

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

July 31, 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 2011 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 in upcoming semesters!
- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

FALL 2011 Semester: (August through December, 2011)

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 is available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1150 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 51 (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 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 (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates:	Tue & Thurs (pm)	1700 – 2050 hours
- October 18, 20 and 22 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Saturday (all day), or	0830 – 1650 hours
- November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Wed & Fri (pm)	1700 – 2050 hours
	Sunday (all day)	0830 – 1650 hours
COURSE	DAY	TIMES

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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 (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 29, December 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 15, 17, 19 and 20	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 8, 10, 12 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 1, 3 and 5	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class meets on the following dates: - August 17, 31, September 28, November 9 and December 14	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 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 – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class meets on the following dates: • November 29, December 1, 3, 6, 8 & 10	Tue & Thurs (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 INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR

Hot Topics Research for Emergency Medical Services

NEW EMS Course at the National Fire Academy!

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot course at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the newly developed 6-day course *Hot Topics Research for Emergency Medical Services (P-139)*.

The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering two pilot offerings.

- The first will be October 30 – November 4, 2011, with students to arrive Saturday October 29 and depart Saturday November 5.
- The second pilot offering will be January 29 – February 3, 2012 with students to arrive Saturday January 28 and depart Saturday February 4.

Course Description: This 6-day course provides the knowledge and skills to identify and research hot topics in Emergency Medical Services to ultimately identify, promote and embrace system or service improvements. This course is structured around how to make a persuasive justification through the effective collection and presentation of data with the use of a wide variety of research resources. Finally, students will construct a program proposal and/or progress report for presentation. This course includes research, writing, and presentation elements for successful completion.

Student Selection Criteria: Emergency Medical Services middle management personnel (including Shift Supervisor, Captain, Division/Battalion Chief, Crew Leader, Administrator, etc.) with at least 3 to 5 years experience.

Class Size: 24

Length: 6 days

Prerequisites: ICS 100 level and ICS 200 level training. Preferred courses are Q462 and Q463 available through NFA Online at www.nfaonline.dhs.gov. Chief's signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training.

How to Apply:

- Students must complete a FEMA General Admissions Application (FEMA Form 119-25-1). An electronic application is available on our website at:
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Completed applications must be received by August 19, 2011 and should be submitted to:

NETC Admissions Office
Building I, Room 216
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the NETC Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.

- Applicants should not make plans to attend this pilot course until notified in writing by the NETC Admissions Office.
- Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance for this pilot course. Attendance at the pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

“Size Up Matters” Initial Arrival Simulations

**September 6 & 7, 2011 or
September 8 & 9, 2011**



- HIGHLIGHTS -

Developing the Following - “First Five Minute” Skills:

- Initial Scene Size Up
- Positioning Tactics
- Arrival Reporting
- Fire Attack Strategies
- Incident Management
- RIT / MAYDAY Preparedness
- Common Sense NIMS Terms
- Transfer of Command



These two-day simulations workshops are geared for current and aspiring fire officers desiring to improve their scene presence and incident management capabilities. It has been proven that multiple simulations and feedback provide a solid foundation for enhancing intelligence gathering and decision making skills. Good habits are developed through repetition and practice... our tactical simulations are based upon the local construction, department operations, and conditions that you would likely expect to operate under in the field. Scenarios will provide up to six different views of an incident (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Interior, and Roof) and participants will coordinate operations with all units operating on the scene utilizing the incident management processes reviewed in class. Each simulation is followed by instructor and student feedback to maximize learning opportunities. Students will be provided with a workbook to reinforce their experiences after class.

To Learn More Visit www.stflorianacademy.org

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED
www.chabotfire.com

Register early to secure spot in the class.
Guaranteed to improve your command skills.

Location:
University of Phoenix
3110 E Guasti Rd, Ste 100,
Ontario, CA 91761
Cost: \$550

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Mastering Fireground Command **Calm the Chaos!**



Today's fireground should be a calm and orchestrated event, but often it is not! Fewer fires, mass attrition, and little or no command training have created an era in today's fire service where the simple "bread and butter" house fire is a sentinel event.

The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death causal factors on the fireground surround size up, command, communications, accountability and SOP's.

Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, commercial, wildland, MCI, hazardous materials incidents and review actual incident video and audio to get answers to the following questions...

- How do I set clear tactical objectives, have clear communications and establish command presence on my fires?
- How do I create a personal system that blends all of my classes, certifications, SOP's, ICS, and tactical fundamentals into a simple, street smart and effective way?
- What's the difference between size ups and arrival reports and how do I become great at both?
- What are the trigger points and safety issues of Offensive, Defensive and Combination strategies?
- What are the key points to Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage?
- How do I really use ICS day-to-day and get beyond "checking the boxes"?
- How do we get SOP's/SOG's working in my department?
- When do we call an audible on the SOP's?
- What could hurt me or my crew tonight?

This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will simplify the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these 3 key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! **Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test and the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the fire service did!**

Who should attend?

- ✓ **Current officers who desire to dramatically improve their fireground command abilities**

- ✓ **Aspiring officers who desire to develop a system for outstanding performance for the assessment center test and the job**
- ✓ **Training officers who desire the latest in tactical training**

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.

**Alameda County Fire Department - September 19-20, 2011
Go to www.Trainfirefighters.com for online registration
Class size limited to due to depth of instruction**

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

Chief's Corner - Firefighter Safety in Extreme Heat

Posted on July 26, 2011 by Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines

With this summer's extreme heat in most of the country, and many areas experiencing triple digit temperatures, it is essential that you - and all of the fire service working in it - take care. Hydration before dehydration is key: do not allow yourself or those responding with you to place yourself at risk for heat related illness. Also, keep a lookout for your fellow firefighters. Another critical function that needs to be established in this heat wave is emergency incident rehabilitation. Emergency incident rehabilitation is designed to ensure that the physical and mental well-being of firefighters and other emergency responders operating at the scene of an emergency does not deteriorate to the point where it affects their safety. It can prevent serious and life-threatening conditions such as heat stroke and heart attacks from occurring. Rehabilitation is not just for incidents, it is also a must for operational training. Fire departments should be in compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1584 *Standard on the Rehabilitation of Members Operating at Incident Scene Operations and Training Exercises*.

USFA has resources to assist you and your department in establishing an effective emergency incident rehabilitation program, including a comprehensive guide on Emergency Incident Rehabilitation - http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_314.pdf (PDF, 5.6 Mb) which was developed through a partnership with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). Additionally, the USFA website provides comprehensive information on this topic at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/incident.shtm> - Please take some time to review these resources. USFA remains committed to the health and safety of firefighters, operating in any weather.

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



Each year college and university students, on- and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide. There are several specific causes for fires on college campuses, including cooking, intentionally set fires, and open flame. Overall, most college-related fires are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention. According to information compiled by Campus FireWatch, the great majority of student fire deaths occur in off-campus housing that lacks insufficient exits, missing or inoperative smoke alarms, and automatic fire sprinklers. Also, use of candles, careless smoking habits, and the misuse of alcohol—which impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts—contribute to off-campus housing fire deaths.

As the Fall semester approaches, colleges and universities are busy preparing for the arrival of new residents to their campus communities. Some will be first year students moving into the residence halls. Other arriving students will be moving off-campus and living on their own, some for the first time. For most of these students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school; but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students understand fire risks and know the preventative measures that could save their lives.

Learn the facts about campus fire safety and be fire-wise! – Go to:
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/campussafety.shtm>

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

USFA Releases Two Topical Reports on Residential Building Fires Involving Individuals with Disabilities

Contact: USFA Press Office - (301) 447-1853 - July 27, 2011

EMMITSBURG, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports highlighting the characteristics of residential building fires involving individuals with mental and physical disabilities. The reports, **Residential Building Fires Involving Individuals with Mental Disabilities** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i5.pdf> (PDF, (745 Kb) and **Residential Building Fires Involving Individuals with Physical Disabilities** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i6.pdf> (PDF, 899 Kb), were developed by USFA’s National Fire Data Center.

The analyses in these reports address residential building fires where a possible mental or physical disability, as reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), were the human factors contributing to the ignition of the fire. Annually, an estimated 1,700 residential building fires involving individuals with mental disabilities are reported to U.S. fire departments and cause an estimated 85 deaths, 250 injuries, and \$61 million in total loss. Additionally, there are an estimated 700 residential building fires involving individuals with physical disabilities that occur each year, resulting in 160 deaths, 200 injuries, and \$26 million in property loss.

According to the reports, the majority of the residential building fires involving individuals with mental (62 percent) and physical (63 percent) disabilities occur in one- and two-family dwellings. Cooking, at 22 percent, is the leading cause of residential fires where a physical disability is reported as a human factor contributing to the ignition of the fire. This differs from the leading cause of residential fires where a mental disability is reported as a human factor contributing to ignition. In these types of fires, intentional is the leading fire cause, at 40 percent. Fire incidence involving individuals with disabilities occur most often in January and December. In addition, these fires show a tendency to peak in the late afternoon to early evening hours.

The reports are part of the Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2007 to 2009. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. The reports can be downloaded at: www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/. For information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

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

July 20, 2011 - FEMA News Desk: 202-646-3272

FEMA Encourages Americans to Participate in September's National Preparedness Month

Eight Annual National Preparedness Month is September: "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare," Encourages Americans to Take Simple Steps to Prepare for Emergencies

WASHINGTON - The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Ready* Campaign, in partnership with Citizen Corps and the Ad Council, today announced the launch of new web tools that will make it easier for individuals and organizations throughout the nation to join the 2011 National Preparedness Month (NPM) coalition and pledge their support to help prepare their families, businesses and communities for emergencies of all kinds. The eighth annual NPM will kickoff this September, using the slogan: "A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare." The campaign seeks to transform awareness into action by encouraging all Americans to take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes, workplaces and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of all kinds. "As we move forward with planning for this year's events and activities, we also recognize that this September marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "By doing what we can to ensure that our communities, and our nation, are prepared to respond and recover from all types of disasters and hazards, we honor the memory of

those who were lost that day." Individuals and groups can now register to become NPM coalition members by visiting <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>. Once registered, members have access to a toolkit that includes suggestions for activities and events, templates, articles, banners and customizable materials. Coalition members also have access to an events calendar allowing them to post and promote preparedness events, share success stories, and participate in national and regional discussion forums to engage with fellow coalition members and FEMA representatives. By hosting events, promoting volunteer programs and sharing emergency preparedness information, coalition members can help ensure that their communities are prepared for emergencies. Becoming a coalition member is easy and free, so register now at <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM> to get started. Nearly 2,000 coalition members have already joined this year's campaign.

While NPM is held each September, FEMA's *Ready* Campaign promotes individual emergency preparedness at home, in the workplace, and throughout America's communities throughout the year. Ready is a national campaign, produced in partnership with The Ad Council, designed to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. The *Ready* Campaign's websites (<http://www.ready.gov> and <http://www.listo.gov>) and toll-free numbers (1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO) provide free emergency preparedness information and resources available in English and Spanish. Additionally, through FEMA's partnership with the Ad Council, public service announcements are available to increase the American public's involvement in preparedness.

TOUCHING FUNERAL VIDEO CLIP FOR 2 S.F.F.D. FIREFIGHTERS WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Below you will find a link to a slide show put together by the crew of Orange County (CA) Fire Authority Engine 26 who took the time to travel up to San Francisco with numerous other fire department personnel, to participate in the funeral processions for two San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) firefighters – Vincent Perez and Anthony Valerio, who lost their lives in the line-of-duty in early June, 2011:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MatJGCYMa8A&ytsession=CvyV0tkSP0v3qwK2y1nQSK-OFIFAZzSgFKm2AhMHaa_mbKXTLgeOvkA0RlPk6ROWpd3ZiKjCrQ0PzcuhcLrMr0N-Sr_X9D0-gdcY9wkvfxQtdweAo3Z-Y68WX57xCIBsV0WURwKVdFd0ymbEWPXTidloEFTWi_tS7uO4Su26_MB9-19vcUMpCGGgAUe5z5qr5_kLqiovNabua-8qWDpEbOjDejXH3xj2Q5-gsdSsa5J7ulbraBG4mHjZTGXL2vSt79qqcYieuT5YIKAW0HiUenqv_xvDBBsHju6UXiv1Ap4

Thanks to Nicol Juratovac, SFFD Lieutenant, for sharing the link with us.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT (LAFD):

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

Please save these dates and mark them on your calendar today. ALL members of our community and friends of the LAFD are welcomed to join us for these family-friendly events.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Sunday, September 11, 2011 - Patriot Day & 9-11 10th Anniversary Remembrance
Details Pending - More Info Soon

- Monday, September 19, 2011 - LAFD Golf Invitational (MountainGate) - <http://bit.ly/d7bSpH>

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Are You on Twitter? Follow our official accounts via <http://twitter.com>

@LAFD, @LAFDtalk @LAFDFireChief @SmokeAlarm

...and be sure to bookmark and "LIKE" us today on Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/LosAngelesFireDepartment>

#

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist
Public Service Officer
Emergency Public Information (EPI) Center
Los Angeles Fire Department

"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

LAFD Home Page: <http://LAFD.ORG>

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.

