

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

February 21, 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.

SPRING 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

The Spring 2011 semester at Chabot College has begun!

Presently, the only fire technology courses that are left that may have openings this spring semester are as follows:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighter-1 Basic) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: May 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 26, 28, 30, and May 1	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 12, 14, 16 and 17	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

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 Spring 2011 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

My suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and I with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students

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decreasing, only increasing. I would have liked to offer more classes in the summer time and in the fall; however the state budget crisis does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I think we are very fortunate if we get to keep the above courses that I have scheduled. 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:



Electrical Fire Safety

Electricity is a basic part of life in the United States. It provides the energy for most powered items in a contemporary home, from lights to heating systems to televisions. It is hard to imagine a residence without electricity, but using electricity can have dangerous consequences - such as fire. There are over 28,000 home electrical fires each year in the United States. By following some easy fire safety tips, you can help prevent an electrical fire in your home. For more information, go to:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm

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

FEMA, National Commission on Children and Disasters Announce New Partnership to Promote Fire Safety Awareness for Families

Announcement Comes as FEMA Releases New Report Showing Children under Four at Growing Risk of Death or Injury in Fires

February 14, 2011

WASHINGTON - With home fires on the rise in winter months, and a new study showing that young children are at an especially high risk of getting seriously injured or dying in residential fires, today the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Commission on Children and Disasters are announcing a new public awareness campaign to help keep children and families safer from the threat of home fires.

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As part of this effort, today FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration is releasing a new report on the risks fires pose to children. The report, which is based on the latest available data released by the National Center for Health Statistics, found that young children face the greatest - and a growing - risk of death or serious injury in home fires, with 52 percent of all child fire deaths in 2007 involving children under the age of four, a slight increase from the most recent study previously conducted in 2004. For a copy of the report, go to: http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/casualties_children.shtm

"This latest report reveals a deeply troubling trend and should serve as a wake-up call for all of us," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "The bottom line is that one of the greatest threats our youngest kids may face during the winter months exist in their homes. It's critical that all families are aware of these risks and take the simple steps now to prevent fires due to cooking, heating or other causes at home. These deaths are preventable, and working together we can educate each other and save lives."

"During the past decade of unprecedented disasters, the needs of kids were too often left behind in disaster planning," said Mark Shriver, Chairman, National Commission on Children and Disasters. "We not only hope this partnership helps better protect children from home fires, but also puts a spotlight on the unique needs of kids when disasters strike. We're grateful that Administrator Fugate has demonstrated such strong leadership and made significant progress for protecting children in a very short time."

In addition, the report found that:

- Deaths from fires and burns were the second leading cause of accidental deaths not related to transportation, after drowning;
- Boys are at higher-risk of dying from fires than girls;
- Between 2006 and 2008, smoke alarms were not present in at least 23 percent of residential fires;
- African-American children are at an increased risk of fire deaths; and
- Low-income children are at greatest risk of exposure to home fires.

"Children are one of our most vulnerable populations. Through diverse partnerships we can highlight the dangers which are threatening children throughout the country," said FEMA Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. "Through reports, such as this one, we can target specific types of hazards to keep children safe from fires."

To help families protect their homes and loved ones, especially young children, from fires, FEMA, the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Commission on Children and Disasters are asking families to take simple steps now to prevent fires in their residences, and partnering with leading organizations across the fire, emergency medical services, public health and emergency management fields to get the message out.

To provide families with important tips about fire safety and lists of additional resources, FEMA is launching online and social media tools, including:

- An updated web page dedicated to children's fire safety, including tips on how to prevent the two leading causes of fire during the winter months: cooking and heating;
- A widget that will link to this website and resources;
- A Facebook tab; and
- A dedicated Twitter hashtag to engage the public in a dialogue about how to protect kids from fires.

Among other things, these updated tools will offer tips for how to prevent the two leading causes of fires during the winter months: heating and cooking.

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 their website at www.firenuggets.com

Seminar #1: Thursday, April 14, 2011

Fireground Strategies” A Two Part Program

- Presented by Deputy Chief Anthony Avillo, North Hudson (NJ) Fire & Rescue

Part 1: “Get ‘em in safe, Work ‘em safe, Get ‘em out safe. This presentation will challenge officers and prospective officers with regard to their preparation, attitude, philosophical approach, and operational and organizational skills in the hard environment (on the fireground) and in the soft environment (when you are preparing yourself and your members for the fireground). Officers will look inside themselves and at their departments and answer the questions: What kind of officer am I? What type of organization do I work for? Am I really an officer who looks out for his subordinates? Or do I use lip service and then do not practice what I preach? We will discuss why the insignias on the officer's collar stand for "conflict and confrontation" and help them to see that these seemingly negative connotations are actually leadership virtues for the effective officer. This class will explore setting expectations and setting proper example as well as discuss the skills of resolving subordinate issues. Discuss the rules of engagement, the art of command presence, street-command organization, and officer accountability. This will hopefully be a wake-up call for many officers who have become complacent and allowed their subordinates to follow that path as well.

Part 2: Incident Command, Fireground Organization & Size-Up This presentation will address the fireground experience from arrival through termination, including safety and the rules of engagement, the most critical size-up factors, command structure, strategy selection and modification, ongoing fireground operations such as decentralizing the fireground, progress reports, and a comprehensive look at post-control activities. Identify areas where weakness in command and organizational structure cause a breakdown in operations and safety. Learn how to bring the incident command system down to the street level, making for a safer and more effective fireground. Awareness and vigilance are the first steps toward a safer fire service. Students will identify activities counter to the safe execution of the incident action plan and learn that the weight of the "Everyone goes home" philosophy is on their shoulders and is a responsibility they cannot take lightly.

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_avillo.pdf

Seminar #2: 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

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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 #3: 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 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

ALL THREE 2011 SEMINARS:

- *Three seminars, four speakers, and quality professional networking, all for one low price of \$225, a \$105 savings off the individual seminar fees. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense.*

For details on this three-seminar option, go to <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11.pdf>

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

STUDENT RECRUITEMENT FOR Advanced Safety Operations and Management: P154 – Pilot Offering

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 revised 6-day course *Advanced Safety Operations and Management (P154)*. The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering this pilot offering May 29 – June 3, 2011, with students to arrive Saturday May 28 and depart Saturday June 4, 2011.

Course Description: This 6-day course provides knowledge and practice, in the context of current issues, to develop strategies of risk management associated with the provision of fire fighting and EMS services to reduce firefighter fatalities and injuries. With a focus on using the risk management model in the health and safety aspects of emergency services operations, current regulations, standards, policies and responsibilities for program management, day-to-day operations and incident safety will be addressed.

Student Selection Criteria: Company-level officers, chief officers and supervisors who have department-level health and safety responsibilities (such as program planning and implementation), who may serve as an Incident Safety Officer.

Class Size: 22
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 General Admissions Application FEMA Form 119-25-1 (formerly the FEMA Form 75-5). 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 March 4, 2011 to:

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

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend this pilot course until notified in writing by the 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:

The Cutting Edge Command Officer

2-Day Workshop in Las Vegas, NV

Today's company and chief officers are facing unprecedented challenges, fireground dangers, liability, personnel conflict, public and fiscal scrutiny.

- **Don't be part of the problem; Be part of the solution!**

Day 1 - Leadership & Team Building

- **Conflict Resolution - Counseling - Role Play Exercises**
- **Liability & Command - Firefighter Bill of Rights - Internal Motivation**
- **Team Building - Labor/Management: The RBO Process**

Day 2 - Strategy & Tactics

- **Size Up and Dynamic Risk Assessment**
- **Street Smart Tactics - Beyond Checking the Boxes**
- **Real World ICS for Structure Fires**
- **The New Enemy and New Battlefield - Modern Fire Behavior and Construction**
- **Incident Reviews of Multi-Alarm Fires**
- **Simulation Scenarios for Residential, Commercial, and Apartment Fires**

Your Instructors:

Division Chief Ed Hadfield, founder of [Firetown Training Specialist](http://www.firetowntrainingspecialist.com) (www.firetowntrainingspecialist.com), has over 23 years of fire service experience. He is a frequent speaker on leadership within the fire service and also with corporate and civic leaders throughout the United States. Ed is well known for the creation and instructional delivery of company officer development programs that have raised the bar of professionalism in today's fire service ranks. Firetown specializes in Truck Company Operations, Firefighter Safety and Survivability, and Mission Focused Command Tactics.

Battalion Chief Anthony Kastros is a 23-year veteran of the fire service and founder of [Firefighter Inspiration Readiness & Education](http://www.trainfirefighters.com) (www.trainfirefighters.com). He is author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center," that focuses on strategy, tactics, and leadership. Chief Kastros is an FDIC and Firehouse World instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

April 13 and 14, 2011 - \$149.00

- **Clark County Fire Training Center - 4425 W. Tropicana Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89103**
- For registration information go to www.trainfirefighters.com

FREE FIRE SERVICE CAREER PREPARATION INFORMATION FROM THE DON McNEA FIRE SCHOOL:

Some more firefighter preparation testing tips courtesy of the **Don McNea Fire School** (www.fireprep.com)!

THE FIREFIGHTER'S WRITTEN EXAMINATION

Today's written examination commonly consists of approximately 150-200 multiple-choice questions. The subjects for the written examinations could include any of the testing subjects listed below:

- Reading Comprehension
- Human Relations
- Problem Solving
- Judgment
- Math
- Memory
- Charts
- Inductive Reasoning
- Deductive Reasoning
- Visualization
- Verbal & Listening Comprehension
- Spelling
- Verbal Reasoning
- Oral and Written Communication Information

The key to scoring well on the written examination is preparation. There are not many candidates who can walk into a written examination and score high on their first attempts without adequate preparation. You need to practice. What do we mean by practice? By taking practice examinations. It is like studying for any other test you have taken – you need to adequately study and prepare. The competition for a firefighter position is intense. When you take a firefighter examination, you are ranked on the eligibility list from the higher score to the lowest score. Obviously, you want to be at the top to dramatically increase your chances of moving onto the other parts of the testing process. The more you study and prepare, the better your score. Like we said before, you have to want it, and wanting it means you will put the required time in to adequately studying and preparing. During your preparation, you need to fine tune the areas where you are consistently weak until you feel confident walking into an examination knowing that no one can beat you. The key to your success on this portion of the hiring process will be how much time you put into preparing for this important first step. You can do it – you just have to want it!

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Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with their entry level seminars and products. Fireprep.com has over 250 pages of FREE information and careers articles to help you reach your goal of becoming a firefighter. Go to www.fireprep.com and register for their free fireprep e-mail newsletter that features career articles by the countries top entry level authors. You will also be informed at no cost of firefighter examinations be given across the country. While at their website don't forget to review their award winning 'Ultimate Firefighter Exam Package'. This product has help hundreds of fire applicants finish in the top 2% of the exam process. Go to the link below to review the ultimate firefighter exam package: www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html

Don McNea Fire School
dmfireschool@aol.com
1-800-989-FIRE
www.fireprep.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

2011 Upcoming Course Schedule

The California Fire & Rescue Training Authority announces upcoming classes for 2011! Course registration is available on the website, www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov. Or, you may contact the office at (916) 475-1660 to request a registration form.

Resource Ordering & Statusing System (ROSS)

ROSS Dispatcher Training - Mather, CA March 7-11, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$260.00

The course is designed to instruct students in the use of the Dispatch portion of the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) computer application. This course is both interactive and combines lecture and hands-on practice. Upon completion of the **ROSS Dispatcher Course**, the student will gain an understanding of: ROSS User Basics, Personal Settings/Notifications, Resource Status and Web Status, Initial Reports and Incidents, New Request, Quick Fill, Pending Request, Request Status, Travel, Incident Resources, Rosters, and Strike Teams. Advanced Travel, Tactical Aviation Screen, Cal EMA (Formerly OES) Ordering Process, Version 2.12 New Features. **Supplemental instruction/information:**

- Class hours will begin at 1300 on Monday and end at 1200 on Friday and will be held 0800-1700 Tuesday through Thursday.
- Class attire is business casual, uniforms are not required.

Prerequisite: ICS 100 and 200 are required and may be taken online at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>. In addition, D-110 Dispatch Recorder is a prerequisite; pre-course materials can be purchased through NWCG. It is imperative students attend the entire class.

Wildland Courses

S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations April 4-7, 2011 (Monday-Thursday) - \$300.00

This course is designed to meet training requirements for Division Supervisor, Operations Chief, Safety Officer, Situation Unit Leader, Plans Section Chief and prescribed fire positions. This is a skill course designed to instruct prospective fireline supervisors and fire managers in wildland fire behavior for effective and safe fire management operations. **Prerequisite:** S-290 (S-290 certificate must be sent with enrollment form)

Fire Command 2 Series

Fire Command 2D: Planning for Large Scale Disasters - Sacramento, CA March 14-18, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$550.00

This course contains such topics as principles of disaster planning and management, fire service emergency plans, emergency operations centers, case studies of various natural and man made disasters, roles of local, state and federal OES and emergency management agencies, discussion of multi-hazard planning techniques, ICS and SEMS concepts, and principles of exercising emergency management staffs. **Prerequisite:** I-300 and Fire Command 2A

Fire Command 2E: Wildland Fire Fighting Tactics - Sacramento, CA May 16-20, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$550.00

This course contains such topics as California's wildland fire problem, wildland fire safety, weather effects, wildland fuels, wildland behavior, initial attack methods, using support equipment, using topographic maps, strategy and tactics, and air attack operations. Involves class participation and simulation. This course is designed for fire officers who have command responsibilities at wildland fires.

Prerequisite: I-300, Fire Command 1C, and Fire Command 2A.

Emergency Medical Technician

Citrus Heights, CA - March 8 - May 11, 2011 Tues & Thurs 6:00pm-10:00pm and Sat 8:00am-5:00pm - \$495.00

The Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-Basic) program provides the student with an outline of the EMS system, introduces assessment skills, as well as provides pathophysiology of common neurological, respiratory, and cardiac related emergencies. The EMT-Basic program is a 9-week basic training course for emergency medical technicians performing as ambulance attendants. It covers techniques of emergency medical care presently considered within the responsibilities of the emergency medical technician, and emphasizes the development of student skills in recognition of symptoms of illnesses and injuries and proper procedures of emergency care. A program completion certificate is awarded to students who pass the course with a 80% or better average. Successful completion of the EMT-Basic course provides eligibility to sit for the County of Sacramento Division of Public Health Emergency Medical Services certification examination. A student must be 18 years old in order to qualify for county certification. This course is conducted in compliance with Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2 of the California Code of Regulations and Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT). Field trips are required. 72 hours lecture, 72 hours laboratory. **Enrollment Limitations:** Current CPR certification from American Heart Association Health Care Provider Course. Proof of negative TB test within the past year; vaccination for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); and vaccination for Hepatitis B. Once registered, students will be given direction to complete a background check, drug screen, and purchase an EMT Uniform Polo Shirt.

Contact Information - phone: (916) 475-1660 - www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFO:

- ***FIREHIRE* - APPLICATION PERIOD ENDING SOON!!!!**

The next application cut-off date is May 6, 2011!

Please remember that they **MUST** have your application packet and payment postmarked by the posted application cut-off date. If it is not received by that date, your application will be carried over to the next application period. Applications are available to download from www.firehire.com/downloads.htm

You can also get an application mailed to you by calling their office at (800) 755-5891

- **OVER 20 DIFFERENT FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE HIRING OFF THIS LIST!!!**

If you don't make this application cut-off date, you'll have to wait for future application filing deadlines:

- May 6, 2011
- October 1, 2011

Benefits of taking this test include:

- You're only taking one test (as opposed to separate tests for each fire department)
- The hiring list will be in effect for one year
- There is a chance other fire departments will hire off of this list

You may be wondering, is any fire department going to be hiring? Of course! While the California budget crisis has impacted a number of their clients, and there are some agencies that do not have or do not anticipate any openings in the next year, there are always going to be some departments that will be hiring.

Why then would a department participate if they were not planning on hiring? Well, number one, things can and do change. Just because a department does not have any openings as of this moment, does not mean that situation cannot change overnight. Firefighters retire, firefighters get injured, firefighters quit (usually to go to other departments), many times without any advance notice to the department. Number two, many fire departments are required to keep a current, active hiring list because of their civil service rules or union contract. Even if they do not anticipate hiring, many departments still have to have a current list. Why is that so? Well, just like number one, things can and do change. Additionally, it allows them to get the most current "best-of-the-best" candidates out there. Even though fire departments are facing severe (or potentially severe) budget shortfalls, it does not mean they won't ever hire again. Departments will have to hire at some time in the future to fill vacancies from retirements, permanent injuries, etc. The question is when, and **the bottom line is that if you are not actively testing and on the current hiring list, you do not stand a chance at getting a badge!**

The financial situation in the State is very dynamic and it is just a matter of time when it gets better (when exactly is anyone's guess). If you decide not to test because of the budget problems, that is

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your choice. Many departments ONLY hire candidates from the Firehire testing process. So, if you don't take the test, you don't stand a chance.

