



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 31, 2008

FIREFIGHTER LINE-OF-DUTY-DEATH **INFORMATION – AFTER ACTION REPORT:**

The Phase II Investigation Report from the Charleston, SC Tragedy on June 18, 2008, where nine firefighters died in the line of duty, is finally out. Please take the time to read all of the information provided as it is very eye-opening, tragic, and educational. Share it with your personnel and anyone else that may benefit from it. The goal is not to point fingers or blame, or play Monday morning quarterback. What's done is done, and the Fire Chief has just retired, leading the way for a new leader to take the reigns and do what it takes to get that department back on track. The goal is to take the lessons learned, and actually do what it takes to not allow history to repeat itself by the same thing happening to any of our departments. If we truly want to honor the Charleston Nine, we will learn from the events and ensure our personnel do not suffer in the same way our Charleston Brothers did.

Go to: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=56&id=59499>

For a link to the entire, 275 page report, go to:
http://firehouse.com/firereport_051508.pdf

Below are a number of related news stories to learn from:

In short, the Fire Department's culture, store's code violations created time a bomb:
www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/16/completely_unpreparedexcessive_avoidable41089/

Rusty Thomas, the Fire Chief of Charleston (SC) has announced his retirement, something many will say needed to happen or happened too late:
www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/14/charleston_fire_chief_rusty_thomas_says_he_will_re/

Another related story from Firehouse Magazine's website (www.firehouse.com) -
<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=56&id=59478>

The families of the Charleston 9 hear about the findings and of the last moments of their loved ones: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Charleston-9-Families-Hear-of-Last-Moments/46\\$59500](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Charleston-9-Families-Hear-of-Last-Moments/46$59500)

From Firehouse Magazine's website (www.firehouse.com) – “Poor training led to the deaths of the firefighters” -

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=56&id=59499>

Let the finger pointing begin; the Mayor of Charleston is now blaming the store owner for everything that went wrong – as opposed to looking right in his own house first. The Fire Chief is lucky he is not being criminally or civilly prosecuted yet.

http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/17/riley_blames_store_owner41293/

The City of Charleston is faced with paying 7.4 million dollars in the aftermath of the tragic events of June 18, 2007 where nine firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty:

www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/28/millionwith_more_fire_related_matters_un42413/

And the Charleston City Council wants a bigger role in choosing the next Fire Chief (as they should have), as opposed to the Mayor hand selecting the person they want (which is what happened last time).

www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/28/council_wants_bigger_role_chief_choice42431/

A related story with more details:

www.charleston.net/news/2008/may/09/fire_report_draft_released40261/

Also, see below in the Firefighter Safety Information section from firefighterclosecalls.com for additional related information.

Once again, for those that think we're Monday morning quarterbacking or questioning what happened, think again and look at the big picture. The intent of firefighter line-of-duty-death reports and after action reports are to learn from the good and mostly not-so-good things that happened at that tragic incident that killed one of our brother or sister firefighters.

If we want to truly honor those nine firefighters who gave their life for the Sofa Super Store, we will take what we can from this report, and from other after action reports and do what it takes to not let history repeat itself.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Livermore-Pleasanton (CA):

The [Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department](http://www.livermorepleasantonfire.com) will be accepting applications for the positions of **Firefighter & Firefighter/Paramedic**, from: June 2 – July 7, 2008. The basic requirements are as follows:

- **Firefighter:** Graduation from high school or equivalent, CPAT completion card, and that you possess EMT and CPR certification.
- **Firefighter/Paramedic:** Graduation from high school or equivalent, CPAT completion card, and that you possess one year of field experience as a licensed paramedic.
- Additional requirements can be found on their website.

To view the job announcement and complete an online application, go to:
<http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/>

For more information about the **City of Livermore**, visit their website at
www.ci.livermore.ca.us

For more information about the **City of Pleasanton**, visit their website at
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

For more information about the **Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.lpfire.org

For more information about the **Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 1974**, visit their website at: www.iaff1974.com/

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Some great firefighting training opportunities, courtesy of our good friends at Fire Nuggets. Firenuggets.com (or www.firenuggets.com) is a great resource all firefighters should be subscribing to. For only \$9.95 a year, you have access to fire related articles and information from the leading fire service professionals, on a wide-variety of topics. Great information to share with your personnel and provide for your personal career development. Go to their website to check out what they have to offer, including a free, sample issue, as well as numerous training opportunities.

Here are a number of various seminars they are offering in the near future:

- **Seminar #1:** =====

S-404 (Safety Officer) All-Risk – Fresno, CA: June 9 – 11, 2008

Deputy Chief Mike Bryant, with Battalion Chief Dave Franklin, presents: "S-404 Safety Officer - All Risk" This state-accredited class will deliver "all-risk" emergency information for the safety officer position commensurate with the requirements of FIRESCOPE.

For more information, including the registration flyer and to register, go to:
www.firenuggets.com/seminarfresno0608.htm

• **Seminar #2:** =====

"Stream Through the Window, Line Through the Front Door Or Both?" and "Let's Sit Down and Have a Cup." – Denver, CO: June 13, 2008

The morning session will be a friendly debate about fireground operations, specifically a tactic that some refer to as a "Transitional Attack." Battalion Chief Rich Brown, Colorado Springs Fire Department, will give his opinion as to what this is and why, when, and where it should be used. District Chief Dave McGrail, Denver Fire Department will give his opinion as to what this is and why, when, and where it should NOT be used. After an open forum with questions and answers, you decide what's right and what's wrong.

The afternoon session will be an open forum of conversation about fireground operations and specific strategies and tactics. Several fireground videos, photos, and case studies will be used to stimulate the conversation. All attendees are encouraged to participate by asking questions and giving your opinion. Leading the conversation at the kitchen table will be fire service leaders from yesterday, today, and tomorrow, including Division Chief Pat McGrail, Denver Fire Department (retired); Battalion Chief Ted Corporandy, San Francisco Fire Department (retired); Captain Jay Comella, Oakland Fire Department; and Captain Vern Scott, Denver Fire Department.

For more information, including the registration flyer and to register, go to:
www.firenuggets.com/seminardenverpro08_3.pdf

• **Seminar #3:** =====

"A View from the Back Step": Presented by Firefighter Jeff Shupe, Cleveland Fire Department – Denver, CO: August 8, 2008

Spend the day learning from one of the most experienced engine company firefighters in the American Fire Service. Firefighter Jeff Shupe will give an in-depth look from a firefighter's point of view of structural firefighting, with an emphasis on how it can and should be made simple. He will explain proper strategy and tactics and how basic principles of firefighting apply to all fire departments, regardless of size.

For more information, including the registration flyer and to register, go to:
www.firenuggets.com/seminardenverpro08_4.pdf

• **Seminar #4:** =====

"Strategy, Tactics and Safety": Presented by Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (ret.), FDNY – Denver, CO: October 17, 2008

Chief Vincent Dunn, FDNY (retired), will share his forty years of firefighting experience in a seminar about firefighting and safety. Chief Dunn will examine dangers of structural

firefighting and identify methods to manage and control these fireground dangers. He will illustrate strategies and tactics to reduce death and injury to firefighters.

For more information, including the registration flyer and to register, go to:

http://www.firenuggets.com/seminardenverpro08_5.pdf

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – RICHMOND (CA):

The [Richmond Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, one day only: June 21, 2008. The primary requirements are that you are at least 18 years of age, that you have graduated from high school or equivalent, and that you have completed an EMT program!

To view the job announcement, go to: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=60

For more information about the **County of Contra Costa**, visit their website at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/

For more information about the **City of Richmond**, visit their website at www.ci.richmond.ca.us

For more information about the **Richmond Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.asp?NID=79

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :

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

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – CALIFORNIA:

FIREHIRE is accepting applications for Firefighter, Firefighter / EMT and Firefighter / Paramedic positions, on a continuous basis.

The next application review dates are as follows:

- May 31, 2008
- November 30, 2008
- May 31, 2009

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

To participate in the entry-level firefighter examination process, you must possess or meet the following minimum requirements:

- High school diploma or GED
- At least 18 years old
- California Drivers License – Class “C”
- Legal ability to work in the U.S.

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 fiscal year, there are 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](#) 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 examination process consists of the following:

- Completion of the application packet that is sent to you by FIREHIRE
- **Written examination** – 130 question test which you must pass with a score of at least 70%. There are 65 EMT questions from the AAOS Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured, 7th Edition textbook, and 65 firefighter questions from the IFSTA Essentials of Firefighting, 4th Edition textbook. This portion of the exam is weighted 75% of your total score. **The Written examination is scheduled to be given on July 14, 2008.**
 - **Future written examination dates are: January 12, 2009 and July 20, 2009.**
- **Physical Ability Test** – this portion is pass / fail. It will be the Firehire Physical Ability Test (FPAT) scheduled July 31 – August 1, 2008. If you have completed the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), they will also accept a current CPAT card. For more detailed information on the CPAT, [CLICK HERE](#).
- **Advanced Life Support Assessment Center** – this event consists of a patient involved in a trauma and/or medical setting. The treatment is commensurate with your level of training. There are critical care criteria points that must be addressed or it is an AUTOMATIC FAILURE. You are graded on the criteria established by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. This event is weighted 25% of your total score, and is tentatively scheduled for August 23 and 24, 2008.
 - **Future written examination dates are: February 21 & 22, 2009 and August 15 & 16, 2009.**

The following fire departments are expected to be participating (based on the information available at the time of printing) in this recruitment and will be using the list that is established to hire for open positions:

Fire Department

Positions available

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Albany Fire Department – | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Big Bear Lake Fire Department – | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Central County Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Cosumnes CSD Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • El Cerrito Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Kentfield Fire Protection District – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Larkspur Fire Protection District – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Millbrae Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Mill Valley Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Mountain View Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • North County Fire Authority – Brisbane | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • North County Fire Authority – Daly City | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • North County Fire Authority – Pacifica | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Novato Fire Protection District – | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Palo Alto Fire Department | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • 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 & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • San Mateo Fire Department – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • San Ramon Fire Protection District – | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • South Lake Tahoe Fire Department – | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Vallejo Fire Department – | Firefighter/Paramedic |
| • Woodside Fire District – | Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic |

To join the **FREE** FIREHIRE mailing list and find out about their latest updates, go to www.firehire.com/mail_list.htm

FIRE & EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Go to www.chabotfire.com and click on **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous volunteer opportunities. Having some form of volunteer experience on your resume is a **must** for every firefighter candidate as many departments ask questions in their oral interview relating to how much volunteer experience do you have. Do something, and it's never too late to start building your resume and more importantly, giving something back to your community or someone in need.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Alameda County Training Officers / Contra Costa Training Officers

Are Proud to Present:

WILDLAND 2008 June 24th & June 25th

This annual event is held at Camp Parks in Dublin and is open to all fire agencies within Alameda County, Contra Costa County and neighboring counties. The focus of this event is to exercise Wildland Fire Fighting Strategies and Tactics!

Hands-on training will include: Progressive hose lays, hand line construction, mobile attack, water supply, structure protection tactics and safety within the wildland environment.

Cost for the event per day is:

\$ 100.00 per Engine Company - ALCO & CoCo counties

\$ 150.00 per Engine Company - Out-of-County agencies

\$ 25.00 per Single Resources (ST/TF leaders, COMT...)

"All participants are required to have and use full Wildland Personal Protective Equipment including Wildland Appropriate Boots!"

Please fill out and return this portion with payment to:

Registration is Required by Friday June 13, 2008

Please make checks payable to:

ALCO Training Officer's Association
C/O Bud McLaren, Treasurer
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611-4031

Agency 3 Letter ID _____, Apparatus Type _____, # of Apparatus _____, Single resource _____

Day your agency would like to participate: June 24th _____ June 25th _____

Agency contact: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Ph # _____ - _____ - _____

bmclaren@piedmont.com 510-420-3031 office, 510-420-3033 fax

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – HAYWARD (CA):

The [Hayward Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter Trainee (Paramedic certified)**, until: June 13, 2008. The primary requirements are that you are at least enrolled in a paramedic program.

