



FIRE & EMS NEWS

December 24, 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.

- ***First of all, we want to take the time to wish you and your family HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!***
- ***May all of you have a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year!***

THE FIREFIGHTER'S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

To start out with some holiday spirit, I want to share a poem that was provided to be me by a good friend of mine, Lieutenant Mike Daley with the Monroe Township #3 Fire District in New Jersey – www.fspceducators.com

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the station,
The overhead speaker echoed out a location.

The Bravest came running from far and from near,
And raced to the rig, quickly donning their gear.

And I in my bunkers, my coat and my boots,
Clicked onto the CAD to map out the route.

Down at the corner of Hancock and Polk,
The dispatcher reported a house filled with smoke.

We arrived on location to the reported address,
And I did my 360 to size-up and assess.

Smoke poured from the windows, from top floor on down,
Yet up on the roof there was none to be found.

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I established command and gave out the orders,
Ladder 8 took the roof, Engine 5 grabbed the water.

So up to the rooftop Ladder 8 raised a ladder,
And climbed to the top to check out the matter.

I came to the chimney and what did I see,
But a fellow in red stuck deep past his knees.

Well, we tugged and we pulled until he came out,
Then he winked with one eye, and said with a shout:

"These newfangled chimneys, they make them too small;
For a fellow as I, not skinny at all."

And with a twitch of his nose he dashed to his sleigh,
and called to his reindeer, "AWAY now, AWAY."

As we backed into quarters, he flew out of sight,
Saying "**God Bless our Firefighters**", and to all a **SAFE night!**

CHABOT COLLEGE 2012 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 next semester!
- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

SPRING 2012 Semester: (January through May 2012)

Registration for the Spring 2012 semester at Chabot College has begun, classes are filling up and some are already full!

Presently, the following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Spring:

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1155 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2155 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Thursday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule is available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 7, 9, and 11 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - May 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 24, 26, 28 and 29	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 17, 19, 21 and 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 3, 5, 7	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - January 18, February 25, March 29, April 25, May 23	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1300 – 1650 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – TBA)	0830 – 1620 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 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 OPPORTUNITIES:

TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET

REGISTER FOR SPRING 2012 CLASSES, NOW! *State Budget Cuts = Less Fire Classes*

OPEN REGISTRATION STARTS DECEMBER 3rd
Register Early, Classes are Expected to Fill Fast.

Fire Technology Classes: These classes are completely on-line

- **Core Classes (Required)**

- ✓ Fire Protection Organization
- ✓ Fire Prevention Technology
- ✓ Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- ✓ Building Construction for Fire Protection
- ✓ Fire Behavior & Combustion
- ✓ Principles of Fire & Emergency Services Safety & Survival

- **Electives**

- ✓ Fire Hydraulics
- ✓ Apparatus & Equipment
- ✓ Wildland Fire Operations
- ✓ Wildland Fire PIO, Prevention, Investigation
- ✓ Wildland Planning, Logistics & Finance
- ✓ Principles of Emergency Management
- ✓ Emergency Response to Terrorism
- ✓ EMT 1 Basic Refresher
- ✓ Fire Company Organization & Procedure (Not a CFSTES Class)

CFSTES Fire Officer Classes: Except for Fire Prevention 1A & 1B, the CFSTES Fire Officer classes are offered in a Hybrid (On-Line/In-Class) fashion requiring students to attend an in-class session in Santa Maria, CA.

- Fire Command 1A: Command Principles For Company Officer
- Fire Command 1B: Incident Management For Company Officers **Pre-Requirement: Command 1A**
- Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Firefighting for Company Officers-**Pre-Requisites: I-200, Command 1A**
- Fire Management 1: Management" Supervision for Company Officers
- **Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 1- Entirely On-line**
- **Fire Prevention 1B: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 2- Entirely On-line**
- Training Instructor 1A: Cognitive Lesson Delivery
- Training Instructor 1B: Psychomotor Lesson Delivery-**Pre-Requirement: Training Instructor 1A**

General Education classes are also offered on-line.

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

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Entry Level Firefighter's Workshop!!!

Where: Las Positas College - "Mertes Center For The Arts" (Livermore, CA)
Date: Sunday February 26, 2012
Cost: \$12 (Lunch & Certificate included)

Keynote Speaker:

- **Paul Lepore** – *Division Chief, Redondo Beach Fire Department*

Topics will include:

- Being the Ideal Candidate
- Chiefs Interviews
- Applications & Resumes
- Education
- How to Maximize Technology
- Physical Fitness
- Preparation for the Job
- Diversity
- Changing Paradigms
- Discipline & Accountability

Reservations are required by February 12, 2012

Register at: www.pstgonline.com
Contact (if more info is needed): Atlas@pstgonline.com

Selected participants will receive a practice interview given by Certified Oral Board Raters

Bring your resume!!

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

2012 FDNY Symposium

The FDNY Foundation invites you to join them at the FDNY Training Academy for our Fourth Annual Symposium being held on March 15 & 16, 2012. For an overview of the topics, go to: <http://www.fdnymuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/flyer-symposium-2012.jpg>

We listened to the responses from the past Symposium attendees and have focused on new case studies which provide in-depth examples of how the FDNY operates at multiple alarm fires and emergencies. As past attendees know, the Lecturers who experienced these fires/emergencies are upfront about what worked and what didn't in order to create an educational event with relevant, real world situations that Fire Departments across the country and around the world are confronting on a daily basis. Past attendee's comments attest to this: *"Best Conference ever. Speakers were fabulous."* *"Outstanding. Very very, useful information."* *"My first time and it was a fantastic experience."* *"Totally rewarding, looking forward to another meeting."*

A "Reference Manual" will be given to all Attendees describing the official FDNY procedures for all related subjects presented during the Symposium. This Manual allows the Attendee to share the experience with members of their Fire Department by exploring in detail the strategies and tactics described at this event. Continental Breakfast, Lunch and Coffee/Refreshment stations will be available during each day of the Symposium. A tour the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island is offered at the end of each days lectures. On site there will be a select, limited group of Exhibitors, with the latest products and equipment related to Firefighting and EMS operations. FDNY Symposiums in the past have sold out early. Please insure your reservations for this event by taking advantage of our early registration, reduced tuition price. View the FDNY Foundations web page for the Symposium schedule and further information on how to register; www.fdnysymposium.com

We look forward once again to sharing our knowledge and meeting with the leaders of the Fire Service and Building Professionals from across the country and around the world.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Looking to increase your fire service knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) or obtain some initial or continuing education?
- Check out some of the various fire service & EMS training conferences and seminars around the United States:

International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services – St. George, UT – January 13 and 14, 2012 - Go to www.uvu.edu/ufra/training/winterfireschool.html for more information.

International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services – Tampa, FL - February 8 through 10, 2012 - Go to www.i-women.org for more information.

Firehouse World – San Diego, CA - February 19 through 23, 2012
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Fire Service Leadership Conference – Seaside, CA – March 11 through 14, 2012
Go to www.fireserviceleadership.org for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – April 16 through 21, 2012 - Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD - July 17 through 21, 2012
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – Denver, CO - August 1 through 4, 2012
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

Fire Shows Reno – Reno, NV - October 23 through 25, 2012
Go to www.fireshowsreno.com for more information.

Firehouse Central – New Orleans, LA - October 29 through November 2, 2012
Go to www.firehousecentral.com for more information.

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – Fresno, CA - November 12 through 16, 2012 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information

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



Candle Fire Safety

With the holidays fast approaching and the increased usage of seasonal decorations, it is important to focus on candle fire safety and prevention. Because **the majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence**, candle fires and their associated casualties are preventable.

- Avoid using lighted candles. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- If you must use candles, ensure that they are placed in sturdy holders.

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- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles away from children and pets.
- Never leave burning candles unattended!

By following a few candle fire safety tips, everyone can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. Candle Fire Safety Action Steps » <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/candles.shtm>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE:

CAL FIRE, (formerly known as **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or CDF**) is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 31, 2012** for the 2012 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CAL FIRE Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see below for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

To view more information about Seasonal Firefighter Hiring process and positions, go to: http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

There are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

What you can expect working as a firefighter for CAL FIRE:

A firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 72-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

Because CAL FIRE is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment. In addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

There is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CAL

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FIRE personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

The hiring process:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid-March you should receive a letter indicating whether you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of your score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

Typically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid-May you should have received a letter indicating whether or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

The presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CAL FIRE 67 hour Certification. What generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CAL FIRE and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

CAL FIRE is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment. You will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents. Just like anything else you can get out of CAL FIRE what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step.

NORTHERN REGION

File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111

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- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353
- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418
- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

SOUTHERN REGION

Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below.
Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **Fresno-Kings Unit**, 210 S. Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657, (559) 485-7500
- **Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**, 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-3622
- **Riverside Unit**, 210 W. San Jacinto, Perris, CA 92570, (909) 940-6900
- **San Benito-Monterey Unit**, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940-5385, (831) 647-6208
- **San Bernardino Unit**, 3800 Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92405, (909) 881-6900
- **San Diego Unit**, 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019, (619) 590-3100
- **San Luis Obispo Unit**, 635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 543-4244
- **Tulare Unit**, 1968 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 732-5954
- **Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**, 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-3831

To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CAL FIRE Careers website at:
www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

For more information about CAL FIRE and their extensive operations throughout the State of California, visit their website at: www.fire.ca.gov

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:


- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position.

NOTE: A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

For additional information, contact:

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801
Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:



www.EveryoneGoesHome.com

EVERYONE GOES HOME®

FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY INITIATIVES

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Launches New Website for Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) launched a new website today dedicated to academic and strategic information and research that directly supports the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives.

The new site, www.lifesafetyinitiatives.com, provides the most recent and accurate resources about fire safety research initiatives.

This virtual library includes bibliographic materials which had been stored and maintained on the Everyone Goes Home® website. These materials will be updated as new information becomes available. The Special Topics section will feature emerging issues that will be beneficial to fire service researchers, writers and others with a particular interest in fire safety.

"This website is another step by the Foundation to advance the Life Safety Initiatives, reach a broader audience within the fire service, and help reduce the number of firefighters who die in the line of duty each year," said Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. Input from researchers is also encouraged to ensure the information is timely and accurate. Articles, conference summaries or minutes, and other materials can be submitted for consideration.


"Anyone who conducts research about fire service and related safety issues will find this new source to be invaluable and should use it as their starting point for their own studies and endeavors," said JoEllen Kelly, PhD, coordinator of the Foundation's Everyone Goes Home® programs. "We are confident that this site will soon become the trusted place for fire service researchers."

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives were developed in 2004 during the Firefighter Life Safety Summit. The NFFF is committed to advancing the initiatives by developing and offering a variety of safety education programs for firefighters. The Foundation will continue to provide tactical level information and training opportunities through the EveryoneGoesHome.com site.