Some of the fire departments might have other requirements (view the Firehire web site at www.firehire.com for more specific information) such as:

- EMT
- Paramedic
- Firefighter – 1 Academy
- Firefighter – 1 Certificate

For application materials or more information, visit their website at www.firehire.com or if you do not have internet access, call them at 1-800-755-5891. The following fire departments are expected to be participating (based on the information I had available at the time I printed this document) in this recruitment and will be using the list that is established to hire for open positions:

Fire Department

- Albany Fire Department –
- American Canyon F.P.D. –
- Central County Fire Department –
- Cosumnes Community Services F.P.D. –
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado F.P.D. -
- El Cerrito Fire Department –
- Kentfield Fire Protection District –
- Larkspur Fire Protection District –
- Millbrae Fire Department –
- Mill Valley Fire Department –
- Mountain View Fire Department –
- North County Fire Authority – Brisbane
- North County Fire Authority – Daly City
- North County Fire Authority – Pacifica
- Piedmont Fire Department –
- Redwood City Fire Department –
- Rio Vista Fire Department –
- Rodeo-Hercules F.P.D. -
- Ross Valley Fire Authority –
- San Bruno Fire Department –
- San Mateo Fire Department –
- San Mateo Fire Department –
- San Ramon Valley F.P.D. –
- Vallejo Fire Department –

Positions available

- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/EMT
- Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/EMT
- Firefighter/EMT
- Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
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- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/EMT
- Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Lateral Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/Paramedic
- Firefighter/Paramedic

CPAT – Physical Ability Test Information

They will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate. When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination. **The CPAT card/certificate must be dated LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD from the date of the written examination that you are participating in.**

FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide

The written examination material is based solely on the FIREHIRE Inc. Study Guide. The **NEW** Study Guide is available for purchase. **To score well, it is highly recommended that the candidates purchase the study guide.**

WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

The written examinations will be held at the Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center at 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove, California. The written test is weighted 100%.

Upcoming written test dates include:

- May 17, 2011
- October 10, 2011

ALS ASSESSMENT CENTER EXAMINATION

If you are applying for a paramedic position, you must successfully complete the Advanced Life Support (ALS) assessment center.

Upcoming ALS assessment center dates include:

- TBA

HIRING AND THE ECONOMY-PART 2

Yes, the economy is hurting the fire service. There are numerous agencies that are not hiring what they anticipated or not hiring at all. It is unfortunate, but most fire agencies realize that it is cheaper to pay overtime than it is to hire new employees. It's all cyclic and it will turn itself around. **SO DON'T GIVE UP.**

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



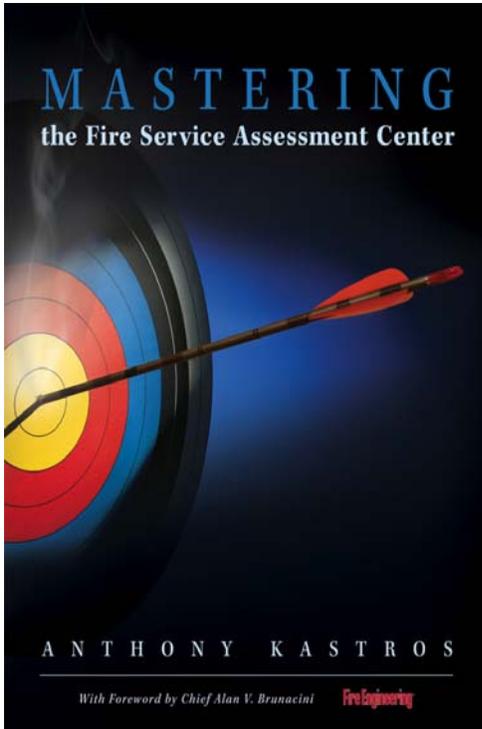
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

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 KASTOS IS A 22-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK AND VIDEO SERIES, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER", BY FIRE ENGINEERING THAT FOCUSES ON ASSESSMENT CENTERS AND SIMULATIONS. CHIEF KASTOS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

**APRIL 4 THROUGH 7, 2011 – ROSEVILLE, CA
AND
JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 1, 2011 – ANAHEIM, CA
\$495.00***

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

EMS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

STS CPR Concord is currently looking to hire an EMT or Paramedic who teaches ACLS. Please contact STS CPR Concord on their website at: WWW.CONCORDCPRCLASSES.COM

Thanks a lot, Charles

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



Did you know that 50 percent of child fire deaths affect those under the age of 5?

Escaping from a fire can be difficult for very young children because they generally lack the motor skills and mental capabilities needed to quickly escape a burning building. The U.S. Fire Administration provides fire prevention information to teach children and their caregivers about the dangers of fire. Protect your kids: install and maintain smoke alarms and residential sprinklers and practice home fire escape plans to ensure your children will be safe if a fire were to start in your home. For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/children.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

The **Public Safety Training Group** in Brentwood, California will be offering a large number of State certified courses to assist you with getting promoted and/or with career development to be a better firefighter, better company officer, better chief officer, etc.

- **Fire Instructor 2C:** February 28 – March 4, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 2A:** March 7 – 11, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1B:** March 14 – 18, 2011
- **Fire Management 1:** March 28 – April 1, 2011
- **S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior):** March 29 – April 1, 2011
- **Fire Command 1C:** April 4 – 8, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** April 11 – 15, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1C:** April 18 – 22, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1A:** April 25 – 29, 2011
- **I-300 (Intermediate ICS):** May 9 – 11, 2011
- **I-400 (Advanced ICS):** May 12 – 13, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1B:** May 23 – 27, 2011

For more information and to register for the classes, go to their website at www.pstgonline.com or call (925) 240-5200.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Fire Command 1A:** March 21 – 25, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, CA*)

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- **Fire Command 1B:** April 18 – 22, 2011 (Class in Los Gatos, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 25, 30 & May 4, 2011 (Class in Sunnyvale, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 26, 28 & May 5, 2011 (Class in Sunnyvale, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 27, 29 & May 6, 2011 (Class in Sunnyvale, 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 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Here is an opportunity to take one firefighter examination and be eligible to be hired by one of over 10 fire departments in the **Denver, Colorado** area! The following information was found on their website, which also includes an online application: <http://www.drcog.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

The next application filing deadline is May 6, 2011, to be eligible to take the next test on June 6, 2011!

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on behalf of the member districts/departments, manages the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment (FIRE) program. Testing occurs twice a year. Candidates take one written exam and the results then determine an eligibility pool of qualified candidates for our 13 member departments. Files may be reviewed throughout the year as openings occur.

Minimum Employment Requirements

- Be legally entitled to work in the United States and able to obtain a Colorado driver's license.
- Some departments hire candidates 18 years of age or older--others require applicants to be at least 21. There is no maximum age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED; having some college credits is desirable as are EMT/firefighter/paramedic certifications. Departments prefer applicants acquire an EMT certification prior to being hired, although not required to test.
- Some departments will train hires with out-of-state firefighter certification for Colorado certification, but smaller departments require candidates to go through the reciprocity process with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)--call (720) 852-6735.

Fire Departments Participating

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Hawk Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> North Metro Fire Rescue District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder Fire & Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> North Washington Fire Protection District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Heights Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Parker Fire District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Littleton Fire Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Adams County Fire Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Longmont Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Thornton Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Westminster Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain View Fire Protection District | |

Online Application Process

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Completing the application and paying the \$50 non-refundable fee confirms your seat. Candidates will receive special testing instructions via e-mail about a month before the test.

Deferrals

You may request to defer your payment (one-time) to the next test. You must call 303-480-6730 at least three business days prior to your test date to defer. Don't defer unless it's unavoidable because you may miss out on a recruitment process.

What Happens Next

You must score at least 70 percent (overall) to pass, but departments may set a higher score for their recruitments. Departments could contact you for further testing throughout the year so keep your contact information current within your online application.

Written Exam Used

DRCOG administers the New Generation CWH Management Solutions Exam to identify individuals who are most likely to be successful in the fire service. The test assesses skills and abilities that Denver-area firefighters know are essential for their jobs. The exam has 150 questions; applicants have three hours and 15 minutes to complete it. The test measures:

- **Basic educational skills (reading, writing and math),**
- **Practical skills (judgment and common sense),**
- **Interpersonal skills, and**
- **Emotional outlook (ethics, motivation and effectiveness under stress).**

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Firehouse World – San Diego, CA - February 26 through March 2, 2011

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Fire Service Leadership Conference – Seaside, CA – March 6 through 9, 2011

Go to www.fireserviceleadership.org for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – March 21 through 26, 2011 -

Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

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Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD - July 19 through 23, 2011
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – Atlanta, GA - August 23 through 27, 2011
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

Firehouse Central – Las Vegas, NV - August 29 through September 2, 2011
Go to www.firehousecentral.com for more information.

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – Fresno, CA - November 14 through 18, 2011 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- May 12, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- May 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- July 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- July 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- August 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- August 16, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- October 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)- October 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
You will receive:	**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer. 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/pages/about/volunteer.php

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: James Walters, Sr.
Rank: Assistant Chief
Age: 57
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 01/29/11
Time of Incident: 2100hrs
Date of Death: 01/29/11
Fire Department: Parkton Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 2704 W Parkton Tobermory RD, Parkton, NC 28371
Fire Department Chief: Mitchell Jacobs
Fire Department POC: Mitchell Jacobs

Incident Description: Assistant Chief Walters collapsed while doing paperwork at the fire station. Fire department personnel immediately performed CPR. He was transported to the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: 2704 W Parkton Tobermory RD, Parkton, NC 28371

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation for Firefighter Walters will be Thursday, 03/03/11 from 1800 to 2100 hrs. Location TBD. The funeral will be Friday, 03/04/11 at 1400 hrs. A full fire department honors funeral is planned. Location TBD.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending.

Tribute is being paid to Assistant Chief Walters at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 13 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; eleven from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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: Antonio E. Jones
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 44
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 01/29/2011
Time of Incident: 1413hrs
Date of Death: 01/29/2011
Fire Department: Augusta Fire Department
Address: 3117 Deans Bridge Road, Augusta, GA 30906
Fire Department Chief: Howard Willis

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Incident Description: Firefighter Jones became ill while on duty at his duty station and requested to leave in order to see his personal family physician. While enroute to the physician's office he collapsed at the wheel of his personal vehicle causing a minor accident. Firefighters responding to the accident immediately began advanced life support and continued treatment to the ER where Firefighter Jones passed away from a cause still to be determined.

Incident Location: 3400 block of Wrightsboro Road.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation for Firefighter Jones will be Wednesday, 02/02/2011 from 1730–1830hrs at W. H. Mays Mortuary, 1221 James Brown Boulevard in Augusta. The funeral will be Thursday 02/03/2011 at 1400hrs at Gilbert Lambuth Memorial Chapel, Paine College, 1200 Druid Park Avenue in Augusta. Interment will be at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Appling, Georgia.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Antonio E. Jones, c/o Augusta Fire Department, 3117 Deans Bridge Road, Augusta, GA 30906.

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

To date, 14 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 12 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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:	Steven F. Auch
Rank:	Battalion Chief
Age:	56
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	33
Date of Incident:	02/01/2011
Time of Incident:	1547hrs
Date of Death:	02/01/2011
Fire Department:	Indianapolis Fire Department
Address:	555 N New Jersey ST, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Fire Department Chief:	Brian Sanford

Incident Description: Within several hours of finishing a duty shift at the department that included response to emergency incidents, Battalion Chief Auch passed away at home from a cause still to be determined.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Battalion Chief Steven F. Auch at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 15 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 13 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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:	Daniel C. Dare
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	52

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Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 25+
Date of Incident: 02/01/2011
Time of Incident: 2030hrs
Date of Death: 02/02/2011
Fire Department: Avon Fire Protection District
Address: PO Box 499, 102 E Clinton ST, Avon, IL 61415-0499
Fire Department Chief: Steve Bernhart

Incident Description: Firefighter Dare passed away from an apparent heart attack after responding to an EMS call for a sick child. Department members and other emergency services providers in the area were confronted by extreme weather conditions during the response, which was eventually canceled when the child's reported illness moderated. Firefighter Dare's vehicle had become stuck in the snow during the response and was extricated with the assistance of another department member. Upon returning home, Dare became ill in his driveway and his wife attempted to drive him to the department for assistance. She also became stuck in the snow and was assisted by the same firefighter who earlier had helped Firefighter Dare extricate his vehicle. Upon arrival at the fire station, Avon fire-rescue personnel were waiting and performed CPR on Firefighter Dare for over 30 minutes. Due to the weather and road conditions, additional help could not reach the community and, according to reports, by 0100hrs, responders were told by medical control to stop their resuscitation efforts.

Incident Location: 73 170th ST, Avon, IL 61415

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be held on 02/05/2011 at the Abingdon United Methodist Church in Abingdon, IL, from 1200-1400hrs, with services to follow.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Daniel C. Dare, donations can be made to the Dare Children Education Fund, 3425 East County Highway 20, Avon, IL 61415

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Daniel C. Dare at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 16 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 14 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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: Richard Leo "Ricky" Barbour
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 55
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 30
Date of Incident: 01/29/2011
Time of Incident: 1500hrs
Date of Death: 02/04/2011
Fire Department: Wilson's Mills Fire and Rescue
Address: 2550 Cleveland Rd, Smithfield, NC 27577
Fire Department Chief: Pending
Fire Department Website: <http://www.wilsonsmillsfd.com/>

Incident Description: Chief Barbour responded to a woods fire on 01/29/2011. The following day (within 24 hours), Barbour experienced chest pains and was transported to WakeMed in Raleigh, NC.

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Chief Barbour was treated at the hospital but never recovered from his injury and passed away just before midnight on 02/04/2011.

Incident Location: Lakewood Road, Smithfield, NC.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation, 1800-2100hrs on 02/08/2011 at Wilson's Mills Baptist Church, 652 Swift Creek RD, Smithfield, NC 27577. Funeral service, 1100hrs on 02/09/2011, Wilson's Mills Baptist Church. Burial will follow at Knollwood Cemetery in Clayton NC 27520.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Ricky Barbour Grandchildren's College Fund, c/o Four Oaks Bank, P. O. Box 309, Four Oaks, NC 27524.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Richard Leo "Ricky" Barbour at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 17 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 15 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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: Derek Kozorosky
Rank: Airman First Class
Age: Pending
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 02/11/2011
Time of Incident: 1800hrs
Date of Death: 02/11/2011
Fire Department: 18th Civil Engineer Squadron
Address: Kadena Air Base, APO AP 96368
Fire Department Chief: Brig. Gen. Ken Wilsbach

Incident Description: Airman First Class Kozorosky passed away at the Camp Lester Naval Hospital following a vehicle mishap. Details for the fatal incident are pending a full investigation by authorities.

Incident Location: Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Airman First Class Kozorosky at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 18 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 16 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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: Joshua Wilkes
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 26
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5+
Date of Incident: 02/13/2011

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Time of Incident: 1600hrs
Date of Death: 02/13/2011
Fire Department: Unity Fire Department
Address: 367 Road 2216, Guntown, MS 38849
Fire Department Chief: Larry Williams

Incident Description: Upon leaving the scene of an outdoor fire and while returning to quarters, Firefighter Wilkes and another firefighter stopped at a convenience store to fill their apparatus with fuel. After entering the inside of the convenience store, Firefighter Wilkes suffered a medical emergency and passed away. The nature and cause of Firefighter Wilkes' injury is still to be determined.

Incident Location: Woco-Salttillo, 189 Mobile ST, Salttillo, MS 38866

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 19 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 17 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. 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: Donald R. Lam
Rank: Firefighter/Forest Ranger Technician
Age: 58
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 12
Date of Incident: 09/07/2010
Time of Incident: 1138hrs
Date of Death: 02/17/2011
Fire Department: Kentucky Division of Forestry
Address: 627 Comanche Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601
Fire Department Chief: Director Leah MacSwords

Incident Description: Firefighter Lam passed away from injuries sustained while engaged in fire suppression activities for the Scotts Chapel Road Fire, a 12-acre wildfire that occurred in Livingston County, Kentucky, in September, 2010. Firefighter Lam was clearing a fire break for containment at the base of a bluff when a burning snag broke loose on top and rolled downhill over a small bluff and struck Lam from behind. Firefighter Lam was knocked out and sustained a serious head injury that left him unconscious, a fractured hip, bruises, and 2nd degree leg burns on his calves.

Incident Location: Scotts Chapel Road, Livingston County, KY

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: First Southern National Bank, Friends of Don Lam Account, P.O. Box 379, Princeton, KY 42445

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter/Forest Ranger Technician Donald R. Lam at

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 20 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 17 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and three from previous year's 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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AND:

Name: Thomas V. Regan
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 82
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 38
Date of Incident: 01/26/2011
Time of Incident: 0800hrs
Date of Death: 02/17/2011
Fire Department: Garden City Park Fire Department
Address: 2264 Jericho TPKE, Garden City Park, NY 11040-4725
Fire Department Chief: William Rudnick

Incident Description: Firefighter Regan passed away from an injury he suffered from a fall while responding to a carbon-monoxide alarm during an ice storm in late January.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: At the request of the family, private services will be held 02/18/2011 (viewing), and 02/19/2011 (funeral).