- **Confined Space Rescue:** August 22 through 26, 2011 (*Class in Modesto, CA*)
- **Trench Rescue:** September 12 through 14, 2011 (*Class in Milpitas, CA*)
- **Haz Mat Incident Commander:** September 15 & 16, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, CA*)
- **Low Angle Rescue Operational:** September 21 through 21, 2011 (*Class in Los Gatos, CA*)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 26, 28, October 3, 5 & 7, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, CA*)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 27, 29, October 10, 17 & 19, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, CA*)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 30, October 4, 11, 13 & 18, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, 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 PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



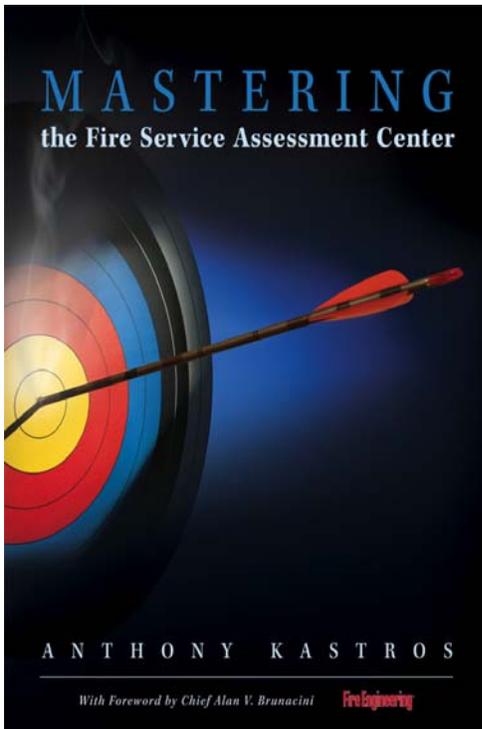
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

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



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

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

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

Anthony Kastros is a 24-year veteran of the fire service. He is a Battalion Chief with the Sacramento (CA) Metro Fire District. He is author of the Fire Engineering DVD series "Mastering Fireground Command - Calm the Chaos!" and author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center", that focuses on strategy, tactics, leadership and management. Chief Kastros is an FDIC instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. He

spent 4 seasons on a Type 1 incident management team, and 10 years as a FEMA USAR Task Force Manager, deploying to New York on 9/11. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and is currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

OCTOBER 11 THROUGH 14, 2011 – MONTEREY, CA
\$495.00*

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

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

Fallen Firefighters to Be Honored on October 16, 2011

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the U.S. Fire Administration will honor 89 firefighters who died in the line of duty at the 2011 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. These firefighters will be featured in the National Fallen Firefighters Tribute Widget on July 12, 2011. For more information on how you can include the tribute on your website, visit <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget/>

Emmitsburg, MD - The 30th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg on October 15-16, 2011. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration will honor 72 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2010. A bronze plaque containing their names will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, located here on the National Fire Academy campus. Seventeen firefighters who died in previous years will also be honored. The plaques surrounding the Memorial, which was established in 1981, will contain the names of more than 3,500 firefighters.

Twenty-seven states experienced line-of-duty deaths in 2010. Deaths resulted from vehicle accidents while en route to or returning from emergency calls, building collapses, natural disaster response, falling, drowning, heart attacks, and burns/smoke inhalation. Three multiple fatality incidents accounted for six deaths. One multiple fatality occurred during a flashover at a structural fire; one incident resulted from an apparatus accident, and one involved a building collapse at a commercial structure fire. Illinois had the nation's greatest number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in 2010 with 8, followed by New York and Pennsylvania with 7; and Kansas had 6. "Firefighters are called upon to face danger on a daily basis," said Chairman of the NFFF Board of Directors, Chief Dennis Compton. "In October, a grateful Nation will honor their dedication and remember their sacrifice. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend brings their loved ones and the fire service together to let their families, coworkers, and friends know that they will never be forgotten." For more information about the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend visit <http://weekend.FireHero.org>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

American Health Education in Dublin, California 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.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- **Training Instructor 1A:** August 22 – 26, 2011
- **Fire Command 1A:** September 12 – 16, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1A:** September 19 – 23, 2011

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 OPPORTUNITIES:

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2011 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to www.firenuggets.com

Seminar #1: Thursday, October 20, 2011

Mastering Fireground Command – Calming The Chaos

- Presented by Battalion Chief Anthony Kastros, Sacramento Metro Fire District

The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death (LODD) operational causes on the fireground surround size-up, command, communications, accountability, and SOP's. This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will streamline the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these three key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test AND the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the Fire Service did! We will conduct extensive incident reviews, including actual video and audio of commercial structure, apartment, residential, wildland, fatal fires and saves. Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, and commercial fire incidents to get answers to the following questions...

1. How do I set clear tactical objectives, have clear communications and establish command presence on my fires?
2. How do I create a personal system that blends all of my classes, certifications, SOP's, ICS, and tactical fundamentals into a simple, street smart and effective way?
3. What are the trigger points and safety issues of Offensive, Defensive and Combination strategies?
4. What are the key points to Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage?
5. How do I really use ICS day-to-day and get beyond "checking the boxes"?
6. What could hurt me or my crew tonight?

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_kastros.pdf

Seminar #2: Thursday December 8, 2011

Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground

- Presented by Captain Mike Gagliano, Seattle Fire Department

The Point of NO Return is a dynamic, cutting edge presentation that is transforming the way the national fire service views Air Management, Tactical safety and Firefighter survival. This fast moving July 31, 2011 www.chabotfire.com 13

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workshop utilizes dramatic audio/video, stimulating discussions, and everyday scenarios to create a synergistic learning experience where the students lead, as well as learn. At the center of the class are The Need, The Mandate, and The Solution. Each area will be covered in detail and gives the students practical information, along with drills, to take back to their departments. Among the topics covered are:

The Rule Of Air Management (ROAM) ■ The point of NO return ■ How firefighters are dying in structures ■ The coming changes to NFPA 1404 and how they will affect you ■ Factors that affect the duration of a firefighter's air supply ■ READY checks (A new way to do buddy checks) ■ Review of close calls from Seattle, Phoenix, Ft. Worth and other cities ■ Practical methods to manage your air ■ CARA radio reports ■ Myths of air management

These and other topics will make for a great day of learning and classroom participation. The consistent comment received from firefighters across the spectrum of experience is: "I wish I had this class years ago. I can take this and use it tonight."

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gagliano.pdf

NOTE: All of the above seminars are going to be held at:

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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

July 11, 2011

TO: United States Fire Partner Organizations

FROM: Glenn A. Gaines, Deputy Administrator, United States Fire Administration (USFA)

SUBJECT: National Preparedness Month 2011

This year USFA is encouraging fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) departments across the country to join with us and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in raising the awareness and preparedness of citizens in protecting themselves, their residences and places of employment from all hazards and risks due to national, regional or local disasters. As the first wave of response to every emergency and disaster whether natural or manmade, the United States fire and EMS can make a real difference in educating citizens in strategies that will mitigate the impact from all hazards and risks. Firefighters and EMS personnel have the opportunity through **National Preparedness Month** (<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm11/index.html>) activities to send an important message. We are an all hazard service with proactive solutions to save lives! Each year, FEMA designates the month of September as National Preparedness Month to raise awareness about the importance of being prepared for disasters of any kind. The support for National Preparedness Month has grown on a national, state, and local level since its inception. The recent disasters across the United States and around the world have inspired the public to take action. With your help, we hope to make this our most successful and coordinated effort to date.

The theme for this year's **National Preparedness Month ~ A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.** - is intended to help encourage activities that will:

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- Honor our career and volunteer fire and EMS providers
- Encourage community service
- Reaffirm that preparedness is a shared responsibility

National Preparedness Month Activities

There are many ways to get involved with National Preparedness Month, particularly as an opportunity to fulfill your local outreach goals. Some examples include:

- Host a preparedness open house that doubles as a volunteer sign-up to assist you in Fire Prevention Week activities
- Reach out to youth and their families by planning a visit to a local school or day care to discuss emergency and evacuation plans, and distribute information to staff, family members, and children about the importance of preparedness, mitigation, and fire safety
- Consider using a press release or social media effort to announce the launch of Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) or a new partnership with a local youth program that will integrate preparedness
- Reach out to older adults by planning a visit to your local senior center to discuss emergency and evacuation plans
- Host or take part in a 9/11 service day activity with an emphasis on preparedness (Visit www.911dayofservice.org for more information)
- Host a CERT day where community members can assemble emergency kits and learn about CERT or other volunteer programs. More information can be found at www.citizencorps.gov/cert
- Work with your CERT program manager to coordinate a small business outreach effort with CERT volunteers
- Promote a day in your community to sign up for future preparedness events such as the ShakeOut Earthquake Drill (www.ShakeOut.org for more information)

Coalition Membership

Join us as a Coalition Member and post your event at www.ready.gov to advertise and link with other preparedness activities nationwide. As a Coalition Member, you will receive information and tools in the coming months; here are some examples of what you can expect:

- Your event will be promoted to the public on a national calendar of events;
- We will send you information about posting your volunteer needs for promotion on a volunteer website with millions of annual users;
- We will provide you with widgets, web banners, and hyperlinks to add to your website along with templates for flyers and/or posters; and
- You will receive new research findings about effective messages to use with the public.

We applaud and support your continued commitment to Fire Prevention Week in October and want National Preparedness Month activities to be flexible enough to complement your ongoing efforts. The topic of preparedness will be highlighted on the national, state, and local news throughout September and October. We hope you will leverage that opportunity to get additional media attention for your planned activities in your local communities. The more we all work together, the more effective our message will be. The National Preparedness Month team will be working with USFA to provide additional materials, information, and ideas. You are the trusted source of information for your community and we hope that you will partner with the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and USFA for the 2011 ***National Preparedness Month ~ A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.***

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

The **San Francisco Paramedic Association** is looking for **volunteers** for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

- **Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed -**

Dates / Locations / Times:	- August 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) - August 16, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) - October 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) - October 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)
	**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under Give) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.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

- 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:	Caleb N. Hamm
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	23
Gender:	Male
Status:	Wildland Part-Time
Years of Service:	5
Date of Incident:	07/07/2011
Time of Incident:	1500hrs
Date of Death:	07/07/2011
Fire Department:	Dept. of Interior Bureau of Land Management - Bonneville Hot Shots
Address:	2370 S 2300 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Fire Department Chief: Chris Kirby

Incident Description: Firefighter Hamm fell ill while he was working on a fire line near Abilene, Texas. Hamm, a member of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bonneville Interagency Hotshot crew, was being transported by helicopter to the hospital when he passed away from a cause still to be determined. Initial reports indicated that the extreme heat in Texas at the time may have been a factor in Hamm's death.

Incident Location: Near Abilene, TX

Funeral Arrangements: 07/14/2011 @ 1100hrs, Double Tree Riverside Hotel, 2900 West Chinden Boulevard, Boise, ID

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Caleb N. Hamm at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 50 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 45 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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: John Lackovic
Rank: Fire Police Lieutenant
Age: 60
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 33
Date of Incident: 07/11/2011
Time of Incident: 1130hrs
Date of Death: 07/11/2011
Fire Department: Valley Forge Volunteer Fire Company
Address: PO Box 62, 630 Valley Park RD, Valley Forge, PA 19481-0062
Fire Department Chief: Rick Beittel, Jr.