To view the job announcement, go to:

www.hayward-ca.gov/departments/humanresources/shumanresources.shtm

For more information about the **City of Hayward**, visit their website at www.hayward-ca.gov/

For more information about the **Hayward Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.hayward-ca.gov/departments/fire/sfire.shtm

For more information about the **Hayward Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 1909**, visit their website at: www.haywardfirefighters.org

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Come join the Nor Cal Training Officers Association for one of our three (3) annual membership meetings and training sessions!

The **morning** session will consist of District Chief John Sullivan from the Worcester (MA) Fire Department providing an in-depth and personal account of the Worcester Cold Storage Fire where six firefighters died in the line of duty. Chief Sullivan uses a "storytelling" style to describe the situation the Worcester Fire Department faced during this tragic event.

The **afternoon** session will consist of a TRADE (Training Resources and Data Exchange) session where attendees can network and exchange fire service training and educational materials. Attendees are encouraged to bring copies of a training program, policy, or procedure to share with others. Examples include task books, training manuals, booklets, CD's, DVD's, and other special projects. Don't be shy! The program you developed is probably an invaluable template for others to use. **Lunch is included!**

- **Free** for Nor Cal TO Members and for folks who provide free training materials to share with others.
- \$25.00 for non Nor Cal TO Members in advance (lunch included) or \$35.00 at the door (free if you provide free training materials to share with others).

Here is the training announcement with more details:

Attention Fire Service Instructors:

NORCAL TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

TRADE: Training Resources And Data Exchange

TRADE is an opportunity for training officers and instructors to network and exchange fire service training and educational materials. Attendees are encouraged to bring copies of a training program, policy, or procedure to share with others. Examples include task books, training manuals, booklets, DVD's, and other special projects. Don't be shy! The program you developed is probably an invaluable template for other trainers.

Wednesday June 11, 2008: 0800 - 1600 hours
(PREPAID REGISTRATION By June 9, 2008)

\$25.00 for non-Nor Cal TO members (free if you bring items to share with others), \$35.00 at the door
Free for Nor Cal TO members - Lunch included!

Class Location (See pages 2 and 3 for more details):
Sacramento Regional Homeland Security and Training Center
3720 Dudley Blvd - McClellan, CA 95652

Questions?: Contact Mark Romer, Division Chief of Training for the Roseville Fire Department
at mromer@roseville.ca.us or 916-774-5570

- **Keynote Speaker: John Sullivan, Worcester Fire Department**



District Chief Sullivan will provide an in-depth and personal account of the Worcester Cold Storage Fire where six firefighters died in the line of duty. Chief Sullivan uses a "Storytelling" style to describe the situation the Worcester Fire Department faced during this tragic event.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____ **F.D.:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Fax to: Shari Tasler: 916-774-5810 or mail to: Shari Tasler, Administrative Assistant
Roseville Fire Department
401 Oak Street
Roseville, CA 95678

Student Check-in Procedure

Vehicle Parking

- Students (Civilian, Local, State or Federal) attending training on site will not be permitted to park inside secure areas while attending training.
- *Do not follow employees in the inner secured parking area. This area is designed for permanent tenants' only or for official vehicles registered by the tenants with security staff.*
- Students will park outside of the security gates on the east-side or west-side of the building and walk through the main perimeter entrance (walking gate) on the **south-side** of the building (signage will direct students and visitors to this gate).
- Students who are on duty and responsible to respond to an incident, the preferred place to park is on the west side. It will provide you with a quicker exit to you vehicle.

Identification Cards

- Students must bring their **drivers license** with them to enter into the building.
- Students will be required to check in with the security staff and will be issued a Temporary Student Identification card that identifies them as a "Student".
- *Identification must be worn and plainly visible at all times within the building.*
- This identification card will be issued to you and must be turned back in at the end of the last day of class.

Student Break Room

- We have on site a student break room with a snack and soda vending machine. A microwave and refrigerator is also available for your use.

Weapons/Guns

- Students are required to leave their weapons locked in their vehicle or left with their agency. However, we can accommodate up to 24 gun lockers on a first come, first served basis.

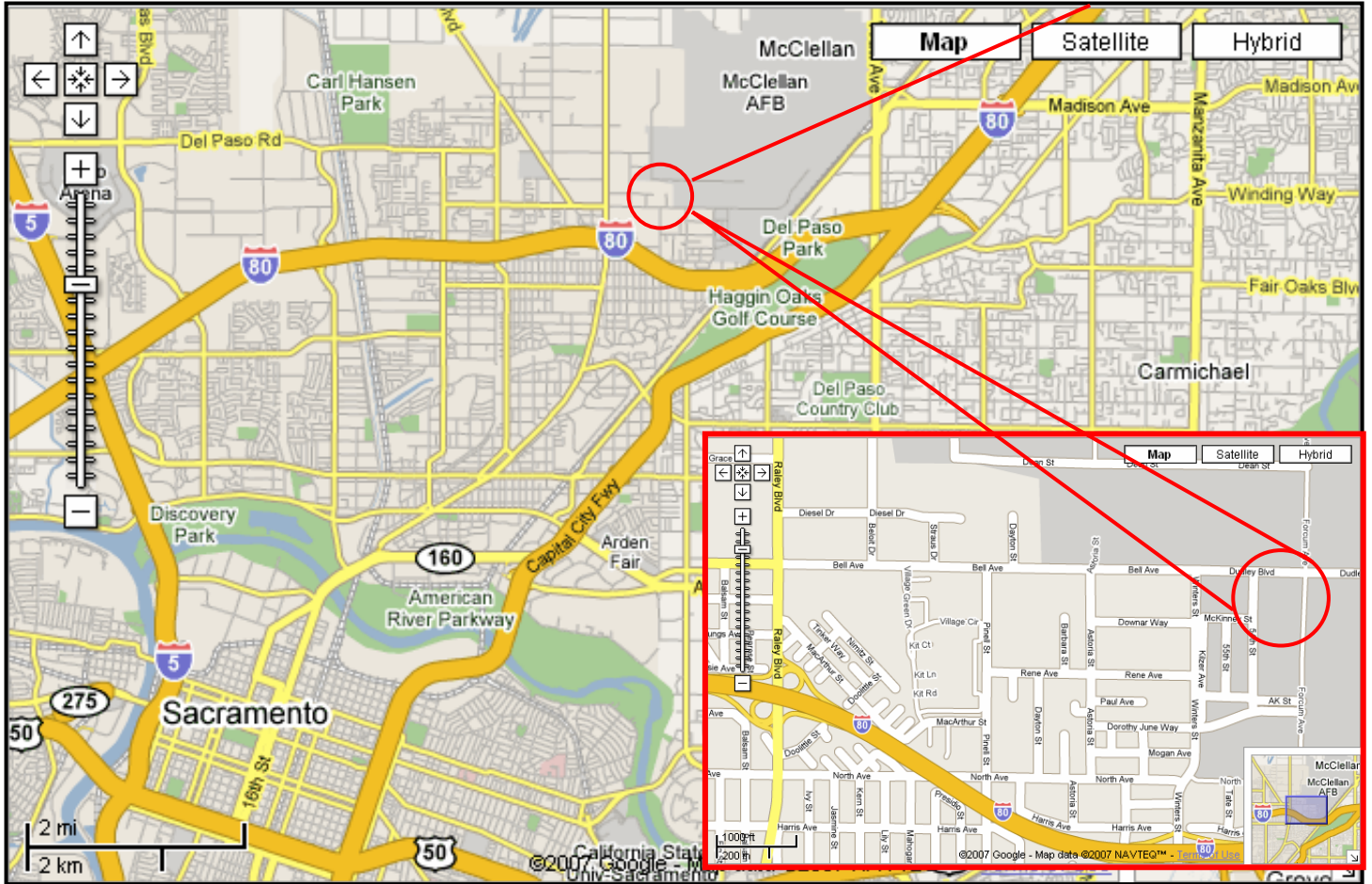
Security Desk **916-874-2153**

Directions

From Interstate 80, take the Winters Street exit and head north to Bell. Turn right onto Bell (Bell turns into Dudley). Turn right at Forcum (at the traffic light) Building is on the south/west corner with a black wrought iron fence around it. Address is **3720 Dudley Boulevard**.

ALSO: **SEE MAP ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.**

Chabot College Fire & EMS News



FIRE TRAINING INFORMATION:

The **Spring 2008** issue of the ***Fireline*** – the newsletter for the California State Fire Marshal's Office Training Division, is now available by going to:

www.chabotfire.com/FirelineSpring2008.pdf

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Public Safety Consultants is offering some great fire service professional development opportunities, as seen below. Go to their website at www.fireclasses.com for more information.

The Complete Fire Officer – Ketchum, ID – June 7 & 8, 2008

Instructors: John Mittendorf & Paul Stein

Time: 0830 - 1700 hrs.

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on fire service leadership, Chief John Mittendorf & Chief Paul Stein. This workshop is a MUST for all Chief & Company Officers, as well as those aspiring to the positions.

This seminar will discuss ALL aspects of leadership (firehouse as well as fireground)

Topics to be discussed:

- Responsibilities of Supervisor • Effective Leadership Dynamics • Setting Goals, Establishing Priorities • Coaching • Counseling • The Disciplinary Process • Effective Communications • Strategy & Tactics • Incident Commander • Communications • Size Up • Fireground Considerations - Habitational Structures - Commercial Structures
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Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Pleasant Hill, CA - August 25, 2008

Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

PLACE: Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill, Ca. 94523

1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein,

May 31, 2008

www.chabotfire.com

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on current leadership and management issues, Gordon Graham and Chief Paul Stein.

This unique 1-day interactive workshop will include an in-depth look at current management trends in the fire service, and how to become a more effective and efficient chief officer. This program also combines the separate disciplines of Risk Management, Customer Service, Accountability, Mentoring, and Integrity, and how these concepts work together to assure things go right, thus preventing undesirable consequences. This class is designed for Chief Officers and those that aspire to become chief officers.

TOPICS: - Identifying successful Leadership characteristics - Ethical Leadership - Getting the front line supervisor on your side - Project Management - Delegate, motivate, and lead - Coaching/Counseling - Risk Management - Customer Service – Accountability - Integrity - Becoming a better communicator

Lunch is included

Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Reno, NV – October 2, 2008

Sponsored by Regional Public Safety Training Center

PLACE: Regional Public Safety Training Center 5190 Spectrum Blvd Reno, NV. 89512

1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on current leadership and management issues, Gordon Graham and Chief Paul Stein.

This unique 1-day interactive workshop will include an in-depth look at current management trends in the fire service, and how to become a more effective and efficient chief officer. This program also combines the separate disciplines of Risk Management, Customer Service, Accountability, Mentoring, and Integrity, and how these concepts work together to assure things go right, thus preventing undesirable consequences. This class is designed for Chief Officers and those that aspire to become chief officers.

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Lunch is included

Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Temecula, CA – October 28, 2008

Sponsored by Pechanga Fire Department

PLACE: Pechanga Tribal Government 12705 Pechanga Rd. Temecula, Ca. 92592

1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on current leadership and management issues, Gordon Graham and Chief Paul Stein.

This unique 1-day interactive workshop will include an in-depth look at current management trends in the fire service, and how to become a more effective and efficient chief officer. This program also combines the separate disciplines of Risk Management, Customer Service, Accountability, Mentoring, and Integrity, and how these concepts work together to assure things go right, thus preventing undesirable consequences. This class is designed for Chief Officers and those that aspire to become chief officers.

TOPICS: - Identifying successful Leadership characteristics - Ethical Leadership - Getting the front line supervisor on your side - Project Management - Delegate, motivate, and lead - Coaching/Counseling - Risk Management - Customer Service – Accountability - Integrity - Becoming a better communicator

Lunch is included

Contemporary Leadership Challenges for Chief Officers – Chico, CA – November 24, 2008

Sponsored by The Chico Fire Department

PLACE: City of Chico Fire Dept. Training Center 1466 Humboldt Rd. Chico, Ca. 95928

1 Day Seminar

INSTRUCTORS: Gordon Graham & Paul Stein

This extremely informative and motivating 1-day seminar will be taught by two of the most nationally renowned instructors on current leadership and management issues, Gordon Graham and Chief Paul Stein.

This unique 1-day interactive workshop will include an in-depth look at current management trends in the fire service, and how to become a more effective and efficient chief officer. This program also combines the separate disciplines of Risk Management, Customer Service, Accountability, Mentoring, and Integrity, and how these concepts work together to assure things go right, thus preventing undesirable consequences. This class is designed for Chief Officers and those that aspire to become chief officers.

