

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

October 8, 2011

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

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

- The following classes are now available this semester!
- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

FALL 2011 Semester: (August through December, 2011)

Note: not all classes being offered below are listed below – those that are already full or have already started are not listed since students are typically not allowed to add after the first session in many classes.

| COURSE | DAY | TIMES |
|--|---|--|
| FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- October 18, 20 and 22 (Tue/Thu/Sat)- November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun) | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day), or Wed & Fri (pm) Sunday (all day) | 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours |
| FT 91A (Cal Fire wildland basic training) Note: Class meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- November 29, December 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day) | 1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours |
| FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- November 15, 17, 19 and 20 | Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Sat/Sun (all day) | 1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours |
| FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- November 8, 10, 12 and 13 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day) | 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours |
| FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- November 1, 3 and 5 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) | 1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours |
| Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 29, December 1, 3, 6, 8 & 10 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) | 1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours |

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

My suggestion is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



**CISM - Group Crisis Intervention &
Individual Crisis and Peer Support Combination**

City of Merced Fire Department

Instructors: KC Peterson and Kevin Snider, ICISF Certified Instructors

November 9-11, 2011

\$215.00 per student

**This is a combination course for both Individual Crisis & Peer Support
AND Group Crisis Intervention.**

This program is designed to teach participants the fundamentals of, and specific protocol for, individual crisis intervention. This course is designed for anyone who desires to increase their knowledge of individual (one-on-one) crisis intervention techniques. This is an International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc. (ICISF) registered course.

This program is designed to present the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum, the Group Crisis Intervention course will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services. Fundamentals of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) will be outlined and participants will leave with the knowledge

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and tools to provide several group crisis interventions, specifically demobilizations, defusings and the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD). Students will practice scenarios during class and role-play both individuals in crisis and intervention team members. The need for appropriate follow-up services and referrals when necessary will also be discussed.

This course is designed for anyone in the fields of Fire, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, Disaster Response, Emergency Services, Employee Assistance, Healthcare, Homeland Security, Military, Spiritual Care, and Traumatic Stress. These two courses (Individual/Peer & Group Crisis Intervention) are considered the entry-level courses needed for inclusion on a CISM Team.

A Certificate of Completion will be provided by CFRTA and an International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, Inc. certificate will be issued for both Individual and Group Crisis courses.

Further Course Information and Online registration is available at
www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov.

FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT OPEN HOUSE:

The **Alameda County Fire Department** will be hosting an open house for those interested in employment with them as a Firefighter.

All prospective candidates are encouraged to attend a Firefighter Recruit Orientation. The orientation will include an overview of the Alameda County Fire Department, its philosophy and strategic business plan, and Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert will discuss his vision for the organization. Attributes of the ideal candidate and a summary of the recruitment process will also be discussed. At the end of each orientation, candidates will have the opportunity to ask questions about the recruitment process and/or any of the topics reviewed during the session.

Though encouraged, attendance at the Firefighter Recruit Orientation is optional. Below are dates; specific locations for all dates will be posted on the ACFD website once confirmed:

- October 9, 2011 – 10 am to 12 noon at the Alameda County Training & Education Center, 125 12th Street, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94607
- October 18, 2011 – 5 pm to 7 pm at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568.
- October 20, 2011 – 6 pm to 8 pm at a San Leandro Location, TBD.
- October 26, 2011 – 5 pm to 7 pm at a Newark Location, TBD.

For more information, go to the **Alameda County Human Resources** website at <http://www.jobaps.com/Alameda/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=11&R2=8137&R3=01> and the **Alameda County Fire Department** website at <http://www.acgov.org/fire>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LAFD:

Dear Friend of the LAFD, here is an item of interest:

Hot Weather Safety Tips:

During hot weather - and throughout the year, the **Los Angeles Fire Department** asks you to consider some important safety tips for vehicles and children.

We need your help to make sure that no child dies needlessly by being left alone in a hot vehicle.

- Always put something you'll need - such as your phone, handbag, a sunshade, lunch or briefcase on the floor in the back seat. This will make you open the back door of your vehicle every time you reach a destination. This way, making sure no child is left behind becomes a habit. Safety experts call this the '**Look...Then Lock**' campaign.
- Keep a large teddy bear in the child's car seat when it's not occupied. When the child is placed in the seat, put the teddy bear in the front passenger seat. It's a great visual reminder that anytime the teddy bear is up front, a child is secured in a child safety seat behind you!
- Make arrangements with your child's day care center or babysitter that you will always call them when your child will not be there on a particular day as scheduled. This is not only common courtesy, but makes sure everyone involved in the care of your child is informed of their whereabouts. Ask these caregivers to always phone you if your child doesn't show up when expected.
- If you see a child (dependent adult or pet) alone in a hot vehicle, get involved. If they are hot or seem sick, get them out as quickly and safely as possible. Call **9-1-1** or your local emergency number for assistance as necessary.
- Never leave your car keys where children can access them, and always make sure your car is locked so that children cannot get in without adult supervision.
- Do not underestimate a child's capabilities. Teach your children about the dangers of a car, especially the car trunk. Most children can differentiate between a tool and a toy. Make certain they know that a car is not a toy!

For additional information about child and vehicle safety:

- kidsandcars.org – <http://kidsandcars.org>
- American Academy of Pediatrics – <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/116/1/e109.full.pdf+html>
- Additional Hot Weather Safety Information - <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/>

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Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist
Public Service Officer
Emergency Public Information (EPI) Center
Los Angeles Fire Department
"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

Brian Status & Location: <http://bit.ly/BrianLAFD>
LAFD Home Page: www.lafd.org

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

USFA Releases Residential Building Fires Topical Report

Contact: USFA Press Office (301) 447-1853 - September 29, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of a special report focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in residential buildings. The report, **Residential Building Fires** – <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i10.pdf> (PDF, 973 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. Residential buildings include what are commonly referred to as homes, whether they are one- or two-family dwellings or multifamily buildings. It also includes manufactured housing, hotels and motels, residential hotels, dormitories, assisted living facilities, and halfway houses.

According to the report:

- An estimated 374,900 residential building fires are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated 2,630 deaths, 13,075 injuries, and \$7.6 billion in property loss.
- Cooking is the leading cause of residential building fires (44 percent). Nearly all residential building cooking fires are small, confined fires (94 percent).
- Residential building fire incidence is higher in the cooler months, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Residential building fires occur most frequently in the early evening hours, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., when cooking fires are high.
- Forty-six percent of nonconfined residential building fires extend beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires are electrical malfunctions (16 percent), unintentional or careless actions (15 percent), intentional (12 percent), and open flame (11 percent).
- Smoke alarms were not present in 21 percent of the larger, nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings.

Residential Building Fires is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2007 through 2009 National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Registration for the 2011 Fresno Training Officers Symposium is now open!!!

- The Fresno Symposium is being co-sponsored by the Northern California Training Officers Association and the Southern California Training Officers Associations.
- This year's [Fresno Training Officers Symposium](#) will be held **Monday November 14, 2010** through **Friday November 18, 2011** in Fresno, California!

For more information, go to the registration website at <http://register.calchiefs.org> - where you can download the class descriptions and complete online registration.

Classes being offered this year include, but are not limited to:

- Fire Command 1C
- Fire Command 2B
- Driver/Operator 1A
- CSFM Confined Space Rescue
- CSFM Firefighter Survival
- CSFM Trench Rescue
- CSFM Automobile Extrication
- CSFM Low Angle Rope Rescue
- CSFM Fire Control 4A & 4B
- CSFM Ethical Leadership in the Classroom
- CSFM Training Mandates
- CSFM Regional Instructor Orientation
- CSFM Alternate Fuel Vehicles
- Chief Officer Leadership Symposium
- Company Officer Development
- L-280 (Followership to Leadership)
- S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior)
- S-445 (Incident Training Specialist)
- Tower Rescue
- Cutting Edge Command Officer
- Calm the Chaos
- Target Safety
- The Lost Art of Hose Operations
- SIZE-Up Matters
- CICCIS & IQS Familiarization
- Accident Investigation
- Cal EMA STL Update
- Company Officer
- Lessons Learned from Haiti and New Zealand
- Command and Control
- Fire Behavior
- Fireground Search Operations for Big Box, Multi-Story Occupancies
- Thermal Imaging Awareness

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- Truck Academy - Commercial Ventilation
- Truck Academy – RIC
- Truck Academy - Forcible Entry
- Aerial Operations
- Elevator Rescue
- RIC Command & Control
- How to Train and Motivate the Adult Learner
- Fireground Safety
- Self-Leadership Taking Control
- Mountain Meteorology & the Effect on Wildland Fires; Why the Weather Portion of S290 Matters
- Mission Focused Command Operations
- Dynamic Risk Assessment
- Lessons Learned Coston Incident
- Contemporary Safety Management
- And many more - see the website for more details.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Berkeley Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic until Monday October 10 at 5:00 pm.

For more information, go to: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/berkeley/default.cfm>

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



Focus on Fire Safety: Protect Your Family from Fire

Fires can strike anywhere – in buildings, automobiles, and the outdoors – but fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and the most preventable. **Over 75% percent of all fire fatalities occur in home fires.** This year's National Fire Prevention Week (October 9-15) theme is *Protect Your Family from Fire*. You can protect your family by:

- Installing smoke alarms on every level of your home,
- Testing smoke alarms once a month,
- Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, and
- Making and practicing a home fire escape plan.

Learn More About Protecting Your Family from Fire – Go to:
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/protect_your_family.shtm

FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT OPEN HOUSE:

The **Berkeley Fire Department** will be hosting an open house for those interested in employment with them as a Firefighter or Firefighter/Paramedic on the following dates:

- October 29, 2011
- October 30, 2011
- November 5, 2011
- November 19, 2011

The open house will occur each day between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm and will be located at Fire Station #2 at 2029 Berkeley Way in Berkeley, CA.

For more information, go to their website at: www.berkeleyfire.com

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 22, 2011
CONTACT: DAVE STATTER @ 202-487-5678

Help Spread the Word: Bells Across America Will Ring To Honor Fallen Firefighters

Make sure your website or blog is providing live coverage of 2011 Memorial Weekend

- Special video message to the fire service from NFFF executive director Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCPMpXa91Pc>
- Let your community know about *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*, the first nationwide remembrance for firefighters who died in the line of duty on Sunday, October 16. Learn more at <http://www.bellsacrossamerica.com/>
- Carry FireHero Network live stream of 2011 Memorial Weekend events on your department's website & encourage local media to do the same - <http://weekend.firehero.org/media/live.html>
- Also, honor the fallen by embedding the National Fallen Firefighters Tribute Widget on their websites, blogs or social media pages. Go to <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget>.

EMMITSBURG, MD – For the first time in the 30-year history of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend the bells of the Memorial Chapel will ring on Sunday, October 16 to honor the fallen. As part of this tribute, fire departments and places of worship and other community organizations will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*, the first nationwide remembrance for firefighters who died in the line of duty. The NFFF created the website, www.bellsacrossamerica.com which explains the program. A letter of invitation, frequently asked questions about the program and a response form are all available on the website. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with their clergy and community leaders to decide what type of remembrance is best. Some suggestions include: ringing chapel bells, a moment of silence, a brief prayer, a hymn, tolling a ceremonial bell by members of the Fire Department, or any combination of these. The remembrance can occur at any time on Sunday, October 16.

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“When a firefighter dies in the line of duty, the sadness resonates through an entire community. Through *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*, everyone across the country has the opportunity to pay tribute to the lives of these brave men and women who willingly take risks to protect and serve their communities,” said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. In addition to *Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters*, departments and individuals can add the National Fallen Firefighters Tribute Widget to their website, blog or Facebook page. The widget is a small box that will appear on the site, continually scrolling the names of firefighters honored in Emmitsburg.

The photos of seven firefighters who will be honored are rotated each day for one week leading up to Memorial Weekend. Go to <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget> to copy and embed the widget. The Fire Hero Network will be in full operation during Memorial Weekend. The Candlelight Service and Memorial Service will again be televised and sent around the world via satellite and the Internet. Departments can be a part of the network by streaming the events on your department's website. (<http://weekend.firehero.org/media/live.html>) The NFFF invites all departments to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to encourage local news media to do the same. In addition, there will be a Fire Hero Radio webcast from Memorial Weekend and continuous updates on social media, including the National Fallen Firefighters' Foundation Facebook page located at (<http://www.facebook.com/NationalFallenFirefightersFoundation>) and at the Twitter feed (https://twitter.com/NFFF_News) - For more information about the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, go to weekend.firehero.org.

About the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF)

The United States Congress created the NFFF to lead a nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters. Since 1992, the nonprofit foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers. The NFFF also works closely with the U.S. Fire Administration to help prevent and reduce line of duty deaths and injuries. For more information on the Foundation and its programs, contact us at 301-447-1365 or visit www.firehero.org.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

Student Recruitment: Cultural Competence in Risk Reduction

(P394) – Two Pilot Offerings

The United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy is conducting two pilot classes at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, MD for the newly developed six-day course, P394 – **Cultural Competence in Risk Reduction** (CCIRR).

The first pilot class is scheduled to be delivered Sunday, December 4 through Friday, December 9, 2011. The second pilot is scheduled to be delivered January 29 through February 3, 2012. Students will arrive on the Saturday before each class and will have a room on-campus for Friday night for a Saturday morning departure.

Course Description:

This new six-day NFA course seeks to improve cultural and linguistic determinants within the application of risk reduction strategies. This course aims to connect fire/EMS prevention personnel

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with diverse and cultural groups with the community(s) they serve, specifically to increase the reach and effectiveness of fire/life safety prevention services and programs. CCIRR is designed for a variety of prevention specialists such as public fire and life safety educators, inspectors, juvenile fire setter intervention specialists, fire marshals and code enforcers. The course applies a risk reduction model, which is used in several other NFA courses, as the context to discuss and interact with aspects of cultural competence. The cultural aspects that this course deals with are nationality and language (other than English), although the principles of cultural competence taught in this course can be applied in any multicultural environment. Students learn that these populations can be potentially hidden, underserved and/or emerging within their community(s).

The course is not about any one particular culture but about the building blocks of culture which correspond to four broad categories of human experience. Note: other NFA courses and USFA risk reduction efforts focus on reaching specific populations characterized by urban inner city residents, rural residents, older adults, young people (from 0 to 5 years), socioeconomic class and disability populations. These populations are not part of this course. The course introduces students to four fundamental dimensions or building blocks of culture which correspond to four broad continuums of cultural similarities and differences.

These four building blocks of culture are:

- Concept of self – individualist and collectivist
- Personal versus societal responsibility – universalist and particularistic
- Concept of time – monochromic and polychromic
- Locus of control – internal and external

Students learn these four concepts and how they connect to the various cultural and linguistic settings found in risk reduction. Students learn to encounter and interact with these dimensions of culture through realistic prevention scenarios and interactions. Even though the course deals with a modest understanding of the four building blocks of culture, students discover that these enhanced skills may also bring a decrease in the community risk(s) they have identified. Students learn to select interventions based on cultural and linguistic determinants, including some guidelines on culturally appropriate translation methods and how to communicate through an interpreter.

Course Topics:

- Getting Ready to Improve Cultural Competence
 - Risk Reduction Model/Processes
 - Four Building Blocks of Culture
 - Cultural Competence Assessments - individual, organizational and program/service
- Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Community Risk Assessments
 - Identifying Risk
 - Identifying Hidden Populations/Cultural & Linguistic Populations
 - Using GIS
 - Writing a Risk Reduction Goal
- Developing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Strategies
 - Selecting Intervention Strategies
 - Applying Cultural and Linguistic Determinants
 - Using Translations
 - Communicating Through an Interpreter
- Action Plans and Delivery Techniques of Culturally/Linguistically Competent Interactions
 - Developing Culturally Competent Action Plan

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- Prevention Interactions Within the Four Building Blocks
- Evaluating Your Prevention Service/Program for Impact and Cultural Competence
 - Four Stages of Evaluation
 - Need for Cultural Competence in Evaluation
 - Prevention Evaluation in Cultural & Linguistic Settings
 - Challenges in Conducting Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Evaluation

NOTE: There is a short pre-course assignment due two-weeks before class and will be sent to students after they have received their course acceptance letter from the NETC Admissions Office.