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Thomas V. Regan at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>
To date, 21 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 18 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and three from previous year's 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: Larry Gressett, Sr.
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 33
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5
Date of Incident: 02/17/2011
Time of Incident: 1730hrs
Date of Death: 02/17/2011
Fire Department: Toomsaba Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 51 Will Garrett RD, Toomsaba, MS 39364
Fire Department Chief: Billy Stuckey

Incident Description: Firefighter Gressett responded to a scene of an accident at a local lake. A man had been in a boat with his grandson when he fell into the water. On arrival, a couple of the firefighters, including Firefighter Gressett, went into the water to rescue the man. Firefighter Gressett's body cramped up and he drowned.

Incident Location: 230 Sam Hurtt RD, Toomsaba, MS 39364

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 22 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 19 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and three from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter February 21, 2011

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

Hey,

With the nasty weather hitting the majority of the USA right now, here is another reminder of the dangers we all have when operating on roadways-good or bad weather. An Atlanta area Highway Emergency Response Operator (H.E.R.O.) was struck and killed on I-85 at Metropolitan Parkway this morning around 1035 hours. morning. He was stopped with his marked, well lit up (warning lights) unit in the emergency lane of I-85 and the HERO operator was outside the vehicle rendering aid to a motorist. A truck pulling a trailer was also southbound when the trailer hit the HERO truck which then struck the HERO operator killing him in the Line of Duty. Our sincere condolences as we are reminded that FIRE and EMS personnel can and do find themselves in the same environment.

MORE at www.ResponderSafety.com

MORE ABOUT THE GEORGIA H.E.R.O. Program and a PHOTO of their units:

<http://www.dot.state.ga.us/travelingingeorgia/hero/Pages/default.aspx>

FROM FDNY: A STAFFING CHANGE FROM 6 TO 5 MEMBERS ON ALL ENGINE COMPANIES.

Beginning tomorrow, February 1, the FDNY will reduce staffing by one firefighter on 60 of its engine companies **so that all 194 engines in the city will be staffed with four firefighters and one officer (a total of 5 personnel)**. No firefighters will be laid off as a result of this change, which will provide savings of approximately \$30 million in overtime that is currently needed to staff the fifth firefighter position. The change comes as the FDNY's 15-year agreement with the Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) expires at midnight tonight. The Uniformed Firefighters Association and the Uniformed Fire Officers Association have filed an action with the city's Office of Collective Bargaining seeking to keep staffing at the current level. "We just recorded the fewest fire deaths on record and our response time to fires is the fastest ever," Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano said. "Our number one commitment to this city has always been and continues to be the safety of New Yorkers." The Department proposed the staffing reduction in last year's budget and the city gave notice to the UFA months ago that it would not be continuing the agreement, known as "Roster Staffing," that provided for the "fifth" firefighter on 60 engines.

The FDNY has existing operational protocols to address reduced staffing on engine and ladder companies, including when firefighters go on medical leave during a tour. **The city's 143 ladder companies will continue to be staffed with five firefighters and an officer (crew of 6) at the start of the tour.** Also, Department protocol calls for two engine companies - not one - to stretch and
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operate a hose line at a fire. The city has in the last seven years reduced the 60 engine staffing level four times due to high rates of firefighter medical leave, a change provided for in the original 1996 Roster Staffing agreement.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-31-11 / 1348 Hours

AND:

BATTALION CHIEF STEVE AUCH INDIANAPOLIS FIRE DEPT/FDIC ICON PASSES SUDDENLY

We were advised of Steve's very shocking and sudden passing today. Steve was a friend to us and so many others, so here are some personal thoughts from Chief Bobby Halton, regarding the loss of Steve: With tremendous sorrow and deep regret, we are saddened to inform you that Battalion Chief Steve Auch passed away today at home after completing a shift of duty with his beloved Indianapolis Fire Department. Steve was a second-generation firefighter and an outstanding officer. Steve carried himself with a dignity and grace that was unflappable. Steve championed ethics and professionalism and was giving to beyond expectation. All who knew him called him their friend and they were well justified in doing so. No one was ever more honest in his dealings with his fellow firefighters and friends. The Fire Service is better for having had Steve for as long as we have. We honor Steve's life, we grieve deeply for our loss, for Donna his wife's loss. We pray for his family, we offer them whatever they need from Steve's other family of firefighters who are mourning with them tonight across America.

I am reminded of these words when I think of Steve, his personality and character. Steve loved his work, he loved his FDIC, he loved his city, he loved his family, he loved "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." God Bless you Steve. Goodnight Steve, and may the angels carrying you home to your rewards for life well lived and for all you have given to all of us. We will remember you forever. **Rest In peace Steve.**

FIRE CAPTAIN LINE OF DUTY DEATH: AUSTRALIA-FIRE APPARATUS CRASH (ROUTINE DETAIL)

The largest volunteer Fire Department in the world, the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (70,000 members, in Australia) has advised us regretfully, that Donald (Don) Deppeler, Senior Deputy Captain of Marsden Park Brigade - Cumberland Zone, died in the Line of Duty yesterday afternoon after suffering what appears to be a heart attack while driving the brigade's apparatus. Don was on a routine run to pick up equipment when he appears to have suffered a heart attack and collapsed behind the wheel. The vehicle crossed the median strip, two lanes of oncoming traffic, another median strip and road, before crashing into a tree and coming to rest on a front fence of someone's home. His crew mates on board, Wayne and Mark, did an outstanding job. Not only did they apply some control to the steering wheel and apply the handbrake, they applied life sustaining first aid to Don, along with some assistance from a local resident, until additional emergency services arrived. They couldn't get Don out of the drivers position. Don has been an active member of the RFS since at least 1994 and a member of several brigades and approximately the last 6 years Marsden Park. Our thoughts and prayers are with Don's family, friends and colleagues, particularly the close knit crew from Marsden Park and the Cumberland team. RIP.

CONNECTICUT FIRE OFFICER SERIOUSLY BURNED-UPDATE

Lt Todd Ghent of the Portland (CT) FD remains at the Bridgeport Hospital Burn Unit. Lt Ghent was badly burned on his head, face and neck in last weekends propane explosion and fire. According to his family and PFD Fire Officers, he is very swollen and just barely opened his eyes for the first time. He is aware of what happened and remembers almost everything. According to them, Todd's life was February 21, 2011

saved by his bunker gear and the fact that he was not taking a breath during the explosion. Updates to follow.

SERIOUS APPARATUS CRASH IN MEMPHIS, TN

While there were no serious FF injuries. 2 civilians are in critical condition in a crash involving a Memphis FD truck company apparatus. One was trapped in the car under the truck company for greater than 30 minutes and there one civilian non-critical for a total of 3 civilians in the car. We will post more with pictures and video on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-1-11 / 1938 Hours

AND:

AUGUSTA (GA) FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CARDIAC

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the passing of FF Antonio E. Jones, 44, with 20 years service in the Augusta (GA) FD. On 1-29-11, Firefighter Jones became ill while on duty at his firehouse and requested to leave in order to see his personal family physician. While enroute to the physician's office he collapsed at the wheel of his personal vehicle causing a minor accident. Firefighters responding to the accident immediately began advanced life support and continued treatment to the ER where Firefighter Jones passed away from a cause still to be determined. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

THE FIRE THAT CHANGED "EVERYTHING"

We all go to fires, nothing new. Sometimes of course, the fires are much worse than others. And sometimes the fire changes the way we feel, act or operate. A long time Secret List member, Russell Ashe, Captain with City of Barre Fire and Ambulance in Vermont had a fire in his community that killed four kids and their mom. **Of all the things that impacted the FF's after the fire, most disturbing was the lack of any smoke alarms sounding. An apartment full of toxic smoke with working smoke alarms and yet the smoke alarms all remained silent.** Lt. Matt Cetin and Russ began a smoke detector campaign to educate the public on the differences between ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms. And as you may be aware, their efforts are really beginning to pay off as Vermont has changed their law to now require photoelectric smoke alarms and Cities across the Country are now beginning to do the same, most notably in California and Ohio. Over the past year, they have been working on a book about THAT fire and what we have learned since. Here is a link to the news interview that was aired this week about the book.

<http://www.wcax.com/global/video.asp?clipId=5520926&topVideoCatNo=63459&autoStart=true>

HERE are details on his book:

<http://www.thefirethatchangedeverything.com/contact.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-2-11 / 1851 Hours

AND:

INDIANA LODD: CHIEF STEVE AUCH PASSES FOLLOWING SHIFT & RUNS

ILLINOIS LODD: FIREFIGHTER PASSES FOLLOWING RUN

As reported earlier this week, FDIC Staff icon and Battalion Chief Steve Auch of the Indianapolis FD passed away. It has further been determined that Steve died after finishing a duty shift at the department that included response to emergency incidents and is a Line of Duty Death.

Here is more from Bobby H:

<http://community.fireengineering.com/profiles/blog/show?id=1219672%3ABlogPost%3A256115>

Below are the funeral and memorial details:

February 21, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

Viewing:

Monday February 7, 2011

2:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Indy West Conference Center (formerly Wayne Township Conference Center)

402 N High School Rd

Indianapolis, IN

Services:

Tuesday February 8, 2011

Viewing 10:00 am

Services Begin at 11:00 am

Indy West Conference Center (formerly Wayne Township Conference Center)

402 N High School Rd

Indianapolis, IN

Flowers may be sent to the Conference Center Address.

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL

We regret to advise that a Firefighter with the Avon FPD (Fulton Co) has died in the Line of Duty as a result of a heart attack last night after returning to the firehouse following an EMS call during the blizzard. We'll post more details when we get them. As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 2-3-11 / 1656 Hours

AND:

Hey,

At least 3 New Hyde Park (Nassau County, Long Island, New York) Firefighters were injured this afternoon with 1 FF reported to be in critical condition, while operating at a fire. Initial reports are that they were operating in an unoccupied single family dwelling basement. While operating, there was a flashover and a possible collapse resulting in mayday conditions. At least 3 Firefighters were transported with one reportedly in critical condition requiring the services of a hyperbaric chamber. We will keep you advised as additional information is reported.

FIREFIGHTER GLOVE ISSUE

As you may have read on our home page in the last few days, there are significant problems related to The Blaze Fighter Glove manufactured by The Glove Corp.

The problem is essentially 2 fold:

1-There have been documented reports of FF's receiving up to 2nd degree burns while operating when wearing these gloves. The mfg apparently and intentionally changed materials which no longer met certification.

2-The manufacturer closed their doors and went out of business earlier this week.

We have had the details on our home page for a few days-please check it out to make sure this issue doesn't affect your members.

HERE ARE LINKS:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/128290>

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/128257>

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/127650>

Please go to our home page "Daily News & Updates" at www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com for more details.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

February 21, 2011

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-11 / 1457 Hours

AND:

UPDATE: ILLINOIS FF LINE OF DUTY DEATH

As posted last evening, an Illinois FF Daniel C. Dare of Avon, died in the Line of Duty. Here are more details of this really terrible situation. FF Dare was responding to an EMS run at 20:30 on February 1, 2011. At the time they were experiencing major blizzard conditions. FF Dares home is approx 3-4 miles east of Avon on a rural county road. On his way to the station, his vehicle slid off the road into the ditch. He radioed to his station of his situation and was asked if he was OK and he replied he was. Other members attempted to respond to the call but also got stuck. One of their local Firefighters pulled them out with his tractor then went to do the same for Dan. During this time Dan had tried to dig his way out of the ditch. Once he was pulled out, he returned home, however upon getting to his driveway, he went into cardiac arrest. His wife, Kathy found him, and attempted to drive him back to the station for help. Kathy also slid into a ditch twice when the same Firefighter that pulled Dan out originally, came and hooked on to her vehicle and towed her to town. The Avon fire-rescue personnel were waiting at the station and performed CPR on Dan for over 30 minutes. Due to the blizzard conditions, additional help could not arrive and we were told by medical control to stop our attempt at approx 0100 hours. FF Dare has been a volunteer Firefighter and EMS first responder for the Avon Fire Protection District for approximately 20 years. His full obituary can be viewed at www.h-p-w.com and there is an article here: www.galesburg.com -Survivors are wife Katherine, daughter Michelle apx 17 years old, son Eric apx 13 years old. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

FALLING TREE KILLS FIREFIGHTER IN THE LINE OF DUTY (AUSTRALIA)

A Firefighter has been killed by a falling tree near Cessnock. The National Parks and Wildlife Service fire officer was part of a tree felling operation following a fire in remote area at Quorrobolong when he was struck. He received immediate first aid but died a short time later. Rural Fire Service and National Parks teams have been mopping-up after a five-day firefighting operation. Our sincere condolences as always.

THE BATTLE FOR STAFFING CONTINUES IN KEOKUK, IOWA

"We Learned A Tough Lesson Years Ago"

As you hopefully recall, 3 Firefighters along with 3 children were killed at a Keokuk (Iowa) house fire in 1999. Staffing was a factor in that fire. Now, like many cities in the USA, Keokuk is facing tough budget problems. "It's your decision (to cut), but it's important you fully understand the cause and effect of what would happen (if an assistant chief is not replaced)," Chief Mark Wessel told the council this week. Chief Wessel also noted the contract with the firefighters' union calls for a minimum staffing level of five firefighters per shift. "About 80 percent of the time we have five people (a shift)," he said. "About 20 percent of the time we have six people per shift. "When I go to a four-man crew, our ability to go into a structure is negated," he added. "We learned a tough lesson years ago." Five firefighters were on duty when three of them were killed in December 1999 attempting to extinguish a house fire, which also claimed the lives of three children. However, the number of firefighters available to respond to the fire was reduced because one firefighter responded to an accident a few minutes earlier that day.

HERE IS MORE REGARDING THE LATEST IN KEOKUK:

<http://www.dailygate.com/articles/2011/02/03/news/doc4d470f307dba5829944107.txt>

HERE IS THE NIOSH FIRE TRIPLE LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORT:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200004.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-11 / 1137 Hours

February 21, 2011

AND:

6 CHINESE FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND FIRE

6 Firefighters were killed, with another two injured while operating at a forest fire in Chun'an County, east China's Zhejiang Province as of last night. The fire started in Fulin Village in Chun'an County on Saturday morning. About 300 people including those from the local FD and villagers were involved in the firefighting that was started by fireworks. Our condolences to all affected.

NEW HYDE PARK (Long Island, NY) FIREFIGHTER UPDATE:

The New Hyde Park Firefighter who was critically injured in a flashover Friday is doing well with positive improvement. His primary injuries were respiratory requiring the services of a hyperbaric chamber. At this point he is recovering from smoke inhalation and minor lung burns. The department is investigating the incident and related close call. In an unrelated fire this morning also in NHP, a 79-year-old man was found dead as Firefighters searched a working house fire. Companies responded to the scene just before 0100 this morning and about 125 firefighters were at the scene. The body of the man was found in a living room area on the first floor during the primary search.

HORRIFIC IRONY-POLICE OFFICER STRUCK AND KILLED JUST MILES FROM WHERE ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER CITED A FIRE CHIEF FOR ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT HIGHWAY RESPONDERS

In a horrific twist of irony, a Nassau County (Long Island, NY) Police Department Highway Patrol Officer was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday when his car was struck by another vehicle just miles from where a NY State Police Trooper threatened to arrest the North Merrick (Nassau County, Long Island) Fire Chief for his attempt to protect those operating on the roadway. Chief Allen said the trooper did not want him to close the right lane of the parkway, insisting that he allow both the right and left lanes to handle the flow of traffic after the accident and responders operate in the middle. When Chief Allen disagreed, the officer threatened to have him arrested, but instead, ended with the trooper issuing the citation. "As of January 1, there is a new law in effect that says that all cars have to move over or slow down when they see warning lights," Allen said. "Now, in this case, no one could move over because the accident was in the center lane, but I had to make the scene secure."

The Nassau County Police Officer was killed yesterday in the horrific car crash that left his cruiser crushed beneath a flatbed truck on the Long Island Expressway. Officer Michael Califano, 44, was pronounced dead at the hospital around 12:30 a.m. Fire & Police Emergency personnel needed 30 minutes to free the veteran cop from the twisted wreckage after John Kaley, 25, of New Britain, Conn., smashed into the car from behind with the flatbed. Kaley was charged with one count of criminally negligent homicide. He's also accused of violating a new state law that requires drivers to move away from stopped emergency vehicles.

The Officer was sitting in his cruiser with lights flashing during a traffic stop on the Long Island Expressway. Officer Califano had pulled a vehicle over near exit 39 in Old Westbury for having insufficient lights and was sitting in his car when it was struck from behind shortly before 2300 Hours Friday. The impact propelled the cruiser under a stopped box truck, while the flatbed mounted the police vehicle's roof. Califano was 44 and a member of the NCPD Highway Patrol Unit. He had been on the force for 12 years. 3 other people suffered less serious injuries in the wreck, which closed part of the expressway for hours overnight. The injured included two people who were in the box truck and a female passenger in the flatbed truck. All were being treated at a hospital. Our condolences to the NCPD and the family of Officer Califano.