To submit materials for consideration or to comment on the site, please contact Dr. Kelly at jkelly@everyonegoeshome.com

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com


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



Homeland Security



Fireman's Fund™
Insurance Company
A company of Allianz

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:

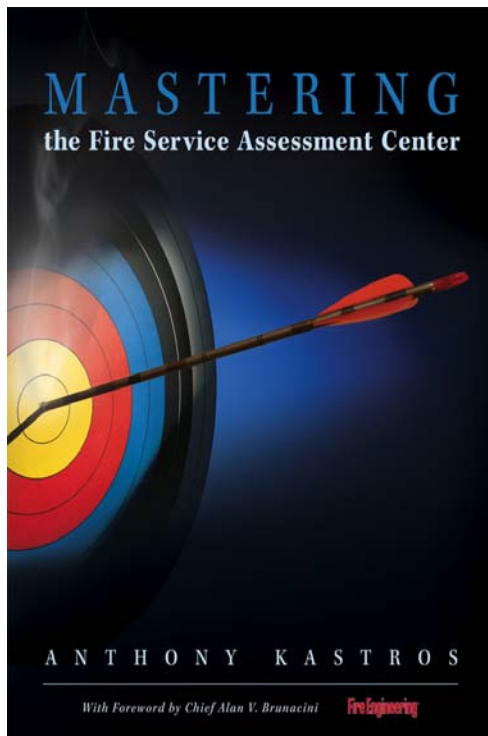


MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

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



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

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

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

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Anthony Kastros is a 24-year veteran of the fire service. He is a Battalion Chief with the Sacramento (CA) Metro Fire District. He is author of the Fire Engineering DVD series "Mastering Fireground Command - Calm the Chaos!" and author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center", that focuses on strategy, tactics, leadership and management. Chief Kastros is an FDIC instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. He spent 4 seasons on a Type 1 incident management team, and 10 years as a FEMA USAR Task Force Manager, deploying to New York on 9/11. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and is currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

JANUARY 24 THROUGH 27, 2012 – LAS VEGAS, NV - \$595.00*

FEBRUARY 14 THROUGH 17, 2012 – GIG HARBOR, WA - \$595.00*

MARCH 12 THROUGH 15, 2012 – EL DORADO HILLS, CA - \$595.00*

**GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **MESA (AZ) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of Firefighter Rectui beginning Sunday January 8, 2012 at 12:01 a.m., Arizona Time and will close after 1200 applications are received or Thursday January 12, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Arizona Time – whichever comes first.

Here is the information obtained from the website at time of publication, verify for yourself as it may have been updated since then:

Firefighter – Recruit 2012, Updated 11/10/11, 3:40 p.m.

Recruitment Dates

- Opens Sunday, January 8, 2012, 12:01 a.m., Arizona Time
- Closes Thursday, January 12, 2012, 4:00 p.m., Arizona Time OR After 1200 Applications

Applications will be available and accepted only on-line @ <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mesaz/default.cfm>.

Qualifications to be Eligible and Invited to the Written Exam

- Minimum Age 18.
- High School Diploma or GED.
- CPR Professional level certification by the end of the Intern Academy, which must be kept current.
- Current EMT or Paramedic certification at the time of application OR currently in an EMT certification program; EMT certification must be kept current.
- You must attach official documentation to your on-line application of either your current EMT or Paramedic certification OR official documentation to confirm that you are currently in an EMT

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

certification program. If you do not attach the required documentation to your on-line application, you will NOT be eligible and invited to test.

Note: State of Arizona EMT or Paramedic certification will be required before invitation to the Intern Academy and must be kept current thereafter. For State of Arizona EMT or Paramedic certification information, see the Arizona Department of Health Services website at [http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/faq1.htm#EMT Certification - 10](http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/faq1.htm#EMT_Certification).

For more information about the City of Mesa as well as the Fire Department and the recruitment process, go to: <http://mesaaz.gov/>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

FIRE COMMAND 2A

Command Tactics at Major Fires

January 23 - 27, 2012

0830 to 1730 hours

Class Location: McCormack Training Center
485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

Cost: \$295.00 (includes State Certification/Course Manual fees)

Prerequisites: Fire Command 1A; I-300

Description: This course prepares the officer to use management techniques and the Incident Command System when commanding multiple alarms or large suppression forces.

Registration Deadline: Monday January 9 at 1500 hours.

This class is subject to cancellation in the event of low attendance by the deadline. If the minimum number of students is reached by that deadline, then we will accept additional registrations until we reach our maximum. Maximum class size is 30 students please register early!

More Info: Contact Stephanie Morrison at 408-341-4410 or stephanie.morrison@cnt.sccgov.org

Community College credits will be available. To register, use the form below:

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Command 2A

January 23 - 27, 2012

Name: _____
Rank: _____
Department: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

For this class, the only form of payment will be checks.

Please make your check payable to: The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

Please mail or deliver your check to:

Santa Clara County Fire Department
Attention: Stephanie Morrison
14700 Winchester Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

Cancellation Policy:

To request a refund, students must contact Stephanie Morrison. Full refunds will be provided if requested by January 9, 2012 at 1500 hours. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future Level 2 course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

FIRE COMMAND 2C
High-Rise Firefighting Tactics

March 12 - 16, 2012
0830 to 1730 hours

Class Location: McCormack Training Center
485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

Cost: \$295.00 (includes State Certification/Course Manual fees)

Prerequisites: Fire Command 2A; I-300

Description: This course prepares the officer to use management techniques and the Incident Command System when commanding multiple alarms or large suppression forces.

Registration Deadline: Monday February 27 at 1500 hours.

This class is subject to cancellation in the event of low attendance by the deadline. If the minimum number of students is reached by that deadline, then we will accept additional registrations until we reach our maximum. Maximum class size is 30 students please register early!

More Info: Contact Stephanie Morrison at 408-341-4410 or stephanie.morrison@cnt.sccgov.org

Community College credits will be available.
To register, use the form below:

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Command 2C

March 12 -16, 2012

Name: _____
Rank: _____
Department: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

For this class, the only form of payment will be checks.

Please make your check payable to: The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

Please mail or deliver your check to:

Santa Clara County Fire Department
Attention: Stephanie Morrison
14700 Winchester Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

Cancellation Policy:

To request a refund, students must contact Stephanie Morrison. Full refunds will be provided if requested by February 27, 2012 at 1500 hours. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future Level 2 course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Fire Command 1B:** January 9 through 13, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Command 2A:** January 30 through February 2, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** January 30 through February 2, 2012 (*Class in Campbell, 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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

**ELITE COMMAND TRAINING
PRESENTS
COMMAND & CONTROL SIMULATIONS
"PROMOTIONAL READINESS"**



HOSTED AT:

**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF TRAINING
2310 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110**



INSTRUCTED BY:

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

**FIRE COMMAND 2A · COMMAND TACTICS AT MAJOR FIRES
JANUARY 17 · 20, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2B · MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR HAZ-MAT
INCIDENTS
FEBRUARY 27 · MARCH 1, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2C · HIGH RISE FIRE FIGHTING TACTICS
MAY 21 · 24, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2E · WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING TACTICS
JUNE 25 · 28, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2D · PLANNING FOR LARGE SCALE DISASTERS
SEPTEMBER 4 · 7, 2012**

**DON'T BE THE PERSON IN COMMAND WHO DOES NOT KNOW
WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW, AT THE TIME THEY
NEED TO KNOW IT...**

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Firenuggets.com
Keeping Firefighters Safe

Firehouse®

Present...

**Professional Development Series
Bay Area 2012**

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

These four seminars will provide you with relevant education and quality professional networking offered as one-day classes, close to home. **Register for all four seminars for just \$275* or go a la carte for \$95 each.**



Schedule:

Thursday, March 15, 2012

- Fighting Fire Against Wind
- Leadership

Gerald Tracy, Battalion Chief (ret), City of New York, FD

Thursday, May 24, 2012

- Creating Order Out of Chaos: Managing Incident Evolution – How to Stop a Crisis From Turning Into a Disaster
- Twelve Key Factors for Improving Catastrophic Incident Command: Surviving When Hell Knocks

Geoff Williams, Chief (ret.), Principal Officer, Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service, Scotland, UK

Thursday, October 4, 2012

- Sustainable (Green) Design and the Fire Service

Ron Spadafora, Assistant Chief, City of New York, FD

Thursday, December 6, 2012

- Engine Company Operations: Water on the Fire

Curt Isakson, Battalion Chief, Escambia County Fire & Rescue, FL

* Registration cost includes handouts, lunch and certificate for each class attended. Attendees that complete all four classes will receive a special certificate. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense. **Deadline to receive four-seminar discount of \$275 is March 15, 2012.**



To register for the Professional Development Series, visit Firenuggets.com

If you're looking for a more comprehensive experience, explore the Firehouse options. Choose from two events offering five days of training and education to include hands-on training, preconference workshops, conference classes, networking opportunities, and purchasing options.



February 19-23, 2012
San Diego, CA
FirehouseWorld.com



July 17-21, 2012
Baltimore, MD
FirehouseExpo.com



WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR SAFETY.

Firehouse®

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Paramedic:** Beginning in January 2012 (Call 800-483-3615 for more info)
- **EMT:** January 14 through April 1, 2012 (Sat/Sun), or
April 14 through July 1, 2012 (Sat/Sun), or
July 7 through September 23, 2012 (Sat/Sun), or
September 29 through December 16, 2012 (Sat/Sun)

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.

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

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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

- 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:

- *I'm happy to say that none have been reported since the last newsletter!!!!*

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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 listserv 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 &

Hey,

A man has died in the hospital after being involved in a crash with an EMSA ambulance this morning in Oklahoma City around 10:30 am. The ambulance was heading east near N.W. 10th Street and May Avenue when it collided with a car. The ambulance was en route to a medical call. The man inside the car was injured in the wreck. He was transported to the hospital in critical condition, where he later

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

died. The two paramedics in the ambulance were not injured in the wreck. EMSA released the following statement this afternoon: "EMSA paramedics extend our deepest sympathy to family of the driver who was killed today. The horrific crash underscores the awareness and importance of public safety. Tragic events can occur in the rush for emergency responders to be at a patients side. Our thoughts also are with the EMSA medics who will never forget the point of impact and the tragedy that followed. " We'll post more details as we get them. FFCC Notes: This is the 2nd fatality involving responding fire / EMS units in 3 days-while all facts are not out, these are grim reminders of how fire & emergency service drivers must first stop and then proceed when clear - in red or stop sign intersections. Again we all see the alternative risks aren't worth it.

