

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

December 10, 2011

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2012 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

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

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

SPRING 2012 Semester: (January through May 2012)

Registration for the Spring 2012 semester at Chabot College has begun!

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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1155 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2155 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Thursday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule is available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 7, 9, and 11 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - May 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 24, 26, 28 and 29	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 17, 19, 21 and 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 3, 5, 7	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - January 18, February 25, March 29, April 25, May 23	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1300 – 1650 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – TBA)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

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

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET

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

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

Fire Technology Classes: These classes are completely on-line

- **Core Classes (Required)**

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

- **Electives**

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

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

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

General Education classes are also offered on-line.

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

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

Everyone is busy this time of year! We just want to remind you to submit your application for that National Fire Academy class that you want to attend next year! We are mid way through the Application Period! The application period for the second semester of National Fire Academy resident classes closes December 15 (applications should be postmarked by December 15). Second semester includes those classes scheduled from April 1 – September 30, 2012. All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

Course Catalog and schedules: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm>

Download the FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application Form at:
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

Tips to completing your application successfully can also be found at:
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

Completed applications for resident courses must be sent to the following address:

Office of Admissions, Building I, Room 216
National Emergency Training Center
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998
Applications may also be faxed to **(301) 447-1441**.

Don't forget! Submit your application soon so you can check this one off your To-Do List!

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

National Fire Academy Open Enrollment

The student application period for National Fire Academy second semester classes (April 1 to September 30, 2012) is now open. The application period closes December 15, 2011.

The National Fire Academy offers several new courses this year:

- **Hot Topics Research in Emergency Medical Services (R139)**. Students in this six-day course will research emerging issues in EMS to identify, promote, and embrace system or service improvements. The course is structured around how to make persuasive justifications through effective data collection and presentation using a wide variety of research methods. Students will construct a program proposal or progress report for presentation.

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- **Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation (R255)**. This six-day course helps investigators properly and effectively electrical systems and related component to determine their role in fires. Topics include a basic explanation of electricity, electrical circuits and distribution systems, electrical faults and failures, and how NFPA 70, National Electrical Code applies to fire investigations. Students will learn the skill of arc mapping to aid in determining fire causes.
- **Hot Topics Research in Fire Protection (R138)**. What's new in fire protection? This course is intended to identify new and emerging issues, products and trends that may apply to local jurisdictions. Students will learn how to conduct research, evaluate technological and human behavior topics, and present the material in a meaningful way to effect change to reduce fire losses or enhance understanding of new technologies.
- **Cultural Competence in Risk Reduction (P394)**. This six-day course seeks to improve cultural and linguistic determinants within the application of risk reduction strategies. The first pilot class is scheduled to be delivered Sunday, December 4 through Friday, December 9, 2011. The second pilot is scheduled to be delivered January 29 through February 3, 2012.

To see the schedule, student selection criteria, and application instructions, please visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

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



Holiday Decorations

Decorating for the winter holidays is fun but can lead to tragedy if you don't practice fire safety. Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy.

- Don't place your live Christmas tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.

More Holiday Fire Safety Action Steps » <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/holiday.shtm>

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Entry Level Firefighter's Workshop!!!

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

Keynote Speaker:

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

Topics will include:

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

Reservations are required by February 12, 2012

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

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

Bring your resume!!

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

FEMA Administrator Fugate Lauds Senate Confirmation of Ernest Mitchell as U.S. Fire Administrator

WASHINGTON - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Craig Fugate today praised the Senate for confirming Ernest Mitchell Jr. as the Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA). USFA, a component of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is the lead federal entity responsible for providing support to America's fire departments and fire services organizations. "With decades of experience fighting fires and leading fire service organizations, Chief Mitchell will be a great addition to our team at FEMA and a tremendous asset to firefighters and first responders around the country," said Fugate. "As with our other senior leaders at FEMA, he comes from a state and local background, which means he understands the kind of support

our nation's fire departments and fire service organizations need. He will be a tireless advocate for firefighters and the communities they serve and I look forward to working with him."

Mitchell, a retired fire chief, has more than 33 years of experience working in the fire service at the federal, state and local levels. He is a past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Prior to retiring in 2004, he served as the Fire Chief and Assistant Director of Disaster Emergency Services for the City of Pasadena, California, Fire Department. He previously served as Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager of Monrovia, California, and also served as a Battalion Chief for the City of Compton in California. In addition to maintaining his active membership in the IAFC, Mitchell currently serves on the International Association of Firefighters Hazardous Materials Advisory Board and the International Fire Service Training Association Executive Board. Mitchell holds an A.S. in fire science from Long Beach City College, a B.P.A. from the University of San Francisco and an M.P.A. from California State University at Northridge.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

2012 FDNY Symposium

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

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

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

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

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



Cooking Fire Safety

Cooking equipment is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Whether you are cooking the family holiday dinner or a snack for the children, practicing safe cooking behaviors will help keep you and your family safe.

Stay safe when cooking this Holiday Season:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Use turkey fryers outdoors away from buildings and items that can catch fire.
- Never use a turkey fryer in a garage or on a wooden deck.

More Cooking Fire Safety Action Steps »

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/cooking.shtm

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USFA Releases 2010 Fire Estimate Summary Series

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - December 5, 2011

EMMITSBURG, Maryland — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued the 2010 **Fire Estimate Summary Series** today which presents basic information on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). The data summary series was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with the American public, fire departments, and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

"The fire estimate summaries serve as a great resource tool for members of the fire service and the public to obtain general information regarding fire issues impacting our nation's communities," said Glenn Gaines, Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator. "It is important to use this information to further reduce the risk of deaths, injuries, and property loss due to fire."

Individual summaries are issued as part of the **Fire Estimate Summary Series** and address the size of a specific fire or fire-related issue as well as highlight important data trends. As part of this series, 17 summaries have been issued presenting basic information on the leading causes of residential building and nonresidential building fires, deaths, injuries, and dollar losses for 2010 and highlighting overall trends in these leading causes for the 5-year period of 2006 to 2010. Additional new and updated fire estimate summaries will be periodically released under this series as future year data become available.

The complete **Fire Estimate Summary Series** is available at www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/estimates/. For further information regarding other statistical reports or any programs and training available at USFA, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

INFO FOR FIREFIGHTERS ATTENDING CA COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

Important information for firefighters who attend community colleges in California

The California Community College Chancellor's Office has implemented a number of changes impacting course repeatability that affect almost all seasonal students and many permanent employees. I will try and summarize, but it is going to be lengthy. What follows are my personal thoughts and comments, and do not reflect the official position of any college or state institution in California (legal disclaimer).

1. Firefighters frequently drop courses mid-semester based on an active fall fire season, or an early hiring rotation in the spring.
2. Prior to the current regulatory change a student could, in theory, enroll in any single community college course up to seven times (different sections of the education code allowed four transcript withdrawals, two fails and a final attempt to pass the course). After that, a student could still petition the college's Scholastic Standards Committee for a case-by-case review, and potentially retake the course one more time.
 - a. As a side note, prior to this change some colleges did not monitor course withdrawals ("W") and students could take and drop a course a dozen times with no negative academic impact.
3. With the current legal change, a student may only attempt/withdraw/complete a course three times (in any sequence) within any college district. Two withdrawals and fail, and you are done.
4. The few (very few) exemptions that existed in the old code language still exist such as forced military deployments or declared natural disasters. Keep in mind that the natural disaster exemption applies to where you live, not where you work. If your town is evacuated and the college is shut down, the exemption applies. If you are sent on a strike-team, the exemption does not apply.
5. Here is the real kicker- **this legal change is retro-active**. Students who already have three withdrawals (or two withdrawals and a fail) for any course will not be allowed to repeat that course within that same college district.
6. The law is in place, but the Chancellor's Office has given community colleges until summer secession 2012 for full implementation. For most California community colleges it will require a massive recoding and programming change to the enrollment management systems. Even if the college's enrollment management system is currently capable of enforcing this change, they will probably wait until next summer to implement the requirement (check with your local college).
7. One argument is "so what, I will just take my English 1A class on the other side of town" (for cities with multiple colleges). This title-5 regulatory change applies to courses within a college district. Most college districts in California have one college, but some of the larger districts have multiple colleges within that district. The three maximum transcribed attempts would

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apply to all of the colleges within that district. The college on the “other side of town” may be within the same college district, and you will not be allowed to repeat the course.

8. The next argument is “so what, I will just take my English class in the next closest county which is outside of “my community college district.” Or, take it online on the other side of the state. Use caution, every college has limits related to the number of courses that can be transferred “into” your current college. There are lots of other issues related to transferring courses that go well beyond the scope of this update. Find out what “catalog rights” apply to you (typically that is the catalog that was in effect the year you started at that specific college). If you have not had a break of greater than two consecutive semesters your catalog rights are properly still in effect (varies between colleges). Specific course transfer limitations will be listed in that course catalog (not the course schedule). Check with a college counselor for specifics and recent changes.
9. What does it mean for firefighters in the California Community College system?
 - a. If you have already taken a course three times (in any manner) and those three attempts show up on your transcripts, **and** you have not yet passed the course, next semester is your last chance to take that class (within that same college district).
 - b. In the future, do not enroll in a course unless you are positive you can attend. The drop date for a course (without having a “W” show up on your transcript) is normally between the end of the second and third week of the semester (for a semester based college). Check with your college at the time of enrollment as the drop dates vary between colleges.
 - c. If you do enroll, and it is clear early on that you will not be able to complete the course, formally drop prior to the withdrawal date. Do not assume you will be dropped by the college or the instructor. Make sure you formally drop the course and get a hard copy that confirms that date.
 - d. If you were not able to drop a course prior to the “W” date, consider staying enrolled. Meet with the instructor and review your options. If you can complete most of the work within the semester, the instructor may be willing to assign an “incomplete” grade and you could finish the missed material in the following semester. Instructors are not obligated to assign incomplete grades, and in some courses, (hard sciences) incomplete grades are not a very conducive grading arrangement.
10. One final note, and it is confusing. Everything listed above applies to the number of attempts required to **pass** a course. It does not apply to a different type of repetition related to repeating a course that you have already passed. Some courses (music, arts, and athletics) can be approved at the college for multiple repetitions once a student passes that specific class. While the state is also reviewing that type of repetition, there are currently no changes to repeatability for those courses. What is described above only applies to the initial and repeat attempts to pass a course.

If you have questions, please feel free to call. My office hours are 0500-0600, and 0800-0900 Monday through Thursday. After that, you can call anytime (there is no answering machine on that line), or email me at rmarley@shastacollege.edu.

Thanks,

Ron Marley,
Shasta College
530-242-2208

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

National Fire Academy Launches FESHE Recognition Program

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - December 7, 2011

EMMITSBURG, Maryland — The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) announced today a new National Fire Academy (NFA) program opportunity for educational institutions offering undergraduate fire science degree programs. This effort is designed to offer national recognition to students participating in the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) model core associate's and bachelor's courses. The new FESHE recognition acknowledges the regionally accredited institutions that promote the standardization of fire science course titles, descriptions, and outcomes across the nation.

"The NFA has consistently demonstrated a commitment to standardize fire science degree programs. Working with FEMA and USFA partners in colleges and state fire training systems, the USFA has an opportunity to support a universal system of professional development for fire service personnel," said Ernest Mitchell, U.S. Fire Administrator. To achieve this national recognition from the USFA, regionally accredited institutions will provide a six-course model fire science curriculum in their associate's or baccalaureate programs. In addition, regionally accredited institutions with the FESHE designation will also be able to provide the participating students with a NFA course Certificate of Completion for each course they complete. The documentation of a student's participation in the FESHE model core curriculum will further recognize the graduate's degree as one tied to a nationally recognized standard of education and achievement. This national approach to standardizing fire science education will produce graduates well prepared to improve the quality of fire and emergency services delivery throughout the nation. "With our current NFA curriculum development and delivery and our continued resolve to prepare the fire service for the future through training and education, this FESHE effort moves the fire service another step closer to providing the leadership and safety all citizens have come to expect of their fire departments now and into the future," said NFA Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal. Recognized institutions will be highlighted on the FESHE college list at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/higher_ed/resources/resources_schools.shtm

For more information about the FESHE program and the USFA's continued efforts to standardize professional development for the nation's fire service, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov. For information about how to become a FESHE-recognized institution, contact Ms. Diane Close at (301) 447-1376 or via e-mail at Diane.Close@fema.dhs.gov.

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –
CAL FIRE:**

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

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locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

There is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CAL FIRE personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

The hiring process:

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

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

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

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

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

NORTHERN REGION

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

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111
- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353
- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418
- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

SOUTHERN REGION

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

- **Fresno-Kings Unit**, 210 S. Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657, (559) 485-7500

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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

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

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

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:

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

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

For additional information, contact:

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

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

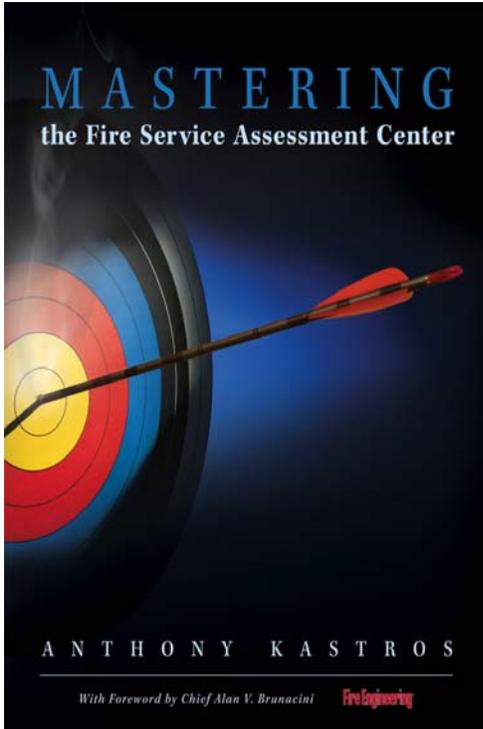
4-DAY WORKSHOP

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.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- 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.

JANUARY 24 THROUGH 27, 2012 – LAS VEGAS, NV - \$495.00*

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

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

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

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

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

Recruitment Dates

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

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

Qualifications to be Eligible and Invited to the Written Exam

- Minimum Age 18.
- High School Diploma or GED.
- CPR Professional level certification by the end of the Intern Academy, which must be kept current.
- Current EMT or Paramedic certification at the time of application OR currently in an EMT certification program; EMT certification must be kept current.
- You must attach official documentation to your on-line application of either your current EMT or Paramedic certification OR official documentation to confirm that you are currently in an EMT certification program. If you do not attach the required documentation to your on-line application, you will NOT be eligible and invited to test.

Note: State of Arizona EMT or Paramedic certification will be required before invitation to the Intern Academy and must be kept current thereafter. For State of Arizona EMT or Paramedic certification information, see the Arizona Department of Health Services website at http://www.azdhs.gov/bems/faq1.htm#EMT_Certification_-_10.

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

California Fire & Rescue Training Authority

Fire Management 2C - Personnel and Labor Relations

January 30-February 3, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

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

Fire Management 2D - Master Planning

March 26-30, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

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

Fire Management 2E - Ethics and the Challenge of Leadership

June 4-8, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

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

Contact Information

phone: (916) 475-1660

www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

FIRE COMMAND 2A

Command Tactics at Major Fires

January 23 - 27, 2012

0830 to 1730 hours

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

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

Prerequisites: Fire Command 1A; I-300

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

Registration Deadline: Monday January 9 at 1500 hours.

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

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

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Command 2A

January 23 - 27, 2012

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

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

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

Please mail or deliver your check to:

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

Cancellation Policy:

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

FIRE COMMAND 2C
High-Rise Firefighting Tactics

March 12 - 16, 2012

0830 to 1730 hours

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

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

Prerequisites: Fire Command 2A; I-300

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

Registration Deadline: Monday February 27 at 1500 hours.

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

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

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

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Command 2C

March 12 -16, 2012

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

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

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

December 10, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

Please mail or deliver your check to:

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

Cancellation Policy:

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Training Instructor 1B:** December 12 through 16, 2011 (Class in San Jose, CA)
- **Fire Command 1B:** January 9 through 13, 2012 (Class in San Jose, CA)
- **Fire Command 2A:** January 30 through February 2, 2012 (Class in San Jose, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** January 30 through February 2, 2012 (Class in Campbell, CA)
- **Training Instructor 1C:** February 6 through 10, 2012 (Class in San Jose, CA)
- **Fire Management 1A:** April 16 through 20, 2012 (Class in San Jose, CA)

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Prevention 1C:** December 12 through 16, 2011
- **Paramedic:** Beginning in January 2012 (Call 800-483-3615 for more info)
- **EMT:** January 14 through April 1, 2012 (Sat/Sun), or
April 14 through July 1, 2012 (Sat/Sun), or
July 7 through September 23, 2012 (Sat/Sun), or
September 29 through December 16, 2012 (Sat/Sun)

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

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



HOSTED AT:

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



INSTRUCTED BY:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Firenuggets.com
Keeping Firefighters Safe

Firehouse®

Present...

