

**CHABOT COLLEGE**  
**Fire Technology Program**



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**February 19, 2012**

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**T**his 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.

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## **FIREFIGHTER'S CODE OF ETHICS:**

The following is a must-read and must-follow for EVERY firefighter, current and future. The sad part was that it has taken a number of unfortunate incidents .....

News of firefighter misconduct seems to make it into headlines nearly every day. Instead of sitting idly by and complaining that any wrongdoing, large or small, gives all responders a black eye, a group of veteran firefighters decided to do something. The Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association (CVVFA) with the assistance of National Society of Executive Fire Officers has created a National Firefighter Code of Ethics.

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"The Code of Ethics serves to remind our brethren firefighters of our moral and ethical obligation to the profession as well as to the people we serve. The public places great trust in our profession and we need to exercise good judgment in order to preserve that trust."

Some of the code includes:

- Always conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on myself, my department and the fire service in general.
- Accept responsibility for my actions and for the consequences of my actions.
- Support the concept of fairness and the value of diverse thoughts and opinions.
- Avoid situations that would adversely affect the credibility or public perception of the fire service profession.
- Be truthful and honest at all times and report instances of cheating or other dishonest acts that compromise the integrity of the fire service.
- Conduct my personal affairs in a manner that does not improperly influence the performance of my duties, or bring discredit to my organization.
- Be respectful and conscious of each member's safety and welfare.
- Recognize that I serve in a position of public trust that requires stewardship in the honest and efficient use of publicly owned resources, including uniforms, facilities, vehicles and equipment and that these are protected from misuse and theft.

More information can be obtained at:

- [www.firefighterbehavior.com](http://www.firefighterbehavior.com) and at
- <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10617345/group-creates-national-firefighter-code-of-ethics>

## **CHABOT COLLEGE 2012 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:**

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

- The following classes are now available this semester!
- For registration information, go to [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

### **SPRING 2012 Semester: (January through May 2012)**

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

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

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - March 7, 9, and 11 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 91A</b> (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - May 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 24, 26, 28 and 29	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 17, 19, 21 and 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>FT 91D</b> (Firefighter Survival) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - April 3, 5, 7	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

**NOTE:** The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2012 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**M**y 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.

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**FIRE HIRE NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012**



*Where Your Fire Service Career Begins! - January 10, 2012*

**LATEST NEWS**

The next examination process will be held on April 10th, 2012. You have until March 30th, 2012 to get your application packet and payment submitted.

You must also have a valid CPAT card or certificate submitted by the April 11th, 2012 examination date. It must be dated after April 10th, 2011 for it to be accepted.

**PROACTIVE V. REACTIVE**

I have to ask you candidates if you are proactive or reactive. Unfortunately, I have the opportunity to talk to a lot of candidates that are reactive. This being said, it's very easy to be proactive.

My point is the reason that we test every six months is to keep an active list for the agencies. I can't tell you how many times I have had to tell candidates who let themselves drop off of the Registry that they can't just get put back on the Registry when an Agency states that they are going to hire. It is up to you, the candidate to make sure that you are still active on the Registry. We take no joy in telling candidates that they are no longer on the Registry because their CPAT and/or written examination expired and they neglected to renew it in time. I can tell you that fire agencies hire at their will. If you haven't stayed current on the Registry and the agencies elect to hire from the last Registry and you're not on it, you are out of luck.

I can tell you that hiring is picking up. The Cities of San Mateo, Piedmont, Mill Valley, the San Ramon Valley Fire District, and the Ross Valley Fire Authority currently hired some candidates from our Registry. The City of Vallejo just hired 5 and they are anticipating hiring more after the October examination. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

If you wish to re-test to improve your scores or you are renewing your annual test, you DO NOT have to submit another application packet. We keep everyone's application packet on file for at least 4 years. If you want to fill out an updated application packet, please feel free to do so. If you are new to the process, applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm). You can also receive an application via USPS mail by contacting our office at (800) 755-5891.

### **CPAT INFORMATION**

We will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate.

**When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination.**

The CPAT card/certificate must be dated **AFTER APRIL 10TH, 2011** for it to be accepted. You must submit a copy of it for your files. You may bring a copy of your CPAT card or certificate of completion to the written examination. You **MUST** bring a copy, not just show us your Card.

***IF YOUR CPAT CERTIFICATION EXPIRES ANYTIME WITHIN THE YEAR THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THE WRITTEN, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE AN UPDATED COPY ON FILE OTHERWISE YOU WILL NOT BE CURRENT ON THE REGISTRY!***

### **RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS**

RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS Between August 5th, 2011 and January 10th, 2012 the following agencies have hired FIREHIRE candidates:

- Piedmont FD-1 Firefighter/Paramedic
- San Ramon Fire Protection District-3 Firefighter/Paramedics
- San Mateo FD-2 Firefighter/Paramedic and 2 Firefighter/EMT
- Mill Valley FD-1 Firefighter/Paramedic and 1 Firefighter/EMT
- American Canyon FD-1 Firefighter/Paramedic
- Ross Valley FA-1 Firefighter/EMT

We will keep you updated. If you are into Twitter, you can follow my tweets @GBPackerfan1963. I'll try and keep you up to date on the current hiring of our contracted agencies.

**COULD YOU BE NEXT?**

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

### **SAFER Grants Application Period Opens January 30**

The FY 2011 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants application period will open on Monday, January 30, 2012 and run until Friday, February 24, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. EST. The goal of the SAFER Grants is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, assuring communities have adequate protection from

fire and fire-related hazards. The FY 2011 SAFER Grant Program Guidance and Application Kit are posted on the AFG website - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/index.shtm>

All SAFER applicants should read the new FY 2011 **SAFER Grants Program Guidance** - [http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/docs/pdf/FY2011\\_SAFER\\_ProgramGuidance.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/docs/pdf/FY2011_SAFER_ProgramGuidance.pdf) (PDF) to understand the FY 2011 award criteria, funding priorities, and important special application instructions for completing the application.

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



## **Electrical Fire Safety**

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 280 Americans each year. Many of these fires are caused by incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

Winter fires can be prevented! The following electrical fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire-safe home this winter season.

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Replace any electrical tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out, or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- Buy electrical products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, like UL.
- Keep clothes, curtains, and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons, and hair dryers.
- Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

For more information on electrical fire safety, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website - [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/electrical.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/electrical.shtm)

**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Firenuggets.com**  
Keeping Firefighters Safe

**Firehouse®**

Present...

**Professional Development Series  
Bay Area 2012**

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

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



**Schedule:**

**Thursday, March 15, 2012**

- Fighting Fire Against Wind
- Leadership

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

**Thursday, May 24, 2012**

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

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

**Thursday, October 4, 2012**

- Sustainable (Green) Design and the Fire Service

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

**Thursday, December 6, 2012**

- Engine Company Operations: Water on the Fire

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

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



**To register for the Professional Development Series, visit [Firenuggets.com](http://Firenuggets.com)**

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



February 19-23, 2012  
San Diego, CA  
[FirehouseWorld.com](http://FirehouseWorld.com)



July 17-21, 2012  
Baltimore, MD  
[FirehouseExpo.com](http://FirehouseExpo.com)



**WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR SAFETY. Firehouse®**

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**ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Entry Level Firefighter's Workshop!!!**

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

**Keynote Speaker:**

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

**Topics will include:**

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

**Reservations are required by February 19, 2012**

**Register at:** [www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com)  
**Contact (if more info is needed):** [Batlas@pstgonline.com](mailto:Batlas@pstgonline.com)

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

***Bring your resume!!***

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**



**California Regional Fire Academy  
Basic Firefighter One Academy**

**Dates Just Announced  
For The Upcoming Academy Classes!**

**Academy 18 ~ Full-Time Format Academy  
Academy 19 ~ Extended Format Academy  
Both Starting Monday, July 2, 2012**

Applications will be available on (or around) March 12, 2012  
Once applications are available, you may visit  
[www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov)  
to download an application.  
(located on the "Apply" page)

***\*Please note applications will not be available until (or around) March 12, 2012\****

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**FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY  
ANDONI KASTROS:**



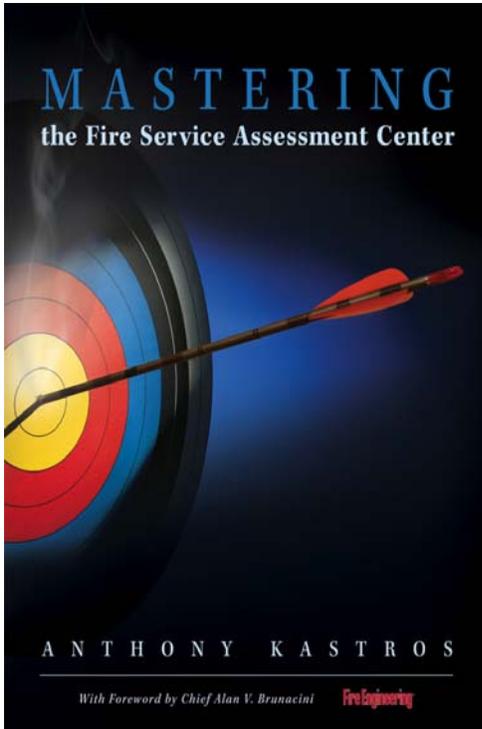
**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE  
ASSESSMENT CENTER**

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

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

**GO TO [WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM](http://WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM) FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION  
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

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## **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:

**Firehouse World** – *San Diego, CA* - February 19 through 23, 2012

Go to [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com) for more information.

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

**Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* - July 17 through 21, 2012

Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

**Fire Rescue International** – *Denver, CO* - August 1 through 4, 2012

Go to [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri) for more information.

**Fire Shows Reno** – *Reno, NV* - October 23 through 25, 2012

Go to [www.fireshowsreno.com](http://www.fireshowsreno.com) for more information.

**Firehouse Central** – *New Orleans, LA* - October 29 through November 2, 2012

Go to [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com) for more information.

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

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

**I**f 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](http://www.firerecruit.com)
- [www.firecareers.com](http://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.

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

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

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

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name:	David M. Flint
Rank:	Fire Chief
Age:	49
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	31
Date of Incident:	02/02/2012
Time of Incident:	1830hrs
Date of Death:	02/02/2012
Fire Department:	Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	7455 New RD, Edinboro, PA 16412-3611
Fire Department Chief:	Pending

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** While returning to the fire department, Fire Chief Flint passed away from injuries he suffered in a motor vehicle crash when another vehicle coming from the opposite direction crossed over the center line. Assistant Fire Chief Sharon Petri, a passenger who was riding with Flint at the time of the accident, was injured and remains hospitalized. Investigation into the incident continues by local and state authorities.