2 EMS PARAMEDIC MEDICS MURDERED IN MEXICO-DOUBLE LINE OF DUTY DEATH

An ambulance in Mexico was ambushed in Ciudad Juarez on Wednesday and all people inside the emergency vehicle were killed. It is being reported that unidentified gunmen rammed into an ambulance carrying 2 EMS paramedics and two patients, forcing the ambulance to stop, and that's when the gunmen surrounded the vehicle and forced the four people out. They were then executed and left in the road. Police are unsure who is behind the attack, and are still investigating. The patients were being transported from the city of Nuevo Casa Grandes and were en route to a Juarez clinic for kidney failure treatment. Ciudad Juarez is often called Mexico's most dangerous city. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List. 12-10-11 / 2124 hours

AND:

Hey,

E-ONE is recalling some model year 2008-2011 CYCLONE II, TYPHOON, and QUEST vehicles manufactured from May 1, 2008, through November 28, 2011, and equipped with Meritor Wabco electronic stability control (ESC) modules. Under certain road and driving conditions, vehicle body roll and road inclination characteristics may adversely affect the slip angle calculation of the ESC system. This might cause the ESC to perceive an oversteering situation and apply the outer wheel brake on the front axle until the vehicle is perceived to be stable. If the driver is slow to react during the ESC intervention, the vehicle may deviate from the intended line of travel, increasing the risk of a crash. If you own one, or are unsure, contact your E-ONE dealer.

DETAILS HERE: [http://www-](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/results.cfm?rcl_id=11V564&searchtype=quicksearch&summary=true)

[odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/results.cfm?rcl_id=11V564&searchtype=quicksearch&summary=true](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/results.cfm?rcl_id=11V564&searchtype=quicksearch&summary=true)

WASHINGTON STATE FIREFIGHTER REMAINS CRITICAL AFTER BEING STRUCK

That Firefighter critically injured when he was struck by an out-of-control car on an icy road Nov. 20 remains in intensive care. FF Wynn Loiland, 52, is still at Harborview Medical Center under a constant vigil from his family. The 31-year veteran Firefighter was struck by a vehicle while assessing the scene of a roll-over accident on I-5. He has yet to regain full consciousness, but is slowly showing signs of responsiveness. Loiland and two others from South King Fire & Rescue had responded to the scene of a previous rollover crash, on the southbound lanes of I-5 that morning. The Firefighters determined that the driver of the crashed vehicle had already left the area, and they were assessing the situation when another vehicle, a 1996 Chevrolet Blazer, approached from the south. The 26 year old driver of the Blazer, lost control on the icy freeway as he neared the scene. His vehicle veered off onto the right shoulder and struck the firefighter from behind and narrowly missed the two other Firefighters at the scene. Loiland suffered a critical head injury and was knocked unconscious from the impact. **Loiland was going the extra mile, wrapping bright tape around the rolled-over**

vehicle so others would know it was an old accident - and wouldn't have to risk their own safety by stopping unnecessarily.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-13-11 / 0935 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The National Public Safety Organizations have been working on legislation for the building of a nationwide public safety broadband wireless network which includes broadband spectrum (D Block), funding and governance. That action is a good thing that directly benefits Firefighters. Recently, a bill came out of the House of Representatives that calls for take back (rip off) of valuable 700 MHz narrowband spectrum from public safety (fire services) and significantly reduces (rips off) the needed funding to build reliable fire radio (and public safety) networks in both urban, suburban and rural areas.

The assistance of **EVERY FIREFIGHTER**, department and company is needed - - as this bill is moving faster through Congress than usual. All of the national fire service organizations are in support of this action including the IAFC, IAFF, NVFC and all others. For this reason, you are asked to immediately contact your Federal Representatives (Congress) and Senators ASAP and ask them to:

- 1. OPPOSE ANY GIVE-BACK OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S EXISTING 700 MHz NARROWBAND SPECTRUM included in HOUSE Bill 3630**
- 2. SUPPORT D BLOCK ALLOCATION WITH SUFFICIENT FUNDING INCLUDED IN SENATE BILL 911**
- 3. HAVE THEM CALL THEIR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO INDICATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTION SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE & EMS**

ACTION:

Please visit the PSA Take Action website at: <http://www.psafirst.org/take-action>

Contact Congress: <http://www.contactingthecongress.org/>

A few additional holiday gift ideas:

===**PAUL COMBS** outstanding new 2012 "**DRAWN BY FIRE**" Firefighter Calendar:

<http://www.pennwellbooks.com/drbyfi20ca.html>

PAUL'S BOOK "DRAWN BY FIRE" is available HERE:

<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bd9470.shtml>

===**NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTER FOUNDATION GIFTS:**

<http://tinyurl.com/33hutvm> or consider donating a "Walk of Honor" brick in honor or memory:

<http://www.firehero.org/memorialpark/walk/>

===**(FDNY) BADGES OF THE BRAVEST:** <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bb02010.shtml>

By Gary Urbanowicz, Hon Chief-FDNY.

Quite frankly, BADGES OF THE BRAVEST is easily one of the absolute best "coffee table" books on the history of FDNY (and the many other FD's that have served and serve in NYC)-the book is loaded with hundreds of photos of apparatus, firehouses, fires, firefighters and badges-but this book is much more than just badges and **you'll love it**. Also by Gary is The Last Alarm: The History and Tradition of Supreme Sacrifice in the Fire Departments of New York City

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===**The IAFF 2012 Charitable Foundation Calendar** benefits the IAFF Charitable Foundation and help provide financial assistance and support to IAFF members and their families when they need it most: <http://www.iaff.org/11News/120511HolidayGifts.htm>

===**(CHICAGO FIRE DEPT) THANK GOD FOR THESE GUYS:**

Thank God for These Guys: Chicago's Firemen on the Job is one of our favorites, featuring hundreds of unique photographs representing the most intimate moments in the lives of these often invisible men and women. Take a look at some of the pages here: <http://www.thankgodfortheseguys.com/>
The book can be ordered HERE: <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bt1350.shtml>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-13-11 / 2208 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As we have posted - and you may have read about, the City of Middletown (Ohio) Council recently voted to eliminate 9 Firefighter positions and close a fire station-along with the loss of 7 cops as well. That was done on November 29. In what may be the most classic example of WTF?!, NTS or whatever you wish to apply, amazingly, the City Manager directed that a "fun" video be produced and shot-on the same day-that the Firefighters and the fire department budget was cut. The project is the idea of city hall dweller / City Manager Judy Gilleland and as she stated: "It's been a very difficult budgetary year....we've been through rounds of layoffs." So she wanted to lift the morale of employees and provide some entertainment for her residents...at taxpayers expense and employee work time. **Yeah-that's the spirit.**

HERE IS THE VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrQPrSS12BY&feature=youtu.be>

HERE IS MORE:

<http://www.fox19.com/story/16318522/critics-say-middletown-holiday-video-inappropriate-during-time-of-layoffs>

http://www.wcpo.com/dpp/news/region_north_cincinnati/middletown/middletown-releases-holiday-video-in-the-wake-of-firefighter-layoffs#ixzz1qTk7o8lE

<http://www.wlwt.com/news/29989574/detail.html>

We could write for hours about this-but we'll spare you the pain. But to say this is local government city hall dweller insanity at its best is a mild comment. The manager and those involved (and those who were afraid to speak up and say how dumb this idea was - but agreed to smile, say yes maa'm, suck up and do the video) are textbook examples of how completely out of touch so many are with reality.

Why did all the people in that video act so happy?

We figure that when you find out that **YOU** are not losing **YOUR** job, there is alot to sing about! All is right with the world! Plus the boss said do it. Nice clothes emperor. It's all about them. Not the Firefighters and Cops who lost or will lose their jobs-and it's definitely not about those who may need the fire/EMS units that are being cut. It's all about a fun video to lift the morale of the surviving workers and provide entertainment for the taxpaying residents. And that is why local government was founded.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house-not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.... The smoke detector was chirping by the chimney with blare, in hopes that the Firefighters

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

would soon be there... The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of staffed firehouses danced in their heads....

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-13-11 / 1130 Hours

AND:

Hey,

You may have read that there is some controversy in Charleston (SC) over a fire - one that occurred on March 1, 2011. And a report. A DRAFT report that wasn't intended to be released yet as it doesn't contain all the facts-according to CFD Chief Tommy Carr. Chief Carr has acknowledged problems at the fire, which gutted a two-story office building. That's why he authorized a 6 member committee of Firefighters to conduct a critical incident review.

It should be noted that Chief Carr rejected the committee's draft report because it had errors and failed to live up to their intended purpose, which was to create an educational tool, not an instrument for blame. "I was appalled at the material in there," Chief Carr said. "We did have some issues with that fire, and we want to get learning out of that. The way to do that is not to beat everyone up, but to give feedback in a positive way."

The 12-page unauthorized draft portion (link below) obtained by the Charleston Post Courier newspaper, describes "major" violations of policy and assigns blame for those mistakes. It raises questions about the handling of the fire, the effectiveness of the training firefighters have received and the integrity of the promotion process. It also highlights the continuing conflict between the department's hard-charging past and its new, risk-sensitive methods.

Chief Carr and his commanders said the rejected section of the report was authored by one member of the committee whom they did not identify. The Chief said the final report is still being retooled and fact-checked, and cannot be released because it's tied up in an unresolved personnel dispute involving a Fire Captain disciplined in connection with the fire. It's unclear how long the final document will be, and the CFD isn't sure when it will be available to the public.

HERE is the DRAFT report that was rejected:

<http://media.charleston.net/2011/pdf/889islandparkdrivefirereport.pdf>

HERE is Glenn Smith's article about the fire, the people and the report from the Post & Courier:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/dec/11/same-mistakes/>

Lots of lessons learned-and not just about the fire.

SHS 2012 FIREFIGHTER POCKET PLANNER:

CHEAP (Low Cost) BUT PRICELESS

Each year, the IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section holds a fundraiser by selling FIREFIGHTER POCKET PLANNERS. As you may know, the only funding that IAFC SHS gets is from member dues and this annual fundraiser. The 12 months cover topics such as Emergency Driver Safety, The 8 Functions of Command, Training Safety, PPE, MAYDAY, Situational Awareness, SCBA limits and Technical Rescue Safety. Each month features a Near-Miss Report and a NIOSH report. Additional information is included on FF Fatality Facts, Safety/Extinguishment Culture & Leadership, FF Cancer Issues, Fire/EMS Roadway Operations Safety and Significant Firefighter fatality information. It features the issues and reminders that should be in our faces-each and every day.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The 2012 planners are just \$1.50 each and can be imprinted with your FD name etc.

Please consider this as an end of the year gift for your firefighters and help the IAFC SHS continue on their mission. ORDER HERE: <http://www.positivepromotions.com/ITP10CF/p/ITP10CF/>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-15-11 / 1800 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy shot and killed a man who had fired gunshots at LA County Firefighters operating at a fire in Lincoln Heights this morning. The incident took place shortly before 0500 this morning on Solano Avenue. Firefighters arrived at the scene of the house fire and were met with gunshots. They backed off and flagged down a passing transit services Sheriff's Deputy. The Deputy shot the armed suspect, whose name was not immediately known. The suspect died a half-hour later at a hospital. No one else was hurt in the incident. Los Angeles Fire Department arson-counter-terrorism detectives were investigating the fire. CLOSE CALL for the LACoFF's that thankfully, turned out OK. Shots fired at Firefighters, while rare, is nothing new and in some cases, size up cannot help us avoid the situation. However, this is another reminder to be as aware, vigilant and alert as possible when responding, arriving and operating at any scene.