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Lunch is included

For more information, and to register, go to www.fireclasses.com

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

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter. Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas.

Basic Information For The CPAT Test

QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicants must be 18 years of age and must show government issued photo identification (i.e. drivers license, school or military ID; or a passport or visa). Candidates without a photo ID will not be allowed to take the CPAT.

APPLY EARLY

Applications are accepted in the order they are received. Applications are not accepted until the fee has been paid.

PAYMENT:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The fee to take your first test at their site is \$150.00. Your fee must be paid for your application to be accepted. This fee is non-refundable. Payment can be made with check, money order, Visa, or MasterCard. If you are paying by check, the check must clear your bank before you can take the CPAT. Make payments to "CFFJAC." Your fee includes participation in an orientation session, related printed materials and test.

ORIENTATION SESSION:

Working with experienced CPAT proctors, you will be given the opportunity to try each of the 8 events and determine where you may need to strengthen yourself. You will be given a set of exercises to physically prepare yourself for the CPAT. If you elect not to participate in the orientation, you will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging that the orientation was offered. There are no discounts if you elect not to participate in an orientation. The CPAT dress code is enforced for all candidates who attend an orientation.

TEST:

The registration form has a place for you to choose a preferred and second orientation day as well as a preferred and second test day. You will be notified by mail of the confirmation of your orientation and test dates. A group of candidates are scheduled every half hour to report to the CPAT center. Please be on time, but not excessively early. Space for waiting is limited. If for some reason you cannot attend your scheduled test day, please notify us as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to reschedule you to a test day that will fit your schedule.

RETESTS:

If you have taken the CPAT at a CFFJAC monitored venue in the past and would like to retest, the fee is \$100.00.

PRACTICE SESSIONS:

For \$25.00, you can schedule a supervised practice on the CPAT course with a proctor. Your session is designed to meet your individual needs. A session may include: Training on the CPAT equipment, watching the instructional video, going through the course in its entirety. You also receive the benefit of mentoring: techniques, expert evaluation and conditioning advice from our CPAT proctors.

Refunds for cancelled or rescheduled practice days will not be given if requested after 10:00 am the day before your scheduled practice day.

WHAT TO WEAR:

The dress code is strictly enforced for safety. The CPAT dress code for the orientation, practice sessions and test is: Long Pants (no shorts), T-shirt or sweatshirt, footwear with no open heel or toe, and no loose or restrictive jewelry. Candidates must be in proper CPAT attire before being allowed to participate in the orientation, practice sessions and test.

PARKING:

When you arrive at the CPAT center, please park to the rear of the building and enter the front door.

NO SPECTATORS PLEASE:

There is limited space at the CPAT center. In order to accommodate a fair and standard testing process for all candidates, we will not be able to allow spectators on the CPAT course or in the facility.

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

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

Northern California 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- June 9, 21
- July 7, 19
- August 4, 16
- September 2, 13, 29

It is strongly recommended that an Orientation be attended at least 8 weeks prior to taking the CPAT Test. Allow 1 ½ to 2 hour for the orientation. There is no cost for the Orientation, it is include in the testing fee.

PRACTICE DATES:

- July 7, 9, 19, 22
- August 4, 5, 16, 19
- June 9, 10, 21, 24
- September 2, 3, 13, 16, 29, 30

TEST DATES:

- June 12, 28
- July 10, 26
- August 7, 23
- September 4, 20

Southern California 2008 Schedule:

ORIENTATION DATES:

- June 7, 23
- July 12, 21
- August 2, 19
- September 6, 22

It is strongly recommended that an Orientation be attended at least 8 weeks prior to taking the CPAT Test. Allow 1 ½ to 2 hour for the orientation. There is no cost for the Orientation, it is include in the testing fee.

PRACTICE DATES:

- June 3, 10, 17, 24
- July 15, 22
- August 5, 22, 19
- September 9, 16, 23

TEST DATES:

- June 5, 12, 21, 26
- July 17, 26
- August 7, 16, 21
- September 11, 20, 25

Additional test dates will be scheduled as needed. Allow up to 1 hour to complete the process. Note, the above dates are subject to change, please check www.cpatonline.org for the most up-to-date information.

For more information about the above orientation, practice sessions and tests, including how to sign up and find out more about the 8 events, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – CULVER CITY (CA):

The **Culver City (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter**, from: June 23 – July 11, 2008. The primary requirements are that you possess EMT certification by the end of the probationary period (not to file the application, so virtually everyone should qualify).

To view the job announcement, go to: www.culvercity.org/jobs

For more information about the **City of Culver City**, visit their website at www.culvercity.org

For more information about the **Culver City Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.culvercity.org/fire/fire.asp?sec=gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & SAFETY INFO:

Focus on Fire: Wildfires

More and more people are making their homes in woodland settings – in or near forests, rural areas, or remote mountain sites. There, homeowners enjoy the beauty of the environment but face the very real danger of wildfire. Every year across our Nation, after a major wildfire, some homes survive — while many others do not. Those that survive almost always do so because their owners had prepared for the eventuality of fire, which is an inescapable force of nature in fire-prone wildland areas.



Said in another way – if it's predictable, it's preventable!

Reduce your risk by preparing now – before wildfire strikes. Visit the [USFA Web site \(www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus\)](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus) for tips on making your home fire safe, inside and out.

FIRE SERVICE HEALTH & SAFETY BENEFIT INFORMATION:



News Alert

Foundation News Alert

May 30, 2008

Guide to the Hometown Heroes Survivors' Benefits Act Now Available on Firehero.org

» **Guide:** [Attorney General's Guide to the Hometown Heroes Survivors' Benefits Act](#)

The Attorney General's Guide to the Hometown Heroes Survivors' Benefits Act is now available in electronic format on [Firehero.org](#) and [Public Safety Officers' Benefits \(PSOB\) Program Website](#).

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will be mailing a copy to each fire department and law enforcement agency nationwide. This document is for information purposes and should be stored with your department records.

» **Download:** [Attorney General's Guide to the Hometown Heroes Survivors' Benefits Act](#)

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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



IN COOPERATION WITH



PRESENT TWO WORKSHOPS FOR TODAY'S FIRE OFFICERS

THE TACTICAL TUNE UP
JUNE 12, 2008

WE ARE IN A SEASON WHERE THE FIRE SERVICE IS TACKLING ISSUES LIKE WMD, HAZMAT, EMS, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CERT TEAMS. AT THE SAME TIME, OUR STRUCTURE FIRES ARE DIMINISHING IN NUMBER, WHICH IS A GOOD THING FOR THE CUSTOMER. IT'S BAD FOR US BECAUSE WE ARE LOSING CHANCES TO GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE. THE RESULT IS AN ERA IN THE FIRE SERVICE WHERE THE SIMPLE "BREAD AND BUTTER" HOUSE FIRE IS A SENTINEL EVENT. MIND BOGGLING MISTAKES ARE BEING MADE BY OFFICERS WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW. GET ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

- HOW DO I CREATE A PERSONAL SYSTEM THAT BLENDS ALL THE CLASSES, CERTIFICATIONS, SOP'S, ICS, AND TACTICAL FUNDAMENTALS INTO A STREET-SMART AND EFFECTIVE WAY?
- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIZE UPS AND ARRIVAL REPORTS AND HOW DO I BECOME GREAT AT BOTH?

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- 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?
- 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?

Fire Service Leadership, What the Heck Is It?

JUNE 13, 2008

Solid, effective and dynamic leadership is rare in the fire service today. This day long workshop is geared toward what excellent leaders are, and are not. We focus on the challenges facing today's fire service supervisors, leaders and fire departments. Leadership is a word often used in the fire service, but rarely seen. This workshop throws out the book on technical jargon and useless theory. We tell it like it is from real world experience in busy fire houses, battalions, and historical events. Topics discussed include...

- Keys to real world motivation.
- Goal-setting for the day, the individual, the crew and the department.
- The "Old Salt", the "Y" generation, the "Recliner Sniper".
- Effective communications, time management, problem solving, conflict resolution and empowerment.
- The "Oreo" factor and servant leadership.
- Individual and group behavior & resource and project management.
- Where the fire service is headed (unless we do something about it!).

ANTHONY KASTROS IS A 21-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE HAS COACHED THOUSANDS OF FIREFIGHTERS ON LEADERSHIP, TACTICS, AND PROMOTIONAL TECHNIQUES. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR AND AUTHOR OF THE FIRE ENGINEERING BOOK, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER". ANTHONY IS THE PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE COMMAND TRAINING CENTER.

COST IS \$95.00 EACH DAY OR \$175.00 FOR BOTH

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PETALUMA FIRE DEPARTMENT – 198 D STREET, PETALUMA, CA 94952
LOCATION – PETALUMA COMMUNITY CENTER – 320 NORTH MCDOWELL BLVD., PETALUMA, CA
94952**

**FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR CONFIRMATION INFORMATION – CONTACT BATTALION CHIEF MIKE
HABERSKI – (707) 778-4390**

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

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

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Dates / Locations / Times: | - Wednesday June 25, 2008 from 1200 to 1700 hours - Thursday June 26, 2008 from 1200 to 1700 hours **Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times. NOTE: <i>All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</i> |
| You will receive: | Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt. |
| Your role: | As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios. |
| Contact person(s): | Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at director@sfparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php |

- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Dates / Locations / Times: | - Thursday June 19, 2008 from 1230 to 1800 hours - Friday June 20, 2008 from 1030 to 1630 hours NOTE: <i>All of the above classes will be held at the San Francisco Paramedic Association – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116</i> *** Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times. |
| You will receive: | Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt. |
| Your role: | As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios. |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Contact person(s): | Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at director@sparamedics.org or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php |
|---------------------------|--|

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY IN EMMITSBURG, MD:

NFA Application period

- [The application period for the NFA ends June 30th!! Get your applications in!!!](#)

To look at the course catalog:

- www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/resident/index.shtm

To look at the schedule:

- www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm

To print out a copy of the 75-5 Application for resident courses:

- [FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions Application](#)
(www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/75-5.pdf)

To see suggested guidelines for successfully completing your application:

- [Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application](#)
(www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/nfa/8tips.pdf)

Dr. Denis Onieal
Superintendent
National Fire Academy
US Fire Administration
Dept. of Homeland Security
301 447 1117

PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY INFORMATION:

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY

LEARNING



**Media
CENTER**

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - May 19, 2008



It's All In Our Hands

This Month's Features

[It's All in Our Hands](#)

Firefighter Life Safety starts with you. This segment focuses on your role in changing the fire service safety culture. Reducing the number of firefighter fatalities is all in our hands.

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

[Fire Is](#)

This segment is based on Dr. Frank Field's community fire prevention video entitled Fire Is. The entire video is included on the [Firefighter Life Safety Resource Kit Volume 2](#).

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



By - Dr. Frank Field

» Archives: [Visit the Learning Media Center](#)



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.



