



FIRE & EMS NEWS

October 14, 2007

Volume 6 – Issue 5

Welcome to the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News! The Fire & EMS News is now in its sixth year, and we want to thank you all for your assistance – we could not have done it without your feedback and support!

We are going to try something new with this issue. Typically in the past, I would collect various links to fire service news articles, and put them in the email I would send out, with a link to then view the latest issue of the Fire & EMS News. Well, I'm going to combine those news articles into the monthly Fire & EMS News, to streamline things. We'll see how it works and go from there.

Also, because of the large amount of information, I'm going to attempt to send this out twice a month, to ensure you are kept up-to-date with the information within.

Some of the features of this issue include:

- Numerous firefighter employment opportunities!
- Numerous firefighter training opportunities!
- Numerous fire service news stories to learn from – both positive and not-so-positive

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – East Bay Parks Regional Park District:

One of our former students, Rob Willson, who now works for the [East Bay Parks Regional Fire District](#), asked me to pass along the following information regarding their current firefighter recruitment. Thanks Rob!

Please forward the following information regarding an open application period for the position of **Firefighter II** with the East Bay Regional Park District.

The minimum requirements are:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I Certificate (not academy completion)

-Valid Title 22 EMT Certificate

-2 years of firefighting experience (up to one year can be substituted with education credit), wildland experience preferred

-Valid Commercial Class B (not Firefighter Class B) with no restrictions at time of appointment

Just a quick overview of the department:

-EBRPD protects close to 100,000 acres of parkland throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

-Our personnel consists of a Chief, Assistant Chief, three Captains, seven Firefighter IIs, three Firefighter Is, an administrative assistant and an auxiliary fire staff of 48.

-Though we currently have no open positions, we expect to have FFII vacancies during the life of this hiring pool.

-We work a 40-hour week usually consisting of four consecutive 10-hour days. We staff overnight during Red Flag and other appropriate weather events.

-Our fleet consists of four Type III engines, ten Type IV engines, one Type II OES engine, one Water Tender, two helicopters and a Zodiac.

-We are active members in the Mutual Aid system and are available for Out of County assignments through Alameda County, Contra Costa County, OES and CAL FIRE.

-We have good working relationships with all municipal agencies that border our parkland and have a contract with CAL FIRE SCU for auto aid for all SRA fires north of 580 and west of 680.

-At times we have been called to staff SCU stations 14 and 16 when CAL FIRE resources have been drawn down due to large local or out of county response.

-We have an active fuels management program that includes use of CAL FIRE crews, pile burning and prescribed fire.

-FFII wage starts at \$4520.00 per month and overtime tends to be readily available throughout the fire season.

-Benefits include (but not limited to) full medical, dental, deferred comp and PERS 3% at 50.

-This is a great place to rub elbows with other bay area municipal Fire Departments.

-Applications are due no later than 5:00 pm on October 24, 2007.

Please follow the link for all application instructions: <http://www.ebparks.org/job/firefighterII>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Fire Department Interview Workshop

El Camino College “Main Cafeteria” 2nd Floor

Dec 8th, 2007 8AM - 4:30PM



Guest Speakers will include Firefighters from all ranks

\$5.00 (includes lunch)

Topics will include:

- **Being the Ideal Candidate**
- **Chiefs Interviews**
- **Code and Honor**
- **Interviews**
- **Diversity**
- **Education**
- **Paramedic School**
- **Physical Fitness**
- **Preparation for the Job**
- **Reserve & AO Programs**
- **Rookie expectations**

*** Reservations are Required ***

DO NOT CONTACT THE COLLEGE DIRECTLY

Contact: Christian_Fernandez@longbeach.gov

Each participant will receive a practice interview given by:
Firefighters, Engineers, Captains or Chief Officer

Bring your resume!!!!

**FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :**

Go to www.chabotfire.com and click on **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous California State-certified State Fire Marshal (and other) classes currently available or soon-to-available, through either Chabot College or other colleges or institutions.

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION –
Santa Clara County Fire Department:**

The [Santa Clara County Fire Department](http://www.sccgov.org) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter/Engineer** – Assigned to **paramedic** duty, until November 2, 2007. Primary requirements include at least 2 years of documented experience as a paramedic, as well as a current CPAT card by date of the oral interview.

For more information about the **County of Santa Clara**, visit their website at: www.sccgov.org (Note: The Santa Clara County is not a “County” fire department per se; we are a dependent fire district)

For more information about the **Santa County Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.sccfd.org

For more information about the **Santa Clara County Firefighters Association, I.A.F.F. Local 1165**, visit our website at www.iafflocal1165.org

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY & SURVIVAL SUPPORT:

Become a Friend of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation!

The [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#) has a new initiative to help support its nationwide programs for the families of fallen firefighters and the fire service. A "Friends of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation" association has been established.

Members will receive:

- the Foundation newsletter
- a Friends of the NFFF Membership card
- a Friends of the NFFF Pin
- and a Friends of the NFFF Decal

This is your opportunity to help by making a tax-deductible donation.