THE CHICAGO VIDEO-Now You See It, Now Your Don't!

On yesterday's Secret List we sent you a link to what is easily one of the best documentary films related to Firefighter survival that has ever been done. Unfortunately, the person who posted it to YouTube didn't have "permission" to post it. We had no idea...we simply felt that it was a 'DO NOT MISS' video that everyone on this job should see-and see immediately. And it is. And we still feel that way. However, as stated: An unofficial, low quality version of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Chicago FD video production "Everyone Goes Home" was posted on YouTube on Friday...it should be clear that the NFFF greatly appreciates the enthusiasm and spirit behind the unauthorized postng. However, because it is copyrighted material, the NFFF reached out to the person who uploaded it to YouTube and had the video removed....The Chicago FD wants to make sure that they have shared the video with every one of the survivors/families of the fallen Firefighters whose stories are told, along with the department's Firefighters and Paramedics, some of whom participated in the production before it was posted. The NFFF's current plan is to have a higher quality, final version of the video posted early in 2012. However, ya never know, it may happen sooner-and we certainly hope that is the case. Trust us, when you see it, you'll understand. Thanks to all who wrote in asking about the video-it'll be out (again) soon and thanks to all from the NFFF and the CFD for producing one of the best videos we have ever seen....and the quicker it is back out there for all to view, the better.

IN THE MEANTIME: (More From Chicago)

REMEMBER THAT one year ago this coming THURSDAY, CFD Firefighters Corey Ankum and Edward Stringer were among numerous Firefighters operating at that fire in the abandoned building when there was a collapse - and both Firefighters died of trauma, in the Line of Duty. Ankum had been with the CFD less than two years, Stringer about 12 years. In all, 19 firefighters suffered injuries. It was the worst fire for the CFD since February 1998, when 2 Firefighters died in the Line of Duty. The roof collapsed at 10611 S. Western Avenue, killing CFD's Patrick King, 40, and Anthony Lockhart, 40, who were among the first FF's to enter the building. In August of last year, FF Christopher Wheatley died when he fell about 35 feet off a ladder while battling a fire at a West Loop restaurant. The deaths of Corey Ankum and Ed Stringer last year, came on the 100th anniversary of a

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huge fire at the Union Stockyards that claimed the life of 21 Chicago Firefighters, the single greatest FD loss in U.S. history until Sept. 11, 2001. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 12-17-11 / 1600 Hours

AND:

Hey,
FDNY Firefighters rescued one of their own earlier, pulling him "on fire" from a Brooklyn brownstone. As members searched the Crown Heights dwelling for victims, the top floor of the 3 story dwelling on Prospect Place apparently flashed, trapping at least one Rescue 2 Firefighter inside. An aerial ladder was raised to the third floor window and another Firefighter at the top of the ladder helped get him out. The FF was burning and the FF on the ladder hit him on his back to knock down the fire.

HERE IS VIDEO OF THE INCIDENT:

<http://landing.newsinc.com/shared/video.html?freewheel=69016&siteSection=nypost&VID=23556624>

The injured R-2 Firefighter was treated and taken to New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell with burns over 40% of his body, including his face, head and hands and is critical-but breathing on his own. The brownstone turned out to be empty as a family of 6 lives there but was not home. 4 other firefighters were hurt and are being treated at local hospitals-1 in serious condition and the other 2 stable. We'll post more as it becomes available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 12-19-11 / 1300 Hours

AND:

Hey,
At this time, 1 Firefighter has critical, 3rd degree hand burns and multiple other 2nd and 3rd degree spot burns (45% overall) and will be in surgery. The 2nd most serious Firefighter has several 2nd and 3rd degree burns and is doing well. Here is a followup video interviewing the incident commander, along with followup showing much clearer pictures and video of the post fire related conditions: http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/story?section=news/local/new_york&id=8472310 - Keep all affected in your prayers. **BE CAREFUL-December has never been good to the fire service ***
Updates will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. See Above *

BillyG

The Secret List 12-19-11 / 1515 Hours

AND:

Hey,
As you know, yesterday, FDNY Firefighters James Gersbeck, 52, and Robert Wiedman, 32, both of Rescue 2 in Brooklyn, were searching the front area of the third floor of a residential building at 1102 Prospect Place near Prospect Park when the hot gases from the fire ignited-creating flashover conditions. **HERE IS THE MAYDAY AUDIO:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=342EY7ahm78>
LISTEN to the professionalism created thru TRAINING by those operating as well as THE DISPATCHERS. FF Gersbeck, who was the less seriously injured of the two, was able to get out and tumbled down a stairway while FF Wiedman, according to Chief of Dept Ed Kilduff, had the presence of mind (TRAINING) to go to the front window for the aerial ladder. Both Wiedman and Gersbeck are

in New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center for treatment of their injuries. FF Wiedman has burns over an estimated 40% of his body and is serious but stable condition. FF Gersback remains stable. We'll continue to keep you advised here and on our home page as we hope and pray for a successful recovery for both men.

FIREFIGHTERS TRAPPED AT WORKING HOUSE FIRE IN CANADA---HOSE LINE GOES LIMP

2 Thunder Bay (Ontario, CN) Firefighters narrowly escaped disaster on Sunday night when they became trapped in a working house fire. The house was built in the balloon-frame construction style, which allowed the fire to travel right up the walls to the attic, involving the entire structure. In addition, there was a large amount of debris inside, which resulted in a fast-spreading, smoky fire that quickly moved throughout the house. 2 Firefighters operating inside were on the main floor of the 2 story residence when the hose line they were using failed. At the apparatus, there was a coupling that let go, and the line immediately went limp. The fire burned through the hose line, and the Firefighters couldn't follow it back out of the house. The FF's were trapped between the fire and their way out. A mayday was called but while trapped, the 2 FF's found a window, and they still had an axe. They used it to break the glass and go through the kitchen, ending up in the driveway right at the other Firefighters who were entering the building to get them out. None of the Firefighters were seriously injured. **Once again-training mattered.**

FIREFIGHTERS FALL THRU THE FLOOR IN PA HOUSE FIRE

==DISPATCHERS WERE "JOHNNY ON THE SPOT" (Listen to the audio)

<http://www.phillyfirenews.com/content/firewire/detail/6314.php>

DELAWARE COUNTY Fire Dispatchers have an excellent reputation for being some of the BEST in the business-the above is another example.

TRAINING and experience pays off. Firefighters fell thru the floor but were quickly removed and treated for minor injuries.

NOTE that their DISPATCHERS MONITOR THE FIREGROUND CHANNEL...and that's a big deal....to those in trouble, those on the fireground and those in command.

FIREFIGHTER MAYDAY IN DELAWARE (HEAVY FIRE CONDITIONS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=na-zi00LnEY> Pre-arrival video (**LISTEN to the public comments-and perception**)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GBol17BV6w> Media Report

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efLAtwj1Bm4> Companies operating.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFZ677XbUfk> Companies operating.

All Firefighters were accounted for at the fire.

SUTPHEN FIRE APPARATUS RECALL

Sutphen Corp. is recalling certain model year 2009-2012 vehicles equipped with Meritor Wabco electronic stability control (ESC) modules. Under certain road and driving conditions, vehicle body roll and road inclination characteristics may adversely affect the slip angle calculation of the ESC system. This might cause the ESC to perceive an oversteering situation and apply the outer wheel brake on the front axle until the vehicle is perceived to be stable. If the driver is slow to react during the ESC intervention, the vehicle may deviate from the intended line of travel, increasing the risk of a crash.

If you own a Sutphen and think this may be a problem, contact your dealer or Sutphen directly.

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

CONGRESS 2012-WELCOME TO THE LAND OF CONFUSION

Foretelling the future can be a difficult thing, especially for 2012. National elections always turn out different than they look the preceding December. Anybody remember the predictions of the cross-New York, Hillary-Rudy campaign of 2008 or Democratic presidential nominee Howard Dean in 2004?

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In addition, the past two elections demonstrated that the electorate is fed up with the current system and is looking for outsiders who promise they can fix the system. Here are some excellent thoughts for Firefighters from the IAFC'S Ken LaSala. the very respected Director of Government Relations, to consider as we fasten our apparatus seatbelts and get ready for the turbulent year that's shaping up to be 2012. <http://www.iafc.org/MemberCenter/OnSceneArticle.cfm?ItemNumber=5542>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-20-11 / 1217 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As we all keep our prayers on high for the FDNY Rescue 2 Firefighters, especially FF Rob Wiedmann (WYD'-muhn) who is critical, along with FF James Gersbeck, who is serious but stable....I was personally reminded of how we all do whatever the dispatcher tells us to do. Rescue, fire, crash, EMS, crying kid, sad grandma-whatever. So often the runs are so-called "routine" ---but eventually "THAT" call comes in where the members have to go above and beyond what is normally done. That's what we do. We maintain a state of "readiness" so that no matter what is reported-and how bad it is-we train and prepare to go as far as we possibly can to make a difference The video from FDNY yesterday shows yet another example. The members were searching-reported people inside the building. The members got in trouble when the room flashed. MAYDAY was transmitted. The FAST team and other companies went to work.

AND THEN:

When FF Wiedmann made it to the front window in the worst possible conditions any FF will encounter, you see the OUTSTANDING operation of the aerial ladder by the chauffeur of Ladder 132 (one of the Sr members of that company) who positioned the tip and IMMEDIATELY ran up the ladder to assist Firefighter Wiedmann. As you may know, FDNY, SOPs require that the operator of a ladder or tower ladder **remain at the turntable whenever the ladder is deployed.** In this case, the policy (and respecting policy) and the training paid off. He quickly repositioned the ladder (from where it was-see below video) and he immediately ascended the ladder to assist in removing the Firefighter from further danger. Courage? Clearly.

GENUINE..... COURAGE AND VALOR.

Yesterdays fire and others throughout the 2011 year reminds us of what courage and valor are. And while it is very difficult for most Firefighters to accept praise for, thanks or recognition just for "doing the job", there are those rare times where it is well deserved. There are several recognitions annually for Firefighters doing the right thing.

One of the most coveted awards is the Chief Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award which commemorates the life and career achievements of Deputy Chief Ray Downey, who gave his life in the Line of Duty on September 11, 2001 at the WTC. Deputy Chief Downey was Chief of Rescue and a 39-year veteran of FDNY--and was the most highly decorated Firefighter in the history of FDNY. The Chief was and remains a legend far beyond the boundaries of NYC.