**Incident Location:** 6-N East of Fry Road

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 10 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Zachary Whitacre  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 21  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: <1  
Date of Incident: 02/13/2012  
Time of Incident: 0400hrs  
Date of Death: 02/13/2012  
Fire Department: Gore Volunteer Fire & Rescue  
Address: PO Box 146, 7184 Northwestern PIKE, Gore, VA 22637  
Fire Department Chief: Steve Holliday

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Whitacre passed away from injuries sustained when the apparatus he was riding in crashed. Freezing temperatures and hazardous road conditions caused by fire tanker operations were possible contributing factors to the accident. Investigation into the incident by local and state authorities continues.

**Incident Location:** U.S. 50 & Timber Ridge Rd, Bloomery, Hampshire, West Virginia 26711

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Zachary Whitacre at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 11 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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

**FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON GRAHAM – and [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

**FIREFIGHTER STRUCK AND KILLED AT CRASH SITE IN BRAZIL**

A 32-year-old Firefighter was hit by a commercial truck while operating at a crash site and died in the Line of Duty. This incident happened in the city of Montes Claros, State of Minas Gerais, last Saturday. The fire apparatus and an ambulance were operating at the crash that was involving a car and two trucks. As Firefighters were operating on the removal of the pinned victim, a commercial truck crashed into the area and killed four people, among them the FF. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP. **Local news (with pictures):**

<http://noticias.terra.com.br/brasil/transito/noticias/0,,OI5569896-EI998,00-MG+caminhao+atropela+bombeiro+que+prestava+socorro.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-23-12 / 1329 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Once in a while we have positive information related to an elected official who does get it. Less than one week since (Columbus, Indiana) Mayor Kristen Brown announced she would not accept the city owned \$40,000.00 SUV purchased by the previous mayor, the newly elected mayor announced she would sell the vehicle at once and donate all monies to City of Columbus Fire Department in order to purchase ice water rescue equipment and provide training for all her Firefighters. WTF!? Seriously? Yep-seriously. One year ago, a 16 year old lad slipped under the ice at a lake in Columbus and died. The teenager hung on to the ice for a long time as neighbors and family attempted a rescue. Firefighters were delayed in responding due to dispatch issues, and just as they arrived with minimal ice rescue capabilities, the young man tragically went under.

**Mayor Brown made improving city fire department technical rescue capabilities a main focus of her campaign and following the city council meeting announcement last week, all 6 city fire stations on all 3 shifts have begun in water training with new equipment.**

Tuesday January 24, one week following the Mayor's announcement, Firefighters from Fairfield, Ohio will arrive in Columbus to begin an advanced training program on the newly purchased rescue equipment. The Firefighters will stay in CFD stations for 3 days as they train Columbus Firefighters in this special gesture of 'Mutual Aid'. **Outstanding.**

**--READ THIS "FIRST HAND ACCOUNT" ASHEVILLE FIRE CAPTAIN LODD-Followup:**

The article link below, The Loss of Captain Bowen, Part 1, from Dave Statter, are FF Jay Bettencourt's words and they come from a Firefighter (Jay) who watched his friend die...a Firefighter who came close to dying himself. These are the thoughts and emotions of a Firefighter facing the biggest challenge of his life. We urge you to read every word of this outstanding CLOSE CALL , and LODD account. **The Loss of Captain Bowen: By Firefighter Jay Bettencourt, Asheville Fire Department** <http://tinyurl.com/7sege5>

**==OHIO DOUBLE FATAL APPARATUS CRASH UPDATE**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Oral arguments in the wrongful death lawsuit stemming from the 2008 Massillon fire truck crash that killed Ronald E. Anderson, 72, and his 4-year-old step-grandson, Javarre J. Tate, are scheduled to now be heard next month. The Ohio Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments in the case Feb. 8. **HERE IS VIDEO OF THE FATAL CRASH:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga\\_vHeGYQ34](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ga_vHeGYQ34)

Last August, the Supreme Court accepted the city's appeal of a lower court's ruling in the case. The city is hoping the state's highest court will grant it immunity from liability in the May 2008 crash on Walnut Road Southeast. The city initially was granted immunity by the Stark County Common Pleas Court in 2010, but that decision later was reversed in March 2011 by the 5th District Court of Appeals.

The lawsuit, filed by Anderson's widow, Cynthia Anderson, in September 2009, argues that firefighter Susan Toles drove the fire engine at excessive and unsafe speeds given the neighborhood and the nature of the emergency. Firefighters were responding to a vehicle fire. The lawsuit, which is seeking more than \$25,000 in damages, also accuses Toles of violating state laws, local ordinances and departmental policies regarding safe driving. No criminal charges were filed in the case. An investigation determined the truck was traveling at reasonable speeds for an emergency.

**The city argued that the crash was unavoidable because Ronald Anderson failed to yield to the oncoming fire truck as he crossed the intersection, which has a four-way stop and a flashing red light....that the fire apparatus ran.**

Common Pleas Judge Charles Brown ruled the city was immune from liability, stating there was a lack of evidence that Toles and her supervisor, Capt. Rick Annen, acted with "a malicious purpose, in bad faith or in a wanton or reckless manner" and that the truck had not been operated in a manner that constituted willful or wanton misconduct. A tragic but interesting case to watch.

**==DCFD UPDATE:**

**GOT CARCINOGENS?!**

**WHY THE DCFD UNIFORM FIASCO IS A HEALTH ISSUE TO FF's AND THE PUBLIC.**

**.....AND A CHANCE FOR YOU TO HELP SUPPORT THE DCFD BURN FOUNDATION**

Several comments from numerous DCFD Firefighters today is that Chief of DCFEMS has done more to UNITE their members than ever before-but that's not necessarily a good thing-at least not for that chief. Several hundred D.C. Firefighters literally turned their backs on the Chief of DCFEMS Ellerbe yesterday in an effort to send a very clear message. The Chief of DCFEMS had just finished his "State of the Department" speech when the Firefighters stood up and walked out the door. Word is the time of the meeting had been quickly changed in an earlier attempt to avoid the Firefighters arriving at the correct time, but the change got out and plenty showed up on time. The Chief of DCFEMS is attempting to create a new schedule that has understandably infuriated the members, in addition to a regularly changing FD uniform policy-that does not include issued uniform jackets for Firefighters...and do not allow them to wear ones they have personally bought-because they have "DCFD" on them-which the DCFEMS Chief doesn't like. **WE GET** that any Chief has the right to dictate what is worn, and the way Chiefs normally deal with that is by ISSUING uniforms, jackets etc for all personnel, for all seasons.

**Most DCFD FF's now have to wear their bunker gear from the apparatus (as a winter "outer jacket") into homes and businesses for EMS calls, inspections etc-to be warm-and by them wearing soot covered PPE PROBABLY violates some public health policies, standards and/or laws....besides, it's filthy customer service.**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Today, Mr. Ellerbe had just finished his first ever "State Of The FEMS Department" speech and had opened the floor to questions when one Firefighter in the room shouted this command: "D.C.F.D., attention! About face! D.C.F.D. dismissed!!  
And with that the Firefighters in the room walked out.

**HELP SUPPORT THE DCFD FIREFIGHTERS BURN FOUNDATION:**

The DCFD Store is doing a promotion with the "DCFD memorial" shirts as well as "standard" DCFD Shirts and are donating \$5 from every shirt sold to the DC Firefighters Burn Foundation. **All shirts in the "Support DCFD" section gets the foundation your donation. Go to: [www.dcfdstore.com](http://www.dcfdstore.com)** and go to the "support DCFD" section. Additionally, you may have seen the "**Grim Reaper**" DCFD t-shirts on the news today, they are not a part of the above donation but can be purchased from different folks HERE: [dcfirebye@aol.com](mailto:dcfirebye@aol.com) and here: <http://www.fdtees.com>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-25-12 / 0700 hours

**AND:**

**WEST VIRGINIA FF/PARAMEDIC LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

We regret to advise you that a Boone County Ambulance Authority Paramedic died in the Line of Duty today, Wednesday, January 25th. 26-year-old Paramedic Sarah Nodurft died while she and her partner were returning from a routine interfacility transfer when she suddenly and unexpectedly died. The cause of her death has not yet been determined. PM Nodurft was also member of the Spruce River Fire Department. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 1-25-12 / 1800 hrs

**AND:**

Hey,

**A Nevada Firefighter**

collapsed from a heart attack while operating at a dwelling fire in Virginia City, last evening. The home is referred to by some as the "Seven Gables House" and was built in 1876. The fire started in the attic around noon Saturday with fire through the roof and it eventually collapsed. The one Firefighter that collapsed and was taken to the hospital with a minor heart attack; he is expected to recover.

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER DOWN**

After knockdown and extinguishment at a Brooksville dwelling fire, a Hernando County Fire Captain suffered a sudden medical emergency and was transported to Brooksville Regional Hospital after receiving treatment including CPR on the scene. Although the situation happened after the bulk of the operation was over and happened outside the hot zone, another Fire Captain saw the situation and issued an immediate MAYDAY/Firefighter Down call that brought all personnel on scene to the aid of their Brother. The "down" Fire Captain was in stable condition and talking and being moved to ICMU as of around 1900 hours.

**THE TRAINING LODD'S THAT CHANGED HOW MOST OF US NOW TRAIN IN LIVE-FIRE CONDITIONS - We said most - because some still don't get it.**

We are playing catchup on this one due to travel, but it is well worth posting so we remember-and learn. On Jan. 26, 1982, a training "nightmare" occurred that started significant change in the way we training. A little after 10 a.m., four Boulder (CO) Firefighters, including William J. Duran & Scott L.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Smith, entered an old chicken coop for what was supposed to be a "routine" training detail. 2 other crews already had completed the exercise safely. **Tires that had been set on fire to create smoke for the training exercise ignited highly flammable fiberboard ceiling tiles. Within seconds, the fire was raging out of control. Duran, a 30-year-old engineer and Dad of three, and Smith, a 21-year-old who had joined the department just three months earlier, burned to death.** Two other firefighters -- Cyrus Pinkerton, who was supervising the training exercise, and Daniel Cutler -- managed to escape but suffered serious burns.

The investigation later found that several mistakes were made in planning the training exercise. Those included not removing the flammable tiles -- no one recognized them as a hazard even though they were banned in public buildings -- and not having a backup crew on scene that was prepared to fight the fire. A small line in the building was not adequate for the potential fire conditions. The fire left deep wounds in 2 families and the BFD, and it led to national changes in standards for training exercises. On Thursday, friends, family members and FF's gathered to remember the two men and the fire that claimed their lives on the 30th anniversary. The BFD flags will fly at half-staff. RIP.