ANOTHER REMINDER OF THE DANGERS TO POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS & OTHER OPERATING ON THE ROADWAYS.

RAW VIDEO FROM THE ABOVE CRASH SCENE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUaoc2329yU>

(Note: The police car is hardly recognizable in the above video, you will see the camera zoom in-that is the car)

MASSACHUSETTS MAN LOCKED UP FOR ASSAULTING FIREFIGHTERS WHO WERE CLEARING SNOW COVERED HYDRANT

Police have charged an Arlington man who struck a FF with his vehicle Friday after becoming upset about snow being shoveled from around a fire hydrant to the sidewalk in front of his home. Citizen Leo Najarian, 59, has been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, failure to stop for police and negligent operation of a vehicle. Firefighters were shoveling the snow from around the fire hydrants in the area when Najarian approached the Firefighters yelling and argued with them about the snow being shoveled onto his sidewalk. When Firefighters told Najarian to leave the area, he got into his vehicle and backed into Fire Lt. Brian Gerra, who was not seriously injured. When police ordered Najarian to stop he fled the area, but was located a short time later and placed him under arrest. Nice. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-6-11 / 1916 Hours

AND:

NC FIRE CHIEF LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we belatedly pass on the details regarding the Line of Duty death of Fire Chief Richard Leo "Ricky" Barbour, 55, of the Wilsons Mills VFD. Chief Barbour responded to a woods fire in Smithfield on 01/29/2011. The following day (within 24 hours), Barbour experienced chest pains and was transported to the hospital. Chief Barbour was treated at the hospital but never recovered from his injury and passed away just before midnight on 02/04/2011. Our condolences to all affected. Here is their website: <http://www.wilsonsmillsfd.com>

APPARATUS STRUCK ON PA INTERSTATE-FF's INJURED (PHOTOS)

Yesterday afternoon, in the suburbs of Erie PA on I-90, Brookside (PA) Squad 257 was struck by a semi car carrier while they were responding to an I-90 crash. 3 Firefighters were injured-but they have NLT injuries. The weather conditions were described as "white out" at the time of the numerous crashes. In speaking with Fire Chief Don Erbin, he said "I've been a Chief Officer a long time, and have had command of some large and small incidents, but when you hear "Command we were just hit by a semi!" That not only makes you tweak just a bit but escalates your incident a bit. Keeping that crew calm while getting them help - but also keeping the crews you have working toward their original goal to continue is the challenge" HERE are pictures: www.kuhlhosefire.org .

APPARATUS STRUCK IN MICHIGAN-FF's INJURED (VIDEO)

Two Warren Firefighters were hurt yesterday when their apparatus was struck broadside by a semi-tractor trailer and was knocked onto its side. The driver of the pumper and 1 of the 2 FF's were transported for NLT injuries. The 3rd FF, riding in the front seat, was not hurt. **HERE is video:** <http://macombdaily.com/articles/2011/02/08/news/doc4d51a3ff472fc783149165.txt>

WIDOW OF CALIF. LODD FIREFIGHTER RECEIVES 4.6 MILLION DOLLAR SETTLEMENT

The widow of 1 of 2 Contra Costa County Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty in a 2007 house fire will receive \$4.6 million to settle her wrongful-death lawsuit against two security companies she blamed for mishandling the initial report of the blaze. **(See below for the NIOSH and the CCCFD's Reports-both identifying all the factors related to the double LODD Fire)**

The fire killed Fire Engineer Scott Desmond, 37, and Capt. Matt Burton, 34, in the Line of Duty. It also killed the home's residents, Delbert Moore, 67, and his wife, Gayle, 62. The family sued saying Pinnacle Security of Utah and its subcontractor Security Associates International of Illinois were to blame for the Firefighter's death. When the fire started, early on July 21, 2007, Security Associates February 21, 2011 www.chabotfire.com

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received an automatic alarm from the home. A company employee activated a two-way intercom at the home and asked, "Is everything OK?" Gayle Moore responded, "No, we have a fire." The employee then called the Contra Costa County FPD on a non-emergency line and said, "I'm calling to report a fire alarm," as opposed to the actual fire. That led the fire dispatcher to consider it a lower-priority call. At one point, the alarm company was put on hold for 5 minutes while the dispatcher answered emergency calls. It was nearly 10 minutes after Mrs Moore spoke to the alarm company before Firefighters were dispatched to the scene, a single engine was initially dispatched, with Desmond and Burton aboard. Pinnacle Security will pay \$2.6 million and Security Associates International will pay \$2 million. The companies will pay an additional \$350,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the Moores' children. Burton was a 10-year veteran of the FD, and Desmond had served for 8 years. They were the first Firefighters in the Contra Costa district's history to be killed in the Line of Duty. The fire was caused by a cigarette.

HERE is the **NIOSH** FIRE LODD Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200728.html>

HERE is a summary of the **CCCFPD INTERNAL REPORT** (Media Summary):

<http://tinyurl.com/4gk7cjq>

HERE is more on the lawsuit settlement from the local media: <http://tinyurl.com/415q3fu>

FIREFIGHTERS BEING ATTACKED LIKE NEVER BEFORE (IAFF VIDEO)

As clearly seen thru the media across the Country, Fire Fighters are being targeted by political and legislative threats like never before. As stated: FF's can not afford to sit back while our opponents launch these assaults. The IAFF is working on a multi-faceted public relations/media/communications initiative to respond to the wave of attacks coming at their members from numerous fronts.

HERE is the IAFF's related video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gziy_zpEqmc

FINAL NOTE: Boca Raton (FL) FF/Paramedic/Engineer John Wilson, 50, was struck and killed while riding his bicycle last weekend. Wilson was originally from Sound Beach, Long Island, N.Y. He was riding his bicycle in the crosswalk while trying to cross the intersection of when he was struck by a vehicle. Charges are pending against the driver. Wilson's family has set visitation and funeral arrangements. The visitation will be from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Thursday at the Taylor and Modeen Funeral Home, 250 Center Street, Jupiter. The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Peters Catholic Church, 1701 Indian Creek Parkway, Jupiter. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the BRFF's Benevolent Fund, in memory of John Wilson. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 565, Boca Raton, FL 33429. Our condolences to his family and the members of BRFR.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-9-11 / 0756 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The Prince George's County Fire / EMS Department has publicly released its Safety and Investigative Team (**SIT**) report from the fire that critically injured Firefighter / Paramedic Daniel McGown. Additionally, 2 other Firefighters were hurt in the April 8, 2009 fire at 87 Herrington Drive.

This excellent report again provides Fire Chiefs, Fire Officers and Fire Fighters - all of us, with the opportunity to learn what happened at their fire - a fire that any other FD "could" respond to. So, let's to learn, courtesy of PGFD. PGFD Spokesman Mark Brady says that they completed its investigation in December 2009, but until now it had not been made public. According to Brady, the following issues were identified:

=Failure to establish an initial water supply

=Incomplete size-up reports

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- =Improper tactics
- =Lack of company-level supervision
- =Lack of effective crew integrity
- =Inadequate communication on the fire ground
- =Failure to provide adequate ventilation
- =Lack of training and experience in fire fighter survival skills

Here are details from the PGFD press release:

From the findings of the investigation, the SIT developed a total of nine (9) recommendations. Five (5) of these recommendations were identified as "primary recommendations" as they relate directly to actions, inactions, or factors that contributed in a direct way to the resulting injuries. The remaining four (4) recommendations were identified as "ancillary recommendations" because they were discovered in the course of the investigation and identified as issues, but did not contribute directly to the resulting injuries. Prince George's County Acting Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor commented on the public release of this document by saying, "In the interest of communicating the lessons learned to prevent occurrences of a similar nature, I am officially releasing this report. Lessons learned by our department can be of value to others in preventing injury and death to firefighters across the country." He concluded by saying, "I would like to thank the team that compiled this report. One of our most challenging tasks as an organization is to pause and conduct a thorough and honest critique of ourselves in an incident such as this." Andrew Pantelis, President PGFD IAFF Local 1619, stated, "The intent of such reports are not to cast blame or second guess split second decisions that are made on the fire ground but rather to provide a tool for members to use to apply in training and future incidents."

HERE is the entire report:

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/PublicSafety/Fire-EMS/PDFs/87-herrington-drive.pdf>

HERE is more excellent previous coverage of the fire from **Dave Statter**: <http://tinyurl.com/y878wkp>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-10-11 / 0921 Hours

AND:

Quick Note: There are several fundraiser's to support Asbury Park, NJ Acting Captain Jason Fazio. He has been slowly improving from burns and fractures when he was forced to jump out that fire on 1-10-11. One event is a **FIREGROUND OPERATIONS TRAINING DAY**:

<http://www.asburyparkfirefighters.net>

Hey,

While not a Firefighter LODD, a Kentucky Veteran Firefighter who was working on the highway as a part of a clean up crew was struck and killed yesterday. Volunteer Firefighter (and former Chief) Danny Allen was hit and killed Tuesday morning on a northern Kentucky interstate and his last act was reportedly trying to save a co-worker. This is yet another example of the danger of operating on the highways for fire, police or any related services worker. Allen was a Fairdale and Nichols Firefighter, and formerly the Edgewood Fire Chief. Investigators say Allen was working on a standard environmental cleanup for a Shelbyville company along I-71 in Gallatin County when a box truck crossed into the work area and hit the former chief. Allen died and two other people were injured. One of the injured men told Allen's family that the former fire chief tried to push him out of the way. As always, our sincere condolences. For More Details On Operating on the Roadways, Go To:

www.ResponderSafety.com

IN 1997: 9 CHILDREN WERE KILLED IN A FIRE APPARATUS ACCIDENT

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The Latvian Supreme Court has ruled that the National Fire and Rescue Service must pay compensation to Andris Zass over the 1997 "Talsi Tragedy". In the summer of 1997, nine children were killed when a fire truck basket broke during a summer demonstration. There were 22 people, mostly children, in the basket at the time. The maximum capacity for the basket was just four adults. The Riga Regional Court has received several lawsuits worth several million altogether. The court has already ruled on several of these lawsuits, ordering compensation of hundreds of thousands.

"COMMAND TO THE SNOWBLOWER DIVISION, ATTACK THE FIRE FROM SIDE A"

If you haven't seen this video, check it out. Just one more tool in the arsenal. There are some great quotes in this interview as well: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFKRq3e90XI>

FLORIDA PARAMEDIC NOT SHOT BY BAD GUY, SHOT HIMSELF

We reported this shooting to you a few weeks ago, now it turns out, the medic made it up and shot himself. The Escambia County Paramedic did it while at work last month was arrested yesterday and released on bond. Brandon Richie, 28, is charged with making a false report, a first-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail. He is free on \$1,000 bond. The charge stems from when Richie reported that a man wearing a lime-green jacket emblazoned with NASCAR-type patches shot him Jan. 28. Richie admitted to investigators Wednesday that his wound was accidentally self-inflicted and that he made up the story about being shot. He told deputies he was retrieving an item from a bag inside an ambulance when someone tapped him on the back and then shot him as he turned around. When Richie talked with investigators Wednesday, he initially reconfirmed that someone shot him, but after investigators confronted Richie with evidence and information gathered during the investigation, he changed his story.

More details HERE: <http://www.northescambia.com/?p=44245>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-11-11 / 0832 Hours

AND:

USAF AIRMAN 1st CLASS LINE OF DUTY DEATH-ON DUTY AT FIRE STATION-VEHICLE INCIDENT

We regret to advise you that an airman died in the Line of Duty after a vehicle accident Friday evening on Kadena Air Base. Airman 1st Class Derek Kozorosky, with the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, was on duty at an on-base fire station when the incident occurred around 1800 hours. Initial reports is that his death was related to the backing up of apparatus. He was taken to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on Camp Lester where he died. The Air Force said the official cause of the incident is under investigation. No others were injured. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

BRIDGEPORT CT CITED IN THE 2010 LINE OF DUTY DEATHS OF 2 FIREFIGHTERS

The Bridgeport FD has been cited for numerous and significant violations in connection with that dwelling fire last summer that killed 2 Firefighters in the Line of Duty. CT State OSHA officials determined the department failed to perform tests on firefighters' breathing gas tanks, failed to conduct medical evaluations and ensure firefighters were fit, did not make sure all firefighters wore breathing equipment inside the burning building and failed to follow mayday procedures. Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch said the city was addressing the violations. The CT. State Fire Marshal, CT State Police & NIOSH are still investigating the double LODD. The July 24 fire resulted in the deaths of Lt. Steven Velasquez and FF Michael Baik. Velasquez, 40, died of smoke inhalation and asphyxia; Baik, 49, died from smoke inhalation complicated by a heart condition. We have posted updates on our homepage. **HERE is the actual CT OSHA report:** <http://tinyurl.com/4kxvp53>

REMEMBERING 2 CHICAGO & 3 PITTSBURGH FIREFIGHTERS FEBRUARY 14th-49 YEARS AGO IN CHICAGO

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Tomorrow, February 14, 2011 is the 49th Anniversary of the Line of Duty deaths of Chicago Fire Battalion Chiefs Thomas Hoff and Robert O'Brien in a 4-11 fire on Chicago's South Side. **Chiefs Hoff and O'Brien were killed when the building collapsed during a fire at 70th and Dorchester in Chicago, Feb 14, 1962. The story of Thomas Hoff, Bob, and his older brother Ray, served as the basis for the movie "Backdraft".** Ray rose to the rank of Battalion Chief prior to retiring and Bob, of course, is the present Fire Commissioner and is one of the most highly decorated members in department history, having been awarded the Department's highest award for bravery twice.

WHAT HAPPENED:

On February 14, 1962, 2 Chicago FD chiefs died in the Line of Duty at an apartment building fire on E. 70th Street. Chief Robert J. O'Brien, head of the fire prevention bureau, and Battalion Chief Thomas A. Hoff, the Assistant Drillmaster for the CFD training school, were killed when the fire-weakened building collapsed. A fire was reported in the basement of the apartment building shortly after 11:00 AM. Firefighters responded to the scene and successfully extinguished most of the flames. At approximately 12:35 PM, while firefighters were searching the apartments for trapped victims, the roof of the building began to sag and the west wall started to lean inward. Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn ordered all firefighters to evacuate the building, but the roof caved in before all of the firefighters could escape. Chiefs O'Brien, Hoff, and Firefighter Frank Conley were on the third floor of the building and were a few steps away from escaping onto an outside porch when the roof collapsed. They fell with the debris down to the basement where they were trapped in the wreckage. Firefighter Edward Stack, Hoff's driver, was also on the third floor when the building collapsed, but he was able to roll out a door on the first floor as he fell with the debris. Stack later described how they had seen the ceiling start to crack and had heard the shouts from outside to evacuate the building, but when the west wall buckled the third floor gave way and the ceiling collapsed on them before they could reach the porch. Firefighters immediately descended on the debris to try to rescue their colleagues. The rescue squads labored under a stream of water from hose lines, as the previously smoldering fire had rekindled and some of the debris was now burning furiously. Conley, who had fallen under a large beam that protected him from additional debris, was rescued thirty minutes after the collapse, having suffered some bruises and a broken finger. Chief O'Brien's body was recovered a short time later, but efforts to reach Chief Hoff's body were delayed over concerns about the weakened walls that were still standing. After wrecking equipment was brought in to take down the walls, Chief Hoff's body was recovered around 6 PM. **R.I.P.** This account is courtesy of the Illinois Fire Service Institute.

More Details can be found on HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/yzzc9fs> & <http://tinyurl.com/yadmpdh>

REMEMBERING 3 FF's: BRICELYN STREET IN PITTSBURGH:

It's been 16 years since 3 Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire Firefighters died in the Line of Duty on Feb. 14, 1995 in that house fire. On that date, just after midnight PBF's Captain Thomas Brooks of Engine 17 and Firefighters Patricia Conroy and Marc Kolenda of Engine 8 were sent to the now infamous Bricelyn Street fire. FF's Conroy and Kolenda were working from Engine 17 that day. Brooks, 42, Conroy, 43, and Kolenda, 27, became separated from other crews when a stairwell inside the home collapsed. At the time, other Firefighters and Officers didn't know the three were trapped and possibly unconscious until it was too late.

WHAT HAPPENED:

According to reports, (see below) their SCBA's malfunctioned, they didn't all have radios to call for help, their low-air indicators on their tanks, PASS alarms did not work and there was no system to account for Firefighters operating at the scene. **Much has been learned by the fire service since this tragic loss.** Captain Brooks, a 13-year veteran, left behind two children. FF Conroy, an 8-year-veteran, and FF Kolenda, a Firefighter for 14 months, were each engaged at the time, but childless. **R.I.P.**

More Details HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/yhc3s3r> & <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/Pittsburgh.PDF>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

February 21, 2011

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The Secret List 2-13-11 /1610 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Several Firefighters in Suffolk County (Long Island, NY) were hurt early this morning at a working house fire in Hampton Bays after a floor collapsed as they operated. Initial reports from personnel on scene is that the Firefighters were on the first floor of the dwelling when the floor collapsed and they fell into the basement. One Firefighter suffered head injuries and burns and the other seriously hurt FF has burns. While some of the injuries are serious, they are NLT. In a press release issued this morning, Hampton Bays Chief Stefan Borell was the first on the scene at 0018 hours and had a working fire on the first floor of the residence. "An initial attack was made through the front door, when soon after the floor collapsed, causing 2 Firefighters to fall into the basement," he said. Both firefighters, whose names have not been released, were transported to Stony Brook; one by Suffolk County Police Medevac and the other by ambulance. Three other firefighters were transported to Southampton Hospital for minor injuries, Chief Borell said. They have been treated and released.