If you would like to join the association, please send a check for \$25 payable to: "National Fallen Firefighters Foundation" with a notation in the remarks "Friends of NFFF" and send it to:

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation
P. O. Drawer 498
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Also, visit their website at www.firehero.org for more information about this excellent organization dedicated to firefighter safety and support.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

PLEASE POST

PLEASE POST

**PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER-RESCUE TECH
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

SAFETRAN-CSRS, LLC

SAFETRAN-CSRS provides confined space rescue, and emergency response services to Municipal Government, Construction, Utility, Semiconductor, and General Industry.

We are currently seeking several rescue professionals for a full compensation 2-week project in Dec-2007 in S.E. Santa Clara County. The project includes day shifts only, with potential overtime or

Saturday work. The part time firefighter will join forces with an established rescue team comprised of firefighters, emergency responders, and rescue technicians.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Confined Space Rescue
- ◆ High Angle Rope Rescue

Project Dates:

- **Week 1:** December 3,4,5,6,7 (M-F)
- **Week 2:** December 10,11,12,13,14 (M-F)
- **Times:** 0700-1650 hrs. (minimum 8 hrs per day-possible OT)
- **Location:** South S.C. County, Hwy 152 @ Casa de Fruta
- **Type:** Confined Space Standby: Tunnels & pipelines (Vertical & Horizontal) High-Angle Rope Rescue
- **Project Scope:** Inspection & repair of existing water conveyance system (102" (approx) diameter pipe/tunnel)
- **Openings:** Confined space rescue tech, high-angle rope lead, and high-angle rope tech.

Interested individuals should contact:

Daniel J. O'Connell, B.Sc, CHST, REA
Principal Safety Engineer
SAFETRAN-CSRS, LLC
(510) 894-0229
daniel@safetransafety.com

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Mark your calendars for some quality fire service training events!

The **California Training Officers Symposium**, being held in Fresno, California – November 12 through 16, 2007! This is the annual training symposium, co-hosted by the **Northern California Fire Training Officers Association** and the **Southern California Fire Training Officers Associations**, both sections of the **California Fire Chiefs Association**.

As the current President of the Northern California Training Officers Association, as well as this year's Instructor Coordinator for the Symposium, I invite you out to Fresno this November, to receive some of the highest quality training, from some of the fire service's leading instructors and subject matter experts on a variety of fire related subjects. Registration should open up soon, within the month of August if everything goes according to plan.

To view the most-up-to-date registration information, go to www.calchiefs.org and click on the Training Officers Section link on the left side of the page, on the Cal Chiefs Association website. Many of these classes will fill up very quickly and have limited space.

Some of the classes still open include:

- Fire Management 1
- Fire Command 2A
- Driver/Operator 1B
- Low Angle Rope Rescue
- Auto Extrication
- S-230 (Crew Boss)
- S-339 (Division/Group Supervisor)
- S-215 (Fire Operations in the Urban Interface)
- Computer based fire service training related courses (PowerPoint – basic and advanced, etc.)
- Strategy and Tactics related courses
- Leadership related courses
- Training Officer related courses
- Company Officer preparation/development courses
- Chief Officer preparation/development courses
- Thermal Imaging Camera awareness training
- Air Aware (SCBA air management)
- Any much, much more!!

Register Online for the Fall Training Symposium

Go to: <http://register.calchiefs.org>

To download the flyer, if you want to mail or fax it in (slowest method to register), or pay by check, you can also download the registration flyer and course descriptions on the website above.

Hurry - register soon, classes and hotel rooms are filling up quickly!!!!

[For those wishing to pay by check:](#)

Symposium Course Descriptions with Hotel Information and Frequently Asked Questions
Along with the Mail-in Registration Form is available on the above website

For registration questions or problems, please email Symposium Staff at
cato@calchiefs.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.firecareers.com
- www.firerecruit.com

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

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:

RESCUE

ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

By T.J. Welch, Battalion Chief – Alameda County (CA) Fire Department

It's 2 A.M. and your 3 person engine company arrives at scene of a two story, wood frame, single family dwelling. There is fire showing from the first floor of the Alpha/Delta corner, and your next due engine is two minutes out. The question for you is, *do you go in or stay out?*

Since 1952 when Lloyd Layman outlined the basic divisions of fire tactics through RECEO, the fire service has placed Rescue as the top priority when conducting fire operations. However, for many departments that all changed in 1998, when Federal OSHA modified the Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR, 1910.134) to include structural firefighting. The Respiratory Standard is commonly known as the Two-in/Two-out Standard. This Standard together with an interpretation of the standard produced jointly by the IAFC/IAFF changed firefighting operations across the country.

So, did the new Respiratory Standard have an affect on the way your fire department establishes tactical priorities? If so, you're not alone. Many departments have taken the "R" out of RECEO, by developing policies based on inaccurate information. It's time we revisit the Respiratory Standard and see what it really says about two in/two out so we can put the "R" back in RECEO.

First, we need to establish who is required to have a two in/two out policy. If you're a municipal firefighter, the federal Standard may not apply to you unless you work in an OSHA state. The OSHA States that have a two in/two out provision include.

Alaska	Kentucky	North Carolina	Virginia
Arizona	Maryland	Oregon	Virgin Islands
California	Michigan	Puerto Rico	Washington
Connecticut	Minnesota	South Carolina	Wyoming
Hawaii	Nevada	Tennessee	
Indiana	New Mexico	Utah	
Iowa	New York	Vermont	

In addition, Florida, Illinois and Oklahoma have adopted State Law that references the Federal OSHA regulations. The federal OSHA Standard applies to all private sector firefighters, industrial fire brigades, and federal firefighters. Check with your own state as many have adopted similar two in/two out regulations.