**Professional Development Series
Bay Area 2012**

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

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



Schedule:

Thursday, March 15, 2012

- Fighting Fire Against Wind
- Leadership

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

Thursday, May 24, 2012

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

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

Thursday, October 4, 2012

- Sustainable (Green) Design and the Fire Service

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

Thursday, December 6, 2012

- Engine Company Operations: Water on the Fire

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

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



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

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



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



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



WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR SAFETY.

Firehouse®

Media Alert

Contact:

Judy Corey
Cygnus Expositions
952-808-3356
Judy.Corey@Cygnus.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Firehouse and Fire Nuggets Announce Strategic Events Partnership

Provides Fire Service Training at National, State and Local Level

Burnsville, MN (November 2011) – Firehouse and Fire Nuggets announced a strategic partnership today that will combine the collective strength of both organizations to provide high quality education and content on a national, regional and local level. This partnership, initially combining and consolidating event efforts, will make Firehouse and Fire Nuggets the leaders in serving today's fire-service via live events.

A trusted name in the industry for more than 30 years, Firehouse currently reaches over 500,000 firefighters in print, online and through live events. Firenuggets.com receives an average of 400,000 page views a month, is viewed in 87 countries and the premier name for one-day seminar offerings throughout the country. "This partnership elevates the Fire Nuggets brand and stable of speakers via Firehouse events, and in turn, makes Fire Nuggets the exclusive partner and provider of education on a regional and local level via the Firehouse brand" stated Ed Nichols, Vice President of Firehouse Events.

"We're excited about this partnership," said Mary Flynn, Group Show Manager for Firehouse Events. "The benefits for both of us are wide-reaching. We'll be able to pool our resources, expand our reach, and make training and education available to more people within the fire service."

Firenuggets.com, a free access internet magazine, was founded in January 2000 by veteran firefighters Battalion Chief Ted Corporandy, San Francisco Fire Department, (ret) and Battalion Chief Paul Schuller, San Jose Fire Department (ret). Firenuggets.com helps to promote a common-sense approach to everyday decision-making for routine and emergency operations by drawing on the lessons from fire service professionals. Fire Nuggets also goes beyond the website to provide a series of one-day seminars in select cities throughout the U.S. Fire Nuggets seminar presenters are recognized as some of the leading names in fire service training.

Paul Schuller, co-founder of Fire Nuggets, explained, "We are honored to enter into an exclusive agreement with an industry leading organization like Firehouse. Everyone's first-hand experiences result in "nuggets" of knowledge. We'll combine our "nuggets" with those from Firehouse to benefit firefighters from around the world. Our common goal is to present experience-based information intended to improve operations, prevent disastrous situations and, above all, SAVE LIVES"! A list of the current education available via this partnership, including Firehouse World (February 19-23, 2012) in San Diego, CA, Firehouse Expo (July 17-21, 2012) in Baltimore, MD and (Fire Nuggets events) can be found on Firehouse.com and Firenuggets.com.

Cygnus Business Media reaches millions of professionals annually. As one of America's top business-to-business media companies, Cygnus is leading the way in providing targeted content to top decision-makers and organizations. The company's corporate initiatives and organizational architecture are built with one goal: fully engaging audiences in Aviation, Building & Construction and Public Safety & Security, as well as Diversified Industries such as agriculture, transportation, printing, accounting and vending.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area:

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Edward Steffy
Rank: Fire Police Officer
Age: 71
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 30+
Date of Incident: 11/10/2011
Time of Incident: 1030hrs
Date of Death: 11/10/2011
Fire Department: Rothsville Volunteer Fire Company
Address: 2071 Main ST, Rothsville, PA 17543-3029
Fire Department Chief: Claude G. Young, Jr.
Fire Department POC: Chief Claude G. Young, Jr.
Fire Department Website: <http://rvfc.com/wp/>

Incident Description: Fire Police Officer Steffy responded to a vehicle accident. While directing traffic at the scene, he began to feel ill and sat in the seat of his truck. A few moments later, he went into cardiac arrest and passed away at the scene of the vehicle accident.

Incident Location: Intersection of Rothsville Road and Route 772.

Funeral Arrangements: The viewing and funeral will be held at the Lititz United Methodist Church, 201 East Market ST, Lititz, PA 17543. The viewing will be Monday, 11/14/11, 1800hrs-2000hrs. There will also be a viewing Tuesday, 11/15/11, 0900hrs-1000hrs. The funeral will take place on Tuesday, 11/15/11 at 1000hrs.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial contributions may be made to the Salem United Methodist Church, Attn: Mission Fund, 1744 Old Rothsville RD, Lititz, PA 17543 or to the Rothsville Fire Company, 2071 Main ST, Rothsville, PA 17543-3029.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Officer Edward Steffy at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 78 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 72 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter

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fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name: Jon Young
Rank: Fire Captain
Age: 50
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 11/16/2011
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 11/16/2011
Fire Department: Roselle Fire Department
Address: 725 Chestnut ST, Roselle, NJ 07203
Fire Department Chief: Paul Mucha
Fire Department Website: <http://www.boroughofroselle.com/Departments/Fire/>

Incident Description: Captain Young was responding to a fire in his POV when he crashed. First responders performed CPR. He was then transported to the hospital where, a short time later, he passed away. The cause of death was an apparent heart attack while he was driving.

Incident Location: Columbus Avenue between Spruce Street and Arcadia Place.

Funeral Arrangements: The viewing and funeral will be held at Saint Genevieve's Church, 200 Monmouth RD, Elizabeth, NJ 07208. The viewing will be on Tuesday, 11/22/11, 1800hrs-2100hrs. The funeral will be on Wednesday, 11/23/11 at 0930hrs. The interment after the funeral service will be held at Fairview Cemetery, 1100 East Broad ST, Westfield, NJ, 07090.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Captain Young at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 79 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 73 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name: Gregory S. Baker
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 11/20/2011
Time of Incident: 0100hrs
Date of Death: 11/20/2011
Fire Department: Lewisville Volunteer Fire Department
Address: PO Box 115, 33393 Firehouse Lane, Lewisville, OH 43754
Fire Department Chief: Pending

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Incident Description: Fire Chief Baker responded to a structure fire and while working at a tanker fill site became ill. According to initial reports, Chief Baker was treated by fellow responders who placed him on a heart monitor and called for a medical helicopter. Chief Baker was flown to a Wheeling West Virginia hospital where he passed away several hours later from an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: Skin Creek Road, about seven miles northwest of Woodsfield.

Funeral Arrangements: Friends will be received at the Skyvue Elementary School, 33329 Hartshorn Ridge Road, Graysville, Ohio from 2-8 p.m. Friday (11/25) where funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday with Rev. Richard Wilson officiating. Burial will follow in the Friendship Cemetery, Lewisville, Ohio.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial contributions may be made to the Lewisville Volunteer Fire Department c/o Troy Christman 47707 State Route 145, Lewisville, Ohio 43754.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Gregory S. Baker at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 80 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 74 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name:	Johnny Lynn Norton
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	56
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	37
Date of Incident:	11/21/2011
Time of Incident:	1547hrs
Date of Death:	11/24/2011
Fire Department:	Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	PO Box 218, 78 S Andrews AVE, Hot Springs, NC 28743
Fire Department Chief:	Josh Norton

Incident Description: Firefighter Norton and other members of his fire department were called out for a missing person search and rescue operation. The next day, after the hiker had been successfully found, Norton was at his residence when he was stricken by an apparent heart attack. He was treated and transported to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC, where he passed away on the 24th of November.

Incident Location: Appalachian Trail in the Hot Springs area.

Funeral Arrangements: Receiving of friends will be from 1700-2100hrs on 11/26/2011 at Blue Ridge Funeral Home in Mars Hill, NC; funeral services will be held at 1400hrs on Sunday, 11/21/2011, at Solid Rock Full Gospel Church in Hot Springs, NC.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In memory of Firefighter Johnny Lynn Norton, c/o Hot Springs Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 218, 78 S Andrews AVE, Hot Springs, NC 28743.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Johnny Lynn Norton at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 81 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 75 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

AND:

Name: Scott Osenenko
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 45
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 12/03/2011
Time of Incident: 0400hrs
Date of Death: 12/03/2011
Fire Department: Livingston Parish Fire Protection District #4
Address: 29758 S Palmetto ST, Walker, LA 70785-7826
Fire Department Chief: James T. Wascom
Fire Department Website: <http://www.lpfpd4.com/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Osenenko was engaged in operations at the scene of a residential structure fire, assisting in the firefight and rescue of the occupants, when he suffered a medical emergency. Osenenko was treated at the scene by fellow responders and transported to the Ochsner Medical Center in Baton Rouge where he passed away from his injuries. According to local authorities, none of the residents of the home suffered significant injuries. The fire is under investigation, with an electric space heater reported as a possible cause.

Incident Location: 9673 Florida Boulevard, Walker, LA

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation, Tuesday (12/06) 1700-1900hrs; Wednesday (12/07) 0800-1000hrs, with services beginning at 1000hrs conducted by Livingston Parish Fire Protection District #4 Chaplin Thomas Normand, at the Revival Temple Church, 28521 Walker South Road, Walker, LA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 83 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 77 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name: Joey King
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 61
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 7
Date of Incident: 12/04/2011
Time of Incident: 0055hrs
Date of Death: 12/04/2011
Fire Department: Davis Creek-Ruthdale Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 1970 Oakhurst DR, South Charleston, WV, 25309
Fire Department Chief: Jeff Snodgrass

Incident Description: Firefighter King fell from a bridge and passed away from injuries sustained while at the scene of a reported fire involving railroad ties. Firefighters were trying to use the bridge

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

running over the railroad line as a lookout point to spot the fire, but visibility conditions, due to a combination of smoke and fog, were reportedly near zero when the accident occurred.

Incident Location: Steven Wayne Smith Memorial Bridge, US HWY 119

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 82 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 76 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name: Jon D. Davies
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 43
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 17
Date of Incident: 12/08/2011
Time of Incident: 0418hrs
Date of Death: 12/08/2011
Fire Department: Worcester Fire Department
Address: 141 Grove ST, Worcester, MA 01605-1707
Fire Department Chief: Gerard Dio
Fire Department Website: <http://www.worcesterma.gov/fire>

Incident Description: After working with other firefighters to help a dozen residents escape from a burning multi-family residential structure, Firefighter Davies and his partner, Firefighter Brian Carroll, re-entered the building in search of another resident reported to still be inside. Firefighter Davies was killed, and Firefighter Carroll seriously injured, when the building collapsed, entrapping the two firefighters. Firefighter Carroll was rescued from the structure and is reported to be in stable condition and recovering at a local hospital. Investigation into the fatal incident continues by local and state authorities.

Incident Location: 49 Arlington Street

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Jon D. Davies at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 85 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 79 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name: Kevin E. Townes
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 54
Gender: Male

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Status: Career
Years of Service: 25
Date of Incident: 12/08/2011
Time of Incident: 0243hrs
Date of Death: 12/08/2011
Fire Department: Mount Vernon Fire Department
Address: 470 East Lincoln AVE, Mount Vernon, NY 10552
Fire Department Chief: Fire Commissioner Noah Lighty

Incident Description: Firefighter Townes collapsed while operating at the scene of a basement fire in a single family residence. Townes had just donned his protective equipment and was preparing to enter the structure when the medical emergency occurred. Fellow firefighter-paramedics treated Townes at the scene and he was subsequently transported to the Mount Vernon Hospital, where he passed away. The cause of death has yet to be determined.

Incident Location: 124 Lorraine Ave

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Kevin E. Townes at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 84 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 78 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

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

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER &

Hey,

3 Cal Fire firefighters were injured, including a Fire Captain who was seriously hurt at a fire late last night when part of the two-story dwelling collapsed. The Fire Captain was taken by air ambulance to Doctors Medical Center in Modesto and was listed in serious condition as of this afternoon. 2 other Firefighters suffered minor injuries while operating at the fire. The fire occurred about 2230 last night at the home in Copperopolis. Cal Fire Firefighters responded to the burning home to assist the Copperopolis Fire Protection District Firefighters. While companies were operating, a partial structural collapse occurred, causing the injuries. We'll keep you posted on our home page.

NOTE: While the circumstances and cause of the above incident is clearly unknown as yet, the below document is of training value to all FD's: "Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Fire Fighters using Risk Management Principles at Structure Fires"

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-153/pdfs/2010-153.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

December 10, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

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BillyG

The Secret List 11-12-11 / 2026 Hours

AND:

ROSELLE, NJ FIRE CAPTAIN LODD

A long-time member of the Roselle Fire Department died this afternoon after suffering a heart attack en route to a reported fire, authorities said. Captain Jon Young was driving on East Highland Parkway when he went into cardiac arrest and crashed the vehicle he was driving into a tree, mayor Garrett Smith said. Young was also the director of the city's Office of Emergency Management. Our sincere condolences to the members of the Roselle Fire Department and Capt. Young's family.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-16-11 / 2026 Hours

AND:

Hey,

3 Farmington Firefighters were injured, one very seriously, in a crash last night during a fire training exercise in Davis County, Utah. The Firefighters were training around 2100 hours on a mountain when the fire apparatus they were in, rolled over. Around 2200, other Firefighters extracted the 3 from the mountain near the Centerville/Farmington city border. One of the firefighters was flown by EMS helicopter to Intermountain Medical Center in Murray with very serious head injuries. The other 2 were transported by ground ambulance to other hospitals. They suffered serious injuries however, all 3 were conscious when transported and all were likely to survive. It isn't immediately known what went wrong or what the firefighters were attempting to do when the crash occurred, but initial reports indicate the 3 FF's were riding inside the truck's cab. The truck is primarily used for wildland firefighting and only the Farmington FD was participating in the training exercise. We'll post more on our homepage as it becomes available. We have also posted details on the Lumberton (NJ) apparatus rollover crash that occurred last evening (while returning to quarters) as well as the funeral details in regard to yesterday's Roselle Fire Officer LODD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 11-17-11 0622 hours

AND:

Hey,

We are thrilled to let you know that Chief Ernie Mitchell, Jr. a retired Fire Chief and past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has been fully confirmed to be the next United States Fire Administrator. Prior to retiring, from 1998 to 2004, Ernie served as Fire Chief and Assistant Director of Disaster Emergency Services for the City of Pasadena, California Fire Department. Previously, from 1991 to 1998, Ernie served as Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager of Monrovia, California. Chief Mitchell also served as a Battalion Chief for the City of Compton in California. In addition to maintaining his active membership in the IAFC, the Chief currently serves on the IAFF Hazardous Materials Advisory Board and the IFSTA Executive Board. The Chief holds an A.S. in fire science from Long Beach City College, a B.P.A. from the University of San Francisco and an M.P.A. from California State University at Northridge. Besides being a veteran Firefighter, a Fire Chief, an Instructor, an original "TSL" member and past President of the IAFC, Ernie is a real stand gentleman who will do a phenomenal job as our Nation's "Fire Chief". CONGRATS and best wishes to

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Chief Mitchell and appreciation also to Deputy Admin, Chief Glenn Gaines and NFA Supt, Chief Denis Onieal for their acting roles in-between administrators, in representing all of the nation's Firefighters.

Take Care,

Billy G

The Secret List 11-18-2011

AND:

Hey,

Two Birmingham (AL) Firefighters were injured while operating at a fire in an abandoned dwelling yesterday, when it flashed over. The Firefighters were injured during initial fire attack when it flashed reportedly during the first few minutes of operating. The injured Firefighter and another Firefighter were forced to bail out a first floor window, about a 5 foot fall to escape further injury. As a result, one Firefighter sustained 2nd degree burns on one arm, while another had burns on the arms and neck. Neither injury is life threatening, and both Firefighters were transported to UAB Hospital. There were no other injuries.