Student Selection Criteria:

Students who work in fire and life safety prevention, typically including public fire and life safety educators, code enforcers, arson investigators, inspectors, fire marshals and others whose work requires community outreach in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Other organizational personnel who have prevention responsibility as a secondary or even volunteer status such as suppression personnel (who work in prevention) may attend. All students should have some responsibility for interfacing with the community within the risk reduction process.

Class Size: 22 Students

Prerequisite: ICS 100 level and ICS 200 level training. Preferred courses are Q462 and Q463 available through NFA Online at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov - Chief's signature is required to attest that the applicant has completed this required training.

Applications:

- Applicants must complete FEMA General Admission Application Form 119-25-1 available on the U. S. Fire Administration Website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Applications must be received by close of business, Tuesday, October 25, 2011. Completed applications can be mailed to:

NETC Admissions Office, I-216
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

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

For further information contact Gerry Bassett, Training Specialist, by phone at 301-447-1094 or by email at gerry.bassett@dhs.gov

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

USFA Releases Annual Report on Firefighter Fatalities in the United States

Contact: USFA Press Office - (301) 447-1853 - September 27, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD –

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) today released the report Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2010 - http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff_fat10.pdf (PDF, 2.5 Mb). The report continues a series of annual studies by the USFA of on-duty firefighter fatalities. The USFA is the single public agency source of information for all on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States each year.

Eighty-seven on-duty firefighters from 31 states lost their lives as the result of 83 fatal incidents that occurred in 2010. This is the second consecutive year of substantially fewer firefighter deaths in the United States. During the previous six-year period of 2004-2009, the average number of annual on-duty firefighter deaths was 112. Illinois experienced the highest number of fatalities with nine firefighters killed; New York and Ohio had the next highest totals with eight firefighter deaths each.

An overview of the 87 firefighters that died while on duty in 2010:

- The total breakdown included 56 volunteer, 28 career, and 3 wildland agency firefighters.
- There were 4 firefighter fatality incidents where 2 firefighters were killed in each, claiming a total of 8 firefighters.
- 11 firefighters died in duties associated with wildland fires. Along with 11 such deaths in 2007, it was the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires in a decade.
- Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 48 firefighters.
- 22 firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 16 firefighters died while responding to or returning from 15 emergency incidents. 9 of the firefighters killed while responding to incidents died from heart attacks (8) or stroke (1).
- Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death with 50 firefighter deaths.
- 12 firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.
- 15 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on-duty activity.

The unique and specific objective of Firefighter Fatalities in the United States is to identify all on-duty firefighter fatalities that occurred in the United States and its protectorates during the calendar year and to present in summary narrative form the circumstances surrounding each occurrence.

For 34 years, USFA has tracked the number of firefighter fatalities and conducted an annual analysis. Through the collection of information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct efforts toward finding solutions to reduce the number of firefighter fatalities in the future. This information is also used by many organizations to measure the effectiveness of their current efforts directed toward firefighter health and safety.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation also maintains a list of firefighters who die in the line-of-duty and are honored during the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held each

October in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Visit www.FireHero.org for more information about the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and their assistance to the families of the firefighters lost in 2010 and beyond.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the annual fatality reports from 1986-2010, 2011 firefighter fatality notices, and the report Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990-2000, please visit the USFA's website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/index.shtm>

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

Welcome to Virtual LAMP Post (VLP)

A National Fire Academy Sponsored Activity - September 26, 2011

Featured This Week

Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE), High School to College Pathways Committee, Member Vacancy Announcement

The FESHE High School to College Pathways Committee is seeking interested applicants to fill several vacancies on their committee. The pathway committee works on educational pathways between high school, emergency services programs and college plan of studies based on the appropriate career cluster.

Our Mission: To provide leadership and direction for secondary and post-secondary education institutions to promote career pathways for High School students wishing to pursue the Fire and Emergency Services as a career while continuing their higher education.

Members need to be associated with one of the following programs or organizations:

- Secondary education
- Associates degree program
- State training agencies
- Department training officer
- Stakeholders associations or organizations

Pathway committee members should show commitment by advocating, adopting, or promoting of the FESHE core courses and initiatives of the FESHE model curriculum. This commitment can be shown by achievement of the pathway committee goals.

Pathway Committee Goals:

- Standardize high school curriculum within the fire and emergency services discipline across the nation to align with the FESHE model.
- Educate student counselors and emergency response organizations about the availability of existing programs and professional development opportunities.
- Educate communities about the job requirements and opportunities created by participating in the educational pathways.
- Promote dual enrollment, articulation and student retention.
- Promote workplace readiness skills in high school.

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- Prepare the student for affiliation within fire and emergency services organizations and/or higher education institutions.
- Identify partnerships and grant opportunities to enhance educational programs.

Pathway committee members are expected to attend meetings and maintain communication with other members throughout the year. Travel will be required of all pathway committee members up to twice per year to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland at their own expense. Continued support from your supervisor shall be taken into consideration for the required travel each year. Lack of maintaining the level of participation throughout the year may be grounds for dismissal from the pathway committee.

Individuals who are interested in being a pathway committee member shall follow the application process by providing the following to the pathway committee chairperson:

- Letter of interest to include current involvement with advocating, adopting and/or promoting of FESHE and commitment of intent to participate.
- Resume
- Letter of support for time commitment from supervisor.

Submit all completed documents as a package via e-mail to: Buddy Hyde, Pathway Committee Chair
Buddy.Hyde@southside.edu

After all proper documentation has been received the pathway committee chair will forward the package to the pathway committee members for further review and subsequent voting.

The committees operate as Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) compliant groups that report to the National Fire Academy Board of Visitors on proposed national professional development curricula that will be used by the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) network. Committee members are considered to be subject matter experts and are actively involved in an education and/or training environment.

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

California Fire & Rescue Training Authority

Fire Management 2B - Fire Service Financial Management

December 5-9, 2011 Monday-Friday

Folsom, CA - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the second of a five-course series. This course is designed to provide insight into the cyclical nature of budgeting and financial management. As a management course, the student will become familiar with essential elements of the financial planning, budget preparation, budget justification, and budget controls. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, and other Fire Service Managers.

Fire Management 2C - Personnel and Labor Relations

January 30-February 3, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the third of a five-course series. This course is designed to provide fire managers with advanced knowledge and insight of fire personnel, human resource, diversity management, legal mandates, labor relations, and related areas. Methodology includes presentations, case study, exercises, and focused discussions. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, & other Fire Service Managers.

Fire Management 2D - Master Planning

March 26-30, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the fourth of a five-course series. This course provides information and discussion centering on program planning, master planning, forecasting, system analysis, system design, policy analysis, and others. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Fire Service Managers, and City/County Administrative Officers and Planners.

Fire Management 2E - Ethics and the Challenge of Leadership

June 4-8, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the fifth of a five-course series. In this course, the participant will correlate personal core values and characteristics to ethical decisions and behaviors. In addition, the participant will explore ethical and principle-centered leadership, including ethical systems, ethical dilemmas, and ethical decision-making models. The participant will also examine challenges and develop strategies for leading in public safety organizations serving diverse and dynamic communities. The participant will use a variety of learning modalities including case studies, video analyses, and critical thinking scenarios to explore ethics and the challenges of leadership. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, and other Fire Service Managers.

Contact Information

phone: (916) 475-1660

www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

**ELITE COMMAND TRAINING
PRESENTS**

S-404 SAFETY OFFICER "ALL RISK"

NOVEMBER 9, 10 & 11, 2011

0830 TO 1700

HOSTED AT:

**SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE CENTER
255 SOUTH AIRPORT BOULEVARD
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

INSTRUCTED BY:

**DEPUTY CHIEF - MIKE BRYANT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**ASSISTANT CHIEF - DAVE FRANKLIN
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT**



TOPICS INCLUDE:

- BUILDING FIRES
- WILDLAND SAFETY OFFICER
- CAL & FED OSHA REQUIREMENTS
- CERTIFICATION (CICCS) TASK BOOK
- VEHICLE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS
- FIREFIGHTER INJURY INVESTIGATIONS
- RISK ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION PROCESS
- HAZMAT & US&R ASSISTANT SAFETY OFFICER



THE COURSE CURRICULUM WILL DELIVER AN "ALL RISK" FORMAT FOR THE SAFETY OFFICER POSITION COMMENSURATE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FIRESCOPE AND IS A STATE ACCREDITED CLASS RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL WILDFIRE COORDINATING GROUP AND CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE TRAINING

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.ELITECOMMANDTRAINING.COM**

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Fire Command 1A:** November 7 through 11, 2011 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Investigation 1A:** November 28 through December 2, 2011 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Training Instructor 1B:** December 12 through 16, 2011 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Command 1B:** January 9 through 13, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Training Instructor 1C:** February 6 through 10, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Management 1A:** April 16 through 20, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)

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

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

Fallen Firefighters to Be Honored on October 16, 2011

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the U.S. Fire Administration will honor 89 firefighters who died in the line of duty at the 2011 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. These firefighters will be featured in the National Fallen Firefighters Tribute Widget on July 12, 2011. For more information on how you can include the tribute on your website, visit <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget/>

Emmitsburg, MD - The 30th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg on October 15-16, 2011. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration will honor 72 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2010. A bronze plaque containing their names will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, located here on the National Fire Academy campus. Seventeen firefighters who died in previous years will also be honored. The plaques surrounding the Memorial, which was established in 1981, will contain the names of more than 3,500 firefighters.

Twenty-seven states experienced line-of-duty deaths in 2010. Deaths resulted from vehicle accidents while en route to or returning from emergency calls, building collapses, natural disaster response, falling, drowning, heart attacks, and burns/smoke inhalation. Three multiple fatality incidents accounted for six deaths. One multiple fatality occurred during a flashover at a structural fire; one incident resulted from an apparatus accident, and one involved a building collapse at a commercial structure fire. Illinois had the nation's greatest number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in 2010 with 8, followed by New York and Pennsylvania with 7; and Kansas had 6. "Firefighters are called upon to face danger on a daily basis," said Chairman of the NFFF Board of Directors, Chief Dennis Compton. "In October, a grateful Nation will honor their dedication and remember their sacrifice. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend brings their loved ones and the fire service together to let their families, coworkers, and friends know that they will never be forgotten." For more information about the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend visit <http://weekend.FireHero.org>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Training Instructor 1B:** October 24 through 28
- **Prevention 1B:** October 31 through November 4
- **Command 1C:** November 14 through 18
- **Training Instructor 1C:** December 5 through 9
- **Prevention 1C:** December 12 through 16

Additionally, they are offering numerous EMS related initial and continuing education courses such as EMT, EMT refresher, Paramedic, CPR, ACLS and PALS. To register for these classes or see the other variety of classes being offered, go to their website at www.americanhealtheducation.com or call (800) 483-3615.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2011 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to www.firenuggets.com

Seminar #1: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Mastering Fireground Command – Calming The Chaos

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

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

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

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_kastros.pdf

Seminar #2: Thursday December 8, 2011

Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground

- Presented by Captain Mike Gagliano, Seattle Fire Department

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

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

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

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gagliano.pdf

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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: | - October 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) - October 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) |
| You will receive: | **Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under Give) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer. 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. |
| To register / More information: | Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org |

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Michael Collins
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 41
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 09/18/2011
Time of Incident: 1850hrs
Date of Death: 09/18/2011
Fire Department: Shelby Fire & Rescue Department
Address: PO Box 6, Shelby, IA 51570
Fire Department Chief: Ron Kroll

Incident Description: Firefighter Collins was struck and killed by a vehicle while working a traffic control point at the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Interstate 80. Investigation of the fatal incident continues by local and state authorities.

Incident Location: 34-mile marker of Eastbound I-80.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 71 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 66 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Keith Gregory Rankin
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 38
Gender: Male

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Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 09/25/2011
Time of Incident: 09/25/2011
Date of Death: 1035hrs
Fire Department: Lancaster Township Fire Department
Address: PO Box 210, Bausman, PA 17504-0210
Fire Department Chief: Ron Comfort, Jr.
Fire Department Website: <http://www.ltfld.org>

Incident Description: Lieutenant Rankin suffered a medical emergency and collapsed while coordinating a live burn training exercise at Lancaster County Fire School. Several of the 25 county firefighters on hand for the exercise performed CPR and other life-saving measures, but Rankin never regained consciousness.

Incident Location: Lancaster County Fire School, Village Road and Lampeter Road.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 73 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 68 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: George W. Fisher III
Rank: Captain
Age: 57
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 23
Date of Incident: 09/22/2011
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 09/22/2011
Fire Department: Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Address: 2178 Green Haynes Road, Kinston, NC 28504
Fire Department Chief: James L. Goff, Jr.
Fire Department Website: <http://www.sandybottomvfd.com/>

Incident Description: While getting a vehicle serviced, Captain Fisher collapsed from a cause still to be determined and was transported to the hospital where he passed away a short time later. Captain Fisher responded to two fire department calls within the preceding twenty-four hours.

Incident Location: 2384 Highway 258 North, Kinston, NC 28504

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Captain George W. Fisher III at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 72 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 67 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter

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fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Vince Cruz
Rank: Firefighter II
Age: 41
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 19
Date of Incident: 09/28/2010
Time of Incident: 0600hrs
Date of Death: 09/29/2010
Fire Department: Guahan (Guam) Fire Department
Address: PO Box 2950, Hagatna, GU 96932
Fire Department Chief: Joey C. San Nicolas
Fire Department Website: <http://www.gfd.guam.gov/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Cruz passed away while on duty from a cause still to be determined. Cruz, posthumously promoted to Fire Lieutenant, was reported by authorities to have responded to a number of emergency calls the fire department answered the previous night.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter II Vince Cruz at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 73 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 68 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Andrew "Andy" K. Boyt
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 45
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 10/03/2011
Time of Incident: 1545hrs
Date of Death: 10/03/2011
Fire Department: Cape May Fire Department
Address: 643 Washington ST, Cape May, NJ 08204
Fire Department Chief: Jerome "Jerry" Inderwies, Jr.
Fire Department Website: www.CapeMayFD.com

Incident Description: A few hours after working a twenty-four hour shift, Lieutenant Boyt's personal vehicle was observed parked on the side of a local road. Boyt was inside of the vehicle, slumped over the steering wheel. Police, EMS and medics responded, found Boyt unresponsive and started CPR.

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He was immediately transported to Cape Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. Lieutenant Boyt had responded to fire calls within twenty-four hours prior to his passing. The cause of his death is still under investigation.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing 10/07/2011, 1800-2100hrs; Funeral 10/08/2011, 1130hrs at Lower Cape May Regional Performing Arts Center, 687 Route 9, Cape May, NJ 08204.

<http://www.spilkerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Andy-Boyt/>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Andrew "Andy" K. Boyt at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 75 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 70 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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

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

Hey,

A crash in northern Indiana this evening around 1800 involving a Roseland police car, a St. Joseph County sheriff car, a Clay Fire Territory fire apparatus and a non-emergency vehicle sent 3 people to local hospitals. The fire apparatus ended up on its side about 100 feet east of the intersection. **Initial reports from witnesses are that the fire apparatus had the right of way (w/the Opticom controlled green light) and that all Firefighters were seat belted in.**

Clay Fire Territory Fire Chief John Vance advised us that the fire apparatus was responding to a two alarm garage fire in Harris Township. The police were headed to a nearby vehicle accident with unknown injuries. The fire engine was eastbound when it hit the Roseland cop car in the intersection. The fire engine flipped on its side and skidded through the intersection, into another car. Witnesses said the engine appeared to be floating through the air before it stopped moving. Three people were injured: The Roseland officer, the driver/operator of the fire apparatus and the driver of the car it slid into. None of the injuries are life-threatening. It was raining at the time of the crash and the St. Joseph County's Fatal Alcohol Crash Team is investigating since multiple county agencies were involved in the crash.