Incident Description: Approximately four hours after Fire Police Lieutenant Lackovic responded to a report of a motorcycle accident, Lackovic began experiencing difficulty breathing. EMS units from West End Ambulance responded to calls for assistance and, upon arrival, found Lieutenant Lackovic in cardiac arrest. Lieutenant Lackovic was transported to the Phoenixville Hospital where he passed away.

Incident Location: 1145 Valley Forge Rd, Schuylkill Twp, PA

Funeral Arrangements: Per the family's request, a private viewing, funeral, and reception will be held Friday, July 15th, 2011.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Lieutenant John Lackovic at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 51 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 46 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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:

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Name: Travis Lee Miller
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 31
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5
Date of Incident: 07/19/2011
Time of Incident: 1847hrs
Date of Death: 07/20/2011
Fire Department: Waterloo – Grant Township Fire Department
Address: PO Box 115, 305 S Sheridan ST, Waterloo, IN 46793-0115
Fire Department Chief: Kirby Hobbs

Incident Description: Firefighter Miller died of an apparent heart attack shortly after returning home from working a residential structure fire in Butler, Indiana. Heat conditions on the fireground were described by local authorities as extreme.

Incident Location: 418 North Pearl ST, Butler, IN

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Travis Lee Miller at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 52 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 47 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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: Gaston Gagne
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 46
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 18
Date of Incident: 07/25/2011
Time of Incident: 1730hrs
Date of Death: 07/25/2011
Fire Department: Baytown Fire Department
Address: 201 E Wye DR, Baytown, TX 77521-4139
Fire Department Chief: Shon Blake
Fire Department POC: Melinda Foster

Incident Description: Firefighter Gagne passed away from an apparent heart attack after returning home from responding to three incidents earlier that day.

Incident Location: Pending.

Funeral Arrangements: Saturday, 07/30/11 - Sacred Heart Catholic Church located at 3730 Farm Market Road 160 N, Raywood, TX 77582

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Donations in honor of Firefighter Gagne may be sent to the Beacon Federal Credit Union, 2812 N Alexander DR, Baytown, TX 77520-2957, c/o Elizabeth Gagne in memory of Gaston Gagne.

Beacon Federal Credit Union Phone Number: 281-471-1782

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

To date, 53 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 48 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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 listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (www.firehero.org) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

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

FIVE FIREFIGHTERS AMONGST THE DEAD IN CYPRUS EXPLOSION

A massive explosion ripped through a Cypriot naval base Monday after a brush fire detonated gunpowder stored in containers, killing 12 people including 5 Firefighters in the Line of Duty, wounding 62 and prompting the resignations of the country's defense minister and top military chief. Cyprus is a Eurasian island country in the Eastern Mediterranean, east of Greece, south of Turkey, west of Syria and north of Egypt. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and one of its most popular tourist destinations. Bodies covered with white sheets lay scattered on a charred hillside near the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base on the Mediterranean island's southern coast, while ambulances ferried the injured to hospitals in Larnaca and the island's capital, Nicosia. The blast occurred in the early hours of the morning when a brush fire approached dozens of storage containers holding gunpowder that had been confiscated in 2009 from a ship which had been heading from Iran to Syria. Defense Minister Costas Papacostas and the country's top military official, National Guard chief Brig. Gen. Petros Tsalikides, resigned over the incident. Investigators had ruled out sabotage as a cause for the blast. Fifty of the 62 people injured had been treated and released from hospitals. Two of those still hospitalized had suffered serious injuries. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 7-11-11 / 0900 Hours

AND:

Hey,

On July 10, 2011 at 1830 hours, a CalFire Firefighter, while acting as a back-up person for an engine company, sustained a serious head injury when he became pinned between 2 CAL FIRE engine companies. The incident occurred following release from a companies cover assignment at Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit. An Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) engine strike team stopped at a local restaurant

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to eat. While attempting to back the AEU engine into a space immediately adjacent to another engine, the right rear tire rode up on the curb. When the fire apparatus operator moved the engine off of the curb, the engine shifted. The Firefighter who was acting as back-up person became pinned between the two engine companies. The Firefighter received a serious head injury and was transported by ground ambulance to a local trauma center for treatment. We wish the Firefighter a successful recovery.

NIOSH FIRE FIGHTER LODD REPORTS RELEASED:

(NOTE-this also includes the Bridgeport CT double LODD report that had been previously released by other sources, but not officially by NIOSH)

- Aug 09, 2010 Career fire fighter dies from fall off fire escape ladder - Illinois
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201025.html>
- Sep 24, 2010 Fire fighter suffers sudden cardiac death while fighting wildland fire - Virginia
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201035.html>
- Jan 16, 2011 Fire fighter-paramedic suffers sudden cardiac death during ice rescue training - New Hampshire
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201103.html>
- July 24, 2010 A Career Lieutenant and a Career Fire Fighter Found Unresponsive at a Residential Structure Fire - Connecticut
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201018.html>

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH STUDY-PARTICIPATION REQUESTED

A research project conducted by the Center for Fire, Rescue & EMS Health Research is seeking departments to participate in their study of health and wellness in the fire service. The study is looking for departments that are currently not able to implement the IAFF/IAFC Wellness Fitness Initiative or are hoping to implement, but have not yet. The project will provide valuable feedback to your firefighters and information to help with health promotion programs. For this study, they are looking for departments across the country that currently do not have:

- Annual NFPA 1582 compliant medical physicals
- An identified fitness coordinator
- Active peer fitness trainers

If selected, the project team will make two visits to your department to examine important health factors such as nutrition, exercise, and body composition in a sample of your firefighters. Your department will receive a summary of the project's findings for your department and your firefighters will receive project incentives. Importantly, data on individual firefighters will not be shared with anyone and will be considered confidential by the research team. All the services will be provided free of charge to your department and the selected departments will be part of an important scientific study in the fire service. To learn more about the project or nominate your department to participate, contact: Project Coord: Dr. Melissa Hyder: hyder@ndri.org or 913-681-0300 Principal Investigator: Dr. Sara Jahnke: sara@hopehri.com
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-12-11 / 2149 Hours

AND:

PA FF LODD - MEDICAL

It is with great sadness that the Office of the State Fire Commissioner announces the Line of Duty Related Death of John Lackovic, age 51, and a member of the Valley Forge Fire Company, Chester County, PA. Lt Lackovic responded to a report of a motorcycle accident before Noon on July 11.

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Later that afternoon the West End Ambulance responded to a 911 call finding Lt Lackovic in cardiac arrest. He was transported to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-12-11 / 1835 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We have all responded to fires where, upon our arrival, well meaning police officers have attempted to assist us by searching and in some cases, rescuing victims. In many cases, they are successful, but in many other cases, they become victims themselves. Naturally, the goal would be to help people in trouble, without themselves (the PD) also getting in trouble, adding to the work we have already have to do. The most recent example of that is in New Jersey. were a short in an electrical wire in a hallway ceiling caused a fire in an apartment building in Red Bank yesterday. According to the RB Fire Marshal, the fire went undetected for about 45 minutes as the heat melted through a sprinkler pipe, which caused the roof ceiling of the bedroom to collapse, and the water from the pipe helped contain the fire.

Upon receipt of the fire call, 2 police officers went inside the apartment building looking for residents before the RB Firefighters arrived. Unfortunately but somewhat predictably, the police officers along with civilians became trapped by the heavy smoke conditions in the building. One police officer was able to get out of the building on his own, but a ceiling collapse trapped the second police officer in a second-floor apartment. Fortunately, Red Bank Firefighters arrived and raised a ladder to the second-floor window to get the other officer and civilians out of the building. Another reminder to share with the law enforcement folks in any area, as well intentioned as any may be. And while you are sharing, you may wanna remind them of our burning desire to gain access and use hydrants at fires as well as our interest in accessing the fire block/street-so please park outta the way. Just like the fire chief cars do. Just say'n.

TWO TRAGIC OFF DUTY EVENTS:

On Tuesday morning shortly before 0600,Columbia (SC) Firefighter Travis Kinley was hit by a car while cycling to work. It is reported that he was struck by two vehicles, the first of which did not stop. He is being treated for multiple injuries including head trauma resulting from the accident and is listed in serious condition. We wish him a rapid recovery. A veteran Fire Captain with the Greensboro (NC) FD died today in an off-duty incident. GFD Captain Jackie Spoon was changing blades under a 1,250 pound commercial lawnmower when the mower collapsed on him. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Spoon, a 22-year veteran, most recently served as captain at Fire Station 11 on South Elm-Eugene Street. Read more: <http://www.wxii12.com/news/28537453/detail.html#ixzz1S2Kc45Lx> R.I.P. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-13-11 / 2052 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Speed, no seat belt use and driver distraction were the causes of a crash that killed FF David E. Remington, 58, in the Line of Duty on Jan. 3, 2011 in Maine. The crash was investigated by the York County Sheriff's office. Remington, a Shapleigh (Maine) Firefighter, was responding to a rescue call at about 2200 hours that night when he lost control of his personal vehicle, a 2005 Chevrolet 1500 pick-up truck about one mile from Route 109, in Shapleigh. The truck rolled, struck two trees and

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came to rest on the passenger's side in a ditch. FF Remington was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash and at some point he was ejected from his vehicle-he was DOA at the scene.

There was no evidence or indication that Remington was impaired at the time of the accident, nor was there evidence of mechanical failure. The accident was reconstructed by law enforcement who concluded that FF Remington had become distracted for some unknown reason while rounding a gradual corner. The vehicle was traveling between 59 and 67 mph when it left the road, in an area posted for 45 mph. FF Remington was a retired career Firefighter for the City of Portland and had been an active Volunteer Firefighter for the Shapleigh Fire Department for four years at the time of the accident. Another tragic reminder about the critical and mandatory use of seat belts as well and controlling the vehicle-car, ambulance or apparatus when responding.

DC DUMB: FIREFIGHTERS TO FIGHT CRIME

Both D.C. firefighters and police officers are upset over a new program that forces the fire department to help fight crime. And should be. For the past three weeks, D.C. Fire and EMS personnel have been parking their apparatus at high crime neighborhoods. "It's to prevent things from bubbling up. The idea is that if you have a fire engine with adults there no one is going to commit a crime," said D.C. Deputy Mayor Paul Quander. City officials said they just want firefighters to call 911 if they see suspicious activity. The D.C. police union and firefighters union leaders say the plan is not safe-because it is not. "I think it is a disaster," said D.C. Police Union spokesman Kris Baumann. "You're putting untrained, unsupervised, unequipped firefighters in some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in town to perform a law enforcement function." Right now, the plan is to keep the policy in place at least through next spring.

Hmmmm. How about THIS AS AN ALTERNATIVE:

All salaried DC City Employees (from any and all depts and agencies) who have take home cars - at all levels - start doing this at night and on weekends as a part of a neighborhood crime patrol. And for those management folks who don't use take home cars due to public transportation, they can be grouped into teams of 2 walking the street corners, watching for heinous crime. Or, the big buck salary makers can use public works and related vehicles with yellow flashing lights on them-when those vehicles would just be sitting in the yard at night. And, the big buck makers don't make any OT-so talk about stretching taxpayer dollars. Wow, a home run. And-if they need uniforms or some sort of visible ID, there is a warehouse somewhere in DC that has LOADS of "no longer usable" DCFD shirts and jackets, since DCFD is no longer the preferred "label" when the switch was made to call them FEMS. Seriously.

While we support FD's doing everything within their realm of authority and training to help the public in so many ways, when not making runs, putting DCFD Firefighters and EMS personnel in the worst of the worst crime infested neighborhoods as "crime watchers" is a predictably dangerous move by the city hall dwellers. Dave Statter has more HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/6l5e89a>

FIREHOUSE EXPO NEXT WEEK:

See you next week in Bawlmer for FIREHOUSE EXPO. And as a reminder, it is not too late to sign up for the 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB:

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=964327> - Seeya on the exhibit floor Thur, Fri and Sat!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-14-11 / 1230 Hours

AND:

Hey,
Flint (MI) FF Gerald Hunt is in critical condition at Hurley Medical Center after jumping from a second-floor window in the house on Broadway. Flint Firefighters were in the home after the call for help at 2320 hours Friday, indicated there was a high probability of entrapment. Firefighters later found the man living in the house was not inside. FF Hunt is being treated for lung tissue damage, second-degree burns and fractured ribs but has been alert and conscious since being hospitalized. 7 other firefighters, two of whom responded from departments outside Flint, were also injured and treated as a result of fighting the fire and they were treated for heat exhaustion, burns, a back injury and electrocution. We wish FF Hunt a rapid recovery.