FLORIDA FIRE INSTRUCTOR BURNED

An instructor at the training center for Miami-Dade Firefighters was burned yesterday morning when a training demonstration he was setting up reportedly "flashed"....but what that actually was has yet to be determined. Lt. Kevin McCrea, 38, an 11-year veteran of the department, was taken to Ryder Trauma Center by air rescue Friday morning after the live fire demo he was setting up flashed, burning his body. Other people were nearby and put out the flames, then helped McCrea with his injuries. The Lt. was wearing a polo shirt and pants when he was burned. They still don't know why the demonstration did what it did, and will conduct their own investigation and they have also called in outside agencies to assist. The prop's been used many time and Lt. McCrea and the instructors have used it many times, so they are going to find out what went wrong. Lt. McCrea is married and has three children and he is doing well. It took place at Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Headquarters where the state-of-the-art training facility opened last year. The facility features a 2-story residential building, a liquid fuel storage facility prop, a commercial warehouse, a strip mall and a 6-story apartment building/tower with unique live fire training props. This incident reportedly took place at a vehicle fire. prop. **We'll post more on our homepage as they release more facts.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-19-11 / 0800 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 52-year-old South King Fire & Rescue Firefighter was struck by a car and critically injured this morning. It happened while operating at a previous collision on Interstate 5 in Federal Way, south of Seattle, in Washington State; The Firefighter was unconscious when he was taken to Harborview Medical Center, where he is listed in critical but stable condition. He suffered severe head and face injuries, collapsed lung and fractures. The incident happened at 0530 hours on the Interstate, just south of South 272nd Street in Federal Way. It appears that slick roads, fog and speed were factors in the crash that injured the firefighter, and booze or drugs were not factors-though the investigation is ongoing. Just prior, at 0500 hours, a black pick-up traveling southbound on I-5 hit the left barrier and rolled over, coming to rest in the right shoulder. Turns out that the truck's two occupants were not injured and had left the scene. South King Fire & Rescue dispatched a company of 2 Firefighters and their Lieutenant to the scene. While they were sizing up the roll-over crash, a red Chevy in one of the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

left-hand southbound lanes lost control and skidded into the right shoulder. The Chevy struck the 52-year-old firefighter and narrowly missed the other firefighter and Lieutenant. We will post updates as the become available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-20-11 / 1330 Hours

AND:

OHIO FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL AT STRUCTURE FIRE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Chief Greg Baker of the Lewisville Community VFD (Ohio) has died in the Line of Duty. The department turned out early Sunday morning for a structure fire and Chief Baker was working at the tanker fill site when he became ill. An EMT on the scene checked Chief Baker and called for the EMS who placed Chief Baker on a heart monitor and called for a medical helicopter. Chief Baker was air lifted to a Wheeling West Virginia hospital where he died several hours later with family present. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

8 NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTERS HURT IN GAS EXPLOSION

Eight firefighters were injured following a natural gas explosion at a dwelling in Pennsauken around 0430 this morning. A family member heard the smoke alarms, after hearing a bang, smelled some- and left the house. The department was called and as Firefighters went in to investigate, it turns out that a second natural gas explosion occurred. When it exploded, a Battalion Chief was literally thrown over the railing of the front porch onto the front yard. All the other members suffered minor injuries from the explosion. In addition to the 8 Firefighters, one EMT was also injured and all but one were treated and released, and he remains in fair condition.

WASHINGTON FIREFIGHTER STRUCK ON THE INTERSTATE-He Remains In Critical Condition

The 52-year-old South King Fire Rescue Firefighter, injured yesterday morning when he was struck on Interstate 5, remains hospitalized today with no change to his medical condition-remaining critical. FF Wynn Loiland, who has been with South King Fire & Rescue more than 30 years was struck by a car on I-5 in Federal Way. Engineer Loiland and 2 other members were operating on the shoulder, initially responding to a call about an overturned pickup, which had actually been abandoned. Slick roads and fog were factors in the collision but the investigation is ongoing. Loiland was taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle with severe head and facial injuries, a collapsed lung and broken arm and as of this afternoon, Loiland has had no change in his medical condition. Hes had cat scans showing no change and is still in the 24-hour to 72-hour window to see what direction hell go in, hoping hell stabilize and improve from there. We wish him a rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-21-11 / 1742 Hours

AND:

All,

It is with deep, profound sadness and regret that we advise you that retired FDNY Lt. Joseph DiBernardo has passed away. Joey was a friend of our family and a contributor to our website. Moreover, he would want to be remembered, and will be remembered as one hell of a Firefighter-which he certainly was - at both FDNY as well as the Setauket FD, in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York. You can read more about his remarkable history in the link below. Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Joey-and especially to his Dad, Deputy Chief Joseph

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

DiBernardo Sr, (Retired) Commander-FDNY 6th Division-Bronx/Harlem, FDNY. Many of you knew Joey as a internationally recognized Technical Rescue Instructor, Firehouse Expo Instructor, FDIC Instructor, but all of you knew Joey from the infamous FDNY BLACK SUNDAY FIRE in the Bronx. As you recall, January 23, 2005 was "Black Sunday" in New York when FDNY Lt. Curtis W. Meyran (covering Ladder 27 that day) and FF John G. Bellew (Ladder 27) died in the Line of Duty at an apartment fire in the Bronx. Four other FF's were injured: Jeffrey Cool (Rescue 3) Joey (Rescue 3), Brendan Cawley (Ladder 27) and Eugene Stolowski (Ladder 27).

All 6 FF's were forced to jump from the 4th floor of an apartment building as they were trapped by that life altering fire-for all involved.

HERE are links to reports and articles as we take time to remember Joey.

<http://www.collapserescue.com/josephdibernardo.htm> (About Joey)

<http://nymag.com/news/features/26574/> (Black Sunday-The Bronx)

http://www.ufanyc.org/news/news_old.php?d=020607_2 (Black Sunday-The Bronx)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html> (NIOSH Report-Black Sunday-The Bronx)

More details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Rest In Peace, Lieutenant.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-22-11 / 1630 Hours

AND:

All,

As you know, retired hero, FDNY Lieutenant, Joseph DiBernardo, Jr. -- who held a safety rope for a brother Firefighter, as they tried to escape that horrific Bronx fire in 2005, was found dead in his Long Island home early yesterday morning. Joey was widely known as one of four survivors of the "Black Sunday" fires on January 23, 2005, where two other Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty in the Bronx ----and another Firefighter died in Brooklyn, later that same morning. Lt. DiBernardo , 40, was one of 6 Firefighters forced to jump from the top floor of the burning building on East 178th Street in the Bronx during a winter blizzard in January 2005. Illegal partitions installed in some of the apartments blocked access to the fire escapes, and the firefighters were overwhelmed by what the Lieutenant called a "freight train of fire."

With no way out but the windows, they jumped from the 4th floor onto concrete sidewalks in a back alley. Two of the firefighters, Lt Curtis Meyran and John Bellew, were killed. The 4 survivors--DiBernardo, Jeffery Cool, Eugene Stolowski, and Brendan Cawley--suffered horrific injuries and required many months of intensive rehabilitation. Lt. DiBernardo smashed both feet in the jump and suffered internal injuries. He was in a coma for more than two weeks at New York-Presbyterian Hospital after the incident, receiving the "last rites" two times, before leaving for rehab in the spring of 2005. Lt DiBernardo--the son of retired, FDNY Deputy Chief, Joseph DiBernardo, Sr--was walking tall during his promotion to Lieutenant in 2005--and later danced at his sister's wedding.

His injuries required him to retire on a medical disability from the FDNY--and DiBernardo struggled with alot in the years after he left the FDNY. But he remained active, recognized as an international expert in Technical Rescue operations, lecturing across the country and overseas. He adopted a dog that he named "Rescue"--after his beloved FDNY Rescue Co. 3 in the Bronx. His Brother Firefighter from Rescue 3, Jeff Cool, posted a tribute on his FB page yesterday, thanking Joey for saving his life on "Black Sunday". Joey once recalled that he wanted Cool, a father of two sons, to escape first--because he had children. DiBernardo remembered, "Fire was blowing out around Jeff like a jet

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

engine." So Joey held Cool's personal safety rope from a 4th floor window ledge, and Cool made it down a few feet, before the rope gave way. DiBernardo later tried to use the rope to rappel from a window guard, but the rope--once again--gave way. The managing agent of the Bronx building was convicted of criminally negligent homicide after a dramatic trial, but a judge later overturned the verdict. FDNY Lt. Joseph DiBernardo leaves behind his parents, Joseph, Sr. and Barbara, along with his sister, Carolyn, her husband, and baby daughter. Joey was also a member and former Captain of Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 of the Setauket Fire Department.

FUNERAL / MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO:

Visitation: Bryant Funeral Home
411 Old Town Road-Setauket
Sat & Sun: 2-4 & 7-9
Firematic Services:
8pm Sunday
Funeral: Monday-St James RC
429 Route 25a--Setauket-11am
We'll post more details as needed.
Take Care,
BillyG
The Secret List
11-23-11 / 1305 hours

AND:

Hey,
A Pinewood (Texas) Firefighter who was very seriously injured after being struck by an 18-wheeler this morning, is in critical condition. Pinewood Firefighter Kimberly Huckabee lost her left arm as a result of the crash and surgeons are trying to reconnect Huckabee's fingers on her right hand, as of our last report. FF Huckabee also suffered head injuries after being struck. Firefighter Huckabee was hit by that 18-wheeler while assisting at the scene of a tanker explosion this morning near Sour Lake. It is believed that the tanker crashed & caught fire, after the driver fell asleep sometime before 0530 hours. Firefighter Huckabee was struck by that 18-wheeler in one of several crashes that resulted from the initial crash on Texas Highway 105. The driver of the 18-wheeler, that was filled with 6700 gallons of crude oil, has suffered NLT injuries. The tanker ran off the road, hit two culverts and burst into flames. After the 18-wheeler crashed, several subsequent crashes also happened, including the one that critically injured Firefighter Huckabee. Firefighters from Sour Lake, Kountze, Lumberton, China, Nome and Bevil Oaks Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the scene. We will keep you advised on FF Huckabees condition and progress.

Take Care - BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List - Thanksgiving 2011 1545 hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL

We regret to advise you that Firefighter Johnny Norton of the Hot Springs Fire Department (Madison County, North Carolina) died this morning at Mission Hospwas treated, taken to Mission Hospital, placed on life support where he unfortunately later passed away. More details at www.firenews.net

FIRE SERVICE MEDICAL RELATED ARTICLE:

".....Despite the fact that sudden cardiac deaths remain the leading cause of on-duty firefighter fatalities, fire departments that require annual medical check-ups are few and far between....."

More **HERE**: <http://tinyurl.com/bsbeern>

SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER SLAPPED AND PUSHED BY UNAPPRECIATIVE CITIZEN

A South Carolina man was arrested for pushing and slapping a Firefighter at the scene of a crash. Alleged drunk Kenneth Henderson was arrested for assault and battery after he slapped and pushed a Firefighter who was trying to help Henderson out of his wrecked vehicle. Henderson shoved the firefighter twice and slapped him across the face and appeared to have been drinking before his crash. He is charged with third degree assault and battery and is being held at the Greenville County Jail on more than a \$1,000 bond. The Firefighter did not need medical attention. Most consider Mr Henderson lucky, since that is all that happened to him. Happy Thanksgiving.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List Thanksgiving, 2011, 2002 Hours

AND:

All....

The term "**this information is on a need to know basis**" applies here. This message is for all of you and us-but especially for those younger, newer Firefighters...with less than 10 years on the job-volunteer or career. And I'll keep the wording short so you can focus on the 2 quick videos that you will never forget. Seriously.

Please read this and watch the two very short videos below. Officers-PLEASE force feed this to "the kids" (Firefighters). Even the older kids. And also please forward this to anyone and everyone who is a Firefighter-or who wants to be. We did not want today and tomorrow to pass without ALL of you knowing a bit about Joey DiBernardo. *

Joey is the FDNY Lieutenant who was found at home last week, he had passed away, at age 40. While Joey had a stellar career as a Volunteer Firefighter (and former Captain with the Hook & Ladder Company of the highly respected Setauket FD in Suffolk County, Long Island, New York) - he was also a very well known and popular FDNY Dispatcher, but the last chapter of his career was what he was so proud of-being a member of the FDNY and especially, Rescue Company 3.

There is the fact that he followed in his Dad's footsteps. Chief DiBernardo is a highly respected (now retired) FDNY Deputy Chief and Division Commander. He is the kind of Chief whose reputation was no non-sense-and who deeply respected "the potential" of the job....and who understood his deep responsibility for the members operating under his command. Those under his command knew he was strictly business. As it has to be. As he guided his Son. As his Dad told the media last week: "He (Joey) never fully recovered from 9/11 and since 'Black Sunday' - he has been in terrible pain and agony," said Chief DiBernardo, who served 35 years in the department. "After all these years, he has been in physical pain and the mental pain. His whole life had been the FDNY ."

Joey was one of 6 Firefighters who were forced to jump out of the windows as they were trapped by fire in The Bronx "chapter" of Black Sunday, January 23, 2005. Lt. Curtis Meyran, 46, covering Ladder 27 and Firefighter John Bellew, 37, of Ladder 27, died after jumping that day. When the fire caught them, they were faced with a horrifying choice. They jumped out a fourth-floor window, knowing that it was really bad. Firefighters Jeffrey Cool, Joseph DiBernardo, Eugene Stolowski, and Cawley were very, very badly hurt at that fire.

Now Joey is added to those who gave their lives that day, since for so many involved or affected by The Bronx fire that day, it is a fire that never went out. Last week we sent you numerous links to related reports, NIOSH reports and other details about The Bronx and the Brooklyn Fires, and that day, "Black Sunday" in NYC. That's not the goal* of this issue of The Secret List.

All we are doing today is asking you to please watch these two short videos:

1-This video is a media story about Joey DiBernardo. It will show you who he was and what he was made of. It's worth you watching-it's a wonderful story (when you see him on video, you'll understand) involving a horrific event - leading to a tragic and deeply sad ending. It will also allow you to hear from his Father as well as his "Brother" FDNY FF, Jeff Cool, who was also trapped-who will tell you all you need to know about Joey.

CHECK THE FIRST VIDEO OUT HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/7loyba6>

2-The second video is the "Readers Digest" version of the fire-that day-in 2005-in The Bronx. Watching it, seeing the pictures and hearing the audio will help you-no matter where you are or where you are from-get somewhat of an understanding of the conditions they (and especially Joey) faced-and what decisions they (and he) had to make that day.

CHECK OUT THE SECOND VIDEO HERE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC-30bfrWG8>

***All we wanted to do today is make sure that Joey wasn't buried tomorrow without as many Firefighters-and their families-getting a chance to know who he was, just a little bit. It is something we felt that you really needed to know. If you have read down to this part and have watched the 2 quick videos...mission accomplished.**

FUNERAL / MEMORIAL SERVICE INFO: Visitation today:

Bryant Funeral Home - 411 Old Town Road - Setauket, 2-4 & 7-9

Firematic Services tonight: 8pm

Funeral: tomorrow, Monday-St James RC 429 Route 25a--Setauket-11am.

DIRECTIONS HERE: <http://www.bryantfh.com/directions.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Our condolences to the DiBernardo Family, the SFD, FDNY R-3, L-27 and all of Joey's Family and Friends.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-27-11 / 1510 hours

AND:

Hey,

That Texas Firefighter/Paramedic who received severe injuries including the loss of her arm remains in the hospital. Last week, November 24, FF Kimberly Huckabee, 30, was directing traffic around a large truck after it crashed and burst into flames. While she was directing traffic an 18-wheeler backed into her. The driver of the rig has been cited. FF/PM Huckabee received severe injuries to her left side and Doctors had to amputate her left arm but her fingers on the other hand/arm were saved. Huckabee remains in the ICU of a Beaumont hospital. With just a month away from receiving her nursing degree, her life, like other Firefighters who have been critically injured in the line of duty, has been dramatically altered and our help is needed.

REQUEST====CAN YOU OR YOUR FD, FIRE COMPANY OR ASSOCIATION HELP?

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Family and friends have established an assistance fund For FF/PM Huckabee at Community Bank. Donations can be made under an account titled "For the Benefit of Kimberly Huckabee" at any Community Bank location.

Mailed contributions can be sent to "benefit of FF Kimberly Huckabee" at the Pine Wood VFD, 333 Commercial Drive, Sour Lake, Texas 77659.

FIREFIGHTERS RETURN TO WORK AFTER EXTREME CLOSE CALL

2 Firefighters who nearly died searching for trapped residents in a house fire are heading back to work. FF's Chris Paine and Kevin Jacovetta are Arvada (Colorado) Firefighters who on April 3, both were badly burned when they got caught in a house fire. The fire actually started at a house next door but the fire spread to the home they were checking for trapped residents. No one was inside except for the firefighters who almost didn't make it out.

"We were in the back bedrooms when the fire blew in on us and we had to go back out through the fire to get out," said Paine. "The sliding glass door on the back melted and it just fell in, and then all of a sudden the fire just came in on us." "It was just a solid wall of fire. It was like sitting in a blast furnace," said Jacovetta.

Both firefighters would sustain bad burns, but nearly didn't make it out of the house altogether.