FIREFIGHTERS KNOCKED OFF THEIR FEET IN CALIFORNIA

In the Los Padres National Forest, three U.S. Forest Service firefighters were injured when lightning struck about 50 feet away from where they were standing near the border of Kern and Ventura

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counties, yesterday, and were knocked off their feet. The firefighters were disoriented and complained of ringing in their ears. One firefighter was held overnight at a hospital for observation and the other two were released.

PLANNING ON TAKING THE FDNY TEST?

Filing for FDNY exam ends tomorrow, September 15th. The FDNY exam scheduled for January 2012. Click HERE now: http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/community/employment_index.shtml

FIRE POLITICS:

For those of you following the various issues and battles around the USA related to budget, personnel and related cuts and "hot" issues, here are some links of interest:

60 second commercial about pensions for Firefighters (CT)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnK5Hn3ln7Q>

30-second film clip about what supporting your local Firefighters CT)

<http://youtu.be/Lvo3G4w3gn4>

30 sec spot on the service the Fire Department provides (CT)

<http://youtu.be/aefHrQECYpE>

Issue Related to Collective Bargaining (OH)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Kc0F_yQrp0

The Other Side of The Above: (OH)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II5KC7iNGF4>

Media Report On The Above Issue In Ohio: (OH)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z60ClyxCYFQ>

INTERESTING:

THE COAL MINER who Took On The Big Coal Companies On Employee Safety Issues:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/14/charles-scott-howard-whistleblower-miner_n_960180.html

HERE is his video:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-smith/bittersweet-victory-for-c_b_684829.html

FOR YOUR SCHEDULE:

1 - REMINDER:

30th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg on October 15-16, 2011. **Never been? Make It This Year-you will NOT regret it.** <http://weekend.firehero.org/media/2011/weekend11.html>

2 - REMINDER:

Fire Command Conference: October 17 - 19, 2011

Blue Card "real world" incident command training with a direct focus on tactics and strategy.

Do you or could you be the one to establish or assume command?

Do Not Miss This Program: http://www.regonline.ca/brunacinis_conference_2011

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-14-11 / 2117 Hours

AND:

2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN SOUTH DAKOTA-STRUCTURAL EXPLOSION

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 2 Volunteer Firefighters from the Hutterite Sunset

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Colony* have died in the Line of Duty died and another FF was injured after an explosion this morning northwest of community of Britton. The incident occurred in the northeast part of South Dakota. Initial reports are that a 20-year-old Firefighter and a 21-year old Firefighter had been on top of the structure (possibly a coal bin) putting out the fire when a yet undetermined type of explosion - and blew off the top and south wall of the building, killing them both. Initially Volunteer Firefighters had fought the fire and thought it was under control when the explosion occurred. The other Firefighter killed was the father of one of the Firefighters who died. *It should be noted that in the area-and several "plains" area rural communities, "colonies" of Hutterite decent people (similar in some respects to Amish) maintain their own firefighting equipment, and some also participate in rural volunteer fire and rescue organizations. Much more to follow. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-15-11 /1400 hours

AND:

Hey,

Some of you who are "veteran" TSL members (The Secret List started in 1998), remember when we wrote the piece (and read it aloud at FDIC 2002) about **Lee Ielpi, retired FDNY Rescue 2 Firefighter**, who lost his son Jonathan, when he was murdered on 9/11. I have been more than blessed to have been with Lee since I was a kid-hanging around his firehouse, back in the day. Thru his establishment of the September 11th Families Association, the WTC Tribute Center (if you have not visited, **please** plan on it: <http://www.tributewtc.org/index.php>) as well as the opportunity for many of your departments to receive a piece of WTC steel, many have met, spoken with or read about Lee. I wanted to pass this latest video clip out that will further show you who he is, and what he has done. **Please take four minutes to check out this very cool video:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0fqIvAeLUo>

And feel free to "pass it on"...it's a humbling story about personal survival.

==CHARLESTON FIRE CHIEF TOMMY CARR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Speaking of "original" Secret List members, Charleston Fire Chief Thomas Carr Jr. told his Firefighters yesterday that he plans to retire as of March 1, 2012. As you know, Chief Carr was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a few years ago. Unfortunately Tommy's physician recently determined he has a more serious condition known as Multiple Systems Atrophy that is similar to Parkinson's but progresses more quickly. The Chief met with his family and determined the new diagnosis would require him to retire. In a prepared statement, the Chief said the department will focus on moving forward as the search for his replacement begins. Chief Carr took over in November 2008 (after retiring from Montgomery County, MD) taking the reins of a department still grieving and rebuilding from the Sofa Super Store blaze that killed 9 Firefighters in the Line of Duty the year before. The challenge appealed to him, as did the chance to make a difference-which he certainly did. The Chief is widely credited with adopting modern fire command, control and accountability techniques and standards, as well as leading the CFD with a more coordinated, regional approach to Firefighting. He has opened lines of communication with the local Firefighters IAFF union and involved everyone from assistant chiefs to the rank-and-file in drafting a new playbook for the Fire Department. Last summer, the Chief was justifiably awarded Career Fire Chief of the Year by the IAFC. We wish Chief Tommy Carr and his family our heartfelt prayers as he continues to battle this very tough disease and his personal survival...

NOTE:

Chief Carr has spoken about the disease and why he and his physicians feel he likely contracted PARKINSONS - due to his exposures to smoke and related fire conditions earlier in his career.

ONE MORE reason to NEVER breathe that crap.

FIRE CHIEFS:

Please Share This Information About FIREFIGHTERS WITH PARKINSONS with YOUR Firefighters:

INTERNET Resources:

<http://firefighterswithparkinsons.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.firefighterswithparkinsons.net/index.cfm?section=17&pagenum=215>

VIDEO: Firefighters With Parkinson's Disease Awareness Video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=is2z_bpCflo

==PERSONAL SURVIVAL: (Video Link)

Our focus is/has almost always been on firefighters survival, thru training, size up, command, control, accountability, staffing, operations, extinguishment and related stuff. About a year ago we expanded our normally narrow minded focus to include (what should have always been included) our section of FF Close Calls: "**Personal Survival**" We try to stay timely, but because FF Close Calls is an amateur "all volunteer" crew accepting no advertising, no commercial marketing, no fees or money and a no cost website-sometimes we fall behind. **Rarely. But sometimes.** And with all of us professionally and personally being strongly focused on last Sundays events honoring so many from 9/11/01, we meant to get the word out on WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY. **But we didn't.** As we all certainly do (or should) know, the issues of suicide in the fire and EMS job is very significant. "**Take 5 to Save Lives**" was the World Suicide Prevention Day theme last week, held on September 10th. The National Council for Suicide Prevention and over 50 partnering organizations joined forces to spread the word about World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th and the Take 5 to Save Lives campaign-so we figured that it is never too late. HERE is their website: www.take5tosavelives.org

The campaign asks supporters to take 5 steps:

- 1) Learn the signs
- 2) Join the movement
- 3) Spread the word
- 4) Support a friend
- 5) Reach out if you need help.

Check It Out HERE: www.take5tosavelives.org It is certainly not too late to pass it on.

EXCELLENT VIDEO: HERE is very recent ABC NEWS Report on Firefighter Suicide:

<http://tinyurl.com/3tppt6m>

HERE is our FFCC section of resources: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-15-11 / 1053 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of FF Michael Collins, 41 of the Shelby, IA FD. FF Collins was killed while directing traffic around an accident scene on Interstate 80 in western Iowa. The IA State Patrol reports that FF Collins was struck by a car around 6:50 p.m. Sunday at the scene of the earlier crash on Interstate 80 just east of the Shelby exit in Pottawattamie County. We will provide updates as they become available. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-19-11 / 0900 Hours

AND:

Hey,

While not an LODD, is with great sorrow that we advise you that a Fire Officer from Friendswood (Texas) was among those killed in Reno. Friendswood VFD's "valued member and dear friend" Fire Lieutenant Craig Walter Salerno was killed last week at that airplane accident in Reno, Nevada on September 16, 2011. Craig has been an active Lieutenant/Firefighter since September 2008 and the FVFD Treasurer since April of 2010. Lt Salerno was very involved in the department and accepted many responsibilities such as Small Engine Manager and maintenance and repair of the new Station 24. Craig loved the fire service and also served with La Marque VFD, League City VFD and as a career Firefighter with Galveston Fire Department. In 1991 Craig became an aircraft dispatcher for Continental Airlines-and he was also a licensed pilot, all in the pursuit of his love for aviation. Craig leaves behind his wife, two young children (ages 6 & 8) and a community that will miss the benefit of having someone so willing to give back and pay ahead. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

TOP 10 DEADLIEST JOBS:

In the fire service, things are certainly showing improvement. In the general workforce, things have also improved over the past decades, however. In fact, since the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began tracking fatal occupational injuries 19 years ago, 2009 was the safest year on record with 4,551 fatal work injuries. In good news, 2010 was similarly less deadly with 4,547 fatal work injuries. But the fatality rate of some occupations still remain high. Below are the 10 most dangerous jobs in America according to the most recent (2010) figures from the BLS and the fatal work injury rate (per 100,000 workers). We are not sure if this includes Volunteer Firefighters-but will attempt to find out.

HERE are the details: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cfch0009.pdf>

ALSO-when you look at the above link and charts, you might ask "where we at" !?!

Answer: We ain't.

However, it is important to note that "we" clearly have some **required risk** due to time, conditions and our mission - that some other careers discussed definitely do not have and are not required to have.

STUPID: OK, what else would we call this. Maybe:

"Firefighters prove again to the public we have too much free time" or-

"Firefighters would rather do this than train" or-

"The City Managers, Mayors and Politicians Association now have even more ammunition to prove fire service careers, jobs and operations must be radically changed" or-

"Firefighters again fail to realize that taxpayers are really fed up with how we spend our time-on their dime"

"City Hall Dwellers celebrate another reason to target firefighters in budget cuts"

Without a doubt-what happened in Macon-Bibb County is not reflective on how most fire officers and firefighters conduct themselves on duty. (Fingers crossed). But in this day and age, the public (and politicians) see things as they get posted on the news-leaving them feeling that "all" fire departments do this stuff. Or at least wondering, casting the shadow of doubt. The Macon-Bibb FD and Bibb County Sheriff's Office in Georgia aren't laughing at this latest prank. A video posted to YouTube showed a masked man entering Fire Station 108 on Sunday and Firefighters hitting the floor as the man appeared to fire shots. The gunman then pretends to shoot someone - and all of it then gets posted on the internet. **Wonderful. Classic WTF!? stuff.** No one was hurt, but Fire Chief Marvin Riggins has asked the sheriff's office to fully investigate into whether a crime was committed. Both

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

departments are investigating. All of us have done stupid stuff-things we regret. No doubt. The key seems to be learning from it-or learning from stupid stuff others have done - and not doing it. Here is another chance. **HERE is the video and all the details from Dave Statter:**

<http://tinyurl.com/3n5degh>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-20-11 / 1658 Hours

AND:

While not an LODD, we regret to inform you of the tragic death of Nichols Hills, OK Fire Chief, Keith Bryan, who was shot and killed Tuesday night. Police responded to two 911 calls from Rebecca Bryan, the chief's wife, around 10 p.m. Tuesday night; the first from her cell phone and the second from the home landline. Police say Rebecca and Keith were awake when an intruder entered the chief's Mustang home through the open garage door. Authorities say Rebecca told them the male gunman yelled, "I'm sorry ma'am, he should have given me the f***** job," before fatally shooting the chief once in the head and fleeing the scene. Chief Bryan was transported to the hospital in critical condition where he later died. The Nichols Hills Assistant Fire Chief tells us his department hasn't hired or interviewed anyone for a job since 2007. Police are warning other city officials to be cautious, including Oklahoma City Fire Chief Keith Bryant who lives in the same area, because the intruder may have mistaken the two. The only description of the suspect authorities have at this point is a white male with blond hair between 20 and 30 years of age. He was last seen wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt and possibly driving a small pickup truck. Chief Bryan has a long history of service to the state of Oklahoma. Our sincere condolences to Chief Bryan's family and the Nichols Hills, OK FD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-21-11 / 2000 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The manhunt is still on as Oklahoma investigators follow leads in Nichols Hills Fire Chief Keith Bryan's murder investigation. They are looking at recent job applications after investigators learned the suspect might be someone who was turned down for a job. At the same time, neighboring fire departments are taking extra precautions with the killer still on the streets. The Chief leaves his wife, as well as two sons and two grandchildren behind.

The death of Chief Bryan may be determined as a Line of Duty death. One of the provisions of PSOB is "if convincing evidence demonstrates that such injury resulted from the injured party's status as a public safety officer," his survivors may be covered. While there is still much more to learn about this tragic event, it currently appears that he was killed because he was a Fire Chief, mistaken identity or not-and because of that, may be determined as an LODD.

Cops have alerted fire chiefs in the metro area to take personal protection precautions because Chief Bryan of the Nichols Hills may or may not have been the intended target. At Oklahoma City's main fire station, the doors were locked with police out front. The extra precautions are in response to a warning police issued following Chief Bryan's murder. "We do have a killer on the loose," said OSBI spokesperson Jessica Brown. Currently OSBI is looking for a white male in his 20s or 30s. Cops say he was wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt during the time of the killing and reportedly drives a dark colored truck.

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Although there is concern from law enforcement that Oklahoma City Fire Chief Keith Bryant may have been the intended target, OSBI has not looked over that FD's job applications as of yet. They are understandably concerned since their names are so very similar and their jobs are very similar. A factor is that the last person hired at Nichols Hills was in 2007, while Oklahoma City just finished a fire academy this past April. OCFD's Chief Bryant was out of the state during the murder - he has been in Washington, D.C. since Monday. Chief Bryant is naturally shocked and saddened by Chief Bryan's death - as they were friends.

Chief Bryan's wife, Becky, called 911 on a cell phone from the home about 2205 and said someone was trying to break in. The call went dead, but she called back from a landline shortly thereafter. She said on the call that a white man in his 20s or 30s in a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt shot her husband and sped away in a medium-sized or smaller pickup. Becky Bryan told investigators that before the shooter left, he told her that Bryan should have hired him.

Chief Bryan's wife is the sole witness to the incident, and officers have only talked to her briefly. Nothing appears to have been stolen or damaged in the home, and there are no signs of a break-in. Chief Bryan was shot once in the head--his wife gave agents a description of the shooter and the vehicle he was driving, and agents are following leads based upon that description. Investigators want to speak to Becky Bryan again, as they had not completed a full interview with her yet. Becky Bryan filed for divorce from Keith Bryan in January 2010 in county District Court. The case is still pending, as is the rest of this story. Much more to follow.

MACON-BIBB COUNTY FF FIRED, OTHERS SUSPENDED, REPRIMANDED

We normally stay focused on our mission--FF survival and while this incident may be a stretch, just imagine if a cop had "stopped by" the firehouse and walked in on it. Exactly. Macon-Bibb County (GA) Fire Chief Marvin Riggins has handed down punishments after some FF's made the hazing video to scare two rookies. The video shows a masked gunman bursting into Fire Station 108 and then shows the firefighters face-down on the ground as the man with a bandanna over his face waves a gun. At one point, the gunman leads one firefighter off the screen. Moments later, the sound of a gunshot is heard.

The Fire Chief fired FF Christopher Hughes, who came up with the brilliant idea for the video and whose BB gun was used in the video. He demoted Sgt. Joshua Brewer to private. It was Brewer's camera that was used to make the video. Firefighters Christopher Houston, Mark Swain and Jesse White were suspended for 10 days. 3 of their superiors, Lt. Timothy Pruitt, Capt. Stephanie Burke, and Battalion Chief James Wallace were reprimanded for not managing the fire station and not reporting the incident once they found out about it. A Bibb County Sheriff's Office investigation revealed that it no crime had been committed.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-22-11 / 0200 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Earlier today, cops locked up the wife of murdered Oklahoma Fire Chief Keith Bryan. Rebecca Bryan was arrested at a hotel around noonish on a first-degree murder complaint in the shooting death of her husband. **In related news, even in death, Chief Bryan saved a life as Oklahoma City Fire**

Chaplain Ted Wilson has received a liver transplant: the liver from slain Nichols Hills Fire Chief Keith Bryan.