Homeland
Security



Fireman's Fund
Insurance Company

www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Upcoming Training Opportunities hosted by the:

- EAST CONTRA COSTA (CA) FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRAINING BUREAU

FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER/OPERATOR 1A): October 6 - 10, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE APPARATUS DRIVER/OPERATOR 1B): October 13 - 17, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-212 (WILDLAND FIRE CHAIN SAWS): November 5 - 7, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE COMMAND 1A): November 10 - 14, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

CONFINED SPACE RESCUE AWARENESS: November 24, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE COMMAND 1B): December 1 - 5, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-211 (PORTABLE PUMPS & WATER USE): December 10 - 12, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

ICS-300 (INTERMEDIATE ICS): December 15 - 17, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1A):

East Contra Costa County, CA, January 5, 7, 9, 12 and 14, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-290 (INTERMEDIATE WILDLAND FIRE BEHAVIOR): January 26 - 29, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE MANAGEMENT 1): February 2 - 6, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-230 (CREW BOSS): February 9 - 12, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-231 (ENGINE BOSS): February 16 - 17, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE INVESTIGATION 1A): February 23 - 27, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

FIRE INSTRUCTOR 1B): March 2, 4, 6, 11, and 13, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-200 (INITIAL ATTACK INCIDENT COMMANDER): March 17 - 18, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-270 (BASIC AIR OPERATIONS): March 23 - 24, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-215 (FIRE OPS IN THE URBAN INTERFACE): April 27 - 30, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

S-244/S-245 (FIELD OBSERVER / DISPLAY PROCESSOR): May 4 - 7, 2009

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

RIVER & FLOOD WATER RESCUE (TECHNICIAN LEVEL): June 19 - 21, 2008

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

LOW ANGLE ROPE RESCUE OPERATIONAL: Dates TBA

Register Online:

<www.eccfpd.org/content.asp?CatId=627&ContentType=Divisions%20and%20Bureaus>

For more information, visit the **EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** website at: www.eccfpd.org/

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The Contra Costa County Fire Training and Safety Officers Association
In conjunction with Lee and Associates

PRESENT

**WORCESTER COLD STORAGE and
WAREHOUSE FIRE**

A Personal Look from the Company Officer Perspective

June 10, 2008

0900-1600

PREPAID REGISTRATION ONLY

By June 4, 2008

\$50.00, includes continental breakfast and lunch

TO REGISTER, GO TO: www.srvfire.ca.gov/worcester.htm

San Ramon Community Center, Fountain Room
12501 Alcosta Boulevard

Questions: Captain Ame Blackshear
ccctoevents@srvfire.ca.gov
925-567-6935

Presented by District Chief John Sullivan, Worcester Fire Department

This presentation will take an in-depth look at the circumstances surrounding this multiple line-of-duty death incident from the perspective of the company officer. District Chief John Sullivan will guide the presentation using his personal experiences from the Worcester Cold Storage fire as a line officer (then a lieutenant). Sullivan led multiple search-and-rescue attempts into the building and subsequently lost two crew members to the inferno.

This first-hand account provides critical insight into the event and emphasizes the "lessons learned" aspects of analysis and commentary on the effect of the event. The Worcester Fire Department is resolute in its mission to ensure that the same fate never befalls another department for lack of insight.

FIREFIGHTER FUNDING INFORMATION:

Department of Homeland Security Opens Application Period for Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Services (SAFER) Grants

May 12, 2008 -- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) posted today the Program Guidance document for the FY2008 SAFER Grants at the website for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - www.firegrantsupport.com. Under the DHS Appropriations Act of 2008, Congress appropriated \$190 million for SAFER Grants.

Beginning May 27, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, DHS will begin accepting applications for SAFER Grants. The deadline for receipt of the SAFER Grant applications will be 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on June 27, 2008.

The applications will be automated and will be accessible from www.firegrantsupport.com.

The SAFER Grants are administered by the DHS's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Huntington Beach (CA):

The [Huntington Beach \(CA\) Fire Department](#) will be accepting applications for the position of **Ambulance Operator**, until: June 2, 2008. The only requirements are that you are at least 18 years of age and that you have graduated from high school or equivalent! This is a rare opportunity to test with a big-city fire department, without having the need to have any special certifications!

To view the job announcement and complete an online application, go to:
www.surfcity-hb.org/jobs/

For more information about the **City of Huntington Beach**, visit their website at
www.surfcity-hb.org

For more information about the **Huntington Beach Fire Department**, visit their website at:
www.surfcity-hb.org/government/departments/Fire/

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION:

USFA and DOT Complete Study of Traffic Incident Management Systems

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, working in partnership with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), have developed a report that provides technical guidance and training programs in traffic incident management for fire and emergency service providers. The report, [Traffic Incident Management Systems](#) (PDF, 10.5 Mb), contains guidance for local-level fire departments on compliance with the DOT's *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and the National Fire Service Incident Management System (IMS) Consortium's *Model Procedures Guide for Highway Incidents*.

"Too many firefighters and other emergency responders have been killed on duty from being struck by vehicles. Implementing an effective traffic incident management system could reduce this number," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "The USFA was pleased to work with the DOT and IFSTA to enhance their safety while working on the roadway."

This project included research into emergency services implementation of TIMS and the IMS Consortium Guide, examining such technologies and practices as effective distance for
May 31, 2008 www.chabotfire.com

placement of roadway warning signs; correct amount and type of emergency vehicle warning lighting (e.g., intensity, color, etc.); and training, placement, and protective equipment for "flaggers".

"We're committed to protecting the lives of firefighters and emergency responders working on our nation's roadways," said Jim Ray, Acting Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. "We must provide for the safety of these men and women who act selflessly to risk their lives to assist someone else who is in harm's way."

The manual includes case studies of roadway incidents that have taken the lives of firefighters, highway scene safety survival basics, incident command for roadway incidents, and examples of effective TIMS programs. It also provides information on the American National Standards Institute/ International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) standard 207, *High Visibility Public Safety Vests*.

"IFSTA was proud to work with USFA and the U.S. Department of Transportation in this initiative to protect firefighters operating on the roadway," said Chris Neal, IFSTA Executive Director. "Traffic incident management is an important operational and safety issue for today's fire service."

Further information about this study may be found on the [USFA Web site](https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/roadway.shtm#B) at (<https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/roadway.shtm#B>)

» Download the study at: https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tims_0408.pdf

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & SAFETY INFORMATION:

Below is the May 2008 Everyone Goes Home Safety Newsletter:
(www.everyonegoeshome.com)



[2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health, Survival Week is Around the Corner - Have You Adopted a Health & Safety Culture Yet?](#)

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Everyone Goes Home(R) Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is pleased to once again participate as a partner in the IAFC/IAFF 2008 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week, scheduled for June 22-28, 2008. The Everyone Goes Home(R) Program was

founded on the need for a cultural change within the fire service. This year's Safety, Health and Survival Week theme, Committed to Long Term Results, is meant to encourage strong culture of health and safety within the Fire/EMS service. We encourage you to adopt a health and safety culture and practice it every day, so Everyone Goes Home.

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

[Firemen Taking Health to Heart](#)

According to national statistics, 44 percent of all firefighter deaths are caused by heart failure a disturbing trend that the township's four volunteer battalions have decided to fight.

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

[Moving Water in Prince George's County, Md.](#)

On a wet and dreary day - April 20th to be exact - over 150 firefighters from six different Maryland counties got together in Baden, Maryland to hone their skills at moving water in the "non-hydranted" environment. The drill was actually the Spring drill of the Maryland State Fireman's Association's Rural Water Supply Committee and was hosted by the Baden VFD, located in southern Prince George's County.

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

More May 2008 Articles:

- [Responding Wisconsin Tanker Rollover-Seat Belts Used](#)
- [Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas Adopt the 16 Life Safety Initiatives and Create Roadmap for a "Safety First" Culture](#)
- [Rhode Island Names Advocate For Everyone Goes Home\(R\) Program](#)
- [North Carolina Names Advocate For Everyone Goes Home\(R\) Program](#)

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

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

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

Some more firefighter testing tips courtesy of the www.fireprep.com - The [Don McNea Fire School!](#)

Focus Your Attention on Attaining Your Promotion

Everybody in his or her life, whether it is personal or athletic, has always wanted something extremely bad. You know the desire, the want, and the focus that you had when you wanted to attain this goal. You must have that same attitude when preparing for the promotional examination. You have to devote your time and your effort and it will require much personal sacrifice to attain this goal. During this time, many personal sacrifices will have to be made. These sacrifices include your social and family life. Remember that not only will you receive an immediate raise in salary, which will last the rest of your career, but it will also determine the pension that you retire with.

Test Anxiety

Anxiety is the strongest deterrent to successful test taking. It interferes with your ability to effectively use your cognitive processes. Anxiety blocks the search and retrieval process, so that knowledge held in your memory bank is inaccessible. We have seen cases where an individual has a thorough knowledge of the material but gets into the examination and freezes or their mind goes blank.

At the start of the examination, the best way to relax yourself is to take 4 to 5 deep breaths, inhaling and exhaling slowly. This will relax your entire body. If during the examination you feel that you are experiencing anxiety, stop and take 30 seconds to repeat these deep-breathing exercises. This will calm you down and allow your mind to think more clearly. A mind under high anxiety is one that is not thinking rationally and you will not make correct choices. Knowing what to expect and being prepared for the examination is the best defense against test anxiety, that worrisome feeling that keeps you from doing your best.

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

www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html

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FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Two New Self-Study Courses Offered by the National Fire Academy

EMMITSBURG, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) announced today that two new self-study courses are available through [NFA Online](#). These new courses – *ICS-300: Intermediate All-Hazard NIMS ICS Review for Expanding Incidents (Q464)* and *ICS-400: Fundamentals Review for Command and General Staff (Q466)* – can be used as pre-course modules or refresher training for the classroom-based ICS 300 and ICS 400 courses delivered nationwide by State fire training agencies.

"These new courses incorporate the most recent changes to the National Response Framework and provide an excellent review tool for firefighters," said U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade. "The material presented in these online courses will better prepare the participants to be successful in the required classroom portion of the NFA's Incident Command program offerings."

Completion of Q464 and Q466 alone does not satisfy the requirements for ICS 300 and ICS 400. To access these and other self-study courses, visit [NFA Online](#) and select *Browse Catalog* or *New Student*.

Twelve courses are available through NFA Online in the following curriculum areas: Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Response to Terrorism, Fire Prevention, Incident Management, Management Science, and Public Education. In the coming weeks, several *Incident Command Simulation Series* courses will be released, as well as the revised *National Fire Incident Reporting System Self-Study*.

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

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Rank: Firefighter/FR
Age: 21
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 4
Date of Incident: 5/10/2008
Time of Incident: 1800hrs
Date of Death: 5/12/2008

Fire Department: Seneca Area Fire Protection District
Address: PO Box 93, Racine, MO 64858
Fire Department Chief: Michael Steele
Fire Department Website: www.safpd.org/index.htm

Incident Description: Firefighter Casey was injured when a tornado struck while he was warning people in the area to get to safety. He was transported to Joplin's Freeman West Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending
Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 46 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

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

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

AND:

Name: Joseph R. Mixon
Rank: Training Captain
Age: 51
Gender: Male

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Status: Career
Years of Service: 23
Date of Incident: 05/12/2008
Time of Incident: 1230hrs
Date of Death: 05/13/2008

Fire Department: Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department
Address: 1808 Seventh AVE N., Birmingham, AL 35203
Fire Department Chief: Ivor J. Brooks
Fire Department Website: <http://www.informationbirmingham.com/Fire/>

Incident Description: Captain Mixon was on duty the morning of Monday, May 12th, when he took ill and left for home at approximately 1230hrs. Mixon went to the doctor with upper respiratory type symptoms and after being examined returned to his residence. Captain Mixon suffered a CVA at approximately 0030hrs on Tuesday morning the 13th and was transported to the hospital where unfortunately he passed away later in the day.

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing 05/15/2008 from 1800-2100hrs @ Westwood Baptist Church, Forestdale, AL. Services, 05/16/2008 @ 1100hrs at Westwood Baptist Church. Map: 2349 Forestdale Blvd (Grid: 16S EC 0773 1567)
<http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm?zoom=17&usng=16SEC0773615674&disp=h>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Training Captain Joseph R. Mixon, C/o Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department, 1808 Seventh AVE N., Birmingham, AL 35203

Tribute is being paid to Training Captain Joseph R. Mixon at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 47 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Richard Burns
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 43
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 9 years
Date of Incident: 05/24/2008
Time of Incident: Unk
Date of Death: 05/24/2008

Fire Department: Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire
Address: 200 Ross Street, 5th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Fire Department Chief: Darryl E. Jones
Fire Department Website: <http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us>

Incident Description: Firefighter Burns was found deceased in the firehouse by fellow firefighters from a cause still to be reported.

Funeral Arrangements: Memorial Service, 05/ 27/2008. Funeral Mass, 05/28/2008 at 1000hrs.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to (Firefighter Richard Burns) at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 49 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Raymond Eusden
Rank: Chief
Age: 57
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 42
Date of Incident: 05/19/2008
Time of Incident: 1555hrs
Date of Death: 05/20/2008

Fire Department: Aston-Beechwood Volunteer Fire Company
Address: 793 Mount Road, Aston, PA 19014 (Grid: 18S VK 6153 1417)
Fire Department Chief: John Lloyd (Deputy)
Fire Department Website: www.astonbeechwood72.com/

Incident Description: Chief Eusden was in the firehouse working on fire apparatus when he became ill, feeling pain and numbness in one of his arms. Eusden then communicated to another member in the station that he was having difficulty speaking, slurring his words. Chief Eusden was transported to the emergency room via station ALS Unit and was admitted to the hospital. On 05/20/2008 while in hospital Eusden went into cardiac arrest and was unable to be revived.