MORE HERE: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/29876303/detail.html>

2011 CHRISTMAS AND HANUKAH HOLIDAY GIFT THOUGHTS: A BOOK BY LEE IELPI

As we do each year, we'll suggest a few ideas (usually BOOKS, but not always) that you may want to consider as a gift. We'll add some with each Secret List over the next few days and weeks. Please take a look, we would NOT waste your time if these weren't highly valued gift options for you or folks that matter to you.

9/11 THE WORLD SPEAKS by FDNY Firefighter LEE IELPI

This book is what you would want to give your family, your Mom, Dad, Sister, Children, Husband, Wife or Partner. It's a small, hard cover full cover book at a great price. A gift that will be read and passed on over the years. **It is a VERY easy read because it's not really a "read"**. Over 2 million people from across the United States and around the world have come through the museum galleries of the Tribute WTC Visitor Center since it opened in September 2006 right across the street from the World Trade Center site. Many of these visitors have written their poignant reflections about the impact of September 11th on visitor cards that are collected in the Center's final gallery. To date, the Center has collected 200,000 cards written in 48 languages by people from 120 countries. That's what this book is. The book brings together a choice selection of these cards, many of which talk about the inspiration people find in the outpouring of humanity in response to September 11th. In seeing the efforts of Firefighters, Police Officers and EMT's along with ordinary citizens, adults and young people write that they have been inspired to help others in their communities and around the world. 9/11: The World Speaks is a very cool collection of cards that include elaborate drawings, stories of personal experiences on September 11th, notes written by family members of victims, and statements by people of all cultural backgrounds who came to visit NYC.

Remember Lee Ielpi? If not-

Watch this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QC31jh1jJD8>

And Watch This: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0fqIvAeLUo&feature=related>

THE BOOK CAN BE ORDERED HERE:

<http://www.tributewtc.org/citywide/The%20World%20Speaks%20Book.html>

or here:

http://www.amazon.com/11-Tribute-WTC-Visitor-Center/dp/0762777990/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1322576010&sr=8-1

RELATED BOOKS:

Two other "MUST have" related books for those that may have already purchased the above book, is "**A Decade of Hope: Stories of Grief and Endurance From 9/11 Families and Friends**" retired FDNY FF Dennis Smith shares (with his daughter, Deirdre) the heart-rending oral histories of WTC survivors and their families. "What I sought to discover in the interviews in this book," Mr. Smith writes in the introduction, "is how these individuals found the courage and the hopefulness to move forward in their lives, to ensure the containment of their families, to grieve and to honor, and to understand the consequence of this very visible tragedy on their future. And, for many, to see how they were able to transform their grief into productive ends." <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/ba0795.shtml>

WTC: In Their Own Words, edited by Harvey Eisner, A highly detailed, in-depth and outstanding look at the response to the worst terrorist attack on September 11, 2011. **Features exclusive interviews with firefighters on-the-scene at the World Trade Center Attack, along with previously unpublished photographs. Bonus DVD included with book: "The Battle Continues". Award-winning DVD captures video and radio traffic during the 9/11 WTC attack.** A portion of the net proceeds will go to four organizations: FDNY Foundation, Elsasser Fund (UFA), National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project
<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bw9801.shtml>

We'll post some other GIFT and related BOOK information over the next few days.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-29-11 / 0915 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We are exposed to highly variable environments including high temps and convective and radiant thermal flux, which can put a significant burden on our PPE-especially our SCBA facepiece. Thermally degraded and melted SCBA facepieces have been identified as a contributing factor in some FF LODD's and injuries in the USA. **The SCBA facepiece lens is often the weakest component of a fire fighter's ensemble in high heat conditions, but the level of thermal performance of the facepiece lens is not well understood.**

Resulting from the USFA and the NIST study of the thermal performance of SCBA face pieces:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/research/safety/scba_thermal.shtml,the following report detailing findings of this study NIST Technical Note 1724 - Fire Exposures of Fire Fighter Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Facepiece Lenses has been released :

http://www.nist.gov/customcf/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=909917

Once again, good science to help us understand stuff.

WASHINGTON DC FEMS CHIEF WANTS TO ELIMINATE 24 SHIFTS---ALONG WITH CUTTING 400 FIRE & EMS POSITIONS

As the world appears to continue to lose some of it's mind, we see that our own "Nation's Capital" is looking at reducing their ability to protect the citizens, visitors and their Firefighters...but what's the real motivation behind doing this? Time will tell. But in the meantime, read the below...and as you know, this is not the only FD seriously looking at changing shifts, cutting jobs, reducing staffing and "saving" money....and as long as the FD isn't needed, all will be fine. Uh. Err. Umm. Welcome to Fantasy Island.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1x_QbVDILbI

Penny wise? Pound foolish? Things that make you go hmmm.

DC FEMS Chief Ellerbe wants to change the 24-hour shift system to 12-hour shifts he says will eliminate overtime and reduce the number of Firefighters who live hours away in Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina. **He is also looking at cutting 400 positions within the department with his goal being to reduce the Firefighters from 2,200 to 1,600 total.** He is gearing up for a fight against the Firefighters union, which wants to hold on to the current system. The Firefighters contract has been expired since 2007, and negotiations on a replacement are beginning soon, Ellerbe said at the monthly breakfast attended by Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) and the D.C. Council. Through attrition that will likely take 3-4 years, the department would save \$36 million annually under the 12-hour shift system, Ellerbe said. Currently, DCFD Firefighters work a 24/72 schedule. Under FEMS Chief Ellerbe's proposal, they would work two 12-hour day shifts on consecutive days, then two 12-hour night shifts, then a day off before restarting the cycle.

Ellerbe wants to go to a "3-3-3" system: three 12-hour days on and three days off. He said the system will increase the number of days worked from eight to 22 and add 60 to 80 firefighters per shift, eliminating the need for overtime. He also said it will allow the department to more quickly recall personnel during an emergency and will reduce the chances of accidents on the job. "During the second half of a 24-hour shift, mistakes can happen," he said. Finding time for training is also a dilemma, Ellerbe said. He also said there are "public safety" concerns, including tired firefighters likely to make mistakes in the second halves of their shifts and firefighters living hours away who are unable to mobilize for a major disaster. Ellerbe said 25 percent of firefighters live in the city while 41 percent live 30 to 100 miles away.

SUPPORT FROM DC CITY COUNCIL: Council member David Catania (I-At Large) hinted at support for the shorter shifts, saying "We ought not to be paying people to sleep." Marion Barry (D-Ward 8) said the department worked on 12-hour shifts between 1965 and 1987 and "service was excellent." Yvette Alexander (D-Ward 7) wondered whether 12-hour shifts were still too long, asking whether eight-hour shifts might be better. Ellerbe expects resistance from the firefighters' union. "They're going to be probably angry," he said. "All they know is the 24-hour shift. This does represent a dramatic change. ... But the truth is, most Americans don't work a 24-hour shift." **WTF!? GET MORE DETAILS & FOLLOWUP THIS UP WITH DAVE STATTER HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/7yqv76c>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 11-30-11 / 1327 Hours

AND:

2 NEW ZEALAND FIREFIGHTERS DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND CRASH

We regret to advise you that 2 Firefighters died this morning when a helicopter operating at a wildland fire that destroyed homes in New Zealand's North Island. The helicopter went missing late last night off the Karikari Peninsula, at the northern end of the North Island, and the wreckage was found early today. Rescue divers reached the wreckage and confirmed the two-man crew, a commercial helicopter pilot and a conservation department ranger, died in the crash. The helicopter was carrying out a reconnaissance flight over the fire when it crashed. The 2 Firefighters faced very heavy fire and smoke conditions. Pilot John de Ridder, along with Department of Conservation Ranger William Macrae, were sent to help evacuate trapped residents on the Karikari Peninsula. The Squirrel helicopter went down not far from the fire while making a reconnaissance flight over the fire which burned two homes in Matai Bay.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

De Ridder, a seasoned pilot in these conditions, was a director for Salt Air, a charter company. Chief executive Grant Harnish said that de Ridder was one of the Far North's most experienced and respected helicopter pilots. They were fighting the fire when he was requested by command to divert to pick civilians up from the beach and get them away from approaching fire and out of harm's way. The pilot removed the monsoon bucket and then began the new task. William Macrae, 54, was in the passenger seat when the helicopter crashed and was a long serving and highly respected ranger who has worked the job for 16 years. Macrae's brother, also a DOC ranger, was busy operating at the fire when his brother crashed. His wife is the receptionist at the Kaitaia office. The fire, believed to have been deliberately set, started late Wednesday, forcing some residents in the remote area to wade into the ocean to escape the fire. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-1-11 / 0831 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Each December, there are some very significant dates for the fire service, worthy of note and well worth discussion with Firefighters-especially with the younger ones. Yesterday, as an example was the OUR LADY OF ANGELS fire anniversary in Chicago where 92 kids and 4 nuns lost their lives-a day in 1958 where the heroics of Chicago FF's were well documented. And in that same city, just last year, Chicago Firefighters Corey Ankum and Ed Stringer were killed in a collapse-on the 100th Anniversary of the Union Stock Yards fire that killed 21 Chicago Firefighters. Additionally, every Firefighter should well familiar with the multi LODD loss in Buffalo (NY) when 5 BFD Ladder 5 Firefighters (and 2 civilians) were killed in a propane explosion on December 27, 1983. And on December 20th in 1991, 4 Firefighters were killed when they were trapped in a partial floor collapse in Brackenridge, PA. Ever read that report?

Here it is along with photos: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-061.pdf>

In December of 1999, there were also 2 other very significant multiple Firefighter Line of Duty Death fires that we must remember.

The first is the Worcester Cold Storage fire that occurred on December 3, 1999. The second, discussed below, is the loss of 3 Firefighters in Keokuk, Iowa.

===WORCESTER (MA) WAREHOUSE FIRE TAKES THE LIVES OF SIX FIREFIGHTERS

We all remember wonderful but also (and sadly), tragic events that have occurred in our lives as well.

On December 3rd of 1999, I was attending a community Christmas celebration in our town when beepers started to beep providing initial details about missing Firefighters in Worcester (MA)-and then more details-and then even more info and the final incredible details came out. The Worcester Fire Department responded at 1813 hours that night to Box Alarm 1438 for a fire at 266 Franklin Street.(NOTE: 266 Franklin Street is now the the address and location of WFD's E-6, E-12, L-1, R-1 and Scuba-1 quarters) 2 members of Rescue 1, Firefighter Paul Brotherton and Firefighter Jerry Lucey, entered the building searching for occupants. Fire conditions worsened in the building at a rapid and unexpected rate. FF's Brotherton and Lucey, on the fifth floor, became disoriented in the smoke-filled building. Lost, and running low on air, they called for help. Several crews began searching for the lost Firefighters. Two crews reaching the fifth floor also found themselves disoriented in the smoke and trapped by the maze of interior walls: Lieutenant Tom Spencer and Firefighter Tim Jackson from Ladder 2, and Firefighter Jay Lyons and Firefighter Joe McGuirk from

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Engine 3 were now trapped. **Though many more highly heroic Worcester Firefighters attempted to locate their missing brothers, their efforts proved futile.**

Be sure to read the link below, entitled "A Chiefs Perspective" about WFD District (Ret) Chief Mike McNamee, who made the beyond difficult decision to end search operations for the missing members-and saved more lives by doing so.

The Line of Duty Deaths of Worcester Firefighters Paul A. Brotherton, Timothy P. Jackson, Jeremiah M. Lucey, James F. "Jay" Lyons III, Joseph T. McGuirk, and Lt. Thomas E. Spencer devastated Worcester, the Fire service, the nation and the world. Their Line of Duty deaths marked the worst loss of Firefighters' lives in more than 20 years in a building fire in America, and the third worst fire in Massachusetts' history. R.I.P.

WORCESTER REPORTS & LINKS:

HERE is the USFA report as well as the "must read" Esquire Magazine/Sean Flynn article:
http://www.esquire.com/features/perfect-fire-0700?click=main_sr (Esquire Magazine)
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-134.pdf> (USFA Report on the fire)

HERE are links that we hope will be of value and interest to you and YOUR members:

Excellent Collection of Stories, Photos, Audio: <http://www.telegram.com/static/fire/>
A Chiefs Perspective: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20091129/NEWS/911290432/1052>
X Marks The Spot: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20091130/NEWS/911300384/0/news06>
Photos: <http://www.pbase.com/tomcarmody/wor>
Photos: <http://www.capecodfd.com/PAGES%20Special/Worc1.htm>
WFD Sites: <http://www.iaff1009.org/index.cfm> <http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/fire>

===KEOKUK, IOWA-THE LOSS OF 3 FIREFIGHTERS-AND 3 CHILDREN IN A DUPLEX FIRE

At 0824 Hours on Wednesday, December 22, 1999, a fire was reported in a multifamily dwelling in Keokuk, Iowa. Several neighbors phoned the Keokuk 911 center to report smoke coming from a residence, and that a woman was outside screaming that there were children trapped inside. Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally, 48, Firefighter Jason Bitting, 29, and Firefighter Nate Tuck, 39 were killed while attempting the rescue of 3 trapped kids in that fire-who also perished. The 3 Firefighters left 8 kids of their own behind. The Firefighters died when a flashover occurred while the 3 were doing their search. The fire started in the kitchen of an old wooden two-story b/f home that had been converted into apartments. Staffing is a major issue in Keokuk, and that morning, 4 of the 5 total (+ the Chief) on duty firefighters arrived on scene with heavy smoke showing, and upon hearing the mother screaming that her children were trapped inside, they immediately and understandably went in after them. When "Mom" screams that her kids are inside-we go in.

The 3 were inside, (the Asst Chief and 2 FF/pump operators) a Lt. was on the hydrant-couldn't see the building and one Firefighter was on side "A"... starting to pack up, to back the interior members up. The Chief made the terribly difficult decision to leave the scene for 3 minutes to personally transport a non-breathing rescued child--there were no other resources available... none. The hospital was a minute away. When he returned, the flashover had already occurred with only the Lt. and the one Firefighter left outside. A/C Dave McNally, FF Jason Bitting, and FF Nate Tuck perished in that duplex. R.I.P.

There are several excellent reports out on the fire:

HERE is the NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200004.html>
HERE is the NFPA report: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Keokuk.PDF>

KFD Link: <http://www.cityofkeokuk.org/kfd.html>

One of the best quotes I have ever heard came from KFD's Chief Mark Wessell. Mark, who retired this year, is a good friend who has shown true leadership in taking the KFD forward-I don't know anyone who doesn't agree with that. Since that fire, Mark and I have become pretty close and I am continually in awe over how he has made it clear that his FD will (and has) change. Mark makes it clear that as horrible as this was-he did whatever he had to, to make sure it never happens again. To all of us, he made a statement that sums it up... **"Always remember that we as firefighters are there to help people with a problem, while also doing ALL that we can to never become PART of that problem"**

The above information-and plenty from many other resources and websites as well-provides each of us with an opportunity to share:

-so younger Firefighters understand our history.

-so we all are reminded of the losses.

-so we learn from the lessons learned.

-and so we can honor the WFD and KFD members who gave their lives in the Line of Duty.

Take Care-Be Careful,

Billy G

The Secret List 12-2-11 1112 hours

AND:

BELGIUM FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FALL FROM BUILDING

It is with regret that we advise you that Fire Corporal Gilbert Strijbos, 50, died in the Line of Duty at an water emergency after falling from a balcony. This happened on the evening of December 1, 2011. At around 2000 Hours, his fire department turned out for a water damage emergency at the former city-hall castle of Zoersel.(Outside of Antwerp). FF Gilbert went for an inspection to a balcony on the second floor where for an unknown reason he slipped and fell and landed on his chest = and was declared DOA at the scene. Cpl Gilbert Strijbos was Volunteer Firefighter for more than 20 years and a very active member. He leaves his wife and several children behind. Our sincere condolences.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR: Double Duty Firefighters/Soldiers

Do you know, or would you like to send a greeting to support double-duty Firefighters/Soldiers? Every year **FIRE CHIEF** Magazine keeps track of them during the holiday season. We have a lot of military personnel overseas that could use some special attention from you during the holidays-especially those in our family of the fire and emergency services. Every year this effort is greatly appreciated by Firefighters, EMTs, paramedics and others have received cards, patches, magazines and packages of treats from fire departments across North America during the holidays. Anyone who has ever been a long way from home for the holidays can remember how much it meant to receive mail and know that you are not forgotten in the holiday rush. If you want to help or know firefighters, EMTs or other members of your department or family are serving in the military this season, click below. Janet W and crew at Fire Chief Magazine will post these names on our website so others can send their greetings. **HERE the link:** http://blog.firechief.com/mutual_aid/2011/11/10/good-tidings-we-bring/

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT CITED BY THE STATE IN DOUBLE FIREFIGHTER DEATHS

State investigators have cited the San Francisco Fire Department for "serious" worker safety violations in the Line of Duty deaths of two Firefighters killed while operating at a house fire in June. Firefighters lost track of Lt. Vincent Perez, 48, and Firefighter-Paramedic Anthony Valerio, 53, after they went into the four-level home at 133 Berkeley Way on June 2 and failed to respond quickly

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to the men's last radio communication, investigators with the state Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health said in a report issued Monday. In recommending that the SFFD be fined \$21,000, the state investigators also said the department had violated state rules requiring that two firefighters be designated outside to assist any 2 Firefighters who venture into a life-threatening environment. Only one firefighter from Perez and Valerio's engine company - the first on the scene - was available to come to their help during the fire.