As you know, Chief Bryan was shot once in the head Tuesday night in the Bryans' home in Mustang. Rebecca Bryan lied to cops claiming he was shot by an intruder, who apologized afterward and said the chief should have hired him. There was worry that the "shooter" may have confused him with OKC Chief Keith Bryant and it may have been line of duty related-but of course, that was not true. Rebecca Bryan had called 911, Fire EMS and police responded, he was rushed to a hospital, where he died the next day. **HERE** is the audio of the 911 call: <http://tinyurl.com/3wxklye>

As time went on, Bryan's wife clearly became the main suspect. Police found a Ruger handgun matching the murder weapon in a clothes dryer at the home, and a box for the gun was found between the mattress and box spring of the bed in the master bedroom. Ammunition for the gun also was found nearby. Additionally, the clothes dryer was not in the path that Rebecca Bryan claimed as the way the supposed gunman took in leaving after the shooting - and there is no indication anyone else was involved in the slaying. The couple were involved in a divorce and they have two grown sons. Our condolences-Rest In Peace.

CHICAGO FIRE DOUBLE LODD, FIRE COMMISSIONER UPDATE RE: THE RADIOS

We have also posted updates on our home page about the double FF LODD in Chicago from last December: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201038.html>. **This original report was posted in July.** Tim Merinar, who led the NIOSH investigation, said CFD supervisors should have taken a more defensive approach and ordered more firefighters out of the building once it was clear that no one was trapped inside, as firefighters had feared when they arrived at the early morning blaze. The report has been out since July and the CFD has already implemented some of the agency's recommendations.

THE RADIOS:

This afternoon, CFD Commissioner Bob Hoff defended his decision to delay the switch to 5,000 digital portable radios - even after the above report blamed a shortage of radios, in part, for the death of 2 Firefighters at that abandoned laundry last winter. The Motorola radios were purchased in 2006, under a \$23 million no-bid contract, to prevent communications breakdowns like the one that contributed heavily to six deaths at the October 2003 high rise fire. Five years later, the CFD is using only some of the radios and only in an analogue-mode. After significant testing, Comm Hoff understandably said he is still not convinced about the reliability of the **digital system** or the number of transmitters. **"In a hazardous environment inside a building, some digital frequencies come in garbled and broken up in some cases. It was not reliable," Hoff said today.** "Is it safe for us to just throw the radios out there when we haven't tested 'em to make sure they're safe?"

Gary Schenkel, executive director of the city's Office of Emergency Management and Communications, said he expects to launch a "pilot transition" to the new digital system this fall and complete the switch next year, giving every firefighter a radio. "This is not a commercial, off-the-shelf product we can just hand to firefighters and expect it to work. It takes a tremendous amount of work to create, test and validate a system that will work in a deep, urban environment," Schenkel said.

On Dec. 22, 2010, firefighters Corey Ankum, 34, and Edward Stringer, 47 were killed in the Line of Duty and 15 other firefighters were injured - when the truss roof collapsed at a burning abandoned laundry on E. 75th Street.

In its report, NIOSH noted that only 5 of the 13 firefighters inside the laundry at the time of the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

collapse were carrying radios. And only one of those five firefighters reported having used the radio to issue a "Mayday" call. The federal report recommended that every Chicago firefighter be equipped with a radio and trained on its proper use. **Commissioner Hoff makes it clear that additional radios - in this case - would not have saved FF's Ankum and Stringer.** "This was not a case of a firefighter cut off, lost or unable to communicate. Each member at that fire was in close proximity to another member who had a radio. People who were trapped couldn't get to their radios. But people were next to them and knew where they were" he said. The federal NIOSH report also blamed poor communications and the city's failure to mark vacant and hazardous buildings so firefighters arriving on the scene know what they're getting into. In 2007, city inspectors had ordered roof repairs at the abandoned laundry, only to have the owner skip the repairs and board up the building in a failed attempt to keep homeless people out. Firefighters were never notified about the dangerous roof. Commissioner Hoff agrees with those recommendations and has made changes to remedy the problem. Twice a year, companies visit their response areas to identify potentially hazardous buildings, then forward the information to the dispatch center for entry on the CAD system. Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-23-11 / 1953 Hours

AND:

Hey,
FF Alex Naylis, 22, of the Old Tappan VFD-NJ was responding to a fire call around 12:30 hours yesterday. As he was turning out and driving west, approaching an intersection, Iris Deleon, 57, pulled out in front of FF Naylis. The Firefighter collided head-on with Deleon, as Naylis' car shot across Old Tappan Road because of the rain-slicked roadway, collided with the curb and then flipped over. Police have issued motor a summonses for Ms. Deleon's failure to yield at a stop sign and failure to yield to a volunteer emergency responder. She suffered a head injury and couldn't answer basic questions. FF Naylis suffered non life threatening injuries.

RESCUE SQUAD HISTORY (Very Cool Video)

If you have **EVER** responded to a crash, an "ambulance" call, an "inhalator" call, a "first aid" run-as well as a fire call or a "squad" run on "the rescue company"--- or to what we call these days: an EMS run-take a moment to check out this really outstanding video from the 1940's:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D882Y5UEOR4>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-24-11 / 1733 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER LODD-Medical Emergency at Training The Secret List

We regret to advise you that a veteran Firefighter/Fire Officer, Keith Rankin with the Lancaster Township Fire Department (Lancaster County, PA) died in the Line of Duty this morning. During training earlier today, Keith suffered what is reported to be sudden cardiac death but in spite of his members witnessing the event-and immediate life saving attempts, Keith did not survive. He leaves behind his wife and 2 step daughters. Keith was a greatly loved and highly respected fire officer as well as a law enforcement officer. Our sincere condolences to our friends at the LTFD in Lancaster County.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-25-11 / 1200 hours

AND:

Hey,

First of all, for those of you who **did not** subscribe to The Secret List to get the occasional rant (which is how TSL got started in 1998), hit delete now so you don't have to whine about it. We were not always the highly sophisticated FF survival source we are today. However, maybe even "you" might agree with this one. You may or may not have seen the news that we are giving away billions of dollars in equipment to the Iraqis. As the U.S. prepares for a military pullout in December, the Department of Defense is giving away billions of dollars worth of our equipment from elaborate military bases, including vehicles and related stuff that will be handed off to the Iraqi government. Look, I wish the Iraqis the best as they struggle to establish their democracy-especially since so many brave Americans died fighting for that freedom-but they aren't the only ones struggling these days. More on that later. But according to media reports (and that is the only place I can get the facts on this), billions of dollars in equipment is being left there as we continue to vacate that country. Humvees, trucks, 6x6's, generators and some very usable fire and rescue apparatus. And vehicles that could BE fire and rescue apparatus.

Unless you just crawled out from under a rock-or a hard place-nearly EVERY FD in the USA is in deep poo fiscally. Additionally, there are thousands of small, rural fire departments that have apparatus that is literally falling apart-and have no means to fix it. Imagine what America's "rural" (and not so rural) fire, rescue and emergency medical services could do with these vehicles. Forget the paint, the colors and all that nonsense-many of these vehicles will probably rot over there, but here in the USA-could be used and are certainly needed.

And please, don't tell me that I don't understand-I do understand-I just came back from Alaska where I met FF's who do fundraising just so they can attend "once a year" training-not to mention their begging, borrowing and fundraising to purchase apparatus such as attack trucks, brush trucks, medium size rescues etc-all that these "giveaways" could easily be safely and properly converted to serve and perform in a "2nd life". And you can replace the word "Alaska" with any state or region you like. Who couldn't use some help these days-and this is stuff you already paid for-by your community. Big city or small rural department, rescue squads, EMS, police, EMA-there is a home for much of this "stuff" that has already been paid for.

I know it costs money to ship it and all the other lame excuses people will come up with. Bottom line: where there is a will, there is a way-it would be cool if there is a will on the part of those who could make this happen. **MAYBE** "they" could put Firefighters in charge of coming up with the plan, sorta like this classic video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WaUPTHJsrM>

With so many departments struggling like never before, maybe our Federally elected "inside the beltway" gang could help fix this problem. Maybe. **More HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/4xy4kzo>

FINAL NOTE-A TRAGIC LOSS:

While this isn't a LODD, our friends in Northern Ontario have lost Chief Roy Cross of the Nipigon Fire Department. The Chief died following a single vehicle crash on Saturday at the age of 63. Chief Cross had 30 years experience as a firefighter, and had been Chief in Nipigon for the last ten years and made a very positive difference to all the departments in the area. RIP Chief

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-26-11 / 1551 Hours

AND:

October 8, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

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DELAYED LODD-NORTH CAROLINA FF LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It's with deep regret that we advise you that Sandy Bottom FD (Lenoir County) Captain George W. Fisher, III. Captain Fisher is President of Sandy Bottom's Association and is also a former Chief. He died on September 22. Captain Fisher is survived by his wife, two daughters and two grandchildren. His funeral was held today. Our sincere condolences.

FIREFIGHTER SAVES A FAMILY, REMOVES THE HAZARDS AND THEN GOES INTO ARREST

Halfway around the world in Abu Dhabi, a Firefighter went into arrest after he saved a family whose boat had caught fire-and then he moved the craft to stop the fire spreading. On Saturday, the fire started as the family was filling its boat with fuel. The fire started to spread to the filling station. Fire Services Sgt Abdulazeez Al Hammadi took the boat's owner and his son, 6, to safety. Then Sgt Al Hammadi then drove the burning boat away from the shore but suffered severe smoke inhalation in the process. EMS restarted the firefighter's heart with a defibrillator and he was flown to to a medical facility where the Dr's installed a heart catheter. The boats occupants suffered 2nd degree burns.

UPDATE: LANCASTER COUNTY LODD:

As you know, Lt. Keith Rankin of the Lancaster Township (PA) FD died in the line of Duty after collapsing without any warning during a training exercise. Several of the 25 county firefighters on hand for the exercise performed CPR and other life-saving techniques, but Lt. Rankin, 38, never regained consciousness. Many of you may remember Keith (who worked with Glenn Usdin and crew several years ago) from the Command School program that had been presented across the United States for many years. **RIP Keith. HERE IS MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3aweton>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-26-11 / 1334 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The **USFA** has released their annual report of Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2010.

Eighty-seven on duty firefighters from 31 states lost their lives as the result of 83 fatal incidents (with 50 being heart attacks) that occurred in 2010. **This is the second consecutive year of substantially fewer firefighter deaths in the United States.**

During the previous six-year period of 2004-2009, the average number of annual on duty firefighter deaths was 112. Illinois experienced the highest number of fatalities with nine firefighters killed; New York and Ohio had the next highest totals with eight firefighter deaths each.

HERE is an overview of the 87 firefighters that died while on duty in 2010:

- The total breakdown included 56 volunteer, 28 career, and 3 wildland agency firefighters.
- There were 4 firefighter fatality incidents where 2 firefighters were killed in each, claiming a total of 8 firefighters.
- 11 firefighters died in duties associated with wildland fires. Along with 11 such deaths in 2007, it was the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires in a decade. Activities related to emergency incidents resulted in the deaths of 48 firefighters.
- 22 firefighters died while engaging in activities at the scene of a fire.
- 16 firefighters died while responding to or returning from 15 emergency incidents. 9 of the firefighters killed while responding to incidents died from heart attacks (8) or stroke (1).
- Heart attacks were the most frequent cause of death with 50 firefighter deaths.
- 12 firefighters died while they were engaged in training activities.
- 15 firefighters died after the conclusion of their on duty activity.

HERE IS THE REPORT: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff_fat10.pdf

REMINDER: The above Firefighters will all be honored in Emmitsburg, MD at the NFA/NETC during the NFFF Memorial Weekend: MORE HERE: www.FireHero.org

KIDS TRAPPED, SEARCH, RESCUE-LIVES SAVED

Every once in a while, we get some current or "vintage" video that shows those rare occasions where we must take extreme risks to make a positive difference. This would definitely be one of those videos.

Check this out: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gFKlsrnY7c&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-27-11 / 1140 Hours

AND:

GUAM FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Medical Emergency

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Lt. Vincent Cruz of the Guam FD has died in the Line of Duty yesterday. Initial reports are that Lt Cruz refused to stop working while feeling ill, then died while on duty. At the time of his death, his title was Firefighter II Vince Cruz but has been posthumously promoted to Fire Lieutenant. Acting Governor Ray Tenorio declared the state of mourning in the GFD today, which will last until the funeral of Lt. Cruz. Lt. Cruz was on duty and was instrumental in responding to the high number of emergency calls the fire department had to respond to last night. Our sincere condolences.

NOTE: For Those Who May Not Be Familiar: Guam is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is one of five U.S. territories with an established civilian government. Guam is the largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands.

GUAM FD: <http://www.qfd.guam.gov/>

ABOUT GUAM: <http://www.guam.gov/>

=FORMER MEXICAN FIREFIGHTER DIES IN NEW YORK-Worked At The WTC Site

Hispanic immigrants who did cleanup work around ground zero are mourning a Mexican Firefighter who helped them get medical and economic help. FF Rafael Hernandez, 49, was found dead in his Queens home last Sunday. The medical examiner will determine the cause of death. FF Hernandez had been working at an electronics shop near the World Trade Center on Sept. 11. He told the media in a recent interview that he went to the site and volunteered there for three months. He was later diagnosed with chronic respiratory conditions linked to exposure to ground zero. In the years since, FF Hernandez emerged as a leader for immigrants who fell ill after cleaning buildings around the trade center site. RIP.

=100 FIREFIGHTERS IN FLORIDA CITY TO LOSE THEIR JOBS

Mayor Claims Service Will Not Change.

Do The Taxpayers Care?

Do The Taxpayers Understand What The Impact Will Be?

Do They Understand The Politics? How 'bout The Facts?

Last night, Hialeah, Florida (Population: 220,000+) City Council unanimously approved the city's \$263.4 million budget for 2011-12 - and laid off more than 100 Firefighters in 3 stages beginning this coming Saturday, the start of their fiscal year. After almost 90 minutes of debate in the packed council chambers, filled mostly by Firefighters, the council voted 7-0 in favor of the spending plan submitted by Mayor Carlos Hernández. **"I am very proud of the work of the council in approving this**

balanced budget," Hernández said. "Most importantly, taxes are not raised for the residents of the great city of Hialeah."

THE MAYOR PROMISES.....that services won't change despite laying off nearly 40 percent of the fire department. Hizzoner said that to avoid a deficit of more than \$13 million, he had to implement a package of measures that include the Firefighter layoffs. **Hernandez promised to cut about 40 percent of the FD's work force if the Firefighters union did not agree to making some \$4 million bucks in concessions.**

=On Saturday, 14 firefighters and nine trainees will be let go, and 12 vacancies will be eliminated.

=An additional 70 firefighters will be dismissed - half on Dec. 1 and the other half on March 1. Taken together, the layoffs amount to 39 percent of the department.

"What comes now is chaos," said former Mayor Raúl Martínez, a politician who is running to return to his old post. "These councilmen know nothing about government or public administration. They are shameful." The president of the Hialeah fire union, Mario Pico, said the budget was "plagued by inconsistencies" and put together without the transparency that".

HOWEVER-it should be noted that Firefighter Luis Simon, who was dismissed and rehired in May along with 15 others after an arbitrator's ruling, said it cost the city \$800,000 "to dismiss people last December." So who knows what will happen next.

The Big Question Here Is: Does the Hialeah public even care?