Once a federal standard is adopted, OSHA state agencies have 6 months to adopt a plan that is as effective as the federal standard. Therefore, most state plans should be similar to the federal standard.

Since states are allowed to make their standard more but not less restrictive, it is important that you review your specific plan.

In 1998 OSHA added the following section, (g)(4), regarding Structural Firefighting in 29 CFR 1910.134.

Excerpt from Standard-

Procedures for interior structural firefighting. In addition to the requirements set forth under paragraph (g)(3), in interior structural fires, the employer shall ensure that:

1910.134(g)(4)(i)

At least two employees enter the IDLH atmosphere and remain in visual or voice contact with one another at all times;

1910.134(g)(4)(ii)

At least two employees are located outside the IDLH atmosphere; and

1910.134(g)(4)(iii)

All employees engaged in interior structural firefighting use SCBAs.

Note 1 to paragraph (g): One of the two individuals located outside the IDLH atmosphere may be assigned to an additional role, such as incident commander in charge of the emergency or safety officer, so long as this individual is able to perform assistance or rescue activities without jeopardizing the safety or health of any firefighter working at the incident.

Note 2 to paragraph (g): Nothing in this section is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled.

The Respiratory Standard relating to structural firefighting is pretty straight forward, but let's take a quick review.

- ❑ Buddy system-there has to be at least two members when entering an IDLH atmosphere and all interior members have to be in visual or voice contact at all times. Meaning, that radios are not acceptable for interior crews communicating with each other. The fire service has been practicing the buddy system for over 35 years. It shouldn't take a law for your department to understand the significance of working in pairs.
- ❑ 2 OUT-There has to be at least two members outside of the IDLH atmosphere. This is where *Note 1* comes in. It clarifies who the two members outside can be. It can be the IC, Safety Officer or other member as long as it does not put the members inside the IDLH atmosphere in jeopardy by leaving their assignment. This is open for debate, because some agencies use a very liberal interpretation. (Further explanation can be found in the OSHA Q & A document).

Note: Two out does not constitute a Rapid Intervention Crew. However, a Rapid Intervention Crew does meet the requirements for two out.

- ❑ SCBA-All members inside the IDLH atmosphere shall use a SCBA. Common sense should prevail here and full PPE should be worn.

The section that has probably been most inaccurately interpreted is in Note 2 to paragraph (g). Which states,

“Note 2 to paragraph (g): Nothing in this section is meant to preclude firefighters from performing emergency rescue activities before an entire team has assembled.”

So, where is the confusion? Soon after the federal Standard was adopted, a joint letter by the IAFF and IAFC was sent to fire agencies across the Nation, which attempted to interpret the Standard. The IAFF/IAFC interpretation states the following,

Does OSHA recognize any exceptions to this regulation?

*OSHA regulations recognize deviations to regulations in an emergency operation where immediate action is necessary to save a life. For fire department employers, initial attack operations must be organized to ensure that adequate personnel are at the emergency scene prior to any interior attack at a structural fire. If initial attack personnel find a **known** lifehazard situation where immediate action could prevent the loss of life, deviation from the two-in/two-out standard may be permitted, as an exception to the fire department’s organizational plan.*

*However, such deviations from the regulations must be **exceptions** and not defacto standard practices. In fact, OSHA may still issue “de minimis” citations for such deviations from the standard, meaning that the citation will not require monetary penalties or corrective action. The exception is for a known life rescue only, not for standard search and rescue activities. When the exception becomes the practice, OSHA citations are authorized. [29 CFR 1910.134(g)(4)(Note 2)]*

When comparing the federal Respiratory Protection Standard and the interpretation by the IAFC/IAFF, there are some marked differences. Especially, in regards to making entry for rescue prior to two-out being established. So, it’s no wonder that departments developing policy based on the IAFF/IAFC document have concluded that no one should enter an IDLH atmosphere prior to establishing two out, unless there is a quote “KNOWN” rescue. However, the term “KNOWN” rescue is not found in any documents published by federal OSHA.

In fact, a clarification of the Respiratory Standard by New Mexico OSHA in response to questions by Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico states “...it also does not prohibit firefighters from entering a burning structure to perform rescue operations when there is a reasonable belief that victims may be inside.” There is a big difference between “reasonable belief” and “known” rescue.

To cause further confusion, the IAFF/IAFC document uses the term “exception” in regards to Note 2, stating that when exception becomes practice, OSHA citations are authorized. Sounds serious, but this also is not supported in OSHA documentation. In the document, “Questions and Answers on The Respiratory Protection Standard” produced by OSHA in 1998, it is called an exemption. The document states the following,

Question: “Must firefighters wait until four workers are assembled before attempting to rescue victims inside the burning structure? Answer: “No. There is an explicit exemption in the respiratory protection standard that if life is in jeopardy, the two-in, two-out requirement is waived. The incident commander and the firefighters at scene must decide whether the risks posed by entering an interior structural fire prior to the assembly of at least four firefighters is outweighed by the need to rescue

victims who are at risk of death or serious harm. There is no violation of the standard under rescue circumstances.”