Incident Location: 793 Mount Road, Aston, PA 19014 (Grid: 18S VK 6153 1417)

Map View: www.fidnet.com/~jlmoore/usng/?zoom=16&usng=18SVK61531417&disp=h

Funeral Arrangements: Visiting hours will be Tuesday, 05/27/2008 from 1800-2100hrs, and Wednesday, 05/28/2008, from 1000-1045hrs @ the Aston-Beechwood Volunteer Fire Company, 793 Mount Road, Aston PA 19014. Burial will follow on Wednesday at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Aston.

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All fire departments wishing to participate in this firefighter's funeral are asked to contact Safety Officer John Moletteri @ (610) 999-6660.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending. Updates @ <http://www.astonbeechwood72.com/>

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Raymond "Rocky" Eusden at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 48 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

AND:

Name: Jay C. Maddy
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 41
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 05/23/2008
Time of Incident: 2300hrs
Date of Death: 05/23/2008

Fire Department: Eaton Volunteer Fire Department
Address: PO Box 276, 602 E. Harris ST., Eaton, IN 47338
Fire Department Chief: Kyle Goe

Incident Description: Firefighter Maddy and his department had responded to a series of arson fires, the community was placed on curfew and a fire watch was established.

Approximately 16 hours after working the fire responses and finishing his assignment on the fire watch, Maddy was rushed to Ball Memorial Hospital, suffering from chest pains. He passed away a few hours later from an apparent heart attack.

Two suspects, a juvenile and an 18-year-old male, have been arrested in connection with the reported 21 fires that included a four cars, a recreational vehicle inside and a boat sitting outside of a metal garage, numerous trashcans, a moped and a church bus.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation, 05/29/2008 from 1300-2000hrs @ Eaton Elementary School, 200 NE Union St., Eaton, IN 47338; Funeral Services, 05/30/2008 @ 1200hrs, Delta High School, 3400 East State Road 28, Muncie, IN 47303. Any participating apparatus/fire departments, please be at Delta High School by 1030hrs.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Jay C. Maddy, C/o Eaton Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 276, 602 E. Harris ST., Eaton, IN 47338.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Jay C. Maddy at www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/

To date, 50 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

Some more firefighter safety and training information, courtesy of Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder and Gordon Graham, hosts of www.firefighterclosecalls.com

We have been advised that **Firefighter Tyler Casey of Seneca, Missouri** has succumbed to his injuries and has died in the Line of Duty. Firefighter Casey was critically injured while assisting his community during the storms and subsequent tornadoes in Newton County on Saturday evening. No funeral details have been finalized, but we shall pass that along as soon as we know. **Our sincere condolences to Firefighter Casey's family and friends.** These tornados are responsible for inuring over 200 people and killing at least 22 folks in three states so far. At least 15 deaths occurred in southwestern Missouri, in Oklahoma at least six people were killed, and at least one person died during the storms in Georgia.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-12-08 / 1555 hours

AND:

Hey....

A **Texas Firefighter**, who was injured while operating at a structure fire in Bulverde, received skin grafts Monday and is expected to be home from the hospital by this weekend. FF Monty Johnson, who works full time at the Kerrville FD and part time with the Bulverde FD, received 3rd degree burns Friday night at a two-story structure fire. FF Johnson was descending a staircase in the residence when a ceiling collapsed on him and he suffered burns to his neck.

MO. FIREFIGHTER LODD/TORNADO:

We have funeral service arrangement info for **Firefighter Tyler Casey** of the Seneca (MO) Area Fire Protection District. FF Casey was involved in assisting residents in emergency evacuation during storm spotting duties when he gave his life. He leaves behind a 2-year-old daughter and an expectant fiancée.

Tragically, he lost his life warning his area residents to evacuate from the very storm that took his life. **While this is an unusual and very "locale specific" Firefighter duty, it is clear that FF Casey was trained, qualified and assigned this duty, and his actions clearly lead to the saving of lives. More details to follow.**

Visitation for FF Casey is on Friday, May 16 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM at the Racine Christian Church, 12218 Highway K, Racine MO. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, May 17 at 2:00PM, also at the Racine Christian Church. Burial will be in the New Salem Cemetery near Racine.

Firefighter Casey's service will be with Full Line of Duty Firefighter Honors and we will provide
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information on Wednesday afternoon for emergency responders who would like to participate in the service with apparatus. Information Contacts will be Michael Banes at 417-388-1965 or Michael White at 417-483-2069 and you may also email at mww@mwhitefire.com .

WI. EMS HELICOPTER CRASH/FD MEDICAL DIRECTOR & HELO. CREW:

A public memorial service for two of the victims of the UW Med Flight crash will be held on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Monona Terrace in Madison. The service was organized by the families of **Dr. Darren Bean** and **EMS Pilot Steven Lipperer**. Also killed in the crash was **flight nurse Mark Coyne**, whose family has not yet announced plans for a service. A memorial fund will be established in Dr. Bean's name, and Lipperer's obituary suggested that memorials be made to the Dane County Humane Society. **Dr. Bean was the Medical Director of the Madison Fire Department**-amongst other community and medical related duties.

EXCELLENT DISPATCHERS:

"The head of the baby is already out"....the words of a very excited father in the middle of a rain storm on the Capital Beltway as his baby girl is born right next to him on Monday morning. Moments later he is screaming to the 911 call taker, "The baby is out"...as heard on the below audio recordings.

Montgomery County (MD) Firefighter Matt Markett, assigned to fire communications, expertly takes control of the situation. Firefighter Markett calms the father down, gives him instructions and stays on the line until crews arrive on the scene. All are now doing well...thanks once again, to a professional and caring fire/EMS dispatcher-a responsibility many of us in the field have limited understanding and appreciation for...and thanks to Dave **Statter911** for that excellent info. **Here are the 911 call and the radio traffic recordings:**

http://wm.wusa.gannett.edgestreams.net/news/051308_911entirecall_wusa.wmv
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/gallery/NewHampshireAveRadioTraffic.wav>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-14-08 / 0158 Hours

AND:

Hey

Mayor Joe Riley announced today that yesterday afternoon Fire Chief Rusty Thomas came to see him, and at that meeting Chief Thomas presented a letter to the Mayor expressing his decision to retire from the Charleston Fire Department effective June 27, 2008.

Details to follow on numerous news related websites as well as on our homepage

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-14-08 / 1200 Hours

AND:

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Hey...

Tragically, yesterday in **Bosnia**, in the town of Visegrad, **2 Firefighters died in the Line of Duty** while trying to empty underground gasoline tanks. 1 Firefighter was rescued but is in serious condition. Rescue team found them in a deep well. We are awaiting further details. Our condolences to all affected.

MORE AERIAL WATERWAY FAILURES: There have been additional aerial waterway failures reported. 1 was in Southern California at a 4th alarm fire just a few weeks ago. We will have more details on that soon. And this week in Minnesota, a ladder truck launched its waterway about 50 feet during a drill. No Firefighters or anyone else was injured or even close to where the waterway landed. They were flowing the waterway when they all heard a sound and the gauges went to zero. The FF's shut the truck down and they saw a debris field....where the waterway landed.

If your FD operates their own aerial or receives aerial services from a neighboring FD, it is critical that the below **NIOSH FIREFIGHTER SAFETY DOCUMENT** be reviewed immediately.

REMINDER: The responsibility of setting up an aerial including the pinning of the waterway is a skill, one that is trained upon on and can only be performed by those trained and qualified.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/SafetyAdvisory05052008.html>

If you are aware of any other related aerial waterway failures, please advise and we'll get you in touch with the right folks.

FIREFIGHTERS AND TORNADOS: (links/video below)

There has been some interesting, worthwhile and informative discussions related to the **tragic Line of Duty Death of 21-year old Volunteer Firefighter Tyler Casey of Seneca (MO)**. As you know, FF Casey died in the Line of Duty from injuries suffered due to the storm. Numerous accounts affirm that FF Casey was responsible for actions that clearly saved the lives of at least 3 residents, but then horrifically, sustained fatal injuries when the tornado he was warning residents about, picked up his truck and threw it at least a quarter of a mile. The Governor of Missouri has ordered the state to lower flags to half-staff until dusk on the evening of the funeral services for FF Casey.

Personally, I have been directly involved in numerous tornado warnings over the past 30 years-and one actual killer tornado where 4 lives were lost in our area in 1999...the horrific destruction is unlike anything I have ever witnessed. Additionally, I have a long time friend who lost his twin daughters when their car was overtaken by a tornado and lifted over a hi-rise building a few years ago-reminding me and so many others what these storms can do.

On average tornadoes are around 500 feet across, and stay on the ground for 5 miles. However, there is an extremely wide range of tornado sizes, even for typical tornadoes. Weak tornadoes, or strong but dissipating tornadoes, can be pretty narrow, sometimes only a few feet across. A tornado was once reported to have a damage path only 7 feet-but that's rare. On the other end of the scale, tornadoes can have a damage path a full mile wide or more. A tornado in Nebraska in 2004 was at one point 2.5 miles wide at the ground.

In terms of path length, a tornado that affected parts of Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana on

1925, was officially on the ground continuously for 219 miles. Many tornadoes which appear to have path lengths of 100 miles or longer are actually a family of tornadoes which have formed in quick succession. Either way-the damage and destruction is horrific.

In the past several weeks, killer storms have taken more lives including the life of Brother Firefighter Tyler Casey. We received some correspondence from some firefighters stating that their areas have used specifically trained Firefighter's to do storm spotting for years. While clearly a low frequency/high risk task, that duty is a standard accepted practice in some parts of the mid west and plains states with years of positive success-resulting in lives being saved. Mobile storm spotters are those who observe storms from their vehicle or from a position other than a structure. In many communities, spotters have assigned observation locations...when spotters are activated, they go to their designated spot, and observe and report weather conditions. Some mobile spotters stay mobile during the storm and attempt to move along with the storm to maintain a view of the "action area" and report any changes as the storm progresses. Naturally, this can be extremely dangerous (more facts below).

After learning that some communities detail Firefighters out of quarters and into specific outside areas, we were very surprised and felt the question is worth asking, that perhaps there might be a better way to monitor weather and pass warnings along rather than to send human beings (Firefighters specifically) out in the potential path of the storm. Perhaps there is a better way to spot storms and related tornados in order to warn the public using advanced technology in addition to what is initially seen, by those first noticing the weather change? And once the conditions are noticed, should each community in the potential path send spotters out-or, should everyone just take cover assuming the storm will hit? If it does, they are prepared. If it doesn't, it was a good drill and training.

According to data from the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center, 49 of the 705 deaths - or about 7 percent - attributed to tornadoes from 1997 to 2007 were people who were in vehicles when the storm struck. "The storm can cover more ground than you can in your car, so unless you know you are moving away from the tornado the best thing you can do is find a strong structure," said Andy Foster, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

FF Casey was absolutely brave and heroic-he placed himself in harms way performing his assigned duties in order to save the lives of others. He was 21 years old and leaves behind a two year old daughter ...and his fiancée is expecting his second child. Firefighter Casey had been dispatched to monitor the approaching severe storm-which, as I said, is not that unusual in some areas-but is also not done in others that have similar weather conditions. While he was detailed, Firefighter Casey warned three people to take cover from the approaching monster tornado prior to him personally being caught in the very same tornado...all three of the people that he informed survived due to his efforts-he saved their lives...but tragically, Firefighter Casey was the 14th fatality as a result of that tornado

Given the history of tornados, it absolutely saddened and disturbed us that a Firefighter, albeit trained and qualified (trained as a storm spotter as well as FF 1 & 2) was lost in the Line of Duty. While we think there may be a better way, we wonder (as we do in every LODD) if those involved will do it (or have it done) the same way or do it differently in the future. Some who wrote us said they are re-considering that procedure-others, especially in rural

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areas where there are no warning sirens and no funding for technology, feel strongly that trained and qualified personnel, functioning in this capacity, are critical to saving lives. Here is more information on safety, related to storm spotting:

www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/stormspotting/safety.php

Firefighters generally feel there are often better ways of doing some of the things we do, it's our nature to learn and improve. Personally, we constantly review, evaluate and change the way we do things right here, and at our own FD. When we consider change: sometimes the job changes to the positive-by all of us asking-and acting. In many respects, mobile storm spotting is a classic low frequency/high risk event....such as entering a burning dwelling to rescue victims. And sometimes Firefighters lose their lives, performing services that cannot be performed any other way. Structural firefighting has changed-our equipment has changed and our abilities to determine risk vs benefit has improved through training as well. But the bottom line is, we sometimes still must go in to get people out...and sometimes we sadly but necessarily, lose our lives doing that. Many Firefighters who function as storm spotters feel just as strongly about that as well.