MORE MEDIA HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/6bxzms>

MORE MEDIA HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/6d7herj>

ABOUT THE HIALEAH FD: <http://www.hialeahfl.gov/dep/fire/default.aspx>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-29-11 / 2040 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Vallejo (Calif) Firefighter was burned yesterday while rescuing a paralyzed man who suffered serious burns after the bed he was on caught fire. The Firefighter has been on the job for just over two years and will likely be out for several months. The victim, in his 40's, was rescued and is now fighting for his life. The Firefighter has 3rd degree burns on his hands, 2nd degree burns to his face and 1st & 2nd degree burns to his back. While the Firefighter injuries are NLT, the victim he rescued is very critical. Responding companies knew the victim was trapped in his mobile home as the man was frantic on the phone with dispatchers, trying to get help. he said. They knew he was in a bed, and when they went on scene, they could hear the man yelling for help, so they forced entry, searched and made the grab. There were heavy fire and smoke conditions upon their arrival. CONGRATS to the FF's involved.

YOU MAY REMEMBER the City of Vallejo as budget cuts have shut fire houses, abandoned and foreclosed homes pockmarked neighborhoods and as businesses left Vallejo and taxpayers fled, prostitutes and drug-sellers moved in. The city of 120,000 people filed Chapter 9 (bankruptcy) in 2008, as home prices collapsed and it could not afford to continue paying city workers and retirees.

Now, their fire department is nearly 50 percent smaller, there are new, leaner, public employee contracts - some forced on workers by the court - and the city passed a budget that is balanced.

**UPDATE: GEORGIA FIRE CAPTAIN SUSPENDED & DEMOTED
NTS Strikes Again.**

That Macon-Bibb County Fire Captain seen on the prank video posted last week will be demoted and suspended for 20 days. A text message exchange between Macon-Bibb firefighter Chris Hughes and his superior officer, Captain Stephanie Burke, about a prank played on a pair of rookie firefighters shows prior knowledge talks about the prank. The prank, seen in the below video, involved a masked gunman inside a fire station brandishing a gun was a hazing incident that targeted rookies. The County Fire Chief had not seen text messages showing that (now former) Captain Stephanie Burke was involved in planning the incident. **Burke initially lied and denied having prior knowledge of the prank.**

From a FF safety and survival standpoint, one comment stands clear: can you imagine if a cop stopped by the firehouse and walked in on what was going on? There is a real good chance the headlines would have read about a shooting of a Firefighter by a cop - who was trying to do the right thing. A Fire Officers job is to supervise and protect FF's from potential injury and danger-no matter what, no matter where.

Remember the term: NTS?

HERE is the original Macon Bibb VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYCAc1sGuJY>

HERE is more about the latest in Macon-Bibb:

<http://www.macon.com/2011/09/30/1725054/firefighter-speaks-out-on-video.html>

=NTS:

Years ago, we used the term "NTS" or "Non-Thinking Syndrome". Sometimes we simply don't think-this writer definitely included. Sometimes we get comfortable, all of us, it's human nature. Like it or not, it happens and a very rare few are exempt. We sometimes get used to doing things a certain way (right or wrong), our officers don't always "strictly" supervise or correct our actions, or simply nothing "happens" or goes wrong - so we keep doing it "that" way. Until something does go wrong.

It applies everywhere including the firehouse and the fireground. Then the regret stuff starts.

MORE ABOUT NTS:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2002/10/ever-suffer-from-nts.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Think.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-30-11 / 1030 Hours

AND:

NEW JERSEY FIRE OFFICER LODD-Medical Emergency

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Lt. Andrew "Andy" K. Boyt, 45, of the City of Cape May, NJFD. **NOTE: This LODD notice was delayed by TSL at the request of the NJ LAST team, pending notifications and further details.** A few hours after working a twenty-four hour shift, Lieutenant Boyt's personal vehicle was observed parked on the side of a local road. Lt. Boyt was inside of the vehicle, slumped over the steering wheel. Police, EMS and medics responded and found Lt. Boyt unresponsive, they started CPR and ALS. He was immediately transported to Cape Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. Lieutenant Boyt had responded to fire calls within 24 hours prior to his passing. The cause of his death is still under investigation. **Funeral Details:** Viewing 10/07/2011, 1800-2100hrs; Funeral 10/08/2011, 1130hrs at Lower Cape May Regional Performing Arts Center, 687 Route 9, Cape May, NJ 08204.

<http://www.spilkerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Andy-Boyt/> - Cape May FD website:

www.CapeMayFD.com . **Our sincere condolences, RIP.**

Take Care-BE VACERFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-5-11 / 1450 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Earlier this morning, at 0931 hours, the Huntingtown VFD's Engine 62 and Tanker 6 were alerted for the house fire located directly behind St Leonard VFD. Units from the St Leonard VFD arrived on location with heavy fire showing from a split-foyer dwelling. A Working Fire Dispatch was sounded bringing a 3rd crew responding on Huntingtown Squad 6. Huntingtown Engine 62 arrived on location, laid 1,000 feet of 3" from a hydrant and advanced an attack line to the rear of the residence to assist with extinguishing the fire. During the process, Firefighter Michael Montgomery Jr of Huntingtown partially fell through the floor causing 2nd and 3rd degree burns to his right leg. He was air-lifted to Med Star (Washington, DC) and is currently admitted to the Burn Unit. The Chief of the Department, Assistant Chief and a handful of other members are bedside with Michael Montgomery Jr along with the DCFD Burn Foundation. It is anticipated that in the next few days, FF Montgomery will undergo surgery and possible skin grafts. The leadership and membership of the Huntingtown VFD ask that you keep the Montgomery family in your thoughts and prayers-and we certainly will.

Photos HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/64hkf72>

VIDEO Here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJqN7WbuDqE&feature=player_embedded#!

MORE VIDEO AND PHOTOS FROM FIRE PHOTOG DENNIS HOOK HERE:

http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story_ID/24438

FRANKLIN (OHIO) SMOKE EXPLOSION-FIRE DETERMINED TO BE ARSON - First Due Company Details

As you have seen on the below video link, several Ohio Firefighters were fortunate after a smoke explosion at a downtown commercial building fire. The Franklin (Warren County, OH) Firefighters responded Monday to that fire at the P-H Bistro restaurant between Cincinnati and Dayton, right off I-75. The owner, who lived upstairs was sleeping at the time, escaped. **===NOTE-**The Fire Officer of the crew who entered determined they needed to immediately get out based upon interior conditions-and they were on their way out (you can see the first FF exiting) when the smoke explosion pushed them out. At that point, the IC (shift commander) and the engine crew of 4 were the only companies on the scene (the Chief of Department had just arrived when it exploded) -with the balance of the full first alarm still enroute from Franklin as well as auto-mutual aid companies. Thankfully, none of the firefighters or onlookers were injured. The fire destroyed the historic restaurant which has been around since the 1930's. It also damaged two other buildings. More to follow.

VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FJT2QU-xgM>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-15-11 / 1400 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This morning in Franklin, Ohio (South of Dayton near I-75) a commercial "downtown" fire resulted in a smoke explosion - as well as multiple alarms. The run came in around 0730 and additional alarms were struck. Franklin Firefighters and their mutual aid departments experienced a CLOSE CALL when there was a smoke explosion as companies were operating. Members operating in the area of the front door were not injured. **HERE** is the video: (watch the smoke prior to the explosion) and also check out the numerous **TRAINING** resources below, so we all can **learn**-and not just be entertained by the video) <http://tinyurl.com/4x3eqf9>

HERE is another view of the Franklin smoke explosion: <http://tinyurl.com/422vnre>

HERE is a local media report of the Franklin fire with video: <http://tinyurl.com/3bfpf2w>

==TRAINING RESOURCES FOR FOLLOW UP==

Watch and Use Dave Dodson's "THE ART OF READING SMOKE" FREE Powerpoint HERE:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/106558>

READ MORE about SMOKE EXPLOSIONS from Paul Grimwood:

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

TRAINING VIDEO FROM DAVE DODSON & NFFF:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8CxxwD0lr8>

TRAINING VIDEO FROM DAVE DODSON & FIRE ENGINEERING:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQ7B542OSF8>

NEBRASKA FIREFIGHTERS IN WILDLAND CRASH

Two Superior, Nebraska Firefighters are recovering in the hospital following a serious crash on the job.

The crash happened yesterday around 1740 when 4 Firefighters were fighting a field fire using a grass rig. The driver tried to go up a hill but realized it was a dead end but when he tried to stop, he lost control, hit a culvert, and then crashed into a tree. Two of the men were flown to Bryan LGH West in Lincoln. The others were treated and released.

HERE are photos: <http://tinyurl.com/696lh75>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-3-11 / 1447 Hours

AND:

NJ EMS CAPTAIN LODD-Medical Emergency

We regret to advise you of the Line of Duty Death this morning of Bruce Mandel, longtime Captain of the Maplewood First Aid Squad. The Captain had just taken a patient to St. Barnabas Hospital and was returning to quarters in Maplewood when he did not feel well. He stopped at the Maplewood FD for assistance around 0800 Hours. The MFD personnel encouraged the Captain to seek medical attention ...and he did- and was transported by the MFD ambulance where he coded enroute and eventually was pronounced. **Services for Captain Mandel will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, October 4, 2011** at Menorah Chapels, 2950 Vaux Hall Road, Vaux Hall, New Jersey (across from Millburn Mall) beginning at 1130 hours. Family will be receiving friends and their condolences beginning at 10:45 a.m. Our sincere condolences. **HERE** is the Maplewood First Aid Squad Website:

<http://maplewoodfirstaid.org/>

TEXAS TOWER LADDER OVERRUN BY FIRE

That massive fire that burned at a chemical plant near U.S. 287 and Interstate 35E today and forced the evacuation of schools and neighborhoods is now under control. The building where the fire started had sprinklers, "but the fire outran the sprinklers," said Waxahachie Fire Chief David Hudgins. By the time firefighters arrived at the scene the fire was fully involved, the Chief said. Employees were mixing chemicals when a reaction sparked the fire where a tower ladder was also destroyed by the out of control fire-but all Firefighters fortunately escaped injury.

HERE IS "CLOSE CALL" VIDEO OF THE FIRE SPREADING INTO THE TOWER LADDER:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02Mbw0eMWUA>

HERE are photos of the apparatus:

<http://tinyurl.com/5t9c3cy> **AND** <http://tinyurl.com/669zaou>

REMEMBERING BOSTON FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS-THE TRUMBULL STREET FIRE

On Oct 1, 1964 BFD Fire Lt John J. McCorkle, 53, Eng 24 Fire Lt John J. Geswell, 40, Lad 26 (detailed to Lad 4) FF Robert J. Clougherty, 31, Eng 3 FF Francis L. Murphy, 42, Eng 24 FF James B.

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Sheedy, 37 Lad 4 All were killed in the Line of Duty when the front wall of a vacant 4-story toy factory, located at 34 Trumbull Street, collapsed and a second smaller collapse injured several other members. A civilian, Andrew Sheehan, 25 a "fire buff/spark" was also injured and died later that morning in the hospital. 12 members were injured but some remained on duty until all the trapped members had been removed. This was the Trumbull Street fire, 5 alarms Box 1671, (Shawmut Avenue & Brookline Street.) Lieutenant McCorkle had 27 years, Lieutenant. Geswell had 9 years, Firefighter Murphy had 7, Firefighter Sheedy had 6 and Firefighter Clougherty had 4 years of service. Firefighter Robert Clougherty was the son of Assistant Chief of Department John E. Clougherty. The alarms were sounded at 0032 hours, the Working Fire at 0036 hours, the 2nd alarm at 0037 hours, the 3rd alarm at 0042 hours, the 4th alarm at 0045 hours and the 5th alarm at 0052 hours..RIP **Our thanks to BFD's Bill Noonan** for the details-be sure to check out his outstanding FIRE PHOTOS page: <http://www.billnoonanfirefotos.com/pc/>

2 OF 3 FIRE STATIONS CLOSED IN THIS MICHIGAN CITY

And THE BEAT GOES ON---this time in Taylor, MI who closed 2 of its 3 firehouses today because of budget issues. 22 personnel have been cut from the TFD in the last two months. Taylor is 26 square miles and runs about 30 calls a day....now with significant response times and staffing issues.

HERE is our August/September National Budget & Staffing Report (Will be updated soon)

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/site/firefighterclosecalls/pdf/august-september-staffing-report.pdf>

=====REMINDER---IF YOUR FD IS LOOKING AT OR GOING THRU BUDGET CUTS:

Be sure that ISO is contacted to help your department determine the FISCAL IMPACT on your current insurance rates for homeowners & businesses in the community:

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

IT'S NOT ALL LEFT IN IRAQ:

We have been advised that the Military has a program in place to allow "us" to get used vehicles (and related stuff) but the problem is that most states are not aware or don't have legislation in place to allow fire departments to gain access to the equipment. It appears you have a small window to pick up the equipment or it goes back on the site for disposal. **Check it out HERE:**

<http://www.dispositionservices.dla.mil/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-3-11 / 2134 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We had meant to pass these along last week-but better late than never:

1-TERRORISM (FDNY & NYPD)

We normally focus hard on **FIRE** stuff, but when we watched this clip on TV, we wanted to pass it on to the members of TSL. The video is a "60 Minutes" interview with NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly and what they do related to terrorism "prevention":

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7382308n&tag=contentBody%3BstoryMediaBox>

ALSO take a look at what THE **FDNY** does, at the FDNY Center of Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness **HERE:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBdtkvrRfK0> - Interesting to compare how prepared they are, compared to other areas of the USA-be it urban, suburban or rural.

2-SURPRISING FF DANGER ON RUNS (Firefighter Training Video)

Ya Just neva Know....THIS COULD BE YOUR (OR OUR) NEXT RUN.

THE ISSUE: Civilian Deaths & Civilian AND Firefighter Injury Incidents on the Rise at Restaurants Using Liquid CO2....

Carbon dioxide leaking into the walls of a McDonald's caused an 80-year-old woman to die last week. It's the third time carbon dioxide sickened people at a U.S. McDonald's. A woman died of asphyxiation after carbon dioxide, used to make the restaurant's sodas fizzy, leaked into the women's bathroom of the McDonald's on Sept. 7. A line used to funnel excess carbon dioxide out of the restaurant got disconnected. The gas, which is kept in tanks in a back room of McDonald's, was flowing into the wall next to the women's bathroom instead of going outside. The gas runs from the back room into the wall next to the women's bathroom, then goes up and over the bathroom, running in the ceiling for about 25 feet before reaching the drink machines.

AND IN PHOENIX:

A pregnant, 24-year-old McDonald's employee passed out in the stairwell to the basement of a Phoenix McDonald's after being exposed to carbon dioxide. 2 Firefighters who responded to the scene - as an EMS run - also got sick. A broken line on the carbon dioxide tank was the cause. The manager of the restaurant said the tank had been refilled a couple hours before the woman passed out. **AND**---carbon dioxide caused two people to die in Florida., McDonald's in 2005, according to Sanford Deputy Fire Chief Craig Radzak. Chief Radzak said an 18-year-old McDonald's employee was trying to help a driver for the company that refills the tanks when he died of asphyxiation. The 50-year-old driver died when he tried to help the teen.

HERE IS A TRAINING VIDEO FROM THE PHOENIX FD:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eY_H-CMvw0

HERE IS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VARIOUS RELATED INCIDENTS:

<http://tinyurl.com/6lyztj9>

Keep on eye out for this in fire PRE-PLAN and Inspection Visits. Ya just never know.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-4-11 / 2053 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A man in Revere (MA) was hurt in an incident involving a fire hose line today. The crosslay slid off the apparatus, and it was dragging along the side and behind the rig, when it whipped around the corner striking the 70 year old pedestrian. RFD Engine 4 cut the corner, the hose came flying around, bringing the man to the ground. **The members on the rig had no idea what had happened. VIDEO BELOW.** Someone flagged down Engine 4, and when the crew got out, they were stunned to see what had happened. It appeared the hose had been loaded properly and they are working to find out why it came off. However, the Chief has ordered some netting to go over that hose to ensure that it does not happen again. The citizen is expected to make a full recovery.