Read the material for yourself. There is a lot of documentation out there to wade through, but the last thing we need is enforcement agencies telling us how to take care of our own, or creating hard fast rules about saving the lives of others.

Decide for yourself, are you going In or staying Out?

References:

The Federal Standard, 29 CFR, 1910.134,

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=12716&p_table=STANDARDS

OSHA “Questions and Answers On The Respiratory Protection Standard”

<http://www.osha.gov/qna.pdf>

OSHA response to Senator Bingaman

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=22665

The IAFF/IAFC document

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/PDF/2in2out.pdf>

FIREFIGHTER RELATED SAFETY & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM:

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

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

Name: Adam Cole

Rank: Firefighter

Age: 24

Gender: Male

Status: Volunteer

Years of Service: 3

Date of Incident: 10/04/2007

Time of Incident: 1955 hours
Date of Death: 10/04/2007

Fire Department: Buchanan Valley Fire Department
Address: 1180 Buchanan Valley Rd., Ortanna, PA 17353
Telephone: 717-677-9234
Fire Department Chief: Michael Spielman

Incident Description: While responding to the station for an outdoor fire call, Firefighter Cole's privately owned vehicle crossed over the centerline while negotiating a curve and struck an oncoming vehicle. Firefighter Cole was transported to the Gettysburg Hospital, but did not survive the accident. Cole was reported by authorities to have not been wearing a seat belt. The operator of the second vehicle was not injured.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Adam Cole, C/o Buchanan Valley Fire Department, 1180 Buchanan Valley Rd., Ortanna, PA 17353

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

To date, 97 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Mike Reagan
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 19
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 2
Date of Incident: 09/26/2007
Time of Incident: 2306 hours
Date of Death: 09/29/2007

Fire Department: Sharon Hill Fire Company
Address: 230 Sharon Ave, Sharon Hill, PA 19079
Telephone: (610) 583-7302
Fire Department Chief: Bill Benecke

Incident Description: Firefighter Reagan passed away from injuries received while working at a residential structure fire. The fire, in a detached garage, was largely extinguished and firefighters were working to put out hot spots when the garage doors and a support beam collapsed on three of them. Firefighters and law enforcement personnel at the scene worked to free the three trapped firefighters, and afterwards, they were transported to the hospital. Two of the three injured firefighters were treated for burns and released from the hospital. Two police officers also suffered minor injuries. Firefighter Reagan suffered severe injuries,

his condition worsened over the following days, and on 09/29/2007 he passed away. The fire began when the homeowner was fixing a motorcycle and fuel spilled onto a burning citronella candle.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation on 10/04/2007, 1500-2000 hours with a memorial service to immediately follow at Aldan Union Church, 7 East Providence Road, Aldan, PA 19018. On Friday (10/05/2007), there will be a procession to the Media Cemetery, Kirk Lane, Media, PA (Grid: 18S VK 6627 2061). Further information regarding the staging and other arrangements may be found at <http://station09.com/reagan/funeral.php>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Mike Reagan, C/o Sharon Hill Fire Company, 230 Sharon Ave, Sharon Hill, PA 19079.

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

To date, 96 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

AND:

Name: Matthew Richard Will
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 30
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 4
Date of Incident: 10/09/2007
Time of Incident: 0855hrs
Date of Death: 10/09/2007

Fire Department: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Hollister Air Attack Base
Address: 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940-5385
Telephone: 831-333-2600
Fire Department Chief: Unit Chief George Haines

Incident Description: Firefighter Will, a heavy fire equipment operator assigned to the Hollister Air Attack Base in the San Benito Monterey Unit, was working the Colorado Fire in Monterey County when his bull dozer overturned. He was airlifted to the San Jose Regional Medical Center where he passed away from injuries sustained in the rollover.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending
Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 98 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2007 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2007.

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

Hey...

A Greene County Sheriff's Deputy was killed in a vehicle crash north of Springfield (MO) this morning. Deputy Gary D. McCormack was "running code" to an earlier car crash when he was hit by a pickup truck at an intersection. The pickup truck was being driven by Firefighter Joshua Douglas with the Ebenezer Fire Department, who was responding to the same call. Deputy McCormack, who leaves behind a wife, a 5 year old son, and a 1 year old daughter, was pronounced dead at the scene. Douglas was airlifted from the scene with serious injuries. It's the first time a Greene County deputy has been killed in the line of duty in 40 years. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-6-07 / 1528 hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a 24 year old Firefighter from Adams County, PA was killed this evening in a vehicle crash while responding on a fire call. The Firefighter from Biglerville was responding to a mutual aid mountain/wildland fire at 1955 hours. At around 1957 hours a crash occurred involving his vehicle and another resulting in the Line of Duty Death.

