



## **FIRE & EMS NEWS**

**February 17, 2008**

**Volume 6 – Issue 10**

**H**appy New Year to everyone - may all of you have a very prosperous 2008, both personally and professionally!

**S**ome of the features of this issue include:

- Firefighter safety information
- Numerous firefighter employment opportunities!
- Numerous firefighter training opportunities!
- CPAT testing information!
- Volunteers needed around the Bay Area – various EMS classes and opportunities
- Numerous fire service news stories to learn from – both positive and not-so-positive

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### **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION – San Jose, CA:**



#### **San José Fire Department (SJFD) Upcoming Firefighter Recruitment**

**T**he San Jose Fire Department will be accepting applications for Firefighter EMT and Firefighter Paramedic for three days – **March 10 through March 12, 2008**; log on to [www.sanjoseca.gov/cityjobs](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/cityjobs) to apply.

**T**he SJFD will host a Recruitment Forum on **February 28, 2008** from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Bureau of Field Operations (BFO) Campus at 255 S. Montgomery Street, San Jose, 95113. Fire Personnel will be there to give a short presentation and answer questions on the Firefighter Recruit testing process.

**F**or more information about the **City of San Jose**, visit their website at: [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)

**F**or more information about the **San Jose Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.sjfd.org](http://www.sjfd.org)

**F**or more information about the **San Jose Firefighters Association**, [I.A.F.F.](#) Local 230, visit their website at [www.sanjosefirefighters.org](http://www.sanjosefirefighters.org)

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA :**

**G**o to [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) and click on **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES** to find valuable information on numerous California State-certified State Fire Marshal (and other) classes currently available around the State of California, including college degree programs.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Torrance (CA) Fire Department:**

**T**he **Torrance (CA) Fire Department** will be accepting 2,000 applications for the position of **Firefighter**, from February 20 through March 4, 2008.

Here is the information found within the job flyer, note EMT is only required prior to the end of probation. Thus, virtually everyone over the age of 21 should be eligible to apply!

**F**or more information about the **City of Torrance**, visit their website at: [www.ci.torrance.ca.us](http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us)

**F**or more information about the **Torrance Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.ci.torrance.ca.us/TFD/108.htm](http://www.ci.torrance.ca.us/TFD/108.htm)

**F**or more information about the **Torrance Firefighters Association**, [I.A.F.F.](#) Local 1138, visit their website at [www.torrancefirefighters.org](http://www.torrancefirefighters.org)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING INFORMATION:**

**B**elow you will find the latest weekly edition of the email newsletter “TRADENET.” If you are a current (or future) firefighter, and you have not subscribed to this FREE newsletter from the National Fire Academy, you’re missing out on a lot of great information as well as a great resource to ask and answer questions related to the fire service and especially training and education. See below for what to expect and if you’re interested in subscribing, there is a link to subscribe.

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Welcome to **TRADENET**, TRADE's Training Network, a National Fire Academy sponsored activity. The objective of **TRADENET** is to provide a forum for members of Fire Service organizations to maximize performance through quick and easy information sharing.

The information provided here must be non-commercial and non-copyrighted. None of the material shared should be incorporated into any copyrighted programs.

The **TRADENET** newsletter is distributed through the USFA/FEMA server. This will allow you to control your subscription easier by allowing you to add new email addresses or delete old ones. There are over 8100 subscribers worldwide to the weekly newsletter. If you know of someone who wishes to subscribe, all they need to do is go to the following site, [http://service.govdelivery.com/service/multi\\_subscribe.html?code=USDHSFA](http://service.govdelivery.com/service/multi_subscribe.html?code=USDHSFA) and enter your email address. You will then be taken to a page which will allow you to select your choices of many newsletters.

If you have a question or comment for inclusion in the weekly **TRADENET** newsletter, please send it and your contact information to [robertj.bennett@dhs.gov](mailto:robertj.bennett@dhs.gov). USFA reserves the right to edit content submitted or reject any material submitted.