==HERE is VIDEO as the incident is caught on camera: <http://tinyurl.com/659c4pq>

SETTLEMENT IN THE DEATH OF A CHILD WHO RAN OUT IN FRONT OF RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS APPARATUS AND WAS TRAGICALLY STRUCK

The Kansas City Council voted today to approve a \$280,000 settlement with the parents of a 7-year-old boy who was tragically struck and killed by a responding fire apparatus. The settlement is in addition to a \$720,000 payment from the insurance company of a moving company that also was involved in the accident that claimed the life of Obarimomoya Nkani on March 2, 2009. The lawsuit was filed by the parents of Obarimomoya, known affectionately as "Momo." The family had moved to the United States from Nigeria about nine years before the accident and still lives in Kansas City. The lawsuit alleged negligence on the part of the City, Father and Son Moving and

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Storage, the Kansas City School District and Securitas Security Service. The school district and security company were dismissed from the lawsuit, but claims could be refiled against them later. Young Obarimomoya was halfway home from first grade at his nearby elementary school when he ran into the street and was struck by the oncoming fire apparatus.

It was alleged that the Firefighter driving the apparatus failed to use the highest level of care, took a route through a school zone at 1530 hours rather than an alternate route, and didn't keep a careful lookout. Some witnesses claimed the sirens were on and operating-others disputed that. See the video below. It also alleged that a moving and storage truck at the scene failed to properly respond to the fire truck's flashing lights and sirens or to properly yield, thus blocking the fire truck driver's ability to see the boy, or the boy's ability to see the fire truck.

==HERE is video from when the incident originally occurred:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_NNpc9ksJQ

HIALEAH (FLORIDA) FIREFIGHTERS TAKE ON THEIR CITY COUNCIL:

The Tensions Are High In So Many Communities...

The Hialeah Firefighters who were handed pink slips just a few days ago have been rehired - at least temporarily - today - after the fire union agreed to concessions. As you know, the City of Hialeah FD was laying off dozens of Firefighters.

==HERE is a video showing some of the hearings-and the thoughts of Firefighters:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v200V0GchTQ&feature=email>

HERE is the latest media report: <http://tinyurl.com/6ymuly6>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-6-11 / 1955 Hours

AND:

Hey-

3 New Haven, CT firefighters were injured during the attempt to rescue a panicked hiker who was close to letting go from the rock face. The pt was on the phone with 911 and as Firefighters started a high angle rescue from above her position on the rock made it so firefighters could not see her. Due to this issue, TSL Subscriber, Lt. Jay Schwartz climbed from the bottom up to recon her position and could see her she was only hanging on by her thumbs. The circumstances dictated action and the Lt and his crew risked a lot to save a lot. Unfortunately the shale that they were climbing on gave away and Lt. Schwartz fell 60' down an incline resulting in a significant compound dislocation of his ankle and is now recovering well. Another firefighter was taken back to the ER this morning after being released last night. He was hit by falling rocks during the rescue and is now having complications. The other firefighter who was able to make the rescue from above was in the harness for an extend amount of time and was evaluated and released. Our thoughts and payer are with all of them.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-7-11 / 1455 Hours

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.

October 8, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

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Budget Related Items:

New firefighters in the city of Laguna Beach (CA) will pay more toward retirement and some retirement benefits will kick in later. The City Council approved an agreement Tuesday with the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, which represents 36 sworn employees in the Laguna Beach Fire Department. Under the agreement, new employees would be hired under a second tier of retirement benefits that includes paying 9 percent of their salary toward retirement costs. Existing employees would also begin paying 4.5 percent of their salaries toward retirement. The agreement passed unanimously with little discussion and no public comment. The firefighters association already had ratified the new contract after months of closed session negotiations with the council. With firefighters paying toward retirement, the city expects to save \$148,000 this year and \$215,000 in future years. With retirement costs increasing and a tough economy, the city is facing a \$900,000-plus operating deficit. "This agreement will go a long ways to reducing that deficit," City Manager John Pietig said. In the past, Laguna Beach police and firefighters have received a 3 percent at 50 retirement benefit – at age 50, employees are eligible to receive a pension of 3 percent of their highest salary for every year served. New firefighters will receive the benefit at age 55, the standard for new firefighters with the Orange County Fire Authority:

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/firefighters-318206-retirement-new.html>

The Napa (CA) City Council unanimously approved the tentative contract reached with the Napa City Firefighters Association that includes concessions over the contract's three-year term. Tuesday, the council accepted the contract with the association that represents 46 employees. The agreement is expected to save the city about \$500,000 in labor costs through 2013. The firefighters, paramedics and fire captains voted on Sept. 2 to forego cost-of-living salary increases, pay more toward their retirement, implement a two-tier retirement system and take a modified health plan consistent with that offered to other employee groups, according to a city staff report: http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/napa-city-council-approves-contract-with-firefighters/article_ea855f9e-e407-11e0-9fb5-001cc4c002e0.html

Heading into what could be his seventh battle over firefighter staffing in eight years, Milwaukee (WI) Mayor Tom Barrett will propose slicing 12 firefighter jobs in the 2012 city budget he will unveil Tuesday. If the Common Council agrees, three firefighting companies would be taken out of service each month, on a rotating basis, and a fourth company would be closed for the entire year, up from two a month. That reduction would be partly offset by the addition of two new emergency medical units. For next year, Barrett would trim 24 firefighter jobs from firefighting companies, by expanding the "brownouts" that have sidelined two pumper engine or ladder truck companies every month for the past two years. But half those jobs would be shifted to the new emergency medical units, one each on the north side and the south side, for a net loss of 12 jobs through attrition. It would be up to Fire Chief Mark Rohlfing whether to staff the new units with paramedics or regular firefighters, all of whom are emergency medical technicians. Barrett said the restructuring reflects the evolution of the Fire Department's mission. Emergency medical service accounts for 80% of the department's calls - with slightly less than half the medical calls requiring paramedics - in contrast to 6% for fires, 12% for rescues and 2% for other services. Answering medical calls with medical units, instead of firetrucks, would save fuel and provide "more flexibility to respond to what is increasingly becoming the main service of the Fire Department," Barrett said:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/130610018.html>

After a contentious meeting Wednesday night, the Hialeah (FL) City Council unanimously approved the city's \$263.4 million budget for 2011-12 — and laid off more than 100 fire rescue workers in three stages beginning Saturday, the start of the fiscal year. After almost 90 minutes of debate in the packed council chambers, filled mostly by fire rescue department employees, the council voted 7-0 in favor of the spending plan submitted by Mayor Carlos Hernández. On Saturday, 14 firefighters and nine trainees will be let go, and 12 vacancies will be eliminated. An additional 70 firefighters will be dismissed — half on Dec. 1 and the other half on March 1. Taken together, the layoffs amount to 39 percent of the department:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/09/29/2430671/hialeah-lays-off-40-of-fire-department.html>

Though his alarm clock will blare before dawn, Ryan Escobar said he'll have no problem waking up Friday. He will be returning to his job as a Hialeah (FL) firefighter after being handed a pink slip just days ago. "I may even have a hard time falling asleep tonight. It's like waking up for Christmas," he said. Escobar, 30, is one of 14 Hialeah firefighters who marched into Fire Station 1 on Thursday to turn in their uniforms and collect their last paychecks, only to hear they had been rehired — at least temporarily. The dramatic turn of events was announced after a round of last minute negotiations, in which union leaders agreed to give up time-and-a-half pay for the next two holidays, Columbus Day and Veterans Day, in order to rehire their members. The savings to the city: about \$230,000. "Nobody stepped up and made this happen through the city. Who stepped up and made this happen were the firefighters," said Union Vice President Eric Johnson. "The fire fighters paid for their members to return to work to protect the citizens:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/10/06/2442241/hialeah-re-hires-laid-off-firefighters.html>

A months-long, bitter fight over salary and benefit cuts is expected to end this week with the Benicia (CA) City Council imposing a contract on firefighters. The city is proposing lowering firefighters' wages by nearly 2 percent and eliminating extra pay for working holidays, among other concessions. Firefighters also would have to pay more for their health and retirement plans. The proposed contract changes would net \$256,000 in fixed, annual savings, city of Benicia officials said: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_18985395?IADID=Search-www.timesheraldonline.com-www.timesheraldonline.com

Taylor (MI) Fire Chief Bob Tompos the city closed two of its three fire stations Monday because of budget issues. Tompos said 22 people have been cut from the Fire Department and EMS staffs in the last two months. He said all operations will now run out of the main station on Goddard Road: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/29342325/detail.html>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

A year-old effort to have Minneapolis (MN) firefighters board up vacant buildings to save two jobs in the department has instead lost more than \$300,000. Now the program is likely to get scrapped. In its first 11 months, the program has cost almost \$400,000, including administrative costs, but been able to bill only about \$89,000. And \$10,000 of that is still uncollected. Meanwhile, boarding tasks have taken three firefighters off their rigs, according to Fire Chief Alex Jackson. The program originated with former Council Member Paul Ostrow, who chaired the council's budget committee. He was trying to keep as many firefighters on duty as possible, and adding vacant property boarding was seen as a way for the department to collect fees that the Department of Regulatory Services had paid to private contractors. The department hoped to generate enough income to pay for the cost of materials and the firefighters who otherwise would be laid off: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1124002-Costly-program-designed-to-save-firefighter-jobs-likely-to-end-in-Minn/>

Authorities in New Mexico arrested Terlton's fire chief, who had been sought in an embezzlement investigation. Charles Dean Badgwell, 54, and girlfriend Janet Lynne Kirby, 58, are awaiting extradition to Pawnee County after they were arrested in Deming, N.M., on Friday, said Pawnee County Sheriff Mike Waters. Pawnee County prosecutors filed embezzlement charges against Badgwell and Kirby on Friday, court records show. Badgwell was named a person of interest in an investigation involving money missing from the Terlton Volunteer Fire Department. The sheriff's office opened an investigation into the department's finances Sept. 8, after they received "allegations of impropriety," Waters told the Tulsa World in a previous interview. "We're excited, but we still have a long way to go," Waters said. "Now due process will have to take effect." Badgwell has been incarcerated twice in Oklahoma, according to Department of Corrections records. He was sentenced to four years in the mid-1980s on a stolen property conviction and was sentenced to one year in 2002 for false impersonation: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1124942-Okla-fire-chief-arrested-in-embezzlement-investigation/>

A Macon-Bibb County (GA) fire department prank video depicting what appears to be a masked man entering a firehouse with a gun has prompted an investigation by the department. The footage shows chaos as a man wearing a bandana over his face and an apparent firearm sends firefighters running and diving to the floor in a common area near the kitchen. Some of the firefighters appear visibly disturbed on the floor. Moments later, a sound resembling a gunshot can be heard: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1125049-Video-Gunman-prank-at-firehouse-prompts-investigation/>

More from Macon (GA): The firehouse "prank" video posted to YouTube could ultimately cost the firefighters involved their rank -- or job, Macon-Bibb County Fire Chief Marvin Riggins said Tuesday. Riggins said it's not strange for firefighters to joke with each other, but that the department has a zero tolerance policy for hazing and physical altercations, including altercations with weapons. "This is where the line is drawn," he said. Although firefighters involved in the incident weren't on administrative leave Tuesday, Riggins said he expects disciplinary action will be taken within the next 24 hours: <http://www.macon.com/2011/09/20/1711053/sheriffs-office-investigating.html>

And even more from Macon (GA): One Macon-Bibb firefighter faces termination in connection with a prank video staged at a fire station. That's according to a news release from the mayor's office on behalf of Fire Chief Marvin Riggins. Four other firefighters will be suspended and a sergeant will be demoted for taking part in the video, which Riggins calls "notoriously disgraceful." <http://statter911.com/2011/09/21/one-macon-bibb-county-firefighter-to-be-fired-over-gun-prank-against-rookies/>

A former Los Angeles County (CA) firefighter-mechanic, who said he was retaliated against for testifying against a colleague who was ultimately fired in a sexual harassment investigation, was today awarded nearly \$400,000. A Los Angeles Superior Court jury deliberated a short time Friday and most of today before finding in favor of 50-year-old Acton resident Donald Rakisits, who was awarded a total of \$389,945, most of it for future lost wages:

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_18879768

One of the Macon-Bibb (GA) County firefighters present during a Sunday prank that resulted in severe punishments has now filed an injury claim. Capt. Stephanie Burke filed the claim with the city of Macon on Thursday, mayoral spokesman Clay Murphey said. Murphey has said that Burke, who has been suspended for two days, didn't have prior knowledge of the prank. He said he couldn't discuss details of Burke's claim. The prank, which was recorded and posted to the online site YouTube, showed a masked man inside a firehouse, threatening firefighters with what appeared to be a gun and forcing them to the floor. None of the eight firefighters disciplined in connection with the prank has filed notice of appealing the disciplinary actions announced against them. The deadline is Friday. Punishments for the firefighters included one suspension pending termination, a demotion and several suspensions:

<http://www.macon.com/2011/09/23/1714980/firefighter-present-during-video.html>

About a week before Kevin Wolever was put on administrative leave, he told Toledo (OH) fire department administrators he went to a strip club instead of completing a fire inspection, according to city records. The 32-year-old fire inspector's disciplinary file was released to The Blade Monday, only hours after Mr. Wolever, the son of retired Fire Chief Mike Wolever, was indicted by a Lucas County grand jury on two counts of improperly discharging a firearm into a habitation and one count each of aggravated arson and felonious assault, for three different incidents. Three of the charges also had gun specifications, including one five-year specification for shooting out of a motor vehicle. If convicted, Mr. Wolever faces up to 48 years in prison. He was in custody at the Lucas County jail Monday night in lieu of \$300,000 bond. According to the indictment, Mr. Wolever is charged with the Sept. 24 shooting in which an on-duty firefighter was struck, but not injured, by a ricocheting bullet:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2011/10/04/File-states-suspect-visited-strip-club-napped-on-duty-2.html>

LA City (CA) firefighters are under investigation for allegedly taking part in porn movies on the job, Cpt. Jaime Moore of the Los Angeles Fire Department confirmed to NBC4 LA. This is the second city department this year where employees have been investigated for alleged involvement in porn movies while on duty. Fire Chief Brian Cummings has ordered a full-scale investigation into possible misconduct by an undisclosed number of firefighters who allegedly cooperated with the porn producers, Haro said. "The fire chief is adamant about addressing the issue, finding out what took place," she told NBC4 LA. Firefighters might have a tough time explaining how their truck was used in a porn movie. Department policy says "apparatus...shall be kept in sight at all times" by firefighters assigned to it. The policy also says LAFD employees must "operate apparatus in a way that does not compromise the reputation of the department." An insider told NBC4 LA "the battalion chiefs knew. Everyone at the station level knew" about the movie:

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/130318603.html>

An entire Washington D.C. fire station in Northwest was taken out of service Thursday after the fire chief walked into the station house and discovered a case of beer in the refrigerator. Chief Kenneth Ellerbe tells WTOP and ABC7 he immediately ordered Engine 9 out of service and had 15 firefighters and EMTs undergo alcohol testing at the department's clinic. "I was a

bit dismayed, shocked, surprised," Ellerbe says about his discovery. "Our older members should have known better." Ellerbe says all of the personnel tested negative for alcohol and have been allowed to return to duty, but the incident remains under investigation and the station's command staff is facing disciplinary action. "There will be some consequences for this." Ellerbe says. "We want to send a strong message we take public safety very seriously." Ellerbe says it appears the beer was a gift from some grateful residents, but command staff should have known better than to accept it. "We can't have this kind of behavior," he says, adding that some staff members are facing possible suspensions. "The command staff will be appropriately reprimanded." <http://statter911.com/2011/09/23/dc-fire-chief-kenneth-ellerrbe-shuts-fire-station-after-he-finds-case-of-beer-in-fridge-alcohol-tests-on-crew-negative/>