Details to follow. Here is the Fire Company website: www.buchananvalleyfd.org

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-4-07 / 2344 hours

AND

24 year old Firefighter Adam Cole of the Buchanan Valley VFD (Adams County, PA) was tragically killed in the Line of Duty last night while responding to the firehouse for a wildland fire call. Firefighter Cole's personal vehicle crossed over the centerline on a curve and struck an oncoming vehicle. Firefighter Cole was extricated and transported but did not survive the crash. FF Cole was reported as to have not been wearing his seat belt and his vehicle speed was a contributing factor. The civilian in the second vehicle was not seriously injured. The BVFC is planning a firefighter's funeral for Cole, a three-year firefighter who was recently accepted to train for the DCFD according to BVVFD sources.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SLOW DOWN. SEAT BELTS.....again.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-5-07 / 1226 hours

AND

Hey.... In California, 8 U.S. Forest Service Firefighters were injured when their vehicle rolled over this morning. 2 FF's suffered moderate injuries and 6 had minor injuries. The apparatus rolled 150 feet off the roadway down a steep and rocky mountainside. Several of the Firefighters were airlifted out. And in Missouri on Saturday night, a 3 car crash was caused due to fire hose laying in the middle of the highway. The hose fell off a Holts Summit fire apparatus while crews were responding to a fire. The Firefighters continued to the fire and were either unaware or unable to make it back to pick up the hose...and then the crash followed. They lost a 1200 feet of hose in the middle of the roadway. Some vehicles struck the hose, causing one of the vehicles to become disabled on the roadway. And while it was disabled on the roadway it was struck by 2 additional vehicles...and all 3 cars in the crash are total losses. Four people were transported, one with moderate and three with minor injuries.

And now....this weeks WTF ? ! AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAN FIRE SERVICE from NFFF Chairman of the Board Hal Bruno and Executive Director Ron Siarnicki: In just a couple of days, our nation will once again pay its respects to the fire Service community at the 26th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland. During this event, we will embrace the families of those men and women who bravely gave their lives in the line-of duty in service to their communities. The weekend events are filled with our most honored traditions as we memorialize those who have been lost, and help those who have been left behind. We have been informed that on Sunday, October 7, a religious group plans to hold a demonstration in conjunction with the service. Based on their past history, they are likely to be carrying signs and shouting slogans that are repugnant and hurtful to the families, firefighters, and others attending our solemn ceremony. Regardless, under the law, they have a right to peaceful protest and to be protected from harm.

On advice from law enforcement authorities, we have established a "demonstration area" where they will be allowed to exercise their rights without interfering in our program or other activities. We, therefore, ask all members of the fire-rescue service to stay away from the demonstration area and not become involved in any way with this group, no matter what the provocation may be. Various police agencies assisted by our own chief officers-will be on hand to control the situation and prevent any confrontation between firefighters and demonstrators.

As always, we welcome all of you to Emmitsburg to take part in the traditional ceremony that honors the memory of our fallen firefighters and provides comfort and support for their families and comrades. On that glorious morning, let us show the strength and commitment which defines an American firefighter with an epic gathering of our own. We are confident that all of you will conduct yourselves in a manner that displays the dignity, discipline and courage of who we are. Thanks to Hal and Ron's leadership on this for putting it in

perspective. We are going to the NFFF Memorial Weekend to honor Firefighters who gave their lives-and the family and friends left behind. That's it. That's the only reason.

Details here: <http://www.firehero.org/index1.aspx?BD=29081>

And for those who cannot physically make it to the NFFF Memorial this weekend..... The events from Emmitsburg, Maryland this weekend will also be streamed live on the web. This is being made possible by a partnership between Firehouse.com and Statter911. Here is the link: <http://www.firehouse.com/memorial2007/>

AND..... The USFA will broadcast the Luminary Services (1745-2100 hours) and Memorial Services (1000-1230 hours-all Eastern) this weekend, live via the Internet. Any Firefighter with Internet access, iPHONE, Blackberry, or TREOS will be able to view them live, as they happen. FD's should advise their local media about the broadcast as well. Either from the web or satellite (this is public domain and free) local media should be encouraged by local Firefighters to copy what they want and to also do local stories featuring local FD safety/survival efforts. Here is the website for the broadcasts: www.ibm.com/PREPnet/Fallen-FireFighters

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 10-1-07 / 1955 hours

AND

We have been advised that a French Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty last night (Wednesday October 10th) while operating at a store fire after becoming disoriented and running out of air. It was about 2030 hours when Bailleul Volunteer Engine Company of Nord County FD (in France) was dispatched to a store fire in the center of town. The crew forced entry and 2 members got into the store with a hand line. Reports are that Sub Officer Daniel Hosdez fell down for some reason, and when that happened, his partner, Cpl. Arnaud Lagache exited the building to request extra help. When he came back with other Firefighters, Daniel could not be located. It appears that he got up, got disorientated and was later found in the back of the store with his SCBA empty. Fire Officer Hosdez was 35 years old, 19 years veteran, father of 3 kids (5 , 3 and 1 month old). His partner, Fire Officer Lagache was burned on about 15% of his body and was transported to the hospital. As always, our sincere condolences to all effected, especially the family of Fire Officer Daniel Hosdez and the members of the Nord County FD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 10-11-07 / 2310 hours

AND

A California Firefighter died in the Line of Duty today from injuries sustained while battling the Colorado Fire in Monterey County. Matthew Richard Will, a heavy fire equipment operator, was injured Monday when the bulldozer he was operating overturned and died this morning.

He was a member of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and was with the agency since May 2003 as a heavy equipment operator, but recently graduated from the department's fire academy. He is survived by his wife, Diana Will; son Trysten, 10; and daughter Elsie, 8. As always, our deepest condolences.