The state also cited the SFFD for an incident - evidently before the flashover - in which a Battalion Chief went into the burning building alone, without keeping in contact with Lt. Perez and Valerio which they deemed a serious violation of safety rules. The state investigators identified several command, control, communication and accountability issues:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/12/02/BANQ1M7JBO.DTL#ixzz1fV3xipGP>

Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said the SFFD would appeal the findings. She said state officials have told her commanders that the violations fell short of finding the department's actions responsible for the two firefighters' deaths. "None of the citations involved a direct cause of the line-of-duty deaths," Hayes-White said. The state investigator confirmed that, saying the exact circumstances of the firefighters' deaths could not be determined. The Fire Department is still conducting its own investigation into the incident. "If it is recommended that we need to make a change, we owe it to Lt. Perez and firefighter Valerio" to implement it, Hayes-White said.

Valerio, Perez and a 3rd member of Engine Company 26 were the first Firefighters to arrive at the mid-morning fire, which started when a sparking electrical outlet set curtains on fire. The 3rd firefighter ran the pump while Valerio and Lt. Perez went inside to fight the fire, but the regulations require a 4th Firefighter to be available outside to assist. A fire commander, identified by Firefighters as Battalion Chief Thomas Abbott, ordered a crew from Engine Company 24 to back up Valerio and Perez inside the building. For several minutes, however, scene commanders tried to find the Engine 26 firefighters, without success. Finally, what appeared to be the last communication from the crew came over the radio. "This is 26, this is 26. ... Battalion 6, what's your location?" said a muffled voice. "Twenty-six, this is command, I need to know your ..." came a reply.

"This is Engine 26, we're on the third ..." At that point, the voice over the radio trailed off. There was an unspecified gap between that last communication and any effort by Firefighters to respond over the radio or track down the men. Chief Hayes-White said the SFFD's investigative report - still in draft form - concluded that the fire had melted one of the firefighters' microphone cords, cutting off communications. She said any delay in Firefighters' response would be addressed in the final report. Firefighters ultimately found Perez and Valerio in a landing area and carried the injured men outside. Perez was pronounced dead at San Francisco General Hospital, and Valerio died there two days later.

The state probe also faulted the actions of the unnamed battalion chief who went into the building "alone and also did not remain in contact with the firefighters who were inside." Chief Hayes-White said the battalion chief had gone inside only briefly, had seen Perez and Valerio alive and had never been out of other firefighters' view.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-3-11 / 1422 Hours

AND:

LOUISIANA FF DIES AFTER PERFORMING RESCUES

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A 45-year-old Volunteer Firefighter died in the Line of Duty after operating at a fire and rescuing people from a burning mobile home early yesterday morning in Livingston Parish. Firefighter Scott Osenenko was operating at the fire where the family had been awakened when they found their home on fire around 0400 hours. FF Osenenko was on the first arriving company to respond and he worked for nearly 20 minutes removing people from the home and fighting the fire. After exiting the building, FF Osenenko began to experience cardiac distress and was treated and taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead as a result of the injuries he received at the scene. No one inside the home was reported to have suffered significant injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation, and an electric space heater is being looked at as a possible cause. Firefighter Osenenko leaves behind 2 children. "Scott was a model firefighter," said his Fire Chief James Wascom. "He was scheduled this morning to take the hazmat operations certification test. All he was trying to do was save lives and serve our community this morning. Now, he is gone". We'll post more details on our home page. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 12-3-11 / 2106 Hours

AND:

WEST VIRGINIA FF LODD-FALL FROM A RAILROAD BRIDGE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that early this morning, a Kanawha County Firefighter fell and died in the Line of Duty while trying to locate a fire involving railroad ties. The Firefighter with the Davis Creek Volunteer Fire Department tragically fell from the Steven Wayne Smith Memorial Bridge along U.S. Route 119 in the Alum Creek area at just a few minutes before 0100 hours. The Firefighter was pronounced dead at the scene. The firefighter and another member of the VFD could smell the fire but were trying to find it when the fall occurred. The firefighters name is not being released at this time. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

2 KOREAN FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-COMMERCIAL BUILDING FIRE:

2 Korean Firefighters were killed yesterday while operating at a furniture warehouse in Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province. The Firefighters were Lee Jae-man, 40, and Han Sang-yoon, 32. We'll post more details on our home page. Our condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful

Billy G

The Secret List 12-3-11 / 0442 hours

AND:

Hey,

Houses burning down and fire departments not putting fires out, as occurred in Obion County, Tenn., in September of 2010, are nothing new, they are just news once again. And again last week, ANOTHER house burned down in Obion County. It's ridiculous, but certainly not new. To be clear, any fire department on any scene should generally put the fire out. In this case, I think the fire department should have put it out again this time and then billed them for all the costs or just figure it all out later. However, there is a lot more to this situation. Keep in mind, with the economy and related politics (some places are using the economy as a political excuse to cut fire departments even though they can fund them, as are others that do have genuine fiscal problems), stuff is going to burn down. Even with great funding, stuff burns down. But, to have a fire company arrive and not put water on the fire, is, as some write, "shocking."

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Can you imagine if you forgot to pay your insurance bill and then filed a claim? Would the insurance company insure you and handle it later? Ask the Gecko. See what he says. The point is that fire departments cost money, and the elected officials of Obion County do not want to fund a fire department and haven't for years, -according to area fire chiefs. They do not want a tax-funded fire department, and the taxpayers don't either, at least not as a whole, otherwise they would direct their elected officials to implement one.

The Fire Chiefs of Obion County have worked for many years to offer the county elected folks a proposal of a fire tax or have them just fund the eight municipal fire departments in the county for a reported \$360,000 total to provide all residents of the unincorporated areas of the county: a fire service. However, the elected members of the county commission refuse to force a tax on its citizens. And to be clear, the latest homeowner who lost his house in the Tennessee fire was very well aware of the fee. But they didn't pay so the fire department dropped his name off the list. They still should have put water on the fire.

Of course, little do most of us know that the fire department subscription was set up 20 years ago because someone else's house outside city limits burned, and the city wanted to provide service to those residences where there is no other fire service. However, city taxpayers understandably do not want to fund a free fire department for non-taxpaying residents outside their city. No one does. The bottom line is, if a fire department shows up at or near a fire, they should put it out. If they want to limit exposure to legal action or bad publicity, they should not respond outside their jurisdiction. An archaic system that determines who gets fire protection based upon billing is a whole lot different than residents of the rest of North America are used to. However, if the citizens and their elected officials do not want to fund a fire department, it's their choice. If the residents care, they need to speak up, vote, join up or never ever forget to subscribe. And keep in mind, the latest resident whose home burned down was again, very well aware of the fee. But, after all, they'll never have a fire. Err. Uh. Damn. Maybe the fire departments in Obion County should have a credit card system, where the residents get billed annually automatically, unless they choose to opt out. Just imagine the ad: "Your fire department: We're everywhere you want to be." Fire departments, paid or volunteer, cost money, and those in the community who want a fire department need to pay, one way or the other. Interestingly, the cost of a fire department - any FD - has never been so discussed as it is these days - in every city, town, village or district. And it's never been so justified as it is in Obion County, TN.

Take Care-Be Careful.

Billy G

The Secret List 12-6-11 / 1339 hours

AND:

Hey,

For those younger readers of The Secret List, today, "Pearl Harbor Day" remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor, which was a surprise military strike conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941. 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,402 personnel were killed and 1,282 were wounded. We remember them all from "The Greatest Generation" who served along with all those who continue to serve today including the Honolulu and Federal Firefighters.

=FIREFIGHTERS KILLED & INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AT PEARL HARBOR:

As the Hickam Field firefighting apparatus was knocked out, Honolulu Fire companies responded to assist with the fires. At 0826 a Japanese aerial bomb was dropped on crews from HFD Engine Co.1, 4, and 6. 3 Firefighters, Captain John Carreira, Captain Thomas S. Macy, and Hoseman Harry T.L. Pang were killed in the Line of Duty. An additional 6 were wounded from shrapnel. They were

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Honolulu Fire Lieutenant Fred Kealoha, Hoseman Moses Kalilikane, Hoseman John A. Gilman, Hoseman Solomon H. Naauao, Hoseman Patrick J. McCabe, and Hoseman George Correa. In 1944 they all were awarded the Order of the Purple Heart. They are the only non-military personnel to have received this award. MORE on Pearl Harbor as we remember those lost on December 7, 1941: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/>

From Hickam Field,
Billy G
The Secret List
12-7-11 1000 hours Pacific Time

AND:

Hey,

There was a fatal apparatus responding crash in Cumberland County, PA earlier today. Mt Holly E136 was responding along with other companies to a run on the Interstate. As they entered an intersection, there was a crash involving their rig and a civilians SUV resulting in the death of the civilian. The Firefighters were not seriously injured. More details to follow.

UPDATES ON THIS MORNINGS LINE OF DUTY DEATH IN WORCESTER:

Here are some excellent links with more details, video and photos related to this mornings loss of Worcester Rescue 1 Firefighter Jon Davies. FF Davies died in the collapse while searching for a reported missing civilian. RIP.

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Lo1JvSoCMdY
- http://www.necn.com/pages/video?PID=8_YiOuI0_oxkoXt2WSTdqWzSm4t0OenE
- <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bq?articleid=1386887&svrc=rss>
- <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12006103912830/firefighter-trapped-in-burning-building-in-worcester/>
- <http://www.boston.com/Boston/metrodesk/2011/12/worcester-firefighter-killed-worcester-apartment-building-collapse-second-injured/odq25qQJjWhhaT1Sap4FRl/index.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 12-8-11 / 1800 hours

AND:

WORCESTER, MA LODD DURING RESCUE/COLLAPSE, MT. VERNON, NY LODD - MEDICAL

A Worcester firefighter was killed after he was trapped in an early morning three-alarm blaze Thursday that left another firefighter seriously injured. The fire at the apartment complex on Arlington Street broke out before dawn amid during heavy wind gusts that complicated the firefight for crews. At least one firefighter was reportedly trapped in the blaze when a wall gave way inside the structure. The deceased firefighter was attempted to make a rescue when the collapse occurred. About a dozen rescues were made after firefighter rushed to the scene of the blaze. Crews contained the blaze and all occupants were able to get out in time. "The firefighters of Worcester are no strangers to tragedy. And today, unfortunately, the dangerous calling these firefighters took the oath to do has left us devastated once again," Edward Kelly, President of Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, told the newspaper. "We ask the people of Worcester and well as the people of the Commonwealth to keep Worcester firefighters and their families in their prayers." The city's latest line of duty death

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comes just days after the 12-year anniversary of the death of six Worcester firefighters who perished in the Cold Storage Warehouse Fire on Dec. 3, 1999.

To view pictures of the incident: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20111208/NEWS/111209386>

To view video of the incident: <http://www.clipsyndicate.com/video/playlist/8178/3087593?wpid=6983>

MT. VERNON, NY LODD - MEDICAL

A Mt. Vernon, NY firefighter collapsed at a fire scene Thursday morning after suffering an apparent heart attack and later died. Firefighters had responded to a house fire on Lorraine Avenue around 4AM. The deceased firefighter is Kevin Townes, 54, a longtime firefighter, Fire Commissioner Noah Lighty said. Further details about his death were not immediately available. Our sincere condolences to the members and families of the Worcester, MA and Mt. Vernon, NY Fire Departments. More details will be posted on our home page as they become available.

Be Safe

12/8/11 1020hrs

BillyG

AND:

MT. VERNON FF LODD FUNERAL:

Funeral arrangements have been set for Kevin Townes, the City of Mount Vernon firefighter from Pleasant Valley who died of an apparent heart attack while responding to a blaze Thursday morning. Calling hours will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Camelot Funeral Home, 174 Stevens Ave., Mount Vernon. The funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at Grace Baptist Church, 52 S. Sixth Ave., Mount Vernon

WORCESTER FF LODD FUNERAL:

The funeral for Firefighter Jon D. Davies Sr. will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 24 Mulberry St. As you know, Firefighter Davies, a 17-year veteran of the Worcester Fire Department, died in the Line of Duty yesterday after he and his partner went back into the burning building at 49 Arlington St. to search for another person believed trapped inside. The building collapsed, killing Firefighter Davies and injuring his partner. Calling hours at Mercandante Funeral Home, 370 Plantation St. is 3 to 8 pm Wednesday.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-11 / 2030 hours

AND:

Hey,

Pennsylvania State Police have found that the Firefighter who drove the fire apparatus in yesterdays responding fatal crash in South Middleton Township (PA) has been found at fault. As of yet, no charges have been filed, but the state police are meeting with the Cumberland County District Attorney's office on possible charges. Like all states, their PA vehicle code says non-emergency vehicles have to yield to emergency vehicles responding to a call-but emergency vehicles also have the obligation to yield to non-emergency vehicles entering their path. The Citizen's Fire Company in Mount Holly Springs issued a statement regarding the fatal crash: "The membership of the Citizen's Fire Company of Mount Holly Springs would like to express their sincere condolences to the family of the victim of yesterday's tragic accident involving a piece of our apparatus. These are extremely heartbreaking circumstances and our company is deeply saddened by this loss. Members have been provided with critical incident stress debriefing (CISD) assistance to help them through this difficult
December 10, 2011

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event. "This is an ongoing police investigation coordinated by the Pennsylvania State Police and the Cumberland County Coroner's office. Questions regarding the incident can be directed to these two agencies pending the conclusion of the investigation. At this time the Citizen's Fire driver has been placed on administrative leave until the investigation is complete."

More HERE: http://m.cumberlink.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/article_53eb6602-21db-11e1-8f9e-001871e3ce6c.html#

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Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-11 / 1230 hours

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM:

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

Budget Related Items:

Facing a debt of \$36 million, the Fire Science Academy in Carlin will be closed Dec. 31 by the University of Nevada, Reno, pending approval by the Board of Regents. The academy employs 28 people. "It is disappointing to have arrived at this juncture," UNR President Marc Johnson said Monday, adding that he explored options for the academy before coming to the realization it should be closed. "However, the reality is the financial performance does not provide for needed debt relief."