In this case, FF Casey was able to warn people, he heroically saved their lives and gave his in doing so. And as he gave his life heroically, it is important to consider what any of us do and determine if there are better ways to do it, as we should in any LODD. There are few better ways to honor Firefighter Casey-and any Firefighter lost in the Line of Duty.

Here are some links of interest worth taking a look at:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/stormspotting/>

<http://spotterguides.us/>

<http://www.tsgc.utexas.edu/stars/tornado.html>

Here is an outstanding video from FIRE ENGINEERING related to the storms in Oklahoma.

http://www.fireengineering.com/display_article/328722/25/none/none/BRNIS/Fire-Engineering-First-Report-Videos:-Tornadoes-in-Picher,-Oklahom

Our sincere condolences to the members of the Seneca Area Fire Protection District, the community and the family and friends of Firefighter Tyler Casey.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-15-08 / 1215 Hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Jeremy R. Gullet of the Little Sandy Volunteer Fire Department (KY) lost his life while serving our country in Afghanistan. Jeremy was a member of the 101st Airborne. Funeral arrangements are as follows; Visitation with be at the Wurtland Middle School Friday, May 16th, 2008 from 5pm to 9pm. The funeral will be Saturday, May 17th, 2008 at 2pm at the Wurtland Middle School, with visitations begin at noon. Please keep Jeremy's family and friends in your prayers as they go through this difficult time. This message relayed from the Kentucky Fire Commission. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-15-08 / 1330 hours

AND:

Hey...

As anyone can and should be able to imagine, today has been a bittersweet day in Charleston, S.C. On one hand, the sobering facts of what happened on June 18, 2007 have been revealed allowing response, actions and emotions to run in numerous directions. On the other hand, these facts allow for a new start in so many respects for the CFD (including the opportunity for the Mayor to select the correct leader for the CFD) and a chance for the families to grasp the facts and figure out where it all fits in.

Below is the EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of Phase 2 of the Charleston Sofa Super Store Report. It should be noted that the entire report (posted on our home page, news/updates area) is dedicated to "The Charleston 9...(When you download the entire report, take a moment to read about each of them-since they gave their lives in what has become an opportunity to improve the department that they each loved very much.)

The next part of the report, Phase 3, will provide direction on how to implement the entire report and related recommendations.

On the evening of June 18, 2007, units from the Charleston Fire Department responded to a fire at the Sofa Super Store, a large retail furniture outlet in the West Ashley district of the city. Within less than 40 minutes, the fire claimed the lives of nine firefighters and changed the lives of countless others. The Sofa Super Store fire is a monumental tragedy that will be remembered and discussed for many years. The City of Charleston Post Fire Incident Analysis and Review Team was appointed by Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. to conduct a detailed analysis of the incident to identify the key factors that directly and indirectly contributed to the loss of nine firefighters. The ultimate goal of this project was to identify the lessons that should be taken from this devastating experience so that every possible effort may be made to prevent future occurrences of a similar nature.

There is no intent in this report to establish blame or assign responsibility for the situation that occurred in Charleston on that fateful evening. The analysis is intended to provide a factual report of what happened, why it happened, and the important lessons that can make a difference in the future. The loss of nine lives speaks for itself as to the importance of learning and applying those lessons in the Charleston Fire Department and every fire department and in the City of Charleston and every community.

This report examines a wide range of issues related to the Sofa Super Store fire. Some of the key issues include:

- The Sofa Super Store was a large property that incorporated a very significant potential for a major fire to occur.
- The fire risk factors associated with the Sofa Super Store exceeded the limits prescribed by the applicable building and fire codes. An automatic sprinkler system should have been

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installed to reduce the level of fire risk or the buildings should have been divided into manageable fire compartments by a system of fire walls.

- If a sprinkler system had been installed, the fire probably would likely have been controlled within the loading dock area.
- If effective fire walls had been provided, the fire probably would not have spread beyond the loading dock.
- The fire originated in discarded furniture and materials that had been placed outside the loading dock. The suspected cause of the fire was careless disposal of smoking materials.
- The loading dock had been enclosed by a structure that did not meet building code requirements. The loading dock enclosure failed to stop the exterior fire from spreading to the interior and subsequently contributed to the spread of the fire into the adjoining areas.
- The highly flammable characteristics of the materials that were stored in the loading dock and throughout the premises provided an ample supply of fuel and caused the fire to spread rapidly. The burning contents released copious quantities of heat and toxic smoke.
- Significant quantities of flammable and combustible liquids that were stored in the loading dock likely contributed to the severity and rapid spread of the fire.
- The fire had extended to the loading dock when firefighters arrived. Charleston Fire Department members attempted to fight the fire by initiating an offensive interior attack into the loading dock.
- The offensive attack was launched from two directions. One attack line entered the loading dock from the exterior, while a second line was stretched through the showrooms and into the loading dock.
- The offensive attack failed to control the fire. The fire extended into adjoining areas on three sides of the loading dock.
- At least 16 firefighters, who were operating deep inside the showrooms, became enveloped in heavy smoke.
- An employee who was trapped in a room at the rear of the building called 9-1-1 to request assistance and was rescued by firefighters.
- Conditions inside the showrooms became critical as the fire began to involve this part of the building. Several firefighters became disoriented and were running short of air. Radio messages requesting assistance were not heard.
- Seven firefighters managed to find their way out of the showrooms. The nine deceased firefighters were unable to find their way out as the fire spread rapidly from the rear of the building to the front.

- The size and layout of the building, inadequate exits, and the highly flammable nature of the contents likely contributed to the inability of the lost firefighters to escape from the building.
- Rescue efforts were attempted when the situation inside the showrooms was recognized. In spite of valiant efforts, it was too late to save the missing firefighters before the store became fully involved in flames.

The analysis of operations conducted by the Charleston Fire Department includes the following observations and findings:

- Fire fighting operations at the Sofa Super Store did not comply with Federal occupational safety and health regulations, recommended safety standards, or accepted fire service practices.
- The Charleston Fire Department failed to provide adequate direction, supervision, and coordination over the operations that were conducted.
- The documented duties and responsibilities of an Incident Commander were not performed and risk management guidelines were not adequately applied to the situation.
- The culture of the Charleston Fire Department promoted aggressive offensive tactics that exposed firefighters to excessive and avoidable risks and failed to apply basic firefighter safety practices.
- Insufficient training, inadequate staffing, obsolete equipment and outdated tactics all contributed to an ineffective effort to control the fire with offensive tactics during the early stages of the incident.
- The Charleston Fire Department continued to apply offensive tactics after the situation had evolved to a point where risk management guidelines called for defensive strategy.
- Factors that should have caused firefighters to be removed from interior tactical (offensive) positions were not recognized.
- There was a lack of accountability for the location and function of firefighters who were operating inside the building.
- The Charleston Fire Department did not have appropriate Mayday procedures to be followed by firefighters in distress, for dispatchers, or for command officers on the scene.

All of the listed factors and many others are analyzed and discussed in detail within the body of this report. This document presents the dedicated and conscientious efforts of the review team to honor the nine fallen firefighters by making every possible effort to learn from their sacrifice.

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The entire report PDF has been posted on our home page at www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com, under NEWS/UPDATES.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. and keep in mind the value of the report in evaluating any of our FD's.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-15-08 / 1730 hours

AND:

We have been advised that a fire ranger with **Canadian Aviation and Forest Fire Management** lost his Life in the Line Duty following injuries he suffered on the job. **Fire Ranger Kent Cousineau**, 33, of Sudbury died in a Toronto hospital Wednesday....the eight-year employee was hurt near Killarney last Friday

Two other workers suffered minor injuries, the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Ministry of Labor is investigating but early reports say that F.R. Cousineau and several other Fire Rangers suffered burn injuries while handling gasoline. Not sure if they were thermal or chemical burns. F.R. Cousineau was airlifted to a hospital in Toronto where he succumbed to his injuries. Our condolences to all affected.

And **Birmingham (AL) Fire Captain Mixon** has died in the Line of Duty. Captain Mixon was on duty the morning of Monday, May 12th, when he took ill and left for home at approximately 1230 hrs. Captain

Mixon went to the doctor with upper respiratory type symptoms and after being examined returned to his residence. Captain Mixon suffered a CVA at approximately 0030hrs on Tuesday morning the 13th and was transported to the hospital where unfortunately he passed away later in the day. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-16-08 / 0105 hours

AND:

Hey...

One of the Texas' most well known personal injury attorney is in critical condition after being hurt when a responding Dallas fire apparatus struck his Bentley. Brian Loncar, whose Loncar Associates has offices across Texas, was injured Thursday evening. Cops say the apparatus with lights and sirens activated, drove through a red light at an intersection and struck the driver's side of Mr. Loncar's 2008 Bentley.

The force of the crash pushed Mr. Loncar's car through the intersection, spinning off the road and into a third vehicle carrying a woman and 3 kids. Firefighters and those in the 3rd vehicle suffered minor injuries, but none of them were transported to the hospital. Mr. Loncar's face is real well known around Texas, where he can be seen saying in TV ads, "When you're hurt in a car wreck, you need someone on your side." His commercials and his Web site advise people to call in the "Strong Arm" when a person has been injured "due to the negligence or misconduct of another person."

May 31, 2008

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Dallas police say that the crash remains under investigation and said the crash may be ruled as Mr. Loncar's fault because he "failed to yield right of way to an emergency vehicle."

No matter what---STOP at red traffic signals and stop signs until it is clear for us to go thru....carefully....any crash of any kind isn't worth the risk.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 5-16-08 / 2333 Hours

AND:

Hey...

A 60-year-old woman was killed Saturday night after being struck by a responding Rural/Metro Fire vehicle in Pima Count, AZ.. The fire tender (support vehicle) was on its way to a car fire, using lights and sirens, just before 1900 hours when police say, **the apparatus driver ran a stop sign.** The Firefighter who was driving the tender suffered minor injuries and has since been placed on paid administrative leave. An engine company that was responding to the car fire initially was able to handle the fire. No citations have been issued, the sheriff's traffic unit is investigating and will turn the case over to the Pima County Attorney's Office to determine if charges will be filed.

Considering all the recent apparatus crashes, what do YOU THINK the apparatus drivers would do, if given the chance, to do it again? Yeah-exactly.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. STOP at Red lights and STOP signs....these outcomes are not worth the rush.

BillyG
The Secret List 5-20-08 / 1744 hours

AND:

Hey...

Before we pass the above info on, we had the privilege this week to interview **Chief Gordon Routley and Charleston Fire panel members** and will have a series of additional interviews to follow.

For those interested, here is Part 1, related to the recent released phase 2 of the Sofa Super Store report: <http://dynamic.firehouse.com/broadcast/2008/05/20/through-the-smoke-charleston-the-routely-phase-ii-report-part-1/>

MEDIC SHOT: This week is National Emergency Medical Services Week. <http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?id=30212>

....so this story again demonstrates the risks that all EMS folks have to deal with. This time, on Monday, an EMT was shot on the job in East St. Louis (IL) and is now in fair condition in the hospital after the Doc's pulled a slug from his arm. A second bullet, lodged in his chest, remains. The EMT, Patrick Bierman, 23, is the first MedStar employee to be shot on the job. EMT Bierman graduated from Northern Illinois University on Saturday. Bierman was shot while transporting another shooting victim.