Tulsa (OK) Mayoral Chief of Staff Terry Simonson and Fire Chief Allen LaCroix will be placed on paid administrative leave starting next week as an inquiry is launched regarding Simonson's son's pre-fire academy testing, Mayor Dewey Bartlett said Friday. As first reported in the Tulsa World on Friday, a series of emails indicate special treatment was given to Simonson's son when he was squeezed into the written testing cycle for the Tulsa firefighters academy after he failed to secure a spot. Emails show that Simonson asked LaCroix if he could find a seat for his 30-year-old son, Ryan, to which LaCroix agreed and then ordered it to happen despite resistance from a human resources staffer, who said it was inappropriate. After the testing cycle began, Ryan Simonson and his father gained unauthorized access into the fire training facility to practice just days leading up to the physical test, the emails reveal. Several emails between fire officials noted that practice had ceased, and neither Simonson nor his son were given authorization to be at the training facility: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=334&articleid=20110924_11_A1_Mayora764078

Seven new Boston (MA) firefighters opted to resign recently instead of being terminated because they failed an emergency services technician (EMT) certification test. The firefighters union has gone to court to contest the resignations. Boston (MA) firefighters have been being certified as EMTs for the past 15 years. The latest resignation comes in the wake of a scandal involving more than 200 EMTs in Massachusetts, including a number of Boston firefighters, having falsified their training records during recertification: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2011/09/boston-ffs-quit-ems.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklySeptember292011>

A Detroit (MI) firefighter has been sentenced to almost two years on probation after being caught with cocaine on May 2. State District Court Judge Fernando Macias sentenced Timothy Ray Carter to one year and 363 days on unsupervised probation for the charges, felony cocaine possession and misdemeanor drug possession, according to the sentence, which was released Thursday. Carter was in southern New Mexico to attend the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy when he was arrested and jailed for two days after authorities found drugs in his car, just a few days after his 28th birthday: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/detroit-firefighter-gets-probation-drug-charge>

A Macon-Bibb (GA) County fire captain seen on a prank video posted online last week will be demoted and suspended for 20 days, city officials said Thursday. Mayor Robert Reichert said he met Thursday morning with Fire Chief Marvin Riggins to discuss the discipline to be imposed on eight firefighters involved in the prank, which involved a masked gunman inside the Peake Road fire station brandishing a gun. Officials said the hazing incident targeted rookies. Reichert said that as of Thursday morning Riggins had not seen text messages purported to show that fire Capt. Stephanie Burke was involved in planning the incident. City

officials have previously said that Burke denied having prior knowledge of the prank. The mayor deferred questions to Riggins about why Burke's punishment was upgraded from a two-day suspension to a demotion to the rank of lieutenant and additional suspension time. Mayoral spokesman Clay Murphey said Riggins was declining interviews. Murphey said Burke's amended discipline came as a result of additional information provided to Riggins. Burke, contacted by phone twice Thursday night, hung up after learning she was speaking with a Telegraph reporter. On the second call, Burke used profanity and declined comment before hanging up again:

<http://www.macon.com/2011/09/30/1725054/firefighter-speaks-out-on-video.html>

& additional information on this latest issue of NTS – Not Thinking Syndrome that cannot do anything positive for the image of the entire fire service:

<http://statter911.com/2011/09/30/macon-bibb-county-fds-stephanie-burke-now-demoted-to-lieutenant-because-of-prank-on-rookies-new-information-on-the-former-captains-role/>

More on the Macon-Bibb (GA) fiasco, including: Macon-Bibb firefighter Christopher Hughes, fired for his part in a videotaped hazing stunt, says he didn't plan the hoax shooting. He says it was planned by fire Capt. Stephanie Burke, who now faces demotion and loss of 60 days' pay in the viral-video case. Hughes spoke to 13WMAZ's Amy Aubert Friday afternoon. He said hazing stunts, like the Sept. 25 hoax at Fire Station 108, are not unusual. He said, when he was a rookie firefighter, he was fooled himself by a similar stunt six years ago. He says that stunt was also planned by Burke. He says this is one of at least three similar stunts in the department over the years, and no one was ever punished:

<http://statter911.com/2011/10/01/raw-video-former-macon-bibb-county-firefighter-christopher-hughes-continues-to-tell-his-version-of-the-rookie-prank-that-cost-him-his-job-claims-captain-asked-him-to-bring-in-bb-gun/>

Former Woodinville (WA) Fire & Rescue chief Ira David Daniels filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), claiming he believed he was going to be fired or pushed out of his position because he is African American. Daniels has been on administrative leave since Aug. 9 when the board of commissioners announced he agreed to enter into negotiations on a separation agreement. In the statement, filed with the EEOC on Sept. 9 and received by the fire district on Sept. 19, Daniels states, "I am employed as fire chief. The last two chiefs were treated more favorable than I am being treated. The previous two chiefs were white. I am African American. I believe that the fire district is planning to end my contract, or to force me to quit, due to my race in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended." <http://kirkland.patch.com/articles/ex-fire-chief-files-racial-discrimination-claim-against-woodinville-district>

A federal jury on Friday found Veldora Arthur, a Miami (FL) Fire Department assistant fire chief recently featured in a Miami Herald investigation of public-sector pensions, guilty on three counts of conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud. Convicted with her: co-defendants Neil Fagan and Pamela Johnson. All three live in Broward County. The verdict was first reported by The Straw Buyer blog, which has been closely following the case. Arthur, 44, and her co-defendants, were charged in February 2010 in a multi-million-dollar mortgage-fraud scheme involving condos in Aventura. A licensed mortgage broker, Arthur was the department's first black female firefighter. She went on paid administrative leave after being indicted. The indictment accused Arthur and her co-defendants of using straw buyers, submitting false mortgage-application paperwork to lenders, and profiting from money made on the deals:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/10/01/2434968/assistant-miami-fire-chief-faces.html>

An Augusta fire cleanup business run by the Augusta (GA) fire chief's brother, who is an assistant battalion chief, is in violation of that department's policy and that of the city. Battalion Chief Tommy Willis, the brother of fire Chief Howard Willis, has been running without department authorization a business that boards up homes after they have been damaged by fire, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Rogers admitted last week. Rogers said he learned last week Tommy Willis never asked permission before starting work in 2007 with the company, 1-800 Board Up, which employs four other firefighters. The company was also provided on at least one occasion an unfair advantage over competitors by another member of the department, who broke policy: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/government/2011-10-01/report-indicates-augusta-fire-department-might-be-illegally-promoting?v=1317508987>

Authorities investigating several high profile, destructive arson fires on the Ridge make an arrest Tuesday night and the suspect is a Butte County (CA) volunteer firefighter. Jiro Perkins-Grubbs, 31, of Magalia, was taken into custody around 9:00 p.m.: <http://www.knvn.com/mostpopular/story/Butte-County-Firefighter-Arrested-for-Arson/edURxusqIEul-eC9vQM48g.cspX>

A Memphis (TN) firefighter who posted Facebook comments that offended some Frayser residents has resigned from his union position, officials announced today. Robert Kramer, who has served on the executive board of the Memphis Fire Fighters Association for six years, submitted his letter of resignation today. It officially takes effect Tuesday: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/tenn-firefighter-caught-facebook-flap>

Albuquerque (NM) City officials said an Albuquerque firefighter is locked up and is facing possible deportation. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents confirmed they took Jose Gonzalez into custody a few weeks ago, but city officials said Monday they have a lot of questions about what led to the arrest. "When it was brought to our attention, we were certainly surprised. The city was surprised that Gonzalez, who works at the fire marshal's office on Silver Street in downtown Albuquerque, was arrested by ICE," Albuquerque city spokesman Chris Ramirez said. The city said it just got a call from ICE agents informing them that they took Gonzalez into custody because he committed a serious crime. ICE agents said Gonzalez, who's a Mexican national, was convicted of shooting at or from a motor vehicle back in 1999, but they won't say anything about why they acted on the felony charge more than a decade later. "(Gonzalez) indicated on his hiring paperwork that he didn't have any convictions. He did list several misdemeanors that the previous administration thought could be (overlooked)," Ramirez said: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nm-firefighter-arrested-faces-deportation>

Two former Brimfield (MA) firefighters who pleaded guilty to arson were sentenced to 3 years in the Hampden County House of Correction yesterday. The families of Patrick K. Elliott and Brian S. Findlay wept as the two were taken from the courtroom in handcuffs after Judge Peter Velis handed down the sentence in Hampden Superior Court. Judge Velis said the decision to send the men to jail was based in part on the fact that they'd placed fellow firefighters in harm's way when they set fires in vacant homes on Washington Road and Paige Hill Road in Brimfield and Chandler Road in Holland in June and July 2010. "Fire is a dangerous weapon. It's a killer," Judge Velis said. "They put their brothers in harm's way. ... But for the grace of God, there are no widows standing before us today." Two other firefighters in the case, Dylan LaJeunesse and Donald Moores, were sentenced to 3 years' probation earlier this year. They must also pay restitution: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1159622-2-ex-firefighters-sentenced-for-arson-in-Mass/>

A New Mexico firefighter pretending to be a police officer made quite a mistake Wednesday when he allegedly pulled over an undercover Albuquerque police detective. Albuquerque police arrested Tyree Appleberry, 42, early Wednesday morning after he pulled over a detective who was working a bait car operation on a residential street near Broadway and Gibson SE, according to a police report. Police said Appleberry, of Albuquerque, pulled over the undercover detective in his white Chevy Tahoe, which had a red light mounted on the dashboard and flashing white strobe lights mounted on the headlights. The APD detective pulled over, and Appleberry started issuing verbal commands, police said. The detective thought the stop was suspicious and asked Appleberry for his identification, the report states. When the detective identified himself as a member of APD, Appleberry tried to flee the scene, police said. Police soon apprehended him:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nm-firefighter-pulls-over-real-cop>

A Washington County (PA) volunteer firefighter is accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars from his own department. Police say 25-year-old Michael Griest of New Eagle stole \$40,000 worth of items from the New Eagle Fire Department:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/pa-firefighter-accused-stealing-40000-dept>

The Waukesha County's (WA) National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter is calling for an investigation into the distribution of what it said is a racially offensive email distributed by members of the Brookfield Fire Department. An internal investigation is under way at the Brookfield Fire Department after 12 News brought to their attention an email sent by a concerned resident who saw it'd been forwarded by several Fire Department employees last week from their work email accounts. The email includes a photo of a trailer carrying an oversize piece of black rock or coal, and the caption reads "I-90 will be closed tomorrow across South Dakota. They are hauling a 200-ton lump of coal so they can add Obama to Mount Rushmore..." Janet Lucas, of the Waukesha County NAACP, said "I guess when I first read the email, it was total shock, but unfortunately that is just an example of what's happening in our society today. The lack of respect that you see towards our president, it is unfortunate," Lucas said. "(There's) definitely racial overtones," Lucas said. "(There's) actually hate. You can feel the hate when you read the words. And to me, it's just the beginning of a hate crime that needs to be stopped," Waukesha County NAACP President Lillie Wilson said. Brookfield Fire Chief Charlie Myers said two of his employees admitted forwarding the email last week during work hours -- a clear violation of city policy and both will face disciplinary action. "There's no doubt those kinds of comments aren't appropriate, and it's not something that we as public officials should be condoning in any way," Myers said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/wis-departments-racial-email-stirs-controversy>

The City of Ketchum (ID) and their firefighters face off at trial. Initial testimony Thursday in a trial between the city of Ketchum and its firefighters union focused on the union's willingness to negotiate, with firefighters representative Curtis Smith saying that the union is still open to discussions. Smith, a Pocatello Fire Department member who is serving as a representative of the International Association of Firefighters, and Ketchum Fire Department's Lt. John Rathfon spent the early part of the trial in 5th District Court discussing the impasse that led to the lawsuit. Lawyers for Ketchum's full-time firefighters' union filed a lawsuit against the city on April 18 after negotiations and mediation over an employment contract failed to yield results. The complaint alleges that violations occurred when Ketchum unilaterally made changes to terms and conditions of employment while the parties were engaged in collective bargaining; the city refused to engage in collective bargaining as required by statute; and it refused to execute the agreement reached between the parties:

<http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005138898>

A man in Revere (MA) was taken to the hospital after a hose flew off the side of a fire truck, knocking him to the ground. Authorities say the victim was standing on a street corner waiting for a ride, when a fire truck was taking a turn. The truck cut the corner, whipping the fire hose around and bringing the man to the ground. A family member said the victim was sent to the ICU with broken bones and a concussion. The Revere fire truck, Engine Four, was seen on surveillance tape dragging its 200-foot long fire hose down the street. Authorities say the crew on board had no idea what had happened:

<http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12005563338713/man-struck-by-fire-hose-in-revere/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

The city of Las Vegas (NV) has reached a tentative agreement with firefighters on a new labor contract. Highlights of the deal posted with the City Council agenda for next Wednesday show a total of a little more than \$4 million in savings in the contract, short of the \$6 million the city was hoping to achieve but more than enough to plug a projected \$2.5 million shortfall in the Fire Department budget, City Manager Betsy Fretwell said. According to the documents posted, the agreement continues the freeze on cost of living adjustment pay raises. Also included is a continued reduction in the city's share of health insurance payments from \$450 to \$360 per employee, per pay period, which saves taxpayers an estimated \$1.4 million. The second-biggest line item is \$900,000 in savings by continuing the elimination of uniform allowances, followed by \$520,000 by extending the period firefighters are ineligible for overtime following a sick day from three to eight days. The deal also includes continued reductions in step pay increases worth \$450,000 and boosts the number of "rovers" on duty, a reference to firefighters who are available to cover for people who are sick and on vacation without incurring overtime, which would save \$250,000. "It is all because our employees have been willing to sit down and make some concessions," Fretwell said:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/las-vegas-firefighters-reach-contract-agreement-with-city-130815538.html>

Negotiators for Long Beach (CA) and its firefighters union are working on an agreement to reform pensions while also maintaining four-responder staffing on fire engines next year. The emerging details roughly mirror a recently approved accord between the city and the Long Beach Police Officers Association that is expected to net at least \$69 million in savings through 2022. Multiple sources confirmed changes to the fire union contract that would include firefighters increasing their employee contribution toward their retirements from 2 percent of salary to 9 percent. The city would extend the contract two years, to 2016. Firefighters also would receive a 6 percent raise retroactive to Oct. 1 instead of raises in 2012 and 2013; another 1 percent raise would be due in October 2014. Because of the firefighter pension pay-in, Long Beach would see a net reduction in personnel costs. Additionally, benefits for new hires would be reduced, with future firefighters getting 2 percent of their salary as pension for each year of service while being eligible to retire at age 50:

http://www.presstelegram.com/ci_19009360?IADID=Search-www.presstelegram.com-www.presstelegram.com

Stockton (CA) City firefighters expect to tally their votes Saturday on a new contract and look forward to mending relations with city leaders, a union spokesman said Monday. Capt. Dave Macedo, president of Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456, said relations he and his colleagues have with the City Manager's Office and most members of the City Council have already improved:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111004/A_NEWS/110040311/-1/A_NEWS

San Mateo (CA) Firefighters have agreed to forgo pay raises until 2013 as well as chip in more for their pensions and health care costs as part of a deal the city says will chop \$4.8 million from its bottom line over the next five years. Under terms of the agreement that the City Council is slated to approve Monday, firefighters will put an extra 3 percent toward their pensions while San Mateo will gradually cut the amount of money it pays to employees who don't get medical insurance through the city. While it varies by health plan, firefighters generally will have to pay more out of their pockets. These changes mimic reductions in health care and retirement benefits for public workers around the state and country. As cities have struggled with drops in revenue brought on by the recession, they have sought to cut the costs associated with their biggest expense: employees. New hires in San Mateo will also share the pain. The next generation of firefighters won't get any money from the city toward their deferred-compensation savings accounts, which are tax-free until money is withdrawn. They will also have to work more years to get the same retirement as their more senior colleagues: http://www.marini.com/ci_19021159