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/indebted-fire-science-academy-set-to-close-133852818.html>

The County of Snohomish's (WA) largest fire district announced Wednesday that it is cutting nine administrative positions due to budget woes. Snohomish County Fire District 1 laid off five people effective immediately, including a deputy chief, district spokeswoman Leslie Hynes said. Four more positions will be eliminated Nov. 16, when people in those jobs are expected to retire. The district needs to close a \$3 million shortfall in the 2012 budget, Fire Chief Ed Widdis said. That's largely due to declining revenue from property taxes:

<http://www.weeklyherald.com/article/20111111/NEWS01/711119882/0/TWH02>

The Central Valley (WA) Ambulance Authority board voted Tuesday to cut a basic life support unit, which would include laying off 13 emergency medical technicians, in an attempt to balance the organization's budget. Officials say the move will not affect basic 911 medical response. With the elimination of the basic life support unit, Central Valley has \$83,000 left to cut from its budget, which will come from concessions from advanced life support paramedics, Feay said. Those negotiations are not yet completed:

http://www.goskaqit.com/news/article_c886ca68-1ae4-11e1-83f6-001cc4c002e0.html

Though talk of a state takeover has reduced to a whisper, the financial problems at the City of North Las Vegas (NV) have hardly resolved themselves. Next week, city leaders have scheduled a special meeting to review future budget shortfalls and skyrocketing overtime paid to the city's firefighters will be chief among the discussion. In the first two and a half months of this fiscal year, the North Las Vegas Fire Department spent its entire annual overtime budget, not once, but more than two times over. While those figures have prompted some heated debate in recent weeks, the firefighters are unapologetic. To spend less, they say, would compromise public safety: <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/16013969/i-team-nlv-firefighters-spend-entire-overtime-budget-in-one-month>

Tacoma (WA) sent out notices Thursday to all city unions that it faces a budget shortfall of \$31 million for 2012 and that it has come up with a plan to lay off up to 165 city positions, including 56 police officers and 47 firefighters, by the end of this year, a spokesman said. City spokesman Rob McNair-Huff said these layoffs could save the city about \$23 million. He said there could be another round of layoffs in the first quarter of 2012 that would bring the total number of city employees laid off to 230, which would include 110 police personnel and 81 Fire Department employees: <http://www.myfoxtricity.com/news/kcpq-tacoma-warns-it-may-lay-off-up-to-165-city-employees-including-56-police-officers-and-47-firefighters-20111117,0,2816447.story>

North Las Vegas (NV) is expecting another budget deficit for the next fiscal year, but it's nothing concessions from police and fire unions can't solve, according to acting finance director Al Noyola. In a presentation to the council Wednesday night Noyola outlined the city's current financial situation. The city will face a \$15.5 million budget gap in the coming 2013 fiscal year, which is a little more than half of the previous year's \$30.3 million deficit: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/nov/16/north-las-vegas-facing-155-million-budget-deficit/>

Durango (CO) Fire & Rescue Authority on Tuesday laid off two employees to help deal with a 2012 budget shortfall. "Today we have made some very difficult decisions concerning our department," Chief Dan Noonan wrote in a letter to the staff. "These changes are being made due to the current financial position that the Durango Fire & Rescue finds itself in." <http://durangoherald.com/article/20111130/NEWS01/711309878/-1/News01/Durango-Fire-&-Rescue-Authority-axes-3-positions>

About 165 Tacoma (WA) city workers, including newly hired Fire Department employees and police workers, were notified Monday that their jobs were at imminent risk because of budget cuts, the News Tribune said. The latest layoff estimates included 47 Fire Department employees and 48 police employees, city spokesman Rob McNair-Huff told the newspaper. The potential layoffs were also hitting newly hired firefighters, who had just moved from out of state to Tacoma for the jobs. "This was a very grim day," firefighter Ryan Mudie said. "Our chief had to hand layoff notices directly to his employees that 13 weeks ago he was authorized by the city manager's office to hire. They graduated on Friday. They got a certificate of graduation and started in the field yesterday. Today they're getting a layoff notice." <http://www.q13fox.com/news/kcpq-tacoma-notifies-more-than-160-city-workers-they-may-lose-jobs-20111205,0,1472160.story>

Washington D.C.'s fire chief wants to reduce the size of his department by more than 20 percent and make changes to the schedules firefighters now work. Chief Kenneth Ellerbe told Mayor Vincent Gray and the D.C. Council Wednesday he wants to reduce the number of full-time employees by 475, shrinking the department to about 1,625 employees. Ellerbe also wants to move from 24-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts, more than doubling the number of days

firefighters work each month. "It's an absurd idea," says Ed Smith, president of the D.C. firefighters union. Smith says he doesn't believe Ellerbe's assertion that the moves will save taxpayers \$36 million. Ellerbe says the shift change would encourage firefighters to live closer to the District. "Forty-one percent of our members live between 30 and 100 miles away," Ellerbe told elected officials at their monthly breakfast meeting. "That creates a homeland security challenge if we have to recall our entire workforce right away for an emergency." Ellerbe says some members of the department live as far away as Delaware, North Carolina and South Carolina. Gray agreed that's an issue of public safety. "It's very much of a concern," Gray said after the briefing. "If there is a catastrophic event people will be challenged to get back into the city." D.C. firefighters currently work a 24-hour shift, then have three days off. Under Ellerbe's proposal, firefighters would work three 12-hour day shifts, then have 12 hours off before returning to work three 12-hour night shifts. They would then have three days off: <http://statter911.com/2011/11/30/wtop-radio-dc-fie-chief-wants-to-cut-400-employees-move-to-12-hours-shifts-says-firefighters-living-in-other-east-coast-states-is-a-homeland-security-threat/>

New pension cost projections unveiled Thursday were expected to slash San Jose's (CA) \$80 million deficit next year by more than half, easing fears of libraries and community centers closing and prompting Mayor Chuck Reed to call off Tuesday's scheduled vote on whether to declare a fiscal emergency. Reed was set to ask the City Council to proclaim the emergency to justify putting a pension measure on the March ballot aimed at trimming retirement benefits for city workers. The mayor said he now wants to push the election to June. While ostensibly good news, the relief for next year's budget gap was fraught with politics as it arrived just days before what was to be a key council vote on Reed's proposed pension reforms. City Manager Debra Figone said it would be weeks before the city has a better sense how the revisions will affect next year's projected deficit. But in a memorandum issued late Thursday, she said that Cheiron, which in July had projected police and fire pension costs would rise from \$127 million to \$160 million next year, now projected they would actually drop to \$105 million. That's a \$55 million difference in the city's expected cost, which Figone said would shrink next year's budget gap to a more manageable \$25 million. But, Figone added, "Unfortunately, current retirement costs are still unsustainable." The new numbers, Unland said, do "not for one second mean that we're not on board with pension reform." Police and firefighters late Thursday offered a revised pension concession that would offer new hires the same retirement benefit in effect in the mid-1990s before a series of enhancements. Current employees could also choose the lower-cost plan as an option: http://www.presstelegram.com/california/ci_19451203

Tacoma (WA) budget victims may include gang unit, jobs, two fire stations and four neighborhood engine companies. Sayonara to the gang unit, the school resources officers program and most community liaison cops. And so long to dozens of other city positions – from building inspectors to municipal court clerks, office assistants and accountants. All are on the chopping block, and all could be gone by year's end. For the first time Tuesday, interim City Manager Rey Arellano and his top department heads publicly detailed which city jobs, services and programs face elimination under a plan to close three-quarters of a projected \$31 million general fund budget shortfall. "I wish I could tell you that we didn't have to lay off anyone," Arellano said. "However, given the magnitude of the shortfall we're facing, it just wasn't possible." Some 167 city employees face layoffs – about 11 percent of the 1,503 city jobs paid for out of the general fund. Another 95 positions, mostly vacant, also would be eliminated by January as part of a first round of cuts totaling about \$23 million: http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/12/06/1935338/tacoma-budget-victims-may-include.html#storylink=omni_popular

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

Two suspended members of the Barker (NY) Volunteer Fire Department were arrested today on felony charges for allegedly sending the company out on a false alarm call in the middle of the night. Andrew J. Steel, 26, of Palister Road, and Travis E. McKenna, 23, of Townline Road, were released on their own recognizance following their arraignments this evening before Somerset Town Justice Donald P. Martineck on the felony charge of second-degree falsely reporting an incident, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office reported. They are accused of activating the tones for the volunteer department and falsely reporting there was an active house fire with people trapped inside on Quaker Road in the town of Somerset early on the morning of Oct. 14. Both voluntarily reported for arraignment today. Neither could be reached to comment afterward. The two face possible state prison terms of up to four years if convicted of sending out false reports:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/two-ny-firefighters-accused-false-fire-report>

The assistant fire chief in Edmond, Oklahoma, is being investigated over allegations that he pointed a toy gun at another firefighter. Assistant Chief Tim Wheeler, 44, has been on paid administrative leave since Oct. 7 during the investigation, according to The Oklahoman. He leads the fire prevention division and is the fire department's public information officer:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/weird-news/articles/1181369-Okla-firefighter-investigated-over-toy-gun-incident/>

Police say a Los Angeles (CA) city fire captain has been arrested on suspicion of attempting to purchase heroin during a sting operation. A Los Angeles police statement said Captain Matthew Phillipsen was arrested Wednesday near Avenue 61 and Figueroa Street while attempting to purchase seven balloons of simulated heroin from undercover officers:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1181355-la-fire-captain-busted-in-heroin-sting/>

The Chicago (IL) Fire Department has launched an internal investigation after a captain was accused of pushing a Chicago Police Department officer to the ground, as both forces answered a rescue call for two men who had fallen into the river near Goose Island earlier this month. The scuffle apparently did not hinder the rescue, and the two men were pulled from the water at about 1 a.m. Nov. 1 near the 1200 block of West North Avenue. The police officer, assigned to the marine unit, later filed a report. No charges were filed, but Fire Department internal affairs investigators are looking into the conduct of the fire captain and other fire officials who were on the scene, officials said:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-cpd-fire-department-fight-1115-20111115,0,5205891.story>

A West Hazleton (PA) deputy fire chief was charged Thursday with patronizing a prostitute. Borough police said the charge was filed against Patrick Lee Ward, 35, of West Hazleton, following an early-morning traffic stop in the borough. According to police, a woman identified as Erin Davis of Wilkes-Barre tried to enter a vehicle that police had stopped on North Broad Street at 2:55 a.m.. Thursday. Police said Davis was placed under arrest when a check on her identification revealed she was wanted on an active arrest warrant. Davis told the arresting officer that she had just left a "booty call" at "Pat the firefighter's house." According to the arrest papers, Davis told police Ward had also called her a few weeks ago to arrange a meeting at the borough fire department where they planned to engage in sex. Davis said when she got to the fire house, Ward told her to go back home because there was a police officer in the building with him: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1181537-Pa-deputy-planned-tryst-with-prostitute-at-firehouse/>

The Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department captain arrested on suspicion of buying heroin from an undercover police officer near Avenue 61 and North Figueroa Street last Wednesday was not assigned to Highland Park's fire station 12, according to LAFD spokesman Jamie Moore. Moore said that Capt. Matthew Phillipsen--who was arrested a block away from fire station 12 while allegedly attempting to buy seven bags of heroin from an undercover LAPD officer--was off duty at the time and was not part of fire station 12's crew. "We're not going to disclose which station he was assigned to, but he wasn't assigned to station 12," Moore said. LAFD's professional standards division has opened an investigation into Phillipsen's actions, Moore said. "There's a certain degree of integrity in our actions that's required when we are off duty, as well," Moore said. "They've opened an administrative investigation to determine what wrong doing was done." <http://highlandpark-ca.patch.com/articles/firefighter-arrested-in-drug-sting-wasn-t-stationed-in-highland-park>

Just minutes after alerting Portage (MI) Fire District firefighters that a ladder truck was needed at a structure fire in Clay Center, Ottawa County Sheriff's dispatcher Heather Deibel took a 911 call regarding a traffic crash on State Rt. 19 south of Oak Harbor. Timothy Johnson — a veteran Portage District firefighter responding to the call for a ladder truck — had smashed into the back of a car attempting to turn left from State Rt. 19 onto Portage River South Road. The victims were bleeding, the caller said, though he didn't know how badly they were hurt. A jury seated Monday in Ottawa County Common Pleas Court listened to the recording of the dispatcher's instructions to the local fire department then heard the call from a passer-by who came upon the deadly crash. Mr. Johnson, 42, of Oak Harbor, is charged with aggravated vehicular homicide for the July 16, 2010, death of Ian Huffman, 24, of Elmore, a front-seat passenger in the car driven by his girlfriend, Olivia Duty, now 21, of Woodville: <http://www.toledoblade.com/Courts/2011/11/14/Trial-starts-for-firefighter-charged-in-fatality.html>

A fight broke out between two Hummels Wharf (PA) firefighters just minutes after an emergency call at 11 p.m. Monday requested the company respond to an accident near 6551 Park Road. The scuffle did not jeopardize a timely response by emergency officials to the accident -- a vehicle that slammed into a pole -- but it did stretch state police resources. Grove said the two had been drinking before and after the regular monthly fire department meeting Monday night, and the fight was "a personal thing" involving the fire company. "They had been at odds with one another for quite a few months," he said. While details of punishment have not been formally discussed, Grove said, "Suspensions are in order. Something has to be done." The firefighters both suffered minor injuries from the fight and were treated by an ambulance returning from the accident scene. Charges will likely be filed for assault and harassment, Picerno said: http://dailyitem.com/0100_news/x1121442870/Punches-fly-after-firehouse-bell-rings

The clock is ticking, but volunteer first responders in Spotsylvania County (VA) don't seem to be in a rush to meet a looming training deadline. With little more than a year to meet minimum training standards, some 377 volunteer firefighters and rescue workers still need basic courses. And yet the county's free training classes still have empty seats. Four times since August, training officials have had to cancel courses because so few volunteers signed up. "We're offering quality training here, and for some reason people aren't signing up," said Division Chief Jeff Bailey, who oversees training for all Spotsylvania rescue workers. Last year, the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors adopted minimum training standards, requiring every county firefighter and rescue worker to complete basic training courses by Jan. 1, 2013. Some volunteers initially balked at the training standards, saying the timeline was too strict. Others speculated that the new requirements were the county's way of getting rid of volunteers. "I'll stop short of saying that people are discouraging training," Bailey said. "But I'm not sure some of the people in leadership roles are doing all they can to promote training." <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2011/112011/11112011/664283>

Lisa Vasquez, former director of Portland's (OR) public safety project responsible for a new dispatch system and police and fire radio and records upgrades, intends to sue the city, saying she was wrongfully fired for being a whistleblower. Vasquez, fired by Commissioner Randy Leonard this summer, argues in a tort claim sent to the city this week that she was unfairly terminated for "repeatedly reporting fraud, mismanagement and the misuse of public funds." She's expected to seek damages of over \$1 million. Vasquez said she informed supervisors and city officials of fraudulent billing and overtime put in by Bureau of Technology Services employees, and misuse of funds by the bureau director Mark Greinke, but the city failed to investigate or address her concerns: http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2011/11/former_portland_public_safety.html

The Holts Summit (MO) Police Department issued a reckless driving ticket to a New Bloomfield Fire Protection District volunteer firefighter as he was en route to a fire on Saturday. Volunteer firefighter Matt Ousley said that he was driving responsibly, but taking the liberties an emergency vehicle is authorized to. He admits he was driving 10 mph over the speed limit and passing cars as they were yielding to him. Ousley said because he was using his blue flashing light and siren, his driving was legal. The Holts Summit Police Department Assistant Chief Bryan Reid disagrees. He said a volunteer firefighter's personal vehicle, even when equipped with appropriate lights and siren, is not an emergency vehicle. "A first responder vehicle is not considered a full emergency vehicle," says Reid, "By statute it is not exempt." <http://www.komu.com/news/volunteer-firefighter-ticketed-while-responding/>

Chicago (IL) Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to merge the marine units of the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department is off to a rocky start. A Chicago police officer is demanding the arrest of the fire captain who allegedly slammed the officer to the ground during a Nov. 1 river rescue, according to a joint investigation by the Chicago Sun-Times and the Better Government Association. The apparent turf battle did not impede the early-morning rescue of two men who apparently had fallen into the water near Goose Island. The alleged aggressor was fire Capt. Mark Altman, son of former Chicago Fire Commissioner Edward Altman. The victim was Chicago police Officer Joseph J. Smith. "He grabbed me and slammed me backwards, and I fell on the ground. He unlawfully put his hands on me. That is a battery. He should be arrested for that," said Smith, who is assigned to the police Marine Unit: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/8847341-418/cop-wants-ex-fire-commissioners-son-arrested-over-altercation.html>

A man walking a dog called police after noticing a North Hudson (NJ) Regional Fire & Rescue SUV parked in a no parking zone, blocking a hydrant, on Willow Avenue in Weehawken, New Jersey at 2:00 on Thanksgiving morning. NHRF&R Co-Director Jeff Welz told Michaelangelo Conte of The Jersey Journal that there could be severe discipline after an investigation is completed. Apparently the discipline would not be just due to the arrogance of parking a fire vehicle in front of a plug, but because of the possibility an off duty firefighter drove that vehicle to the Squeeze Lounge, a go-go bar nearby: <http://statter911.com/2011/11/30/fire-suv-spends-part-of-thanksgiving-blocking-hydrant-at-the-squeeze-lounge-njs-north-hudson-regional-f-r-investigating-citizen-complaint/>

A Portsmouth (DE) firefighter is accused of driving his truck with a blown out tire, sparks flying as metal scraped against the pavement, and smashing into another vehicle on Dover Point Road early Saturday morning. Police said Samuel Chouinard, 38, was arrested Saturday and charged with DWI and leaving the scene of an accident. Chouinard has worked for the Portsmouth Fire Department for 17 years and remains on the job, Assistant Chief Steve Achilles said yesterday, noting that the charges are just accusations at this point and the conduct allegedly occurred in Chouinard's personal vehicle. "It's a personal issue for him and at some point it may need to be addressed by the city of Portsmouth fire department, but at this point it's a personal thing," he said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1186033-Del-firefighter-charged-with-DWI-after-collision/>