Any replies will need to be directed to my email address [robertj.bennett@dhs.gov](mailto:robertj.bennett@dhs.gov)

Are you aware of the FEMA Training Resources page? If not go to <http://www.training.fema.gov/> and you will see several links to training resources. At that page, there is a NETC Virtual Campus which includes 13 self-study course which you can receive a certificate. There is also a link to NFA page that will take you to the off-campus courses that include an additional 13 courses. Both of these links are a method of connecting your personnel to a self-study capability that will allow them to receive credit for the training.

Are you familiar with the training program called “Coffee Break Training?” It is on the USFA website and can be found at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/>. Please access this training and provide any feedback to the Branch Chief, Robert Neale at [Robert.neale@dhs.gov](mailto:Robert.neale@dhs.gov). He will be happy to receive any feedback regarding this program.

Remember the Website for the National Fallen Firefighters program is <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/>. Also, please visit their Resources page at <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources>. This page contains many PowerPoint presentations and downloadable video clips available for your use.

Bob

The link to the USFA/NFA TRADE Site is: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/trade/>

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EMMITSBURG, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy is pleased to announce the launch of a new web-based online training system [NFAOnline](#). [NFAOnline](#) provides an easy one-stop website where fire and emergency services personnel, first responders, emergency management personnel, and the general public will find free training and education programs that they can complete at their own pace.

“Now is the time for us to embrace the future and improve our education through distance learning,” said NFA Superintendent, Dr. Denis Onieal. “[NFAOnline](#) provides another option to help further the professionalism of the nation’s fire and emergency services and strengthen their ability to combat all hazard emergencies.”

[NFAOnline](#) provides a “user-friendly,” state-of-the art training system with technical support and the ability for the student to immediately print a certificate and transcript. The primary effort of [NFAOnline](#) is to make available training and materials for the fire service, particularly those unable to attend resident courses in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

To enroll in [NFAOnline](#), visit [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov) and browse the course catalog through the ‘New Students’ option.

## [NFAOnline COURSE CATALOG](#)

### [Distance Learning Courses \(1\)](#)

[NFA Online Tutorial \(PDF\)](#)

### [Emergency Medical Services Courses \(1\)](#)

[EMS Operations at Multi Casualty Incidents](#)

### [Emergency Response to Terrorism Courses \(1\)](#)

[Emergency Response to Terrorism: Self-Study](#)

### [Fire Prevention Courses \(2\)](#)

[Alternative Water Supply: Planning and Implementing Programs](#)

[Testing and Evaluation of Water Supplies for Fire Protection](#)

### [Incident Management Courses \(3\)](#)

[ICS-100, Introduction to ICS for Operational First Responders](#)

[ICS-200, Basic NIMS ICS for Operational First Responders](#)

[Awareness of Command and Control Decision Making at Multiple Alarm Incidents](#)

## **Management Science Courses (1)**

### **Fire Service Supervision**

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#### **#1**

My name is Shayan Proler, and I'm a Captain with the Houston Fire Department, in Houston, TX. Here in Houston, there is a lot of gentrification occurring, which has resulted in apartments and condominiums that are 3+ stories. The newer projects are standpiped and/or sprinklered, and some appear to have doors that have a FRR of at least 1 1/2 hours. I was curious as to if anybody had any SOP's, guidelines, directives, etc., regarding these type of units. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Shayan Proler, Captain  
Houston TX Fire Department  
713-729-7175  
[sp91546@yahoo.com](mailto:sp91546@yahoo.com)  
[shayan.proler@cityofhouston.net](mailto:shayan.proler@cityofhouston.net)

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#### **#2**

Our department is in the process of getting our first pumper tanker, and I am looking for any SOP's on tanker operations, or any PowerPoint or training material that anyone has on water movement and tanker operations. Any information would be greatly appreciated. You can email it to me at [mrarick@ci.canfield.oh.us](mailto:mrarick@ci.canfield.oh.us)

Matt Rarick  
Canfield Fire Department – Canfield, Oh  
Training Coordinator  
[mrarick@ci.canfield.oh.us](mailto:mrarick@ci.canfield.oh.us)

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#### **#3**

Looking to establish policy that addresses EMS Mayday situations (Need the PD, but can't verbalize via radio). Any information/procedures would be appreciated. Thank you,