The Las Vegas (NV) City Council today ratified a new agreement with Las Vegas Firefighters Local 1285 that cuts a little more than \$4 million from the budget and — for the third year in a row — will mean no cost-of-living increase for firefighters. “It’s a fair deal and it’s good for both sides,” Dean Fletcher, the union’s president, said Wednesday following the city council’s unanimous decision to ratify the contract:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/oct/05/new-las-vegas-firefighter-contract-save-4-million/>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Police arrested a Redondo Beach (CA) resident after he allegedly brandished a knife at a pair of paramedics at a home in the 1700 block of Camino de la Costa late Tuesday night. The paramedics—Redondo Beach firefighters Greg Allen and Matthew Bandy—were trying to help a man lying down in the driveway when Richard Matthews, 24, allegedly pulled the knife and accused them of being police officers, according to Redondo Beach Police Department spokesman Sgt. Phil Keenan:

<http://redondobeach.patch.com/articles/police-man-pulled-knife-on-paramedics>

An armed man involved in a car accident Wednesday afternoon in Lincoln tried to hijack a fire truck that responded to the scene, and his pit bull terrier bit the Vermont State Trooper who took away the man's .9mm handgun, police said:

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110922/NEWS02/110922009/Armed-man-tries-hijack-fire-truck-pit-bull-bites-trooper-following-crash?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Poor communications and an insufficient number of radios were among shortcomings within the Chicago (IL) Fire Department that contributed to the deaths of two firefighters in a fire at an abandoned South Side laundry last December, according to a federal report. The report by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health also pointed to the lack of a system to alert the Fire Department to hazardous buildings as among the "contributing factors" that cumulatively put firefighters at risk. The report said few of the firefighters who were sent into the vacant, dilapidated building in the 1700 block of East 75th Street on Dec. 22 had radios and that supervisors outside the building had no idea what the firefighters inside were seeing: flames crawling up wooden beams to the ceiling:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-firefighter-deaths-report-20110923,0,1791463.story>

Three separate violent incidents are being investigated at different Toledo (OH) fire stations: Station 18 on Lewis, Station 6 on Starr, and Station 9 on South. The latest incident happened Thursday outside Fire Station 18 on Lewis Avenue. WTOL 11 has been told a makeshift exploding device was placed in front of one of the bay doors, involving a bag of charcoal and a propane tank. Firefighters found the device and called the police bomb squad to remove it from harm's way. On Wednesday between 2:30 and 3 p.m. shots were fired at Station 9, 300 South Avenue. Dan Desmond, vice president of Toledo Firefighters Local 92, said five shots were fired at the building, where he was on duty. That incident was followed by a series of shots fired at the outside of Station 6 at 642 Starr Avenue in East Toledo at 4:30 p.m. that left a bullet hole in the glass garage door but missed the five firefighters inside:

<http://statter911.com/2011/09/23/whats-going-on-in-toledo-ohio-shots-fired-at-two-stations-bomb-found-at-third/>

Related to the story directly above from Toledo (OH): Kevin P. Wolever 32, the son of former Toledo Fire Chief Mike Wolever, has been arrested and booked in connection with the recent series of incidents against fire stations in Toledo. Wolever a Toledo fire inspector, is charged with felonious assault and improperly handling a firearm and one count of shooting into a habitation. Saturday night Wolever fired a shot at the exterior fire station 6 on Star Avenue in east Toledo. The bullet hit a fireman in the chin, he was not severely injured. According to Fire Chief Santiago, Kevin Wolever went on paid administrative leave earlier this week for an undisclosed reason. He says that Wolever was having "issues" but did not go into any further detail. Wolever is charged with felonious assault and improperly discharging a firearm into a habitation: <http://statter911.com/2011/09/25/fire-inspector-son-of-former-toledo-fire-chief-arrested-in-shooting-of-firefighter-kevin-wolever-is-suspected-in-series-of-attacks-at-firehouses/>

An independent review of the Memorial Day death of an apparently suicidal man at Alameda's (CA) Crown Beach rebukes the city for not having a water rescue crew at the time, and urges better coordination between the island city's police and fire agencies when handling offshore emergencies. The report lays out 14 recommendations and details missteps on the day 52-year-old Raymond Zack stood in the water off Crown Beach for 31 minutes before succumbing to hypothermia. City Manager John Russo, who assumed his job shortly after the death, said the city would take the recommendations seriously. "No excuses," he said. "It was not Alameda's finest hour." Russo added, "Changes have already come, and more will come ... and then we're going to close the book on this and it's not going to happen again. We will be able to rescue people." Zack's death drew international outrage because firefighters and police did not go into the water to save him. Instead, after Zack was unconscious, a bystander waded out to the neck-deep water where he had been standing and carried him to shore. Alameda's emergency responders couldn't go into the water, officials later said, because they weren't trained in water rescue and they believed Zack might become violent:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/09/30/BA5C1LBG9M.DTL>

Here is another link with a link to download the 67 page report:

<http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/california/report-faults-calif-city-death-man-bay>

General Fire Service Related Items:

A Costa Mesa (CA) firefighter got an award of \$39,590 because his work boots hurt his feet one week. Another firefighter twisted his knee in 1991 by walking downstairs and turning left. The bill: \$96,919. The city is still paying for it. A recreation leader who felt pain in the neck while shooting a basketball is costing the city \$7,325. Those are just three of the 1,000-plus workers' compensation claims filed by Costa Mesa's employees since Jan. 1, 2001. The city has paid on

all but 136 of the claims, according to public city records. Workers' compensation cost the city around \$2 million last year, which is in line with other local cities its size Costa Mesa is currently paying 160 open workers' compensation claims, 133 of which were filed by police officers and firefighters, according to a city spreadsheet that tracks open claims and injury types. The spreadsheet, which has not been made public but was obtained by the Register, offers a rare glimpse at the sort of claims that get compensation and reimbursement, from uncomfortable boots to stump-grinder accidents to "cumulative trauma" that shows up at retirement time: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/44569475>

After months of taking the heat for the Kirkland annexation and the closing of Station 34 in June, Woodinville (WA) Fire & Rescue Commissioner Bob Miller read from a prepared statement at Monday's meeting to correct "lies" regarding those issues. "Just because lies are repeated does not make them true," Miller said in the opening of his statement. Miller said the closing of Station 34 had been in the works for three years and said contrary to statements made, the District was forced to give the Kingsgate area to Kirkland under the law. "Voters in the service area decided they wanted Kirkland to be their service provider," he said. "I didn't want this, the chief didn't want this and none of the other commissioners wanted this. We had no choice."

<http://woodinville.patch.com/articles/fire-commissioner-speaks-out-on-district-controversies>

Texas is on fire, and the volunteer firefighters on the front lines are rushing toward the flames in tread-worn boots that don't fit, fire suits too hot and heavy for the job, and sometimes, quite literally, in blue jeans. Fire chiefs across the state describe being outmatched, underfunded and ill-equipped to fight the unprecedented onslaught of fires fueled this year by unceasing drought. "The needs are urgent," says Jay Cates, a police officer who volunteers as chief of the volunteer fire department in Hughes Springs, in Cass County, about 140 miles east of Dallas. "We have a whole lot of members wearing hand-me-downs. We've had to piece stuff together. The gear that we have is very old."

<http://www.chron.com/news/falkenberg/article/Texas-volunteer-firefighters-ill-equipped-for-job-2173308.php>

The Washington D.C. government has temporarily halted use of one of its most popular Twitter accounts in order to get a tighter handle on information disseminated about emergency operations. The District's Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Twitter account has been on hiatus since Aug. 30, when the communications officer who ran it went on vacation, officials said. The account, which provided real-time information on emergency incidents in the city ranging from traffic accidents to fatal shootings, has been suspended as officials decide what information is safe to put online. "We looked at some of the information that was going out on the Twitter account, and decided it needed to be filtered through the director of communications first," Fire and EMS Chief Kenneth Ellerbe said on Wednesday at Mayor Vincent C. Gray's weekly press conference. If incorrect information goes out on Twitter, he said, "it puts all of us at risk."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/sep/21/dc-freezes-fire-ems-twitter-account/>

Bed bugs shut down a San Diego fire station for a night, sending firefighters to nearby hotels or other stations while fumigators handled the problem. "It's awful. It's exhausting. But we have to do it," said Capt. Piper Denlinger with San Diego Fire and Rescue. "We don't want to be transferring bug beds to someone else" The San Diego Fire Department has spent \$80,000 in the last budget cycle eradicating the pest. Last October, the number of cases skyrocketed and so did the costs:

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Firefighters-Forced-Out-by-Bed-Bugs-130705053.html>

A must read for fire service personnel who think they know more than media personnel do about the laws protecting the media. From STATter911.com - Is Milwaukee, Wisconsin another community where the First Amendment is just an option? Officers cite safety & privacy as reason to remove TV cameraman from non-secure area at house fire. Watch raw video of the arrest. Follow the link below for the raw video from the camera of WITI-TV photojournalist Clint Fillinger just prior to his arrest Sunday night accused of resisting a Milwaukee police officer and obstructing the officer in his duties at the scene of a house fire. On the video, the police sergeant can be heard saying that Fillinger was being moved back for "his safety". At the same time the safety of the members of the public, who like Fillinger, were standing outside the secure area, behind the police yellow tape, is apparently not so important. The officer was so concerned about the safety of this one man with the camera that he knocked the 68-year-old cameraman to the ground as Fillinger was being shepherded to the end of the block. Fillinger told a reporter for his station that he touched the officer while putting up his hands in a defensive move as the officer came at him while the photographer was walking backwards. You be the judge if the officer's reaction was appropriate:

<http://statter911.com/2011/09/22/is-milwaukee-wisconsin-another-community-where-the-first-amendment-is-just-an-option-officers-cite-safety-privacy-as-reason-to-remove-tv-cameraman-from-non-secure-area-watch-raw-video-of-the-arre/>

Los Angeles (CA) firefighters who allegedly allowed fire engines to be used in two porn films won't face discipline because of a loophole in the City Charter, officials said Tuesday. The charter prevents the Fire Department from disciplining any member for actions that are more than two years old, Chief Brian Cummings said in a letter to Councilman Dennis Zine. The chief said both incidents occurred on or before 2008:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/10/la-firefighters-porn-movie.html>

The Detroit (MI) Fire Department's chief of fire operations, appointed this summer, was removed from that position, the head of the department said Saturday. Executive Fire Commissioner Donald Austin said he removed Derrick Grochowski from the position Friday. He had appointed him in July and said Grochowski will return to being a battalion chief and plans to retire in January. Attempts to reach The department was criticized earlier this month when the first rig to respond to a Cooper Street house fire in which a child was trapped was a small pumper truck that was out of commission. It couldn't pump water and was being used just to transport firefighters to that scene. Austin said Grochowski is a good and dedicated firefighter. He said he wants appointees, though, who can help him bring about change, especially during challenging financial times. "Everyone that I appoint," he said, "I will un-appoint if they're not getting the job done."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/detroits-chief-fire-operations-demoted>

Some members of Ocean City (NJ) City Council Thursday questioned the administration's handling of staffing needs at the city's fire department. Councilmen Keith Hartzell and Scott Ping asked for Mayor Jay Gillian's perspective on a potential "model change" for the department during the next budget year. During a report on citywide staffing totals given by Director of Finance Frank Donato, Hartzell and Ping discussed hiring emergency medical technicians instead of firefighters as openings become available. The average Ocean City firefighter makes more than \$100,000 per year, Hartzell said, while the average EMT nationwide might make closer to \$40,000 per year. He projected that the city could save \$60,000 annually per employee by replacing the firefighters with EMTs as openings arise. Currently, the department has a staff of 62 with two administrators and three platoons, each with 19 firefighters and one EMT. Gillian recently authorized the hiring of two new firefighters to fill the

spots of retiring members: <http://www.shorennews.com/snt/news/index.php/ocean-city-mainmenu/ocean-city-general-news/16681-council-replace-retiring-firefighters-with-emts.html>

The Chicago (IL) Fire Department is hemorrhaging hundreds of thousands of dollars — and tying up ambulances — by administering free medication to patients with diabetes and asthma who then refuse to be taken to the hospital. Last week, the City Council's most powerful alderman suggested that Chicago privatize collection of city ambulance fees to raise a dismal 37.5 percent collection rate that has created a \$50 million-a-year debt. Finance Committee Chairman Edward M. Burke (14th) described the ambulance fee debt as "low-hanging fruit" that would go a long way toward maintaining Chicago Fire Department operations at a time when Mayor Rahm Emanuel has demanded a 20 percent cut:

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/cityhall/7885418-418/free-treatment-from-ambulances-protested.html>

Property owners in central British Columbia may have to watch their homes go up in smoke if they don't comply to a new "pay-or-burn" policy, according to The Globe and Mail. The Watch Lake-North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department won't put out fires at addresses that haven't paid an annual fee of \$160 for properties with buildings or \$90 for bare land. The 25-member department serves about 1,100 people and 532 properties. Fire officials say about 20 percent of the properties have outstanding 2011 fees. The policy went into effect late August, but the department still hasn't yet had a call from an owner who has not paid the fee. The board's vice-president, Alan Boyd, told the newspaper that \$13.33 or \$7.50 a month isn't a huge amount.

"There's some pretty nice homes that haven't paid," he said. "It seems like a no-brainer." Some residents say they simply refuse to pay the fee. "We don't have a legitimate fire department," Angela Wynton said. "There's no guarantee they'll put out the fire. If we believed they would put out a fire, we would pay our dues." She said that firefighters take 25 to 30 minutes rather than five to 10 minutes to respond to calls. The department has an annual budget of \$110,000 to \$115,000 and isn't funded from property taxes as many British Columbia fire departments are: <http://www.firehouse.com/taxonomy/term/93/canda-fire-department-will-let-houses-burn-if-fees-arent-paid>

One of New York's Bravest is breaking barriers -- becoming the first transgender firefighter in city history. The male-to-female firefighter has been openly welcomed by the FDNY, even as a Brooklyn judge handling a discrimination lawsuit against the department has blasted it for its lack of diversity. The tall blonde, who now goes by Brooke, is a third-generation firefighter, with her father still on the job. The Post is withholding her full name. Around Metrotech headquarters, where she is currently assigned, the famously macho department -- almost 100 percent male with only 32 women on the job -- is taking her transition in stride:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/trans_gal_st_bravest_0GEcOhFN91GRfmXPCbE4AK

Twenty-four firefighters were sworn in to the new Belmont (CA) Fire Department at a Saturday morning City Hall ceremony. This marks the end to a 32-year partnership between Belmont and the City of San Carlos. All 24 firefighters had worked for the joint department. John Tarantino was hired 20 years ago by San Carlos and had a choice on where to go. Ultimately he decided on Belmont even though the new plan calls for a 10 percent or more pay reduction and less benefits than before: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/10/01/belmonts-new-fire-department-swears-in-24-firefighters/>

Las Vegas (NV) Fire and Rescue is set to welcome 15 new recruits to its ranks, all of whom are helping the city in more ways than life saving. According to Fire and Rescue, the new Las Vegas firefighters were trained at the city's Fire Academy for four weeks rather than the standard 20 weeks because they had previous experience. Usually, Academy recruits are paid

as they are trained. The reduced time of training for the 15 experienced recruits saves about \$580,000, the fire department said. Their addition will also cut down on overtime that would otherwise be due to off-duty firefighters who would be used to meet the minimum required number of crew needed during daily work vacancies, Fire and Rescue said. That savings amounts to \$582,000:

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/15636385/new-vegas-fire-grads-mean-savings-for-the-city>

The city of Norco (CA) is expecting to save millions by transitioning fire coverage out of the city's domain. The Norco City Council voted Wednesday 3-1 in favor of transitioning coverage from the city's local department to Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department, said Norco City Clerk Brenda Jacobs. The cooperative agreement will save an estimated \$1.7 million a year, and Norco FD's 18 employees will transition into Cal Fire employees. The change is a good thing for the city, said Norco Fire Chief Peter Bryan. Fire responses, which total about 2,200 a year in Norco, should continue at the same speed, about 5-7 minutes per call, said Bryan:

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Norco-FD-131249449.html>

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

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

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

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