CHARLESTON SUPERSTORE FIRE UPDATE

No one has been charged criminally in the deaths of 9 Charleston Firefighters 4 years ago because investigators couldn't pinpoint who started the fatal blaze and too many people shared blame for its tragic outcome. That was the conclusion authorities reached after a lengthy investigation into the June 18, 2007, fire that destroyed the Sofa Super Store and killed the 9 Firefighters that were trapped inside. **HERE is more:**

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/feb/13/details-emerge-in-fire-investigation/>

REMEMBERING THE FDNY AND FIRE PATROL OF NEW YORK LODD's-Feb 14, 1958 MULTI LODD

2 FDNY Firefighters venting the roof, and 4 member of NY Fire Patrol # 1 placing salvage covers were buried alive when all floors and the roof suddenly collapsed in a Manhattan fire. It was on Wooster Street in a burning 6 story, 80 x 100 foot, heavy timber construction, loft building in "Hells' hundred acres" lower Manhattan. The fire occurred at 2215 hours in the baled paper storage building. Killed In The Line Of Duty Were:

Fire Patrol # 1, Sergeant Michael McGee-FPNY
Fire Patrol # 1, Patrolman Louis Brusati-FPNY
Fire Patrol # 1, Patrolman James Devine-FPNY
Fire Patrol # 1, Patrolman Michael Tracey-FPNY
Ladder Co. # 10, FF Bernard Blumenthal-FDNY
Ladder Co. # 1, William Schimid-FDNY

A Fifth Alarm as well as special calls for additional manpower were utilized in the search and rescue operations to recover the 6 members, At the time, there was 9 inches of snow as well as temperatures in the single digits. RIP.

THIS FIRE IN CANADA IS STILL KILLING FIREFIGHTERS, 14 YEARS LATER.

The deaths occurred with stunning swiftness. First Vinnie in September, then Len in October. In November, Larry. Beginning of January, Dave. Two weeks ago, Joe almost joined them. It was only because his brother Firefighters were on the ice playing hockey with him that he survived. Each was a Hamilton firefighter on active duty. Each was a nonsmoker and extremely fit. The oldest was only 52. Yet Vincent D'Onofrio, Lenard Martin and David Begley all died of massive heart failures. Larry Power died of a rare aggressive cancer once found almost exclusively among Victorian-era chimney sweeps. Joe Elliott nearly died of a heart failure, too, but instant action by his colleagues saved his life. Joe is

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

only 47. There is another common tie that binds most of them - Len, Larry, Dave and Joe all fought one of North America's worst-ever industrial fires. Plastimet. **HERE** are the details:

<http://www.thespec.com/news/local/article/484859--deadly-legacy-is-plastimet-killing-firefighters>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-14-11 / 1252 Hours

AND:

26 YEAR OLD MISSISSIPPI FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-COLLAPSED AFTER FIRE

26-year-old Volunteer Firefighter Joshua Wilkes collapsed in a convenience store after going inside to get a drink around 1600 hours Sunday. He died just after the fire department left the scene of a fire and was with another Firefighter returning to quarters with their truck, and they had stopped to fill it with fuel. He collapsed in the store. FF Wilkes belonged to Lee County's Unity Fire Department. As always our sincere condolences. We'll post more on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-14-11 / 1334 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Kansas City (Missouri) Firefighter and his crew were in a serious responding crash today, sending a him and another person to the hospital. The Fire Apparatus Operator suffered serious injuries, and reports are that he may lose his foot or part of his leg. **The crash happened around 1400 hours when a civilian car crossed the center line and hit the apparatus head-on.** The rig then hit a tree and a utility pole. The apparatus driver, stationed at Fire Station 42, Fire Apparatus Operator (FAO) Jeff Smith, with 21 years on the job, was transported to a local hospital and is listed in serious but stable condition. After the rig and car crashed, the apparatus went to the right, struck a utility pole and then a tree. There were four other firefighters in the truck at the time but did not have any injuries. The driver of the car and a three-year-old suffered minor injuries and both were wearing seat belts. The crash is still under investigation, but charges are likely against the driver of the car. The severity of the charges depends on the nature of Smith's injuries. **VIDEO REPORT HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/4htfmkd>

AND IN TEXAS:

A serious crash around noon today involving an Austin-Travis County EMS ambulance has left 5 people injured, including several Medics and a Firefighter. One civilian is serious from the crash, the stroke patient EMS was transporting is serious and 2 Paramedics and Firefighter are in stable condition. The lights and sirens on the ambulance were activated as they were transporting. The Firefighter and a Paramedic were in the back working on the stroke patient who was being transported to the hospital, but that patient was securely fastened to the stretcher, and was not injured in the crash. The FF and Medic in the back, working on the initial patient, were unrestrained.

VIDEO REPORT HERE: <http://www.kvue.com/video?id=116265489&sec=551187>

We wish all in both crashes a successful recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-15-11 / 2256 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Several Los Angeles Firefighters have been hurt, one very critically when a roof collapsed during a dwelling fire late last night. L.A. City and County Firefighters were dispatched the dwelling fire at 2319 hours last night and the fire was under control about 95 minutes later. Firefighters were operating on the roof when the roof collapsed on the two-story cliff-side home. Firefighters on the roof and inside the home were hurt. The most seriously hurt firefighter was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in reportedly extremely critical condition. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 2-17-11 / 0909 hours

AND:

SEVERAL LINE OF DUTY DEATHS, LOS ANGELES UPDATE, APPARATUS CRASH

NEW JERSEY EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE RESPONDING

We regret to advise you that 15 year veteran EMT Richard "Dick" Hanlon, 83, of the Madison Volunteer Ambulance Corps was responding to a crash on Tuesday when he became unresponsive in his vehicle. Unites responded to him, treated him and took him to Morristown Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Viewing will be at the Madison Memorial Home, 159 Main St., on Saturday from 8 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. A 10 a.m. funeral Mass will be offered at St. Vincent Martyr Parish, 26 Green Village Road, Madison. RIP

LONG ISLAND FIREFIGHTER, FORMER FDNY DEPUTY CHIEF-DIES WHILE RESPONDING

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Garden City Park Firefighter Thomas Regan passed away yesterday morning from injuries sustained in the Line of Duty while responding to an alarm on January 26, 2011. Firefighter Regan is a 34 year veteran of the GCPFD department and a retired FDNY Deputy Chief. RIP

KENTUCKY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WAS GRAVELY INJURED AT WILDLAND FIRE

It is with deep regret we notify you of the line of duty death of Donald Lam, Jr. of the Kentucky Division of Forestry. While operating as a Firefighter at a wild-land fire in Livingston County September 7th, FF Lam was clearing a fire break when a burning tree truck rolled off a bluff and struck him from behind. The blow left FF Lam unconscious with serious injuries, including second-degree burns. He was airlifted to an Evansville hospital and has been fighting for his life since. After exhaustive efforts, physicians told Mr. Lam and his family in late January there was nothing more they could do -- he would die from his injuries... it was just a matter of time. He has been home since in the care of his wife and hospice waiting until, in his words: "the Lord comes to get me." ...He came for him this morning. FF Lam is survived by his wife, Jennie -- who has been providing around the clock care since the incident occurred, and 14 year old step-daughter. RIP

MISSISSIPPI FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE ATTEMPTING WATER RESCUE

A 33 year old Lauderdale County (Toomsaba-Alamuca FD) Volunteer Firefighter drowned along with the man he was attempting to rescue - in a tragic afternoon accident near Toomsaba yesterday. Someone called 911 about 5:30 p.m. and said a man fell out of a fishing boat in a lake near Sam Hurt Road. The lake is located about two miles south of the Toomsaba exit of Interstate 20. Minutes later Toomsaba Volunteer firefighters, sheriff's deputies, Metro Ambulance emergency responders and an officer with the Mississippi Department of Transportation responded to the lake. Firefighter Larry Gressett Sr, 33, who entered the water to reach the man went under and also became a victim. Both men were eventually pulled to the shore but were unresponsive. It was unclear at press time what caused the accident or how deep the water was where the drowning's occurred. RIP

Our sincere condolences to all affected by the above LODD's.

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UPDATE: LOS ANGELES CITY FF REMAINS IN GRAVE CONDITION

That veteran Los Angeles city firefighter is still battling for his life today, Friday, after he was crushed by a falling ceiling at a burning Hollywood Hills mansion. The firefighter, who is very close to retirement, was pinned for several minutes beneath a ceiling that collapsed under the weight of water as FF's worked to get him out and during that time, he may have been deprived of oxygen. The 38-year department veteran, who was due to retire in about a year, was immediately rushed to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in grave condition. The Veteran Firefighter was inside the home when a portion of a false ceiling, which had become saturated with water from a pipe, collapsed. Fire investigators believe the ceiling had become saturated because flames burned through a plastic pipe and the water accumulated between the roof and ceiling.

PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY (MARYLAND) RESPONDING APPARATUS CRASH

At around 11:30 hours this morning, Fire/EMS units were alerted to a possible fire at the University of Maryland in Collage Park. Truck 809 from the Bladensburg Fire/EMS Station was responding to the incident with emergency lights on and siren sounding. While en route BVFD Truck 809 was involved in a crash with a civilian vehicle, Jeep Liberty, at the traffic light controlled intersection of Kenilworth Avenue and Decatur Street in Bladensburg. The Jeep was occupied by 4 civilians: 3 children and an adult female driver. All occupants were transported to area hospitals for a check-up of non-life threatening injuries. 2 of the 5 Firefighters on-board Truck 809 were also transported to an area hospital for a check-up. As a matter of standard operating procedure the driver of the ladder truck will undergo post-crash alcohol/drug screening. Each vehicle sustained considerable damage. Thanks to PGFD Chief Spokesperson Mark E. Brady for these details. **MORE WILL BE POSTED HERE:** www.PGFDPIO.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-11 / 1455 Hours

AND:

LOS ANGELES FIREFIGHTER DIES FROM INJURES FROM HOLLYWOOD HILLS FIRE - LODD

The Los Angeles city firefighter who was buried underneath the rubble of a ceiling that collapsed during a blaze at a Hollywood Hills home died today of his injuries. Glenn L. Allen, a 38-year veteran of the force, died at 12:15 p.m., said Erik Scott of the Los Angeles Fire Department. He was 61 and about a year from retirement. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has ordered city flags lowered to half-staff in memory of Los Angeles firefighter Glenn L. Allen. He issued the following the statement: "Today, I join all Angelenos in mourning the loss of firefighter Glenn Allen, a fearlessly committed firefighter who dedicated 36 years of his life to protecting the people of Los Angeles. Glenn was a valiant hero whose selfless sacrifice will forever be honored. "This tragedy serves as a somber, yet powerful reminder that the brave men and women of the Los Angeles Fire Department put their lives on the line each and every day to keep us safe from harm. Our sincere condolences to all involved and wishes for a speedy recovery for the other injured firefighter.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 2-18-11 / 1955 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In Oregon yesterday, an apparatus was on the scene of a Highway 26 crash with its emergency lights activated. A woman (along with her husband and infant child) was westbound east of Seaside when

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she lost control of her car and her Kia Optima crashed into the Hamlet FD engine. FF's already on the scene responded, treated and removed the victim from the vehicle. LifeFlight transported her to Portland where she died after arrival. The victim's husband was seated in the passenger seat and received minor injuries and the couple's 8-month old daughter was in an infant seat in the back and was not hurt. No FF's were hurt.

FDNY MAYDAY, MULTIPLE FF's INJURED AT FATAL WORKING FIRE

18 people, 15 Firefighters and 3 civilians have been injured during five-alarm fire in Brooklyn forcing some 100 people out on Saturday in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. The fire started around 1900 hours. Heavy east coast winds impacted operations as the fire spread quickly.

We have VIDEO and AUDIO on our home page at www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com.

NOTE: The Uniformed Firefighters Association is blaming manpower reductions for Saturday's deadly fire in Brooklyn, but the fire department is disputing those claims. UFA President Steve Cassidy says the reductions of engine company staffing implemented three weeks ago led to serious delays getting water on the fire. The FDNY says the five-alarm fire spread so quickly because someone left the door open in the apartment where it started. Strong winds fanned the flames which took 200 firefighters more than nine hours to contain. **VIDEO HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/647r73e>

ASBURY PARK ACTING FIRE CAPTAIN BURNED, UPDATE (VIDEO)

As you will recall, Asbury Park acting Fire Captain Jason Fazzio was badly burned on January 10th. Here is a video interview with his Dad related to Jason's progress.

VIDEO HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/6fh924f>

MORE DETAILS ON JASON HERE: <http://www.asburyparkfirefighters.net/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-21-11 / 1121 Hours

AND

Hey,

A Firefighter was seriously burned while operating at a wildland fire in Lincoln County, GA this afternoon. The Firefighter of the Martins Crossroads VFD received 2nd and 3rd degree burns and has been transported to the burn unit in Augusta. All departments in Lincoln County responded and a large number of acres were burned. They are starting to get the fire under control. We'll post more details and updates on our home page later.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-21-11 / 1631 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:

Last summer, as dire warnings sounded from some quarters, Clark County (NV) officials passed responsibility for technical rescue and hazardous material calls to Las Vegas Fire & Rescue as a cost-saving measure. Predictably, the city's calls for those services increased, February 21, 2011 www.chabotfire.com

and response times went up slightly because of the greater distance crews now must cover to reach some calls. But it's still pretty much business as usual, according to Las Vegas Fire Department officials who say the consolidation of services has gone well. The city has not had to add staff or overtime to deal with the higher number of calls, said Fire Chief Mike Meyers, and officials say no deaths have been attributed to having just one team. "Response times looked good," Meyers said. "The crews are comfortable with handling the workload. To me, things are going fine right now."

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/response-times-by-heavy-rescue-unit-good-despite-union-warning-114920324.html>

Officials from seven Snohomish County (WA) cities are planning to meet Monday night to discuss forming a regional fire authority in South County. A tough economy has strained public safety budgets for cities, Marine said. The mayors want to see if a fire authority would be more sustainable than operating individual city fire departments. A regional fire authority is a government body that runs fire services for multiple jurisdictions:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110131/NEWS01/701319933/0/BLOG08>

A new report from the city controller shows that while the city of Philadelphia (PA) has reduced overtime spending overall, that cost is way up in the Fire Department. This is after Mayor Nutter instituted a policy last summer of rolling brownouts at selected fire stations in an effort to save \$3.8 million in fire overtime. The report from City Controller Alan Butkovitz states that the city spent \$10.5 million on Fire Department overtime from July through December 2010. That's up from \$8.9 million during the same period in 2009. "If the second half of the fiscal year mirrors the first half's costs, overtime payments could reach \$3.2 million above last year's mark," a news release from the controller stated. The report also shows that in this time period, overtime spending is down for the Police Department by \$4.5 million and the Streets Department has reduced overtime by \$1.2 million:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20110201_Despite_brownouts_savings_hopes_Fire_Dept_ove_rtime_up_1_6M.html

After a few months of interviews and number-crunching, a team of consultants has concluded that merging the Hailey (ID) and Bellevue fire departments into Wood River Fire & Rescue would be cost-effective and perhaps would increase the level of service:

<http://www.mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005135150>

Clark County (NV) commissioners approved a contract with the local firefighters' union today, about two weeks after an arbitrator ruled in the county's favor. Negotiations between the county and the union fell apart in August and the two sides agreed to binding arbitration the following month. The arbitrator selected the county's offer over the union's on Jan. 19. The contract will save the county an estimated \$7.4 million over the 12-month period, plus many of the provisions in the contract will likely save money in future periods, County Manager Don Burnette said. The contract affects 741 employees covered under the agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Local 1908, which is the county's second-largest union. The contract includes a 2 percent salary reduction for a savings of \$3.4 million, savings of \$738,036 due to a lower contribution to the union's insurance trust and savings of \$500,000 attributed to modifications of the long-term disability policy:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/feb/01/county-oks-contract-firefighters-saves-74-million/>

As San Francisco (CA) city officials work to close next fiscal year's projected \$360 million budget deficit, the Fire Department is facing millions of dollars in wage increases that include premium pay, fringe benefits and overtime. Taxpayers were already on the hook for \$4.7 million in previously negotiated raises the fire union had deferred for two years. On top of the salaries, the department is bracing for a \$7.8 million increase in mandatory fringe benefits and

a \$1.4 million increase in so-called premium pay — higher rates for firefighters with special skills such as being bilingual or driving a fire engine:

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2011/02/san-francisco-firefighters-seeing-green-city-budget-wallows-red>

The North Las Vegas (NV) Fire Department exceeded its allotted budget for overtime just six months into the current fiscal year. That, with reported sick leave abuse by firefighters in Clark County, motivated the City Council to postpone a scheduled Wednesday vote on contract concessions with its firefighters union that would have saved the jobs of 33 firefighters. Without an agreement, layoffs could come as soon as July: <http://www.lvri.com/news/north-las-vegas-firefighters-overtime-soared-in-second-half-of-2010-115235904.html>

The association representing four Murrieta (CA) Fire Department battalion chiefs have agreed to give up vacation time and make contributions to their pensions in a deal with the city. The Murrieta Fire Management Association was the final employee group to agree to concessions after months of negotiations with the city, which was looking to cut costs in the face of a recession-fueled budget gap. The fire managers' deal mirrors one agreed to by the rank-and-file firefighters. They will give up nearly a week of vacation time annually, and for one year will pay 1.9 percent of the employee contribution portion of their pension's costs. Their salaries will remain flat until 2014, when they will get a 1.4 percent raise:

<http://blogs.pe.com/news/digest/2011/02/murrieta-fire-chiefs-will-give.html>

Newly hired public employees would not be able to retire until they were 65, police officers and firefighters would pay more for pension benefits, and elected officials no longer would enjoy the best retirement plan in Arizona under sweeping pension legislation proposed by House Speaker Kirk Adams. Adams, an outspoken critic of Arizona's financially troubled pension systems, rolled out a dozen major reforms Monday that would generally increase the cost to public employees of their retirement benefits while lowering the cost to taxpayers. The reforms are aimed at putting the systems back on solid financial footing:

<http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2011/02/08/new-arizona-bill-aims-at-pension-reform/>

Drastic cutbacks for Reno (NV) police, fire and parks departments can be expected in a plan released Tuesday to cut \$6.3 million and eliminate 146.75 jobs from the current budget. Because police and fire make up the biggest part of the budget, the police department will lose 52 positions, including 29 layoffs. The fire department would lose 43 positions, resulting in 36 layoffs of firefighters. Other positions are currently vacant or soon will be after employees retire. Chief Michael Hernandez said the Skyline, Stead and the North Virginia Street fire stations would be closed every day as has been the case in recent months. Depending on vacations, illness and injuries, the Somersett station would be closed and the Moana station would be reduced from two companies to one company to staff a truck.