AreYouUh URBAN FIREFIGHTER?

Urban, Suburban or Rural Firefighter, be sure to check out the newest free issue of Urban FF Magazine: www.urbanfirefighter.com

MORE re: FIREFIGHTER SUICIDE

A few weeks ago we wrote about the issue of Firefighter & EMT suicide in The Secret List, and, not surprisingly, received quite a lot of e-mail affirming the problem is a very significant one in our business. What is surprising is the training and education (or the lack thereof) related to mental health at the officer and peer level. We heard from folks who very recently lost family members (Firefighters) who were under treatment-but felt "not enough" was being done to prevent it. Some wrote whose loved ones were not under any treatment-and literally out of no where-took their own lives...with some telltale signs found after. Another issue that several who wrote in about, is the issue of the survivors, and family members of those who take their own lives and the care-or lack thereof-to those folks and other FF's left dealing with the loss. And we also heard from others who wrote that some departments mental health professionals are overwhelmed or may not even be qualified to deal with the challenge. The plate is full in many FD's, while others wrote in praising their FD's leadership in the mental health arena.

GOOD PROGRESS:

The NFFF hosted a special summit (with specific reps invited from major fire service organizations) on the subject last week. Subject matter experts in the field such as Doctors Richard Gist, Matthew Nock, Thomas Joiner and Lanny Berman presented to the group on topics ranging from Understanding Incidence and Epidemiology of Suicide to the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide Behavior and Current Best Practices in Suicide Intervention. The objectives were to help critically evaluate current empirical information on the incidence and epidemiology of suicide and apply to observed trends in the fire service;

- Critically examine current best practices in suicide prevention and intervention, with specific emphasis on empirical evidence of efficacy, effectiveness, and impact;
 - Plan strategies and mechanisms to translate identified best practices and prevention/intervention options into programs that can be disseminated and applied in all segments of the fire service
- There was excellent discussion held on not only the above areas but many related topics. **There will be a final report in the future that will be shared fire service wide, and we will post it. Be on the lookout for that update and continue to check the NFFF website as well as your national associations for more information.** <http://www.firehero.org/>

We have tried to raise the issue and provide some level of support on our Fire Fighter Close Calls' PERSONAL SURVIVAL Page, which is coordinated by Chief Pat Kenny.

HERE is the FFCC page information:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/116712>

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HERE are the actual FFCC page and articles: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php>

HERE is the National Website: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

HERE is information from the IAFF on SUICIDE:

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

Again, The National (US) Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Canadian Suicide Services Are HERE: <http://suicidehotlines.com/canada.html>

FAMILY OF FIREFIGHTER WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE SUES CITY

Related to the issue of suicide, the family of a firefighter who committed suicide after being asked to resign has sued the city of Salem (Oregon) and alleged the city should have been more responsive to his mental health problems. Representatives of former firefighter Craig Warren's estate are seeking \$4.15 million in damages. The city has not yet responded to the suit. Warren committed suicide on July 31, 2009, the effective date of his resignation. The lawsuit alleges that Warren changed psychiatrists in early 2009, and the switch led to a mix-up in his medication doses. According to the suit, Warren was investigated for making inappropriate comments to other firefighters during a time when he was improperly medicated. MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/6k8y5gh>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Hope To Seeya In Baltimore This Week At Firehouse Expo.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-17-11 / 0853 Hours

AND:

INDIANA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of Firefighter Travis Lee Miller of the Waterloo-Grant Township Volunteer Fire Department in Indiana (approximately 20 miles north of Fort Wayne). Firefighter Miller died of an apparent heart attack after returning home from working a structure fire at 0440 Hours this morning. FF Miller is 31 years old and survived by his wife, Amy. We'll post more details as they become available as well as here: <http://www.supportingheroes.org/> As always our most sincere condolences.

ITS HOT OUT.

Here are some before, during and after REHAB links.

HYDRATION & Firefighters: <http://running.about.com/od/nutritionandhydration/a/hydration101.htm>

USFA Emergency Incident Rehabilitation manual:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/FA-114.pdf>

FIREFIGHTER REHAB articles etc at:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads/FireEngineeringArticleinPrint.pdf>

as well as a FREE (rehab) PowerPoint programs at:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/downloads.php>

And check this site out as well: <http://www.firerehab.com/>

ENTRAPPING FIREFIGHTERS:

We recently saw how the management of the District of Columbia is setting up their firefighters for trouble by asking them to do "neighborhood standbys" in the worst crime ridden areas of DC. There was even a very predictable shooting the other day in one of those very neighborhoods. Luckily, no Firefighters were hurt as of yet, as a part of that insane plan. We **DID** suggest that all salaried employees of the DC Government be used for night patrols in normally night time un-used public works vehicles (naturally, under the protection of a yellow flashing light) and rumor is that the DC Mayor's Office is looking into it-based upon the expendability of various salaried employees. **We'll keep you advised.**

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IN ANOTHER KIND OF ENTRAPMENT (or set-up), Toledo (Ohio) Firefighters are literally running into trouble. Serious trouble. A friend in Toledo just sent this to us. It's a video news report where there were 3 suspected arsons over night and there were traps set for FF's inside the structures. Wonderful. HERE is more:

<http://www.wtol.com/story/15112240/crews-on-scene-of-east-toledo-fire-for-2nd-time>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-20-11 / 1100 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Early this morning in Baltimore City, Firefighters responded to a vacant row house with fire showing on arrival. Companies made entry and were operating interior when conditions quickly changed, and a primary hose line was burnt through cutting off their water. Firefighters evacuated, a PAR was done and all members were accounted for however this fire resulted in one Firefighter receiving significant 2nd degree burns. The FF was treated and transported to the burn unit where he remains for treatment. We'll keep you updated when more facts come out.

ILLINOIS FF FLOWN OUT FROM DWELLING FIRE

Yesterday in Crystal Lake (IL) FF operated for more than four hours at an unoccupied dwelling fire. Companies were called to the fire shortly after 1700 and numerous mutual aid companies came in. A Firefighter was injured while on the scene and was taken by Flight for Life emergency helicopter to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. Radio reports said he was injured on a ladder and the firefighter's injuries were not believed to be life-threatening. More to follow.

RIT/RIC/FAST TEAM USE

If you are on a fire or know of a fire where a rapid intervention team was used to successfully remove Firefighters, submit that info here: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/submit-closecall.php>
We are going to try and track that use in collaboration with the National Near Miss Reporting System. As areas CUT their fire services, it will certainly impact the staffing of FF rescue crews and that is valuable info to many that we can provide. THANKS.

LONDON FF KILLED DURING ROBBERY

A off duty London firefighter shot dead in Venezuela in what appeared to be a botched robbery. London Fire Brigade FF Thomas Ossel, 28 was fatally shot in the jaw while his younger brother Jack was stabbed in the back but survived. Jack, 21, was taken to hospital and received stitches before being discharged. FF Ossel and his brother were reportedly staying at the Posada Casa Rosa hotel on Margarita Island when a group of gunmen burst in on Monday. The gunmen were trying to rob the pair and opened fire when they resisted. Our condolences. More HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/4247xzm>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-21-11 / 0700 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is that E-One is recalling 80 certain model year 2010 and 2011 Typhoon, Cyclone II, and Tradition fire apparatus. These units manufactured from January 1, 2010 through July 1, 2011 are equipped with Trimark door latch mount bracket kits, part numbers 28141-01 and 28142-01. If the mounting fasteners are not at proper

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torque value, the outside door handle mount bracket may potentially rotate out of position. The door may not stay closed and could open without warning during a crash. Persons or objects could fall from the vehicle, possibly resulting in injury. E-One is working with Trimark and Trimark will notify vehicle owners using E-One letterhead. Repairs will be made by E-One service centers or by Trimark personnel as needed. Repairs will be performed free of charge. The safety recall is expected to begin immediately. **More HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3jh4h9k>

UPDATE: ILLINOIS FF INJURED IN AERIAL LADDER INCIDENT AT FIRE SCENE

As we posted, an Illinois Firefighter was seriously injured while battling a 3-Alarm fire in Crystal Lake, Illinois 2 days ago. **Reports are that the Firefighter was on an aerial ladder and his foot/leg somehow was caught between the rungs as the ladder was being extended/retracted.** The Firefighter was airlifted from the scene and transported to Lutheran General Hospital, a Level I Trauma Center, in Park Ridge, IL by the Flight For Life Helicopter. Crystal Lake is located about 50 miles northwest of Chicago. At the time of the fire, the entire area (like most of the USA) was under a heat wave with temperatures being in the high 90's and heat indices between 105-110 degrees. **More Details HERE:** <http://www.nwherald.com/2011/07/21/fire-destroys-home-firefighter-injured/aw9buox/>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 7-21-11 / 2330 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Admittedly, we had about 30 seconds to put this Secret List together-but sort of had to get this out to you-so here it is. This is about airline pilots, SEVERAL airline pilots who, as they claim, looked out for their own safety/survival-as well as their passengers. They refused to fly the plane. Several pilots refused to fly the plane. Management doesn't agree with their claims.

Check this out:

The battle between US Airways ([LLC](#)) and its pilots over the airline's safety culture is continuing, this time focused on an incident in which a captain declined to fly a transatlantic flight.

On June 16, Captain Valerie Wells, a 30-year-pilot, was scheduled to fly an Airbus A330, which can carry nearly 300 passengers, on a flight from Philadelphia to Rome. But she declined to fly because of failures of both the auxiliary power unit, a backup source of electrical power, and the "hot battery bus," a primary source of electrical power. After the crew and passengers had returned to the gate Wells, in a particularly unusual event, was escorted out of the airport by security officials. Subsequently, a second crew of three pilots also declined to fly; the aircraft was repaired and underwent a rigorous inspection, and a third crew took off about six to seven hours late. In seeking to publicize the incident, the U.S. Airline Pilots Association took out a full-page advertisement in Friday's edition of USA Today. The ad proclaimed that US Airways put "revenues first, safety second." "The intimidation of flight crews is becoming commonplace at US Airways, which works to maximize their revenues by pushing their employees to move their airplanes regardless of the potential human cost," said the text. The ad referred readers to a website: www.USAirlinePilots.org/SafetyFirst

In a letter to employees on Friday, Robert Isom, chief operating officer, wrote that "USAPA has embarked upon a smear campaign that in reality is all about contract negotiations, not safety.

"I can tell you unequivocally the union's claims are outlandish, false and a disservice to the 32,000 hard-working employees of US Airways," Isom wrote. "Safety has been and always will be the top priority at US Airways, as it is at any airline." Union spokesman James Ray said that initially, Wells

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could not possibly fly the airplane because it lacked cockpit electrical power, but a chief pilot nonetheless encouraged her to fly. He said the incident symbolized US Airways' desire to enhance on-time performance and revenues.

"This is not just an isolated incident," he said. "It has been going on on a daily basis, and is the kind of practice we've been fighting for a number of years now." Airline spokesman John McDonald said the incident is under investigation. He said "the fact that Wells was escorted off the property had nothing to do with safety," but declined to elaborate. Ray speculated the airline did not want Wells to tell the replacement crew of the problems she had with the aircraft. McDonald said that to be cautious, the airline "took the batteries off site and had them tested, and they were found to be in proper working order." He said the real issue in the incident was about the union "negotiating and trying to get leverage against the company, using safety as an issue, which it is not."