And in New Jersey, local officials announced the suspension of Dumont Fire Chief Jason Dalton yesterday as the state's Fire Safety Division investigates a training exercise that went very wrong in September.

5 Firefighters (2 in their teens) had to be hospitalized after an training exercise at residence that was later demolished. Instead of using their smoke ! machine, they used smoke bombs....and the 5 Firefighters were hurt because they were exposed to that smoke and weren't wearing SCBA's. WTF !?!

The borough is considering whether it should conduct its own investigation and expects to make that determination this week but criminal charges have not been sought.

The Dumont Firefighters don't normally conduct practice drills in borough residences and they usually don't use smoke devices but the house was to be destroyed, and the borough's smoke machine was not working...so they used smoke bombs. The instructions that accompany the devices warn users to wear respirators when using. FF's chose not to and these FF's were under supervision. Here is info on the smoke devices:

<http://www.superiorsignal.com/superior018.htm>

Additionally, it is unclear whether the teenagers should have been allowed participated in the exercise....but their parents and their attorneys may be able to clarify that. Having this happen is probably not the best way to verify what roles teen age FF's should and are allowed to play...a better way might be to determine that BEFORE we put them in these conditions and get them hurt. Or follow smoke bomb instructions. Or follow NFPA 1403 without exception. Just a thought. Another example of :Everything is fine until something goes wrong....NTS strikes again.

And in Ohio,2 fraternity houses and a residence hall at Bowling Green State University were evacuated yesterday after a fire truck accidentally ran into a mechanical room at the rear of Rodgers Hall and ruptured a natural gas line.

Firefighters were called to the Phi Kappa Tau house about 1330 on a report of a kitchen fire. The pumper was parked outside the building when a malfunction caused the truck to drive into the building.

The operator was on the truck in the back at the time but was not hurt. No one else was injured either. The pumper sustained significant damage.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-9-! 07 / 2256 hours

AND

Hey...

A Lexington Fire Officer is being treated at UK Hospital after he was badly burned during a two-alarm fire in Lexington Monday night. The fire came in around 2100 hours and two teenagers were home at the time, but neither suffered injuries. The fire was in a recently built home and the Lieutenant was a member of a search team that was looking for the 2 teenagers who were possibly in the house.

Lieutenant Richard Carlin, a 12-year member of the Lexington-Fayette Division of Fire & Emergency Services, was taken to the University of Kentucky Hospital with serious burn injuries.

Additional details to follow.

ALSO: We (along with 7,000 other Firefighters and Firefighter families) just returned from the 26th annual National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, MD. While the weekend was 100% focused on supporting the families of the Firefighters who were killed in the line of duty last year, we would be remiss if we didn't point out the fact that the President came to the memorial and stayed from start to end. While most any of us are at no shortage for opinions and thoughts to the President, set that aside for a moment understand that it was a significant decision and very symbolic for him to attend. He is the only President of the United States to ever attend the National Fallen Firefighters memorial service. From my very narrow world, focused on the fire service, his attendance not only meant a great deal for the fire service, but especially for the families at the memorial. He spoke personally and met with every single family that was there. We don't not all agree on the decisions he has made as our President, but for the families who lost loved ones in 2006, he did the right thing and made a difference by simply being there. He could have stayed away-but he didn't. He could have made a political speech-but it wasn't. He could have ignored one of the hottest issues in the fire service today-the embarrassing and horrific handling of Firefighter LODD heart attacks by DOJ, but he didn't. He publicly committed to fixing the Hometown Heroes fiasco. He stated "I want to tell you today that the Hometown Heroes Act will be fully implemented....this program will be administrated the way it was intended to be administrated....that's the least we can do as we honor the families of those who have died in the line of service."

We absolutely appreciate the President attending the memorial-it means great deal. And we even more look forward to the President following up with his promise. You can read his presentation word for word to those at the memorial at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071007.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-10-07 / 0909 hours

AND

Hey...

A Volunteer Firefighter in Ontario (Canada) has been charged with dangerous driving and criminal negligence causing death after he struck and killed a civilian with his car on Sept. 2. FF Justin Szucz, a 23-year-old, has been charged with dangerous driving and criminal

negligence causing death after he struck and killed Thomas Walker with his car on Sept. 2, 2007.

FF Szucz was responding to the scene of a single car crash near Walker's home. Walker was already on scene offering help to a 19-year-old hurt in the crash. As Walker's wife watched, FF Szucz's car came over a hill and hit Walker, tossing him into the air....he died shortly after that.

For two New Dundee families who live nearby each other, the past month has been a nightmare.

FF Szucz has been "cut deep" by the accident, according to his father Dave Szucz -- taking counseling and a leave of absence from firefighting. And for Linda Barton, Walker's widow, there was no joy in learning about the charges.

Today, FF Szucz and his Father will meet with a lawyer, a new and unfamiliar situation...."You wouldn't want a better kid than that in your life, and something like that happens to a kid going to help," Dave Szucz said of his child. "It's just sad for both parties."

At the Wilmot Township fire hall, the members are struggling to understand "the day you wished you'd never seen happen," Chief John Ritz said. "We've never had anything like this happen in our history. We're normally the people who are fixing problems . . . (we're not used to) getting into this kind of situation. The full reason for the fire department's existence is to help people." In his 22 months as a volunteer, Szucz had a flawless record, the chief said.