Do you know a Firefighter that has shown true courage in the rescue of a civilian or Firefighter? Do you know a Firefighter who has defined valor in the performance of their duties? Even if you are thinking "well maybe"...take a moment to consider that Firefighter for the award nomination. Please take a moment to check this out:

http://downloads.pennnet.com/fe/downloads/cv_form_nomination_2011.pdf

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 12-20-11 / 1946 Hours

www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

FDNY Video (this is an updated version with some media commentary) - <http://tinyurl.com/849gqvX>

AND:

Hey,

Criminal contempt charges are being filed against the owner of the building that collapsed and killed 2 Chicago firefighters on the one year anniversary eve of their deaths. The building owner will be accused of failing to comply with court-ordered requirements to repair and secure the vacant building. Tomorrow marks the 1 year anniversary of the fire in which Firefighters Edward Stringer and Corey Ankum were killed in the Line of Duty. Both veteran Firefighters died of blunt force injuries in the collapse, while 17 others were hurt in the department's deadliest fire in more than a dozen years. The charges will be announced at an 1100 hours press conference this morning. RIP.

FDNY & PROVIDENCE RI FIREFIGHTERS DIE FROM JOB RELATED CANCER

One of the first female Firefighters In FDNY died Monday after a yearlong battle with cancer. Virginia Culkin-Spinelli, of St. Augustine and formerly of Point Lookout, N.Y., was 57. "Culkin-Spinelli, whom friends and family called "Ginny Ann," was hired in the first class of female firefighters at the FDNY in September of 1982 and worked for Engine Company 226 in Brooklyn until she was transferred to Engine Company 329 in Queens in 1992. She retired in October 2002 after 20 years with the department. Culkin-Spinelli worked at ground zero for more than a month. She even worked on her wedding anniversary, Oct. 3. Doctors told her that working at ground zero was probably a factor in causing her cancer. RIP. Providence Fire officials say the disease that killed 53-year-old Frank Reddington was related to the smoke and chemicals he was exposed to on the job. Reddington died Monday and was promoted posthumously from lieutenant to captain. He worked for Engine 10 in South Providence and leaves a wife and two sons. He also served as a member of the Providence Fire Department's Honor Guard and was a chairman of the union's charity committee. RIP. **CANCER CONTINUES to be the #1 killer of active duty Firefighters.**

NO CRIMINAL CHARGES-BUT A CITATION-IN PA. FIRE APPARATUS CRASH & DEATH

Cumberland County District Attorney's office has decided that no criminal charges will be filed in the South Middleton Township fatal crash involving a fire apparatus on Dec. 8. The driver of the Citizen's Fire Company pumper, however, was cited with a summary offense of "driving a vehicle at safe speed." Paul Baer, 48, of Gardners, was the driver of the fire truck. Cops noted that the summary offense does not mean he was speeding. The section of the vehicle code means that no person should be driving at a speed greater than is reasonably prudent in the situation - but it does not necessarily mean it is greater than the speed limit. The apparatus was not traveling over the speed limit when it crashed into a vehicle driven by Constance Walsh, 70, of Carlisle, who was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on Holly Pike shortly after 1500 Dec. 8. Cops say there was no gross negligence on the part of Baer, though police say they find him at fault for the crash. Police added that Pennsylvania's vehicle code says non-emergency vehicles have to yield to emergency vehicles responding to a call, but emergency vehicles also have an obligation to yield to non-emergency vehicles entering their path. The truck from Citizen's Fire Co. out of Mt. Holly Springs was responding to a vehicle fire on Interstate 81 when it crashed. **Approaching an INTERSECTION RED LIGHT OR STOP SIGN?....STOP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 12-21-11 / 0912 hours

AND:

Hey,

Here is an update from FDNY on the Firefighters seriously injured in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, on Dec. 19. As you know, Firefighter Robert Wiedmann, 38, from Rescue 2 received second- and third-degree burns on more than 50 percent of his body - including his face, hands and head - while fighting that two-alarm fire on Prospect Place. Firefighter James Gersbeck, 52, from Rescue 2 also was seriously injured in the fire. "Everyone's working to get Rob back to his regular self," said his brother, Douglas Wiedmann. "He's an excellent firefighter and certainly is our hero." Dr. Roger Yurt, Director of the Burn Center, said he expects Firefighter Wiedmann to be in the hospital for about six to eight weeks, having approximately one surgery a week with a long road to recovery after sustaining burns to over 40 percent of his body - including his head, face and back.

Doctors are providing a positive outlook saying that while most people in a similar situation would need to be put in a medically induced coma, Wiedmann remains psychologically and physically strong. "He's very strong," he said of the 14-year veteran of the FDNY. "We've seen his psychological strength and his ability to deal with this." He is alert and communicative and he mouths words or spells out words using a board. "He's always asking how we are; he's more worried about us than himself," he said. Dr. Yurt said he does not expect Firefighter Gersbeck, a 25-year veteran of the FDNY, to have a long hospital stay, noting that he has second and third degree burns that will probably heal on their own with the proper care. Speaking of both Firefighters Wiedmann and Gersbeck, he said, "They are truly the bravest and two of the best firefighters I know." Both men also acknowledged the generosity and kindness of the members of Rescue 2, who have visited the hospital and supported the family since the fire. "We can't express what your support means to us," Mr. Wiedmann said. The members of Rescue 2 are hosting several blood drives throughout the five boroughs over the coming weeks and more information will be posted here and on our home page as soon as it's available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-22-11 / 1722 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This morning a Philadelphia Firefighter was rushed to the hospital after he collapsed while operating at a fire in South Philadelphia. Companies were on the scene of the fire on S Taylor Street a little after 0630 when the firefighter collapsed behind a piece of fire apparatus. CPR was administered and he was immediately treated. The firefighter was rushed to The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania where he is doing better.

SMOKE EXPLOSION IN COLORADO:

Three Aurora Firefighters were knocked off their feet by the smoke explosion from a dwelling fire last night but all were able to escape the home and avoid serious injury. A resident who was home at the time was not injured. Companies had been on the scene for a few minutes when the blast occurred at about 1900 hours The crew was searching for the source of the fire in the attic. The fire had moved from a fireplace into a flue and the attic when the force knocked them down, but they were able to pull themselves together and get out on their own power. The cause of the fire was a failure inside the fireplace. **MORE here:** http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_19605791#ixzz1hNXC4L2n

FDNY RESCUE 2 MAYDAY FUND-CAN YOU, YOUR FF LOCAL, YOUR FD/FF ASSOCIATION OR FIRE COMPANY HELP?

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

As you know, last Monday, December 19, 2011, at Brooklyn Box 920, while searching the top floor of a brownstone, 2 members of Rescue 2: Firefighter James Gersbeck and Firefighter Robert Weidman became trapped. F.F Gersbeck was burned and removed from the interior, while F.F. Weidman was engulfed in the fire as he was making his way to the front windows. Rob was removed from the top floor onto Ladder 132's aerial. Both received very serious burn injuries with Rob being the worse of the two. Many of us, including Rob and Jim work second jobs to make ends meet and provide for our families. The brothers will be recovering a long time and that income is now gone. These families faced a traumatic event. We would like Rob and Jim to concentrate on a full recovery and not worry about any future financial hardships for their families while their laid up. If you can please help them - donate now. You can mail a check or donate electronically via the link below. Every cent will go directly to these members to help them and their families. The Members and Officers of F.D.N.Y. Rescue 2 Thank You- For your Support. Click HERE to DONATE:

<http://www.fdnrescue2.org/news/fullstory/news/flashover>

LOUISIANA RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS CRASH INJURES THE CAPTAIN

A Fire Captain was injured in a crash yesterday when the apparatus driver lost control and ran off the road in north Baton Rouge. Baton Rouge Firefighter Captain Voltaire Sanders was transported to a local hospital with non life-threatening injuries. The engine was responding around 1500 hours in response to a first aid call, when the driver of the engine moved right, possibly to avoid an oncoming vehicle. This caused the rear wheels to leave the wet road. When the driver tried to regain control, police say the road buckled, causing the truck to veer back to the left, cross the oncoming lane and run off the road. It struck two private driveways, a fence and a mailbox. No other vehicles were involved. The other 3 Firefighters in the truck were not injured.

HIGH FLYING FIREFIGHTER/SANTA (BOMBERO) HECTOR CHACON! (Pictures)

Hector Chacon, a Guatemalan firefighter dressed as Santa Claus, distributes toys to children living in the neighborhoods under the Belize bridge in Guatemala City. Guatemalan firefighters have been giving toys in the Christmas period to children living in the very poor area of the city for 13 years. Take a look at ALL these pictures and see Bombero Hector Chaco a/k/a Santa Claus at work:

<http://tinyurl.com/782qnhl>

And now, won't you please join us for some Christmas celebratory music:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOszvL9lgSs> (Sit by the fire and warm up)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtcAW7duss8> (A PERSONAL message to YOU from Michael Buble'-who also is a TSL member. Seriously.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgGxfh0uYMU&feature=related> (Perhaps you like the more traditional version)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1-sXrdQtog&feature=related> (Paul McCartney)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-loiAAAd0Wk&feature=related> (From Hawaii)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGaPDWMzYGw> (Ol' Blue Eyes-one of the best)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOimRBb66cM&feature=related> (Frank)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbW64J_RJZg&feature=related (Frank & Bing)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=az4p83iN040&feature=related> (Oh Holy Night-Nat King Cole)

And hopefully you won't hear from us on The Secret List again until after Christmas. So with that hope, on behalf of all of us at TSL and FFCC to all of you and yours, we wish you a peaceful and very Merry Christmas along with a Happy Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. God Bless. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG, GordonG, BrianK, ForestR, RudyH, IggyK, PatK, BarryF, ChrisS, JohnM and our phenomenal web crew from www.FireCompanies.com

The Secret List 12-23-11 / 1304 Hours

AND:

Hey,
Peabody (MA) Firefighters were operating at a multi-family dwelling earlier this afternoon on Hancock Street. The fire went to a 2nd alarm and then the 3rd with reports of 1 Firefighter down in extremely critical condition and at least 2 other Firefighters injured seriously. The fire was first reported at about 1330 hours and arriving companies reported heavy smoke. A short time later, Firefighters were ordered out of the building because of the conditions. In addition to Peabody, Firefighters from Danvers, Salem and Lynnfield are also at the scene. The State Fire Marshal's office is now on the scene. Updates to follow. Keep'm in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-11 / 1530 Hours

AND:

It is with deep regret that we must report that one firefighter has succumbed to his injuries sustained while operating today at a 3rd Alarm fire in Peabody, MA while battling a fire that occurred at 5 Hancock Street. Peabody Firefighter James Rice died this afternoon while responding to a three-alarm fire in this North Shore city. He was 42 years old. Updates will be posted on our homepage. Please keep the family of FF Rice and the Peabody FD in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-23-11 / 1800 Hours

AND:

(PLEASE SEE THE BELOW REQUEST FOR YOUR FD PATCH TO BE SENT TO AN 11 YEAR OLD KID BATTLING CANCER, THE SON OF A NJ FF)

Hey,

FDNY R-2 FF Rob Wiedmann under went skin grafts surgery yesterday. He received skin grafts to both arms and both hands. We were told that the surgery went as expected however Rob lost a lot of blood, which is not uncommon for this type of procedure. His surgeons are attempting to aggressively schedule as many procedures as they can in the upcoming weeks. FDNY members are conducting a blood drive to support his needs. **We'll keep you up to date-especially if outside assistance is requested.**

PEABODY LODD UPDATE

(FIRE VIDEO and DISPATCH, MAYDAY, 2nd ALARM & EVACUATION FIREGROUND AUDIO LINKS BELOW)

As you know, PFD FF James Rice, a married father of three young children died in the Line of Duty yesterday while operating at that multi-family dwelling-coming just two weeks after a Worcester Firefighter was killed in a building collapse. Shortly after the early afternoon fire broke out on the second floor of the muti family dwelling, FF Rice became trapped. Members pulled the 46-year-old from the building and desperately tried to revive him. He was rushed to North Shore Medical Center in Salem, where he was pronounced dead. It was not known yet whether Rice had exhausted his SCBA when he went down in the heavy smoke and fire conditions. The PFD members removed Rice out of the building, pulled off his gear, and began CPR and related life support measures. Prior to that, it is reported that Firefighters were ordered out of the building because of deteriorating

conditions. As Firefighters left the structure, they noticed FF Rice was missing and began to look for their brother.