Michael J. Gagnon, Battalion Chief  
Derry Fire Department  
14 Manning Street  
Derry, New Hampshire 03038  
(603) 432- 6121  
[mikegagnon@ci.derry.nh.us](mailto:mikegagnon@ci.derry.nh.us)

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#### **#4**

I'm an EFOP student, and am currently researching Dispatch Center Staffing for an ARP. Part of my project involves "sampling" the fire service nationwide to get a sense of how many dispatchers it takes to get the job done safely for a given population. Please click on the link and complete the short questionnaire- it just requires basic knowledge of YOUR system.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TFZCSncd14WKp9i4ypWS1Q\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=TFZCSncd14WKp9i4ypWS1Q_3d_3d)

Thanks very much,

Mike Senchyna, Battalion Chief  
Vancouver WA Fire Dept.  
360.735.8796  
[mike.senchyna@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:mike.senchyna@ci.vancouver.wa.us)

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**#5**

My name is Joe Lachowski and I am a training officer for Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole Fire EMS in Jackson, Wyoming. I am putting together a presentation on Class A foam use and advantages and was wondering if anyone had any video clips or photos of Class A foam in use. Any clips or photos or other information would be much appreciated. Please email to [jlachowski@hotmail.com](mailto:jlachowski@hotmail.com). Thanks in advance for all of your help and be safe.

Joe Lachowski  
Jackson Hole Fire EMS  
[jlachowski@hotmail.com](mailto:jlachowski@hotmail.com)

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**#6**

Our department was recently awarded an AFG to install vehicle exhaust ventilation systems throughout our four stations. I am looking for examples of department policies and procedures regarding their use (PlymoVent or any other manufacturer). Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Stay safe.

Robert P Lamprecht, EMS Director  
Hobart Fire Department  
400 East 10th Street  
Hobart, IN 46342-6005  
(219) 942-5184  
(219) 942-4426 Fax  
[hfdems@yahoo.com](mailto:hfdems@yahoo.com)

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**#7**

Our agency is looking for incident response “Cheat Sheets” or “Situation Check Off Sheets” for Duty Officers. A reference for the Duty Officer to key off of or utilize as a tool to ensure critical tasks are completed and not forgotten.

Victor Leatzow, Chief  
Cowlitz County Fire District #5  
P.O. Box 280  
382 NE Frontage Road  
Kalama, WA 98625  
(360) 673-2222 Main Office  
(360) 673-3389 Fax  
[victorl@kalama.com](mailto:victorl@kalama.com)

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**#8**

I am looking for help and information on fire based EMS transporting. We, at this time, have a private ambulance company that transports all of our medical runs. They are not reliable at best. We would like to start with BLS transporting patients then down the road switch to ALS

transporting. We already respond BLS to every EMS call with an OSHA/IDOL (we are in Illinois), approved BLS ambulance and all members are at the least EMT-B/D trained with a couple medics here and there. We are a combination department, full-time Union and part-time. Any Union contract language on this subject would be great to have also.

I am looking for information on how others have done this. What the process entailed, problems the Village/District gave, who were the best contacts for the greatest amount of help and any other suggestions in getting this done. The Fire Chief is in favor of this plan. It was his idea to get this moving. So any ideas from you Fire Chiefs out there will be priceless.

I have already contacted our insurance carrier and obtained their info. I am now looking for plans and strategies others have used to accomplish this monumental task.

Our Mayor and board have been advised for years that it will cost too much to transport on our own and that is what they still go by when this subject comes up. Any help on how you addressed this will be great. Thank you in advance,

Joseph M. McClelland, Training Officer  
Midlothian Fire Department  
Midlothian IL.  
[truckie45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:truckie45@sbcglobal.net)

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**#9**

Does anyone have a rehab SOP that they would be willing to share? Thanks.

George J. Teixeira II  
Nebraska Forest Service  
Fire Resource Manager  
Planning and Management  
102 AA Plant Industry  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0815  
(402) 472-5870  
[gteixeira2@unl.edu](mailto:gteixeira2@unl.edu)

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**#10**

I am the director of a Fire Science Program at a small Technical College in Georgia. In my tactics course I am updating the tactics for firefighting in large commercial buildings (warehouses, Sam's, Wal-Mart, etc.)