A 62-year-old blind man has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice claiming Baltimore (MD) Fire Department paramedics refused to allow his service dog to accompany him in an ambulance after he was struck by a car. Curtis Graham Jr., a Marine who served in Vietnam, was on his way to the city's Veterans Day parade on Nov. 11 when he was hit by a car near his West Baltimore home. Paramedics would not allow Indo, his 2-year-old golden Labrador retriever, into the ambulance, Graham said. "They refused to take a service animal who I need very much," said Graham, who suffered minor injuries. "He is my eyes." Baltimore City Fire Department spokesman Kevin Cartwright said the incident was under investigation. He confirmed that a blind man was struck by a car and taken to a hospital by ambulance, and said he believed the victim's guide dog had not been transported. Cartwright said that to his knowledge, the department did not have a policy on service animals. A spokesman for the National Federation for the Blind said first responders are "legally obligated to transport the service animal" under Maryland law. "You're basically taking the blind person's way of understanding his environment away from him," said federation spokesman Chris Danielsen. "I have no idea what sort of irrational thought process was behind not letting the dog in the ambulance, but that is an act of discrimination," he said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/baltimore-medics-take-blind-man-not-dog>

Buffalo (NY) Fire Department union president admits to decades long practice of firefighters buying & selling overtime. City has asked for state & federal investigation:

<http://www.wgrz.com/news/daybreak/article/142778/37/City-Charges-Firefighters-With-Massive-Overtime-Scam>

A 20-year Chicago (IL) Fire Department veteran allegedly pushed his nemesis and then grabbed the young man's arm so his son could repeatedly pummel the man's face, prosecutors alleged Tuesday. Then, Eduardo Castro Sr., 48, and his namesake son continued punching and kicking the 20-year-old man, who only moments before was pushing a stroller with a friend's baby inside, prosecutors said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1190811-firefighter-son-accused-in-chicago-beating/>

Buffalo (NY) Mayor Byron Brown said he was "shocked" when he learned of an alleged massive overtime scam by some city firefighters. According to the city, the scam would involve three firefighters working in concert with each other. Here's how the alleged scam worked: Firefighter 1 would call in sick even though he wasn't. That would then create an overtime opportunity, at time and a half, for someone at his or her firehouse. Firefighter 2 would then accept the overtime, but rather than work the shift, he or she would then turn around and sell the shift to Firefighter number 3. Firefighter 3 would then kick back money under the table to firefighter 2. Mayor Byron Brown: "We calculate this could have cost city taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars for each year this is done. It's a great deal of money, it's money that taxpayers shouldn't be paying. If someone calls in sick and they're not actually sick that is wrong." According to city records, overtime in the fire department went from \$4.8 million to \$10 million in 2008 and it was that year that the city says it discovered a substantial amount of overtime going to a small group of firefighters:

<http://www.wgrz.com/news/daybreak/article/142778/37/City-Charges-Firefighters-With-Massive-Overtime-Scam>

The Niland (CA) Fire District firefighter who filed a restraining order against the founder of a bio-diesel fuel company following an alleged assault has been placed on unpaid suspension, the firefighter said Monday. Niland Fire Chief Mike Aleksick did not respond to repeated attempts for comment, but in a written appeal to the district, firefighter Donovan Cavin said he learned of a complaint that was filed against him following his request for the restraining order sought against Daniel Gautschi, chief executive officer of SunEco Energy. Gautschi was arrested last week on suspicion of trying to strike Cavin with his Chevrolet Suburban when Gautschi pulled up to the Niland fire station:

<http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/ivp-news-niland-firefighter-placed-on-suspension-20111122,0,3160662.story>

Results of an independent investigation into the Baltimore (MD) Fire Academy cheating scandal indicate officials believe disciplinary actions are warranted against five academy employees who were cleared by a hearing board. The investigation was launched to determine how 20 fire academy recruits received advanced confidential copies of an exam as part of the certification process for emergency medical technicians. "The mistakes were made based on two factors: a lack of experience in that role of training officer, and a lack of leadership, quite frankly," Baltimore City Fire Chief James Clack said. "The members had done some things wrong, obviously, but the charges should be dismissed based on a lack of deliberate misconduct." One instructor had reformatted the material to erase the word "confidential" that was stamped across it: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/29830705/detail.html>

A judge has found there is enough evidence to hold a California volunteer firefighter for trial on eight arson counts, after hearing about an investigation that included placing a GPS device on his vehicle after he was identified as a suspect. During a preliminary hearing Monday, Butte County Superior Court Judge Michael Candela ruled that there was probable cause to set a trial for Jairo Perkins-Grubbs. Perkins-Grubbs was arrested Oct. 4 after a series of about 20 suspicious fires on the upper Paradise ridge starting in late July and ending Oct. 3. He was allegedly responsible for fires that consumed the DeSabra Market in August and the Lovelock Inn in September, as well as attempts to burn the Magalia Depot. The defendant is charged with two felony counts of arson of an inhabited structure and six felony counts of arson of a structure or forest. He also faces special allegations that the DeSabra Market fire involved multiple structures and that he used a petrochemical accelerant in five counts. If convicted of all charges and allegations, Perkins-Grubbs faces more than 47 years in state prison:

http://www.chicoer.com/breakingnews/ci_19429178

Cleveland (OH) Fire Chief Paul Stubbs answered questions about a recent audit exposing payroll abuses by city firefighters. "Obviously, there's things that should have been done differently," said Stubbs about the audit. Stubbs gave his first television interview about the scandal to NewsChannel5 Investigator Sarah Buduson Tuesday afternoon. "What I regret the very most is that we continued to use a somewhat antiquated and somewhat dysfunctional process for our payroll," said Stubbs. Stubbs said the fire department still uses some manual record keeping processes. He said the system made it difficult to detect some firefighters were getting paid for work they were not doing. "There are no crooks here. We were doing our best. We may have made mistakes," said Stubbs. Martin Flask, the Cleveland director of public safety, said the audit uncovered firefighters abusing a policy that allows them to trade shifts. For example, the audit found firefighter Calvin Robinson has worked approximately three months since January 2009, but was paid his full \$53,890 salary each year. Flask said firefighter Andrew Kovacic did not work for five months from November 2010 to March 2011, then worked 24 hour shifts for 18 days to make up the time. Flask said Kovacic's decision to work so many hours was "unsafe." Flask said firefighter Joe Coneglio did not work from January to April in 2011 and lists San Diego, California as his home address. He said Coneglio then crams in extra shifts when he is in Cleveland:

http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/investigations/cleveland-fire-chief-on-payroll-audit-scandal-things-should-have-been-done-differently

Four volunteer firefighters were arrested Tuesday on charges of allegedly setting fire to hundreds of hay bales at a Mesquite, N.M., dairy farm on Monday night. Doca Ana Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Kelly Jameson said Tuesday that four men allegedly set the fire at the Mountain View Dairy because "they were bored," according to a criminal complaint. This marks the second fire in more than two years at Mountain View Dairy, located near Stern Drive and New Mexico Highway 228 just south of Las Cruces. In January 2009, a similar hay fire took place. Luis Gutierrez, 20, Joshua Jaramillo, 19, Carlos Martinez, 20, and Primitivo "Junior" Perez, 18, all volunteer firefighters with the Mesquite Fire Department, were booked into the Doca Ana County Detention Center on charges of conspiracy and arson, Jameson said. Monday's fire was the latest late-night arson to strike Doca Ana County dairies, and not the first to allegedly be committed by a volunteer firefighter. Last year, Ruben Marquez of Vado, N.M., and Javier Ramos Mercado of Las Cruces allegedly torched a barn containing 500 tons of hay at the Del Monte Dairy in Mesquite, causing about \$140,000 in damage. In 2006, volunteer firefighter Jonathan Morales was charged with arson after allegedly setting three fires at the Bright Star, Dominguez and Gonzales dairies while drunk, causing an estimated \$112,000 in damage:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/volunteer/articles/1187257-4-firefighters-charged-in-NM-fire/>

Lack of communication between commanders and sloppy search efforts were to blame for Pasadena (CA) Fire Department's failure to find a woman's body in a burned-out garage in July, according to a scathing report released Monday by City Manager Michael Beck. Firefighters missed the charred body of Yolanda Marie Sapetto, 43, during two searches and two separate calls to a July 31 fire that engulfed a detached garage conversion at 36 S. San Marino Ave. The report recommended the fire department should: Reinforce training on search policies to cover all "rooms, voids and spaces" affected by fire or smoke; use different teams for primary and secondary searches where possible; make fire debris removal the top priority to avoid rekindling the fire; make sure no bodies have been concealed, including a final walk-through of the structure; and establish uniform procedures for requesting a fire investigation to ensure it is conducted as soon as possible and that the site is secured:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1190825-Calif-fire-department-criticized-for-failure-to-find-womans-body-after-fire/>

A Thomasville (GA) Fire/Rescue firefighter was released on bond from the Thomas County Jail after being charged with felony theft. Derek Lee Colson, 34, Dillon Road, was arrested Wednesday morning by Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) agents at Thomasville Fire/Rescue. He is charged with one count of felony theft by taking and was released on a \$7,500 bond. Steve Turner, special agent in charge of the Thomasville regional GBI office, said Colson has been participating in the collection of aluminum cans for the Georgia Firefighters Burn Victims Foundation. The cans were being recycled, with proceeds to go to the Foundation, Turner explained:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/georgia-firefighter-charged-theft>

A U.S. Forest Service firefighter scheduled to start trial this week for arson charges has accepted a plea agreement. Daniel Mariano Madrigal was immediately sentenced to state prison after he accepted the deal, which surprised San Bernardino (CA) County Deputy District Attorney Karen Khim who was ready to start trial. Madrigal was in West Valley Superior Court in Rancho Cucamonga for the start of a jury trial Monday when his lawyer, Salvador Silva, asked if the prosecution would instead accept a plea agreement. "The defense attorney came in and said 'Would you be willing to do two years?'," said Christopher Lee, public affairs officer for the District Attorney's Office: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_19443418

Cleveland (OH) officials have yet to punish anyone nearly two weeks after internal auditors found widespread payroll abuses in the Fire Department, but Public Safety Director Martin Flask guarantees discipline is on the way. "You can be assured that administrative action is appropriate and will be taken," Flask said in an interview Tuesday. "The exact number of employees has yet to be determined." Flask also disclosed Tuesday that a police sergeant is investigating firefighters for possible criminal wrongdoing. The sergeant and an assistant law director are working with city auditors who are expected to produce a more in-depth follow-up report by the end of January:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/11/cleveland_vows_discipline_in_f.html

Cleveland (OH) Mayor Frank Jackson is moving quickly to install time clocks that read fingerprints in all fire stations to ensure that firefighters are actually on the job on the days they are paid to be. The move follows an internal city audit, released in mid-November, that found some city firefighters collected pay for hours they didn't work, including one man who collected two years of pay while working a total of 11 days. Auditors also found that some firefighters failed to record sick time and violated the city's bereavement policy. Officials representing Cleveland Fire Fighters Local 93 said late Friday they support the city's decision to install time clocks that read fingerprints. "The city is still operating under archaic conditions," said Joseph W. Diemert, a lawyer for the union. "To monitor -- clock in and clock out -- is something that the guys think is wonderful and a good thing to do. "There are mix-ups and there are slip-ups," Diemert added. "This is something that they could have done long before this and they don't need union approval to do it."

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/12/cleveland_to_install_time_cloc.html

Three supervisors in the Cleveland (OH) Fire Department face disciplinary charges for letting a firefighter skip hundreds of hours he was scheduled to work over the last three years, the city announced Monday. Battalion Chief Robert Readinger, Capt. William Graham and Lt. Gregory Perrin are accused of failing to properly supervise firefighter Calvin Robinson, who worked only 12 round-the-clock shifts from January 2009 through June 30 of this year, but collected full pay. If found guilty by Public Safety Director Martin Flask, the supervisors could face penalties ranging from a reprimand to dismissal. More administrative charges are expected in the department's payroll scandal, uncovered last month by internal auditors. Criminal charges

are also possible. The internal audit, released Nov. 18, found that several firefighters collected full pay for hundreds of hours they did not work. Auditors said firefighters also violated a citywide bereavement policy and failed to properly deduct sick time, adding to what retirees can cash in when they leave the department:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2011/12/cleveland_threatens_to_discipl.html

Marsh Bennett, 78, died in an early morning fire in 2002 that began on the first-floor porch and spread upstairs, trapping him inside. Investigators never determined the cause, leaving family members and residents in the apartment below to wonder what might have happened: Was it a smoldering cigarette that set it off? Was it related to all the arsons in the neighborhood? Despite pleas from family members to reopen an investigation into the fire at 563 Rutledge Ave. on the Charleston peninsula, the city's arson task force declined, saying it had no new clues to go on. But a look at the task force's case file shows how little they had to work with in the first place. The Charleston (SC) Fire Department's report on the fire contained a few pages of fill-in-the-blank forms that mostly described how the fire was extinguished and virtually nothing about what was done to determine who started the fire. A Charleston police detective's report also was in the case file, but his investigation was based in part on the Fire Department's findings. The thin files on this fire and others raise questions about the department's investigations of suspicious fires, particularly during the early stages of what would become one of the worst arson sprees in the city's history: Did investigators do thorough investigations then? And if not, is this lapse affecting their ability to track down the culprit today? <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/dec/04/arson-records-thin-full-of-holes/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

One of the Los Angeles' (CA) most powerful officials, Fire Chief Brian Cummings, has been chopping vegetables and cooking for the homeless to fulfill 120 hours of self-imposed community service. Cummings spoke exclusively with NBC4 about the service he volunteered to perform in the wake of an NBC4 porn investigation that threatened to tarnish his -- and the LA Fire Department's -- reputations. "It is humbling," Cummings told NBC4, about his first hours spent at the Downtown Women's Center, a shelter for homeless women. Cummings says he began volunteering in the kitchen there on October 15. This is the same shelter where actress Lindsay Lohan served part of her court-ordered community service for a shoplifting conviction. In September, NBC4 first reported that city trucks from two fire stations were allowed to be used as backdrops for lewd scenes in porn movies. As the scandal went viral worldwide, Cummings came forward with his own admission: that he too had allowed "inappropriate" photos to be taken of a semi-nude woman posing in front of an engine, years earlier when he was captain. "Accountability starts with me," Cummings told NBC4, explaining that he offered to do community service to regain public confidence, after the NBC4 porn investigation: <http://www.nbclsanangeles.com/news/local/134015208.html>

Jerad Addison and other Sandpoint (ID) volunteer firefighters decided to ramp up their community service efforts by spreading a little warmth on Friday. When one of the volunteers learned that his place of work had more wood than it needed, the crew decided to find some residents that could put the fuel to good use. "The volunteers are trying to do anything we can to make a forward push and help the community any way we can," Addison said. Addison contacted Love, Inc. to see which households could use a firewood supply boost. Nonprofit associates recommended three community members for the delivery. At the beginning of the week, the firefighters secured the wood and prepared it for the recipients. Luckily, Sun Rental donated the use of a wood splitter — a gesture that significantly expedited the process.

Addison Enterprises also loaned a trailer for the cause. Altogether, the crew stacked about four cords of wood in the trailer for delivery:

http://www.bonnercountydailybee.com/news/local/article_c669c6a0-1278-11e1-b476-001cc4c002e0.html

City of Boise (ID) firefighters and police officers have agreed to reduce their pay in order to help balance the city budget. Boise mayor David Bieter today joined representatives from Boise Firefighters Local 149 and Boise Police Local 486 at a press conference to announce the groundbreaking cost-saving measure. "During difficult times, we all need to make sacrifices," Bieter said. "It's clear with this agreement that Boise police officers and firefighters are willing to step up and work as partners to help address our budget shortfall for the greater good of our community. I thank them for their assistance. This agreement is a shining example of how city governments and public-safety unions can work together to solve difficult problems." The firefighters and police officers had contracts with the city which guaranteed cost-of-living increases for Fiscal Year 2013. The new agreement means that pay will be held back to current levels. "We were pleased to be able to help our community and civic government weather these tough economic times," Boise Firefighter Local 149 president Greg Womack said. "This agreement also means that our neighbors, the citizens of Boise, won't have to worry about having fewer firefighters and police officers on the street." The new agreement will save the city a total of \$1.275 million. The overall reduction in compensation to Boise public safety officers means the city will be able to guarantee that they will maintain staffing at current levels, with no need for layoffs:

<http://www.12trv.com/story/16178495/12m-pay-cut-for-boise-police-firefighters>

The Renton (WA) Firefighters, through the Renton Firefighters Benevolent Association, are responding to an urgent need in their community. On Monday Renton firefighters delivered a fire truck full of food donations and a check for \$1,000 to the Renton Rotary Salvation Army Food Bank. Monday's check is in addition to a \$500 donations made earlier this year. The donation came after Salvation Army Captain Chris Aird requested the help of Renton Fire and Emergency Services at a recent union meeting, said Captain Rick Marshall. Aird's plea spurred the group to respond with a motion to increase its annual donation of \$500 to \$1,500 and asked all union members to collect food from their home pantries for the food bank. "We are trying to do a better job in being involved in our community," said Marshall:

<http://renton.patch.com/articles/renton-firefighters-donate-food-money-to-salvation-army-food-bank>

The Hemet (CA) Firefighters Association agreed Wednesday morning to the terms of a new contract with the city in which the union will take cuts similar to other employee bargaining groups. Under the terms of the proposed two-year deal, the department will maintain the 5 percent pay cut it took last year, before getting that money back in the second year of the deal. Department members will also now have to pay all of their own pension contribution, with each member now paying 9 percent instead of 3 percent. A two-tier retirement system will be put into place for new hires and the city will no longer allow vacation sell-backs. Union President Steve Sandefer said more than 90 percent of the 49-member union agreed to the deal. "Under the circumstances, and considering the situation our city is in, we feel like it's a fair deal," Sandefer said. "Nobody really came out jumping for joy. The city would have liked more and the firefighters would have liked to give less, but it appears to be fair and reasonable."