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said investigators are pursuing all avenues in trying to determine the fire's cause, including the possibility of electrical issues in the building. Marshal Coan said an autopsy will be conducted to determine Rice's cause of death. Firefighters recalled Rice, who had worked at the department for 11 years, as a genial, good-natured spirit who was well-liked in the city, and said they were devastated by his loss. FF Rice grew up in Peabody and was an avid sports fan, a New England Patriots season-ticket holder and as a devoted Dad-he often took his three children - two girls and a boy - to a football field to play.

THE WIFE wife of FF Rice "knew" her husband was in trouble even before she was told, her sister-in-law said. Amy Rice was at a bakery getting Christmas Eve pastries near the fire on Hancock Street when she heard the call for an ambulance.

"When the ambulance was called, his wife knew right away that something wasn't right. She started crying right away before she got a call or anything," said Courtney Goldsworthy. "They were a great couple, the best. They loved each other. They loved their (three) kids," said Brian Goldsworthy, James Rice's brother-in-law.

VIDEO: RAW VIDEO AND PHOTOS FROM THE FIRE SCENE: <http://tinyurl.com/7ej5tzc>

VIDEO: HERE IS A MEDIA COMPILATION OF THE FIRE & THE FF: <http://tinyurl.com/d83azkx>

AUDIO: "ALL HANDS-FIREFIGHTER TRAPPED ON THE SECOND FLOOR"

LISTEN TO THE PFD DISPATCH & RADIO TRAFFIC:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40oSV5Yn3Bk>

CAN YOU OR YOUR FD HELP THIS FIREFIGHTERS KID?

PLEASE SEND YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT PATCH ASAP TO:

Kyle McGetrick
83 Beverly Drive
Barnegat, NJ 08005

---Here is why:

11 year old Kyle McGetrick, from Barnegat, NJ is losing his long battle with cancer. As a saddened community learned of this, the local fire department surprised Kyle and his family by driving 100 fire trucks past his house last night (Wednesday) complete with sirens, flashing lights and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. In this beach town, Barnegat, Kyle's dad, Gene, has also served as a Firefighter. What started as an email that went out which expected to bring about 20 firetrucks became a spectacular convoy.

Glenn U Has More HERE:

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

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE AND PUT A PATCH IN THE MAIL FOR THIS KID-WE JUST DID AS WELL.

THANKS

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

The Secret List-12-24-11 / 0900 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.

Budget Related Items:

Tacoma (WA) Fire Chief Ron Stephens this week proposed closing two fire stations, cutting two other engine companies and eliminating fire boat services as part of city budget cuts to offset a \$31 million shortfall. He doesn't want to do it, and he hopes he won't have to. Next week, the City Council may put the layoffs of 100 police and fire employees on hold for a month while the city negotiates with public safety labor unions about ways to reduce the planned cuts. If nothing changes, 44 fire employees – 42 of them firefighters – would be cut as part of \$4.5 million sliced from the department's \$48.7 million budget:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/12/10/1939616/fire-chief-responds-to-questions.html>

After clawing its way back to black after a recession-related revenue plunge, the city of Las Vegas (NV) once again is staring at projected shortfalls, shortfalls that could hit \$17.5 million in the 2014 fiscal year. That means city officials once again could be turning to employee labor organizations for more concessions or could be cutting back on services for taxpayers. The mixed financial outlook is contained in a midyear forecast from city Chief Financial Officer Mark Vincent. It projects surpluses of \$12.2 million and \$8.5 million in 2011 and 2012 and shortfalls of \$1.8 million and \$17.5 million in 2013 and 2014. "At this point I don't believe there is a lot more we can squeeze out of office supplies and travel and training budget," Vincent said of city government, which has cut back to a four-day work week, will close for a week during the holidays and has cut about 615 positions and 270 workers since 2008:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/las-vegas-anticipates-double-dip-budget-shortfalls-135368818.html>

Budget cuts could leave the Bellingham (WA) Marina and shoreline unprotected as the city mulls the the idea of doing away with its fire boat. The City Council is meeting tonight to approve its budget, and one of the items on the chopping block is the Fire Department's lone fire boat. Fire Chief Bill Boyd said he was given orders to trim his budget by \$200,000, and he said the boat is the only thing left to cut. The "Fire Belle" only fought one fire this year, when it was taken out to fight a a railroad trestle fire on July 4:

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Bellingham-fire-boat-on-the-chopping-block-135487793.html>

On a 5-3 vote Tuesday, the Moline (IL) city council adopted a \$121.6 million budget for fiscal year 2012 with only half a year of funding for fire-based Emergency Medical Services. The vote came roughly two months after city administrator Lew Steinbrecher's recommendations to balance the budget, including funding EMS for six months while the council considers privatizing the service as of July 1, 2012. Privatizing EMS would help the city fill a budget shortfall and cut pension obligations by eliminating 12 firefighter/paramedics, according to city documents: <http://qconline.com/archives/qco/display.php?id=573510>

The state isn't done with cash-strapped North Las Vegas (NV) just yet. City officials on Wednesday appeared for the second time in front of the state's Committee on Local Government Finance to present a financial update. Committee members earlier this year were alarmed at North Las Vegas' financial disintegration and failure to balance its fiscal 2012 budget, leading to worries about potential state takeover of the municipality. The city finally balanced the budget in August thanks to a combination of cuts, layoffs and union contract concessions that included giving up raises:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/north-las-vegas-officials-present-financial-update-135644258.html>

Every three days, Yakima (WA) firefighters respond to a reported structure fire. Crews from each of the city's five stations converge on the scene, pushing to arrive within eight minutes of leaving the station. One engine is left behind in case of a second fire or first aid call. That single crew is enough to start dealing with the situation, but they will have to wait for a second crew before safely attacking a serious structure fire. Right now, those six crews are on duty every day of the year. That won't be the case in 2012, when budget cuts eliminate \$170,000 in overtime that has been used to fill shift vacancies:

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2011/12/18/city-council-cuts-overtime-pay-to-understaffed-fire-department>

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.*

Two Memphis (TN) FD battalion chiefs & a firefighter arrested for forgery. Police & court say will of late BC & state representative Ulysses Jones is a fake:

<http://statter911.com/2011/12/11/two-memphis-fd-battalion-chiefs-a-firefighter-arrested-for-forgery-police-court-say-will-of-late-bc-state-representative-ulysses-jones-is-a-fake/>

The Collier County (FL) EMS system is supposed to work like a NASCAR pit crew, with everyone working in coordination to win the race. At times, though, the relationship between the fire departments and EMS seems more like rival drivers trading paint on the track. Agency leaders — most notably those in the North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District and Collier EMS — have long clashed over the role of firefighters in medical emergencies. Though officials insist the rivalry rarely plays out on the front line when patients' lives are at stake, there have been recent episodes of poor communication from frontline personnel that have ended with embarrassment and tragedy. Two medical calls in Naples earlier this year were met with long ambulance response times, in part because fire and EMS agencies weren't communicating over the radio. One of those calls turned fatal after EMS arrived:

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2011/dec/10/emergency-collier-county-ems-fire-departments/>

More than two months after learning a lieutenant had received promotion test material from a division chief, Portland (OR) Fire Chief John Klum has decided to broaden the inquiry and ask the rank-and-file whether they know of any improper sharing of exams. Klum this week directed a human resource official to craft a memo asking all sworn and nonsworn Portland Fire & Rescue members to provide information about any inappropriate sharing of tests. The memo, which would allow firefighters to report anonymously, has not been sent out yet:

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2011/12/portland_fire_chief_to_broaden.html

On Wednesday, December 21, 2011, a complaint was filed in Crawford County charging Michael McKinnon with Theft in the First Degree, a Class C Felony; and Felonious Misconduct in Office, a Class D Felony. McKinnon, 41, is a former Chief of the Denison (IA) Fire Department: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1206748-Ex-fire-chief-charged-with-on-duty-misconduct-theft/>

Culture of hazing at Macon-Bibb County (GA) Fire Department detailed at hearing. A judge heard five hours of testimony Wednesday in the case of two firefighters who are appealing the punishment they received after a firehouse hazing prank three months ago. But it was far from the only example of firefighter horseplay he heard about. There was testimony about lighted firecrackers being tossed into occupied shower stalls or at firefighters who were asleep on station couches. Many a firefighter holding a knife has snuck up on a fellow firefighter who was taking out the station's trash. And when the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department's revised policy addressing hazing and initiations was explained to firefighter Joshua Brewer last year, one example included the painting of rookies' genitals. Brewer testified Wednesday in hopes of getting Judge Bob Herndon to reverse Brewer's September demotion from sergeant to private. Herndon will also decide whether firefighter Christopher Hughes' punishment should be changed. The September hoax -- caught on video and posted on YouTube -- showed a masked gunman threatening firefighters inside a Peake Road fire station: <http://www.macon.com/2011/12/15/1824968/culture-of-hazing-detailed-at.html>

Baltimore City (MD) Fire Department faces a \$3 million lawsuit for racial discrimination. Deputy Fire Chief Lloyd Carter filed the action in federal court, said WBAL-TV 11 News I-Team reporter David Collins, who obtained a copy of the lawsuit. Carter, a 28-year veteran of the department, entered the fire service as a paramedic. In the lawsuit filed against the department, Carter details a career path blocked by acts of racial discrimination. He alleges department retaliation and harassment through internal inquires, reviews and investigations without just cause. The lawsuit, according to Collins, claims the department's "conduct and actions were done with ill will and evil purpose and malice." Carter alleges the first act of discrimination came after the retirement of Fire Chief William Goodwin, claiming former Mayor Sheila Dixon's national search committee passed over him in favor of James Clack instead: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/30013554/detail.html>

