



FIRE & EMS NEWS

March 16, 2013

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2013 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.

SPRING 2013 Semester: (January through May 2013)

Registration for the Spring 2013 semester at Chabot College has begun, many classes are already full!

The following classes are available!

- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

COURSE	DAY
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 16, 18 and 20 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
FT 91A (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 30, May 2, May 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 23, 25, 27 and 28	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 16, 18, 20 and 21	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 9, 11 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 29 through May 11	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)

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 2013 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 INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Update

March 14, 2013

The Regional Action Plans for each of the Cohesive Strategy Regions – Northeast, Southeast and West – were submitted to the Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC) March 5, 2013. The Action Plans were developed through a collaborative, intergovernmental and public process. In addition to a portfolio of actions and activities to be implemented within the next five years, the Action Plans also detail activity-tracking metrics including scope, timeframes, responsibilities and roles throughout the wildland fire community. The Action Plans, along with the Regional Risk Analysis Reports completed in December 2012, have been posted to the Cohesive Strategy website at <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov>. The websites for all three regions are also available on this website. In response to requirements of the Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement (FLAME) Act of 2009, the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) - <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/leadership/index.shtml> directed the development of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (Cohesive Strategy). The Cohesive Strategy is a collaborative process with active involvement of all levels of government and non-governmental organizations, as well as the public, to seek national, all-lands solutions to wildland fire management issues.

For additional information regarding the Cohesive Strategy, WFEC or the Regions, please click on the links above.

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



Free NFA Courses in your Area in April/May/June

The National Fire Academy (NFA) offers free, high-quality fire and EMS training in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Anyone may access the schedule of NFA training opportunities by visiting: <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/main/schedule/off-campus>

Please post this information to your newsletters, bulletin boards and general training information. Help us get the word out that these valuable training opportunities are free and available. All students applying for NFA training courses are required to register for a Student Identification Number (SID). This number will be used in place of the Social Security Number on General Admissions Application forms.

To Register for a SID, click here: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/ftin.shtm>

2-Day Off-Campus Deliveries in April/May

Alaska

- F0612 - Command and Control of Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Operations for the Structural Chief Officer
 - Fairbanks, AK - 4/6/2013 - 4/7/2013
 - Anchorage, AK - 4/6/2013 - 4/7/2013

Arizona

- F0610 - Introduction to Wildland and Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer
 - Sierra Vista, AZ - 4/20/2013 - 4/21/2013
- F0613 - Cooperative Leadership Issues in Wildland/Urban Interface Operations
 - Casa Grande, AZ - 5/4/2013 - 5/5/2013

Colorado

- F0455 - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
 - Estes Park, CO - 5/18/2013 - 5/19/2013
- F0610 - Introduction to Wildland and Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer
 - Estes Park, CO - 5/18/2013 - 5/19/2013

Connecticut

- F0521 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change
 - Windsor Locks, CT - 5/18/2013 - 5/19/2013

District of Columbia

- F0803 - Leadership I for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Company Success
 - Washington, DC - 4/8/2013 - 4/9/2013

- F0804 - Leadership II for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Personal Success
 - Washington, DC 20032-5211 - 5/6/2013 - 5/7/2013
- F0805 - Leadership III for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Supervisory Success
 - Washington, DC - 6/10/2013 - 6/11/2013

Florida

- F0521 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change
 - Ocala, FL - 6/20/2013 - 6/21/2013

Georgia

- F0520 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Within Communities
 - Forsyth, GA - 4/8/2013 - 4/9/2013
- F0521 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership to Facilitate Adaptive Change
 - Forsyth, GA - 4/10/2013 - 4/11/2013
- F0488 - Fiscal Management and Decision Making
 - Forsyth, GA - 6/6/2013 - 6/7/2013

Hawaii

- F0321 - Incident Command for Highrise Operations
 - Kahului, HI - 4/11/2013 - 4/12/2013
- F0520 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Within Communities
 - Honolulu, HI - 5/23/2013 - 5/24/2013

Iowa

- F0215 - Commissioning New Occupancies
 - Ames, IA - 4/25/2013 - 4/26/2013
- F0458 - Preparation for Initial Company Operations
 - Des Moines, IA - 5/2/2013 - 5/3/2013
- F0142 - Residential Sprinkler Plan Review
 - Ames, IA - 5/16/2013 - 5/17/2013

Kansas

- F0804 - Leadership II for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Personal Success
 - Park City, KS - 5/16/2013 - 5/17/2013

Kentucky

- F0728 - Incident Safety Officer (Revised) Train-the-Trainer
 - Greenville, KY - 4/27/2013 - 4/28/2013

Louisiana

- F0209 - Courtroom Preparation and Testimony for First Responders
 - Bush, LA - 4/13/2013 - 4/14/2013
- F0626 - Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I
 - Houma, LA - 5/25/2013 - 5/26/2013
- F0520 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Within Communities
 - Slidell, LA - 6/4/2013 - 6/5/2013
- F0290 - Training Operations in Small Departments
 - Sulphur, LA - 6/8/2013 - 6/9/2013
- F0290 - Training Operations in Small Departments
 - Jena, LA - 6/8/2013 - 6/9/201

Michigan

- F0613 - Cooperative Leadership Issues in Wildland/Urban Interface Operations
 - Roscommon, MI - 5/18/2013 - 5/19/2013
- F0626 - Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I
 - Roscommon, MI - 5/18/2013 - 5/19/2013

Minnesota

- F0291 - Training Operations in Small Departments Train-the-Trainer
 - Moorhead, MN - 4/6/2013 - 4/7/2013

Mississippi

- F0610 - Introduction to Wildland and Wildland/Urban Interface Firefighting for the Structural Company Officer
 - Holly Springs, MS - 4/20/2013 - 4/21/2013
- F0215 - Commissioning New Occupancies
 - Jackson, MS - 6/17/2013 - 6/18/2013

Montana

- F0321 - Incident Command for Highrise Operations
 - Butte, MT - 4/20/2013 - 4/21/2013
- F0457 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations
 - Ennis, MT - 5/18/2013 - 5/19/2013

Nebraska

- F0455 - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
 - York, NE - 4/6/2013 - 4/7/2013 Course Status: ACTIVE

- F0290 - Training Operations in Small Departments
 - Grand Island, NE - 5/17/2013 - 5/19/2013

Nevada

- F0142 - Residential Sprinkler Plan Review
 - Elko, NV - 4/9/2013 - 4/10/2013

New Hampshire

- F0731 - Health and Safety Officer Train-the-Trainer
 - Concord, NH - 4/23/2013 - 4/24/2013
- F0728 - Incident Safety Officer (Revised) Train-the-Trainer
 - Concord, NH - 6/15/2013 - 6/16/2013

New Mexico

- F0457 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations
 - Santa Fe, NM - 4/6/2013 - 4/7/2013
- F0455 - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
 - Roswell, NM - 4/27/2013 - 4/28/2013
- F0457 - Decision Making for Initial Company Operations
 - Los Alamos, NM - 5/11/2013 - 5/12/2013
- F0455 - Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
 - Santa Fe, NM - 6/1/2013 - 6/2/2013
- F0805 - Leadership III for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Supervisory Success
 - Rio Rancho, NM - 6/22/2013 - 6/23/2013

New York

- F0627 - Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist II
 - Montour Falls, NY - 4/30/2013 - 5/1/2013

Oklahoma

- F0315 - Introduction to Unified Command for Multi-Agency and Catastrophic Incidents
 - Norman, OK - 4/4/2013 - 4/5/2013

Oregon

- F0271 - Fire Prevention for First Responders and Small Departments
 - Salem, OR - 4/22/2013 - 4/23/2013
 - Salem, OR - 4/24/2013 - 4/25/2013

South Carolina

- F0627 - Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist II
 - Columbia, SC - 5/21/2013 - 5/22/2013
 - Columbia, SC - 6/1/2013 - 6/2/2013

South Dakota

- F0321 - Incident Command for Highrise Operations
 - Sioux Falls, SD - 5/4/2013 - 5/5/2013
- F0458 - Preparation for Initial Company Operations
 - Mitchell, SD - 5/25/2013 - 5/26/2013

Tennessee

- F0315 - Introduction to Unified Command for Multi-Agency and Catastrophic Incidents
 - Jackson, TN - 5/13/2013 - 5/14/2013

Texas

- F0520 - Executive Skills Series: Exercising Leadership Within Communities
 - Mesquite, TX - 4/2/2013 - 4/3/2013
- F0729 - Incident Safety Officer (Revised)
 - Lubbock, TX - 5/28/2013 - 5/29/2013

Washington

- F0803 - Leadership I for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Company Success
 - Wenatchee, WA - 6/6/2013 - 6/7/2013
- F0803 - Leadership I for Fire and EMS: Strategies for Company Success
 - Wenatchee, WA - 6/14/2013 - 6/15/2013

6-Day Off-Campus Deliveries in April/May/June

- N0822 - Safety Program Operations - Fairfax, VA - 5/6/2013 - 5/11/2013
- N0811 - Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers - Forsyth, GA - 4/8/2013 - 4/13/2013
- N0814 - Hazardous Materials Incident Management - Forsyth, GA - 5/13/2013 - 5/18/2013
- N0847 - Emergency Medical Services Incident Operations - Indianapolis, IN - 5/6/2013 - 5/11/2013
- N0831 - Command and Control of Incident Operations - Emporia, KS - 4/15/2013 - 4/20/2013
- N0824 - Management Strategies for Success - Omaha, NE - 5/20/2013 - 5/25/2013
- N0824 - Management Strategies for Success - Ames, IA - 6/10/2013 - 6/15/2013

- N0831 - Command and Control of Incident Operations - Fargo, ND - 4/22/2013 - 4/27/2013
- N0811 - Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers - Soldotna, AK - 5/6/2013 - 5/11/2013

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

United States Fire Administration Releases Fire Estimate Summary Series (2007-2011)

- Eighteen summaries present information on leading causes and trends:
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2013releases/030713.shtm>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of the ***Fire Estimate Summary Series (2007-2011)***. This series presents basic information on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The data summary series was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center to share information with the American public, fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

Individual summaries are issued as part of the ***Fire Estimate Summary Series*** and address the size of a specific fire or fire-related issue as well as highlight important data trends. As part of this series, 18 summaries have been issued presenting basic information on the leading causes of residential building and nonresidential building fires, deaths, injuries and dollar losses for 2011 and highlighting overall trends in these leading causes for the five-year period of 2007 to 2011. Additional new and updated fire estimate summaries will be periodically released under this series as future year data become available.

For further information regarding other statistical reports or any programs and training available at USFA, visit www.usfa.fema.gov

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:**

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – April 22 through 27, 2013.
Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD – July 2013
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – Chicago, IL - August 13 through 17, 2013
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

Fire Shows Reno – Reno, NV - October 2013
Go to www.fireshowreno.com for more information.

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – Fresno, CA - November 18 through 22, 2013 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

Firehouse World – San Diego, CA - February, 2014
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Looking for California State Certified fire training courses? Check out the California State Fire Training CLASS SCHEDULE – it is updated every Friday and contains a statewide listing of state certified classes for personnel of all ranks – even future firefighters.

Go to: http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training_classschedule.php

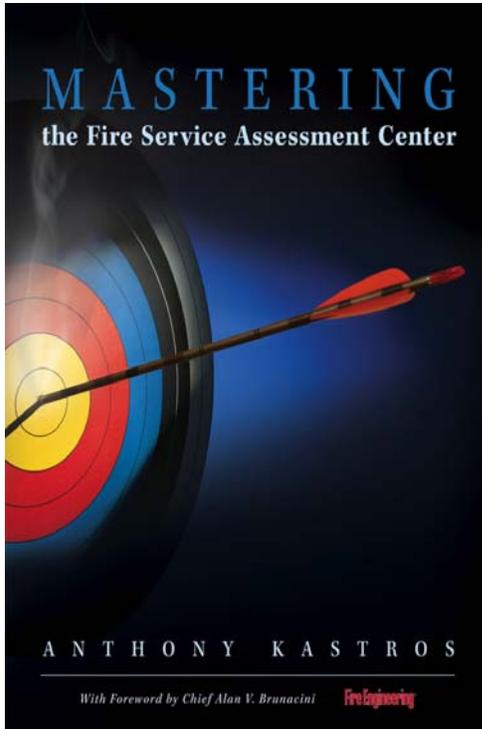
FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



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

Anthony Kastros is a 25-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.

MARCH 25 - 28, 2013 – 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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer the following California State Fire Marshal certified courses:

COURSE:	DATES:
-S-390 (Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations)	April 15 – 18, 2013
-Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10, 2013
-Fire Management 2E	May 13 – 17, 2013
-Regional Instructor Orientation	August 21, 2013
-Ethical Leadership in the Classroom	August 22, 2013

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

To Register: Please see below for registration form.

More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski at steve.prziborowski@cnt.sccgov.org or 408-896-6890.

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REGISTRATION FORM

COURSE:	DATES:	COST:	QUANTITY:
S-390	April 15 – 18, 2013	\$300.00	_____
Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	May 13 – 17, 2013	\$295.00	_____
Regional Instructor Orientation	August 21, 2013	\$155.00	_____
Ethical Leadership in Classroom	August 22, 2013	\$100.00	_____
		TOTAL:	_____

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

For these classes, the only form of payment will be checks.

- **Please make your check payable to:** Santa Clara County Fire Department.
- **Please mail or deliver your check to:**

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

- **Cancellation Policy:**

Full refunds will be provided if requested 14 calendar days in advance of each class at 1500 hours. If a class begins on Monday, then the refund deadline is 1500 hours two Mondays prior. 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 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.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

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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

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

Hey,

A New Castle County (DE) Paramedic operating at the scene of 2 serious crashes on 2 bridges, 1 each direction, was reportedly injured early this morning when he fell between the two roadways through a small gap. He fell 20 to 30 feet when additional ALS patients were determined on the opposite side from him and he attempted to cross over to assist. His injuries and status are currently unknown but was reported to be conscious at the hospital. The Paramedic was one of 5 patients, at least 2 of which were ALS, taken from what ended up being 3 incidents at the one location at the same time on Delaware Route 7 by the entrance to the Delaware Park Casino - just after midnight this morning. All patients were taken the Christiana Hospital Trauma Center, which is close to the scene.

The first crash was when a single vehicle crashed into a jersey barrier north bound on Route 7. That vehicle had 3 patients. The second was caused as a good samaritan, who had stopped his van in the south bound lanes, was struck by an SUV soon after stopping, trapping the driver of that SUV. The Paramedic fell just after arriving in the beginning of operations at the 2 MVCs. Fire companies from Mill Creek and Minquas of Newport, along with EMS from Mill Creek, Minquas, Elsmere, Cranston Heights, Aetna of Newark and Several New Castle County Paramedic units and Supervisors were operating on the scene.

REMINDERS:

This CLOSE CALL injury incident is grim reminder of the Line of Duty Death of Alexandria (VA) FD Paramedic Joshua A. Weissman. As you will recall, PM Weissman died on February 9, 2012 from injuries he sustained when he fell from a highway overpass on Interstate 395 while responding to a vehicle fire with a report of someone trapped on February 8, 2012. Furthermore, in related incidents, 2011 a West Virginia FF died in the Line of Duty when he fell from a bridge investigating a fire...and in 2007 an Arkansas FF died in the Line of Duty when he fell from a highway bridge while working a crash. **HERE is that report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200731.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG

March 16, 2013

www.chabotfire.com

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The Secret List 2-11-13 / 0309 Hours

AND:

KOREAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY - FACTORY FIRE/WALL COLLAPSE

We regret to advise you that Senior FF/Paramedic Young-soo Yoon of the Gasan District Fire Department died in the Line of Duty yesterday, the morning of 13 February 2013 while operating on the scene of a plastics factory fire. FF/Paramedic Yoon was tasked with treating casualties when he was called to assist with fire operations due to a shortage of responding personnel. Yoon was assigned with search and rescue operations when a wall collapsed on him He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced dead at 0709 hours yesterday morning. FF/Paramedic Yoon is survived by his wife and infant son. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

TO MY BELOVED SCBA, **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY:**

...how do I love thee?...let me count the psi...

Happy Valentine's Day! Today is the day dedicated to showing our significant others just how much we care. Boyfriends, girlfriends, husbands, and wives (and any combination of the above, remember IT IS 2013) all scurry to make the day special with chocolates, flowers, fire books, romantic dinners, free subscriptions to The Secret List and other nearly as thoughtful gifts. Why? Because good relationships take work. Good relationships take maintenance. **How about giving some thought about the relationship you have with your SCBA?**

CHECK THIS OUT: <http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2013/02/scba-vday/>

VIDEO: FIREFIGHTERS COMMENTARY:

CHECK OUT this timeless classic commentary about Firefighters by Paul Harvey:

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

PERHAPS some of the elected officials of the Village of GARDEN CITY, New York would find the above video of interest.