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110208/NEWS/110208036/-1/CARSON/Reno-to-lay-off-29-police-employees-36-firefighters-in-effort-to-cut-6-3-million>

South King Fire and Rescue (WA) will lop off a small piece of its territory in unincorporated King County to avoid losing an estimated \$5.3 million in property tax revenue. South King officials sent letters this week notifying property owners in the affected area. The department will soon hold public hearings on the de-annexation and ask each property owner to enter into a contract for fire protection in lieu of paying for it through their property tax bill:

http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/fwm/news/116204804.html

Months of wrangling with the firefighters union over contract concessions ended Monday night when the San Bernardino (CA) City Council voted to impose the city's final offer. The

city stands to save roughly \$1.4 million this fiscal year under the move, which closed negotiations with the last holdout of the city's seven bargaining units, going back to budget talks that started in the middle of last year. Heather Gray, city spokeswoman, said the offer amounts to a 10 percent cut that will need to be completed by June 30, putting firefighters behind other departments that agreed to concessions months ago. Scott Moss, president of the San Bernardino Professional Firefighters Association, said the decision was a case of the council playing judge and jury. "We're real disappointed that they went that route, rather than mediation," Moss said. The city's final offer includes a monthly salary cut of \$806 for all members of the fire safety unit, and a two-tier retirement benefit, where those hired after Jan. 1 this year receive a "3 at 55" plan: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_17333671

Flagstaff (AZ) voters in 2004 approved bonding for nearly \$17 million to build four fire stations to help first responders reach the scene of an emergency faster. But now, with a \$1 million budget deficit looming, the Flagstaff City Council will be asked this morning to consider making staffing cuts that will add, on the average, 36 seconds to about a quarter of fire department calls inside the city limits:

http://www.azdailysun.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_0892c102-4ac1-5a02-a13f-e71f9a31ee8d.html

The Deschutes County (OR) Rural Fire Protection District No. 1, which includes Redmond, could have a shortfall of as much as \$500,000 for the 2011-12 budget year. Property valuations in the district have fallen about 10 percent in the last year, according to Chief Tim Moor. Redmond voters last year approved annexing the Redmond Fire Department into the rural district, which has a \$6.9 million budget. The city's fire department already provides service to the rural district, and the move was designed to stabilize the department's funding:

http://www.bendbulletin.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110209/NEWS0107/102090335/1001/NEWS01&nav_category=

The CAL FIRE (CA) can provide fire services to Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, San Mateo and Foster City for a little more than half what the cities spend combined, according to San Mateo County officials. For a tidy \$25.4 million, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection can take over fire operations in those cities while continuing to serve unincorporated communities, a memo from Deputy County Manager Peggy Jensen indicates. The total cost of fire services in the five cities and unincorporated areas currently is \$42.2 million. "Taking the cost from \$42.2 million to \$25.4 million, that's pretty staggering," San Carlos Assistant City Manager Brian Moura said Thursday. Although San Carlos and Belmont jointly operate a fire agency, the cities intend to part ways when their agreement expires in October. The substantial savings stem from the fact state firefighters work more hours per week for less pay than the cities' union firefighters. Redwood City fire Chief Jim Skinner -- who along with San Mateo's fire chief has been putting together separate estimates for a regional fire agency that might include Foster City and possibly San Carlos and Belmont -- said it would be "tough to compete" financially against a Cal Fire-run multi-city agency.

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17357684?nclick_check=1

Low on money and manpower, Pennsylvania all-volunteer fire companies are endangered. The website of Rutledge Borough boasts that the tiny Delaware County community has "a fire department, a park, and a stately old borough hall." But last March, the 124-year-old fire company, staffed by volunteers, closed its doors, put its 1982 Sutphen fire truck up for sale, and consolidated with nearby Morton. The reasons? "Money and manpower," said Jerry Connelly, the president of the new Morton-Rutledge Fire Company. The two departments were short on both, he said:

http://articles.philly.com/2011-02-09/news/27328855_1_volunteer-departments-fire-crews-fire-companies

While authorizing the lay offs of 100 employees, Reno (NV) City Council members said Thursday night they still want to hear legitimate proposals from city unions to save jobs at least for a few more months. "I think we have got to look at that," Mayor Bob Cashell said. "Give the notices (pink slips) and everything else," Cashell said. "If we have to have emergency meetings, to protect jobs, we will. But we can't delay." Cashell said he wants Local 731 of the International Association of Fire Fighters to agree to three-man engine crews rather than maintain four-man crews as required in their contract. With two more firefighters, Fire Chief Michael Hernandez said the city could keep all 13 stations open. But with more layoffs, eight fire stations could be closed or subject to closure while only five remain untouched. The council is being asked to cut \$6.3 million from the \$169 million general fund budget for the year that ends June 30. Another \$22 million to \$24 million must be cut for the year (2011-12) that starts July because of declining revenues and the need to build up reserves. From the audience, the biggest cry was to keep swimming pools open. Under the plan, Idlewild and Traner, the only outdoor pools, are to be closed:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110210/NEWS18/110210052/-1/DOUGLAS/Reno-council-OKs-layoffs-but-seeks-union-concessions>

Sketching out a worst-case scenario of San Jose's (CA) budget meltdown, city officials warned this week that they could lay off as many as 349 police officers and 145 firefighters, slashing close to a quarter of the city's public safety employees. The city is also looking at millions of dollars in other cuts, including shutting off neighborhood streetlights for much of the night and eliminating some gang-prevention programs. There has never been a major layoff of police officers in the city's modern history. But last year San Jose laid off 49 firefighters, and this is the second year in a row the Police Department has faced layoffs:

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_17397188

Using two-man firefighter crews to shorten response times and cover more ground gained support among some San Diego (CA) city officials. A \$75,000 report done by Citygate Associates said response times by the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department are too long in 19 neighborhoods. The report was handed up to the City Council's public safety committee. Ten of the 19 neighborhoods are big enough to warrant their own fire station, while the remaining nine could be covered by two-man crews, one of whom would be a paramedic, according to the study. "This is, in my 31 years, the most exhaustive study of the fire department's capabilities," SDFRD Chief Javier Mainar said. The report recommended building 10 new fire stations to fully cover the city and bring response times down. Frank DeClercq, who heads the firefighters union, said city officials should look for money to build two stations per year. The chief said he liked the idea of what Citygate called "fast response units." "I agree," he said. "We have to be innovative." <http://www.cbs8.com/Global/story.asp?S=14045675>

The possible loss of a popular pension plan has prompted 34 Chandler (AZ) public safety officers to inquire about early retirement since Jan. 1, and nine have already opted to retire, officials said Thursday. As the Arizona Legislature considers eliminating the program for public safety officers, many Chandler and Tempe police and fire officials are wondering the same thing: Should they retire now before new pension legislation is approved and goes into effect? "Anybody who has 20 years or more in the department is considering (it)," said Chandler Sgt. Joe Favazzo, a police spokesman. "It is definitely something I am looking at."

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/chandler/articles/2011/02/18/20110218chandler-tempe-public-safety-pension0218.html>

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 resoures.**

Some Clark County (WA) firefighters appeared to have worked with their supervising officers to improperly use sick leave, according to e-mails obtained by the Review-Journal. And no firefighter or department manager has been fired or punished for misusing the sick leave system, county and union leaders said. The e-mails show that some firefighters worked with supervisors to arrange sick calls, sometimes months in advance, for vacation rather than for medical problems. The wording at times is nonchalant, as if those involved believe what they're doing is OK:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-e-mails-indicate-abuse-of-sick-leave-overtime-114984744.html>

And the Clark County (NV) Firefighters Association Union President responds to the above sick leave abuse allegation: As your Clark County firefighters, we are responsible to you, the taxpayer, and, as such, we cannot excuse the behavior of a small number of firefighters who have repeatedly misused sick leave for personal gain. As professionals, we do not approve of such behavior. Anyone misusing sick leave should be punished appropriately. It is now clear a good deal of this misuse could have been avoided; hundreds of thousands of dollars in overtime was paid out while Clark County officials knew of this behavior. They never raised a finger to stop it, nor did they notify union officials this was occurring:

<http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/don-t-blame-union-for-sick-leave-abuses-114892044.html?ref=044>

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation said the agency was "reviewing the facts" of a report detailing overtime and sick leave abuse in the Clark County (NV) Fire Department. The report was released at a County Commission meeting on Tuesday. According to the county, nearly one-third of the department's 700-plus firefighters took advantage of the sick leave policy, which drove salaries into the six-figure range for some firefighters. "The aggregate data is very suggestive that there's a lot of sick usage going on and it might be being used for purposes other than bona fied sick leave," assistant county manager Ed Finger said: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fbi-reviewing-facts-vegas-sick-leave-scandal>

Newspaper headline "Firemen get off too easy." A New Jersey newspaper, the Record, is looking into that issue after a pair of high profile incidents at two separate departments left firefighters expelled or suspended. In a Secaucus case, involving harassment of a gay couple that were neighbors of the fire station, the current mayor, who is the former chief, has a town lawyer looking into the possibility of reinstating three firefighters who had to resign. There was a civil rights judgment against Secaucus for almost \$5 million. In Ridgefield, a drunken firefighter playing Santa Claus could soon be reinstated following a suspension after he went on a rampage at the firehouse:

<http://statter911.com/2011/01/30/new-jersey-newspaper-headline-firemen-got-off-too-easy-critics-say/>

A system that lets Boston (MA) firefighters swap shifts has turned into a costly free-for-all. Some barely work for years and never make up the time. The city does almost nothing about it. One firefighter, Gregory L. Burton, owes his firehouse comrades 554 shifts — nearly three years of work — for shifts he borrowed over five years while he was tending to a successful real estate business, according to department records. In 2004, for instance, Burton had other firefighters work 124 shifts for him, while Burton himself worked just 34 scheduled tours. Timothy P. O’Callaghan, another firefighter with outside business interests, has filed for his pension based on years of service. That means he would receive credit for 391 shifts — about two years work — that others worked in his stead, and which he did not repay, according to Fire Department personnel records. Nearly 70 other firefighters owe comrades between three months and a year of workdays:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/30/system_that_lets_boston_firefighters_swap_shifts_a_costly_free_for_all/?page=1

The president of the Haverhill (MA) firefighters union criticized the city's handling of the EMT certification scandal yesterday, warning taxpayers that the fire chief's proposal to suspend 29 firefighters without pay will cost an "astronomical" amount in additional overtime. Disciplinary hearings for the 29 city firefighters accused of lying about receiving their emergency medical technician recertification are scheduled to begin Thursday. Yesterday, in an open letter to Haverhill residents, firefighters union President Greg Roberts said the city firefighters embroiled in the controversy "deeply regret" their involvement. "They are ready to accept responsibility for their actions and take their just punishment," he wrote:

<http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x1581528401/Fire-union-head-mayor-trade-barbs-over-EMT-scandal>

The city of Camas (WA) has fired its fire chief. Mayor Paul Dennis confirmed by phone this afternoon that Fire Chief Leo Leon’s employment with the city will be terminated effective Jan. 31. According to a press release, the decision was made because Leon’s “leadership of the Camas Fire Department has not been meeting expectations.” “I appreciated that Leo accepted the position six years ago, and he accomplished much — especially in the first several years,” said City Administrator Lloyd Halverson. “More recently, there have been setbacks, confidence has been lost, and now it is time for a change in the leadership of the fire department: www.camaspstrecord.com/news/2011/jan/28/camas-terminates-employment-fire-chief/

Villa Park's (CA) reserve firefighter program has been officially shut down, but the city is planning to fight to keep the program going. Villa Park's reserve crew was expected to be shut down nearly four months ago, but the threat of a lawsuit by the city and a \$27-million claim against the county's fire agency has kept the crew afloat. The 24-member Orange County Fire Authority board decided Thursday to dismiss the volunteer crew, despite the \$27 million damage claim filed by the city of Villa Park. The OCFA has yet to respond to Villa Park's claim – a precursor to a possible lawsuit. OCFA officials decided to slash its volunteer program in half back in Sept. 2010, closing down 11 reserve crews across the county. Fire officials said some of the volunteer crews had become unreliable and used much-needed funding in the cash-strapped agency: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/city-286102-park-villa.html>

Months after being reinstated to the position of chief of Uniontown's (PA) fire department, Myron Nypaver, 45, was charged Friday with felony counts of theft and insurance fraud after allegedly bilking more than \$20,000 from the city in fraudulent unemployment claims. His wife, Lisa Nypaver, 41, faces those and additional charges, all filed with Uniontown District Judge Michael Metros: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/965023-Pa-fire-chief-wife-charged-with-thefts/>

Amtrak sued the city of Detroit (MI) in a federal court yesterday over a crash last year that occurred when one of its trains struck a Detroit Fire Department ladder truck parked on railroad tracks, according to The Detroit News. The company accuses the city's firefighters of "failing to exercise ordinary care," according to the lawsuit. The incident took place on March 1, 2009 near the Lonyo and John Kronk intersection. The train's engineer spotted Ladder 13 on the tracks and applied the emergency brakes, but was unable to avoid the crash. Amtrak says it has suffered more than \$75,000 in losses. Former Executive Fire Commissioner James Mack -- who was removed from the post in January -- was very critical of the engine's crews following the wreck. "I'm very upset," he told the newspaper. "I'm going to make it known that this is not acceptable and we'll do some training."