The incident began when two men were shot about 2100 on Monday as they sat in a car ...about 2140, shots were fired from a small red car into the ambulance as they were transporting. EMT Bierman, though shot twice, managed to turn over the driver's seat to another EMT and no one else in the ambulance was hit. All three shooting victims remained in area hospitals today and are all expected to live. We wish EMT Bierman the best for a rapid recovery.

WHILE NOT JOB RELATED: Our condolences to Cranston (R.I.) FF's on the loss of brother FF James Pagano. Families were celebrating at FF Pagano's kids birthday party when it suddenly took a deadly turn last Sunday around 3. Some of the little kids from the birthday party had accidentally wandered into the neighboring yard of retired Providence police officer Nick Gianquitti...an argument broke out between Gianquitti and FF Pagano, who was hosting the party....the fight escalated to the point where Gianquitti grabbed a gun and shot Pagano dead. Gianquitti was arraigned Monday morning on murder charges in 3rd District Court. FF Pagano leaves behind his wife and two young children.

FIREFIGHTER FALLS: A fast moving fire in a Philadelphia row home last night left one civilian dead and a firefighter injured. Philly FF's heroically attempted to reach an elderly woman trapped in the house, but it was tough to crawl through hallways as narrow as 30 inches. The woman died from injuries sustained and a firefighter was hurt after falling from a second floor window during the search. He was taken to the hospital in stable condition. According to PFD Commissioner Ayres, there were no smoke detectors in the home.

IAFC AWARDS/Seeking Nominations: Every year, the IAFC honors members of the fire and emergency service with a number of different awards, recognizing outstanding efforts in areas such as fire-prevention practices, hazmat response, and Firefighter health and safety and other subjects as well. The IAFC is now seeking nominations for the awards listed below. For forms and more information about each award, go to:

<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=35997>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-21-08 / 0835 hours

AND:

Hey....

A Muscle Shoals (AL) Firefighter was seriously burned yesterday morning while he was operating interior at a house fire. Firefighter Brian Stafford was taken to Shoals Hospital and then flown to the burn unit of Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. FF Stafford was able to talk and appeared to be breathing on his own after the accident. The FF had burns to his head, neck, back, arms and hand, but the most serious burns are his hands.

MSFD Fire Marshal Cosby told local media that it was caused by a flashover. **FM Cosby said Firefighters placed a positive-pressure fan in the front door when they arrived. Stafford and FF Bobby Isbell then entered the house and reached the hall on the way to the bedroom.** "Bobby was ahead of Brian, who turned around to pull more hose in the

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house," Cosby said. "When he did, the living room flashed over. "Bobby heard Brian scream. Bobby hit the living room with (water from) the hose and they got out," Cosby said. FF Isbell was not injured.

NOTE: While all the facts are NOT out on this fire as far as exactly what happened and why, and this reminder is not specific to anything other than the above initial details....it is a good reminder for any FD and FF's to:

- Review any of our PPV policies and usage.
- The importance of charged hose lines prior to entering the fire area or potential fire area....which these Firefighters DID have.
- FULL "no excuses" use of PPE with NO exposed skin....critical to any FF's survival.
- Complete size-up and matched staffing on the scene before/upon entry to insure all required tasks and backup.

Updates to follow. Our sincere best wishes in the rapid recovery of FF Brian Stafford.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-22-08 / 0749 Hours

AND:

We regret advising you that **Aston-Beechwood (PA) Chief Ray "Rocky" Eusden (57)**, who was working on his FD apparatus this past Monday, had a medical emergency...went to and sat down in his office where he told another FF that he felt weak and couldn't speak. The officer immediately summoned the paramedics in the station where he was transported to Crozer Chester Medical Center with stroke like symptoms. Chief Eusden later succumbed to his illness a day later. Chief Eusden was a member of ABFC for 41 years and was the Fire Chief. Chief Eusden would have celebrated his 58th birthday this coming Memorial Day. More details are available here: <http://www.astonbeechwood72.com/>
Our sincere condolences to all affected.

And in ILLINOIS, a judge in Franklin County says a Greyhound bus driver should face a trial in the death of a southern Illinois Firefighter killed (in the Line of Duty) by the bus last summer on Interstate 57. After a preliminary hearing Wednesday in Benton, 42-year-old Sammie Rogers of Chicago was ordered to stand trial on a reckless homicide count filed against him in March. The bus was northbound early on July 27th when it struck and killed 43-year-old Sesser Firefighter James Miller who had just helped attack a tractor-trailer blaze along the freeway. Rogers also is charged with improper lane usage and failing to give emergency workers an appropriately wide berth.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-22-08 / 1525 Hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we notify you of two Line of Duty Deaths.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

INDIANA: Eaton, Indiana FF Jay Maddy has died in the Line of Duty. Firefighter Maddy and the Eaton VFD had responded to numerous arson fires since Wednesday evening -- 21 in less than 24 hours. A curfew was imposed and a "fire watch" was established but a few hours after operating at the fires, Firefighter Maddy was taken to a hospital with chest pains and he died a few hours later. Firefighter Maddy was 41 years old and is survived by his wife and two sons -- ages 14 and 15. Funeral arrangements are pending.

NOTE-We have also been advised that 2 suspects have been taken into custody in connection with the series of fires. Eaton is approximately 50 miles northeast of Indianapolis.

PENNSYLVANIA: An duty 46 year old City of Pittsburgh Firefighter was found DOA, and died in the Line of Duty while on duty at 12 engine house this morning. The cause of death is undetermined at this time. The Firefighter-reported to be on watch-was found by a returning unit and pronounced dead at the scene. Our condolences to all affected in both the PA & IN LODD's.

NEW YORK STATE: And in Coeymans (NY), Fire Chief Robert E. Prior was injured early today in a one-car crash after his vehicle went off the road and hit a tree around 0200 hours. **Chief Prior, who was not wearing a seat belt, was partially ejected from his car.** He was taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital with injuries that police believed not to be life-threatening but are critical and may be life altering. Police believe that Prior, who was alone in the car, was driving at high speed and are also investigating to determine if alcohol was a factor in the crash. Additional details will follow.

Our best wishes for a rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **S-E-A-T B-E-L-T-S.**

BillyG

The Secret List 5-24-08 / 2210 hours

AND:

Hey....

A working house fire in Loudoun County, VA injured 6 Firefighters this afternoon with at least 2 of the Firefighters being flown (with very serious burns) by helicopter to MedStar Trauma Center in Washington, DC. The single family dwelling fire was on Meadowbrook Court, which is east of Leesburg and west of Ashburn. Firefighters were operating interior when conditions rapidly changed, forcing them to bail out of the structure-some from the 2nd floor windows. At some point, we have been advised that there was also a collapse of the second floor. The 3 who were the most seriously injured went to MedStar (1 by ground EMS) and the balance were taken to Loudoun Hospital Center at Landsdowne/Ashburn with 1 Firefighter treated at the scene. The residents were not home at the time of the fire and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Additional updates will follow...keep them in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-25-08 / 1726 hours

AND:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Hey....

NOTE: Today is Memorial Day, a USA Federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. Today we commemorate and honor all U.S. men and women who perished while in military service to our Country. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 1500 hours, EDT. No matter what Country you receive The Secret List in, please keep all those who gave their lives for our Country, as well as their families, in your thoughts and prayers today and always.

CALIFORNIA APPARATUS CRASH: In Lancaster (CA) this morning, a Firefighter was hospitalized this following in what was described as a high-speed crash. The fire apparatus was responding when it was hit by another car. Witnesses said the rig had its emergency lights/sirens/horns on at the time of the crash. They said there were four young girls in the other car who were also rushed to the hospital but the severity of the victims' injuries is not yet known. Updates to follow.

VIRGINIA UPDATE: 4 of the 6 Firefighters who were injured yesterday afternoon at the 2 alarm house fire in Leesburg (Virginia) remain in the hospital: 3 Firefighters are in serious but stable condition.

Local DC area updates and pictures are posted here:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/05/six-ffs-hurt-in-virginia-house-fire-two.html> as well as: www.IAFF3756.com and of course, on our home page.

FIRE DETAILS: Around 1300 hours yesterday, Loudoun County received a 9-1-1 call for the house fire on Meadowood Court in Leesburg. Firefighters arrived with heavy fire from the attic of the two-story single-family dwelling (light weight wood) with the fire quickly spreading. However, while operating interior, conditions began deteriorating rapidly, forcing the crews to abandon their efforts and a MAYDAY was transmitted. While escaping from the fire, 4 Firefighters, 2 assigned to Tower 606 and 2 assigned to Reserve Engine 6, (Ashburn) were injured with some Firefighters having to jump out of the top floor within heavy fire conditions.

Initially, 2 Firefighters were flown to the Washington Hospital Center Burn Unit for treatment of injuries, while the 2 other Firefighters were transported by ground to Lansdowne Hospital Center. Due to the nature and extent of the injuries to 1 of the Firefighters, they too were later transported by ground from Lansdowne to the Washington Hospital Center Burn Unit. The 3 Firefighters are in serious, but stable condition at this time.

The 4th injured Firefighter was being treated at Lansdowne and was kept overnight for further observation. A 5th firefighter injured at the scene, was treated and released. A 6th Firefighter was treated at the scene. Career and Volunteer Firefighters from Loudoun County companies in Ashburn, Hamilton, Leesburg, Sterling, Lucketts as well as Fairfax County responded. Updates to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-26-08 / 0551 hours

AND:

Hey...

An Eagle Rock Volunteer Fire Department (Virginia) engine company was responding to a vehicle crash on Route 220 north in Botetourt County when it collided with a pick-up truck. The incident happened between Eagle Rock and Kelleys Market just after 1800 hours this evening. The 2 civilians riding inside the pick-up truck were killed and the fire apparatus driver was taken to Roanoke Memorial Hospital, but is expected to survive. Additional details will follow as they become available.

Take Care-**BE CAREFUL.**

BillyG

The Secret List 5-26-08 / 2255 Hours

AND:

Hey...

This past weekend, we saw another very serious close call when several Firefighters from Loudoun County (VA) were trapped in a working house fire. In a very dramatic escape, some were forced to jump from the top floors-and they were literally on fire when they did so. **We are happy to pass on that all the Firefighters are expected to survive...one Firefighter does remain in the MedStar burn unit with a long recovery ahead.** Updates can be viewed here: <http://www.iaff3756.com/>

Fires in lightweight constructed homes (gusset plates, glue, pre-fabbed etc) are most of our many everyday sfd fires. There are a couple of interesting items worth thinking about and/or reviewing:

=THE CLOCK. In many FD's, the "reminder" clock or "time checks" from the dispatch center starts when "command" is established...but that is well after the fire started. The time clock reminders are done, of course, to help fire commanders maintain perspective in how long companies have been operating....since time can get away from us when working a fire.

In talking with some folks, FD's are now "starting the clock" immediately upon dispatch, so that a more realistic time is used reflective on the longer burn time. For example, consider a house fire...the fire started well before you were dispatched...so why not "start the clock" immediately when the tones go off instead of waiting for command to be established...losing that time between dispatch and arrival. While there is no way to immediately know how long a fire has been burning before FD notification, the more accurate we can be in determining burn time and conditions on arrival-the better off we may be.

In some FD's now, time checks are now initiated by dispatch immediately on a reported structural fire/incident (no matter what type construction). For example, upon arrival of the 1st company and/or the 1st chief: "Engine 60 on the scene, we have a 2 story frame, heavy fire on Division 2, side A, establishing Main Street command"....and then the dispatcher responds "OK E-60, you have a working fire, you are 8 minutes since dispatch"...and then the time clock runs every 10 minutes from that point. **Using that model, the "old" 10 minute mark is actually now the 18 minute mark-a significant difference...well worth thinking about.**

Here are some videos and news stories that help emphasize the time issue related to lightweight construction:

<http://video.nbc4.com/player/?id=250746> (Firefighters caught in collapse)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo5ZtBXJiHo> (Test burn with collapse)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlyZx8ulMh0> (2 house fires, 2 different outcomes)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2005-132/> (NIOSH BULLETIN: Preventing Injuries and Deaths of Fire Fighters Due to Truss System Failures)

TAKE A LAP/WALK AROUND:

John Tippett, longtime friend and BC in Montgomery Co. (MD) who also works on our partner web site, www.FireFighterNearMiss.com sent us some thoughts well worth thinking about, related to lightweight construction fires and the need to **fully SIZE UP**. Like many of you also do, the below was a part of a weekly safety briefing he sends out to the officers on his FD:

= Take a lap. **Assess conditions.** Listen and react to the clues, especially when what you see doesn't quite add up to what you have been told.