**And JUST in case it's needed, here are some articles & reference info on NFPA 1403, Live Fire Training:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2005-102/>

(Preventing Deaths and Injuries to FF's during Live-Fire Training in Acquired Structures-NIOSH) - <http://tinyurl.com/4ypy3tn>

(Fire Engineering) - <http://tinyurl.com/434wfza>

(Firehouse) - <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/36756> (Case Study)

#### **Final word.....BUILDING FIRE RESCUE IN PA**

CONGRATS to 2 good friends of FFCC, Union Fire Company of Carlisle PA Captain Micah Dewhurst and FF Josh Martin. They rescued a man from a working apartment fire on Wednesday night. **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/6te7umw> - **Good Stuff.** (There were rumors the victim saw the faces of these 2 FF's, immediately became fully conscious and ran like heck out of the building from fright-but that's not at all true, these 2 FF's performed an outstanding rescue, **never** listen to firehouse rumors...). **Seriously-outstanding job and ONCE AGAIN: TRAINED Firefighters Made The Difference.**

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-29-12 / 1907 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **PA FIRE CAPTAIN LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

Within 24 hours of responding to an incident on 01/21/2012, Captain Walter Sumner of the Cranesville VFD suffered a heart attack. Captain Sumner then passed away on 01/24/2012 from complications related to that heart attack while his company was on a relocation/fill-in/transfer detail. Our condolences to all affected.

RIP Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-30-12 / 0821 hours

#### **AND:**

#### **ST CHARLES (MO) FIREFIGHTER DIES ON DUTY**

It is with deep regret that the City of St. Charles Fire Department announces the death of Firefighter/Engineer/Paramedic Douglas DougHaase, Sr. Firefighter/Engineer/Paramedic Doug

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Haase, 60, died today, February 1, 2012-he was found while on duty. FF/Eng/PM Haase served his 27 year career with the City of St. Charles Fire Department. He also served as the Fire Chief of Lincoln County Fire Protection District from 1982 to 1984. Additionally Paramedic Haase served the Lincoln County Ambulance District from 1980 to 1995. He proudly served all of these communities with dedication and for that we are grateful. Funeral details are pending and will be posted at: [www.mofirefuneral.org](http://www.mofirefuneral.org). Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

**OHIO FIREFIGHTER SUICIDE**

(In the past 72 hours, 2 Firefighters have taken their own lives-this is a very real issue in our business...much more to follow on this diversely difficult subject which has become much too common.)

We regret to advise you that Fire Lt. Kevin W. West, 41, of St. Clairsville, Ohio, died Sunday, January 29, 2012, in his home. Kevin was a Lieutenant Firefighter and Paramedic for Cumberland Trail Fire District in St. Clairsville, firefighter and paramedic for the Glen Dale Volunteer Fire Department, a flight medic for Stat MedEvac of Pittsburgh, a Methodist by faith and a member of the Cumberland Trail Career Firefighters Local Union #3667. He was preceded in death by two nieces, Madison and Morgan Schnarr. Surviving in addition to his parents of Glen Dale are his wife, Mary Reynolds West; three sons, Colton, Hayden and Jordon West at home; and many more family members and friends. Friends will be received today at Toothman Funeral Home in St. Clairsville from 1-4 and 6-9 p.m., where services will be held on Thursday at 11 a.m. with Rev. William Webster officiating. Burial follows in Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling. Fire department service, bell ceremony, and last alarm will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home. Our condolences to all affected-RIP Kevin.

**PLEASE CHECK OUT THESE SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS LINKS AND PASS'em ON.**

HERE: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php> (FFCC Personal Survival Section)

HERE: <http://blog.iaff.org/post/2010/11/05/No-Fire-Fighter-Stands-Alone.aspx> (IAFF-No Firefighter Stands Alone)

HERE: <http://www.ffbha.org/> (Fire Fighter Behavioral Health Alliance)

HERE: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/firefighter-ptsd-suicide/story?id=14466320> (ABC News Article on Firefighter Suicide)

HERE: [http://firechief.com/health-safety/ar/firefighting\\_not\\_without\\_warning/](http://firechief.com/health-safety/ar/firefighting_not_without_warning/) (Fire Chief Magazine Article)

HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/7bbz8ev> (The Company Officers Role-article)

HERE: <http://sweeney-alliance.org/grievingbehindthebadge/?tag=national-fallen-firefighters-foundation> (Grieving Behind The Badge)

HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/7kxzf9> (Nat'l Fire Service Summit On FF Suicide-NFFF)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

**AND:**

Hey,

Typical mop-up work after a fire changed in an instant for West Point (Indiana) Fire Chief Gary Cheesman. "The instant it happened, 'oh my goodness, I just lost an eye for a vacant house'," Cheesman said. The fire with suspicious origins broke out January 23 near Attica. West Point Volunteer Firefighters fought the fire from the outside because it was vacant. Chief Cheesman said the house had hundreds of rounds of ammunition inside. Firefighters had heard bullets explode as they worked the fire, but thought none of the possible projectiles were traveling beyond the structure.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The fire was knocked down and he had walked to the back of the house to discuss what firefighters should do next. Because he was running the pumper and was wearing a radio headset around his head, he wasn't wearing his helmet. That's when it happened. "There was a bang that went off," Cheesman said. "It felt like someone punched me." A primer cap from a .223 caliber bullet entered in the corner of his eye by his nose and lodged behind the eyeball.

"I thought I lost it," Cheesman said. "I thought 'this old house, that's worth nothing, and I lose an eye over it'. Anywhere else on his face and doctors think he would have had just a scratch. Paramedics rushed Chief Cheesman to the hospital. Surgery last week has helped improve the Chiefs vision as it's getting better, but it's still blurry. Doc's told the Chief they are hopeful his vision will clear completely in 4 to 8 weeks and he'll be back on the job. Chief Cheesman said he's been overwhelmed by the response sincerity fighters and friends since January 23. He hopes his story serves as a reminder to everyone who work in potentially dangerous situations, to always wear all of your protective gear-including eye protection. HERE is much more:

<http://www.wlfi.com/dpp/news/local/freak-accident-nearly-claims-eyesight-of-volunteer-fire-chief>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 2-3-12 / 2233 hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

As posted on our home page yesterday, Philly had a working fire yesterday morning with members injured. PFD Lt. Melvin Martin of E-27 was transported to Hahn Hospital with burns to his arms along with a back in jury-he is critical but stable. 2 other members of E-27 had minor blistering type burns. All injuries are currently NLT. Firefighters searched the house looking for anyone still inside. The 3 members who were hurt found themselves above the fire when they got to the third floor and they became trapped. **2 FF's were able to make it down an aerial but Lt Melvin stayed back until his men were clear, then tried to get out through a window and onto the ladder but he fell to the ground.** Initial reports are that the occupants ran to the quarters of E-27 to report the fire. Smoke alarms were in the building and activated. Fire marshals are holding a civilian for questioning. We wish Lt Martin a rapid recovery.

Speaking Of Philly: The third edition of Philadelphia FD Deputy Chief (Ret) Jim Smith's textbook "**Strategic and Tactical Considerations on the Fireground**", is now available **HERE:** <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bs8294.shtml> - As you know, we occasionally recommend "must have books" and this is certainly one for your library. Naturally if you feel there is a fire related book out there that we should "pass on" to TSL members, let us know.

### **FDNY MOURNS THE LOSS OF EMS LEADER**

**(While not designated as an LODD, Chief McFarland was well known to many of you-and that's why we are passing this on)**

It is with regret that we advise you that FDNY-EMS Assistant Chief John McFarland, who served the EMS Command for more than 28 years and led many innovations that changed nationwide EMS, died on Feb. 6 after battling a brain tumor. In his time (joining in 1983) with FDNY EMS, he responded to many notable incidents, including the World Trade Center terrorist attacks of 1993 and 2001, US Airways Flight 1549 that landed on the Hudson, two plane crashes at LaGuardia Airport and the steam pipe explosion in Midtown Manhattan. He leaves behind his wife, EMS Captain Joan McFarland and daughters Katherine, 28, Megan, 24, Rebecca, 7, John, 5, and Joseph, 4. Rest in Peace Chief.

**MORE HERE:** <http://www.iems.com/article/news/fdny-mourns-passing-innovative-ems-chief>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-6-12 / 2214 Hours

**AND:**

All,  
Several Mantua Township (Gloucester County, NJ) Firefighters sustained significant burns this morning at a dwelling fire. Initial reports are that members were transported with those burn injuries sustained during the rescues from the working house fire. Several civilians also sustained critical burns. We'll have more details soon and also watch [www.phillyfirenews.com](http://www.phillyfirenews.com) as well. Keep'm in your prayers.  
Take Care-Be Careful,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-7-12 1100 hours

**AND:**

Hey,  
As an update from this mornings dwelling fire in Mantua (NJ), where two heroic injured members, Mantua Twp Fire Chief Brian Hauss and Fire Lt Michael Craft were both burned. The Chief is in serious but stable condition. Reports are that the Chief arrived initially and was able to remove victims in spite of heavy fire conditions but sustaining injuries. Mantua Township Fire Commissioner Jay Hauss said the injured FF's are his son, Chief Brian Hauss, and Lt. Michael Craft. The firefighters, who appear to have suffered second degree burns but NLT. The resident was seriously injured in the fire that started around 1000 hours. Chief Hauss and Lt Craft went into the home on Monroe Avenue to rescue the resident and they were trying to get her out through the window when the room flashed over. Chief Hauss suffered burns to his ears and legs; FF Craft's hands and ears also were burned. . We'll post updates as they continue to improve.

**WASHINGTON DC FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL**

DC Firefighter Shantel Bennett T-8-2 was injured while operating on the fireground at 428 Newcomb St. SE last night. She was taken from the fireground, and admitted to Medstar Hospital in critical condition. Initial reports are that she may have sustained respiratory related injuries. Please keep her, her family and the DCFD in your thoughts and prayers. More details will follow.

**11 KILLED IN CANADIAN CRASH**

**While not related to FF injuries**, we heard from a number of you this morning about this crash-so we'll pass it on. The Perth East FD along with Perth County EMS and OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) operated at this nasty wreck that killed 11 people last evening. A flatbed truck and a passenger van collided shortly before 5 p.m. Monday northeast of Stratford, Ont. 5 of the passengers were already dead when Firefighters and Paramedics arrived, and others died on the scene. 3 have survived so far. The minivan was packed with people and Firefighters were pulling them out one after another and one would come and then another would come and so it was really difficult for all involved in the rescue, said one Paramedic. The impact of the t-bone crash slammed the van into the side of a nearby house. "I've been on the job for 28 years and I've never seen anything quite like this collision tonight," OP Police Insp. Steve Porter told reporters on the scene Monday night. The weather was good and the roads were clear at the time of the crash.