In a statement issued late Friday, the Federal Aviation Administration said the APU shutdown in the aircraft "is a failure that pilots are well aware can happen and that they are trained to recognize. The battery apparently was depleted by attempts to restart the APU." The agency said aircraft often fly with inoperative APUs, without a safety risk, but "the captain simply chose to exercise her pilot-in-command authority of not accepting an aircraft." It said US Airways maintained the aircraft in accordance with regulations. Ray noted that in addition to the APU failure, the hot battery bus also failed, causing an instrument failure that justified the Wells' decision. US Airways recently passed the International Air Transport Association's safety audit "with flying colors," Isom noted in his letter, while the FAA has cited US Airways as an industry model for its safety management system. Ray said the IATA inspection is "nothing more than a self-evaluation by a trade association." Ray also denied that the safety claims are a negotiating tactic. "How do you think pilots are going to gain at the negotiating table by pointing out we have a safety issue at the company?" he said. Friday marked the second time USAPA criticized US Airways safety practices in USA Today. A 2008 ad in the newspaper asserted that the airline was pressuring pilots to fly with less fuel than they might prefer. This article is from USA Today.

Take Care-Be Careful. Speak Up.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-23-11 / 0930 hours

AND:

LODD - AZ HOTSHOT AT WILDLAND FIRE

Authorities are investigating the death of a firefighter who was reported missing from a blaze on the Fort Apache reservation in eastern Arizona. The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs says the efforts to reach the firefighter by handheld radio Saturday were unsuccessful. Search crews found the body early Sunday morning. The firefighter had responded to the lightning-caused Diamond Fire that broke out north of the Black River around noon Saturday. The terrain is steep and rocky with dense fuel. Crews hiked back to camp after building a line around the 35-acre fire, and that's when the incident commander discovered the firefighter missing. The name of the firefighter has not been released. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

REMEMBERING 2 BRIDGEPORT FIREFIGHTERS

Yesterday marks the one year anniversary of the Line of Duty Deaths of Bridgeport (CT) of Lt. Steven Velasquez and Firefighter Michel Baik. The NIOSH report outlining the facts leading to their tragic deaths can be read HERE: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201018.html> RIP.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-25-11 / 1700 hours

AND:

Hey,

As you may have read, medical experts are claiming that there is not enough evidence YET to say whether the dust and smoke clouds produced by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center caused cancer. **We have trouble believing that there is "not enough" evidence as there certainly have been numerous funerals.** Scientists say that some cancers takes 5 to 20 years to develop, so if there was a very strong effect from toxic substances released by the collapse of the twin towers, it might be expected to manifest itself by now, nearly 10 years after the attack. It has, please see above funeral note.

The report released by Dr. John Howard, the director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, claims that there was very little evidence to go on, as there have only been 18 published research studies on the attack that even mentioned cancer, and only five of those were peer-reviewed. The results of the peer-reviewed studies were mixed.

Even if it appeared that the events of 9/11 caused cancer in certain people, it would be hard to prove because cancer is widespread in the general population. In the United States, the probability that a person will develop cancer over a lifetime is one in two for men and one in three for women, the report said. "Drawing causal inferences about exposures resulting from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the observation of cancer cases in responders and survivors is especially challenging since cancer is not a rare disease," the report said.

HOWEVER, and thankfully, this report is NOT the final word.

A second review of the cancer evidence will be conducted in early to mid-2012. Most doctors treating people exposed to the dust and smoke believe that cancer is a likely consequence. Dr. Philip J. Landrigan, head of a 9/11 treatment, monitoring and research program at Mount Sinai Medical Center, said yesterday that the possibility of cancer in the responders increases as time goes by. Mount Sinai, he said, is tracking the rates of 60 different cancers, and will be feeding that information to the federal government. Dr. Landrigan said his researchers were looking especially hard at multiple myeloma, because they had already found eight cases - an unusually high number - in responders younger than 45. Usually, he said, myeloma is found in people who are older. People at the World Trade Center on 9/11 were exposed to a large number of substances, Dr. Landrigan said, "and each different exposure has its own signature cancers, so there are a wide range of possibilities here."

We have deep trouble believing that the cancers that Firefighters, Police Officers and EMS Personnel are suffering from are NOT caused by the collapse, dusts and fires of 9/11.

Look, to us, it is simple: breathing smoke causes cancer-and the Federal Government agrees with that. For example, formaldehyde is a colorless, flammable, strong-smelling chemical that is used in building materials, materials that were in the WTC. Formaldehyde has been classified as a known human carcinogen (cancer-causing substance) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and as a probable human carcinogen by the U.S.E.P.A. Research studies of workers exposed to formaldehyde have shown an association between formaldehyde exposure and several cancers, including nasopharyngeal cancer and leukemia.

Yeah yeah, we know, it's all about money-it always is. We aren't that naive, we get it. However, what happened on 9/11 has never happened before in modern day-with modern building materials being attacked causing modern fire, smoke, gas and dust. While we appreciate (to some extent) the need for science, there is also a need for some common sense by those people making the final decisions.

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There was no hesitation by those who responded and worked at the WTC site from 9/11, until their final detailed day. It's our opinion that a little less hesitation and a little more common sense to insure every possible support be given to those responders suffering from cancer, should be a priority....**as you would certainly want for yourself and your loved ones.**

EXPLOSIONS HURT FIREFIGHTERS IN FDNY AND EDMONTON, CANADA

=2 EDMONTON FIREFIGHTERS were taken to the hospital yesterday to be checked over after they were thrown back by an explosion. A gas leak was reported Tuesday morning at a single family dwelling, and as firefighters were at the gas meter, something sparked and set off a blast. 4 firefighters working on the gas line when it blew. The explosion appears to have started in the basement and came out the side door near where Firefighters were shutting off the gas meter, and it knocked them over. 2 were taken to the hospital for minor burns and mostly a precautionary measure.

=FDNY FIRE OFFICER BURNED:

A Brooklyn Fire Officer was burned as he tried to help a motorist move his car away from a smoking manhole, just before a fireball suddenly engulfed the vehicle. Fire erupted within seconds after FDNY Lt. Richard Buckheit -- a decorated 16-year veteran who once helped rescue 3 little girls from a burning apartment -- got behind the wheel of the car to try to drive it to a safer spot in Flatbush late Sunday. Lt. Buckheit, 40, had been rushing to the aid of Pablo Mejia, 25, who called the FDNY shortly after midnight when he saw thick smoke billowing from a manhole directly beneath his girlfriend's car, parked near his home. "The firefighters got there, and I asked, 'Can I move my car?' But Lt Buckheit said, 'It's not safe. I'll do it,' " Mejia said. "He took my keys and got in, and right when he tried to back up, that manhole exploded with him in [the car]." Lt. Buckheit -- who suffered first-degree burns to his neck and face and second-degree burns to his left hand and ear -- is recovering at the burn unit at New York Hospital.

LIGHTS FOR LIFE AFTER THE PREVENTABLE DEATH OF 2 BELOVED FIREFIGHTERS IN VIRGINIA This week numerous people came out to remember Rocky Mount Fire Chief Posey Dillon and longtime Firefighter Danny Altice. Both were killed in the Line of Duty in a crash while responding to a call July 26, 2010 when the engine entered an intersection against a red light and was struck by a sport utility vehicle. The engine rolled over, both victims were ejected as neither were wearing seat belts. **HERE is the report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201019.html>

Rocky Mount community leaders also unveiled a number of excellent projects they say will be the legacies of both men -- who gave a combined volunteer firefighting effort of almost 80 years. In the weeks after the crash, the community banded together to change one of the problems that contributed to the men's deaths. **On this one-year anniversary, "Lights For Life" became a reality.** The community raised more than \$275,000 to ensure every traffic signal in the county can now be controlled by emergency vehicles out on calls. The Town of Rocky Mount and Franklin County officials covered the rest of the bill. Good stuff, along with remembering the critical importance of seat belts and stopping at red light intersections.

THE EXTREME HOT WEATHER CONTINUES - AS DO THE RUNS WE RESPOND TO: Here is access to NUMEROUS links from USFA Acting US Fire Administrator Chief Glenn Gaines related to FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL when operating in hot weather.**Check it out HERE:**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/about/chiefs-corner/072611.shtm>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-27-11 / 1007 Hours

AND:

ASHEVILLE FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-OTHERS SERIOUSLY INJURED-MAYDAY

We regret to advise you that an Asheville (North Carolina) Fire Captain has died in the line of Duty after a fire in a medical building near Asheville's Mission Hospital. Captain Jeffrey Bowen was killed in the Line of Duty, 2 other Firefighters have been transported to the burn center in Augusta, Georgia and 6 other Firefighters are being treated for heat-related illness at Mission Hill. Fire companies responded to the building fire at 445 Biltmore Avenue just after noon, today. Fire was showing from windows on the 5th floor of the building, which houses related medical practices and clinics. Around 1330 hours a "mayday" call went out over fire radio and there were MAYDAY reports of "firefighters down" in 2 different locations. A few minutes later, command ordered all members out of the building so they could do an accountability check/PAR. Firefighters then hit the fire from the exterior and it was knocked down just before 1500 hours. Much more to follow as we offer our condolences to all affected.

VIDEO AND RELATED LOCAL NEWS LINKS INCLUDING THE NEWS CONFERENCE:

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/jul/28/18/fire-damages-biltmore-center-asheville-ar-2200090/>

<http://www.citizen-times.com>

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/15167340/asheville-fire-sends-nine-firefighters-to-hospital>

http://www.wlos.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wlos_vid_5039.shtml

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-11 / 1655 hours

AND:

Hey,

Maybe you can help. Maybe you'll see it on the Internet for sale or something like that-so we figured we would "Secret List" this because the family of a young firefighter killed 12 years ago in the line of duty is asking for help in finding clues to the defacement of his grave, including the prying off of a brass plaque on his headstone.

California FF Matt Black was just weeks short of his 21st birthday - and five days shy of his first year as a Volunteer Firefighter with Lakeport (California) Fire, when he was tragically electrocuted and killed in the Line of Duty by a downed 12,000 power line while fighting a fire on June 23, 1999. FF Black's mother, Jo Ann Gettman and her husband, Gerry, have regularly visited her son's grave at Hartley Cemetery outside of Lakeport, often going there on special occasions and his birthday. During a recent visit they discovered that his headstone had been defaced and several items removed that had been left at the grave by family and friends. When he died, FF Black's family had an 8-inch by 10-inch brass plaque engraved with "The Fireman's Prayer" added to his flat granite headstone, along with a picture of him under glass. They also placed there a brass spittoon that he had kept in his room since childhood, along with a small hula girl and other memorabilia, Mrs Gettman said, and they went out on July 4 for one of their regular visits, and everything was fine.

She said they noticed the brass plaque needed cleaning, and decided to come back and do that on July 18, what would have been Black's 33rd birthday. But when they got out to the site, the plaque was gone, she said. "We were just shocked," she said, explaining, "Somebody had to work to get it off." She and her husband spoke to the cemetery's groundskeeper, who hadn't noticed any issues with the grave or seen any suspicious activity. After the couple got home and began thinking about the site more, they realized the spittoon, the cowboy boots, hula girl, wooden rose, baseball cap and Cal Fire card all were gone as well. Jo Ann Gettman said they met at the

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cemetery with sheriff's Deputy Carla Hockett to make a report on the thefts. Gettman said vandalizing a grave hurts all the people who love the person buried there, adding it's been devastating to her, her husband, her other son - a Santa Rose firefighter - and Black's friends. If anyone has information on this dishonor and perhaps see's anything related that's being sold, E-bayed, Craigslisted etc please contact Jo Ann Gettman at 707-263-3956 or gett17jo@mchsi.com. More about Matt **HERE**: <http://nfff.fullthrottlesupport.com/fs-Matthew.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-11 / 0913 Hours

AND:

BAYTOWN TEXAS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Gaston Gagne. After leaving the fire house from his tour of duty yesterday morning FF Gagne suffered a medical emergency and passed away at his home. FF Gagne served more than 18 years with the BFD, where he belonged to several groups such as serving as a member of the HAZMAT team, a member of BEAT Alley's youth fire prevention team and most recently he joined several others in establishing a regional collapse rescue team. FF Gagne served from January 1, 1994 until his Line of Duty death on July 26, 2011. FF Gagne leaves behind a wife, Liz, and a teenage son, Sonny. Funeral arrangements will be posted as soon as they become available. As always, our most sincere condolences.