Volunteer firefighters in Ontario are not legally allowed to exceed the speed limit when responding to an emergency. While there are far more crashes involving apparatus and FD owned vehicles, here are some links worthy of checking for any kind of response situation.

www.ResponderSafety.com
www.EmergencyVehicleResponse.com
www.DriveToSurvive.org
www.IAFCSafety.org

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 10-10-07 / 1105 hours

A story for all of us in the fire service to read and bring back memories: the time we were taking a fire department entrance examination. For those of you wanting to become firefighters, an inspirational article to keep you fired up about getting the badge. The ironic thing is they only had 14 candidates applying for the positions. I don't think I ever took a test with that few candidates. The job opportunities are out there – how far are you willing to go to get one?

For the full story, go to:
<http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2007/09/30/news/local/local5.txt>

And a related story from the Phoenix area, where the recruits in the academy actually get to respond to calls as part of their training. What a concept! Actually getting them some real experience to couple with the book knowledge, to ensure they are more prepared when they reach the floor.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/westvalley/articles/0928gl-nwvtraining0929.html>

In St. Louis, Missouri, the Fire Chief was recently demoted for not making promotions. However, his replacement didn't waste any time making those promotions. If you don't want to do the job you're directed to do, there is always someone else willing to do it instead.

For the full story, go to:
<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/59D3FE0BBA054E7A86257368000F56BB?OpenDocument>

And a related story:
<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/879A61DFAE27451F862573670056EB73?OpenDocument>

And another related story regarding his demotion to Deputy Chief and then his notice of retirement:
<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/4C6C7CA4B6E86FDE86257372000A0EB9?OpenDocument>

New York volunteer fire companies are struggling with drinking alcohol and then performing fire related activities. Yes, this story is from October 2007, and these activities are still occurring nationwide. Another great story to improve our public relations and how outsiders view the fire service.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/ny-lifire1001%2C0%2C53834.story?>

The District of Columbia Fire Department (D.C.F.D.) recently had a close call (meaning they almost had some line-of-duty-deaths) at a fire.

For the full story and some raw video, go to:
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2007/10/close-call-during-early-stages-of-dc-4.html>

And another story about the D.C.F.D. and the strained relationship between Fire and EMS workers (sad to say, but stories like these are more common than we think around the U.S.).

Go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/312827/>

More stories about fire departments considering merging / consolidating; a sign of the times, and something that will typically increase firefighter safety and provide a more efficient service to the community.

Go to: <http://www.yakimaherald.com/page/dis/289945228504723>

A Clark County (Nevada – the department that covers the Las Vegas Strip) was recently arrested on drug related charges. He is accused of breaking into fire stations and of stealing Morphine and Valium from fire department units. Yes, this stuff still happens and folks wonder why we have to secure these controlled substances?

For the full story, go to: http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7154314&nav=menu102_1

And a related story: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/14260466/detail.html>

And a related story of how the F.D. has tightened up their security procedures: <http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7172256>

And yet another related story, and the discussion of random drug testing: <http://www.klas-tv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7196806&nav=168XDWn7>

A story of a Fire Chief from Washington that has voluntarily resigned to help save the department money, and prevent further personnel cuts. How many other fire service personnel would do the same thing in a time of need? I guess a situation like that brings out the best or the worst in people, depending on who they are and their current situation.

For the full story - go to: http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2007/10/02/local_news/11news.txt

From South Carolina comes video and news about a fire truck involved in an accident on the way to a call, injuring three firefighters and one civilian. Regardless of who was at fault, it happened and people were injured. Be careful out there folks, and even more

careful when going code 3 (lights and siren). Going code 3 does not guarantee the right-of-way; it only asks for the right-of-way.

For the full story, go to:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Man-Critical-After-Crash-with-South-Carolina-Ladder-Truck/46\\$56704](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Man-Critical-After-Crash-with-South-Carolina-Ladder-Truck/46$56704)

Here is a close-call (near-miss, near fatality, whatever you want to call it) from Oregon. While attempting to extinguish a car fire, a strut from a car that had exploded during a fire, injuring a firefighter. This firefighter was lucky, and could have been more seriously injured or killed. While fighting car fires, we are trained to approach vehicles from a 45 degree angle to the corner of the bumpers, and not be directly facing any of the four sides of a vehicle, to prepare for situations like this. I've had this happen to me and my crew during a car fire, but luckily we had followed our training and approached the car from a 45 degree angle.

For the full story, go

to: <http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071004/NEWS/710040345>

More from Charleston, South Carolina: yes, it may seem reactive in some ways, but at least it's occurring. Senior fire officers of the Charleston Fire Department were recently in Maryland training on how to improve their incident command skills. Yes, it had been nice had they done this extensive training prior to the tragic events of June 18, 2007 – but how many fire departments are that proactive to begin with? I hate to say it, but I bet this could have happened in more departments than just Charleston.

Every company officer and chief officer at every department nationwide is always on the brink of a potential tragedy while they are on duty, and while they are the “designated adult” (the one in charge). Knowing this, it is our responsibility to be as proactive as we can with our own personal training and our staff and personnel training and development. Just because you took an ICS class three years ago, it doesn't mean you're an expert or up-to-date. What have you done since then?