**VIDEO, PHOTOS & MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/75zyvkg>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

The Secret List 2-7-12 / 1443 Hours

**AND:**

All,

An Alexandria (VA) FD Paramedic operating at a car fire this evening, fell from I-395 in Shirlington into Four Mile Run Creek, according to an Alexandria Fire Department spokesperson. Fire companies from both Arlington and Alexandria were initially sent to the scene of the car fire, which was on I-395 Northbound. The fire was out, but the Paramedic from Alexandria reportedly fell between an open area on I-395 NB into the Four Mile Run Creek below. Last reports were that the Paramedic sustained critical injuries and is now being treated at Washington DC MedStar. Keep him and the AFD in your prayers-updates to follow.

**EMS CRASH IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

This evening around 1800 hours, an ambulance crashed in Kinston, SC. There was entrapment as the unit reportedly rolled over. 2 EMS helicopters were requested in addition to area fire department (Sandy Bottom and Sotuhwoods) rescue companies and additional EMS units. More to follow. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-8-12 / 2049 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The Alexandria (VA) FD Paramedic who fell between Interstate roadways (a photo showing the conditions is on our home page) has been identified as 33 year old Joshua Weissman. Companies were operating at the scene of the car fire and the AFD ambulance stopped in the northbound lanes of I-395. While walking, Paramedic Weissmann reportedly fell between two roadways and into Four Mile Creek, about 20 feet below the interstate. CPR and ALS was performed on the paramedic as soon as crews reached him. PM Weissman has been with the AFD for 7 years and as of this morning, remains in very critical condition at Washington Hospital Center. Updates to follow. HERE is the AFD website: <http://alexandriava.gov/Fire> - HERE is some local media from Dave Statter: <http://tinyurl.com/7j4scv7> - Updates to follow.

**KC MO PROPOSES 100 FIREFIGHTER CUT**

Kansas City is looking at some extreme cuts to their fire department. Sounds familiar. In this case, Chief Smokey Dyer told the city councils Public Safety Committee that Chicago, Memphis, Louisville, Dallas and Houston are among major U.S. cities that require at least four firefighters per pumper, in compliance with NFPA standards. Kansas City began increasing its firefighting ranks and staffed up its pumpers ten years ago to meet that standard. And now City Manager Troy Schulte has recommended cutting 105 Firefighters, saying the city has far fewer fires now and can save \$7.5 million without compromising public safety. Chief Dyer acknowledged that many cities such as Oklahoma City, Omaha, Minneapolis, Tulsa and Des Moines do not have four people per pumper. He also said he was simply providing information to the committee, not challenging his boss's budget recommendation. Mike Cambiano, the new president of the local firefighters union, told the committee that union members worked three and a half weeks without pay several years ago to help the fire department avoid proposed fire station closures. He said the union is willing to work with the city again on its budget challenges. But he argued that changing the pumper staffing would jeopardize public safety and is not the solution. MORE HERE: <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/08/3417307/fire-officials-warn-cutbacks-could.html#storylink=cpy> Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-9-12 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

**ALEXANDRIA VA FD PARAMEDIC JOSH WEISSMAN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

Its with deep regret that we advise you that Alexandria (VA) Fire Department Joshua Weissman, 33, has died from injuries he sustained last evening while operating at a vehicle fire scene on I-395. As you know, Paramedic Weissman, who is with the Seminary Road Fire Station in Alexandria, was extricated from the creek by Alexandria City and Arlington County Firefighters after falling from the Interstate and taken to Med Star with life threatening injuries. The Alexandria ambulance reportedly parked on I-395 northbound, alongside the HOV lanes, to reach the burning vehicle. There is a three foot gap between two cement barriers separating the lanes. Paramedic Weissman was reportedly climbing over one barrier to get to the HOV lanes when he fell.

A seven year veteran paramedic of the Alexandria Fire Department had been in critical condition Thursday morning after falling from a highway overpass during an emergency call in Shirlington yesterday. Since joining the department, Weissman has stayed active, joining several medical services committees, training with interns and working on the agency's mass casualty preparation plans. He received an Alexandria Jaycees award during the group's community appreciation night last year. The department is offering counseling for personnel as well as comfort for Weissman's family. The experienced Firefighter/Paramedic is married, but without children. Paramedic Weissman had also served the Cayuga Heights Fire Department (New York) and for Bang's Ambulance Service in Ithaca before moving to Virginia. Our condolences to all affected, especially the family and members of the AFD.

**HERE IS A LINK TO THE RADIO TRAFFIC OF THE INCIDENT:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=AHkAF8kmEel](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=AHkAF8kmEel)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-9-12

**AND:**

Hey,

2 Firefighters with the Mountain View (North Carolina) VFD were injured Friday when their apparatus rolled over as they were responding to a call. The crash happened around 1900 when the tanker carrying about 1,000 gallons, went out of control as it was going into a curve, It went off the road to the right, near a bridge over a creek. The driver turned sharply to the left in attempt to get the truck back in control, it skidded and rolled onto its right side, striking the guardrail and spinning clockwise. The driver, Matthew Hurley II, 19 suffered minor injuries and was taken to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Another firefighter, Matthew Wood, 44, suffered arm injuries. He also was taken to Wake Forest Baptist. Witnesses reported seeing the truck rocking left to right before the wreck. Speed was not a factor and the run turned out to be false.

**NY EMS PARAMEDIC AIRLIFTED**

A Greene County Paramedic was injured this morning in a crash in the town of Jewett on Rt 296. The Paramedic was reportedly on the job and driving a medic vehicle at the time, but was not en route to the scene of an emergency. She was airlifted to Albany Medical Center. The paramedic, who was heading north on Route 296, clipped another car after it blew a stop sign as it was heading east on

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Route 23C. In swerving to avoid a collision, she went off the road and struck a utility pole. We'll keep you up to date as she recovers.

**DRAMATIC FOOTAGE OF FIRE, RESCUE:**

Take a look at this helmet cam video from Alameda County, CA, from the viewpoint of the Captain of the rescue as he arrives on the scene of a working fire and makes a rescue.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=f0H6slvAGfc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=f0H6slvAGfc)

Watch how when they got water on the first floor, things got better for everyone. Thanks to the "Drill & Photo Group" for this information.

**HERE** is an article about the fire as well: <http://tinyurl.com/6m2dpf9>

**NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER DEATH**

We have been asked to advise you that Matthew Oliveri, 28, of Patterson, NY took his own life early last night (Saturday). Matt served as a Career Firefighter with the Veterans Administration's Fire Department at Montrose, NY and was an active Volunteer Firefighter at the Putnam Lake Volunteer Fire Department. Matt is survived by his parents and two older brothers. RIP.

**2 ARIZONA FIRE DEPARTMENTS MOURN:**

This has been a tough weekend for the fire service in Tucson. This morning Katy Heiden of Northwest Fire District, lost her short but courageous battle with cancer and Fire Captain Dustin Jackson of Davis Monthan Air Force Base Fire Department. was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident. Our condolences to the Northwest Fire District and Davis Monthan Air Force Base Fire Department and those affected by these losses.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-12-12 / 2115 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

With much of today's focus on the tragic death of Volunteer Firefighter Zach Whitacre, take a few minutes to also remember 2 other LODD's below.

**ALSO WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT UPDATE BELOW FROM ALEXANDRA, VA FD:  
VIRGINIA APPARATUS CRASH LODD UPDATE:**

The latest information from Frederick County (VA) is that 21-year-old FF Zachary Whitacre and his father, Firefighter Donald Whitacre, were working a structure fire in the Hampshire County town of Capon Bridge when they left the scene around 0400 to refill their tanker. Donald Whitacre lost control of the truck on ice-covered U.S. Route 50 and slid into an embankment. His son was ejected-and some reports are that it was from the back of the truck. We spoke with friends at Frederick County Fire & Rescue late this afternoon and they said they are still conducting their investigation, although media sources are saying that Zach was thrown from the rear of the tanker. As you know, FF Zach Whitacre was pronounced dead at Winchester Medical Center in Virginia. As many FD's have family members involved, (see next story below), his Dad Donald is struggling with the tragedy as you can only imagine. **VIDEO: HERE** is a TV interview with him: <http://tinyurl.com/83f7oap> - More to follow. RIP.

**REMEMBERING CHICAGO BATTALION CHIEF THOMAS HOFF AND LEXINGTON (KY) LT  
BRENDA COWAN**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**CFD-Chief Thomas Hoff:**

Tomorrow is the 50th anniversary of Chicago Battalion Chief Thomas Hoff dying in the line of duty. He is the Father of Chicago Fire Commissioner Bob Hoff.

**HERE** is a link to the information on the LODD from the archive at IFSI (Illinois Fire Service Institute):  
<http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/IFLODD/search/Firefighter.cfm?ID=228>

**HERE** is also an interview between the IFSI Historian, Adam Groves, and the late Chief Ray Hoff, about the Hoff's and the Chicago FD:  
[http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/IFLODD\\_Media/Transcript/Hoff,Chicago%20FD,February27,2008,Transcript.pdf](http://www.fsi.illinois.edu/IFLODD_Media/Transcript/Hoff,Chicago%20FD,February27,2008,Transcript.pdf)

OUR THANKS to the Illinois Fire Service Institute Library and the Illinois Firefighter Line of Duty Death (IFLODD) research team.

**LFD-Lieutenant Brenda Cowan:**

Today marks the 8th anniversary of the Line of Duty death of Lexington Fire Lt Brenda Cowan. On February 13, 2004, LFD Lieutenant Cowan was shot to death while treating a shooting victim in south Lexington. Today at the station where she worked a tribute honoring Lieutenant Cowan is on display. The hand-crocheted afghan of a U.S. flag with Cowan's name on a black ribbon. The afghan was found tucked away in a trash bag at station around this time last year. No one is sure who made the afghan or why it was stored in a trash bag....