FATAL EMS CRASH IN WEST VIRGINIA

2 trucks collided this evening (Wednesday) along with a Boone County Ambulance that also got hit. One person was killed in the crash. Three people were taken to the hospital, including a patient that was in the back of the ambulance. The crash occurred in Hernshaw, Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-11 / 2330 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The Asheville Firefighter who was burned while operating in that office building fire yesterday afternoon remains in the Joseph Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Georgia- **but reports are that he is making good progress.** Firefighter Jay Bettencourt was flown to the center for treatment of those burns sustained at that medical building at 445 Biltmore Ave in Asheville. As you know, the fire claimed the life of Rescue 3 Captain Jeff Bowen, 37, the married father of 3 kids. 9 other Firefighters were taken to Asheville's Mission Hospital for treatment with 2 that were held overnight for observation, and the rest have been released. **We have posted video and photos and will post more updates throughout today on our homepage with critical updates being sent on The Secret List.** **HERE** are some active local news links with photos and videos as well:

www.FireNews.net (North Carolina Fire News)

<http://tinyurl.com/3r37k9w>

<http://www.citizen-times.com>

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

<http://tinyurl.com/3vu7coq> (FACEBOOK Memorial Page)

ARIZONA FIREFIGHTER LODD UPDATE:

A preliminary report released yesterday has revealed some details about the firefighting operation in which a veteran Firefighter died in the Line of Duty. Firefighters operating at the Fort Apache

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Reservation last weekend were waiting for a helicopter transport to their vehicles when a mechanical issue halted the plan. The Fort Apache Firefighting Hotshots changed course and began hiking through steep, rough terrain back to where their vehicles were parked. Once the incident commander arrived, he called out over the radio for the location of the others. One did not respond. Search crews later found the body of 43-year-old Deon Classay had fallen behind the group. More to follow. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-29-11 / 0957 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Lieutenant with the Salisbury (MA) FD was critically injured this afternoon at the firehouse. Initial reports are that a vehicle of some kind fell and crushed him. He was flown to Boston for critical trauma related injuries. We will have more details as they become available. Our sincere wishes for a successful recovery.

ASHEVILLE FUNERAL DETAILS:

Below is the funeral and memorial details for Asheville Fire Captain Jeff Bowen as follows:

Visitation: Monday, August 01, from 18:00 - 21:00 hours. Biltmore Baptist Church, 35 Clayton Road, Arden, NC. (Arden is approximately six miles south of Asheville, just off of Interstate 26 at Exit 37).

Memorial Service: Tuesday, August 02, 11:00 hours. Same location as Visitation. **Note:** Specific fire service participation information is pending as of Fri July 29 at 15:15 hours. **MORE FD DETAILS will be posted HERE:** <http://www.firenews.net> and **HERE:** <http://www.ashevillenc.gov>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-29-11 / 1551 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Following Thursdays fire that killed Asheville Captain Jeff Bowen in the Line of Duty, local media is already reporting their observations and opinions based upon recorded radio traffic. It should also be noted that the ATF has been requested to help investigate by the AFD as well as that all AFD Firefighters have been released from the hospitals, which is certainly good news. The Asheville Citizen Times reports that problems with pipes designed to carry water from a street hydrant to the fifth floor of a burning medical office building likely delayed firefighters as they battled the deadly blaze, according to the reporter who listened to radio transmissions. Nearly 25 minutes passed from the time the first trucks left their stations about 12:30 p.m. Thursday until a crew reported they were finally putting water on the blaze at 445 Biltmore Center from a ladder truck. Firefighters repeatedly made references to a lack of water, even as they reached the fourth floor and made their way toward flames one floor above.

"We got no water. No water," a firefighter on the fourth floor says about 13 minutes into the recording. The website radioreference.com, which tracks rescue communications nationwide, posted the 43-minute recording of the transmissions on YouTube. Fire Department commanders would not comment on the recordings Friday, citing the ongoing investigation into the death of Capt. Jeff Bowen. The department also would not confirm the recording was from the fire, Assistant Fire Chief David McFee said. But it starts with Buncombe County emergency dispatch sending firefighters to 445 Biltmore Ave., the site of the medical office building, and there are no apparent gaps in the transmissions. Locked doors inside the building and trouble getting water into standpipes in the stairwells became

immediate obstacles as firefighters navigated through intense heat and heavy smoke. Standpipes carry water vertically in a multistory structure, enabling firefighters to fight flames internally. The fire scene commander, at about eight minutes into the incident, confirms from the water supply crew that water is flowing to the standpipe connection outside the building. "Just let me know when you get water on the fire, please," he says to a crew inside. Five minutes later, Rescue 301 - Bowen's crew - breaks in. The crew was on the fourth floor. "There is a lot of heat in here," a firefighter says. "We believe the fire is above us. We need to get some water in that standpipe so we can purge the lines."

HERE is the entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/3dc2klu>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-11 / 0845 Hours

AND:

MA. FIRE LT LODD-TRAUMA AT THE FIREHOUSE

We deeply regret to advise you that the 25+ year veteran Salisbury Fire Officer who was critically injured Friday afternoon when a jack slipped while he was repairing a vehicle behind the firehouse, has now died in the Line of Duty. Lt. Oliveira and his family have a long history of providing service to the people of Salisbury. Oliveira's father was police chief in Salisbury for years, and Timothy Oliveira is one of the small nucleus of full-time firefighters in Salisbury's mostly on-call department. He leaves behind his wife and 2 adult daughters. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 7-31-11 / 1733 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:

Scottsdale (AZ) is expected to save more than \$6 million this fiscal year by merging many functions of the Police and Fire departments. In February, City Manager David Richert chose Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell to serve as both the police chief and public-safety chief. In that latter role, Rodbell has oversight of each agency, with a primary mission of identifying ways each can operate more efficiently. The Scottsdale Fire Department still is headed by Chief Garrett Olson, who is responsible for its day-to-day operations and long-range planning. Some open positions were eliminated, and some employees were laid off in June, including the Fire Department's public information officer. Scottsdale police officers now handle that duty for the Fire Department as well as for the police. Records reviewed by *The Republic* show that the Fire Department eliminated 11 positions, saving more than \$790,000. Those positions included a deputy fire chief, an assistant fire chief and two firefighters. The Police Department eliminated 14 positions, saving almost \$1.4 million, including nine officers and two crime-analysis technicians:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/2011/07/27/20110727scottsdale-save-6m-by-merging-some-functions-police-fire.html>

More than 1,000 United Kingdom firefighters' jobs have been axed under the Government's spending cuts, with the West Midlands being among the hardest hit areas, the service's main trade union has warned. And there are fresh losses in the pipeline, said the Fire Brigades Union. One in 10 jobs could be lost in the next three years, leading to several thousand fewer firemen and women across the UK, the FBU said. Research by the FBU, based on Freedom of Information Act questions, revealed that more than 1,000 jobs were lost in the first round of cuts to April, with the worst affected areas including Scotland, the South West, Yorkshire and the West Midlands:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/uk-fire-union-says-1000-jobs-lost-budget-cuts>

Last week, Nevada state officials said they might have to take control of North Las Vegas' finances. City officials acknowledged that if things continue the way they are, the city won't be able to make payroll starting in October. Such a move would be a first for a Southern Nevada city, or any large Silver State city for that matter. Some have blamed firefighters and police unions for North Las Vegas' plight. The city was set to move forward with cost-saving layoffs before the police union sued. District Judge Nancy Allf halted the layoffs, agreeing with the officers' union that the city would violate the employment contract if it went ahead. That ruling is expected to bolster another lawsuit, by firefighters, trying to prevent 35 layoffs. The result: The city says it is spending \$165,000 a week (\$8.6 million annually) that it could have saved by cutting its police and fire workforce:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jul/12/north-las-vegas-finances/>

Huntington Beach (CA) Firefighters are offering to pay more into their pensions, but not without locking down a contract extension and minimum staffing levels. To some it's a good deal; others say it's a risky idea in an unpredictable economy. Union officials and city leaders have been negotiating for six months, but the City Council majority turned down the most recent proposal in May. Exploding pension costs have been a contentious topic as cities across California try to finagle a way to keep their promised contributions to their employees while battling the impacts of a suffering economy. Huntington Beach's unfunded pension liability, including the city's supplemental pension fund and using the most recent available market value, is about \$370.3 million, according to CalPERS valuation reports. Councilman Joe Shaw said he considers the union's offer a start on the path to combat looming pension issues. "Most of the City Council agrees that all of our employees have to pay more into their pensions," he said. "Our goal should be our non-safety employees pay 8 percent eventually and safety employees pay 9 percent." Councilman Don Hansen said the average firefighter has \$43,000 in pension costs and the average fire employee pays \$2,500. "Their contribution is pennies compared to what the taxpayers are supporting there," he said. There has been talk of a two-tier pension plan that would reduce benefits for any new hires, but Hansen said that would do nothing to help out with the current problem. Hansen said employees need to start paying more for retirement now and the city needs to have the flexibility to make cuts to the department, if needed, by denying the HBFA proposal. "They are like spoiled children that have never been told 'no,'" he said of the union. "They're used to having all these things just fall. ... We just can't afford it anymore."

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/city-129464-ocprint-firefighters-pension.html>

Sacramento (CA) Metropolitan Fire District will have to take an engine company out of service for six months this year because of budget cuts, officials said Monday. The decision comes two years after the department closed three stations to cope with budget deficits. If service is pulled from a less-populated region, the move could further slow response times in areas where the department already has been having problems:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/07/19/3778150/cuts-force-sac-metro-fire-district.html>

From California to Florida, many public employees are paying more for their pensions now than a year ago as strapped state and local governments cast about for savings. Now a sweeping Republican proposal in the California Senate, among other changes, would hike how much all current and future state and local government workers pay toward their pensions. A union coalition has blasted the long-shot proposal as a one-size-doesn't-fit-all encroachment on bargaining rights. Many labor groups, including a dozen representing California state workers, already have agreed to higher pension contributions from their members:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/07/12/3763140/california-pension-proposal-seeks.html>

Cuts in Sacramento (CA) have changed how the state's fire department – Cal Fire, battles blazes. But shrinking engine crews from four to three firefighters and the virtual grounding of the DC-10 supertanker shouldn't change the effectiveness of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, agency officials said. "It was imperative to us to keep that aggressive initial attack capability, and we have," said Janet Upton, Cal Fire spokeswoman in Sacramento. Neither of the cuts stops an incident commander, or Cal Fire official, from managing how a fire is fought or ordering enough firefighters, engines and air support to snuff a wildfire, Upton said. Reducing the number of firefighters on each engine last January trimmed \$34 million from Cal Fire's budget, she said. Changing the contract for the DC-10, which used to be paid by the state to be ready to fly in 30 minutes, cleared another \$5 million from Cal Fire's budget this year:

<http://www.redding.com/news/2011/jul/19/dc-10-supertanker-virtually-grounded-cal-fire-to/>

West Metro (CO) Fire Rescue cut four administrative positions Monday as part of a larger plan to slash \$2.2 million to \$3 million from the budget. The department laid off an emergency-medical-services educator, a community-outreach division manager, a life-safety educator and an administrative assistant, Deputy Chief Don Lombardi said. Lombardi said falling real-estate values used to determine property taxes that fund the budget have pinched the 110-square-mile district's \$65 million budget. West Metro serves about 250,000 residents in Lakewood, Morrison and parts of Golden, Wheat Ridge, unincorporated areas near Littleton, Roxborough and Waterton Canyon. Next, the department will negotiate with the firefighters union for potential pay cuts and other cost savings, Lombardi said: www.denverpost.com/ci_18548485

In the old days, when a fire erupted in rural Alhambra Valley (Contra Costa County, CA), volunteer firefighters and neighbors would rush to the scene to snuff the flames. But times have changed, and state regulations governing firefighters' training and certification have made volunteering more costly and time consuming. As a result, only two volunteer fire stations remain in the Contra Costa Fire District -- No. 19 in Briones and No. 18 in Clyde. About 10 on-call volunteers, also known as reserves, are assigned to Station No. 19, which houses an engine, a brush unit and a water tender. In 2008, the fire district told Alhambra Valley residents it would increase training and support for the station, but the recession derailed those plans, said Chief Darryl Louder. That doesn't sit well with some residents like Hetty Dutra, who runs a horse-boarding business on 360 acres in the valley. Dutra believes the fire district is purposely neglecting the volunteer program with an eye toward closing the station: http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_18570784

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.