For the full story, go to:

[http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/Charleston-Chief--Officers-Train-in-Maryland/56\\$56642](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/Charleston-SC-Tragedy/Charleston-Chief--Officers-Train-in-Maryland/56$56642)

Four Columbia College Fire Department members from California plead not guilty to hazing. They must have been absent or sleeping during the harassment training session? We've already seen what hazing has done to the Los Angeles Fire Department, as well as other fire departments across the nation on numerous occasions. The key is when will we learn it is unacceptable?

For the full story, go to: http://www.uniondemocrat.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=24587

Speaking of the LAFD, here is a related story relating to harassment to learn from:
http://www.dailynews.com/ci_7066867?source=most_emailed

Below you will find some great firefighter safety related tips and news items, courtesy of my good friend Brian Humphrey of the L.A.F.D.:

Dear Friend of the LAFD:

Periodically, we share a digest of *non-incident* articles from the Los Angeles Fire Department blog. We welcome you to click the links below. But first...

~SAVE THESE DATES~

- Saturday, October 13 in Hollywood, '2007 Los Angeles Firefighters Memorial Service':

<http://snipurl.com/1rxnq>

- Saturday, October 27 citywide, 'LAFD Cancer Awareness and Prevention Events':

<http://snipurl.com/1rxnu>

Recently on the LAFD Blog...

- This is Fire Prevention Week:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxo3>

- The Facts About Fire:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxo8>

- The Busiest Fire Stations in Los Angeles:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxp8>

- America's Proudest - LAFD Station 9:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxp3>

- Video - Help! Fire!

<http://snipurl.com/1rxws>

- LAFD 'Cool Kid' Joe Montoya:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxpc>

- Help Firefighters Prevent Backovers:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxwm>

- We Can't Predict, But We Can...

<http://snipurl.com/1rxpd>

- Firefighters Cool Off Troops

<http://snipurl.com/1rxsz>

- Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Tips:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxw3>

- Clarence Darrow & The Bombing of the LA Times:

<http://snipurl.com/1rxwh>

If you know someone who would like to join (or leave) our e-mail list, simply have them visit:

<http://lafd.org/info.htm>

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist
Public Service Officer
Los Angeles Fire Department

LAFD Home Page: <http://lafd.org>

LAFD News Blog: <http://lafd.org/blog>

Another example of “you get what you pay for.” Some folks don’t realize how expensive (primarily because of salaries and benefits, which typically make up about 90% of a fire department’s budget) it is to have a paid fire department. When you live in the middle of nowhere, or your area does not provide anything to speak of in the way of revenues (property taxes, sales taxes, etc.), how can you expect a fire department to have a paid staff able to do anything worthwhile? You can’t. Many fire departments nationwide are also struggling with this issue, trying to provide an adequate level of service when the funding just isn’t there, and may never be there.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2007/10/04/news/doc47047dd39d375736559486.txt>

A story from Fresno, California, where a council person may get recalled if a fire station is relocated. Some communities are struggling to find a location to put a new fire station, and some are struggling with keeping them open, especially in the same location. We’re darned if we do, and we’re darned if we don’t.

For the full story, go to: http://www.dailynews.com/ci_7066867?source=most_email

If you're working for a fire department you think is less than perfect, after you read about this Arizona department, you'll probably think more highly of your own situation. Just when you thought you heard it all, something else comes along.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.explorernews.com/article/show/20137>

And another related story:

<http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=7177416&nav=14RTYTLb>

The only benefit for the employees of this department is they may end up merging with another local department.

For the full story, go to: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/northwest/204214>

Oh, the tangled webs we weave..... A story from Seattle, Washington, where a city council person is being faced with unethical behavior against the fire department.

For the full story, go to:

http://www.seattleweekly.com/news/blogs/dailyweekly/2007/10/firefighterspolice_file_ethics.php

A New Jersey Chief Officer is suspended after five firefighters were injured during a training exercise. I guess he is lucky they were not killed, but has obviously not learned from the similar mistakes that have occurred over the years during training drills.

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=56692§ionId=46>

A number of Sacramento, California Firefighters are under scrutiny for getting college degrees from "diploma mills." This is very similar to what happened in New York a while ago, and in other areas around the Country. Before you commit to a "college" degree, make sure you fully investigate what you're paying for. Maybe the red flags should pop up when you don't have to attend any classes and just pay your money.....

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/training/articles/312792/>

The saga in Vallejo, California continues. Even after the arbitrator ruled in the favor of the firefighters union, now an article arises saying the labor board is stating the firefighters are in the wrong.

For the full story, go to: http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_7147854

From Riverside County, California, an article demonstrating how a fire department is using technology to aid in response times. What amazes me is why more fire departments are not using similar technology to make them more efficient. Yes, it is costly, but like anything else, that's why we have budgets – to plan for the future. Plus, with all the grant funding available, items like this are more reachable and easier to obtain.

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071011/NEWS08/710110312/1141/yourtown06>

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www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College web site:

www.chabotcollege.edu

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

The Fine Print:

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.

- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at sprziborowski@aol.com and in the subject heading, and type in “unsubscribe from mailing list” and I will remove your name.
- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – sprziborowski@aol.com to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.