**HERE is the REPORT on Her Death By Gunfire While On An EMS Run:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200411.html>

**A MESSAGE FROM THE ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Here are a couple of updates regarding the Joshua A. Weissman Funeral Arrangements, being sent to you as requested by the AFD. The most up to date information on funeral arrangements are posted on the City of Alexandria Website **HERE:** <http://alexandriava.gov/LODDJWeissman>  
Hotel information for out of town guests **HERE:** <http://visitalexandriava.com/joshua-weissman/>  
If you would like to make an online donation to the Joshua A. Weissman Memorial Fund you may do so by visiting this link **HERE:** <http://afdlocal2141.org/>

**Agencies planning on attending are requested to RSVP once per agency using the online RSVP form prior to Wednesday, February 15th at Noon.**

<http://apps.alexandriava.gov/WeissmanRSVP/default.aspx>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-13-12 / 2019 Hours

**AND:**

All,

The Firefighter who died in the Line of Duty early this morning in a crash on the way to a fire, has been identified. 21-year-old Gore Volunteer Fire & Rescue (Frederick County) FF Zachary Whitacre died after being taken to Winchester Medical Center. Chief Dennis Linaburg says a tanker that hauls two people, was involved in that single vehicle accident. Whitacre had been a firefighter with Gore Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department for about a year. The crash happened on Route 50 West just over the West Virginia line as the pair was heading to Capon Bridge to pick up water before

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

responding to a reported structure fire in Hampshire County. Making this horrible Line of Duty Death even more tragic is that the driver of the tanker was Donald Whitacre, Zachary's father. He was taken to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries. The Gore Fire & Rescue station has been placed out of service and is being staffed by firefighters from Winchester. Chief Linaburg understandably described it as one of the saddest moments in Frederick County's history. Our heartfelt condolences to the Whitacre Family, The Gore VFRC, Frederick County Fire Rescue and all those affected. RIP.

**UPDATE FROM ALEXANDRIA VA FD**

The Alexandria Fire Department is continuing to make preparations for memorial events scheduled this week to honor AFD Paramedic Joshua Weissman, who fell from the roadway and died from his injuries last week during an emergency response to a car fire on I-395. All information related to the memorial service events is posted online at <http://alexandriava.gov/LODDJWeissman>. If you or your group plans to attend the visitation, funeral, or repast scheduled on February 15-16, please fill out an online form to RSVP for these events as soon as possible. Fire or police department groups planning to bring apparatus, equipment, or color guard units should provide their contact information on this form. Honor guard units are not needed at this time. **All participants are urged to carpool and use public transit to attend memorial events. Parking will be extremely limited and road closures or traffic delays will make it difficult for participants to arrive at events.** By Tuesday, February 14, the City will post locations online where public parking is available, and provide a shuttle service schedule for groups that are parking at designated locations off-site. If you need assistance filling out the form, have questions, or require additional information, please call 703.746.HELP (4357).

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

Billy G

The Secret List 2-13-12 / 1341 hours

**AND:**

**VA. FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-APPARATUS CRASH**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter with Gore (Frederick County, VA near Winchester) Volunteer Fire & Rescue was killed in the Line of Duty early this morning. Initial reports are that they were responding to a mutual fire in nearby West Virginia. One FF lost his life and another transported for evaluation. Our condolences to the members, especially the family and friends of those affected. We will have more details on this very tragic loss later as released by the department. Rest In Peace. Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-13-12 / 0845 Hours

**AND:**

All,

As you know, Firefighter Zachary Taylor "Zach" Whitacre, 21, of Gore, VA, died in the Line of Duty yesterday as result of an apparatus crash. Zach was born on November 13, 1990 in Winchester, VA. He was a Volunteer Firefighter for Gore Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Frederick County Company 14, in Gore and a 2009 graduate of James Wood High School.

**FUNERAL & MEMORIAL DETAILS:**

Family will receive friends at the Giffin Funeral Home in Capon Bridge, WV on Friday, February 17, 2012 from 12-3 and 6-9 PM. A funeral service will be held at the Winchester Church of God in Winchester, VA on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 1:00 PM. **Friends may also call on Saturday at the Winchester Church of God two hours prior to service.** Interment will be private at Ebenezer

February 19, 2012

[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Cemetery near Gore, VA. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gore Vol. Fire & Rescue, PO Box 146, Gore, VA 22637.

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER ATTEMPTS TO POISON HIS LIEUTENANT**

Titusville Firefighter Lieutenant Phil Jones discovered a substance in his canteen on Thursday February 10th, 2012, and it smelled like a petroleum-based solvent. Lt. Jones notified his supervisors and the Titusville Police Department was notified. The substance was tentatively determined to be "gunk" (aerosol cleaning substance) a substance clearly labeled **DANGEROUS HARMFUL OR FATAL IF SWALLOWED**. During the course of the investigation and interviews it was determined that the substance was just one more act in a series of acts targeting the victim over the past six plus months. The substance is very flammable and could be fatal if swallowed. It seems that Firefighter/Paramedic Randy Jones admitted to several of the acts leading up to this incident and other acts committed against the victim by a fellow Firefighter and to putting the substance in the canteen with another Firefighter present. He understood the potential consequences of the substance had it been consumed or ignited. Moore said he did not want to kill the victim he was just upset over other issues and it went too far. The incident occurred at Fire Station 10-the substance was placed in the Lt's canteen in his wildland gear bag. FF Randy Moore was arrested at the Titusville PD at 2:45 P.M. this afternoon and later booked at the Brevard County Jail. Additional charges against the other firefighter are being reviewed. TFD has fully cooperated. BMA.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

**Happy Valentines Day.**

BillyG

The Secret List 2-14-12 / 2039 Hours

**AND:**

All,

**Memorial Service Details CHANGE for Firefighter Zachary Whitacre**

The Giffin Funeral Home in Capon Bridge ([W.VA](#)) is extremely small and parking is very limited so they are asking companies not to bring fire and rescue apparatus to either one of the viewings on Friday night.

**Memorial Service Details for Firefighter Zachary Whitacre - Visitation will be Friday, February 17, 2012 from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Giffin Funeral Home, Capon Bridge, WV.**

Due to limited parking, no Fire or EMS apparatus will be permitted at the viewings at Giffin Funeral Home.

**Saturday, February 18 visitation will be from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Winchester Church of God, 2080 North Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA, 22603 - Funeral Service with Honors will be held Saturday, February 18 at 1:00 pm at Winchester Church of God, 2080 North Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603**

Processional Route will be from 2080 North Frederick Pike (Route 522) to Gainesboro Road (Route 684) to North Hayfield Road (Route 600) to Northwestern Pike (Route 50). Fire, Rescue and Law Enforcement participating with apparatus should contact Gainesboro Fire and Rescue at [\(540\) 888-3988](#) to list the number of apparatus and personnel attending. You may also call there if you have any related questions. Additional information can be obtained by clicking **HERE**:

<http://www.giffinfuneralhome.com/sitemaker/sites/giffin0/obit.cgi?user=571811Whitacre>

**REMEMBERING THE PITTSBURGH BUREAU OF FIRE & HOUSTON FD VALENTINES DAY LODD'S**

February 19, 2012

[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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**PITTSBURGH, PA:**

Shortly after midnight on February 14, 1995, 3 Pittsburgh Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty in a single family dwelling fire after a building collapse. Captain Thomas Brooks, Firefighter Patricia Conroy and Firefighter Marc Kolenda became separated from their crew when the stairwell collapsed. There were numerous factors that lead to the tragic deaths of these 3 Firefighters-factors that we should be well educated in. RIP. Need a drill subject this week? No better way to honor the Fallen Firefighters. Here ya go:

**HERE** is the report from NFPA: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/Pittsburgh.PDF>

**HERE** is the USFA Report: [http://www.interfire.org/res\\_file/pdf/Tr-078.pdf](http://www.interfire.org/res_file/pdf/Tr-078.pdf)

**HOUSTON, TX:**

Firefighter Lewis Mayo and Firefighter Kimberly Smith along with others, responded to reports of fire from the roof of McDonalds restaurant. This fire occurred on February 14, 2000. Due to fog conditions responses were delayed. Initial units arrived at 0439 hours and reported fire showing in the rear of the roof. Captain Frank Cucino led Mayo and Smith through the side door to make an interior attack and preform a primary search. Within minutes a large portion of the roof collapsed trapping Mayo and Smith. RIP. Need a drill subject for next week? Again, no better way to honor the Fallen Firefighters. Here ya go: **HERE** is the NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200013.html>

**OFFICIAL REPORT FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT (DOWNLOAD)**

As you know, Lt. Vincent A. Perez and Firefighter Paramedic Anthony M. Valerio were tragically killed in the Line of Duty last June when they were caught in a flashover. The SFFD internal safety investigation report on that June 2, 2011 fire has been posted on our home page with the permission of the SFFD. Once again, no better way to honor the Fallen Firefighters than to learn what happened.

**The entire REPORT is available on our homepage:** [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com) (We can't attached pdf's to The Secret List)

Please pass it on and share the report. The NIOSH report on this fire has not yet been released.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-15-12 /1854 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Unfortunately, there have been alot of critical and "breaking" events in the past few weeks, forcing us to play catchup on some other stories-here are a few items of interest.

**In the last week there have been 2 "Close Calls" in firehouses.**

**IN ILLINOIS**, Lt. John Tabisz and FF/Medic Jenifer Phillips of the Darien-Woodridge FD, along with members of the Pleasantview FD, saved the life of the 46-year-old fire department candidate. The man was participating in a firefighters' candidate physical ability test at the Chicago Roofers Apprentice Training Center in Indian Head Park when he collapsed to the floor about halfway through the test. Just before collapsing, the man bent over and said he didn't feel well, then he wasn't breathing and the members began CPR. While performing CPR, they called 911 and an automatic external defibrillator was used, delivering an electronic shock. One shock restarted his heart and the man was conscious by the time he was taken to a hospital.

**AND THEN IN GEORGIA:**

Lieutenant David Bloodworth says it was just another dinner during his shift at Macon-Bibb Fire Station 11 - he was cleaning up his dishes when he collapsed on the station's kitchen floor.

Lt. Bloodworth suffered a heart attack around 1900 last Saturday. Bloodworth did not have a pulse and was not breathing, the FF's began CPR while others hooked Bloodworth to a defibrillator. Firefighter Jessie Bryant says trying to resuscitate his Lieutenant was like trying to save a family member. Lt. Bloodworth was taken to Coliseum Medical Center and says he is used to being the rescuer but not the one being rescued. Doctors will implant an internal defibrillator Tuesday. He says he hopes to return home within a few days and plans to return to work at the fire department as soon as possible.