He had a bad case of code rage. A fed-up deputy fire chief took matters into his own hands last week and barged into a Bronx flophouse that city inspectors had been trying to access for years -- and then wound up duking it out with the enraged slumlords. FDNY Deputy Chief Joseph Woznica -- the point man on a citywide crackdown on illegal apartment conversions -- took his frustration out on the door to 669 Jefferson Place Wednesday, kicking and pounding on it after the owners refused to allow him and four city inspectors in. Once in the vestibule, Chief Woznica encountered another locked door, with William and Larry Ambrister huddled behind it, the FDNY said. When one of the brothers cracked the door to peek outside, broad-shouldered Woznica barreled through. That set off the punch-on-duty show, with Larry Ambrister punching Woznica in the face, police sources said. The veteran chief, 56, retaliated by smashing him in the nose, said FDNY sources:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/bronx/inflamed_fire_chief_flophouse_fisticuffs_f5x9AAns2qFX6urQMoHbfP

Angelia Curran, deputy chief of the Friendship Volunteer Fire Department in Smiths Station (AL), will be arraigned next week on embezzlement charges. The charges against the veteran firefighter allege she used more than \$5,000 of approximately \$300,000 in federal grant money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for personal use. The funds, for which Curran filed grant applications, were to be used for the purchase of firefighting-related equipment and training, according to a three-count indictment filed in the District Court of the U.S. Middle District of Alabama on June 30:

<http://www2.oanow.com/news/2011/jul/08/smiths-station-firefighter-accused-embezzling-5k-ar-2086977/>

The City of Oakland (CA) has been improperly increasing parcel taxes for two emergency service programs for the past 10 years even though they have large unspent balances, City Auditor Courtney Ruby said in critical audits that she issued Thursday. "It is not in Oakland residents' best interest for the city to accumulate special tax funds when the general fund is overburdened to the point Oakland is reducing city services and laying-off city employees," Ruby said. Ruby said the Fire Department's projected balance and spending plan "did not accurately project or otherwise account for Measure M's balance." She said, "In fact, the department's lack of internal controls resulted in inadequate cost projections, incomplete analysis and a lack of an expenditure time frame." In a letter to Ruby on June 9, Finance Director Joseph Yew and Interim Fire Chief Mark Hoffmann said, "We respectfully disagree" with Ruby's findings. They said, "The Fire Department does indeed have strong internal controls in place to monitor not only the Measure N fund balance, but also the Measure N spending plan and the actual expenditures made each year."

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/07/14/audits-criticize-oakland%e2%80%99s-handling-of-emergency-service-taxes/>

A Johnson County (IN) grand jury is expected to investigate whether two White River Township firefighters stole tens of thousands of dollars from taxpayers. According to an audit

released by the State Board of Accounts, firefighters Anthony Slusher and Mike Rude were paid more than \$25,000 for overtime they never worked. "It's the taxpayers' money," White River Township Fire Chief Jeremy Pell said. "Everything we can do to use it and further protect the firefighters on the street is vital. This is a lot of money." Auditors said Slusher reported overtime on his time sheets that he had not worked, totaling more than \$7,800, 6News' Kara Kenney reported. According to the audit, Rude obtained a password to hack into the time keeping system and logged 1,660 hours worked for a total of more than \$17,700. "I define a good firefighter as a man or woman of integrity, duty, honor and pride," said Pell. "These men fell short. It is absolutely unacceptable." Pell said after a thorough investigation, both firefighters were terminated: <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/28538208/detail.html>

Karl Granzow Jr., former Prince George's County (MD) deputy chief, admits extortion & tax evasion. Raid on fire department office lead to arrest of County Executive Jack Johnson: <http://statter911.com/2011/07/18/karl-granzow-jr-former-pgfd-deputy-chief-admits-extortion-tax-evasion-raid-on-fire-department-office-lead-to-arrest-of-county-executive-jack-johnson/>

Baltimore (MD) fire officials suspended emergency medical training and locked down an instructional facility Monday after revelations that some student firefighters had cheated on a state licensing exam, officials said. "This is a serious mistake that tarnishes the reputation of the hundreds of professional and dedicated men and women who work so hard for us," Fire Chief James S. Clack said in a statement: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-fire-academy-20110718.0.5929235.story>

A second Clark County (NV) firefighter has been fired for abusing the Fire Department's sick-leave system. Battalion Chief Renee Dillingham, one of the firefighters named in February when Clark County administrators discovered e-mails appearing to show the county employees conspiring to abuse the sick-leave system, was let go, a county spokesman said Thursday afternoon. In released emails, Dillingham received an email from Battalion Chief Gina Geldbach-Hall that said: "I will be taking off June 10, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 (all sick days if I can work it out...). Again, thanks. It is so much nicer having a scheduler I can work with." In 2010, Dillingham earned \$274,309 in total wages and benefits. That included base pay of \$93,000, \$7,433 in sick-leave and about \$29,000 in call-back pay, which is earned when a firefighter is called in to work within 12 hours of their last shift. Call-back pay equals overtime pay of time-and-a-half plus a county contribution to the employee's retirement account. The average total wages and benefits for all firefighters in 2010 was more than \$180,000. Since instituting tighter oversight of firefighter sick-leave in February, the county has seen a 32 percent average decline in sick-leave use per pay period. Firefighter Donald Munn, based in Laughlin, was fired by the department in May for misuse of sick-leave, and more disciplinary actions are expected involving at least a dozen more firefighters: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jul/21/second-firefighter/>

A Colorado volunteer fire chief accused of trying to pull over a 21-year-old woman and her two friends faced a judge for an advisement Thursday morning. William Nelson, 57, was suspended from the Hygiene Fire Department pending further investigation after his arrest on Saturday, July 9. During an advisement hearing on Thursday, Nelson was notified of the charges against him, including impersonating a peace officer, prohibited use of a weapon, driving under the influence, improper use of volunteer fire ambulance lights and possession of marijuana: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article/209221/346/Fire-chief-officially-charged-with-impersonating-a-police-officer->

As Chicago (IL) prepares to pay \$30 million to African-American men who were denied firefighting jobs because of a discriminatory entrance exam, the city was hit Tuesday with another lawsuit, this one on behalf of women who were disqualified because they failed the physical abilities test. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court claims that the test, which includes arm exercises, carrying a 2 1/2-inch hose and stair-climbing tasks designed to determine strength and endurance, has an adverse impact on female applicants and is not related to the skills needed to be a firefighter. "The general feeling is that women ... are too weak to be firefighters," said Marni Willenson, the lead attorney in the suit. "These tests are a tool for keeping women out." <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-chicago-firefighter-lawsuit-20110720,0,5361455.story>

A Halifax-area (Canada) firefighter has been reprimanded after he drove a new fire engine more than 20 miles to deliver flowers to his girlfriend, according to CBC News. The Lakeside firefighter was suspended for a week after taking the trip to Queensland: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/canada-firefighter-suspended-engine-misuse>

A Pennsylvania volunteer firefighter is charged with calling in false reports of fires to dispatchers in Lancaster County. The reason he did it is even more interesting. According to police the 18 year old was making these false fire reports so that he as a volunteer could ride in a fire truck. Immediately suspended from both houses he worked with Conestoga and Blue Rock and will likely never be allowed back as a volunteer. 18-year-old Allen Nissly responded to fire calls as a volunteer for both Conestoga Fire Company and Blue Rock Fire Rescue. But the teen is now suspended Southern Regional Police accused Nissly of calling in false reports of fires to dispatchers on at least two occasions this week. Police say Nissly told officers he made the false calls so that he could ride in a fire truck. The Conestoga Fire Chief is reacting he told CBS 21 News, "It's very disappointing. We strive hard to keep a good rapport with the citizens and this doesn't make us look good. We just hope our citizens understand and (know) that we took quick and appropriate action," <http://www.cw15.com/news/local/story/UPDATE-Volunteer-firefighter-made-false-calls-so/yG84uS-cmUSj9QpfgUXRMw.cspX>

Alameda (CA) city officials were put on notice that a water rescue program was necessary for public safety more than two years before a despondent man drowned himself off Crown Beach while firefighters watched because they said department policy prevented a rescue attempt, public records show. The warning came in a Feb. 4, 2009 grievance letter filed by a leader of the firefighters union who said the department's fire boat and water rescue programs were first implemented "due to the inherent risk that comes with providing service for an island community" and that an estimated 2,000 private boats are docked in Alameda. "While water rescue calls are not a frequent response, they do occur several times a year," union Trustee Matt Nielsen said in the letter, which also noted that more than 12 square miles of water surround the city. The union maintained that the city's decision to shelve the rescue programs in 2008 to save money violated their contract because it changed working conditions. But both former interim fire Chief Dave Kapler and former interim City Manager Ann Marie Gallant rejected the claim, according to documents obtained by the Bay Area News Group under a freedom-of-information request. The city is currently conducting an independent investigation into the death of 52-year-old Raymond Zack, who took his life on Memorial Day by wading fully-clothed into the water off Robert Crown Memorial State Beach as dozens of witnesses looked on: http://www.mercurynews.com/alameda-county/ci_18569397?nclick_check=1

Positive Public Relations Items:

North Las Vegas (NV) on Monday came to a tentative agreement on contract concessions with the firefighters union that will save the jobs of 35 firefighters and move the city a little closer to solvency. The agreement, which still must be approved by the City Council, includes a 5 percent base salary reduction for union members: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/north-las-vegas-firefighters-union-come-to-tentative-agreement-125375913.html>

A group of Salem (OR) firefighters helped out at a Muscular Dystrophy Association children's summer camp today. Seven firefighters went to the camp in Welches, where Engineer William Giddings is volunteering for about a week. "The money we raise for Fill the Boot helps send the kids to camp," Salem Firefighter Chuck Ettl said. "This camp lets us see that what we're doing is going for a great cause."
<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110713/UPDATE/110713048/Salem-firefighters-volunteer-MDA-summer-camp?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CHome>

The North Las Vegas (NV) firefighters' union voted to approve an agreement Monday that will cut their base pay by 5 percent in order to save 35 jobs. The deal will help save an additional \$2 million on top of the \$4 million in concessions firefighters made in May, according to a statement released by the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1607. The deal will go before the North Las Vegas City Council for final approval Wednesday. Thirty-five firefighters were targeted for layoffs before the deal was struck as the city works to close a \$30 million budget gap. Union president Jeff Hurley said the deal was one "that had to be done" in order to get the city on the path towards recovery:
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jul/18/north-las-vegas-firefighters-take-pay-cut-save-35/>

A tentative agreement is on the table. The Sacramento (CA) Area Firefighters Union has agreed to partially restore several safety units and reopen some fire companies in the city. If the agreement is accepted, city firefighter salaries and benefits will be cut:
<http://www.news10.net/news/local/article/146574/2/Firefighters-and-Sacramento-officials-reach-tentative-deal>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Fire Board: Firefighters Made Mistakes at Fatal Missouri Fire: A group of Weston residents are questioning how firefighters tackled a fire that left a business owner dead earlier this month, and on Wednesday evening they took their concerns to the West Platte Fire Board to try and get some answers. George Treese, owner of Old Geezer's Mantiques in Weston, was killed in a fire that swept through his business and attached apartment on July 4th. A Weston resident shot video of the fire, and now many people say that the fire department waited far too long to start putting water on the fire. "We know there was a delay of 5 minutes of pressurized water to the fire line at the side door, which also delayed entry into the building. The cause of delay was an incorrect pumping procedure," said Kenny Clemens, president of the West Platte Fire Board. "The firefighter that was assigned the pumping the fire was not 100 percent familiar with the apparatus, and the error occurred," said Capt. Johnson, who says that by his assessment, it took over eight minutes for water to be put on the fire:
http://www.fireengineering.com/index/blogs/fire-engineering_news/blogs/FireEngineering/fire-engineering-news/post987_7809171494442575299.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyJuly282011