GARDEN CITY FIREFIGHTERS ISSUE: <http://tinyurl.com/a3hdt2h>

FIRE BUDGET CUTS/LAYOFFS- A REMINDER:

A critical aspect that must be considered by any community faced with budget cuts, brownouts, layoffs and related reductions in fire protection, must consider the IMPACT those cuts may have on commercial, industrial and residential fire insurance rates.

ISO welcomes contact to help determine how changes and reduction in services may impact a community fire insurance rating.

Website: <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html>

Phone Contact: 1-800-888-4476

Here is a related piece: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/87099>

INTERSECTION RESPONDING CRASH IN FLA:

Escambia County's Fire Chief was involved in a four vehicle crash late yesterday afternoon that injured 7 people. The Chief was responding to a house fire with lights sirens activated and he stopped before entered the intersection of Fairfield Drive and W Street with a steady red light. Oncoming traffic on eastbound was stopped when a driver entered the intersection with a green light, striking the side of the Chief's SUV, which then struck a third vehicle that rolled into fourth.

FINAL WORD:

Our condolences the family and friends of the legendary OB Streeper, pioneer of auto extrication rescue that taught throughout the US, Canada, Puerto Rico and Columbia passed away Wednesday,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Feb. 13th 2013 at his home in Chenoa, Il. at the age of 89. OB organized and served as Chief of McLean County (Il) Rescue Squad from 1968 - 2005. In 1970 he and his son designed and manufactured rescue equipment and started the Emergency Squad Training Institute. Funeral service will be 10:00 AM on Monday, Feb. 18 at First Presbyterian Church, Chenoa. In 1944, while serving as a ball gunner on a B-24, his plane was shot down over southern France and he was Missing In Action 87 days. He was awarded a purple heart and silver star. The family has requested memorial contributions be directed to Chenoa Fire Department. RIP Chief.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-14-2013 / 1622 Hours

AND:

TWO AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

We regret to advise you that two Australian Firefighters died earlier today while operating at a still out of control wildland fire. The two DSE Firefighters, operating on the western edge of the fire at Pheasants Creek Track, were killed when a tree fell on their 4WD apparatus. The Firefighters were a man in his 30s and a woman in her late teens. The fire is located 170km north-east of Melbourne.

The pair had been part of a major effort fighting the fire that has been burning in the Harrietville area for weeks, intermittently threatening various communities. The fire threat prevents emergency crews from getting their remains out of the area. They are the third and fourth Victorian Firefighters to die this season, where it is summer is Australia. In December, CFA volunteer Peter Harry collapsed died while battling a house fire in Gisborne. Last month, 61-year-old DSE firefighter Peter Cramer, from Gippsland, died fighting a fire in Tasmania. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

HERE is video: <http://tinyurl.com/d36sxd5>

HERE is a DSE Firefighting FACEBOOK Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DSEFirefighter>

DETAIL UPDATE-THE LINE OF DUTY DEATH OF A 20 YEAR OLD FIREFIGHTER ANNE VESETH--- "DEATH WAS AVOIDABLE"

As you will recall, 20-year-old wildland firefighter Anne Veseth was killed in the line of Duty six months ago (August 12, 2012) in northwest Idaho. Now several investigations into the death of FF Anne Veseth are coming out. The first one finds Veseth died under hazardous conditions that could have been avoided. August 12, 2012 was a hot, dry day in when, during the fire, trees started crashing down...the trees that were falling hit a couple other trees that fell like dominos. Everyone ran for their lives. Once the forest came to a standstill again, fire crews made their way through the mess to find someone pinned under a tree. Forest Service radio traffic shows that Initially, the incident was called in as an injury but it quickly became clear on the ground that FF Anne Veseth, had been killed.

Safety protocols have significantly reduced the number of firefighter fatalities. But the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, says many of those protocols were not followed at the Steep Corner Fire. Inspectors found: poor communication; a lack of planning for escape routes; helicopter bucket drops without warnings to the ground crew; crews working amid numerous "hazard trees"; and a clear "potential for trees to domino." OSHA issued two citations for workplace safety violations to the Forest Service. OSHA didn't only find fault with the Forest Service though. The fire that FF Veseth was fighting was managed by a private entity. The Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association oversees a patchwork of state, federal, and private land, where the Potlatch timber company owns the largest share. OSHA issued three citations to the non-profit timber association and a \$14,000 fine.

WARNINGS: You may also remember that the day before FF Veseth died, a highly experienced and qualified hotshot firefighting crew **refused to work the fire** because it was too dangerous. One detail

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the OSHA report did not pinpoint is which exact factors led to the death of Anne Veseth. The Forest Service is conducting its own set of investigations and expects to release those findings soon.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

[US Forest Service safety violation citations](#) - OSHA

[Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association citation](#) - OSHA

[Hotshot report on Steep Corner Fire](#) - National Interagency Fire Center

[Steep Corner Fire overview](#) - InciWeb

DELAWARE PARAMEDIC FALL-UPDATE:

Update on the close call where the New Castle County EMS Paramedic fell between the DE Rt. 7 bridges. A photo on our home page photo shows the size of the gap between the bridges. It's small enough that the danger may not have been that obvious. The Paramedic is going to be off work for quite a while, but is generally OK and in good spirits. Good news. A driver involved in the crash was charged with DUI. More good news.

FDNY TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL FIRE & EMS PERSONNEL---YOU INCLUDED!

The FDNY Foundation Training Symposiums have developed a phenomenal reputation by providing non-FDNY fire & EMS personnel with great learning opportunities. **This years FDNY Symposium will be held March 14th & March 15th 2013....Firefighters & Officers from any FD and EMS Agency are welcome to register.** This year, the training symposium will delineate how the FDNY planned for, operated at, and mitigated post destruction from Hurricane Sandy, the storm of the century. **DETAILS HERE:** An in depth examination including numerous presentations by FDNY personnel covering their responses and operations both before, during and after the storm:

<http://www.fdnymfoundation.org/2012/10/19/2013-fdny-symposium/>

RIP DR. KIM ALYN

We regret to share with you the recent news that Dr. Kimberly Alyn's life has come to an unexpected and early end. Kim had been a featured presenter at Firehouse Expo, FDIC, Fire Rescue Int'l, FDIC, FDIC West, Women in the Fire Service Conference and many other fire service conferences over the years. She was a very inspirational, excellent fire service instructor. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

Billy G

The Secret List 2-13-2103 / 1430 Hours

AND:

All,

We just received this very sad notification from VFIS. Art absolutely defined and set THE example of being a wonderful friend and supporter of the fire service. Here is their message: It is with great sadness that I share with you that Art Glatfelter passed away peacefully shortly after 8:00 PM yesterday with his wife Susan at his bedside. As most of you know, Art had been living with Alzheimer's disease for the past few years and was in a personal care home for the last 18 months. While Art's passing may seem sudden, over the last two weeks his condition had deteriorated significantly due to a battle with the flu. Earlier this week, it became apparent he would not recover and the end was near. While I know we all share a deep sense of loss and sadness, we can all take comfort in knowing that Art is finally at peace. At this point, the only details I can share with you are there will not be a viewing and the funeral service will be private, all consistent with Art's wishes. Since the funeral will be private, we recognize the need to provide a sense of closure for those not attending. We are planning a Celebration of Life event to be held at some point in the near future and will share those details as they are finalized. I know that Art is looking down from above with great pride and joy to see his legacy continue. Thank you to each of you for being an important part of that

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

legacy and for your dedication and commitment to the continued success of this great company that bears the name of its founder - Arthur J. Glatfelter, a great leader and extraordinary humanitarian who made the world a better place and touched the lives of so many. God Bless You Art. We will all miss you and never forget you.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-15-13 / 1200

AND:

All,

A Seminole County (OK) volunteer Firefighter was killed after a fight with another Firefighter at the Strother FD yesterday. Captain Dale Patterson, 56, was transported to Seminole Hospital. He was then flown by medical helicopter to OU Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. FF Patterson worked as a narcotics law enforcement officer in New Mexico. He chose to retire in Oklahoma and lived in Prague. He had joined 6 years ago to become a Firefighter and was promoted to the rank of Captain. The department is mourning his death while also trying to support the other firefighter involved in the fight. No arrests have been made as of yet.

MORE HERE: <http://www.koco.com/news/oklahomanews/around-oklahoma/Strother-Okla-firefighter-dies-after-fight-at-station/-/12530084/18558790/-/mjkcfr/-/index.html#ixzz2KyqDLeHZ>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-15-13 / 1008 Hours

AND:

EMS LODD IN INDY-AMBULANCE CRASH

We regret to advise you that an Indianapolis EMS crew member was killed in the Line of Duty this morning-and a 2nd is extremely critical following a crash. The crash happened around 0330 Hours at the intersection of St. Clair Street and Senate Avenue. The driver and the medic in the ambulance were extricated and transported to Wishard Hospital in critical condition. Reports are that a car that was westbound on St. Clair struck the ambulance that was southbound on Senate. The female driver of the passenger car was in good condition and transported to Wishard for a legal blood draw. Our initial reports are that the crew members are Wishard EMS personnel, which is the Indy 9-1-1 EMS service. The traffic light at the intersection was flashing yellow for northbound and southbound vehicles and red for vehicles that were eastbound and westbound at the time of the crash and the ambulance was struck by a passenger car while going through the intersection of Senate and St. Clair around 3:37 a.m. **The ambulance had the right of way.**

We will keep you posted. Our condolences to all affected.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-16-13 / 0955 Hours

AND:

BRYAN (TEXAS) FIRE LIEUTENANT KILLED IN FIRE COLLAPSE-OTHER FF'S INJURED

We regret to advise you that a Lt of the Bryan FD was killed in the Line of Duty last night, and other members were injured. The fire was reported late last night at around 2320 Hours at a Knights of Columbus building. Bryan Fire Lieutenant Eric Wallace, 36, was killed in the line of duty. Lt. Wallace served almost 13 years with the department and is survived by his wife, Brandi, and five children.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

3 other FF's: Firefighter Ricky D. Mantey Jr., 30, Probationary Firefighter Mitchel S. Moran, 21, and Lt. Gregory W. Pickard, 54 -- were injured and are receiving treatment this morning at UTMB in Galveston. They have served five years, 10 months and 32 years with the department, respectively. We have posted some video and related media on our home page and will keep you updated. Our sincere condolences to all affected-RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-16-13 / 0700 Hours

AND:

All,

Reports from both Texas and Indianapolis are that additional, surviving personnel (FF in Texas and Medic in Indiana) are in very critical condition in addition to this mornings Line of Duty Deaths:

BRYAN FIRE LIEUTENANT DIES IN A FIRE/BUILDING COLLAPSE-OTHER FF CRITICALLY BURNED.

HERE is a link to the PRESS CONFERENCE and FIRE SCENE RAW VIDEO:

<http://www.kbtx.com/home/headlines/Multiple-Firefighters-Injured-in-Large-Fire-at-Knights-of-Columbus-Hall-191510691.html>

Lt. Eric Wallace was killed when a portion of the roof reportedly collapsed. 1 of the injured Firefighters is in surgery and reported to be very critical. The 3 Firefighters injured in the fire are Lt. Greg Pickard, 54; Firefighter Ricky Mantey Jr., 30; and Probationary Firefighter Mitch Moran, 21. They were taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan, then by helicopter for treatment of burns. No event was being held at the hall at the time. Lt. Wallace, 36, was married with 5 kids and was a nearly 13-year veteran of the department who had been recognized for heroism in the past. Pickard has been with BFD for 32 years, according to the city. Mantey has served BFD for five years, and Moran for ten months.

INDIANAPOLIS MEDIC DIES IN CRASH-2nd MEDIC VERY CRITICAL-BOTH WEARING THEIR SEATBELTS

The Indy EMS medic who died is Tim McCormick, 24, an Eagle Scout from New York who attended St. Lawrence University. McCormick was driving the ambulance. The other medic who was in the ambulance was hospitalized in critical condition with severe head injuries but that medic's name was not released. No one else was in the ambulance. **Reports are that both medics were wearing their seatbelts.**

More To Follow,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-16-13 / 1343 Hours

AND:

2nd BRYAN FIRE LIEUTENANT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

We regret to advise you that a 2nd Firefighter has now died in the Line of Duty and 2 other Firefighter remain injured after the fire and collapse at that Knights of Columbus Hall in downtown Bryan. 54-year-old Lieutenant Gregory Pickard (32 years on the job) and 36-year-old Lieutenant Eric Wallace (13 years) have both lost their lives in what we have been told was an attempt to save other Firefighters. 30-year-old FF Ricky Mantey Jr. and 21-year-old FF Mitchel Moran remain in the hospital in stable condition. At some point Lt. Wallace's team went into the structure, but was ordered to evacuate. Wallace didn't come out and he called for help, saying he was low on air.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Firefighters found Wallace, a 13-year veteran, inside and early reports indicated Wallace became trapped when a portion of the roof reportedly collapsed.

FUNERAL DETAILS FOR LT. WALLACE:

Funeral arrangements for Lt. Eric Wallace have just been set as follows. The funeral will be Thursday, Feb. 21, at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Bryan. The funeral procession will immediately follow the funeral service with burial at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Marlin, Texas. Visitation will be Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home in Marlin. Much more to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-16-13 / 1830 Hours

AND:

2nd MEDIC FROM INDIANAPOLIS EMS DIES FROM INJURIES IN YESTERDAYS CRASH

We regret to pass on to you that the second medic from Indianapolis EMS IAFF Local 416, EMT Cody Medley, who was reportedly the passenger of the ambulance, passed away in the Line of Duty at 0200 hours this morning. His EMS partner, Timothy McCormick a 24-year-old EMT died yesterday after suffering critical injuries in a car-ambulance crash in downtown Indy. The crash occurred around 0330 yesterday McCormick's fellow EMT, the lone passenger in the ambulance he was driving, was also taken to Wishard Hospital in critical condition; the name of that person has not been released yet. McCormick died at the hospital. The female driver of the car that struck his ambulance was also taken to Wishard for a legal blood draw. Police reports indicate that she ran a red light, with the ambulance moving through the intersection under a flashing-yellow right-of-way signal. She did admit to police of having a few drinks previously-but there have been no charges as of yet.

EMT McCormick is originally from Staten Island, NYC. Tim was the second oldest of four children - an honor student and had an intellectual curiosity for a career in public service. Tim had been working as an EMT for nearly three years while earning his bachelor's degree from IUPUI. He was also one of the first responders on scene during the south side house explosion last November.

HERE is a piece and video about EMT McCormick who, among numerous accomplishments in his young life, was an Eagle Scout:

http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/marion_county/ambulance-involved-in-downtown-accident

DOUBLE LODD FIRE UPDATE FROM BRYAN, TEXAS

Here are some updates from Bryan and the horrible loss of two Fire Lieutenants yesterday at the social hall fire.

=Lt. Eric Wallace, 36, a 13-year veteran of the department, was transported to St. Joseph Hospital, where he died of injuries sustained at the scene.

=Lt. Greg Pickard, 54, who had been with department for 32 years, died later at a Galveston hospital, where he and two other injured firefighters had been flown. Firefighter Ricky D. Mantey Jr., 30, and probationary firefighter Mitchel Moran, 21, were reported to be in critical but stable condition late Saturday at the University of Texas Medical Branch Blocker Burn Unit in Galveston.

=FF Mantey has been with the department for five years; FF Moran for just 10 months. They are being treated for "serious" burns but are reported to be stable.

=Lt. Wallace is survived by his wife Brandie and five children ranging in age from 16 years to 11 months.

=Lt. Pickard is survived by his wife Susie, two adult children and three grandchildren. Pickard's wife is a teacher with Bryan ISD and his son is a firefighter in College Station.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The fire was reported by a passerby at about 2319 hours Friday. Companies from Bryan fire stations 1 and 5 originally responded to the fire as well as companies from the College Station with Brazos County volunteer firefighters and other Bryan companies later joining them. Lt. Wallace was one of 2 initial Firefighters who entered the structure. It was confirmed that Wallace and the other firefighter were searching the building to ensure no one was inside. They reported fire conditions above them from the interior (ceiling) and command officers confirmed fire conditions above them and thru part of the roof. While inside the hall, the Firefighters radioed that they were low on air and needed assistance and were unable to find their way out. They were ordered to evacuate the building, but for an unknown reason, Lt. Wallace was unable to. They then deployed a rapid intervention team, composed of Lt. Pickard, FF Mantey and FF Moran, to rescue Lt. Wallace. The team was able to locate Lt. Wallace and had gotten him close to a door. A second team was deployed to extract Wallace and assist the first team but **it's unclear at what point the roof collapsed.** The funeral for Lt. Wallace will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Bryan. The funeral procession will carry him to the Hillcrest Cemetery in Marlin. Arrangements for Lt. Pickard were not set as of this morning. More to follow. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-17-13 / 0900 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Here are links to some updated video reports on the loss of Bryan Fire Lts Eric Wallace & Gregory Pickard:

<http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Central-Texas-Firefighter-Dies-3-Others-Injured-Battling-Late-Night-Blaze-191529381.html> (Media report and video)

<http://www.kvue.com/news/191605391.html> (Update on the injured Firefighters)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igOCD_gwqCk (Media video report)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54u6lzxV3dM> (Today's procession)

FIREFIGHTERS DRAGGED IN WISCONSIN:

3 Milwaukee Firefighters were treated for injuries today after being dragged by a car in a confrontation with a medical patient. The firefighters arrived at E. Capitol Blvd EMS who was trying to control a driver who appeared to be in an "altered state." The man escaped from the medical responders and ran to his car. The Firefighters chased the man and tried to grab his keys but in the process, the driver took off with two FF's hanging on the side of the car" and one firefighter inside, trying to stop the vehicle. The man drove 20 to 30 feet before the Firefighters stopped him...the FF's have been treated and released from a hospital this afternoon. The driver also was hospitalized because of his condition.