I would like to have some reference materials to help with this development. If you know of any books, web sites, magazine articles, or experts please let me know.

Tom Gaddie, Fire Science Instructor  
Lanier Technical College  
Ph: 770-531-6088  
Fax: 770-531-6306  
[tgaddie@laniertech.edu](mailto:tgaddie@laniertech.edu)

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## **Awareness of Command & Control Decision Making at Multi-Alarm Incidents – Q297**

We have added the new Q297 Precourse material for the Command and Control Decision Making at Multi Alarm Incidents course material on the NFAOnline LMS System. If you or someone you know is interested, go to NFAOnline, register and select the Q297 course.

**This online course is both a stand-alone course as well as the pre-course for the 6-day residential delivery of the National Fire Academy's new Command and Control Decision Making at Multi-Alarm Incidents. Anyone interested in applying for the 6-day residential course must pass this pre-course with a score of 85 percent. The topics covered in this pre-course include: classical and naturalistic decision making, strategies for managing safety concerns at expanded emergency incidents, pre-incident preparation, resource allocation, effective use of on-site communications, set-up of an incident command post and post incident analysis.**

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### ***Student Recruitment for Management of Emergency Medical Services (Pilot Offering)***

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot class National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for its newly revised 2-week course, *P150 - Management of Emergency Medical Services (MEMS)*. The purpose of a pilot class is to assure that the materials are appropriate and accurate prior to replacing the old course in the normal course rotation. Students will be asked to provide feedback and comments on the course throughout its delivery. Students will receive a National Fire Academy course completion certificate. The pilot class is scheduled to be delivered June 9-20, 2008 with students to arrive Sunday, June 8 and depart Friday, June 20, 2008.

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on management practices as they relate to emergency medical services (EMS). This interactive and fast-moving course will enable participants to deal more effectively with day-to-day management issues that supervisory-level managers are likely to encounter. Personnel, resource management, research and quality improvement techniques are some of the major components of this course. Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to enhance the quality and overall effectiveness of their EMS operation through the use of management techniques.

### **Selection Criteria**

Individuals with management responsibility for part of an EMS delivery system, e.g., a fire department, a hospital, or a public or private EMS agency. Individuals with decisionmaking responsibility within an EMS system, e.g., EMS council membership, EMS program management/coordination, training, medical control, etc.

**Prerequisites:** IS700 and IS800; ICS-100 and ICS-200 or equivalent.

Examples for ICS100 and ICS200 are:

- Q462 - *Introduction to ICS for Operations Responders* (available through [NFA Online](#) at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov))
- Q463 - *Basic ICS for Operational Responders* (available through [NFA Online](#) at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov))

- F806 - *National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) for the Fire Service*
- F163 - *NIMS ICS for EMS*

### **How to Apply:**

- Students must complete FEMA Form 75-5, General Admissions Application (available for download at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtml>)
- Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2008 and should be submitted to:

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

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend the pilot course until notified in writing by the Admissions Office.
- Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance for this pilot course.
- Attendance at a pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

For additional information on this course delivery, please contact the Training Specialist, John Brasko at [john.brasko@dhs.gov](mailto:john.brasko@dhs.gov)

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TRADE's Virtual TRADEing Post is available online. This site allows you to see an index of each of the CD's, then access and download any specific lesson plan or program you see and use it as you need in your Department. When you find a file you wish to download, just open it and then "SAVE AS" to your computer. Then you can modify it as you wish. Remember, please do not take any program and use it in a copyrighted program. The intent of TRADE is to "share" information that will allow the Fire Service not to reinvent the wheel each and every time they need something. The site is <http://feti.lsu.edu/municipal/NFA/TRADE/>. Please provide us feedback regarding your thoughts and ideas about this page.

Also, if you find the Virtual TRADEing Post useful, please send an email to Nashid Hasan [mhasan1@lsu.edu](mailto:mhasan1@lsu.edu). Nash is the mastermind behind the structure of the Virtual TRADEing Post. So, please let Nash know how much you appreciate the availability of this material and how useful you find it.

