off workers and struggled to find money to pay existing employees, let alone hire new ones. Now that retirements have made hiring new firefighters a priority, Heard, who is 38, and his 12-year-old daughter were elated when the job offer arrived for a second time last fall:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/04/cleveland_calls_firefighter_ca.html

A divided Supreme Court took up its first examination of race in the Obama era Wednesday, wrestling with claims of job discrimination by New Haven (CT) white firefighters in a case that could force changes in employment practices nationwide:

<http://www.newsvine.com/news/2009/04/22/2715907-discrimination-claim-appears-to-divide-high-court>

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

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

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

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
Chabot College web site: www.chabotcollege.edu

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

The Fine Print:

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