LOW STAFFING RESULTS IN STATE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING FATAL FIRE:

We have been writing about staffing here on The Secret List since we started in 1997, but this is the first time, that we are aware of, that a state investigation is being conducted directly related to the issue. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) - investigation of the Columbus Fire & Emergency Medical Services records is resurrecting questions of **whether the first engine company at a 2010 home day care fire that killed one child and injured three otherswas understaffed.**

The questions aren't new. They were the subject of an internal fire department investigation sparked by firefighters' complaints that Engine 7 from Station 7 at 5343 Buena Vista Road should have had five firefighters instead of three. Engine Co. 7 was the first fire unit to reach the blaze at 5629 Mill Branch Road, off Amber Drive north of Buena Vista Road. The fire was reported at 1:37 p.m. Friday,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Feb. 26, 2010. First responders described a chaotic, congested scene, with neighbors gathering on the street and parents rushing to find children. The one-story house was the westernmost of a set of homes tucked away off a paved semicircle on the road's north side. The arrangement left little room for parking. Having originated in a carport where paint and gasoline were stored near a gas water heater, the blaze erupted with explosions and spread to two cars. When firefighters arrived, flames were racing through the attic.

According to the department's internal probe, Engine 7 was missing two firefighters because the lieutenant who would have been in command was out with an injury, and minutes before the alarm a battalion chief had picked up another crew member for a random drug test. The affidavit backing the search warrant GBI agents served Tuesday at fire department headquarters alleges Engine 7 was understaffed because both missing firefighters were out for drug testing. Records later were either removed or falsified to show only one was drug-tested, while the second was out sick, says the affidavit.

Dispatched

So Engine 7 left the station that afternoon with Sgt. Greg Adams as the ranking officer, backed by Firefighters Rodney Pitts and Connie Jones. FF Pitts was driving. When they reached the working day care fire 1.3 miles from the station, Adams heard witnesses shouting that children were inside. In his rush to get in, he neglected to radio that he was on the scene and kids were in the house, the investigative report said. The exact time Engine 7 reached the fire is unclear. Adams took a 1½-inch line off the truck as Pitts got the engine pumping. The line had kinks that Jones unraveled to maintain pressure. Adams raced through the unlocked front door and hosed the flames back toward the carport. He called for Jones to come in after him. His later complaint was that Jones never came. According to an internal report from Robert Futrell, the department's deputy chief for operations: "He stated that he called to Firefighter Jones numerous times for him to come in to assist with the attack but Firefighter Jones refused to enter the door." Futrell concluded Jones likely never heard Adams: "Due to the smoke-filled room, the use of breathing apparatus and the noise of the hose line, it is very unlikely that Firefighter Jones would have heard Sergeant Adams yelling for him to come inside." Also, Pitts confirmed that Adams' hose had kinks in it.....

READ THE ENTIRE STORY HERE:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2013/02/16/2386884/gbi-investigation-again-questions.html#storylink=cpyhttp://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2013/02/16/2386884/gbi-investigation-again-questions.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 2-17-13 / 2045 Hours

AND:

All,
Here are the details for both Medic's Tim McCormick and Cody Medley who died in the Line of Duty this past weekend:

=Arrangements for EMS Pvt. Tim McCormick are as follows:

Viewing: Monday, February 18th from 1600-2000hr at Crown Hill Funeral Home, 700 West 38th St. Indianapolis, IN.

Funeral Mass: Tuesday, February 19th, 1030 hrs at Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

=Arrangements for EMS Specialist Cody Medley are as follows:

Memorial Service: Wednesday, February 20th at 1000hrs at Clowes Memorial Hall on the Butler University Campus, 4602 Sunset Av, Indianapolis, IN.

=A joint memorial service will be held for both IAFF Local 416 Brothers, Private McCormick and Specialist Medley at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Clowes Memorial Hall on the Butler University campus. It will be open to the public. Please call Indianapolis Professional Firefighters Local 416 if you have any questions at [317-262-5161](tel:317-262-5161). RIP.

**LANCASTER CITY FIREFIGHTERS BURNED ATTEMPTING TO FIND OCCUPANTS-
OCCUPANTS STILL MISSING AND PRESUMED LOST**

Two people are missing (an adult and a child) and feared dead and, as reported earlier, 2 Firefighters were hurt (1 seriously burned) during this mornings multi-rowhouse fire along Madison Street in Lancaster City. The fire heavily damaged the house and trapped two people inside their second floor bedroom. 2 Firefighters immediately went inside the home to try and rescue the trapped people, upon arrival. Lancaster City Fire Chief Tim Gregg says the first responding crews got to the scene within five minutes of the call and began an entry. Two of the Firefighters that made the first entry into the home to help were then trapped themselves. They had to be rescued. Both of the firefighters were taken to Lancaster General Hospital. One was released after a short treatment. The second firefighter was flown by medical helicopter to Crozer-Chester Medical Center outside of Philadelphia. **We'll keep you advised. Keep'm in your prayers.**

DEAR HOMEBUILDERS ASSOCIATION:

Here is yet another video on why new, single family dwellings should be required to have automatic fire sprinkler systems...and what your efforts to fight residential sprinklers continue to result in:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=bXNPUgWK4Eo#!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-13 / 1038 Hours

AND:

Hey,

2 Lancaster City Firefighters

suffered injuries, 1 seriously, while fighting a multi-row home structure fire during the early morning hours today. While operating, FF's were reported down and trapped but were found and removed. 1 Firefighter was airlifted to Crozer-Chester Medical Center for serious burn injuries, the other was transported to Lancaster General Hospital for treatment of minor injuries. The scene is still active with companies operating. We have posted photos on our home page and will keep you advised. HERE is video from the scene:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQVS64qcmGg&feature=youtu.be> Courtesy of Glenn U. We'll keep you advised.

BRYAN FIRE LIEUTENANTS MEMORIAL SERVICE:

A public memorial service for Pickard and Wallace is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday at Central Baptist Church, 1991 F.M. 158 in College Station. A private service for Wallace is set for Thursday; details for Pickard's funeral still were being worked out late last night.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-13 / 0730 Hours

AND:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

All,

We have been provided with the following update regarding the Firefighters injured in this mornings double fatal dwelling fire. As you know, Lancaster City FF's were searching for a woman and a 6-year-old girl in that row house fire earlier today....a man and an 11-year-old boy managed to escape but the woman and the little girl perished ...in spite of the FF's heroic efforts.

Fire Fighter Craig Roberson suffered a fractured vertebra after bailing out a split door on the C side of the house.

Fire Fighter Thomas Bender suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns on his hands and a laceration on his shoulder after bailing out a second floor window on the A side. Both were treated and released from LGH.

Fire Lt Andre Kelly suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns to about 20-25% of his body. Lt Kelly was flown to Crozer-Chester medical center where he is listed in critical but stable condition. Lt Kelly has under gone a bronchoscopy to determine the status of his airway. There was some swelling to the upper airway but the lower airway was clear which is good news. He will remain sedated for a few days at which time the test will be repeated. We will keep you advised as Lt. Kelly makes continued progress.

HERE is the Lancaster City FF's IAFF Local 319 Website: <http://www.iaff319.org/>

HERE is the Lancaster City FF's IAFF Local 319 Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Local319>

HERE is an EXCELLENT website for local fire details: <http://www.lancasterfire.com/infoboard/>

UPDATES/PRESS RELEASE FROM BRYAN, TEXAS

Memorial Service Updates:

http://www.bryantx.gov/include/press_release.asp?id=1435

http://www.bryantx.gov/include/press_release.asp?id=1434

FINAL WORD:

While this is an off duty incident, it is worthy of note. The Ashby (MA) community is mourning the tragic loss of a FF/EMT mother and her teenage son after they were killed in a two-car crash in Fitchburg Sunday morning....that was driven by another Ashby Firefighter.

Michelle Martens, 36, a volunteer FF/EMT in Ashby, came from a family of Firefighters. For reasons unknown, the car Martens was in crossed into oncoming traffic and hit a truck that was being driven by another Ashby FF, Wayne F. Patenaude. Martens and her son, Justin Fournier, were ejected from their vehicle after crashing head-on into the pickup truck. Martens was a third-generation firefighter at the Ashby FD. Martens father and grandfather were assistant chiefs. Martens' 16-year-old son was getting ready to follow in his family's footsteps.

FF Patenaude, 45, suffered a fractured femur in this crash and is listed in fair condition at UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester.

READ MORE: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/worcester-area/10009890500390/crash-victim-was-a-volunteer-firefighter/#ixzz2LILJOXXn> Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-13 / 1809 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Sadly, the last week has resulted in the loss and critical injury of several Firefighters across the USA. 2 Fire Lt's lost their lives in Bryan, Texas, 2 Medics lost their lives in Indiana and a Lancaster (PA) Fire Lieutenant remains critical in a burn unit following heroic efforts in attempts to save the lives of

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

adults and kids. Radio recordings provide a unique opportunity to professionally and respectfully listen to one aspect of the incidents. One aspect, since radio traffic doesn't provide a full understanding and account of any incident-but it is of value for learning and training. This morning, Firefighters in Prince Georges County, MD arrived on the scene of a working dwelling fire with multiple kids trapped. Listen to their heroic efforts in attempting to save the little kids...the members arrived, initiated a search of the burning dwelling and removed 1 adult male and 3 children: 5, 8 and 10 year old females. All four were not breathing and had no pulse.

HERE is the PGFD radio recording courtesy of ALERT PAGE: <https://soundcloud.com/#alertpage-1/pg-dwelling-multi-fatal>

HERE are details from PGFD: <http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/>

HERE is video and photos from PG including an interview with the Fire Chief: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/article/244564/158/Two-Children-One-Adult-Killed-In-Glenarden-House-Fire>

HERE is more information about **ALERT PAGE**: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/alert.php> (Click on the Alert Page logo)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-21-13 / 1030 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Today, 2-20-13, is the 10th anniversary of the Station Nightclub Fire that killed 100 people and injured hundreds more in West Warwick, Rhode Island. In addition, to the horrific civilian loss and lingering physical and mental/emotional damage, take time to also remember the efforts of the West Warwick Firefighters, who faced the incredible challenges that night.

Here is an excellent compilation of the fire:

<http://www.providencejournal.com/topics/special-reports/station-fire/>

Here are thoughts from the surviving families in two articles:

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2013/02/16/finding-life-years-after-the-station-nightclub-fire/IRZ2eXCoQOjm7zhW2sTgxK/story.html>

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/newsnow/x898135194/Decade-after-Station-Nightclub-fire-relatives-try-not-to-look-back#axzz2LPLZ4xmr>

Q & A WITH THE AUTHOR OF "KILLER SHOW"

<http://killershowbook.com/press-room/qa-with-the-author/>

FIRE ENGINEERING ARTICLE:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/1/volume-165/issue-1/features/4/station-nightclub-fire-revisiting-lessons-full.html>

Here are other related links:

VIDEO OF THE FIRE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_9Kj_3VKq4

NIST VIDEO RECREATION: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxioxZ55hbc>

NIST REPORT: http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/ri_finalreport_june2905.cfm

NFPA RELEASE:

<http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryid=488&itemId=60584&cookie%5Ftest=1>

STATION NIGHT CLUB NIST REPORT & RECREATION/MODEL:

http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/releases/ri_finalreport_june2905.cfm

RELATED FROM NIST: <http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire07/PDF/f07061.pdf>

RELATED WIKI: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Station_nightclub_fire

Take care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-20-13 / 0700 Hours

AND:

AUSTRALIAN FF LODD-KILLED BY FALLING TREE BRANCH

We regret to advise you that a 60-year-old volunteer Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty this morning while cleaning up after a fire in Quindanning, about 160 kilometres south-east of Perth, Australia. The male Firefighter was hit by the branch of a falling tree Friday morning. He was taken to Narrogin hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Terry Hunter from the Association of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades says the Firefighter was with the Quindanning fire brigade when the accident happened. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

ONCE AGAIN WE ARE REMINDED TO NOT BREATHE THAT SHIT

....During Operations AND During Overhaul.

Seen THIS video? Read THIS study?

A groundbreaking new study published by environmental toxicologist Dr. Susan Shaw (a/k/a an expert who knows more than all of us) and co-authors provides new evidence that burning household materials endangers the health of U.S. Firefighters. **It is the first study to measure brominated dioxins and furans in firefighters' blood and shows for the first time that exposure to these chemicals during fires may carry even higher risks for cancer and other health problems than already demonstrated. Which means "us" getting cancer is worse than ever. And now there is more proof than ever.**

Think you know better? Seen this video? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMjUgdS7SQM>

OK, now back to our regularly unscheduled Secret List:

Dr. Susan Shaw, the study's lead scientist, stated,

"Our study provides clear evidence that firefighters are exposed to high levels of cancer-causing chemicals including brominated flame retardants and their combustion by-products - dioxins and furans - that are formed during fires by the burning of flame-retarded foam furniture, televisions, computers and building materials. Firefighters have much higher levels and different patterns of these chemicals in their blood than the general population. There is no doubt that firefighting is a dangerous occupation. What we have shown here points to the possible link between firefighting and cancer."

MORE DETAILS LINK:

<http://www.meriresearch.org/RESEARCH/Publications/FirefighterStudyHighlights/tabid/361/Default.aspx>

THE REPORT LINK:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0045653513000313>(sure...we know we ran this story a few weeks ago...but it certainly is worth re-issuing...as each day another young Firefighter finds out that he or she has cancer. It's a huge issue....)

MORE FIREFIGHTING RELATED DETAILS HERE:

www.FIRESMOKE.org Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-13 / 1500 Hours

AND:

EMS HELICOPTER CRASH-OKLAHOMA

We regret to advise you that 2 persons are dead in the crash of a medical helicopter this morning in NW Oklahoma City. One surviving person was taken to a local hospital. The helicopter is reportedly owned by Eagle Med. We'll post more details as they become available.

FIREFIGHTER TAKES HIGHWAY LEAP OF FAITH:

This may sound familiar....you turnout for what appears and sounds like a "routine" one car off the road crash w/no injuries with no injuries? In this case it grew into a 5 vehicle pileup with a Firefighter close call. In Windsor (VT) a Firefighter who jumped off an Interstate 91 overpass to avoid an out-of-control tractor-trailer truck is recovering from injuries, yesterday. FF Molly Wood, a four-year member, came away from the 30' drop with a concussion, cuts and bruises and a likely broken ankle. She was fully geared up, including her helmet and the use of her gear contributed to minimising her injuries. Though FF Wood's was the only serious injury from the event that started above County Road early yesterday morning, it was only part of a wild few minutes that saw at least five vehicles - including three semi-trailer trucks - lose control on the icy interstate.

HERE IS MUCH MORE ON THE INCIDENT:

<http://www.vnews.com/home/4584453-95/truck-kirko-trailer-tractor>**ROADWAY SURVIVAL TRAINING RESOURCES HERE:**

WATCH THIS CASE STUDY VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQ6KCNJQg0>

www.ResponderSafety.com (numerous resources from our industry experts)

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/PowerPoint%20Presentation%20in%20PDF.pdf> (Ppt FF Roadway Survival Training from IAFF)

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/firefighter_health_safety/safety/roadway_safety/index.shtm
(FEMA/USFA training information)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/fireinj.html> (NIOSH training information)

VIDEO:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UwQ8e58IF4>

(Fire Department Training Video from Cobb Co, GA)

CHALLENGE COINS?

CAN YOU HELP THE SURVIVING BRYAN TEXAS FF'S? A great - simple and very easy idea.

The South Brazos Co. (TX) FF's (neighbors to Bryan) are working to collect

fire service challenge coins for the two Bryan FD Firefighters who were injured in the fire which killed Lt. Eric Wallace and Lt. Greg Pickard on the evening of Friday Feb 15, 2013.

Can you help?

As you know, Probationary Firefighter Mitch Moran and Firefighter Ricky Mantey were part of the RIT team, along with Lt. Pickard who were tasked with the rescue of Lt. Wallace. Firefighters Moran and Mantey suffered severe burns during their heroic rescue of Lt. Wallace, and like Lt. Wallace, Lt. Pickard also made the supreme sacrifice and succumbed to his burns and died on February 16, 2013. Firefighters Moran and Mantey have a long painful road to recovery, as we all know the devastating results of burn injuries.