In the latest sign of turmoil within the Chicago (IL) Fire Department, a high-ranking officer was recently demoted and placed on paid administrative leave after being charged with drunken driving and possession of a handgun following a traffic accident. By voluntarily resigning his \$147,000-a-year job as deputy district chief — and returning to the lesser rank of battalion chief — Loyal Nichols Jr. now has union protection, officials said. That's significant because the union contract includes a policy of "progressive discipline," with specific steps that must be followed before union members can be punished for transgressions. Nichols' criminal case, meanwhile, still is wending its way through the court system. "CFD member Loyal Nichols was arrested on charges concerning an accident in his personal car while off-duty," fire department spokesman Larry Langford said via email. "The Police Department tells us he was charged with leaving the scene, driving under the influence and having a weapon in the car." "Nichols was a deputy district chief at the time of the arrest. Subsequent to that arrest, he has decided to voluntarily resign his position . . . and return to his career service rank of battalion chief. He will still be subject to the disciplinary process concerning violations of the code of conduct for members of the department. . . . He is on paid administrative lead pending the progress of the police and CFD investigation." <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/9468519-418/deputy-fire-chief-demoted-after-dui-gun-charges.html>

A former Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department captain who killed a woman in his Eagle Rock home and dragged her nude body behind his truck was sentenced Friday to 15 years to life in prison for a crime the judge called "baffling." Following a three-week trial, David Del Toro was found guilty in March of the second-degree murder of Jennifer Flores, 42, whose battered body was found dumped in the street a few blocks from the firefighter's home in August 2006. Del Toro, 55, was a 23-year veteran of the city's Fire Department at the time of the murder. He had served as a drill instructor and worked at stations in Arleta, Skid Row, Lincoln Heights, Silver Lake and Hollywood. "He's done wonderful things in his life," said Judge Lance Ito before handing down the sentence. "So it makes the events of the day in question so much more baffling. You can't have these factors come together and make any sense." Del Toro had killed Flores in a drunken rage when she turned him down for sex, dumped her body and returned home to clean up the mess, according to prosecutor Bobby Grace. The firefighter had a history of alcoholism and domestic violence, and was temporarily suspended by the Fire Department for beating an ex-wife and ex-girlfriend, Grace said. "It was inevitable he was going to end up killing somebody," Grace said after the sentencing:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_19567170

A Prescott (AZ) fire captain and union official has filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Prescott and multiple individual officials, alleging that he was forced into early retirement after he complained about harassment to two union members and then stood up for a female firefighter when she claimed sexual harassment by a supervisor. John Vicente said the situation arose from his role as the vice president of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3066, a position he attained in 2001. The lawsuit claims that Vicente was contacted in August 2010 by two unnamed union members who said that Don Devendorf, a PFD battalion chief, "had made hostile, sexually suggestive statements" to them, and that the statements "involved abusive language and threatened sexual acts with another employee as a punishment." The employees also asserted Devendorf had "made disturbing comments about an employee's wife."

<http://www.dcourier.com/Main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=101321>

A firefighter has filed a federal lawsuit against the city alleging racial discrimination in the promotion of new lieutenants at St. Petersburg (FL) Fire and Rescue. The plaintiff is Sean Thornton, an African-American firefighter and emergency medical technician who has worked for the city for 13 years. In a suit filed last week, he also alleged that the city of St. Petersburg and Fire Chief James Large violated his civil rights and retaliated against him. Thornton said his complaints earned him the ire of white firefighters, who retaliated against him. He is seeking thousands in compensatory damages. "The retaliation includes... white firefighters tampering with (Thornton's) equipment, making prank phone calls to his personal telephone, and cursing at him," according to the lawsuit. Thornton's suit alleges that white firefighters who vied for promotion to lieutenant have an "unfair advantage." Before oral exams, the suit said, it is "common knowledge ... that white lieutenants would give white candidates copies of the pre-prepared checklists for the upcoming exam." The suit said when he was first hired, other black firefighters told Thornton there was "no use" in taking the lieutenant's test because "blacks were almost never promoted." He also filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 2007: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1205770-Firefighter-claims-racial-discrimination-in-Fla/>

The N.C. Court of Appeals denied a former Orange County EMT's motion that he had public-official immunity and could not be sued for the death of a Chapel Hill High School football player. Court of Appeals Chief Judge John Martin and Court of Appeals Judges Wanda Bryant and Ann Calabria ruled Tuesday that James Griffin may be held personally liable for any harm

caused by negligence in his position as an emergency medical technician. Griffin responded to a 911 call in August 2008 from 17-year-old Atlas Fraley, who was experiencing full-body cramps and dehydration after football practice. Griffin filed a motion in October 2010 arguing that he had public-official immunity as a county worker and could not be sued. In November, Superior Court Judge Carl Fox ruled that Griffin, as an individual, does not have the same immunity. Griffin appealed, arguing that his job requires him to make personal judgments. The Court of Appeals determined that the use of judgment is inherent in every position of employment and that it was not enough to entitle Griffin to immunity as a public official. Dr. Jane Brice, the Orange County EMS medical director, revoked Griffin's paramedic privileges 10 days after Fraley's death. Griffin resigned days later under threat of termination:

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2011/12/21/1724256/orange-emt-has-no-immunity-in.html>

Positive Public Relations Items:

A year ago, fire officials in other states called Omaha's (NE) two-year streak without a fire death remarkable. One year later, still with no fire deaths — well, that's "extraordinary." The last Omaha fire death was three years ago — Dec. 9, 2008 — when 3-year-old Davius Potter-Tate died of smoke inhalation after a house fire. He was one of five who died in Omaha fires that year. The following calendar year, 2009, was the first since at least 1949 with no fire fatalities. Omaha firefighters typically fight about 350 building fires each year. Steve Zaccard, a fire marshal in charge of fire prevention at the St. Paul Fire Department in Minnesota, called Omaha's record extraordinary. He said he planned to call fire officials to find out what they are doing right. "It's not by chance, I'm certain," he said. "It's by design. My hat's off to them." Before 2009, the lowest number of Omaha fire deaths in the past 20 years occurred in 1995, with one death recorded. Fire Department officials attribute the absence of fire deaths to policies instituted by Fire Chief Mike McDonnell that increased training, smoke detector installations, public education and building inspections:

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20111210/NEWS01/712109901>

Starting today, firefighters in Boise (ID) and across the Valley are collecting food and toys to benefit the Idaho Food Bank and U.S. Marines Toys for Tots campaign. Residents in Boise, North Ada, Meridian, Kuna, Eagle, Nampa, Caldwell, Star and Middleton are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items at any local fire station through Jan. 1. "Our goal this year, as it has been for the past 13, is for all the people in the Treasure Valley to have a nice meal to eat and a toy or two for the children to open on Christmas day," Boise Fire Capt. Jason Barnard said Tuesday in a news release. "If all the rest of us will step up and help our neighbors, we can make that happen."

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2011/12/13/1915101/treasure-valley-firefighters-annual.html>

Facebook fame meets firefighters in a heart-warming display of holiday cheer. This Saturday marks the second annual toy drive being sponsored by Pahrump (NV) Valley Firefighters IAFF local 4068 and Positive Pahrump, a popular Facebook page created by resident Stephanie Lopez. Positive Pahrump and firefighters will host their toy drive at 160 Emery Street at the union hall from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The toy drive was hastily put together last year by Lopez and local firefighter Dustin Knutson. The idea came to them while putting together food baskets for the needy. They were able to mount a 48-hour toy drive that helped 20 to 30 needy families in the area. This year's toy drive is far more organized, Lopez said, and will help more families get toys for their children:

<http://pvtimes.com/news/firefighters-positive-pahrump-play-santas-helpers/>

Forest Grove (OR) Fire Department toy drive helps over 200 local families. The Forest Grove Fire Department's annual toy drive faced a troubling math equation this holiday season: tough economic times + the fire at Prime Time Sports Bar and Restaurant = even more local people in need of a little Christmas cheer. If the two rooms overflowing with gifts at the fire house were any indication, the community rallied around the cause to give a boost to more than 200 families who needed a little help making Christmas morning special:

http://www.oregonlive.com/forest-grove/index.ssf/2011/12/forest_grove_fire_department_t.html

Training & Safety Related Items:

The same mistakes in Charleston (SC)? - Four years after nine firefighters died battling Sofa Super Store fire, a report details an eerily similar set of breakdowns in a March blaze. Firefighters rush into a burning commercial building with too-small hoses and insufficient water. The commander can't reach them because the captain forgot his radio. Backup crews aren't sure where to go or what to do. Confusion reigns as the building's truss roof collapses in an explosion of flames. This reads like the playbook from the deadly Sofa Super Store fire in June 2007, but it's not. These dangerous missteps occurred at a March 1 blaze on Daniel Island, according to an internal report obtained by The Post and Courier. They occurred despite nearly four years of intensive and expensive efforts to instill a culture of safety in the Charleston Fire Department. Blanton, captain of the first arriving engine, and Williams, the incident commander, were singled out for the harshest criticism in the report. Among other things, the report faulted Blanton for: Leading his crew into the burning commercial building without backup and without fully sizing up the blaze and the dangers it presented. Like the Sofa Super Store, the building had a truss roof that was susceptible to collapse when exposed to flame, and department rules bar entry under those conditions. Entering the building without his emergency radio and the crew's thermal imaging camera. That left him no with way to contact the outside and no means for detecting fire hidden in walls and ceilings. Failing to hook up with a hydrant before making entry and rushing in with undersized hose lines. That left the crew with the limited water supply from the truck and insufficient flow to battle the blaze: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/dec/11/same-mistakes/>

The Nevada Department of Forestry is facing thousands of dollars in fines relating to a firefighter's death. Paul Cash died at the age of 39 leaving behind a wife and daughter. His online obituary says "Paul's passing has left a hole in all of our hearts. He loved everyone and was loved by all." The Elko County coroner confirms that Cash died because of complications from the rare Hantavirus. In a complaint filed by the Occupational Safety and Health Chief Administrative Officer, he claims Cash contracted the virus at one of the Spring Creek fire stations just outside of Elko. The main way you get it is from inhaling deer mouse droppings, and the OSHA worker writes: "Firefighters were potentially exposed to deer mice feces, but had not received specific training on proper precautions to protect themselves." The complaint goes on to say that despite federal law, the firefighters were not required to use protective gear like gloves and safety suit while cleaning up areas with those droppings. Furthermore the firefighters normal routines involved them sweeping up the station with equipment that had been stored next to possible deer mice nesting sites - something that could have pushed the dangerous feces particles up into the air where crews could breathe it in. Finally the complaint says that after receiving confirmation that the firefighter died because of quote "occupational exposure to Hantavirus," the Nevada division of forestry failed to notify OSHA like the law requires:

<http://www.mynews4.com/news/story/osha-death-firefighter-elko/S44x5fw1Y06oulHC6wxuwg.csp>

Being in top shape is a priority for firefighters, but exercise is also the main reason for on-the-job injuries within the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department, a recently published report found. The report by University of Arizona researchers, part of the Strategies to Prevent Injuries Among Firefighters, found that one-third of injuries were exercise-related - 85 percent from strains and sprains: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/exercise-called-leading-factor-in-firefighter-strains-sprains/article_2ff44362-d16a-5c72-a43d-1cf40308034d.html

General Fire Service Related Items:

Armed with a new study that shows the county provides its fair share of fire resources, the Washoe County Commission Tuesday will consider starting negotiations with Reno (NV) on a new agreement to ensure the closest fire station responds to calls — regardless of city borders — after the county starts its own fire department in July. Reno officials have been clamoring for a meeting to discuss how fire service will be provided after the breakup. For the last 11 years, the city has provided service to Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, staffing its five fire stations and equipment. That contract ends June 30. The commission Tuesday will ask its staff to start talks with the city as well as consider a proposal from the Reno City Council for a joint meeting to discuss a new automatic aid agreement for the first time face to face. The commission also will vote on creating a regional task force to steer the eventual creation of a regional fire agency: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20111212/NEWS/111212039/Washoe-Commission-considers-talks-Reno-over-fire-service?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Pasco County (FL) obtained a near-unanimous ruling in its contract dispute with its firefighters union. "We consider it a win at this point," county personnel director Barbara De Simone said. The county and International Association of Firefighters Local 4420 have been at an impasse since August after failing to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement. The firefighters' contract expired Sept. 30, but the county must honor terms of that agreement until a new one is ratified. Arbitrator Mark Sherman, who served as special magistrate at an October impasse hearing, ruled for the county in every point of contention except for one. "We get to wear union stickers on our helmets," Union President Ralph Grant said. Both sides agreed to a wage freeze for the current fiscal year but will resume bargaining in February for 2013 wages. He also sided with the county in a dispute over whether firefighters and paramedics would be responsible for lawn maintenance at their respective stations. Union members argued that forcing them to mow the lawn and trim hedges was inappropriate, given their level of training, and often forced them to show up for calls in clothing that was soiled: <http://www2.tbo.com/news/pasco-news/2011/dec/14/panewso1-arbitrator-sided-with-county-over-firefig-ar-334486/>

A former Mt. San Antonio College (Southern California) fire chief accused of stealing nearly \$1 million from students and the college pleaded no contest Tuesday to 16 felony charges, Los Angeles County prosecutors said. Jerry Dewayne Austin, 57, of Norco, was released from custody after pleading no contest to two felony counts of identity theft, two felony counts of forgery and 12 felony counts of grand theft at his jury trial hearing at Pomona Superior Court, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney James Belna said. Austin, who was arrested in January, could be sentenced to two to five years in prison with time served, officials said: http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_19541370

Santa Rosa (CA) firefighter's roof inspection draws safety fine. During his 22 years as a firefighter, Rey has scrambled across his share of roofs, some of them burning. And as an inspector in the city fire marshal's office for six years, one of Toby Rey's jobs has been to ensure solar panels on roofs comply with setbacks designed to keep firefighters safe. So in early August, when Rey briefly inspected solar panels on a home under construction near the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, he didn't bother wearing safety equipment. "I just used my judgment and determined it was a safe roof to be on," Rey said. But local Cal-OSHA officials, who enforce workplace safety laws, saw something different — a serious safety hazard. And last month they slapped the Santa Rosa Fire Department with a \$2,700 fine. Cal-OSHA officials said Rey had failed to use "fall protection measures" while atop the roof, which they said was 24 feet off the ground: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20111221/ARTICLES/111229873>

The union representing Menlo Park (CA) district firefighters has threatened legal action over plans to reduce employee benefits and change working conditions. One contentious proposal still under consideration would create a second-tier retirement system for firefighters hired on or after Jan. 1, 2012. Under the plan, new employees would get a less lucrative pension and "defined contribution" program, such as a 401(k), than what current firefighters receive: <http://peninsulapress.com/2011/12/21/menlo-park-firefighters-clash-with-district-over-pay-benefits-and-working-conditions/>

California's three largest pension systems have promised \$500 billion beyond their current ability to make those payments to retirees, according to a study released today by Stanford University Professor and former Democratic Assemblyman Joe Nation and a student researcher. The Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research issued the report, documenting what it claims is the state's deepening pension crisis. California Common Sense, an organization dedicated to engaging the public in "data-driven discourse" is also behind the report. Among the report's findings for CalPERS, CalSTRS and the University of California Retirement Plan: Using a "risk-free" or low-risk discount rate -- a method that is debated when experts talk about figuring out a pension system's obligations -- the total unfunded liability for CalPERS, CalSTRS, and the UC system is \$498 billion. That's up 17 percent higher than the \$425 billion shortfall Stanford estimated in April 2010: http://blogs.sacbee.com/the_state_worker/2011/12/new-stanford-study-pegs-pension-shortfall-at.html

Three Volusia County (FL) paramedics with more than 30 years collective experience were fired for violating a no-smoking policy, a spokesman confirmed on Saturday. "I was terminated for something I do at home and is perfectly legal," Mike Stone told the News-Journal. He had worked as an EVAC paramedic for 5 1/2 years. Volusia County took over privately owned EVAC in October and required its employees to pass a blood test for nicotine, according to the article: <http://www.ems1.com/ems-management/articles/1204262-3-Fla-paramedics-fired-for-smoking/>

Nine jurisdictions are looking at changes to property taxes – among other changes – in a discussion on the forming of a regional fire authority in south Snohomish County (WA). In March, seven cities and two fire districts started meeting regularly to explore the possibility of regionalizing fire and EMS services. Officials estimate they could have a proposal ready for the ballot in 2013. A Regional Fire Authority (RFA) allows fire departments to essentially combine to form a new fire district and provide fire service over a greater region. Snohomish County already has an RFA, which provides services to north county: http://www.mukilteobeacon.com/city-government/article.exm/2011-12-21_regional_fire_services_talks_start_to_heat_up

Property tax for fire protection rears its ugly head, again in Arizona:

<http://www.sonorannews.com/archives/2011/111214/frontpage-PropTax.html>

Some 2,400 public employees in Arizona cashed in thousands of hours of unused sick leave last year, costing local and state governments more than \$27.9 million at a time when many of them have frozen wages, imposed unpaid time off, cut services and in some cases, raised taxes and fees. As part of an ongoing examination of public-employee benefits, The Arizona Republic looked at employees of the state, its two largest counties and their biggest cities. The newspaper found (<http://bit.ly/ugW019>) that at least five public employees accrued thousands of hours of sick leave during their careers and were each paid at least \$100,000 for it when they retired last year. That's more than double what a privately employed Arizonan earns on average in a year. The investigation also found that the city of Phoenix paid \$10.79 million for unused sick leave to 903 employees last year, for an average payment of \$11,958. Payouts went to roughly 6 percent of the 15,000-member city work force. Supporters of sick-leave payouts say ending the benefit would be unfair because public employees count on them, and they are used to recruit workers. Critics say the practice, especially during tough economic times, is a waste of money, and that employees should not be rewarded simply for showing up to work and not abusing sick leave:

http://www.gvnews.com/news/state/ariz-entities-pay-out-million-in-sick-leave/article_9684d4b4-ff9d-5b89-b02b-030b829dc82e.html

Delays for Paramedics Draw Criticism in Oakland (CA). Residents say victims of violence are dying because first responders must wait until police arrive. Across the country, first responders are often required to wait for law enforcement officers to arrive before entering a violent-crime scene. The policy is intended to keep paramedics and emergency medical technicians safe. But in Oakland, where emergency crews are often faster than the police, the delayed medical help can have tragic consequences, feeding a culture of distrust and anger. "In the early days, we did not wait for the police," said Don Lundy, the president of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. "We were told you go in there, that's what you're supposed to do." But as assaults against paramedics became more frequent, the policy of standing back spread. Lundy said paramedics and emergency medical technicians are now trained to be aware of armed victims and suspects, of anguished and aggressive friends and relatives and other dangers. First responders put personal safety ahead of a patient's medical needs. Some buy and wear their own bulletproof vests. "It's not my job to go in and get killed so I can't help anybody," Lundy said:

<http://www.baycitizen.org/policing/story/delays-paramedics-criticism-oakland/>

Closing two fire stations and opening one in a more central location between the two would be a way of reducing fire costs, Los Angeles County (CA) Fire Chief Daryl Osby told members of the City Council last week. Council members met at Cal Poly Pomona for a special meeting on city finances. Among the major topics of the meeting was fire service and how to hold costs down. A large part of the city expenses involves police and fire services. The city's 2011-2012 budget has general fund expenditures for all city departments that total \$79 million, according to a city staff report. The fire service portion of the general fund is \$22.8 million. Osby told council members a fire station reconfiguration proposal, the topic of at least two community meetings last year, is a cost-reducing option. Osby said Thursday that if the city is trying to save \$2 million in general fund costs, it can be done through the closure of the two stations - fire station 182 at 1059 N. White Ave. and Fire Station 186 at 280 E. Bonita Ave. - and opening a new station in a central location. The new station would be "strategically located to have optimum response times," Osby said: http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_19573889

The city of Oceanside (CA) is conducting a study to explore the possibility of outsourcing ambulance services to save money. Oceanside has four ambulances which are each staffed with two firefighter paramedics every day. However, city-owned ambulances may be a thing of the past. A study is under way to find out how much money could be saved if Oceanside hired a private company instead. Oceanside City Councilman Jerry Kern said he supports that study. "Other cities do this," he said. "I don't believe the level of service would go down." A preliminary study by a consulting firm last summer showed outsourcing ambulance services could save up to \$3 million. As the city faces a \$2 million shortfall and spends about 70 percent of its budget on public safety, Kern believes all options should be considered. "You can't take 70 percent of your budget and remove it from the budget process and try to balance your budget on the remaining 30 percent," he said. "Pretty soon, you won't have any libraries. You won't have any parks or recreation services."

<http://www.10news.com/news/30021003/detail.html>

A Carson City judge signed an order Thursday telling the Public Employees Retirement System of Nevada to release to the Reno Gazette-Journal the names of all retired employees in Nevada and the amount of their benefit. In his order finding in favor of a suit filed by the newspaper, District Court Judge James Russell said the purpose of the Nevada Public Records Act "is to ensure the accountability of the government to members of the public by facilitating public access to vital information about government activities." "Had the Legislature intended that the information requested by the RGJ in this matter be confidential -- it would have so stated," Russell said in the order. "But it did not."

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20111222/NEWS/111222014/1459/news50/Gazette-Journal-prevails-lawsuit-public-retirement-program-must-turn-over-information>

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

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

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

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

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

The Fine Print:

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at sprziborowski@aol.com 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@aol.com 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.