Learn from the mistakes of others: Footage of firefighters responding to a fire in Mississippi has prompted criticism over safety and PPE from the firefighting community. The video, posted on Saturday, shows the firefighters attacking flames at a structure and adjacent vehicles in Columbia. Several commenters on the firefighting blog [STATter911](#) expressed dismay at the lack of SCBA in use as firefighters stood near the flames:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1084162-Video-Lack-of-SCBA-at-house-vehicle-fire/>

There is not enough evidence yet to say whether the dust and smoke cloud produced by the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center caused cancer, federal officials concluded in a report released on Tuesday. The finding, based on an initial review required by a new federal law, disappointed rescue and recovery workers and people who lived near the World Trade Center who have cancer diagnoses that they attribute to the attack. It means that they do not qualify for federal benefits to treat or compensate them for their cancer, at least until further study. Scientists say that cancer takes 5 to 20 years to develop, so if there was a very strong effect from toxic substances released by the collapse of the twin towers, it might be expected to manifest itself by now, nearly 10 years after the attack:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/27/nyregion/not-enough-evidence-to-link-911-and-cancer-report-finds.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=9/11%20cancer&st=cse

Nine fire agencies from four Nevada counties and one in California have agreed to implement a standardized apparatus and station identification system. East Fork Fire and Paramedics Districts Chief Tod Carlini said participating agencies realized the value of having one system for numbering fire stations and apparatus, even though they are all dispatched from separate centers. Currently, each agency has its own numbering system creating conflicts with duplicated apparatus and personnel numbering on incidents where regional support and cooperation is essential, Carlini said. Carson City Fire Chief Stacey Giomi developed the system, which provides each agency with a master number as the primary agency identifier. Other numbers identify apparatus and personnel. The group also agreed on common apparatus terminology, whereby apparatus of the same type will be referred to with the same name. Regional agencies have three terms to identify an ambulance. Under the new system, an ambulance is now known as a "rescue" in all participating jurisdictions. "While this may seem like a simple step to take, it breaks with what we have been doing for at least the past 30-plus years I have been in the fire service," Carlini said. "With the current state of our economy, moving in a direction which attempts to maximize our efforts and funding on a regional basis makes sense," he said:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20110728/NEWS/110729772/1070&ParentProfile=1058>

Fort Worth (TX) Fire Capt. Larry Manasco is quick to take responsibility for the mistakes he made during a call early last year in which he and six of his colleagues became trapped following a roof collapse. He told attendees at Firehouse Expo in Baltimore this past weekend that the culture in the fire service is such that more people don't come forward to talk about their missteps following close calls:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/texas-firefighter-recalls-mistakes-close-call>

General Fire Service Related Items:

A white group of firefighters who won a reverse discrimination case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009 has been awarded about \$2 million in damages from the city of New Haven (CT), ending a 7-year-old legal battle that fueled national debate over racial justice, officials

said Thursday. The Supreme Court ruled that officials violated white firefighters' civil rights when they threw out 2003 promotion tests results because too few minorities did well:

<http://www.ctpost.com/default/article/APNewsBreak-Firefighters-get-damages-in-bias-case-1623956.php>

Pinole (CA) imposed a one-year contract term on its firefighters Tuesday, a week after doing the same with its police officers. The city's "last, best and final offer," passed 5-0 by the City Council, freezes wages at current levels, exacts higher employee contributions for retirement and health care, and applies a less costly retirement formula for new hires. The city will save about \$161,136 this year under the new firefighter labor terms, according to an estimate by Human Resources analyst Jennifer Miller; the police employee terms imposed last week will save \$330,000, she estimated. Earlier this year, the council voted to close the Pinole Valley fire station as a budget-cutting measure. The firefighters union and Fire Chief Charles Hanley have recommended constant staffing of four firefighters at Pinole's other station downtown; while both stations were open, each had been constantly staffed with three firefighters. The terms imposed Tuesday provide for three firefighters at the downtown station. Wells said the staffing was supposed to be still under negotiation:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/contra-costa-county/ci_18562777?nclick_check=1

Despite a long-range plan to reduce manpower, the Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department should be allowed to continue recruiting because of expected vacancies within the next two years, a city panel recommended Monday. The City Council's Public Safety Committee approved the recruiting plans to help the department prepare recruits for the demands of the job. Cmdr. Trevor Richman of the LAFD Planning Division said the department is working hard to train recruits in under-represented categories - such as women - to pass the rigorous qualifying tests. "Every time we advertise for a class, we get hundreds of people and we are trying to work with people in under-represented areas to help them become qualified," Richman said. Although the City Council voted to reduce LAFD staffing by 300 firefighters over the next three years because of the budget crisis, Richman said the department believes it will need to hire more recruits within the next 18 months as attrition thins the department's ranks:

http://www.dailybreeze.com/latestnews/ci_18457622

Tracking the number of emergency calls it receives is a top priority for Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, which serves 450,000 people in nine Oregon communities. But it wasn't until the release of its 2009 study on emergency calls that the department realized the extent of the problem it has with what it terms "low-risk, high-frequency" calls: of the more than 10,000 commercial automatic alarms the department responded to during a five-year period, 99 percent were what the report described as "false alarms" or "no-hazard incidents," which Tualatin defines as alarms triggered by burnt food, welding, dust exposure, and problems with heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. "We expected a pretty high number, but we were shocked when we saw the true magnitude of the problem," says Steve Forster, Tualatin's fire marshal. "We knew we had a huge number of fire alarms, but we really thought we would see more instances where automatic alarms alerted us to an emergency." The data prompted Tualatin Valley to rethink its alarm response. Last year, it amended its fire code to require all alarm monitoring companies to verify within 90 seconds if an actual incident is occurring before calling a 9-1-1 center. If the incident can't be verified, firefighters send a one-person response vehicle. Prior to the change, the department would send a four-person unit to check every alarm call:

<http://www.nfpa.org/publicColumn.asp?categoryID=2208&itemID=52091&cookie%5Ftest=1>

Singing the National Anthem doesn't usually get Battalion Chief John Grillone in trouble, but when a YouTube video surfaced of Grillone singing it in a firehouse, the Philadelphia (PA) Fire Commissioner charged that Grillone's conduct was unbecoming. "Unfortunately, this is only the beginning," said Grillone, as he left a disciplinary hearing with his attorney and union representative: <http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2011/07/08/fire-chief-faces-disciplinary-hearing-after-youtube-video-surfaces/>

The Vincent Gray administration is deploying Washington D.C. (DCFD) firefighters to street corners to help protect members of the city's Summer Youth Employment Program on payday. Youths enrolled in the program have routinely been mugged on paydays in summers past. The city has tried different tactics to keep kids working government-sponsored jobs from being targeted, including dropping paychecks for debit cards. But Mayor Gray's solution is to put firefighters in harm's way to keep the robberies from happening under his watch, said firefighter representatives. "[Fire] Chief [Kenneth] Ellerbe simply wants a 'uniformed presence' of Fire and EMS representatives to serve as a deterrent to problems on an ongoing basis where the SYEP kids who are assigned to DC FEMS are working," fire department spokesman Lon Walls told The Washington Examiner in an emailed statement. "In addition, he feels such a presence in various hot spots around the city would aid as a possible deterrent to possible problems."

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/dc/2011/07/gray-deploys-firefighters-protect-summer-youth-workers>

Twenty-two San Jose (CA) firefighters have been reinstated with money from a federal grant. A group of firefighters came back to the job in an official welcoming ceremony on Friday. In all, 47 firefighters were laid off last year, but the other 27 have found other jobs. Their positions will be filled by new hires:

http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?section=news/local/south_bay&id=8253986

Nearly 500 current and former Louisville (KY) firefighters have filed a lawsuit against the attorneys who negotiated a \$43.5 million settlement for the firefighters with the city over miscalculated pay. The suit contends the lawyers pushed the firefighters to accept the agreement without telling them how much they could receive if they kept going forward in court: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110719/NEWS01/307190070/Louisville-firefighters-who-settled-city-millions-sue-their-attorneys?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Local%20News>

Volunteers with the Cashion (OK) Fire Department learned they were fired Monday night. Last month, the city council fired Chantz Robinson, the fire chief, and told 15 volunteers to turn their in their gear. Council members said they don't want to pay the chief, saying that most towns their size have volunteer chiefs only. The decision was made late Monday night to eliminate all the volunteer positions. Monday night, the board explained they fired the chief for removing furniture from the fire department, failing to fill out a timesheet and taking vacations on paid time: <http://www.koco.com/mostpopular/28594615/detail.html>

Haverhill (MA) Police Chief Alan DeNaro's appointment to oversee the scandal-plagued Fire Department is the first step in forming a combined public safety department, Mayor James Fiorentini said. Fiorentini said DeNaro has been advising him on hiring decisions and other Fire Department matters for several months, but that he recently asked the police chief to take a formal role running the department. That role includes, primarily, researching and writing grant applications, buying new equipment, making changes recommended by an outside fire consultant, and meeting with the mayor weekly to update him on fire operations, Fiorentini said: <http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x1241071108/City-to-merge-police-and-fire-departments>

About six months after an arbitrator pointed out what he thought was [obvious misuse of the sick-leave system](#), and after Clark County (NV) adopted stricter rules, firefighters aren't calling in sick nearly as much as they used to. New county numbers show significant declines in sick-leave use across the board, but especially in the more isolated fire stations at McCarran International Airport and Laughlin. The average number of sick-leave hours totaled at the Laughlin station fell 61 percent per pay period compared with 2010. At McCarran, sick-leave use per pay period fell 59 percent. Across the department, sick-leave use this calendar year has fallen 32 percent on average per pay period. County staff estimates the declines will save taxpayers about \$2.5 million if they continue. Meanwhile, it could cut into the average Clark County firefighter compensation package that averaged more than \$180,000 each in 2010: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jul/21/under-microscope-county-firefighters-taking-less-s/>

Is it okay to tell employees they cannot Facebook or use social media? Wichita (KS) firefighters are now under new restrictions. KSN looked closely at the new policy regarding fire department information on the internet. "It's pretty clear that there is no first amendment right to goof off at work," explains legal analyst Dan Monnat. Is it okay to tell employees they can not facebook or use social media? Wichita firefighters are now under new restrictions. KSN looked closely at the new policy regarding fire department information on the internet. "It's pretty clear that there is no first amendment right to goof off at work," explains legal analyst Dan Monnat: <http://www.ksn.com/news/local/story/Wichita-firefighters-facing-Facebook-restrictions/OT7ZL8rcUkmNK6Unnrxtw.csp>

As this story demonstrates, both employers and employees, including those in government organizations like fire departments, will continue facing challenges from the increasing prevalence of social media. Beyond the legal requirements and workplace policies, we know that firefighters and EMS personnel often "live the job," well beyond their departments, stations, shifts, companies, and units. When was the last time you saw an attorney wearing a T-shirt with the name of their firm plastered across the back? While this level of pride is generally a great thing, and a characteristic many employers would love to see in their employees, it also raises a host of ethical issues that are particularly important given the current national debate about government, and government workers (career and volunteer, as most citizens neither know, nor care about, the difference). We know that we are held to a different (higher) standard than other people: <http://www.firerescue1.com/social-media-for-firefighters/articles/1085449-Social-media-challenges-for-fire-departments/>

As many of you know firefighters from the Washington DC Fire & EMS Department have been ordered on crime prevention detail with orders to show up at some crime hot spots around town at all hours of the day. It has been a controversial program with IAFF Local 36 battling Chief Kenneth Ellerbe and top city officials over the wisdom and safety of such a program. Now comes the story from Scott McCabe at WashingtonExamniner.com of the firefighters themselves being crime victims. It happened while firefighters were battling a fire at 1720 Savannah Street, SE: Early Tuesday morning, Engine 33 firefighters returned from a call to their firehouse at 101 Atlantic St. SE to find it ransacked, with a BMW automobile, a firefighter's uniform and other valuables stolen. Thieves had forced their way into the station, trashed the watch desk, and stole a range of gear and personal property. Also missing were keys, wallets and a camera, according to the police report. The ripped-off BMW was the personal car of a firefighter: <http://statter911.com/2011/07/29/maybe-the-sanitation-department-can-sit-at-dc-firehouses-to-prevent-crimes-while-they-are-on-runs-guess-what-was-broken-into-ransacked/>

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!

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