<http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/michigan/amtrak-sue-detroit-over-crash-involving-train-and-ladder-truck>

A Cedar Rapids (IA) firefighter has been fired after the Fire Department said it caught him in a sting stealing money from one of the city's fire stations. In a written statement of charges to the Civil Service Commission, Reid said the Fire Department began an internal investigation after money was stolen on Sept. 20 from the 'click' -- a shared pot of funds to which firefighters at the station contribute to pay for coffee, condiments and other items -- at the District 3 fire station. As part of the probe, the department placed a surveillance camera in the station where the money had been stolen. On Dec. 26, more missing money was reported. Two days later, fire commanders and police detectives reviewed the surveillance videotape, which Reid said shows Slaughter as the person taking money from a locker in a bedroom at the District 3 fire station: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/iowa-firefighter-fired-over-theft-station>

An LAFD (CA) firefighter allegedly lied to police when he told them he was stabbed by a patient last year, according to The Los Angeles Times. Media outlets reported last May that Firefighter Charles Anthony MacDougall survived the attack at the Cecil Hotel while assisting a man in distress, but detectives found inconsistencies in the story. Despite the allegations, MacDougall will not face charges after prosecutors determined they could not move forward with a criminal case due to a lack of evidence:

<http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/california/la-firefighter-allegedly-lied-about-being-stabbed-patient>

The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council did not approve a contract concessions agreement with the firefighters union that would have saved the jobs of 33 firefighters. Instead, the council voted Wednesday evening to postpone the matter 60 days so city officials can audit the Fire Department personnel's use of sick leave and overtime to ensure neither is being abused. The decision was motivated by allegations that Clark County firefighters have misused their sick leave, Councilwoman Anita Wood said: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/north-las-vegas-balks-at-firefighters-contract-will-audit-sick-leave-and-overtime-pay-115155209.html>

A new report says the city of New York / FDNY (NY) former Emergency Medical Services chief broke a conflict of interest law and must now pay a \$12,500.00 fine. John Peruggia was the first and highest profile official in the Bloomberg administration to take a fall after the December blizzard. It now seems that there was much more at play in the decision to demote the EMS chief beyond the disastrous blizzard clean-up and slow emergency response. The city's Conflicts of Interest Board says today that Peruggia broke the city's conflicts law by accepting free trips and payments from a company with business before the city. The company, Masimo, Inc., sold the city a device that determines the level of carbon monoxide in a person's bloodstream. Peruggia was a member of the committee in charge of deciding whether or not the city should buy the product:

http://www.ny1.com/content/news_beats/politics/133191/demoted-ems-chief-slapped-with-ethics-fine/

The city of Houston's (TX) Office of Inspector General has cleared Council Member Jolanda Jones of allegations of misconduct in which she was accused of using profanity and disparaging firefighters during a Jan. 14 visit to a downtown fire station. According to a Monday memorandum from City Attorney David Feldman to Mayor Annise Parker, investigators took sworn statements from those present during Jones' visit to Fire Station 8 and reviewed video of the visit provided by Jones. Jeff Caynon, president of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, who was not present during the visit, had alleged Jones' conduct was unprofessional and that her statements included "a lot of profanity." Caynon had said he had been told, "The substance of what she said was, 'You guys don't work. You just come in and sit down on your recliners and watch TV all day.' " Feldman's memo describes a different scene. Jones and firefighters were "jovial and engaging" during a tour of the station, according to the memo. When shown new ovens in the station's kitchen, "in a non-confrontational way," the memo states, Jones said "'You're (expletive) kidding me.'" This was the only use of profanity during the tour, the memo stated, "and it was clearly stated in jest." <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7409389.html>

A Santa Barbara-based organization that wants to end union representation of California government employees has revved up its campaign contribution collection machinery for a run at putting the idea to a statewide vote. Although Secretary of State records indicate that Californians for Public Union Reform hasn't reported that it has taken in any money yet -- it just filed with the state last week -- it is positioning itself to accept contributions with an aim toward putting an initiative on the ballot next year. Lanny Ebenstein, UC Santa Barbara economist, head of the California Center for Public Policy and president of the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association is named in the state filing as the reform group's treasurer. If his name seems familiar, it's probably because Ebenstein authored "Reforming Public Employee Compensation and Pensions." a report that purported to show that California public employees' pay and benefits are "unjust." We spoke to Ebenstein a few weeks ago. His group wants to put up a ballot measure that would end collective bargaining for all city, county, regional and state employees in California. The reason, he says, is that unions have too much influence and the pay and perks their members receive are leeching money from government services, like education:

http://blogs.sacbee.com/the_state_worker/2011/02/group-aims-to-end-public-emplo.html

Six senior Haverhill (MA) fire officers have agreed to apologize to the city and its residents for their "wrongful conduct" in the EMT training scam and accept severe punishment to save their jobs. The city announced it had reached deals with the firefighters — Deputy Chief William Laliberty, captains Paul Weinburgh and Jeff Akstin and lieutenants Joseph Cahill, James Hinds and Robert Irvine — yesterday morning as public disciplinary hearings for the men were set to begin at City Hall. The punishment for falsely claiming they had taken the refresher courses required to maintain their certifications includes a mix of demotions, unpaid suspensions, work-for-free punishment duty and financial restitution. The firefighters agreed to work hundreds of hours for free over the next several years and give up cash stipends they are paid annually for retaining valid emergency medical technician and paramedic licenses from the state: <http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x856150076/Six-Haverhill-fire-officers-in-EMT-scandal-cut-deals-to-save-jobs>

A Daytona Beach (FL) firefighter is under criminal and internal investigation for beating up another firefighter. It happened inside Daytona Beach's main fire station on Christmas Day. The fight happened while the two firefighters were on duty. Fire Chief Jim Bland says the two firefighters work separate shifts, but they sometimes cross paths at Fire Station 1. Bland says firefighter John McInarney struck fellow firefighter Dwayne Thibeault in the head after the two got into an argument over dirty equipment: <http://www.wftv.com/news/26797843/detail.html>

Ten volunteer firefighters in Peyton (CO) turned in their badges Tuesday night, citing unresolved safety issues with their fire chief. The department was left with Fire Chief Jack Rauer and a handful of volunteer firefighters to cover the Peyton Fire Protection District, according to a release by the district's board. The mass resignation comes after the district's board on Monday reinstated Rauer from two weeks of paid administrative leave following several accusations that Rauer, the fire chief for nearly two years, was unsafe and put others in danger. A document obtained by The Gazette outlined concerns ranging from Rauer reportedly leaving patients with probationary firefighters who were not trained paramedics to suspicions that Rauer retaliated against a firefighter by demoting him:

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/volunteer-112558-fire-firefighters.html>

Winterhaven (AZ) Fire Department Chief Steven Taylor has been temporarily suspended pending the outcome of an investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission into allegations of sexual discrimination and creating a hostile work environment. Taylor, who has been on paid administrative leave since Jan. 6, could possibly be terminated, based on the EEOC's findings. Acting Chief James Merton said the EEOC investigation is the result of a complaint filed against Taylor by firefighter Yuriko Maeda, who alleges that Taylor used several profanities toward firefighters following an incident on Dec. 21, in which an axe was broken. The complaint further alleges that after asking Taylor to watch his language, Taylor cornered Maeda in her office and threatened her:

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/taylor-67488-merton-board.html>

The mayor of Niagara Falls (NY) has fired embattled city Fire Chief Roger Melchior after The Buffalo News asked about a series of messages posted on an online forum, including one that used the words "camel jockeys." Late last week, Melchior denied to a reporter -- then to city officials -- that he posted any messages on the forum used by firefighters in Baltimore, where he once worked, and said that someone must have been posting under his name. Falls Mayor Paul A. Dyster and other city leaders, however, concluded that because some of the posts contained information about meetings and other events in the Falls that were known only to a small number of people, Melchoir was misleading them. "There were two separate issues," Dyster said today. "What comments were posted and did he own up to posting them? He did not." <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ny-chief-fired-after-derogatory-online-post>

An African-American man discovered a noose in front of his work locker after filing a racial discrimination complaint against the New York Fire Department, the man's attorneys said Monday. Gregory Seabrook said he found the noose Thursday at a firehouse where he worked in Brooklyn, New York, according to his attorney, Howard Shafran. "I was surprised and appalled that in this day and age I would find that," Seabrook told reporters. The 20-year department veteran filed a complaint with The New York State Division of Human Rights in December, saying he was denied overtime, had fewer chances at promotions than his white counterparts and was referred to by his colleagues as a "black rat," according to the complaint:

http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/Wire_News_Display/1354907301.html?cmpid=EnlFireEnqWeeklyFebruary92011

The Union Gap (WA) fire chief was fired last week after more than two years in the position. Mayor Jim Lemon dismissed Bill Steele on Thursday. Lemon said in a phone interview Saturday that there was cause for Steele's termination, but the reasons were confidential. While not tied to his firing, Lemon said he felt Steele was too "pro-union" and too focused on the idea of consolidation with the Yakima Fire Department. "I just didn't feel his direction of the fire department was consistent with what our town wants," he said:

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2011/02/12/union-gap-fire-chief-fired-after-two-years>

The rank-and-file City of New York (NY) police and fire unions angrily stepped up their attacks on Mayor Bloomberg Wednesday, slamming Hizzoner as a "liar" who is trying to "steal" their pension benefits. Using searing rhetoric unusual in its vitriol, the uniformed service unions blasted Bloomberg's attempts to eliminate the annual \$12,000 Variable Supplement Fund payout. Bloomberg, who has steadily agitated for pension reform, has said the city can no longer afford the \$12,000 benefit, which is paid out each December. "Nobody wants to get cut back, I understand that," said Bloomberg at a different event Wednesday. "We have to make a decision: do we want to send out Christmas bonuses or have more teachers?"

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/02/09/2011-02-09_enraged_nypd_fdny_unions_cast_bloomberg_as_greedy_liar_out_to_steal_pensions.html

A Marion County (OR) fire chief has been formally reprimanded for violating district policy by speeding to a fire in Brooks on Dec. 31. The Willamette Valley Fire & Rescue Authority board voted Monday to reprimand J. Kevin Henson. As chief of the authority, Henson leads Marion County Fire District No. 1 and Turner Fire District. "I accept the discipline imposed," Henson told the Statesman Journal. "I'm sorry that the event happened, I regret that it happened and I'm ready to move forward. "I think the board followed the district's policy and I violated the district policy." Henson, 44, crashed a Marion County district Chevrolet Tahoe on Brooklake Road NE near Interstate 5 while responding to a commercial fire. A Marion County Sheriff's Office investigation determined that Henson was driving unsafely and speeding at 62 mph in a 45 mph zone:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110212/NEWS/102120325/Fire-chief-reprimanded-crash?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CHome>

Spotsylvania (PA) Chief Thomas Oesterheld preached fire and brimstone to Spotsylvania volunteer firefighters at this year's annual banquet. His message: The county government doesn't care about you. It's a message Oesterheld said came loud and clear over the past 12 months, a period he refers to as "the year of hell." His 55 years of service mean nothing to county officials, Oesterheld said as he announced he would retire this year. His indignation stems from the new minimum training standards, approved in October by the county's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commission. The Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors asked for these new standards as a reaction to a Feb. 5, 2010, fatal fire, when a resident died while on the phone with an emergency dispatcher. The scene of the incident was chaotic, according to internal and external reviews of the incident. A comprehensive study released in November by the Virginia Fire Services Board commended Spotsylvania for its recent efforts on training, and warned the lack of minimum training standards "presents liability issues for the county." Under the new rules, Oesterheld will need nearly 1,000 hours of training to continue as chief:

<http://www.fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2011/022011/02062011/604772/index.html?page=1>

Clark County (NV) firefighters who abused sick leave could soon face legal action, county commissioners said. Clark County commissioners received an updated report on sick leave abuse during their Tuesday meeting and are sharing the information with local and federal investigators. Before the most recent report, commissioners had already known that a third of county firefighters had taken a month's worth of sick leave in 2009. But on Tuesday, commissioners learned that certain firefighters would plan their sick leave throughout the year. "Even in the Clark County School District, a student can only have so many absences documented or undocumented," Commission Chairwoman Susan Brager said. "They call the parent when the kid is sick. Do we have to resort to that in our fire department?" Commissioners said they were surprised to hear some firefighters had a so-called sick roster, a calendar that certain employees would use to plan their sick days throughout the year:

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/26879409/detail.html>

Four DeKalb County (GA) firefighters have been demoted for drinking during the January ice storm, when metro Atlanta was under a state of emergency. An internal report released shows a group of firefighters went out drinking on January 11, two nights into the snow and ice storm that paralyzed the county. The report shows three firefighters left a bar and brought a 12-pack of beer to Fire Station 24 in Stone Mountain. "They're all sincerely apologetic to the department, the county, the citizens," said Interim Fire Chief Eddie O'Brien. "They let me down and everybody down." According to an internal investigation, Captain Marcus Reed admitted he drank too much. "The initial events of meeting for dinner and consumer alcohol does not violate county policies," the report states. "Captain Reed's conduct became unbecoming and he began to violate policy when he became intoxicated to a point of making bad decisions, and not remembering specific events brings discredit upon his position." The report shows fire apparatus operator William Corbett admitted that he had an open container inside the station, along with firefighter Joshua Crawford. They were all off-duty at the time and said they went to the station to sleep it off. "If a citizen had come into Station 24, they would not have differentiated between on-duty or off-duty status of these employees, and only would have associated that consuming alcohol on premises was unacceptable," the report states:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/georgia-firefighters-demoted>

Two El Dorado (CA) Fire captains placed on paid administrative leave for alleged, undisclosed actions against a pregnant firefighter await the outcome of arbitration regarding the fire district's disciplinary actions, and a federal lawsuit the men filed last year. Dave Merino and Steve Maranville, pulled off duty 22 months ago, claim the El Dorado Hills Fire Department violated the Fair Employment and Housing Act, the False Claims Act and their First Amendment right to free speech. The lawsuit, filed in the Eastern California District Court against the El Dorado Hills Fire District and yet to be named "John Does," requests punitive, compensatory and emotional distress damages for the two captains and their wives:

<http://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/edh-fire-captains-fight-disciplinary-actions-counter-with-lawsuit/>

An Orlando (FL) firefighter will be demoted for reportedly lying about co-workers texting to cheat on a promotions test. WFTV broke the cheating allegations last month and, in years past, firefighters were disciplined for cheating on the same test. But this time, the chief says the allegations were made up. The firefighter said she got a text message with answers the day before the tactical exam she took to become a lieutenant. She told a dozen firefighters that story and one of them told her superiors. But Fire Chief John Miller said an internal investigation found no evidence of firefighters cheating on a lieutenant promotion exam last month, so Renee Bishop was demoted from engineer to permanent firefighter because she reportedly lied when she said she had gotten that text with the answers. "Why in the world would someone want to say there was cheating when there wasn't?" WFTV reporter Daralene Jones asked Miller: <http://www.wftv.com/news/26878326/detail.html>

Firefighters and supervisors with the Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department described murder suspect, former Fire Captain David Del Toro as a hardworking, dedicated firefighter during the start of the defense phase of his trial Wednesday. Del Toro, a former fire captain, is facing trial for allegedly strangling a 42-year-old woman in 2006 and dragging her nude body in the street behind his truck. "He was very knowledgeable," said Battalion Chief Richard Frank Rideout Jr., who hand-picked Del Toro to help train recruits. "He worked very, very hard. "He would be one of my instructors who would actually stay later." Four fire department personnel testified that Del Toro, a 23-year veteran of the department, was skilled at his job. "Dave was a hands-on instructor," said Capt. Charles Ruddell. "He had a good rapport with the recruits and always got them to perform." But two witnesses Wednesday – one for the defense and one for the prosecution – gave potentially damaging testimony that cast doubt on defense claims that Del Toro did not have injuries consistent with a struggle the morning after the slaying:

http://www.sgytribune.com/california/ci_17406473

At a hearing Tuesday morning, the Cedar Rapids (IA) Civil Service Commission affirmed Fire Chief Stephen Reid's decision to fire firefighter Christopher Slaughter for stealing money from other firefighters. Slaughter, 34, admitted to the three-member commission that he stole \$76 on Dec. 22 from a firefighters' kitty kept in a firefighter's locker, a theft caught on surveillance videotape as part of an internal Fire Department probe. The department launched the investigation with the help of the Police Department after similar thefts in August and September. However, Slaughter testified Tuesday that he was wrestling with a gambling addiction and suffering from depression, and he was seeking help for both matters:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/firing-iowa-firefighter-upheld>

Albuquerque (NM) Fire Chief James Breen ordered Albuquerque firefighters on Tuesday to remove stickers from their helmets containing the mysterious initials "FMB." The initials, which appear in the traditional firefighting symbol, the Maltese Cross, appear to have a "dual meaning," Breen told reporters. Union President Diego Arencon said he's been told the initials stand for "Forever My Brothers," a message of solidarity with fellow firefighters. But some believe it means "Forget Mayor Berry" -- or something more profane. Regardless of the meaning, Breen said, the stickers are unauthorized and must be removed immediately from any helmets or other city- owned equipment:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nm-chief-orders-removal-helmet-stickers>

A veteran Tucson (AZ) firefighter who refused to respond to last month's shooting spree in Tucson that left six people dead and U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords wounded said he was too distraught and distracted to focus on the emergency. Mark Ekstrum retired from the Tucson Fire Department two days after the Jan. 8 shootings, while his supervisors were still considering how to discipline him. He had been with the department for 28 years. Ekstrum's insubordination was first reported by the Arizona Daily Star, which obtained internal city memos on the matter. The newspaper reported Ekstrum may have delayed his unit's response because firefighters had to stop at another station and pick up a replacement for him. Ekstrum, 56, declined again Friday to discuss the incident:

http://azstarnet.com/news/state-and-regional/article_d6782221-1c7d-5ffd-8438-8d6ffe347bd8.html

As many as 20 Clark County (NV) Fire Department employees could face penalties based on the investigation into the abuse of sick leave and overtime, according to Clark County Manager Don Burnette. In a statement, Burnette said "some employees will be required to forfeit the accrual of sick leave time for up to a six-month period." He said others will be disciplined and could face termination. More than 200 firefighters -- nearly one-third of the department -- are suspected of abusing the sick time policy, according to an investigation presented to the county earlier this month. The accumulation of sick time and overtime pay helped drive salaries into the six-figure range, county officials said:

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/26904436/detail.html>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Jefferson (OR) volunteer firefighters raised \$2,060 for the Oregon Burn Center during an annual bowling event Jan. 30. Twenty teams from fire departments in the Willamette Valley participated and played five games at Lakeshore Lanes in Albany. Proceeds from the fundraiser were donated to Oregon Burn Center in Portland:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110201/UPDATE/110201041/Jefferson-firefighters-raise-2-060-burn-center?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CHome>

Sea Isle City (NJ) police this week said they have found no malfeasance in their investigation of the Volunteer Fire Company. Police Detective Lt. Kirk Rohrer said police plan to return oversight of the fire company back to the nonprofit group's chief and officers within the next three weeks. Mayor Leonard Desiderio took the extraordinary step in January of invoking an executive order placing police Chief Thomas D'Intino in charge of the fire company after an internal personnel feud led to rumblings - so far proved unfounded, police said - that firefighters would not respond to fires. Rohrer said he interviewed nearly all of the company's 33 members and each said he would respond immediately to a fire or city emergency. "The Fire Department has been very cooperative:

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cape_may/article_f1b114f6-2b6c-11e0-91e4-001cc4c002e0.html

With contentious budget negotiations over the past few years, the relationship between the City of Reno (NV) and the firefighter's union, has been strained, but we've learned the two sides each took a positive step forward Tuesday. The president of the Reno Firefighter's Association, Dennis Jacobsen, tells us he filed paperwork with the city Tuesday, repealing a grievance that the union filed last year. In that grievance, the union asked for the reinstatement of several firefighters who were laid off for fiscal year 2009 -- 2010. Now, that grievance is dropped. Jacobsen says that given the current economic climate, it was the proper thing to do at this point in time: <http://www.mynews4.com/story.php?id=36965>

Oakland (CA) Firefighters Random Acts is raising money for a 7-year-old. The firefighters, police and ambulance crews that responded to a fire that killed three people and left 7-year-old Allison Benavides alone with only the clothes on her back have started a fund to help the girl. Gathered in front of the burned-out apartment Thursday, surrounded by piles of ash and burned wood from the fire and a memorial of stuffed animals, candles and cards, were nearly two dozen firefighters, police officers, ambulance workers and representatives of the Oakland Firefighter Random Acts, a nonprofit organization helping people in need:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17286314?nclick_check=1

Firefighters in Monroe (WA) have a lot of climbing to do. Their big stair climbing competition is coming up in Seattle in March. About 1,500 firefighters from around the country compete at the Firefighter Stairclimb challenge at the Columbia Center tower every year. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society hosts the event to raise money for treating leukemia and blood cancers: <http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110205/NEWS01/702059931/1042/LIVING02>

In the next 20 years, a task force recommends the Bellingham (WA) Police Department add six officers, a detective and a precinct on the city's north side, and replace its dispatch center. In that same time period, another task force recommends the Bellingham Fire Department identify a location for a new fire station in the northern part of the city, reduce response times, and keep more personnel on duty in outlying areas of the city:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/02/09/1536308/plans-call-for-expanding-bellingham.html>

If you see firefighters with air packs and clad in turnouts at Hillsboro's (OR) 24-Hour Fitness Friday afternoon, don't immediately panic. It probably won't mean there's a fire. Most likely, the firefighters will be members of the Cornelius Fire Department, and will be there to hit the stair machines and train for next month's 20th annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, a fundraising event held in Seattle for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It's the fifth year Cornelius has participated in the event, which sends turnout-wearing and gear-carrying

firefighters up the 69 flights of stairs in the Emerald City's Columbia Center. At 788 feet tall, the tower is the second tallest building west of the Mississippi, and the climb is the largest for individual firefighters in the country, the society's website says. Cornelius firefighters will be at the gym, located at 6095 S.E. Tualatin Valley Highway, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Friday to raise awareness and take donations – and physically prepare – for the stair climb, said Cornelius Fire Lt. Phil Duncan. Though the challenge of climbing the 1,311 steps to the top of the building grabs the interest of competitive firefighters, it's the cause that really counts, Duncan said. "The climbing isn't a big deal; it's the fundraising," he said. He added that the department will have 13 members participating this year, up from the two firefighters that participated during Cornelius' first year:

http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2011/02/cornelius_firefighters_will_tu.html

To help the city of Chico (CA) reconcile a \$6.7 million budget deficit over the next two years, the International Association of Firefighters agreed to forego the 4 percent raises city firefighters were scheduled to receive this year, but firefighters will still receive a 3 percent raise in 2012, according to documents released by the city. The city of Chico released a letter agreement between the city and the firefighter union late last week, which details the plans for the scheduled raises. Under the labor contract that was in place, city firefighters were set to receive a 4 percent raise in this year and another 4 percent raise in 2012. Those raises, which City Finance Director Jennifer Hennessy valued at \$1.3 million, were scheduled to go into effect at the same time the city asked all of its employees to take a 5 percent wage reduction:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_17327180

Lakewood (WA) voters were overwhelmingly approving a proposal Tuesday night to dissolve their 70-year-old fire district and merge operations with the University Place Fire Department. The merged agency, West Pierce Fire & Rescue, is expected to become operational March 1. The merger was winning by a 4-to-1 margin. "We're real confident with that vote," Lakewood Fire Chief Ken Sharp said Tuesday night. "We're happy to see it's such a mandate. We're excited to get going and move forward." The proposed merger is driven by a desire for more efficiency. Fire districts rely heavily on property taxes, and these two faced a collective \$1.5 million shortfall this year because of the drop in assessed values. The merger would erase that deficit by eliminating vacant administrative positions, postponing wage increases negotiated by the districts' five labor unions, and saving on supplies. There would be no reduction in service, Sharp said. The single agency will be more efficient and effective while reducing redundant equipment and programs, he added:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/02/09/1536697/voters-like-lakewood-fire-merger.html>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department is saving an estimated \$3 million by retrofitting ambulances with parts to avoid overspending on new vehicles. The program came from ideas by Fire Department mechanics who suggested replacing the chassis that hold the engines in place on some of the emergency-response vehicles:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2011/02/09/20110209phoenix-fire-department-ambulance-chassis-replacements.html>

Training & Safety Related Items:

A must read for all firefighters, regardless of rank. Looking at the 'big picture' - Regardless of who finds themselves in the role of Incident Commander at the fire scene, the rules don't change. In many communities, the initial Incident Commander may be the chief of department, the first arriving officer, or even the most senior firefighter on the apparatus. Regardless of who finds themselves in the role, the rules don't change. If your department allows the senior firefighter to assume command, then PLEASE make sure they review these items as well; they aren't for the chief's eyes only!

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/960756-Looking-at-the-big-picture/>

The Fire Department New York (FDNY) has determined that its new fire-retardant gloves have a critical flaw: they do not adequately protect firefighters from burns. Since November, six firefighters have suffered second-degree burns on the backs of their hands fighting four house fires around the city, fire officials said:

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/04/nyregion/04gloves.html?_r=2&ref=nyregion

The Connecticut Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CONN-OSHA) has cited the Bridgeport Fire Department for five "serious" safety violations from the July 24, 2010 Elmwood Avenue fire that killed Lt. Steven Velasquez and Firefighter Michael Baik. These include failure to perform hydrostatic testing on SCBA cylinders, failure to provide fit testing, failure to conduct medical evaluations for those who wear SCBA, failure to make sure firefighters wore SCBA during interior firefighting, and failure to follow mayday procedures. Each of the violations carries a \$1000 fine. The initial report also indicated that the department failed to "ensure firefighters were fit". In fact, the violation reads, "Annual fit testing was not performed on firefighters who wore self contained breathing apparatus while performing interior structure firefighting" <http://statter911.com/2011/02/11/connecticut-osha-finds-5-serious-violations-in-deaths-of-two-bridgeport-firefighters-2010-fire-killed-lt-steven-velasquez-firefighter-michael-baik/>

Fire code updates recently adopted by the Piedmont (CA) City Council include limitations to the size and spacing of solar panels on roofs and requirements for sprinkler systems in new single-family homes, among other restrictions. Homeowners must be sure solar panels installations, which are gaining popularity in Piedmont, leave room for firefighters to cut vents in the roof as necessary to let out smoke and heat in the event of a fire. "You have to give us areas where we can put ladders that are not in trees or power lines or windows," said Piedmont Fire Chief Ed Tubbs, who delivered the recommendations for fire code updates to the council:

<http://piedmont.patch.com/articles/solar-panels-must-leave-room-for-firefighters-under-new-rules>

Investigators are calling for the development of safety procedures in the event that SCBA is disabled by vomit after the death of a Kansas firefighter. Shawnee (KS) firefighter John B. Glaser died May 22 last year when he removed his SCBA to clear vomit from the equipment, exposing him to toxic gases inside a burning home, according to a NIOSH report released Friday. Firefighter Glaser had become sick and vomited while he and a fire captain were searching for victims. Fire departments need to create guidelines for removing and clearing the noseup of all types of SCBA in emergency situations, according to the report:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-breathing-apparatus/articles/973587-Report-LODD-shows-need-for-SOPs-on-clearing-blocked-SCBA/>

Two San Antonio (TX) firefighters are still off the job after a rollover accident in a fire truck three months ago that cost the city close to \$1 million. An investigation into the accident showed the ladder truck did not stop where it should have, that seat belts were not being used and that it was caused by excessive speed for the conditions. The report also showed the ladder truck did not brake, the throttle was held at full open and the speed was as high as 35 mph. The report's conclusion: the accident was the result of excessive speed and poor

judgment. "Being the fire chief, sitting there looking at it, yeah, I think that it was reckless," Hood said. Still, Hood said he is using this crash as a teaching opportunity, taking every firefighter to see the crushed ladder 35 truck. It was a loss to the city of more than \$800,000. "We have made sure that those employees know that this can't go on anymore," Hood said. Since that crash, the fire department has implemented changes that include mandatory seat belt use, a new accident review board and a round trip ticket program where the department pledges to send workers home as healthy as they came to work:

<http://www.ksat.com/news/26903312/detail.html>

General Fire Service Related Items:

A must read for both fire service labor members/representatives and fire service management representatives – information from a joint International Association of Fire Fighters and International Association of Fire Chiefs training session through the eyes of the author, Dave Statter. There is a column in yesterday's Las Vegas Review-Journal by John L. Smith that is well worth reading. Some of it may be true, none of it may be true, or all of it may be true. It really doesn't matter at this point and I am not here to argue those issues. Why I think you should read it is because it sums up the perception many political leaders and a portion of the public have of firefighters today. The column gives Smith's view of where the image of Clark County firefighters currently sits following a long, ugly battle over wages and benefits. Ten-days-ago Dave Statter was in Phoenix speaking at the IAFF and IAFC Labor-Management Initiative (LMI). Besides his talks on building reputation equity, he did a lot of listening. He was quite impressed with the group there. A lot of fire chiefs and union leaders who realize they need to be working together as much as possible to deal with the continuing assaults on their budgets and ultimately their safety. At the same time firefighters are looking at what this movement attacking pensions means for their economic future. And fire chiefs are concerned that pension losses could reduce their ability to hold on to people they've spent a lot of time and money to train. He encourages you attend LMI next year:

<http://statter911.com/2011/01/31/a-column-from-las-vegas-shows-why-the-iaff-iafc-gathering-in-phoenix-was-important-a-must-read-for-labor-management/>

Urban sprawl and a growing population are wreaking havoc on response times at Mesa's (AZ) three southeast fire stations. At times, it takes firefighters and medical crews more than 10 minutes to respond to calls for help. Emergency responders strive to respond in less than 4 minutes, but citywide last year that goal was met 67.7 percent of the time. The citywide average response time was 4 minutes, 45 seconds. In southeast Mesa, the city's three stations – 212, 217 and 215 – struggle to meet demand. Stations 212 and 215 met that 4-minute response goal about 50 percent of the time. "It's always a concern," said Capt. Bryan Jeffries, who works at Fire Station 217 east of Baseline and Crismon roads. "Four minutes is the critical timeframe to get oxygen to people who are having trouble breathing or having a stroke, and fires can grow exponentially in that timeframe."

<http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2011/02/12/mesa-responders-struggle-to-tighten-response-times/>

Once considered a model agency, the Palo Alto (CA) Fire Department could reclaim that mantle by merging two fire stations, scrapping minimum staffing requirements and sharing resources with the police department, according to a lengthy consultant's report released Wednesday. The city hired the International City/County Management Association and Tridata to audit the fire department and identify ways it could be improved. The city council is set to discuss the nearly 50 recommendations laid out in the 190-page document Monday:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_17279264?nclick_check=1

While not necessarily directly fire related, Dave Statter (host of www.statter911.com – a great source of fire service news), comes a lessons something all fire service leaders (current and future) can learn from – a story about the owner of the Washington Redskins Football Team and how he has chosen to handle public relations. Dan Snyder, egoholics anonymous will see you now. Washington Redskins owner provides lessons in public relations for us all: <http://statter911.com/2011/02/06/dan-snyder-egoholics-anonymous-will-see-you-now-washington-redskins-owner-provides-lessons-in-public-relations-for-us-all/>

Tucson's (AZ) fire chief said friction with the city manager is the reason he decided to step down. The resignation leaves the city looking for a new leader for a critical department, just as it struggles to maintain services in a budget crunch. Chief Patrick Kelly came to Tucson from a department near Orlando, Florida, about two years ago. He conceded that he stepped on some toes recently in a memo seen as criticizing the police chief, but he said that's not the reason for his sudden resignation. Chief Kelly said he's resigning because, as he puts it, he was not on the same page as his boss, Tucson City Manager Mike Letcher: <http://www.kgun9.com/Global/story.asp?S=14037629>

Arlington (TX) fire chief explains closing Super Bowl seating areas - Chief Crowson said there was no way to get people out of their seat in case of an emergency. That is why he claimed he closed those sections down. Preliminary reports also point to a contractor who did not finish the work on time, even though the crew was close to finishing the job on time. The fire chief said when he made the call, Cowboys officials and the NFL did not give him a hard time: <http://www.wfaa.com/home/Arlington-fire-chief-explains-Super-Bowl-seating-issue-115497314.html>

The city of San Diego (CA) needs to build and staff 10 new fire stations at a cost of well over \$100 million to reach acceptable response times, according to a study released Monday. The report comes amid a citywide “brownout” policy that calls for up to eight of the city’s 47 fire stations to go without an engine on any given day. The idled engines rotate among 13 fire stations in various neighborhoods for an annual savings of \$11.5 million. The city faces another round of service cuts to close a \$56.7 million shortfall in its \$1.1 billion operating budget. On Monday, the City Council reviewed numerous budget balancing ideas from varying sources. Fire Chief Javier Mainar said the top priority must be restoring the sidelined engines at \$1.4 million each before beginning to address other deficiencies in his department such as coverage and response times: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/feb/14/study-san-diego-city-needs-10-new-fire-station/>

A split City Council has agreed to join in a \$45,000 feasibility study looking at consolidating some fire and emergency medical services in the Colorado area between Glenwood Springs and Rifle. The governing boards of the Glenwood Springs Rural, Burning Mountains and Rifle fire protection districts asked the city to participate in the study, which is aimed at determining if sharing equipment and consolidating some services could result in better efficiency and less cost: <http://www.aspentimes.com/article/20110207/NEWS/110209872/1077&ParentProfile=1058>

San Carlos (CA) should try to salvage its rocky "marriage" with Belmont despite voting last year to break up the fire department both cities share, a San Mateo County supervisor said Tuesday. "(I) ask you to roll your sleeves up and try to save this marriage, save this partnership," Carole Groom, president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, told San Carlos council members and administrators at a county finance committee meeting. Groom said the county would even pay for an outside mediator if that's what it takes, but noted it won't extend its contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to serve San Carlos. In response, San Carlos Mayor Omar Ahmad said he would bring the suggestion back to the city council. But if the sentiment of Belmont Mayor Coralin Feierbach is any indication, divorce is the only option at this point. "No, there's no way,"

Feierbach told The Daily News in a phone interview after the meeting. "I can appreciate the earnest desire to do that. They are two very nice people on the board of supervisors. We have gone through hell with San Carlos, the fire personnel have gone through hell, the fire chief has gone through hell. They (San Carlos officials) need to find their own city. Redwood City has given them a bid. They need to do that. No, no way. We have voted 4-1 to go do our own fire department." http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17397986?nclick_check=1

Twelve Utah fire agencies have begun sharing an automated dispatch system that officials say should cut the time it takes to get emergency responders to the scene of a fire. Ogden Deputy Fire Chief Chad Tucker tells the Standard-Examiner of Ogden that administrators are working kinks out of the new \$1 million system, called First-In. Weber Area Dispatch executive director Tina Roylance says the program could save 30 to 40 seconds per call - and seconds can save lives: <http://www.abc4.com/content/news/slc/story/12-Utah-fire-agencies-sharing-1M-dispatch-system/B1meSwVuxU-h7G69Jh0c6Q.csp>

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

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

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

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