<http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20111207-hemet-fire-union-agrees-to-new-deal.ece>

Training & Safety Related Items:

An instructor at the training center for Miami-Dade (FL) firefighters was burned Friday morning when a training demonstration he was setting up flashed into flames. 38-year-old Lt. Kevin McCrea, an 11-year veteran of the department, was taken to Ryder Trauma Center by air rescue Friday morning after the live-fire demo he was setting up flashed, burning his body. Fire officials said other people were nearby and put out the flames, then helped McCrea with his injuries. Department officials told reporters Friday afternoon they still don't know why the demonstration flamed up, and as they conduct their own investigation they have also called in outside agencies to assist:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/18/2509116/miami-dade-firefighter-injured.html>

Why we need a culture of safe suppression by Billy Hayes - It's often said that the best offense is a good defense. Unfortunately, that's not a philosophy that we in the fire service have embraced. Quite the contrary, the American fire service in most places addresses strategy and tactics only from an offensive interior frame of mind. Before we go too far, I again want to remind readers that my columns are designed for your critical thinking. I'm not here to tell you what's right or wrong but rather I want to offer a different perspective for you to think about. Much of it is from observations I have made, and discussions I have overheard. So for this particular column, I'm really going to shake it up. If you take the time to read many of the NIOSH reports that are available resulting from a firefighter injury or fatality, you will find that situational awareness and tactical positioning are often a common theme as a root cause. In many cases, a 360 was not conducted initially and/or continuously during the event. The fatal act of freelancing often arises in the scenario, or simply the attack crews are incorrectly or dangerously positioned:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1186717-Why-we-need-a-culture-of-safe-suppression/>

One-third of firefighter injuries caused by exercise. Firefighter injuries more likely to occur while exercising, which aims to prevent injuries, than while putting out fires, new research suggests. Firefighters are more likely to be injured exercising than putting out fires, new research suggests. A U.S. study found exercising caused a third of all injuries, followed by carrying patients (17%). Just over one in 10 (11%) injuries occurred during training drills. Exercising is designed to help firefighters stay fit to deal with the rigors of their job:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/health/articles/1189838-One-third-of-firefighter-injuries-caused-by-exercise/>

Redding (CA) police say a man broke into a city fire station this morning and stole one of the employee's cars as he slept, and three others have been helping him commit a string of recent thefts throughout town. Officers arrested Jared Anthony Thomas, 24, this morning for allegedly breaking into Redding's Fire Station No. 3 on Westside Road with a crow bar and stealing car keys and a wallet. After burglarizing the station, Thomas then drove the stolen Honda sedan to a nearby mini mart and used the firefighter's credit card there shortly after 8 a.m., said Cpl. Les James in a news release:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2011/nov/20/redding-man-breaks-fire-station-steals-car-while-f/>

The San Francisco (CA) Fire Department has been cited by state investigators for "serious" worker safety violations in the deaths of two firefighters who died while battling a house fire. A report by the state Occupational Safety and Health said firefighters outside the house lost track of Lt. Vincent Perez and firefighter-paramedic Anthony Valerio. The two were fatally injured after being caught in a flash fire triggered by superhot gases during a June 2 blaze in the Diamond Heights neighborhood. The state issued four citations against the department,

three of them categorized as "serious." They included a battalion chief entering the house by himself without maintaining visual or voice contact and not ensuring that at least two firefighters were outside ready to perform rescue procedures. "These are serious in that they had protocols in place, but they weren't following them," said Erika Monterroza, a spokeswoman for the worker safety agency, told the San Francisco Chronicle on Friday. "There's no question that a lack of communications was a big issue here. The investigator found there was a breakdown there." http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_19468581

General Fire Service Related Items:

It's widely known the City of San Diego (CA) needs more fire stations. Monday the City Council will consider adopting a plan to get them built, but there's no money to actually make it happen. The study by Citygate Associates was commissioned by the fire department last year. It made several recommendations, including building 10 new fire stations and assigning smaller, two-person crews to nine additional areas. Fire Chief Javier Mainar said there isn't money available to implement these recommendations. But he said the council will consider adopting the plan as a roadmap for the future. Mainar said it would cost just under \$100 million to build the additional stations and buy more trucks. It would cost about \$40 million a year to maintain the equipment and pay personnel: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/nov/14/san-diego-council-consider-fire-station-study/>

They're trained to fight smoke and extinguish flames, but firefighters at Tampa (FL) Station No. 15 are having a hard time battling something else: Bedbugs. Since September, the station near Himes Avenue and Gandy Boulevard in South Tampa has had a bedbug infestation in its sleeping quarters. Multiple chemical and heat treatments failed to get rid of the bloodsucking pests, said Tampa Fire Rescue Capt. Lonnie Benniefield. The department has closed off the dormitory side of the station while a pest control company tries again. Part of the stepped-up remedy includes ripping up carpet and getting rid of linens. The three shifts of six firefighters who work from that station have been sleeping on sofas or in sleeping bags on the other side of the building, Benniefield said. Pest control workers have found only three bedbugs, he said, though more may lie in wait. "It doesn't mean there's not more there," he said. "They can hide in crevices, they can burrow." How did they end up there? Benniefield said that's hard to say, given that firefighters are in and out of homes and hospitals. "That's going to be hard to pinpoint because of the type of work we do," he said: <http://www.fireengineering.com/news/2011/12/1555900234/fire-station-15-beset-by-bedbug-infestation.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyDecember62011>

Bonnie Bleskachek, who lost her job as Minneapolis (MN) fire chief in 2006 after a sex scandal and multiple lawsuits, once again wants to climb the department's career ladder. Mayor R.T. Rybak's administration told the city when it demoted Bleskachek to captain that she would never seek promotion, would stay out of fire stations and would not supervise anyone. But the city's December 2006 news release announcing Bleskachek's settlement left out a provision -- she could apply for the job of fire investigator, a post for which she scored at the top of a recent qualifying exam: <http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/134881683.html>

Hemet (CA) may soon be able to hire three firefighters, thanks to a grant. But officials chose not to accept funding for six additional positions because of concerns that the city would not be able to pay those salaries when the grant money runs out: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20111117-hemet-three-new-firefighters-are-all-city-can-handle.ece>

Monday night's Atwater (CA) council meeting took an unexpected turn that could lead to the resurrection of Atwater's city-run fire department — a polarizing proposal that some think would harm public safety and cost the city more than it would save. After a standard verbal report by Battalion Chief Jeff Isaacs about Cal Fire's performance and service for the month, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Rivero led a discussion about how savings expected from the Cal Fire contract have not materialized. He later motioned to draft a letter of termination to separate from Cal Fire and get a better idea of the impact the proposal would have on city finances. Councilman Gary Frago seconded the motion, which passed with a vote from Councilman Jeff Rivero: <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/11/15/2122439/atwater-considers-ousting-cal.html>

An administrative law judge on Tuesday threw out a legal challenge of a ballot measure that strips Palo Alto (CA) police and firefighters of their right to take pay and benefit disputes to outside arbitrators. In September, the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1319 filed an unfair labor practice charge with the Public Employment Relations Board. It alleged the city council had failed to "consult in good faith" with the union before placing a repeal of binding interest arbitration on the Nov. 8 ballot. Measure D blazed to victory last week, winning more than two-thirds of the vote and giving elected officials the ability to impose terms on its public safety unions for the first time in 33 years. Chief Administrative Law Judge Shawn P. Cloughesy said in his 29-page ruling that the city, in fact, provided "reasonable written notice" to the union that changes were being considered to the labor policy, otherwise known as Article V in the city charter. He said it was union President Tony Spitaleri's responsibility to clearly communicate that a meeting was desired. The closest the firefighters union came to making such a request was on July 18, the same day the city council was scheduled to decide between asking voters to either modify binding interest arbitration or repeal it altogether. The council ultimately opted for the latter in a 5-4 decision: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_19346433

The Boston Fire Department has gone outside its ranks for the first time for a new chief, tapping former Dallas and Miami fire chief Steve Abaira to become the department's second in command and first Hispanic chief. "I chose Steve Abaira because he has an exceptional reputation," said Boston Fire Commissioner Roderick Fraser. "He leads by example. He's not afraid to stand up for what he believes in and he's not afraid to take a risk. Those are all good qualities in a leader." http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/2011_1116city_names_new_fire_chief/

Fall River (MA) Mayor Will Flanagan, the son of a police officer, acknowledged a week after his controversial appointment that making a fire lieutenant the interim chief equated to appointing a sergeant as the head of the police department. But Flanagan held fast to his position that a public process would vet the best candidate and that his 90-day appointment of Lt. Michael Coogan was a job opportunity for a worthy candidate rather than the result of close political ties. Reaction from prominent people, including those with high level fire service training, has been nothing short of outrage. It seems clear that those speaking up see the next three months as an opportunity for Flanagan to change his course and correct an unprecedented selection. "Mr. Mayor, the FRFD chief position is not for everyone. It's for the best-qualified Fall River deputy chief or district chief. And that's the way it's been for generations," said fire Capt. Scott Flannery in a letter he wrote to Flanagan, with copies sent to the City Council and The Herald News. In placing a lieutenant at the helm, Flanagan passed over two deputy fire chiefs, nine district chiefs and 14 captains, although no one below a chief's ranking had ever vied for or been appointed for at least three or four decades and probably more than half a century, said other chiefs: <http://www.heraldnews.com/features/x473906681/Coogans-interim-fire-chief-appointment-prompts-mostly-outrage>

There were 2,400 applicants, but only 25 of were handed a badge by the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority to make them firefighters. The Wednesday night fire-academy graduation, at the agency's Irvine headquarters, was the first in more than two years. The graduates joined the department's 835 other firefighters. Fire Authority officials are considering looking at the possibility of beginning another fire academy in 2012. And after the 25 new firefighters are assigned to one of the agency's 61 stations, the agency will still have 46 vacancies:

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/fire-327460-agency-years.html>

For months, The San Fernando (CA) City Council has been holding a series of discussions to replace the Los Angeles City Fire Department with an independent fire service company, San Fernando Fire and Rescue. Tuesday, during a special meeting, Mayor Mario Hernandez announced that the council committee tabled consideration of the SFFR contract "in light of new legal issues" but didn't offer further explanation:

<http://www.sanfernandosun.com/sanfernsun/news/7447-san-fernando-fire-and-rescue-contract-tabled>

The Norco (CA) City Council voted 3-1 Wednesday to approve a \$2.9million annual contract with Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department for fire and medical emergency services, a move that begins the process to dissolve the Norco Fire Department. The move is expected to save the city roughly \$1.4 million annually, excluding start-up costs. Norco had budgeted about \$3 million for services from its Fire Department this year, but that figure does not include overtime, workers' compensation and disability claims that could boost that figure to \$4.5 million, according to a staff report. Cal Fire officials say savings they provide comes from longer shifts and more available firefighters. The agreement transfers all 18 of the city's firefighter paramedics, captains and engineers to Cal Fire as state employees while the city plans to keep the full-time fire prevention specialist and two part-time clerical assistants. Some firefighters would continue to work in Norco, while others could be transferred to other county stations. The city also will keep ownership of its two fire stations and fire equipment but plans to transfer two fire engines to Cal Fire to avoid liabilities such as property insurance:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topic/politics-and-law/calif-city-begins-dismantle-fire-department>

A sustainability task force that has been helping the University of Nevada, Reno Fire Science Academy agreed Tuesday to look at ways to rescue the academy from closure, but no one is holding their breath. "The key is this has to be a substantial plan with a strong framework," academy Executive Director Denise Baclawski said. The rescue would require \$12 million to cover all operational losses over the years, and that's not counting the debt on the facility itself, which UNR is covering, she said: http://elkodaily.com/news/local/article_dc60c120-1070-11e1-9ce2-001cc4c002e0.html

Fire departments and districts in the Spokane (WA) Valley area were taking stock this week and trying to determine how to move forward after levy and bond requests on the November ballot failed. Newman Lake Fire District 13 tried to pass a \$2.2 million construction bond to build a new fire station. It received only 48 percent approval. The district's commissioners held a special meeting Tuesday to discuss the results. "They talked about whether to run it again," said Fire Chief Keith Yamane. The commissioners asked Yamane to take the issue back to the Building Committee, which was heavily involved in selecting the design of the proposed new station, for a recommendation on what to do next, Yamane said. "I think they want to get an idea relatively quick," he said. "They weren't opposed to running it again." Spokane County Fire District 8, which stretches across a large area south of Spokane and Spokane Valley, tried to pass its first Maintenance and Operations levy to replace dropping property tax revenue. It failed with 51 percent approval. The measure needed 60 percent approval to pass. The loss of a

fire levy was perhaps more painful in Rockford. The town's replacement fire levy got a 56.7 percent approval vote, just a few points shy of the 60 percent required. "We'll probably try again," said Rockford Mayor Micki Harnois. The levy would have paid for the expense of running the town's all-volunteer department, including training and maintenance of the fire station: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1185606-wash-fire-departments-districts-regroup-from-failed-levies/>

Four high-ranking Monarch (MO) Fire Protection District officials were fired for creating an atmosphere where discrimination was tolerated, the president of the district's board of directors said at a special meeting Tuesday. The board affirmed decisions to fire Assistant Chief Les Crews, Deputy Chief Cary Spiegel and battalion chiefs Fred Goodson and Mike Davis. A vote had been taken during a closed meeting Saturday. The move was in response to a decision denying an appeal the district made in a discrimination case that awarded \$200,000 plus interest and attorney fees each to two female employees. The women claimed they had been subjected to a hostile work environment:
http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/monarch-fire-board-fires-four-officials/article_eebbbbdca0c3-5816-8c90-b176c3848ec7.html

A state agency that regulates paramedics has dismissed complaints that some members of the public filed over the Memorial Day death of Raymond Zack, who committed suicide off Crown Beach while emergency workers remained onshore, Alameda (CA) city officials announced Monday. The complaints alleged that paramedics could not resuscitate the 52-year-old Zack due to equipment failure, that a paramedic was working at the scene in violation of his probation, and that another paramedic who was not there covered for that individual by filing an incident report. Michael Smith, the chief enforcement officer for the Emergency Medical Services Authority, said he found no merit in any of the allegations in a Nov. 10 letter to Donna Mooney, acting city attorney for Alameda:
http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_19386375?IADID=Search-www.insidebayarea.com-www.insidebayarea.com

San Mateo (CA) and Foster City have taken another step to merge the administration of their fire departments. The cities began in 2010 by sharing San Mateo Fire Chief Dan Belville. Under the new agreement, approved retroactively Monday night by the San Mateo City Council, the cities also share a deputy fire chief and battalion chief. San Mateo and Foster City will explore further sharing of fire-administration duties over the next few years to reduce costs. "I think both cities are happy with the progress so far," San Mateo Mayor Jack Matthews said Wednesday. The two fire departments now have five battalion chiefs between them. Belville's plan is to get down to three battalion chiefs in coming years through retirements:
http://www.marinij.com/ci_19393828

.....and last, but not least.....

Buckeye (AZ) Fire Chief Bob Costello never thought he would be in the cemetery-management business, but that was before the town laid off 200 employees beginning in 2008. Now he and his fellow firefighters help set up graveside services at the Louis B. Hazelton Memorial Cemetery. They line up chairs, move awnings, help with excavation and burial closures and occasionally cut the grass, trim the trees and mount headstones. Administrative staff takes care of sales and record keeping. Costello understands it may not be the best role for the department, but the town is facing desperate times. "It's a service that absolutely has to be done," he said. "I can't think of a group of more compassionate, caring and reverent people than the firefighters. When it came down to looking at layoffs ... sometimes you have to do

things that wasn't in your job description and certainly wasn't something you signed up for." Buckeye is not the only municipality in metro Phoenix asking workers to add unfamiliar jobs to their regular duties. Cash-strapped cities already thinner from layoffs are combining departments and crafting unconventional ways to deliver necessary services:

<http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2011/11/26/phoenix-area-city-employees-take-on-dual-roles-in-hard-times/>

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

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

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

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