As an attempt to show unified support from the world-wide firefighting family, South Brazos Firefighter Jarrett and Lt. Framsted are asking any department or organization who wishes to participate to mail two (2) of your department, station or company challenge coins to the following address: Please contact: framsted.chris@gmail.com if you have any questions.

PLEASE SEND 2 FIRE/EMS RELATED CHALLENGE COINS TO: SBCFD, c/o Andrew Jarrett, PO Box 11045, College Station, TX. 77845. Thanks.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE: The 100 Club, a Houston-based non-profit organization is assisting for the families of Wallace and Pickard. Lt. Wallace was a 12-year veteran and is survived by his wife and five children. Lt. Pickard was a 32-year veteran and is survived by his wife and two adult children. You may donate HERE: www.the100club.org .

FINAL WORD:

We are saddened to pass on the news that Florida State Fire Marshal Staff Supervisor Charlie Brush passed away earlier this week. Charlie had 27 years in the fire service beginning as a Firefighter Paramedic in 1986 in Houston Texas. Charlie held several positions in the fire service including

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Captain in Vermont (1987 to 1989), EMS Director of Barre, VT (1989 to 1991), Firefighter/EMT for Hartford, VT (1991 to 1993), Deputy Chief of Operations and Training for City of Lebanon, New Hampshire (1993 to 2001), and Chief of City of Oldtown, MA (2001 to 2003). Charlie moved to Florida in 2003 to be with family, and in December 2004 joined the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training as an instructor. Charlie was promoted to Standards Supervisor and then Safety Programs Manager. Charlie was still active as the Florida Fire Marshals Office Safety Programs Manager at the time of his death. A Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday, February 24, 2013, 14:00 hours, in the Auditorium of the Florida State Fire College in Ocala, FL. The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Cancer Society. RIP Charlie.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-13 / 0630 hours

AND:

PA. FIRE POLICE OFFICER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Medical Emergency At Traffic Crash Scene

We regret to pass on to you that a PA Fire Police Officer died in the Line of Duty yesterday. Fire Police Officer Claudia Sokol suffered a medical emergency while on traffic control duties at the scene of a motor vehicle accident in the Borough. Immediate medical attention was provided by members of Diligence FC, the Lansford FD as well as Leighton ALS and Lansford BLS. She was transported to St. Luke's Miners Hospital in Coaldale and then flown to St. Luke's in Bethlehem. She was with the Diligence Fire Company No. 1 (Summit Hill, Carbon County) and leaves behind her husband David and family. Additional details will be posted as they are available.

ILLINOIS FLOOR COLLAPSE-CLOSE CALL AT COMMERCIAL BUILDING FIRE.

FF Rick Flessner said yesterday he feels lucky to be alive after a floor collapsed underneath him during an early-morning fire at a bar in downtown Melvin (east central Illinois). "I'm just glad to be here," he said as he spent Friday recovering at home. "I've got a new outlook on life." Flessner, a 20-year veteran of the Roberts FD, was among an estimated 30 firefighters from 3 area departments that responded to the fire at Bubba's Bar and Grill, 103 W. Main St., about 0330 yesterday. Melvin Fire Chief Larry Boundy, who works as a snow-plow driver for the village of Melvin, said he was plowing snow in downtown Melvin when he noticed "flames coming out of the front windows" of the bar around 3:15 a.m. "The front part of (the building) was on fire," Boundy said. "It was just burning through the windows and stuff."

"....when we were pulling that ceiling down, the floor gave way, and when it did, I fell and caught myself on the pole I was using. I fell onto the pike pole across the floor space, and when the floor gave way the rest of the way, I went all the way down into the basement...."

HERE is the story: <http://tinyurl.com/b6ck6bp>

DCFD FEMS CHIEF MAKES HEADLINES ...AGAIN.

In case you haven't been following the latest headlines featuring the DCFEMS Chief, DaveS has it well covered for our reading pleasure. Amongst several issues this week is the fact that 3 DCFD personnel along with other DC area fire/EMS personnel were honored and privileged to be invited to the White House. But...apparently not the "right folks" got invited and...well, because egos tend to eat brains, here we go again....

BUYING INK: Also, from a "lessons learned" standpoint, back in the day, there was a smart saying to "never argue with someone who buys ink by the barrel" -which meant don't argue with the press (especially newspapers), who can publicize an opinion like no one else can. The phrase is somewhat dated...as news papers are not as relevant as they once were, and online newspapers don't use

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ink...however, arguing with the **media** on Twitter (especially on issues such as fire/EMS folks going to the White House) pretty much embraces the intent of that tried old saying. Check out Dave's story about the DCFEMS Chief twittering with a reporter...for all to follow. <http://tinyurl.com/a5x9y6s>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-13 / 0938 Hours

AND:

All,

TOMORROW will mark the 20th anniversary of the bombing of the World Trade Center. On February 26, 1993, that group of terrorists detonated explosives in an underground parking garage below the North Tower, killing six innocent people. The World Trade Center bombing occurred on February 26, 1993, when a truck bomb was detonated below the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York, NY. The 1,336 lb (606 kg) urea nitrate-hydrogen gas enhanced device was intended to knock the North Tower (Tower One) into the South Tower (Tower Two), bringing both towers down and killing thousands of people. It failed to do so, but did kill six people and injured more than a thousand.

HERE IS AN EXCELLENT VIDEO INCLUDING INTERVIEWS WITH FDNY MEMBERS:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17xo9EuVo7E>

1993 WTC BOMBING-FDNY APPARATUS SLIDE SHOW:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJyU5ajKn_U

NOTE: The 9/11 Memorial will be open to the public on Tuesday, February 26. A ceremony honoring the lives lost will begin at approximately noon.

FIREFIGHTER SURVIVES TANKER CRASH:

The Southern Stone County (MO) fire tanker that rolled over Friday evening is likely totaled. It happened Friday night Bread Tray Mountain Road in Lampe. The Fire Chief says one of his firefighters was returning to the station following a house fire when a tire blew out. The driver over-corrected and the tanker flipped on its side. **No one was hurt in the crash.** Another BELT IN Reminder.

TOUGH FIREFIGHTER TAKES ON CANCER-DIES ON HIS FAVORITE SCENE.

Three days, maybe a week. Three weeks ago, that's how much time doctors gave Mitch Zannette to live. **So last week, PA Firefighter Mitch Zannette checked himself out of hospice and headed to Florida to see the Daytona 500. He made it to the track. Went to the beach. Met Miss Sprint Cup. Drank some beers. And on Thursday, three days before the race, he died in the infield at Daytona International Speedway. He was 50.**

Mitch Zannette was a Firefighter, a mason, a pool player, a father and a friend. He lived in the tiny borough of Pen Argyl, Penn., population 3,600. His favorite foods were broiled seafood and cream cheese cupcakes. He loved hunting and drinking Budweiser, and both led him to tell some amazing stories. He was a NASCAR fan for most of his 50 years, and rarely missed a race at Pocono, his local track. In all this, he was not unlike so many other hundreds of thousands of NASCAR fans. But for the last 16 months, Mitch had been suffering from lymphoma and bone cancer. His body was withering, even if his mind and spirit weren't. He'd lost so much weight since the days he was the first one onto the fire truck. In October, he'd dislocated his shoulder dragging a buck, the spoils of a hunt, through the Pennsylvania woods.

And then, in early February, the final sentence. An examination prior to chemo revealed that he was dehydrated, and in the hospital he suffered an obstructed bowel. Surgery was deemed too dangerous, but left untreated, the obstruction would be fatal as well. He spent a couple of days

in the hospice, then decided enough was enough. His world had narrowed to a matter of hours. And he knew exactly how he wanted to spend them. He couldn't fly to Daytona, so he drove. Zannette left Pen Argyl at 6:00 in the evening of Valentine's Day, accompanied by his longtime companion Tammy Bloodworth, their son Mitchell Anthony, and Zannette's brother Joe. They drove their rented RV down Interstate 95 for 14 hours, arriving midmorning on Friday. "The hospice nurse gave us a week's worth of [pain] pills, so I asked her if we could do this," Joe said. "She said yeah. The next day, we called for reservations, a motor home, and tickets. We were off to the races. We were gone!" RIP Mitch. **READ THE REST OF THIS EXCELLENT STORY:**

<http://tinyurl.com/apfambu> - HERE is his FD's website: <http://www.lookoutfireco.com/>

FDNY'S AGGRESSIVE LUNATIC ATTACK: FIREFIGHTERS TAKE ON A MEAT CLEAVER PSYCHO:

A man attacked his young wife with a meat cleaver yesterday morning in Chinatown, but the bloody attack was broken up by nearby Firefighters who heard the woman's screams. It happened in front of Fong's Trading around 1030 hours when an argument between the suspect and his 23-year-old wife, ended with the man striking her multiple times with a meat cleaver. **Two Firefighters across the street at the Engine 9/Ladder 6 firehouse were preparing their rigs for the day when they heard the screams. and helped subdue the man. 18-year FDNY veteran Jose Ortiz describes the moment he stopped a vicious meat-cleaver attack by grabbing the suspect's arm to prevent him from hitting his wife.** "I saw a man dragging this woman, she's crying and screaming," said Jose Ortiz, an 18-year FDNY veteran. "As I get closer, the man pulls a cleaver out of his waistband and starts hacking at this woman. I'm trying to grab his arms (and) he's just swinging . . . six, eight, maybe 10 times he hits the woman in the head. So, we both [he and Firefighter James Trainor] bum rush him and get him against the fence." A fellow Firefighter flagged down a passing police car, and officers cuffed and arrested the subdued man. The woman ran down the block screaming hysterically before ducking into a noodle shop. She ran out of the restaurant and down the block, but Firefighters were finally able to stop her at 56 E. Broadway, where they treated and bandaged wounds to her abdomen, torso and head. Paramedics took his wife to Bellevue Hospital, where she is reportedly listed in critical but stable condition.

HERE IS RAW VIDEO OF THE ATTACK & A MEDIA STORY:

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Meat-Cleaver-Chinatown-Attack-Arrest-Police-192995191.html>

OHIO FIRE LIEUTENANT RETURNS TO WORK THIS MORNING:

Anthony Torres has already been so much, from a terrible accident, to a catastrophic injury to his foot and leg, to amputation, recovery and rehabilitation. But the next chapter in this Mifflin Township fire lieutenant's story will be one of joy and hard work paying off. TODAY, he will make history as the first Ohio amputee firefighter to go back on active duty. "We'd be on the couch watching TV time to go to bed so I'd use my crutches to get to the stairs and crawl backwards and forwards up and down the stairs," Torres said. Now he will be throwing ladders, running hose, leading men and women on calls, and doing it all on his prosthetic leg. **CONGRATS!**

HERE IS A GREAT VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSuggqygz4>

FINAL WORD:

In the early 1970s, working fires were daily+ in New York City but with the city spiraling toward a fiscal crisis, the firefighting budget was cut by \$100 million. More than 50 firefighting companies were eliminated. Throughout these years, Michael J. Maye, who died Feb. 15, had the thankless job of heading the firefighters' union, the Uniformed Firefighters Association. He was an former fighter and a no nonsense Firefighter who took his responsibility of taking care of his members-and the public, very

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seriously. Mr. Maye died of a heart attack in Delray Beach, Florida....he was 82 and lived in Boca Raton. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-13 / 0700 Hours

AND:

PA EMT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-VEHICLE CRASH

An EMS member was killed in the Line of Duty responding on a run, struck a utility pole and overturned along Route 75 in Tuscarora Township (Juniata County) just after 2000 hours last night. Wesley Hostetter, 30, of Port Royal, was the only occupant of the car and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to cops, who said speed appeared to be a factor in the crash. He was a member of Lack-Tuscarora EMS in East Waterford, one of the companies that actually responded to his crash.

MI FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL

We regret to advise you that a 22 y/o Firefighter responding to a structure fire, felt ill, pulled over and went into cardiac arrest last night. Responding Firefighters stopped and rendered aid, but the young firefighter succumbed to his injury. Firefighter was member of the Mattawan Fire District. Mattawan is in Van Buren County (southwestern, lower peninsula, Michigan). Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-27-13 / 1251 Hours

AND:

All,

Indiana Prosecutors will not file criminal charges against the driver in the ambulance crash that killed two Indianapolis EMTs in the Line of Duty.

EMT Cody Medley, 22, and EMT Tim McCormick, 24, were fatally injured in the Feb. 16 crash at St. Clair Street and Senate Avenue involving their ambulance and another vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle, Jade Hammer, 21, survived the crash. Her speed was in the range of 35 to 40 mph and the ambulance's speed was in the range of 45 to 50 mph in a 30 mph zone. The traffic light at the intersection was flashing yellow for the ambulance and red for Hammer's car, and cops said Hammer did not fully stop. However, the Indiana Supreme Court in 2009 held that failure to stop at a red light due to error of judgment does not constitute recklessness as a matter of law. Ms. Hammer also told police said she had consumed one and a half drinks before the crash, but her blood-alcohol content was found to be 0.038, which is below the threshold legal limit of 0.08, police said. A separate toxicology screen found no evidence of other substances in Hammer's blood. "This was clearly a tragic accident, and we again extend our sympathies to the families and friends of Cody Medley and Tim McCormick," Curry said. "However, we do not believe that the circumstances of the accident rise to the level of a crime." Ms. Hammer will be ticketed for running the red light. RIP.

FATAL EMS CRASH IN FLORIDA: Unborn Child Dies-Witnesses Blame EMS Driver For Running Stop Sign

Fort Myers (FL) cops are conducting a traffic homicide investigation due to the death of an unborn baby. Just before 1700 yesterday, the police responded to a crash involving an ambulance and an SUV at the intersection of Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard and Canal Street. **Witnesses say the driver of the ambulance ran a stop sign at the intersection and the two collided.** 26-year-old Kristina Childs was driving the SUV. She had a 3-year-old, a 5-year-old and a 17-year-old in the car

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with her. Two paramedics in the ambulance were transporting a patient to Gulf Coast Hospital, but witnesses say the emergency equipment was not activated. **All four people in the SUV were transported to Lee Memorial Hospital. The paramedic driving the ambulance and the patient being transported were also taken to the hospital. All had serious injuries.**

MICHIGAN FIREFIGHTER LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:

Services for MI FF Nate who died in the Line of Duty while responding yesterday is as follows:
Visitation: Saturday, Mar 2nd 2013, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST, Life Story Funeral Homes - Betzler, Kalamazoo Location, 6080 Stadium Drive. Services: Monday, Mar 4th 2013, 1:30 PM EST, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1150 West Centre Avenue, Portage, MI, 49024

FDNY-EMS RELATED DEATH:

We regret to advise you that Carol Buffa, retired FDNY-EMS Lt. has passed away. In 1994, she and her partner, Christopher Prescott, were working at an MVA in NYC when a drunk driver drove through flares and crushed them both against a vehicle. Mr. Prescott was killed in the Line of Duty and Ms. Buffa was critically injured. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-28-13 / 1706 Hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA (also VIRGINIA) FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Medical Emergency

A Volunteer Fire Chief died in the Line of Duty while responding to a fire this afternoon. Chief Scott Morrison of the Knotts Island Volunteer Fire Department, a VFD that covers both North Carolina and Virginia, was responding to a brush fire when he went into cardiac arrest this afternoon. Fire and EMS personnel treated Chief Morrison on scene and transported him to a hospital, but he died in the Line of Duty around 1730 hours. The Chief had been a Firefighter since 1984 and leaves behind a wife and 2 children. The Knotts Island VFD is Currituck County, NC Company 15 and Virginia Beach, VA Company 15. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

CHECK HERE <http://www.firenews.net/> for additional details.

HERE is the late Chiefs FACEBOOK page: <https://www.facebook.com/KIVFDChief>

RHODE ISLAND FIREFIGHTERS TRAPPED: Close Call video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQlt-qNfU1M>

A fire in East Providence forced 3 Firefighters out a 3rd floor window after becoming trapped by heavy fire conditions. Fortunately (truck placement!) EPFD Ladder 1 was in place to serve as an evacuation route for those Firefighters, who escaped unharmed. MUCH MORE HERE:

<http://www.snefirenews.com/2013/03/video-east-providence-ri-firefighters.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-3-13 / 1930 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We have all followed retired FDNY FF Dennis Smith through the years, from the writing of "Report from Engine Co. 82" to the creation of Firehouse Magazine, to the writing of "Report from Ground Zero." Most recently Dennis served as Chair of the National FF Near Miss Reporting System's Board continuing his commitment to the fire service. Certainly he has had a great influence on many of us in

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the fire service, and he expands it now with the introduction of his latest venture: www.homelandvoice.com. Be sure to check out this letter from Dennis about his new project: <http://homelandvoice.com/campaign/>

And speaking of Homeland Security

...according to the IAFC, here is the latest (and probably only the start) of how the federal government programs that impact the fire and emergency service are affected due to the sequester:

- The U.S. Fire Administration will be cut by \$2 million.
- DHS State and Local Programs (including the FIRE and SAFER grant programs) will be cut by a total of \$117 million.
- The U.S. Forest Service's wildland-fire management account will be cut by \$125 million.
- The U.S. Department of Interior's wildland-fire management account will be cut by \$38 million.
- The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's Hazardous Materials Safety Account will be cut by \$2 million and the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants will be cut by \$1 million.
- Medicare will reduce reimbursements to providers by 2% starting on April 1, and there may be a delay in receiving reimbursements.