= Take a lap. **Don't be in such a rush to get inside of lightweight construction with well developed fire conditions.** If you have to enter, enter cautiously with planned escape routes. Your first priority is to protect yourself and your crew.

= Take a lap. **Fire showing from the attic may have traveled** from some other location that has already undermined the structure's stability.

= Take a lap. **No structural components in lightweight construction are engineered to withstand fire.** Gusset plates pyrolize the wood they are nailed into and fall out. Gravity takes care of the rest. Combustible glues are used to bond OSB and other wood products. Think of these materials as hydrocarbon impregnated wicks.

= Take a lap. **Rapid fire progress and collapse are in the process of occurring when we arrive** at today's lightweight structure fire. We just don't know the exact when. Therefore, they are neither sudden nor unexpected. If materials are burning in a contents fire today, rapid and explosive fire development will happen. If the fire has gained hold of structural members, collapse is going to occur.

= Take a lap. **Brick on Side A and vinyl siding on Sides B-C-D is a widow maker formula.** Civilians have expressed amazement (and dismay) at how rapidly the formidable looking home (2 story brick front, solidified gasoline wrapped wood behind) burned and collapsed. **It should be no surprise to us.**

= **Is Anybody Home?** Aggressive searches should be conducted when a victim is confirmed inside a structure and survivability of the victim is likely. Risk a lot to save someone who has a likelihood of surviving. Every effort after that needs to be heavily calculated against the risk exposure, with the emphasis erring toward firefighter safety. We frequently arrive at structure fires where the condition of occupancy is ambiguous. Gain as much knowledge about the victim's location and the fire before making your decision and committing resources. What

criteria would you use to gauge the need to search? How aggressive should your search be in the face of a well developed fire in a lightweight, wood frame dwelling with advanced fire in the attic, locked doors and windows and a vehicle in the driveway?

....and we will add...when sizing up, ask yourself, **WHAT CAN BE DONE RIGHT NOW** to effectively knock the fire down? As veteran fire instructors have taught us: **A well placed and properly flowing line, knocking down the main body of fire, can often do more to save lives (including our own) than many other tactics....**and that may sometimes include an exterior blitz or masterstream knockdown..... ...depending on conditions ...and your size up.

And then there is the **RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER** issue: <http://www.ircfiresprinkler.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-29-08 / 0958 hours

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

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ADDITIONAL NEWS STORIES RELATING TO THE FIRE SERVICE:

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A positive story from the Poway (CA) Fire Department where a study determined that the use of overtime is actually saving their department money, which is not uncommon. What is common is seeing stories in the news regarding the high cost of overtime for firefighters; what is not usually seen is how paying someone overtime is a strategy as opposed to hiring an additional person and paying their salary and benefits, which is typically more than the time and a half we pay someone for overtime. It all depends on how your jurisdiction wants to staff the necessary positions.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.10news.com/news/16272793/detail.html>

This one is interesting and almost scary when you think about it. A New Jersey Fire Captain remains on duty while being in jail, on a work release program.

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=59662§ionId=46>

A refreshing story of sorts: The Cleveland (OH) Fire Department is fighting the city because they are attempting to free up fire apparatus from having to run on every EMS response, and instead let the City EMS division ambulances handle those responses. I say refreshing only because the Fire Department is fighting the potential drastic reduction in call volume, and more importantly drastic decreased level of service to it's community. I also say sad because I've heard from many firefighters, more than I

care to mention, that they wish they didn't go on the EMS responses and that only an ambulance should respond.

Well, they should step back and look at the big picture: runs we go on help increase and maintain job security. If our response volume decreases (which it would in this case), then there is a good case for the city to decrease firefighter staffing due to the lack of fire calls in most communities around the country. We should be (and CFD seems to be) happy that folks call 9-1-1 and expect us to respond. We should be really concerned with what happens when the bells stop going off or don't go off as much as they used to. Food for thought.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24737626/>

The budget woes continue, in various forms and fashions:

The Vancouver (WA) Fire Department is looking at increasing taxes to ensure an adequate level of service to cover the high costs of police and fire services.

For the full story, go to: http://www.columbian.com/news/localNews/2008/05/05122008_City-of-Vancouver-might-increase-taxes-to-avert-cuts-in-police-fire.cfm

The Lake Havasu Fire Department personnel want to create a policy to not allow the fire department to have to participate in the budget cuts (like every other department within a city typically does) in tough times. Good luck getting that passed. Before we get too emotional about us (the fire service) having to also participate in cuts, just like every other city department, zoom out 10 clicks and look at the big picture, and more importantly, what our public is saying about us in the way of reader opinions at the very bottom of the article.

I realize some of those folks may be bitter for whatever reason, but we also have to be realistic in tough times. If the money isn't there, the money isn't there, and we have to look for alternatives in how we do business or we will find ourselves out of business (such as being sold to a cheaper alternative such as Rural Metro or Cal Fire or some other private or state agency). It's been done, and will be done in the future, whether we like it or not.

<http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2008/05/11/news/doc4827b71cf40eb962636449.txt>

The City of Los Angeles is in the news regarding the high salaries of public employees, especially firefighters. In tough economic times, newspapers love to do stories on our salary and benefit packages, and they are legally able to do so – including putting our names in print. So, don't be surprised when it happens – there is nothing we can do except try to turn a negative into a positive by demonstrating through our actions (not our words – talk is cheap) that we are worth every penny of what we are getting paid. If we aren't able to demonstrate that, maybe we are getting paid too much. Value added service is the key, and making them feel through our actions that they can't live without will allow us to continue doing what we do and feeling valued and needed within a community.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/news/ci_9226562

On the opposite (somewhat) of budget problems, the Boise (ID) Fire Department is trying to find ways to increase engine company staffing from three to four. Good luck, I hope they can make it work in this economy.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.2news.tv/news/local/18950844.html>

The Lacey Fire District in Washington is having to close one station due to budget woes, and drop from 16 to 13 on duty personnel:

<http://www.theolympian.com/southsound/story/447164.html>

However, they are going to attempt to put a tax levy on the ballots, hoping that the public will be willing to pay more money for their services:

<http://www.theolympian.com/southsound/story/450650.html>

The Salt Lake City Fire Department is looking at having to shut down fire apparatus at one station, and replace them with a two-person paramedic unit since most of the calls in that first-due area are for EMS related responses:

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=3290393>

And a related story about the Salt Lake City council now getting second thoughts about closing shutting down the fire apparatus:

<http://deseretnews.com/article/1%2C5143%2C700225727%2C00.html>

To attempt to not have the City face bankruptcy, the City of Vallejo Firefighters Union has now changed their tune and offered to not take the raises they had originally agreed to: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_9243300

The East Contra Costa County (CA) Fire Protection District is so underfunded they are only able to support two person engine companies, and there are no immediate signs of relief. <http://www.brentwoodpress.com/article.cfm?articleID=19488>

The Lake Havasu (AZ) Fire Department is being targeted for their overtime costs:

<http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2008/05/16/news/doc482d0fc234e62447091856.txt>

An Oregon Fire Department is attempting to pass a tax levy after two unsuccessful attempts: <http://www.nrtoday.com/article/20080521/NEWS/383307002/1063/NEWS>

The Sacramento (CA) Fire Department is facing potential budget cuts: <http://cbs13.com/local/sacramento.city.department.2.736303.html>

Budget problems may exist in some parts of the country, but the Goodyear (AZ) Fire Department, just west of Phoenix, was able to recently graduate a recruit class of 19 firefighters to help staff two additional engines that are needed to serve the growing community.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2008/05/10/20080510swv-cadets0510-ON.html>

Fire Department Consolidation / Merger Related Stories:

The Puyallup (WA) Fire Department is going to put the issue of annexing their fire department into a neighboring fire district to provide a more efficient and effective level of fire protection services:

For the full story, go to: <http://www.puyallup-herald.com/108/story/2309.html>

Just when you thought your department had response time issues, look at this story from Tracy (CA) where it took 43 minutes for a fire engine to respond and arrive at the scene of a structure fire. Not faulting their department, they're doing the best they can given their funding mechanism or lack thereof. An interesting look at response times and how fire departments deal with that issue.

For the full story, go to: <http://tracypress.com/content/view/14617/2242/>

Firefighters flame out behind the wheel: a story about the large number of vehicle accidents caused by members of the San Francisco Fire Department.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.examiner.com/a-1410065~Firefighters_flame_out_behind_wheel.html

Great fire department public relations stories – something all can learn from:

The Pocatello (ID) has an open house to show their citizens where their tax dollars go: http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8303897&nav=menu546_2_6

A Los Angeles Fire academy (hosted by the LAFD) helps at-risk youths:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/news/400678-L-A-firefighting-academy-helps-at-risk-youths/>

The California Fire Foundation and California Professional Firefighters have joined forces to launch a statewide Spanish-language campaign aimed at educating Latino families in California on the importance of having and practicing a fire escape plan: http://www.news10.net/display_story.aspx?storyid=41856

A Utah Fire Department donates a fire engine to a school for training purposes: <http://www.heraldextra.com/content/view/266541/14/>

A story on the Santa Fe Springs (CA) Fire Department and their annual Fire Chief's inspection.

For the full story, go to: http://www.whittierdailynews.com/ci_9250764

The San Mateo (CA) Fire Department is in the news for rescuing a cat. Now before you start laughing and say “we don't do that,” who says we don't do that? The bottom line is they performed a public service when someone called 9-1-1. They made someone's day better, and performed a service for their community. What would happen if a more serious situation was occurring at the time they were on this event? Then they would have done like any other fire department would have done: tactfully advised the person they had to leave for a more serious response (heart attack, difficulty breathing, fire, etc.) and that they would be back when they clear that event, or they would try to have another unit come out to assist. We shouldn't try to kill ourselves or risk our lives attempting to save an animal (as opposed to a person), but we at least need to make a good faith effort at going out to the scene, assessing the situation (doing a risk vs. gain analysis and a situational awareness assessment) and taking it one step at a time to see if we can make a negative situation turn positive.

For the full story, go to: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_9420255

This article is a wake-up call for all of us to share with our families and friends – “Investigating police and firefighter charities” – many of which are not what they claim to be.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=3286837>

From Milwaukee (WI), comes a story where a mob of people attack a person and the firefighters on scene attempting to mitigate the situation. Yes, things like this are happening and do happen – so be safe and always be aware of your surroundings. If it's unsafe to be there, you shouldn't be there! When in doubt, ensure that law enforcement is responding and has secured the scene prior to your entry; and if law enforcement is not on scene and the situation starts going south, strongly consider retreating to a safe area.

For the full story, go to <http://www.wisn.com/news/16431862/detail.html>

Dallas Jones, former L.A. County (CA) Fire Department firefighter and California Professional Firefighters President and Secretary / Treasurer passed away after a long battle with lung cancer. Our condolences to his family.

For the full story, go to: http://www.thedowneypatriot.net/view_full.php?article=0000002121

A Nashville (TN) dispatcher is fired for cursing, and not showing compassion for a customer. Remember, it doesn't cost anything to be nice and being nice just may allow you to keep your job and not be sued or disciplined.

For the full story, go to: <http://emsresponder.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=7569>

A Cleveland (OH) Firefighter is convicted of murder, after killing three of his neighbors.

For the full story, go to: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=4864354>

And the jury spares his life, sentencing him to life in prison:

http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/news_article.aspx?storyid=90116&catid=45

A jury in Seattle awarded a firefighter \$1.8 million dollars. Training Officers take note of this story – it affects you and how you operate, including how your training academy operations. While some may feel the jury awarded too much money and that the city will suffer because of the payout (they will, as will other city employees), think about how the problem more than likely started: a fire department officer in charge of the training was not doing their job. Fire officers get paid good money to be the designated adult and supervise. Unfortunately many don't, and stories like this come out in the news.

For the full story, go to: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/362489_lawsuit10.html

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

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

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

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

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