**MAYDAY: CLOSE CALL IN DC**

A Firefighter operating on the roof of a Southeast D.C. high school fire fell through the a "covered" hole. DCFD Firefighters were called to Anacostia High School, late this morning, for a report of a fire on the roof. Roofing materials caught fire, and 2 Firefighters were injured. **We have more on our home page.**

**FIRE APPARATUS ROLLS IN FLORIDA**

An investigation is under way into a strange crash outside a fire house in New Smyrna Beach after an engine somehow rolled from the station and into a telephone pole. Firefighters said the truck's brakes failed but Chief David McCallister said he is mystified by how a parking brake failed, which is what city mechanics say happened. "What I know is the truck was parked, the parking brake lever was activated, and the truck was still able to roll," McCallister said. According to witness statements, the 2003 Pierce fire truck sat for two and a half hours on a slight decline before it rolled about 50 feet to the power pole. Officials said the truck's parking brake lever was engaged when they found it here. "We found the truck as it had been found and we verified that the parking brake was in the applied position," McCallister said. Crews were able to move the truck in reverse with the brake engaged. the truck has been taken out of service and will be looked at by representative from Pierce. We'll keep you updated-but in the meantime, use chocks too.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-17-12 / 2013 Hours

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**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.

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**Budget Related Items:**

Lake Havasu (AZ) City Fire Department is calling temporary and random closures of Fire Station No. 6, at the airport, a "Brown-Out" because the intermittent closures hinge on minimal staffing levels independently calculated per each 48-hour shift. "Due to staffing levels, occasionally we'll brown out Station No. 6," said Lake Havasu City Fire Chief Dennis Mueller on Thursday. "It's specific to staffing levels, if I don't have proper staffing levels – 19 or less – I can't staff station six."

<http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2012/02/03/news/doc4f2b75a03c70a046868657.txt>

No matter the state of the economy, it takes about 15 firefighters to effectively battle a house fire, say local fire officials. Starting this year, the Eagle River (CO) Fire Protection District has lost about 25 percent of its property tax revenue — virtually its only source of steady income — because of falling property values in the valley. Facing a drop of about \$1.7 million from its \$7 million budget in 2011, district officials last year asked voters for a property tax increase that would have kept the district's revenues at 2011 levels through 2019. Before the election, district officials said the drop in revenue might result in firefighter layoffs and station closures.

Voters still said no:

<http://www.vaildaily.com/article/20120201/NEWS/120209985/1001&parentprofile=1062>

Flint (MI) firefighters union President Trent Farnsworth had an unusual request tonight for emergency manager Michael Brown: He demanded the city pink slip dozens of firefighters by Monday. Farnsworth doesn't want the employees to actually lose their jobs, but said the move would help the city win renewal of its federal grant that currently pays for about 39 firefighters. Without a renewal, the \$6.7 million grant ends at the end of May. "I'm the first president to present the laying off of members," Farnsworth told the Flint City Council at its meeting tonight. "I want my members presented pink slips."

[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/02/flint\\_firefighters\\_union\\_presi\\_1.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/02/flint_firefighters_union_presi_1.html)

Emergency medical services will shift from the Taylor (MI) Fire Department to a private company on Friday. As a result, 17 firefighters were notified Tuesday that they'll be out of a job Friday morning when HealthLink takes over the services. The move is being made out of financial necessity, said Taylor Mayor Jeffrey Lamarand. The shift is expected to save about \$1 million to \$2 million annually in coming years, he said. "The city is running out of money, and we have run out of time," Lamarand said in a statement. "The decision had to be made for the city's financial well-being." Lamarand estimated that at least 85% of the fire department's 8,000 annual calls are for medical emergencies. Firefighters still will respond to fires and accidents. The mayor said employee retiree costs increasingly are consuming general fund revenues, and drastic changes have to be made:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120215/NEWS02/202150380/With-medical-services-shifting-to-private-firm-17-Taylor-firefighters-to-be-jobless-Friday>

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**Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:**

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

Does the punishment fit the crime? That is the question many South Bend (IN) firefighters are asking after one of their own was demoted. The firefighter now faces a possible 30 day suspension for taking cell phone video of the latest Park Jefferson Apartment Fires,

something South Bend Fire Chief Howard Buchanon says goes against the duty manual and the department's newly implemented Facebook policy. According to the new Facebook policy, firefighters cannot use their cell phones when they are working an emergency call. Last week a South Bend firefighter was demoted and is no longer being considered for a promotion to captain. Union President Patrick Kottkamp of Local 362 says the charges have been reviewed, but no action has been taken: <http://www.abc57.com/news/local/South-Bend-firefighter-to-be-demoted-for-taking-cell-phone-video-of-fire-138018298.html>

A former San Diego State University student who was supposed to make history with the Carlsbad (CA) Fire Department said her chance to be the city's first female firefighter ended in controversy. Brittany McMahon believes she was denied the chance to be a firefighter paramedic in Carlsbad because she is a woman. McMahon was the first and only woman to be accepted into the program. She began training as a probationary firefighter in January of 2010. Throughout the training period, she had completed every task and passed with flying colors. Three weeks before she was to end her probation in December, she received jaw-dropping news. "They put two letters on a table," she said. "One was a letter of resignation and one was a letter of termination and they said, 'If you don't sign the letter of resignation then you will be terminated.'" She said she signed the resignation, per the instructions of her union representative, so she could apply somewhere else. McMahon's attorney Matthew Palmer told 10News, "Unfortunately, the reason that Brittany was terminated from Carlsbad was only one and that was because she is the wrong gender." She also told 10News about the sexual harassment she endured by her superiors. "I was walking down the hallway and one of my coworkers stopped me and said, 'Where are you going?'... I said, 'I am going to take a shower' and he said, 'Do you want any help with that?'" McMahon is now working as a paramedic in Santa Cruz and is making roughly one-fourth of what she could have been making in Carlsbad. That is one reason why she has filed a \$2 million claim and a lawsuit for gender discrimination and wrongful termination against the city of Carlsbad:

<http://www.10news.com/news/30292809/detail.html>

Shift trading by Cleveland (OH) firefighters that created public outrage since an audit of the department was released last fall will be curbed under a proposed agreement with the department's union. Cleveland firefighters could continue to trade their 24-hour shifts to lengthen vacations, but they can only be away from the job for three weeks, instead of months which they can do under the present agreement. The audit revealed allegations of lax supervision and payroll abuse in the fire department, which came out two weeks after voters defeated the union-limiting Issue 2. City auditors released a scathing report last November citing firefighters getting paid without working and failing to record their sick time:

[http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2012/01/shift\\_trading\\_by\\_cleveland\\_fir.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2012/01/shift_trading_by_cleveland_fir.html)

A former Macon-Bibb County (GA) fire captain denied lying to fire officials about helping plan a September hazing prank that involved a masked gunman threatening firefighters with a gun. Stephanie Burke testified that she was denied access to a lawyer on the day after the prank, which was posted to the website YouTube, sparked an internal investigation. "At best, what we have is a swearing contest between subordinates who feel their captain wasn't punished severely enough and their captain," said Serena Sparks, an Atlanta attorney who represented Burke at a Wednesday hearing before an administrative law judge. Burke was acting as battalion chief at the department's Peake Road station on Sept. 18, 2011, when a masked man entered the station with what appeared to be a gun. She appeared at the Wednesday hearing to appeal her demotion from captain to lieutenant and a 20-day suspension without pay:

<http://www.macon.com/2012/01/26/1879694/former-macon-bibb-fire-captain.html>

A veteran Titusville (FL) firefighter is in jail on no bond after he was arrested for allegedly trying to kill his superior. Randy Moore, a firefighter with the department, was booked into the Brevard County Jail Tuesday afternoon after a police investigation. He's charged with poisoning the drinking canteen of a fellow firefighter, according to Titusville police. Police said Lt. Phil Jones, of the Titusville Fire Department, discovered a substance that smelled like solvent in his water canteen on Thursday. Detectives determined that the canteen contained "gunk," a cleaning substance that, according to the police report, is clearly labeled as harmful or fatal if swallowed. "Gunk" is mainly used by mechanics to clean engines. According to the police report, Moore had engaged in a number of acts "targeting the victim Lt. Phil Jones," over several weeks, including writing derogatory statements about Jones, putting spices in his coffee, tampering with files and other acts meant to embarrass Jones. The police report said that Moore confessed to the incidents he committed with a fellow firefighter. The report also says he was aware of the potential consequences of his actions, but that he said "he did not want to kill the victim he was just upset with him"

<http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/police-titusville-firefighter-poisoned-coworkers-d/nHct4/>

How to handle the bad news: Albuquerque (NM) firefighter arrested in major drug & money bust. Chief doesn't say it's a personnel matter or under investigation. Based on the TV stories I've watched, and what I have read on various new sites, Albuquerque Fire Chief James Breen is providing a good lesson on how to handle the bad news. On Thursday, one of his firefighters was arrested as part of a large drug and money laundering ring. Often when these things happen there is a tendency to circle the wagons with chiefs looking for any excuse to delay or not to talk. Reporters are told, "it's a personnel matter" and "it's currently under investigation". None of those phrases came from Chief Breen. The chief made sure his voice was heard in the original stories on Thursday, providing a clear statement about his dissatisfaction upon hearing the news. On Friday, he met with reporters and had some very strong statements about the impact of this arrest. In addition, it appears the chief helped reporters verify an aspect of this story that has to be very troubling for the department. The chief let it be known that AFD is investigating deposits as part of the money laundering scheme that may have been made while Firefighter Steve Chavez was in uniform, on duty and on a fire truck: <http://statter911.com/2012/01/28/how-to-handle-the-bad-news-albuquerque-firefighter-arrested-in-major-drug-money-bust-chief-doesnt-say-its-a-personnel-matter-or-under-investigation/>

Complacency led to the Pasadena (CA) Fire Department's failure to find a woman's body in a torched laundry room in July, city officials said Monday. At public safety committee meeting Fire Chief Calvin Wells, who became head of the department months after the blaze, provided more details about the July 31 fire. Crews were called to a home on South San Marino Avenue twice on July 31, he said. The first call was in response to the initial blaze, and the second was to douse a rekindled fire at the detached garage. It wasn't until two days later that an insurance investigator discovered the remains of Yolanda Marie Sapetto, a transient. Wells blamed "complacency on the part of responders," he said, for failing to spot Sapetto's body. "However we are assured that what happened on July 31 is not the norm."