Take Care-Be Careful,
BillyG
The Secret List 3-4-13 / 1500 Hours

AND:

INDIANA FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING SHIFT

We regret to advise you that the Zionsville Fire Department is mourning the loss of a Firefighter/Medic today. Fire-Medic Cody Richardson, 26, was found unresponsive Monday at a farm in northern Boone County-he had completed a shift with the department at 0700 hours Monday. According to the ZFD, he was taken to a local area hospital where he was pronounced dead. A cause of death has not been determined as of this morning. Richardson was hired as a part time firefighter/EMT in 2007. He was hired on full time in 2008. He later went through paramedic school and became a firefighter paramedic. Funeral arrangements were not finalized as of this morning. Our condolences to all affected-RIP.

=FLAME JETTING?!

The ATF crew wanted to share this information and below video segments for distribution on The Secret List. They have been trying to get the word out to firefighters, fire investigators and code officials. It's a not-so-well known flame jetting phenomenon that they came upon while evaluating a suspects statement. Since they've begun to get the word out, it turns out that there have been numerous flame jetting injuries that were once thought to be isolated "freak" incidents. The 17 year old victim in this particular case was the daughter of a Baltimore County Firefighter (and good friend of Fallen Firefighter, Mark Falkenhan).

If you are aware of any similar incidents, please see contact information below.

Here's a quick overview of what the ATF crew thinks is going on:

Based on the testing series conducted at the ATF FRL, several observations were made regarding the flame jetting phenomenon. Flame jetting was only observed when the container was being tilted and the vapors were pouring from the mouth of the container. It is hypothesized that initially when the container is upright, the head space above the liquid is too fuel rich (above the Upper Flammability Limit) and combustion is not supported within the container. As the container is tilted and vapors

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begin to pour from the container, air is entrained into the head space and the fuel rich mixture eventually falls within the flammable limits, allowing flame propagation within the container. The flame jetting phenomenon was only observed with "weathered" or evaporated gasoline (25% weathered gasoline was evaluated). No flame jetting was documented when "fresh" gasoline was poured from the container. It is hypothesized that "fresh" gasoline releases vapors more readily than "weathered" gasoline at the same temperature. Consequently, even when air is entrained into the container headspace while pouring, "fresh" gasoline releases flammable vapors readily enough that the headspace never drops below the upper flammable limit and therefore does not support flame propagation within the container.

In separate tests, flame jetting was documented with burner flames in direct contact with the mouth of the container (piloted ignition) as well as with burner flames that were several inches from the mouth of the container at the time of ignition (non-piloted ignition). The flame jet was observed extending as far as 4 m (13 ft) horizontally. The flame jet propelled ignited liquid out of the gasoline container. The propelled liquid ignited cotton clothing on a mannequin located 1.3 m (4.3 ft) away and sustained burning after the momentary flame jet self-extinguished. The entire jetting event lasted less than one second, with no observable warning signs prior to the phenomenon. When jetting did occur, there was no evidence of thermal or pressure damage to the container. The length of the flame jet was dependent on several variables, including the total quantity of liquid, the mixture ratio and the percentage that the gasoline was "weathered." Flame jets as small as 6 inches were observed in subsequent testing. If the nozzle is in place when the flame travels into the container, the container has been documented to rupture and often injures the person holding the container.

If you are aware of any similar incidents, please see contact information below.

RELATED FLAME JETTING VIDEOS:

Here's a link to the news segment that tells the family's story and explains how the flame jetting occurs:

http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore_county/atf-studies-fire-phenomenon-that-a-burned-baltimore-county-teenager

Here's a link to several HD videos of the flame jetting:

http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/local_news/investigations/atf-studying-and-recreating-flame-jetting-phenomenon-which-severely-burns-essex-teenager

.....ARE YOU aware of any other situations related to FLAME JETTING? If so, please contact:

Adam.D.St.John@usdoj.gov

=REMEMBERING THE CHARLESTON 7: (Video)

A memorial ceremony was held yesterday for 7 Firefighters killed in a fire at the F.W. Woolworth department store March 4, 1949, in Charleston, West Virginia. The members were George Alexander Coates, 28; James Paul "Jiggs" Little, 26; Richard Ellsworth McCormick, 34; Frank Norton Miller, 31; Emory Clyde Pauley, 51; Thomas Franklin Sharp, 50; and Fred Clarence Summers, 27, who were killed in the Line of Duty after going into the building, when the first floor gave way. The Firefighters plunged into the burning debris of the basement. RIP.

HERE IS VIDEO FROM THAT FIRE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=girgAi-UslA>

=MORE FIRE SERVICE RELATED SEQUESTER CUT IMPACTS:

Word is that the feds will be cutting \$27 million from the 9/11 First Responders Health Bill - HR 847 - which has been underfunded since its inception:

<http://www.brooklyneagle.com/articles/sequester-lawmakers-worry-potential-budget-cuts-will-hit-911-first-responders>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

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The Secret List 3-5-13 / 1300 Hours

AND:

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER/EMT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-6 FF's STRUCK ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAY-Others Injured

A Firefighter killed in the Line of Duty on a snowy I-39 last night in Hudson, Illinois. He was struck and pinned by a car hauler that jackknifed. At least one other Firefighter is reported to be critical and others with NLT injuries. The Firefighters of the Hudson Community Fire Protection District were working the multiple vehicle crash on Interstate 39 near Hudson at 2145 Hours when a southbound semitractor trailer truck carrying automobiles lost control and struck 3 emergency vehicles belonging to the Hudson FD and the Illinois State Police. The Firefighter who lost his life was on duty as a Firefighter with the Hudson Fire Department and is also reportedly a career Firefighter with the Bloomington, IL Fire Department. We will post additional details as they become available. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-13 / 0700 Hours

AND:

All,

As posted earlier, an Illinois Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty last night after being struck on I-39. **Hudson Firefighter Chris Brown, 39**, was killed in the Line of Duty and others were injured-but those injured have all been released. FF Brown was also a career FF with the Bloomington, IL FD **and yesterday was his 12th anniversary on the job**. The initial crash was dispatched around 2145 Hours, following a snowy day that may have contributed to the crash involving two semi-trailers on I-39, one mile south of Hudson. About an hour later, a southbound semi-trailer carrying a load of automobiles lost control and struck vehicles and apparatus belonging to the Hudson FPD and Illinois State Police. FF Brown, who was a Hudson volunteer for the past three years, and five other Hudson firefighters were transported to BroMenn. The four others were treated and released. **FF Brown leaves behind a wife and two young sons ages 8 and 12. HERE is the HUDSON FPD FACEBOOK PAGE: https://www.facebook.com/hcfpd?sid=0.7254544838233803&ref=br_tf HERE is the HUDSON FPD Home Page: <http://hudsonfire.org/>**

SOUTH DAKOTA EMS DRIVER FALLS ASLEEP-CRASH-EMT EJECTED

An EMS ambulance driver fell asleep at the wheel Tuesday causing an early morning crash near the Piedmont exit on Interstate 90. The ambulance was transporting an elderly man and a baby from Eagle Butte to Rapid City Regional Hospital. During the ride, the driver nodded off and clipped an abandoned pick-up truck parked on the shoulder. The ambulance driver wasn't hurt but he was issued a citation for careless driving. "The two passengers that were being attended to by the ambulance personnel, they only have minor injuries. **The EMT that was attending to those patients was ejected and she received serious but non life threatening injuries.**

SURVIVING WEST WEBSTER NY FIREFIGHTERS SPEAK TO MEDIA:

"Thousands have our backs," Joe Hofstetter said, "It has been nonstop." He and Brother West Webster Firefighter Ted Scardino spoke to the media for the first time today, Wednesday, March 6, at the fire department's Station No. 1 on Gravel Road in Webster. The outpouring of support the past about 10 weeks has been such a positive, Hofstetter said, that it has far overshadowed "one negative act" Dec. 24. HERE is that interview: <http://tinyurl.com/ahqaxzm>

FDIC....You signed up yet? Sign up ASAP and save serious bucks. HERE are the details:
www.FDIC.com ...we'll seeya there!

FINAL WORD:

Connecticut State Police Sergeant, Firefighter, Chief & Fire Marshal Christopher Michael Guari, age 47, passed away March 2nd. He retired from the Connecticut State Police one day before his death. In addition to his service with the CT State Police, Guari served as the Deputy Chief, and a former Fire Chief, of the Mortlake Fire Company. His death was cancer related. RIP. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-13 / 1951 Hours

AND:

TEXAS FIRE CADET DIES WHILE TRAINING

A League City Firefighter cadet (trainee) is dead after collapsing during training in League City last night. The cadet collapsed at the drill site during a cool down period on South Kansas Street in League City around 2000 hours last night. He was immediately treated and then taken to the hospital where he died. His name has not been released, and we are awaiting more on the cause of death and related details. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

TWO BIRMINGHAM MAYDAYS

There was a MAYDAY called at a house fire last night on the Southwest side of Birmingham, AL---and that was the 2nd time yesterday as another Firefighter was injured when a portion of a roof collapsed on him while at another fire. The Birmingham firefighters last night were injured at a house fire that likely was started by a space heater. At this fire, two FF's were burned and one fell from a ladder at a fire on 18th Place Southwest. One had second to third degree burns to his hands, and one had a scald on his back. The Firefighter who fell suffered injuries to his head and shoulders. All three were taken to UAB Hospital and are expected to recover. The incident happened after a firefighter issued a mayday call after becoming disoriented in the burning house and his fellow firefighters climbed a ladder to help him out. The fire started in the basement and spread to the attic. It took firefighters about 30 minutes to get the fire under control. The house sustained 100 percent smoke damage and 40 percent fire damage. The three firefighters were injured about four hours after another firefighter suffered a shoulder injury and cuts to the forehead when the roof of the house at 923 39th Street North caught fire due to several space heaters being left on, although no one was home at the time. That firefighter is also expected to recover.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-13 / 0700 Hours

AND:

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY AT SCENE

The Marietta FD regrets to announce that Fire Fighter Engineer Lonnie Nutt succumbed to a medical issue he experienced after collapsing during a call while rendering aide to an injured motorist. At approximately 1630 today the Marietta Fire Department responded to an automobile accident with a report of injuries on Whitlock Ave. A Fire Commander and Firefighter on Engine 53 were being driven to this emergency scene by Fire Fighter Engineer Lonnie Nutt. When they arrived on the scene and begin to assist with the injured patient, Fire Engineer Nutt fell to the ground with a medical issue of his own. Firefighters from Marietta began diligently rendering care and assisted Metro Ambulance with transport to Kennestone Hospital. Fire Engineer Nutt succumbed to his medical issue after arriving at

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the hospital. Lonnie Nutt began his career with the City of Marietta in May of 1994. He has served Marietta as a fire fighter, inspector, investigator and currently Firefighter engineer. The entire Fire Department family will greatly miss Fire Engineer Lonnie Nutt. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

ARE YOU A FIREFIGHTER UNDER THE AGE OF 30?

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE POMPEY HILL FIRE?

Actually-everyone should be familiar with the date of March 7, 2002, (11 years today) where 2 Firefighters from the Manlius FD in NY were killed in the Line of Duty at a house fire-where so much went wrong...and the lawsuits followed...and continue.

John "Gino" Ginocchetti, 41, was President of Manlius IAFF Local 3316 and a veteran firefighter/paramedic of 12 years with the Manlius FD. He was survived by his wife Pam and his then 15-year-old son Timothy. Another tragedy struck the Ginocchetti's family a few years after the fire. His widow, Pamela, was stabbed to death in 2006 by her son. Timothy, who is now serving 15 years in state prison for manslaughter. Timothy J. "T.J." Lynch, 28, had been a career firefighter/paramedic with the Fayette Fire Department for a couple of years. He was also a volunteer with Manlius. He and his wife Donna had a 18-month-old son, Phillip. Pompey is about 12 miles southeast of Syracuse.

AMONGST THE FINDINGS:

- The IC was not clearly identified as the only individual responsible for the fire...the (then) County Coordinator added to the existing confusion of poor command, control and accountability.
- The Incident Commander did not convey strategic/tactical decisions to all FF's on the fireground and did not reevaluate the continuing fire conditions.
- Command did not conduct an initial size-up (including 360) of the fire before initiating and directing companies.
- There was no coordination between the ventilation crew and the attack crews.
- Fire fighters did not clearly report conditions and hazards encountered to their company officer or Incident Commander.
- Firefighters operated above the fire.

READ THE NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200206.html>

VIDEO OF THE FIRE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9C9ISs8oy0A>

ILLINOIS FUNERAL DETAILS:

Services for Hudson FF/EMT Chris Brown, who was also a career FF in nearby Bloomington, will be as follows:

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, March 11, 2013 at Eastview Christian Church in Normal with Rev. Ken Graham officiating.

Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Sunday, March 10, 2013 at the church with a Firefighters walk through from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

MORE DETAILS HERE: <http://www.hudsonfire.org/>

AND HERE: <https://www.facebook.com/hcfdp>

AND HERE: <https://www.facebook.com/BloomingtonFirefightersUnionIaffLocal49>

UPDATE FROM YESTERDAYS LODD IN TEXAS:

A retired teacher who last month began training to be a Southeast Texas volunteer firefighter has died after collapsing following physical drills. 62-year-old Donald Mize was taking part in routine physical training last night at a drill field when he collapsed during a cool-down session. Mize was transported to a hospital where he died. A FD spokesperson had no information on whether the former teacher in the Clear Creek Independent School District had a history of medical problems. She stated that everyone must pass a physical examination before training as a volunteer Firefighter. League City is midway between Houston and Galveston.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

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The Secret List 3-7-13 / 2130 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Remember Lionville. Today is the 15th anniversary of the PA Turnpike crash that killed a Lionville (PA) Firefighter and injured 9 others in the Line of Duty. As we saw this week in Illinois, when FF Chris Brown was struck and killed, being struck, injured and killed on the roadways continues to be a significant hazard and risk to this job. **(PLEASE CHECK OUT THE FREE TRAINING PROGRAM LINKS BELOW)**

WHAT HAPPENED IN LIONVILLE:

At approximately 1418 hours on 3/9/1998, Lionville Fire Company (Chester County, PA) and Uwchlan Ambulance were dispatched to a single vehicle automobile crash at milepost 310.9, just west of the Downingtown Interchange on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. A Heavy Rescue Truck, Engine Company, Assistant Chief and Ambulance responded. Upon arrival on the scene, the Ambulance, Rescue Truck, and Assistant Chief's vehicle parked on the shoulder of the road off the travel lanes of the highway. At the same time, two additional crashes were reported on the Turnpike. The second accident was reported at milepost 307 westbound (west of the first incident). The Engine responding to the first accident was directed to continue past the primary scene to respond to the second crash. A third accident was reported of a vehicle overturned at milepost 314 on the eastbound side of the highway (east of the original incident). Then Lionville Fire Chief William Minahan responded to that call with mutual aid units to investigate. At 1438 hours, as personnel were loading the accident victim into the Uwchlan Ambulance, a tractor trailer traveling westbound lost control and crashed into the Assistance Chief's vehicle, overturned, and slid into the back of the ambulance and the other responders in that area. The Assistant Chief and a Firefighter with him in his truck were trapped in the severely damaged vehicle and had to be extricated by mutual aid rescue personnel using the Jaws of Life. **Firefighter Dave Good of the Lionville Fire Company was killed in the line of duty. Nine other emergency responders were injured, three seriously.** The injured included Assistant Chief Steve Senn, Firefighters Chris Good, Mike Cox, Eric John, Pete Harmansky, James Rattrie, and Robert Doan, all firefighters with the Lionville Fire Company, and EMT Brent Kaplan and EMT John Wanczyk of Uwchlan Ambulance.

Firefighter David Good was 38 years old and had 5 years of service as a Firefighter with Lionville Fire Company. He was survived by his wife Maryanne and two sons, Johnathan and Jason Good. RIP.

That incident 15 years ago eventually led to the production of a video called the "10 Cones of Highway Safety" and a training program about Highway Safety both by VFIS. It also was one of two Firefighter struck-by-vehicle line of duty deaths in 1998 that led to the formation of the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) (www.respondersafety.com) a committee of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Assoc. Since that time ERSI personnel have worked constantly to build awareness of the dangers responders face while working at roadway incidents, to develop training aids that are available for free from the website and to collaborate with government and fire service officials to develop standards, regulations and guidelines to protect emergency responders at roadway incidents. ERSI personnel continue to work on more new training programs and educational material related to this subject and to pass along this information at fire service trade shows and conferences. Their motivation started with the death of FF Good-and hasn't ended....**FIRE/EMS**

HIGHWAY SURVIVAL TRAINING MATERIALS:

LIONVILLE FIRE CO PROGRAM:

http://www.lionvillefire.org/hwy_safety/

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IAFF/USFA FIREFIGHTER HIGHWAY AND ROADWAY SAFETY PROGRAM:

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/PowerPoint%20Presentation%20in%20PDF.pdf>

CDC FIREFIGHTER HIGHWAY SAFETY INFORMATION:

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/NIOSH%20Traffic%20Hazards%20to%20FF%20on%20Roadways.pdf>

IAFC HIGHWAY SAFETY INFORMATION:

http://www.iafc.org/files/downloads/VEHICLE_SAFETY/VehclSafety_IAFCpolAndProceds.pdf

ROADWAY SURVIVAL VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UwQ8e58IF4>

USE THIS PSA FOR LOCAL MARKETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LroL2xIVH1U>

RESPONDER SAFETY:

www.respondersafety.com Mike Wilbur/EVR EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER

TRAINING/CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS:

<http://www.emergencyvehicleresponse.com>

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER LODD MEMORIAL DETAILS:

Funeral Arrangements for Marietta FD LODD, Firefighter-Engineer Lonnie Nutt

Visitation: Monday March 11 from 4pm - 7pm, Roswell Street Baptist Church, 774 Roswell Street, Marietta - Service: Tuesday March 12 @ 11am, Roswell Street Baptist Church, 774 Roswell Street, Marietta - Internment: Immediately Following Service, Kennesaw Memorial Park, 1306 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta - Please have all marked apparatus wishing to participate in Staging by 900AM @ Roswell Street Baptist Church

"WRONG WAY" RESPONDING CRASH LAWSUIT IN NEW JERSEY

Ever driven your fire apparatus, ambulance or related unit the "wrong way", against traffic?

Most have when trying to get to an emergency. HOWEVER-in this claim, a woman who was a Phillipsburg (NJ) High School senior, says she is lucky to have survived after an ambulance slammed into her car and two years later, she is suing the driver, the emergency squad and the town for a crash that she says still causes her pain. The March 7, 2011, crash left Taylor L. Gudzinis, 20, with an injured neck, back and knee. She also suffered facial scarring, and glass from the crash remains embedded in her face. Gudzinis is suing the ambulance driver, the Phillipsburg Emergency Squad and the town for the incident, according to a civil complaint filed in New Jersey Superior Court. The driver, Cody Kolb, 23, was responding to a call for an unconscious elderly man at 4:54 p.m. when he drove the wrong way down Chambers Street, a one-way street. He T-boned the passenger side of Gudzinis' car, sending the car into a store. The driver's side of Gudzinis' car had to be ripped open to free her from the car.

At the time, Kolb was issued a summons for driving the wrong way down a one-way street. Although the siren and lights were on, officials said the ambulance should not have been traveling the wrong way.

The Feb. 26 complaint holds Phillipsburg "vicariously liable" for the crash. The emergency squad runs independently of the town, said Mayor Harry Wyant Jr. He said the town had yet to receive a copy of the lawsuit and declined to comment on the complaint. After the crash, Wyant said the driver should have obeyed traffic laws. "You're still supposed to adhere to all traffic laws," Wyant said. "I don't know if the driver was confused as to whether the street was one way or not, but still, they were not supposed to be going the wrong way down a one-way street."

HERE IS MORE:

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/phillipsburg/index.ssf/2013/03/crash_victim_sues_phillipsburg.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

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The Secret List 3-9-13 / 1420 Hours

AND:

Hey,

There was a smoke explosion at a fire in Harrison NJ this afternoon and it was caught on video....the fire eventually went to a fifth alarm. The explosion at the two-story building at Frank E. Rodgers Boulevard resulted in injured members-but all are reported to be stable. Numerous mutual aid departments assisted Harrison including Jersey City, North Arlington and Kearny.

HERE IS THE VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5wvCvmXnLs&sns=em>

HERE ARE TRAINING LINKS RELATED TO SMOKE EXPLOSIONS:

***POWERPOINT 1**-The Art of Reading Smoke PPt from Dave Dodson:

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

***POWERPOINT 2**-The Art of Reading Smoke-Sequel from Dave Dodson:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/68508>

Smoke Explosions-Paul Grimwood: <http://www.firetactics.com/service.htm>

Backdraft/Flashover-The Difference-Vincent Dunn:

<http://vincentdunn.com/dunn/newsletters/dec/dec.pdf>

Smoke Explosions-Ed Hartin: <http://cfbt-us.com/wordpress/>

***Dave Dodson Video**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8CxxwD0lr8>

JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT LODD FIREMATIC SERVICES LOCATION CHANGE:

Firematic Service for Captain Turner: Monday March 11th - 8:00 pm - Jericho Fire Department Station #1, 411 North Broadway @ Columbia Drive-All apparatus are to stage in the parking lot of the Milleridge Inn Parking lot (585 North Broadway). Shuttle buses will be available between the parking area and JFD Station #1

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-10-13 / 1536 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The Fairfax County (Virginia) Fire and Rescue Department's communication section has produced an "unofficial" report that you may have seen*. The document essentially recommends that you wear your portable radio on a leather strap, under the coat, but with the radio extended (sticking out) below the bottom of the coat with the antenna tilted away from the body....as opposed to using PPE radio pockets. We have the document posted on our home page so you can check it out. **..But wait. Theres more. Lots More.** I wanted to look into the issue as well ... because when operating in IDLH areas, wearing it on a strap, under the coat had seemed to make the most sense to me-and pretty much what I have always done. Several firefighter injury and LODD investigations have shown that there are genuine and concerning issues with radios that are exposed to extreme fire conditions. Exposed radio mic cords (from the mic to the radio) have melted and been compromised under heavy fire conditions. It also makes sense to me that the newer system radios seem to work best when their antennas are not covered up. And I also know that when your radio is under the coat, you can't easily change channels on the radio itself. So now what!?! **..Well slow down....**

I did some digging and found out that the report has actually **not been** adopted by the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue **Department**. To be clear, this report was not been issued by the department as it may not provide all the answers to best benefit firefighter safety and survival. Hmmm. I spoke with some of the top brass at Fairfax County, who stated that the communication sections report findings are

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being reviewed within the department, to determine if a change in policy will be instituted. I also spoke with IAFF Safety & Health Director Pat Morrison, who stated that, while not focusing on the Fairfax communications section report exclusively, **they do not necessarily agree that portable radios should be worn under our bunker coats.** Issues such as signal blocking, access to changes channels, openings in your PPE in IDLH areas, the mic poking out of an open top or the radio exposed out MAY not be the best way to use your radio. The IAFF is working diligently on the issue as an important safety priority and will be issuing recommendations soon. The IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section is also well aware and have reached out to support and work collaboratively on the issue...So what is the answer?

For now, it makes the most sense to do what's worked best under the policies of your department. Actually, it makes more than just good sense, you should follow your departments policies - (*how 'bout that, free career advise*) ...and wait to see what all the researchers come up with. I know that sounds like a lame answer but it's my opinion that until the experts provide additional information on exactly what to do, we have to hang on just a bit and do whats worked best in our organizations...until a collaborative report or standard (NFPA is on top of this issue as well) for the wearing and using of our radios in IDLH environments is issued. I also have solid information that the radios themselves, and especially the cords, will be much more robust and better protected in the very near future-so that "weak" link may be minimized. Clearly, fire conditions and related fire behavior are major factors -and so is our fireground behavior. Nothing will survive the worst fire conditions... and some might even say "don't go in there" ...and that's nice--but not reality. We generally do "go in there." While water on the fire is the amongst the best solutions, there will be times, when all the best practices and behaviors are followed and we still get in a jam...and when in that jam, the hope is that the radio and system will allow us to call for help...wherever we are wearing it. Much more to follow. *We've posted the report on our home page so you can check it out-but keep in mind, this is a section report and has not been adopted as policy by the department.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-10-13 / 2058 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Tramway (NC) FF Matt Smith was injured yesterday morning while operating at a house fire. FF Smith fell from a ladder and was transported to the hospital where he is being treated for some non-life threatening, but very serious injuries. The house was totaled with the second floor being hardest hit. Investigators are trying to determine the cause of the fire, since the house had been vacant since Friday. We wish him a rapid recovery.

=VIDEO: ANOTHER SHUTTERED FIRE DEPARTMENT...

With over 150 Firefighters that used to protect East St Louis (Illinois) - only 53 Firefighters remain due to budget cuts...and they respond to the highest percentage of fires in the St. Louis metro area. Unfortunately the East St. Louis FD is now facing the layoffs off 22 more firefighters this coming May. It makes you wonder if the citizens even want a fire department...will we soon see some of these urban areas simply dropping water from a helicopter?never mind-too expensive. **What is their first alarm assignment?** Generally it is 2 engines and 6 firefighters and if layoffs occur, that number will probably be 3 firefighters and 1 engine.

CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO: <http://youtu.be/OKKY7jU0eEA>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-12-13 / 1412 hours

AND:

Hey,

A few days ago, we sent out a clip from East St Louis, IL-and the situation FF's are encountering there. You saw the Harrison NJ smoke explosion-that FD is has **50% LESS staffing** than they did just 4 years ago (**HERE** is an update on the Harrison fire/explosion: <http://tinyurl.com/bs4t5rv>) You've also seen many videos showing what Firefighters in other hit areas such as Detroit are going through. In 1972, the BBC did a documentary entitled: **The Bronx is Burning** ...and it followed Firefighters from FDNY Battalion 27, Ladder 31 and Engine 82. It showed the conditions the Firefighters worked in-with roughly a fire an hour with high rates of arson and false calls. The outstanding video (see below) features many Firefighters and includes Dennis Smith. Check out the video and see what it was like in the FDNY in 1972.....

And speaking of Dennis Smith,

now fast forward 4 decades....last week I sent information out about his latest venture. Dennis is the founder of Firehouse Magazine, wrote numerous books including Report from Ground Zero as well as Report from Engine Company 82.

=Please take a look at Dennis's new magazine:

HOMELAND VOICE, The Journal of World Security. As per Dennis, he is offering 3 months subscription to the journal absolutely **FREE**. Go to: www.homelandvoice.com.

WATCH THE "BRONX IS BURNING" (Part 1) VIDEO HERE:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQO5CXdiwqQ>

Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSKxV1_VVvM

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LExWjeKRgG0>

Part 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVXMyIRUQC>

FIRE APPARATUS SEVERED IN CALIFORNIA:

An Orange County Fire Authority truck slammed into a massive tree this evening in a crash that was apparently powerful enough to sever the emergency vehicle. Four fire fighters on board suffered injuries and were transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Ladders and fire-fighting gear were strewn across the roadway. Aerial footage showed the truck almost entirely on a roadway median, leaning against a gnarled tree. The right half of the truck's back portion appeared to have broken off from the rest of the apparatus (pictured below). It was not immediately known whether the truck's emergency lights or sirens were on at the time of the crash, or if the crew was responding to or returning from a call. **HERE IS A PHOTO:** <http://tinyurl.com/bwsqzlv>

UPDATE: APPARATUS STRIKES AND KILLS CIVILIAN

This is a horrible situation that appears couldn't be avoided. It seems that glare from a brightly lit Christmas tree in a downtown park might have been a factor in a Lexington Firefighter's running over and killing a pedestrian last Dec. 8. A report released Tuesday said ambient light reflected off rain-slicked pavement and the fire truck's wet windshield could have impaired Firefighter Chris Presley's vision as he turned the apparatus left from Main Street onto South Broadway. Lauren Woodall Roady, 27, was legally crossing South Broadway at the time. She was struck by the left side of the Lexington fire department's Engine 9 and run over by its back wheels, police have said. She died at the scene. Presley, 40, remains on paid, administrative leave. The police revealed numerous factors that could have caused FF Presley not to see Roady, and Roady not to see or hear the truck. The truck was not on an emergency run at the time of the accident, and its lights and sirens were not activated. Cops concluded that Roady had the right-of-way and Presley "had the obligation to observe and yield to Mrs. Roady." However, Presley told police he didn't see Roady before making the turn. "He felt like

he 'ran over a speed bump' with his back tires but saw nothing," the report said. "He looked in the mirror and saw something lying in the road' then immediately stopped Engine 9.

READ MORE HERE:

<http://www.kentucky.com/2013/03/12/2554429/report-numerous-factors-impaired.html#storylink=cpy>

CLOSEST UNIT GOES? What's Best For The People Needing Help?

The Los Angeles City Fire Department is going to upgrade its dispatch center to mutually work with neighboring fire agencies to ensure the closest available units are sent during life-threatening emergencies-no matter what jurisdiction it's in. A media analysis of city and county records published in October found that in more than 70,000 emergency medical calls since 2007, the LACityFD sent its own rescuers to victims despite the fact that Los Angeles County firehouses were closer to the scene. More than 1,300 of those cases involved cardiac arrests. In two cases highlighted, cardiac arrest victims died after waiting for LACityFD units when county help was closer. LACityFire Chief Brian Cummings said he would like to see a seamless network that connects dispatch systems across municipal borders. Potential partners include the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the Long Beach Fire Department and the consolidated dispatch center that covers Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena and nine other cities, Chief Cummings said.

HERE IS MORE: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2013/03/lafd-911-dispatchers.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-13 / 0114 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:

A rash of late-summer wildfires and other unforeseen events made 2012 a lucrative year for a handful of public employees in Washington. Records show the top three overtime earners in Clark County's largest cities made nearly \$350,000 combined in overtime. Firefighters received the lion's share of the overtime pay in Vancouver, Camas and Washougal. In cities without fire departments, such as La Center, Battle Ground and Ridgefield, police officers were the top overtime earners. In some cases, the extra pay equaled a third of a six-figure, or near-six-figure, take-home salary. Although receiving overtime is nothing new for public employees, especially among on-call emergency responders such as police officers and firefighters, city officials say they vow to keep costs low; personnel expenses account for more than 80 percent of most cities' operating budgets:

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/feb/10/overtime-taxes-citys-budgets/>

The Daisy Mountain (AZ) Fire Department in the New River area will unveil a new program to sell ad space on its fire trucks. The fire district board will start taking bids February 15. You can't miss the big, red truck. "We're driving a billboard," said Daisy Mountain Fire spokesman Dave Wilson. The money would go toward community programs that were reduced by budget cuts. Daisy Mountain fire trucks don't just respond to emergency scenes. Firefighters take them to parades, community events, and, sometimes, they travel to other parts of Arizona.

With all of that exposure, the fire district decided there was a good opportunity to offset budget cuts, Wilson said. There are currently six trucks. The ads would be printed on two roll up doors on either side. "With the decrease in revenue, we've had to cut out programs such as CPR (and) public education," Wilson said. According to Wilson, property tax revenue dropped nearly 70 percent in the past five years due to the housing crash. That translates to roughly \$1.5 million out of the fire district's budget:

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_northeast_valley/anthem/daisy-mountain-fire-department-unveils-new-program-to-sell-ad-space-on-fire-trucks

Two Davis (CA) fire stations could soon have fewer firefighters on staff, but officials say it'll save the city money, while also improving service to the community. That's because another station could gain a firefighter and more flexibility in how its rescue unit can be used. The Davis City Council on Tuesday night is scheduled to discuss the Fire Department staffing proposal, which could cut one firefighter from the "daily minimum staffing" model and save \$360,000 annually. Currently, all three fire stations in town have four people on staff; that's so they can follow a "two in, two out" model when responding to fires, according to a city staff report. But if each station drops to three firefighters on its engine company, and the Fifth Street Station 31 adds two people to a rescue unit, it would add flexibility and save money, city staff say. "Currently, Rescue 31 must respond in tandem with Engine 31 to all calls," the staff report states. "By making the Rescue a stand-alone unit, the rescue could respond to traffic accidents in Station 32 and 33's first-in area and leave Engine 31 in quarters to respond to additional calls." <http://davis.patch.com/articles/2-davis-fire-stations-could-have-fewer-firefighters>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

There's a fair amount of reaction in the Hudson, New York area after WRGB-TV showed video of firefighters being towed behind an SUV on snow covered Warren Street. The City of Hudson Fire Department is located at 520 Warren Street and, listening to the audio, it appears the TV station picked that location for a snow live shot Friday evening when this video was captured. Probably the reaction that matters most is from Hudson's fire chief who issued a statement, "That's a sight that will never be seen again on Warren Street" and that they are dealing with it internally: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/12/firefighter-fun-in-the-snow-hudson-ny-chief-says-towing-firefighters-through-streets-wont-happen-again/>

The Thursday graduation of a group of Las Vegas (NV) Fire and Rescue Academy recruits has been canceled after allegations of cheating surfaced, the city of Las Vegas confirmed. A full investigation into possible cheating during a written exam has been launched, city spokesman David Riggleman said in an email Wednesday night: <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/21192887/city-cancels-fire-academy-graduation-amid-cheating-concerns>

A Polk County (FL) Fire battalion chief and two medical supervisors have been fired after an internal investigation found the three had ongoing and sexual affairs while on duty and on county property, according to reports. The initial investigation was first handled as a sexual harassment case. Battalion Chief Trampas Fletcher and medical supervisors Michael Tomlinson and Shellie Krauklis were notified of the investigation's findings Tuesday, according to letters from Assistant Fire Chief Rick Parnell. Tomlinson and Fletcher are accused of separately having sex with Krauklis while on duty and on county property: <http://www.theledger.com/article/20130213/NEWS/130219733/0/FROTOPAGE>

Accusations of bad behavior by firefighters working out of the downtown Toledo (OH) station have left two of them suspended for allegedly using a life squad as a party bus, two others under investigation for allegations of drunken driving, and a city attorney suspended for the way he handled one of the drunken-driving cases. The Toledo Fire Department suspended two firefighters in late February over accusations that they used the life squad on Jan. 19 to ferry three nurses to and from downtown's Station 5 and a Christmas party at the Blarney Irish Pub. The firefighters were on duty, and let the women pose for pictures in fire trucks. A nurse at one point slid down the station's fire pole, Fire Chief Luis Santiago said. Joseph Zuber, who is assigned to Station 5, was suspended for 16 hours for conduct unbecoming of a firefighter and for transporting a civilian in an emergency vehicle without permission. Brandon Walton, who is assigned to Station 9 but was filling in at Station 5 that night, was suspended for eight hours for the transportation charge. "Transporting civilians to and from a bar is unacceptable," a departmental document reads. "Your conduct was far below the standard expected of a Toledo firefighter and has caused great embarrassment to the department."