<http://www.pasadenasun.com/news/tn-pas-0130-fire-failure,0,7724145.story>

John Bolton says he's anything but disgruntled. The North Charleston (SC) firefighter, who was injured in a 2010 blaze, claims the city is using him as a scapegoat to divert from what he calls the failures of the department during the fire that injured three:

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/16925609/north-charleston-firefighter-injured-in-2010-blaze-criticizes-department>

The Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department will pay \$494,150 and institute anti-harassment training to settle federal discrimination charges filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the agency announced Tuesday. Anthony Almeida, a firefighter/engineer since 1986, filed an EEOC discrimination allegation in 2007, alleging that he was continually harassed by fellow firefighters who used offensive comments of a sexual and religious nature, according to the EEOC. An investigation found the harassment, which began in late 2006, appeared linked to a lawsuit filed against the Roman Catholic Church by Almeida, regarding sexual abuse he suffered by a priest. After a co-worker learned that Almeida sued the church, several firefighters mocked him, using explicit and offensive religious and sexual epithets, the EEOC said. Although Almeida complained about the harassment to management, the EEOC investigation found the fire department failed to halt or adequately address it, according to the federal agency: [http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci\\_19863908](http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_19863908)

Out of town trips with family members, lavish dinners, and expensive bar tabs, all on the taxpayer dime. A series of 4 Investigates reports revealed top officials in the Harvey (LA) Volunteer Fire Department #2 were making questionable purchases with public funds. Now one of those officials has been arrested. Eyewitness News has confirmed President and Deputy Chief Mike Reason was booked Wednesday morning on two counts of filing false public records and one count of felony theft. He has been released on \$10,000 bond. President and Deputy Chief Mike Reason was booked Wednesday morning on two counts of filing false public records and one count of felony theft over \$1,500. He has been released on \$10,000 bond: <http://www.wwtv.com/news/Volunteer-fire-companys-deputy-chief-arrested-as-investigation-continues-138526984.html>

Backing yourself right out of a career. Yet another reminder the cover-up is usually worse than the crime. According to the Manchester Evening News, UK firefighter William Lindfield was fired for lying about helping back up a truck that hit a wall in an effort to cover up for the driver failing to follow procedure. The driver of that rig, David Woollam, retired before facing a disciplinary hearing. Department policy states that every time an engine reverses. the driver must have a firefighter guide the vehicle from behind: <http://statter911.com/2012/02/08/firetruckblog-com-backing-yourself-right-out-of-a-career-yet-another-reminder-the-cover-up-is-usually-worse-than-the-crime/>

Chicago (IL) taxpayers will likely spend \$1.75 million to compensate the family of a 13-year-old girl who died of bronchial asthma in 2002 after a string of alleged mistakes made by Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Arielle Starks died at Advocate Trinity Hospital after an ambulance carrying her to the hospital collided with a car at 87th and Langley. Another ambulance picked up Arielle and took her to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. If not for a series of "mistakes" made by the four paramedics who treated Starks on that fateful day, attorney Brian Murphy argued that the girl would be alive today. The first mistake was that the child was "intubated through the esophagus that leads to the stomach instead of through the trachea that leads to her lungs," Murphy said. The second mistake involved ignoring a "standing medical order" issued by the Fire Department. According to Murphy, it states that if a patient's condition worsens, paramedics are to look into the patient's mouth to "visually observe where the breathing tube was placed." <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/1237557-Medics-alleged-mistakes-in-Chicago-girls-death-likely-to-cost-1-75M/>

An investigation is under way into claims an on-duty firefighter and a hospital staffer had sex inside an ambulance parked outside a hospital in Rhode Island: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1235437-R-I-firefighter-allegedly-had-sex-in-ambulance/>

Denver (CO) Fire Department says they 'could have done a better job' after no units were sent on smoke investigation. House fire found about 90 minutes later.

<http://statter911.com/2012/02/11/denver-fire-department-says-they-could-have-done-a-better-job-after-no-units-were-sent-on-smoke-investigation-house-fire-found-about-90-minutes-later/>

A former Newport Beach (CA) firefighter has sued the city in Orange County Superior Court, alleging racial discrimination during his probationary employment period. Christian Benard, 37, who is of Nicaraguan heritage, started in the city's probationary firefighting class in March 2009. He alleges that during his 10-month stint he was not given proper medical aid training and was unfairly criticized by captains at Fire Station No. 7 in Santa Ana Heights. A captain at Fire Station No. 7 also allegedly drilled a team of rookie firefighters until one collapsed due to heat exhaustion and was transported to Hoag Hospital, according to Benard's suit. Benard also alleges that two captains falsely accused him of abandoning his post during a major fire on Dec. 27, 2009, although he was praised for outstanding work in battling the fire by other captains. He said that he was dismissed in January 2010 without warning, and that he may need to seek counseling. In the claim, he says he was the only Latino firefighter in the probationary class. In court documents, the city states that Benard failed to show any "oppressive or malicious conduct to support a claim of punitive damages" and said that "at this stage of this case ... no evidence of unlawful harassment exists." Benard asserts in court papers that immediately after he was assigned to the station, he noticed that he was treated differently than firefighters in his class who were not Latino, and that he sought his own medical aid training when it wasn't provided:

<http://www.dailypilot.com/news/tn-dpt-0215-benard-20120214.0.7493865.story>

The veteran Attleboro (MA) firefighter facing federal drug charges has resigned from the department, officials said. Michael B. Wilson, free on a \$10,000 secured bond, submitted a letter of resignation late Thursday afternoon to Mayor Kevin Dumas who, with other city officials, was prepared to fire the 25-year firefighter the next day, said Chief Scott Lachance. "That definitely simplifies the process for the city," Lachance said. Wilson, 50, had been suspended without pay since his Feb. 1 arrest on charges of buying and selling oxycodone and steroids. Wilson's arrest brought to light his lengthy criminal history, which involved convictions on charges of bribing a Rhode Island public official, shoplifting and assault dating back to the mid 1990s:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1238649-Mass-firefighter-charged-in-drug-dealing-case-quits/>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Caldwell (ID) firefighters have agreed to a one-year contract with the city that gives them more hours and a 5 percent hourly-rate pay cut. Three firefighters and one fire-prevention officer position will not be filled as part of the deal. The agreement saves the city from having to cut more positions, Caldwell Firefighters Local No. 1821 President Marc Maiello said, in a department he said already answers more calls per firefighter than any in the Treasure Valley. "It's a big sacrifice that the firefighters are willing to make," Maiello said. "They're doing it in understanding that our obligation is to provide emergency service to the citizens." Maiello said the city would have cut firefighter positions if not for the union's ability to negotiate. "This whole thing was made possible because of our collective bargaining process," Maiello said:

[http://www.idahopress.com/news/local/caldwell-firefighters-take-pay-cut/article\\_df44562c-4658-11e1-9b5c-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.idahopress.com/news/local/caldwell-firefighters-take-pay-cut/article_df44562c-4658-11e1-9b5c-0019bb2963f4.html)

Tempe (AZ) Firefighter Youth Fitness Camps - Obesity is a problem here in America, and Tempe Fire Department is doing something this month to get kids up and at 'em:

[http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/morning\\_show/tempe-firefighter-youth-fitness-camps\\_tempe-fd-02022012](http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/morning_show/tempe-firefighter-youth-fitness-camps_tempe-fd-02022012)

Kayleena Menezes, 2, of Anderson doesn't have just one valentine this year, but four. Kayleena, along with three other children at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, was given a teddy bear and DVD on Monday from Redding (CA) firefighters John Houston, Bryan Gibbons, Jesse Pyorre and Chris Peters. "We just thought we'd do a little something for Valentine's Day," Houston said. The gifts were funded through the Fire Department's Community Emergency Fund. Houston, an engineer who oversees the fund, said the money is donated and used to help fire victims and the community where other charities can't. The gifts will help the kids have a positive experience at the hospital, rather than associate the building with being sick, said Megan Mills, marketing manager for Mercy. The kids also had Redding firefighters to thank for the TVs and DVD players in their rooms. Firefighters in 2009 volunteered their time as waiters and bartenders at Logan's Roadhouse, raising and donating some \$3,500 to Mercy for 10 TVs and DVD players for pediatric rooms, Houston said. Firefighters in December also used the Community Emergency Fund to give a new mixer and baking set to a Redding couple who lost their mobile home to a fire. The mixer was a prized possession to the husband, who used the appliance to make and give away bread:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2012/feb/13/firefighters-give-valentines-day-gifts-to-kids/>

The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council voted 3-2 to approve a new contract with the North Las Vegas firefighters union tonight, in hopes of saving up to \$640,000. The new memorandum of understanding, ratified last week by members of the International Association of Firefighters Local #1607, renews the current contracts in place for both supervisory and nonsupervisory personnel. Under the updated contract, good through the end of the fiscal year in June, the chief will have more discretion in the use of brownouts, the staffing of the air resource unit and restricting the number of battalion chiefs on annual leave at any given time:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/feb/15/north-las-vegas-approves-new-contract-firefighters/>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

A must watch video for ALL current and future firefighters: A Firefighter's Unseen Enemy: PPE Contamination In this FIREGROUND Flash Tip, Chief Wylie gives some quick tips on the steps needed to reduce cancer-causing carcinogens in your PPE and duty clothing after a working fire: <http://flashovertv.firerescue1.com/Clip.aspx?key=87CCB25AEF2DFDB9>

NIST Report on TX Fire Urges Firefighters to Consider Wind Effects. Wind conditions at a fire scene can make a critical difference on the behavior of the blaze and the safety of firefighters, even indoors, according to a new report by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The findings confirm earlier NIST research, but they take on a particular immediacy because they are based on detailed computer models of a tragic 2009 residential fire in Houston, Texas, that claimed the lives of two firefighters. The NIST modeling was done at the request of the Houston Fire Department (HFD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), both of which wanted expert insight into the fire dynamics (behavior) that killed a 29-year veteran captain and a probationary firefighter: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/02/nist-report-on-tx-fire-urges-firefighters-to-consider-wind-effects.html>

**General Fire Service Related Items:**

This is a bit of an unusual story from Liberty Township, Ohio in Trumbull County (not to be confused with the 24 other Liberty Townships in Ohio). A veteran career firefighter let go by township officials found out it wasn't just the bosses who didn't want him at the firehouse any longer. The feelings of his co-workers were almost unanimous and they let him know it. Township officials says that Firefighter James Thompson, who had been on the department for 14-years, is guilty of "malfeasance and misconduct in office." According to Robert Guttersohn at Vindy.com, on December 8 Thompson signed a last-chance agreement and returned to work after four months on paid leave. Only four days later, Liberty Township again put Thompson on paid leave. Guttersohn reports, after Thompson's return, firefighters wrote a memo to township officials fearing a physical confrontation and indicated one firefighter requested a leave of absence because "the danger of attending work". Liberty Township then sent James Thompson a termination letter that was endorsed by 12 of the town's full-time career firefighters and one part timer: <http://statter911.com/2012/01/21/termination-letter-for-career-firefighter-is-signed-by-13-of-his-colleagues/>

Another great story ALL firefighters (future and current) can learn something from - What would make the public trust firefighters more? Facebook fans give us their ideas on how to make firefighters and the fire service appear trustworthy to the public. Firefighters consistently score highly on the most trusted professions in surveys. However, you can't please everyone all the time — and sometimes it's firefighters themselves who are responsible for dragging the good name of the fire service through the mud. In today's political climate and with the heroism of the 9/11 response a distant memory to many, fire departments are under increasing scrutiny from the public: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1222511-FR1-community-What-would-make-the-public-trust-firefighters-more/>

A Bronx (NY) volunteer fire chief thumbed his nose Tuesday at an FDNY warning that he and his colleagues would be arrested if they continued responding to emergency calls. Chief Romeo Toro said his 60-member strong Aviation Volunteer Fire Department will keep chasing fire alarms in and around the Classon Point neighborhood. "Yes, we will risk arrest," the 28-year-old fire chief said. "We will continue to operate until we get a letter from the mayor or the Office of Fire Prevention and Control saying we can't operate." The Fire Department came down hard on the AVFD after city firefighters responding to a Thursday bus accident on the Bruckner Expressway in Hunts Point got into a dispute with Toro and his men. Cops were called and they wound up booting Toro and one of his lieutenants from the scene: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/aviation-volunteer-fire-department-bronx-defy-fdny-respond-alarms-nabe-article-1.1011456>

Some of California's rank-and-file firefighters earn so much money in overtime that the state has revived pay bonuses worth thousands of dollars to lure them into management. The problem at the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has grown over the last decade, as the state negotiated firefighter contracts that boosted overtime pay without consistently raising supervisors' wages. Along with the department's graying ranks and early-retirement incentives, the developments have depleted Cal Fire's leadership ranks. Persuading line firefighters to take those management positions and give up the overtime money has proved difficult. "Basically, when you're an assistant chief, you make less money, have more responsibility and work longer hours," said Dale Hutchinson, who as southern region chief hires Cal Fire managers for half the state. "It's been a standing issue for years." <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/01/26/4215759/promotions-unpopular-for-california.html>

**Cleveland (OH) will place a new civilian manager in charge of Fire Department payroll records and move the payroll office out of department headquarters, Assistant Safety Director Edward Eckart said Wednesday. The changes come as a second city audit of the department records nears completion. Problems uncovered in an initial review have triggered an investigation into possible criminal wrongdoing:**

[http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2012/01/cleveland\\_to\\_move\\_payroll\\_offi.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2012/01/cleveland_to_move_payroll_offi.html)

**Chambersburg (PA) Fire Department Captain Patrick Martin has been suspended without pay for 240 working hours for "conduct unbecoming of an officer." During a special meeting Monday, Chambersburg Borough Council unanimously voted to suspend Martin after he sent an Oct. 26 letter to International Association of Fire Fighters members asking they support IAFF by "refraining from providing volunteer firefighting services to the Borough of Chambersburg." <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/2012/01/1594114385/fire-captain-suspended-for-encouraging-strike-of-volunteer-firefighters.html>**

**Jackson (MI) Fire Chief Raymond McNulty has put his firefighters on notice not to post inaccurate information or comments harmful to the department on their social network sites. They also cannot post photos of themselves in uniform or posing with city equipment. "Employees should be honest in their use of social media and maintain high regard for the public interest," McNulty says in a memo. "All information disseminated should be completely accurate." McNulty issued the memo this week providing department guidelines on social media in the wake of a Facebook posting from a former fire official that only two of 28 city fire recruits had passed a minimum standards test:**

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20120126/NEWS/201260346/Jackson-Fire-Dept-chief-issues-social-media-memo>

**IBM report suggests fewer San Jose (CA) cops and firefighters needed. While San Jose residents and leaders alike are fretting over recent police and fire staffing cuts to fill budget holes, a new IBM analysis requested by Mayor Chuck Reed suggests the city's public safety departments are overstaffed and inefficient. Reed has scheduled a discussion of the report Wednesday at the City Council agenda-setting committee he leads. He wants the committee to have the city manager and auditor look it over and use the analysis to develop budget recommendations for the council. "The IBM analysis will be of great interest and value as we attempt to restore some of the services that have been cut over the last decade," Reed said. "In my review of the report, it is clear that, as we restore services, we should not assume that we will rebuild our organization exactly as it was before the cuts."**

[http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci\\_19890479](http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_19890479)

**A Washington D.C. fire department spokesman has been placed on administrative leave for comments he made online characterizing a protest by firefighters against fire department leadership as "racist." D.C. Fire Chief Kenneth Ellerbe suspended department spokesman Lon Walls with pay in order allow tensions within the department to "cool off," said Pedro Ribeiro, a spokesman for D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray/ "Things were getting heated; things were getting personal," Mr. Ribeiro said, adding the suspension likely would last "a couple days." Mr. Walls confirmed on Monday that he made the comments on his personal Twitter and Facebook accounts. One of the posts, referencing the decision by more than 100 firefighters to walk out of a State of the Department address delivered by Chief Ellerbe, stated that the walkout was the "most blatant, ignorant and racist public display of disrespect I have ever seen:**

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/feb/8/dc-fire-department-staffer-suspended-over-online-p/>

Twelve white Buffalo (NY) firefighters will get an average of \$230,430 each in back pay, pension benefits and damages — a total of almost \$2.77 million — for emotional distress because the City of Buffalo illegally passed them over for promotions, a state judge has ruled. The 12 men sued the city in 2007, contending that the city illegally allowed two promotional lists to expire because minority firefighters had fared poorly on civil service exams. The case was affected by a 2009 U.S. Supreme Court decision that said city officials cannot void the results of civil service exams simply because they are afraid of being sued. The ruling on damages came 15 months after State Supreme Court Justice John A. Michalek ruled that the city illegally failed to promote based on its 2005 and 2006 tests for racial reasons. One of the firefighters, Joseph P. Fahey said the case pointed to "the true nature of reverse discrimination: When it happens to blacks, everybody is correctly upset about it, but when it happens to whites, nobody cares."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1235392-12-white-firefighters-win-NY-promotion-bias-suit/>

North Las Vegas (NV) has come to a tentative agreement on contract concessions with the firefighters union that will save the city a projected \$500,000 through the end of fiscal year 2012. The agreement, which still must be approved by the City Council, in part gives the fire chief greater flexibility in staffing and restricts the number of battalion chiefs who can take leave at one time, which is expected to reduce overtime costs. The agreement runs through June 30. Members of the International Association of Firefighters Local 1607 ratified the agreement Thursday. The City Council will consider it Wednesday. The agreement gives the fire chief discretion in using "brownouts," or periodically keeping some department vehicles out of service to save money. The city's fire department began implementing brownouts about six months ago. As part of the agreement, the union will dismiss a pending arbitration case concerning costs for firefighters' health insurance coverage. North Las Vegas employs about 100 firefighters and firefighter paramedics and 34 fire engineers. Firefighters in the city average about \$162,000 a year in salaries and benefits:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-north-las-vegas-reach-agreement-139271788.html>

Firefighters are unique among Tulsa (OK) employees - or just about any kind of employee, for that matter. Not only is their work dangerous, but it requires them to literally live the job, eating and sleeping at their stations for days at a time. That can lead to some interesting workers compensation claims. Weight-lifting injuries. A cooking accident. A heart attack while walking on a track. A bad back blamed on "dumping a mop bucket." The Tulsa World studied cases in which a workers compensation court order was issued between January 2010 and November 2011. Records are not precise, but about 20 of the 72 Fire Department-related files included in the study of the city's workers compensation claims appear to be attributed to injuries suffered at fires or other emergencies to which the claimant had been dispatched. Those included falls on ice, ladder climbing, collapsing floors and at least one heart attack. By comparison, 13 cases were attributed to training activities of some kind, including running, swimming, tying knots, lifting weights and "pulling hose." The frequency of such injuries seems to make the Fire Department a candidate for what city physician Dr. Phillip Berry called "overtraining." Yet the general public might be surprised to learn the city has 300-pound firefighters:

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20120212\\_16\\_A11\\_CUTLIN135176](http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20120212_16_A11_CUTLIN135176)

The Scottsdale (AZ) Fire Department recently shuffled fire crews at some of its 15 stations to ensure equal coverage across the city. To accomplish that, one fire crew has become a "roving" four-person crew and the technical-rescue crews were moved closer to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Several factors facilitated the change, including the recent opening of two fire stations -- one in south Scottsdale and one in north Scottsdale. Also key is that the Fire Department has become fully staffed for the first time since it was formed six years ago:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2012/02/11/20120211scottsdale-shuffles-fire-crews-equal-coverage-areas.html>

The city of Encinitas (CA) and its firefighters have reached a tentative, four-year contract deal that grants the firefighters a series of raises, but requires them to start contributing toward their pension costs. Under the tentative contract, the firefighters would receive a 3 percent raise each of the next three years, but that "raise" would be offset by a 3 percent increase each year in the amount firefighters must pay into the pension system, city officials said. At the end of the three years, Encinitas firefighters would be paying 9 percent of their salaries toward their retirement. Previously, they paid nothing toward their pensions. Encinitas Firefighters' Association President Mike Goralski and Fire Capt. Charles Essex, who served on the negotiating team, said rank-and-file firefighters were fairly supportive of the new contract. Some are unhappy about other proposed changes to the medical premiums, which could end up costing a firefighter with a family \$2,000 a year more, Essex said. However, "the majority of the guys are happy, I'm going to say, that we've come to an agreement," he said. Both he and Goralski said Encinitas firefighters are in a far better position when it comes to pension issues than their counterparts in other areas. Many communities are now scaling back the generous 3-percent-at-50 pension benefits that they offered to firefighters and police officers when the economy was booming. Under those 3-percent-at-50 plans, firefighters could retire at age 50 and collect 3 percent of their salary times the number of years they worked for a given city. Encinitas never boosted its retirement benefit that high ---- it stuck with a 3-percent-at-55 plan, and it's benefiting from that now, the firefighters said. The city manager said Encinitas also is in a good position because it is doing well financially:

[http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/encinitas/encinitas-firefighters-to-get-raises-but-must-start-paying-toward/article\\_7f3c9c15-2142-59dd-8f8b-4c2f43e1949f.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/encinitas/encinitas-firefighters-to-get-raises-but-must-start-paying-toward/article_7f3c9c15-2142-59dd-8f8b-4c2f43e1949f.html)

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***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