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2013/03/15/Station-5-firefighters-face-arrests-accusations.html>

A Long Beach (NY) firefighter has been arrested and charged with a years-long stalking campaign against a rival firefighter -- the rival's latest accusations of relentless bullying against the fire department. According to Long Beach City Court papers charging misdemeanor stalking starting in 2009, firefighter Brian McNamara, 37, of Long Beach, is accused of repeatedly antagonizing the rival and his wife, John and Donna Ritter. Outside their house, he was "walking back and forth . . . like a monkey," and while Ritter was on his porch, he said, McNamara cursed and vowed to haunt him forever. In the streets, he screamed expletives and ridiculed the man's firefighters' union shirt:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/10894074/ny-firefighter-arrested-in-stalking-of-rival-colleague?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130308003

The Spokane Valley (WA) Fire Department's Civil Service Commission denied a request by former Capt. Jon Sprague to get his job back after he was fired last year for sending religious emails from his department email account despite repeated orders to stop. The vote today was unanimous upholding the decisions of the fire commissioners and former Chief Mike Thompson to fire Sprague. Sprague runs the Spokane County Christian Firefighter Fellowship and routinely sent newsletters and other information to fellow firefighters that had agreed to receive the emails. He was ordered to stop and was disciplined several times, including two letters of reprimand and the suspension of two 24-hour shifts, before he was terminated. Sprague has argued that sending the emails is his First Amendment right and that other employees also send unofficial emails and have not been disciplined. Commissioner Diana Wilhite, a former Spokane Valley mayor, said she has experience with the proper use of a taxpayer-funded email system. "We were repeatedly told not to use government property for private purposes," she said: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2013/mar/13/commission-firefighter-who-misused-email-wont-get/>

Novato's (CA) former fire chief misused his credit card privileges and approved hundreds of thousands of dollars of work without the fire board's approval, then chose immediate retirement when confronted, the head of the board of directors said. "He violated our trust," Farhad Mansourian, president of the Novato Fire District board, said Tuesday in a meeting with the Independent Journal as he released records in response to the newspaper's request under the state Public Records Act: http://www.marinij.com/novato/ci_22585112/fire-board-novato-fire-chief-violated-credit-card

About 10 investigators with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and local district attorney's office descended Tuesday on the Columbus Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services administrative office, interviewing commanders and collecting boxes of fire department records to pore over. GBI Special Agent in Charge Wayne Smith said his agents were probing how the department handles documents, some related to a February 2010 home day care fire that injured four children, one fatally. Smith said the GBI investigation was initiated at the request of Julia Slater, district attorney of the six-county Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit that includes Columbus. Slater in a statement said she sought the GBI's assistance "after receiving information indicating that department employees may have committed criminal acts involving the creation, maintenance and accuracy of official reports and documents."

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2013/02/12/2381283/gbi-da-probe-columbus-fire-department.html>

The Arizona Department of Public Safety has closed its criminal investigation related to a female Phoenix firefighter's claim that she endured sexual harassment and discrimination from her colleagues. A recent memo from the Phoenix Police Department states that the DPS closed the investigation because the woman, firefighter Julie Simpson, said she did not want prosecution to be pursued and would not assist detectives. The DPS' inquiry specifically looked at an accusation that a male firefighter had stolen her cellphone. DPS investigators were looking into an allegation that a co-worker broke into her room at the fire station through the attic and took her cellphone to view its contents in February 2011, according to a memo. City Council members wanted the DPS to determine whether the actions were criminal. The theft allegation came to light last fall when the council voted to pay a \$70,000 settlement to Simpson over claims that she faced years of harassment and discrimination, with alleged incidents dating to 2003. Some council members felt the department did not appropriately discipline the male firefighter, who received a written reprimand:

http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/20130213dps-closes-investigation-into-firefighters-sex-harassment-claim.html?nclick_check=1

An investigation has been launched into allegations of widespread cheating among the latest group of recruits for the City of Las Vegas (NV) Fire Department. The city launched this investigation as a result of an incident that took place during a written exam at the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Academy. The academy is 20 weeks long. Because of the investigation, the recruits' graduation that was supposed to take place Thursday was canceled. The fire department declined to comment on the allegations. Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman called the cheating allegations disappointing. "It's a tough job to get, and a tough job to do," she said. Twice a year, hundreds apply to be a Las Vegas firefighter, with only about 30 actually making it to the recruiting class. The class that was supposed to graduate Thursday had 14 recruits: <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/21201534/vegas-mayor-disappointed-over-cheating-allegations>

A Hackettstown (NJ) First Aid & Rescue Squad member was arrested Wednesday night for driving an ambulance while intoxicated, Sgt. Darren Tynan said. Patrols responded to a medical call on Vans Drive just after 9 p.m. and saw the ambulance drive past the location, Tynan said. A short time later, the officer saw the ambulance enter the complex the wrong way, Tynan said:

<http://statter911.com/2013/02/21/police-say-man-driving-ambulance-was-drunk-hackettstown-nj-squad-member-arrested-before-patient-transport/>

More snow troubles: Hartford, CT firefighters under investigation for video of kids jumping off nearby library roof: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/14/more-snow-troubles-hartford-ct-firefighters-under-investigation-for-video-of-kids-jumping-off-nearby-library-roof/>

Axe falls in Flagler Beach, FL. Fire Chief, assistant chief & firefighter fired over drinking in firehouse. Two volunteer Firefighters also dismissed and the interim Fire Chief is under investigation for falsifying time sheets: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/17/axe-falls-in-flagler-beach-fl-chief-assistant-chief-firefighter-fired-over-drinking-in-firehouse/>

When Joseph Carilli became chief of Connecticut's Coventry Volunteer Fire Association in 2006 he made the news. That's because Carilli had served eight months in prison in 1985 when he was 24-years-old after being accused of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl. According to Courant.com, Carilli told reporters in 2006, "It was a very bad situation and it should have never occurred. I've changed my life 180 degrees since then." If the news over the last six months is any guide, it appears Chief Carilli really changed his life 360 degrees. First, was his forced resignation as chief in September after the store manager and two employees of Dunkin' Donuts on Main Street claimed that on several occasions Chief Carilli used language that made them uncomfortable. And now, the 53-year-old Carilli, who remained training officer for the department, is under arrest again. Carilli and Lieutenant Joe Fragoso, age 35, are accused of having sexual contact with some of the department's junior firefighters, ages 14 to 17: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/14/ct-former-chief-lieutenant-arrested-on-charges-they-had-sex-with-jr-firefighters-chief-served-jail-time-after-similar-arrest-30-years-ago/>

The Orange County (CA) Fire Authority fire marshal was suspended from her post, just as officials completed an audit of an inspection program that charged hundreds of Orange County businesses for hazardous material inspections that were not done. The weeklong suspension is the first, and only, known disciplinary action taken since Orange County Fire Authority officials found that more than 1,400 businesses were charged for hazardous material inspections in 2011-12, even though the inspections were never completed. Fire Marshal Laura Blaul sent out an email to fire authority staff apologizing for the "embarrassment" caused to the department, after the Orange County Register reported on the errors in September, according to the email, which was obtained by the Register. "I am the Fire Marshal and I take full responsibility," the email reads. "This issue has caused embarrassment to our agency, pain to our members, confusion and ill will, and I apologize to all of you." The email was sent out to OCFA staff Feb. 14, the first day of the one-week suspension. Battalion Chief Kris Concepcion said he could not comment on specific disciplinary actions against department personnel. But the email sent out by Blaul, and obtained through a public records request, confirms the suspension was directly linked to the agency's handling of its hazmat inspection program, where businesses were charged about \$360,000 for inspections that didn't happen: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fire-496809-hazardous-marshal.html>

A Boston (MA) firefighter is being investigated for alleged threats against his departments. No charges have been filed, but he has been placed on paid administrative leave. A Boston Police report obtained first by NECN details the alleged threats. According to the report, Boston Firefighter Kenneth Veiga told his captain he was unhappy the department physician had cleared him to return to work. Veiga allegedly told the captain "I am army trained and have weapons and ammunitions in a storage locker. Dorner will be child's play." Chris Dorner is the former Los Angeles police officer who killed multiple people and then barricaded himself in a building forcing a standoff between himself and the LAPD last week. "Whenever something like this happens it is troubling and you never know if it is just idle talk or if someone really does mean to do that type of harm," Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis says Mayor Tom Menino has been briefed on the situation. According to the report, Veiga also allegedly said he was "upset with City Hall, Fire Department Headquarters, and the Firefighters Union Hall." <http://www.necn.com/02/21/13/Boston-firefighter-put-on-leave-for-alle/landing.html?blockID=832327&feedID=11106>

Lake Township (OH) Fire Chief Todd Walters and two firefighters/paramedics have resigned amid a township police investigation into intravenous-fluid bags of saline being taken from a department fire hall to treat an intoxicated off-duty police officer:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2013/02/22/Chief-2-others-quit-Lake-Twp-Fire-Department-amid-investigation-of-IV-treatment-after-reception.html>

An exclusive ABC7 I-Team Investigation has learned that there is a looming sex scandal in the D.C. Fire Department involving female trainees. Sources tell ABC7 numerous women are part of a formal complaint targeting the department. Two training academy instructors have been accused of harassing female cadets and sources say that harassment was sexual in nature.

Young cadets are trained by mentors who shepherd the recent high school graduates into the field of fire fighting. But multiple sources tell ABC7 that two female cadets recently accused two training academy instructors of sexual harassment. "A young lady was touched and told to by the official to call them daddy," says the mother of a female cadet, who asked to not be identified for fear of retaliation. She says while her daughter was "not" harassed, other young women told her daughter about various sexual advances directed at them:

<http://statter911.com/2013/02/21/dc-fire-ems-cadets-claim-instructors-sexually-harassed-them-investigation-underway/>

Investigative reporter David Goldstein caught a high-ranking employee of LA County (CA) Fire allegedly drinking on the job. Goldstein's hidden cameras captured Vic Mesrobian, an assistant chief of County Fire's information management department, drive off in a county fire vehicle and drink beer while on duty during lunch:

<http://statter911.com/2013/02/24/so-what-do-you-think-of-this-tv-investigative-reporter-uses-hidden-camera-to-capture-la-county-assistant-chief-having-a-liquid-lunch/>

Last July, Statter911 reported an interesting story about Bennington (VT) Rural Fire Department Chief Joseph Hayes, who was criminally charged after throwing a flashlight at a motorist who didn't slow down at an emergency scene. In January, Hayes entered a guilty plea on a disorderly conduct charge saying he wanted to get this all behind him. On probation in that case, Hayes, who lost reelection last month but is still a department official, now has something new that he will want to get behind him. Joseph Hayes is accused of embezzlement and false pretenses surrounding a fire department raffle. In addition, Hayes' wife Angela has been charged with accessory on the false pretenses charge:

<http://statter911.com/2013/02/26/flashlight-throwing-former-vt-chief-has-bigger-problems-joseph-hayes-wife-accused-of-embezzlement-involving-bennington-rural-fd-raffle/>

The chief of Cal Fire's San Bernardino unit was charged Tuesday, Feb. 26, with vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence in connection with a collision Aug. 1, 2012, in which he rear-ended another vehicle while driving a Cal Fire pickup. Timothy John McClelland, 48, was charged with a misdemeanor count in the death of Gregory Francis Kirwin, 48, of Banning. McClelland is due to be arraigned April 10 in Superior Court in San Bernardino. "It's a tragedy for everyone involved," Cal Fire spokeswoman Julie Hutchinson said. McClelland remains on duty. He has been reassigned to administrative projects in the Southern Region office in Riverside. Hutchinson said Cal Fire won't begin an internal review of the crash until after the legal case concludes. A message left for McClelland seeking comment was not returned. San Bernardino County district attorney's office spokesman Christopher Lee said the court website that lists the charge as a felony is in error. McClelland was driving a white 2005 Cal Fire Chevrolet 1500 east on Highway 210 west of Del Rosa Avenue in Highland when it rear-ended a red 2001 Ford Focus, the CHP said. Kirwin died at the scene: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1411706-Calif-fire-chief-charged-in-fatal-crash/>

The Washington DC Fire & EMS Department seems to remain in the news these last few weeks with stories that linger. This one comes out of last week's testimony by Chief Kenneth Ellerbe at a City Council hearing. Council member Tommy Wells has, for the second time this week, called for an inspector general's investigation of the department. Wells wants to get to the bottom of an overtime list of mechanics at the department's shop that became part of the questioning of Chief Ellerbe during the hearing: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/28/is-it-fraud-or-mismanagement-dc-council-member-asks-for-another-ig-investigation-following-testimony-of-chief-ellerbe-on-mechanics-overtime/>

The Contra Costa County (CA) fire captain accused of threatening co-workers and stealing from his own department for years could face up to 5 years in prison if convicted on four felony charges filed today by the Contra Costa County District Attorney. Fire captain Jon Wilmot, 51, retired shortly after being arrested in December on second degree burglary and grand theft charges. "We're treating it like any other case. He is not going to get any special treatment and unfortunately he's violated the public trust," said DA Mark Peterson. Peterson filed the following felony charges: embezzlement, receiving stolen goods, possession of an assault weapon and commercial burglary of fire gear valued up to \$35,000. There are also new developments involving the workplace violence restraining order against Wilmot. Wilmot spent 27 years with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, but court documents show during several of those years, Wilmot allegedly harassed co-workers, stole from the department, and threatened citizens he was sworn to protect. In the workplace violence restraining order obtained exclusively by the NBC Bay Area Investigative Unit, the battalion chief said Wilmot wrote a co-worker's name on a bullet and gave it to him. He said Wilmot also stole another firefighter's uniform in retaliation when that firefighter reported Wilmot for having pornography on his computer at work. The chief also cites police reports showing Wilmot threatened a man with a hammer over a parking spot and threatened to rape and decapitate a woman after she called him by mistake. Police said they found 53 guns and thousands of rounds of ammo in Wilmot's three homes. "I don't think it's inaccurate to say he had some difficulties with hoarding so there was lots of property in each one of these homes: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Former-Firefighter-Jon-Wilmot-Faces-Four-Felonies-193701671.html>

A former volunteer firefighter from Nanticoke (PA) was charged Wednesday with making prank phone calls that sent his one-time colleagues scrambling to find nonexistent people in distress, according to state police. Lee Anthony Beatty, 50, is charged with reporting false alarms to a public safety agency and reckless endangerment, according to police. Beatty is accused of calling three times to report false emergencies -- in one case sending out boats and rescuers who searched the Susquehanna River for about 2 1/2 hours before realizing no one was in danger. In each case, his former department -- Plymouth Township Fire-Rescue Tilbury Station in West Nanticoke -- was summoned to the calls: http://www.firehouse.com/news/10886302/ex-pa-firefighter-charged-for-prank-emergency-calls?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130222003

A veteran firefighter has filed a complaint against the Orland (IL) Fire Protection District alleging that her gender made her a target for discrimination and retaliation in the department. Lt. Terri Simone-Lorenz, one of few women among the district's more than 100 firefighters, alleges in a six-count complaint that she has dealt with gender discrimination and a hostile work environment for most of her employment with the Fire District: http://www.firehouse.com/news/10886266/veteran-illinois-firefighter-alleges-sex-discrimination?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130222003

A Boston (MA) firefighter, who has since resigned, will be arraigned on drug charges today after police say he bought heroin while on duty. Stephen Hogan, 24, of Dorchester will be arraigned in Roxbury District court on a charge of heroin possession after police arrested him Tuesday while on duty near the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Bray Street in Jamaica Plain. Hogan, who was assigned to Engine 42 and was still a probationary firefighter, joined the department in July last year and graduated from the firefighting academy in November. He resigned from the department Tuesday night, Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald said: http://www.firehouse.com/news/10886283/boston-probie-firefighter-facing-drug-charge-resigns?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130222003

A recent string of operational problems and misconduct allegations has embroiled the Washington D.C. fire department and prompted concerns that a dysfunctional agency is undermining public safety. The department's troubles run the gamut: a labor-management spat over a visit by firefighters to the White House, charges of sexual harassment at the training academy, and the death by heart attack of a man who waited 29 minutes for an ambulance on a day when more than 100 firefighters called in sick: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-fire-department-disputes-highlight-serious-issues-of-response-time-staffing/2013/03/02/b2fd0fc8-81ad-11e2-8074-b26a871b165a_story.html

Lewd behavior at a Tucson (AZ) fire station that a firefighter has called a sexual assault resulted in the demotion of a captain and could cost taxpayers \$500,000, records show. Paramedic firefighter Cody Jenkins filed a notice of claim against the city Feb. 19. It says Roger Sloan Tamietti, then a captain, "physically and sexually assaulted Jenkins multiple times" Nov. 9. In addition to demoting him to paramedic, the city of Tucson filed three misdemeanor charges against Tamietti. Two of them, an assault and a harassment charge, stem from the alleged incident in November. The other is an assault charge from an unknown incident that occurred in September. Tamietti is appealing his demotion, saying the punishment was excessive and the some of the testimony was a "lie or greatly exaggerated." At issue is what occurred Nov. 9 when Jenkins, who is a roaming paramedic, was assigned to Fire Station 7, on East Pima Street near North Swan Road. Jenkins had returned from a call about 10 a.m. Nov. 9 when Tamietti tackled him and knocked him over the back of a couch at the station, according to city records. Jenkins' face was pushed against the couch pillows and his legs were sticking up in the air. Tamietti then "straddled" Jenkins and "forcibly humped and ground" against him, the claim states. Tamietti admitted to investigators he threw Jenkins on the couch, but denied committing a lewd act. Tamietti said he was just "horseplaying" to make Jenkins feel more comfortable and treat him like he was one of the guys. Tamietti said he never intended to hurt or humiliate Jenkins. Three witnesses saw Tamietti tackle Jenkins on the couch, but none reflected the "severity of what Jenkins said he was subjected to" when interviewed by city investigators. Nonetheless, the investigators found Tamietti's conduct violated city policy: http://azstarnet.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/tfd-captain-demoted-sexual-assaults-alleged/article_a8bd92c8-aa0c-5c51-b494-5103a69b6a46.html

A woman who was fired as an Orange Township (OH) firefighter after complaining of sexual harassment by a co-worker was awarded more than \$1.7 million in damages this week. Raechel Sterud, 32, sued the Delaware County township and her supervising lieutenant, Keith Myers, in 2010, saying she was the victim of gender discrimination. After a weeklong trial, a jury in Franklin County agreed, voting 7-1 on Monday that she was fired in 2007 because of her gender and that Myers acted "with actual malice" in recommending her termination. The jurors returned a judgment of \$1.67 million against the township and \$75,000 against Myers: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/03/05/Woman-wins-1.7million-harassmentsuit-against-firedepartment.html>

The head of the city of Montreal's fire department said his force is ridden with a culture of intimidation, which led one employee to commit suicide. "My organization is sick. I have to do something," said Serge Tremblay, who oversees 2,800 firefighters. He said the investigation into Stephane Archambault's suicide revealed that "there was a terrible environment in the fire prevention department. The people there were very, very unhappy." Archambault allegedly faced office harassment from at least three of his colleagues in the fire prevention office. The 48-year-old father of four killed himself last October. In an exclusive interview with QMI Agency, Tremblay said that nothing in his career prepared him for the death of a colleague. The past few years have been difficult for the force, he said. The firefighter's union was engaged in heated negotiations with the city over a collective agreement and his employees had to implement a new first responder service. Tremblay said the force "didn't manage the changes well. We neglected to look after our employees in the fire prevention department." He suspended one employee who was allegedly connected to Archambault's suicide:

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/sunnews/canada/archives/2013/02/20130224-133350.html>

A former Los Angeles (CA) City firefighter and mixed martial arts fighter known as "The Noodle" was sentenced today to probation after he paid \$30,000 in restitution and completed 200 hours of community service for filing a false workers' compensation insurance claim. Raphael Davis, 36, pleaded guilty in September to filing the false workers' comp claim in December, 2008, during the same time he was participating in mixed martial arts fights as "The Noodle."

http://www.firehouse.com/news/10890406/former-la-city-firefighter-sentenced-in-fraud-case?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130301003

Connecticut Firefighters believed their Fire Chief with a well-known sexual criminal past & junior member were a 'dating couple'. But no one said anything? Firefighters interviewed by police said they often saw the girl with Carilli, and based upon their actions, flirting, and the amount of time they were together said they appeared to be a "dating couple." Several of those firefighters said they did not notify authorities about the "illegal relationship because Carilli was 'careful' and they had no solid evidence to prove a relationship." Really? You believed your 53-year-old chief, who previously spent time in jail for having sex with a minor, was "dating" a 15-year-old junior member and you didn't notify anyone about your suspicions. Really?

<http://statter911.com/2013/03/04/firefighters-believed-chief-with-well-known-criminal-past-junior-member-were-a-dating-couple-but-no-one-said-anything/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

The International Association of Fire Chiefs has launched the much-anticipated *Taking Responsibility for a Positive Public Perception* the result of the association's Fire and Emergency Service Image Task Force. The document offers, in equal parts, a frank and straightforward discussion of the issues surrounding public perceptions of our industry, and tools and resources to support local action to promote a positive public image. "The positive image of the fire service is something we can't take for granted anymore," said Hank Clemmensen, IAFC president and chairman of the board. "The truth is, the only ones who can ensure we continue to enjoy a positive public perception is us." This resource and toolkit is a mix of existing and new resources from the IAFC, other fire service organizations, private industry and local model practices and SOPs. They range from simple, no-cost, common-sense solutions to those that are more resource-intensive. A companion discussion group has been established on IAFC KnowledgeNet to encourage members to discuss the issues in the document and continue to build a library of resources:

<http://www.iafc.org/Media/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=6656>

It appears that when Plano, Texas Chief Brian Crawford decides to visit the gym on a Wednesday night, you better watch out because someone is likely to go into cardiac arrest. That's the bad news. The good news is the two people that has happened to just three weeks apart are lucky to have had Chief Crawford and some other workers at the city run recreation center around: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/27/is-plano-tx-fire-chief-brian-crawford-the-best-person-to-be-at-the-gym-with-or-the-worst-you-be-the-judge/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

The police and firefighters who remained on shore as Raymond Zack waded into San Francisco Bay on Memorial Day 2011 and succumbed to hypothermia were under no legal duty to help him, a judge ruled Monday. Officers and firefighters also did not worsen the 52-year-old Zack's condition by clearing Robert Crown Memorial State Beach or by preventing people from going to his aid, Judge George Hernandez said in a ruling that effectively tosses out a lawsuit that Zack's family filed against the city of Alameda (CA). He said he will also appeal if the judge refuses. Along with first responders, dozens of people were on the beach when the fully-clothed Zack waded into the water and stood at least 100 yards from shore. Police said they stayed on the beach because Zack was suicidal and possibly violent, while firefighters said they were not certified in land-water rescue and did not have a boat that could maneuver in the shallow water. Officers and firefighters did attempt to secure a rescue boat from the U.S. Coast Guard, however. Zack's family maintain onlookers should have been allowed to help. "It was a very tragic situation," said Gregory Fox, the city's attorney. "But the court found that the officers acted reasonably and within the law." http://www.insidebayarea.com/breaking-news/ci_22568461/judge-alameda-police-firefighters-had-no-legal-duty

The future administration of the city of Pinole's (CA) fire department remains in limbo as a newly formed City Council subcommittee studies service options and the best use of a two-year federal grant. Ideas under study include continuing the present arrangement of sharing a chief with the neighboring Rodeo-Hercules Fire District; reverting to a stand-alone municipal fire department with its own chief; or contracting for service with Rodeo-Hercules. The subcommittee, established Feb. 5 and made up of Mayor Debbie Long and Councilman Phil Green, will report back Feb. 19 to the full council, which could make its choice that day, or more likely March 5. The council is pressed for time because of a 90-day deadline to hire four firefighters under a \$1.24 million federal SAFER grant spread over two years that the firefighters union and many residents say should go to reopen Station 74 in the Pinole Valley, shuttered since July 2011. But Pinole officials are leery that the grant would usher in unknown future costs: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_22550803/pinole-continues-ponder-future-fire-department

At 36, Tom Kras, a firefighter with St. Petersburg (FL) Fire & Rescue, has already had two knee surgeries. After the second surgery, he was on light duty for several months. Kras wondered what would happen to him if he could no longer carry people down ladders or cut a car open to pull out an injured passenger. That's when he decided to make himself more marketable and become a nurse. "I knew I never wanted to leave the fire department at this age to be a nurse," said Kras. "It was more of a backup plan." Kras is one of a small, but growing, number of firefighters who are juggling their already-bizarre schedules to become registered nurses. It's a shift happening in fire departments throughout the region: <http://www2.centrotampa.com/lifestyles/noticias/2013/feb/11/more-firefighters-getting-nursing-degrees-ar-630596/>

9 answers: How to handle fire department theft - With the seeming rash of theft from volunteer fire departments, one expert shares insight on preventing and reacting to thefts:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1402105-9-answers-How-to-handle-fire-department-theft/>

The New Haven (CT) Fire Union, Local 825, is supporting a measure that would require potential employees to pass a Candidate Physical Ability Test, but the city said it has no plan to use it and other organizations say it's a racist tactic used to deny city residents opportunities, especially communities of color:

http://nhregister.com/articles/2013/02/09/news/new_haven/doc511598ed83bdf124816734.txt

A video posted to YouTube that shows young men jumping into snow banks from the roof of a building across the street from the Frog Hollow Fire Station has caught the attention of the Hartford (CT) Fire Chief because it was recorded from inside his fire house, he said. The video that shows young men jumping more than 30 feet into the giant snowbank was taken from a second floor window of the firehouse on Park and Affleck streets, according to Fire Chief Ed Casares, and he is not happy about it. "I kind of recognized where it came from and was concerned with the subject matter," he said. Those responsible for the recording can be heard cheering on the jumpers and laughing instead of stopping them like they should, according to the chief. "It's bad judgment," said Casares, who added that an investigation was pending:

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/investigations/Snow-Stunt-Leds-to-Firefighter-Investigation-191150261.html>

The Novato (CA) Fire District board Wednesday took the scissors to benefits and salaries for the district's top two officers. The district, which has been in turmoil, is in the process of starting a search for a new chief and deputy chief. Former Chief Marc Revere chose immediate retirement Nov. 28 after the board confronted him about his misuse of his credit card privileges and approval of hundreds of thousands of dollars of work without board approval:

http://www.marinij.com/novato/ci_22633444/novato-fire-board-takes-scissors-top-officials-salaries

WRC-TV/NBC 4 reporter Mark Segraves is as least the third reporter this week who has had the accuracy of his reporting questioned in statements released by the Washington DC Fire & EMS Department Chief Kenneth Ellerbe. Segraves had reported late Friday afternoon that three firefighters, including a lieutenant who had done battle before with the chief, face possible disciplinary action for appearing in uniform at an event with President Barack Obama. A few hours later this statement from Chief Ellerbe was posted on the TV station's website: *Contrary to reports in local media, the DC Fire and EMS Department is not considering any disciplinary action against uniformed personnel for appearing alongside President Obama. At the request of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, DC FEMS is simply reviewing its internal protocols for such appearances to ensure that both the Department and its employees are fully informed. We fully support the efforts of President to highlight the essential and life saving work that our first-responders do every single day, and welcome his invitation for our members to participate. We're exceedingly proud of the men and women that wear the DC FEMS uniform, and thank the President for his support.* If this sounds familiar, it's probably because just 24 hours earlier Chief Ellerbe called into question the actions of reporters on two other stories. On Thursday evening, communications director Lon Walls sent out a pair of statements from Chief Ellerbe saying news reports on sexual harassment allegations at the Training Academy and on the death of a man on New Years at the time of an ambulance shortage were both inaccurate: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/23/cant-anyone-get-it-right-around-here-for-third-time-in-just-24-hours-chief-kenneth-ellerbe-says-dc-reporters-got-a-story-wrong/>

Three Washington DC firefighters face discipline over appearing with President Obama without authorization. One of those in trouble publicly opposed Chief Kenneth Ellerbe's uniform policy: <http://statter911.com/2013/02/22/three-dc-firefighters-face-discipline-over-appearing-with-president-obama-without-authorization-one-of-those-in-trouble-publicly-opposed-chief-kenneth-ellerbes-uniform-policy/>

Delivering and further publicizing stories about firefighter bad behavior is probably the worst part of this job. I take no joy from nor feel any more superior when a fellow firefighter stumbles in life. They are human and they stumble — we all do at some time, in some way. So why would we report these failings? One can argue that by doing so only makes it more difficult for the rest of us to win or maintain public approval. One can argue that it gives ammunition to those who would strip fire departments of their resources or firefighters of their benefits. One can argue that in a profession that sees so much sorrow and loss, why pile on more bad news? As part of the fire-service media, we need to report it for the same reasons that we need to report firefighter near misses. Whether it is today's story about the fire chief **charged with embezzlement**, the on duty firefighter **arrested for heroin possession**, the assistant chief **charged with drug trafficking**, or the countless other stories, they all have lessons that are too important to ignore. Assessing our own behavior and attitudes is as much a part of being a firefighter as is assessing our skills and safety practices. When we read near miss reports, we learn about our own shortcomings and, hopefully, take steps to correct those. Likewise reading about the personal failings of others should make us reflect on our own personal shortcomings and ways to improve: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1411873-Why-the-bad-news-matters/>

County supervisors are allowing the Contra Costa County (CA) Fire Protection District to continue exploring a joint fire station in Lafayette with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District despite growing concerns from some residents about equity, response times and the suitability of the proposed site. The Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 on Tuesday to allow Con Fire Chief Daryl Louder to continue "serious" negotiations with Moraga-Orinda chief Randy Bradley to jointly build, operate and staff a new fire station on the Orinda-Lafayette border. Supervisor Karen Mitchoff opposed the talks. The approval came a day after a majority of Moraga-Orinda directors voted to proceed with informal negotiations despite an outcry from residents living near the project site. Those negotiations have been underway since January when Con Fire approached the district about operating a joint facility following the closure of a station in west Lafayette due to budget cuts. Moraga-Orinda would close its station on Via Las Cruces as part of the consolidation -- a move some Orinda residents on Monday opposed. The district's board president Frank Sperling once again voted against the merger arguing that Moraga-Orinda was bailing out Con Fire. Director Steve Anderson, who supported the measure, argued the \$1 million annual savings was an opportunity to ensure Moraga-Orinda's longterm sustainability: http://www.contracostatimes.com/orinda-lafayette-moraga/ci_22776009/county-supervisors-agree-move-ahead-joint-lafayette-fire

Burbank (CA) Fire department recruits find academy tougher than they thought it would be. "This is probably the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," said former construction worker Richard Dunn, 33, who began preparing, training and testing to become a firefighter four years ago. He had almost given up on the dream and was pursuing a contracting license when the department called him last June with an offer. Fortunately, he'd maintained his workout regimen. "I thought I was in shape — then I got here," Dunn said. "There have been days where I thought I was going to pass out." During the 14 weeks, the academy covers everything from wildland firefighting and emergency services to how to handle hazardous materials. Recruits also work on their physical fitness — whether by throwing ladders or

dragging 165-pound dummies — and book smarts. Not all recruits pass muster with the department's rigorous academy curriculum. This class of nine started with 11. "If a recruit comes in and is not completely mentally and physically prepared, sometimes they can fall behind," Lenahan said. "There's a bar, there's a level they have to measure up to." Roughly 20% of recruits don't make it through the academy, which may be due to an inability to keep up physically or follow safety protocols during drills, Lenahan said:

<http://www.burbankleader.com/the818now/tn-blr-0312-fire-department-recruits-find-academy-tougher-than-they-thought-it-would-be,0,5891731.story>

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
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