Several people have experienced difficulty accessing the TRADE's Virtual TRADEing Post through the address published and have contacted me for suggestions. If you have experienced difficulty accessing TRADE's Virtual TRADEing Post, try the following. Go to Louisiana State University Fire and Emergency Training Institute's Homepage: <http://www.feti.lsu.edu> and try accessing it from there. At the bottom of the right-hand column of LSU-FETI's Homepage the NFA is listed. Below this is the TRADE Repository. You can "click" on this and it should take you to TRADE's Virtual TRADEing Post.

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## -----INFORMATIONAL ITEMS-----

2008 U.S. Line of Duty Deaths                  17 LODD's

2008 Worldwide LODD's                  7 LODD's

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### NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK (NRF) TRAINING RELEASED

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today released the on-line IS-800.B *National Response Framework (NRF), An Introduction* training course. The NRF, which focuses on response and short-term recovery, articulates the doctrine, principles and architecture by which our nation prepares for and responds to all-hazard disasters across all levels of government and all sectors of communities.

**Course Information:** The course introduces participants to the concepts and principles of the NRF.

**Course Objectives:** At the end of this course, students will be able to describe:

- The purpose of the National Response Framework.
- The response doctrine established by the National Response Framework.
- The roles and responsibilities of entities as specified in the National Response Framework.
- The actions that support national response.
- The response organizations used for multi-agency coordination.
- How planning relates to national preparedness.

**Audience:**

This course is intended for government executives, private-sector and nongovernmental organization (NGO) leaders, and emergency management practitioners. This includes senior elected and appointed leaders, such as Federal department or agency heads, State Governors, mayors, tribal leaders, and city or county officials – those who have a responsibility to provide for effective response. Senior leaders, emergency management practitioners, disaster workers, and first responders who have previously completed IS-800 or IS-800A are not required to complete IS-800B as part of NIMS compliance activities. However, FEMA strongly urges emergency management professionals across the nation to complete this new independent study course on the NRF. Additional information on the NRF can be obtained from the NRF Resource Center at [www.fema.gov/nrf](http://www.fema.gov/nrf)

**Course Completion:**

This course is available at <http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/IS800b.asp>. When individuals complete the course, they should take the online test, fill out the student information and submit the test for scoring. FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's Independent Study office will notify individuals via email of their successful completion of the course and a link will be included to access and print a course certificate.

**Questions:** Individuals may contact the Independent Study office via email [Independent.Study@dhs.gov](mailto:Independent.Study@dhs.gov) or contact the call center at 301-447-1200 or toll free at 1-800-238-3358, extension 1200. Independent Study Program office hours are 7:30a.m.-7:30p.m. (EDT).

**Pre-requisite:** None

**Course Length:** The overall length of the course will vary for each individual. IS800.B takes approximately 3 hours to complete.

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs):** FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) awards 0.3CEUs for successful completion of this course.

Additional NRF training will be released soon highlighting the Emergency Support Function (ESFs), Support and Incident Annexes.

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The Secret List is an independent newsletter produced since 1998 by Chief Billy Goldfeder in an effort to bring forward the issues involving injuries and death to us, often issues that are ignored, quickly forgotten, or just not talked about. The Secret List is emailed at no charge and produced as time allows. With the attitude that in order for us to survive the dangers of the job, they must learn how we have had "Close Calls" and even been injured or killed, TSL brings forward issues in an effort to enforce that philosophy and get us to refocus on "What's important".

**FirefighterCloseCalls.com** was an idea born from [The Secret List](#), an independent newsletter produced since 1998 in an effort to bring forward the issues involving injury and death to firefighters... often issues that are ignored, quickly forgotten or just not talked about. Originally started as an e-mail group amongst some close friends in the fire service, it is currently received by thousands of fire service members.

With the attitude that in order for firefighters to survive the dangers of the job, we must learn how other firefighters have had "[Close Calls](#)" and even been injured or killed, this site and TSL will continue the "No BS" history of bringing forward issues in an effort to enforce that philosophy-and get firefighters to refocus on "what's important." The intent is not to "Monday Morning Quarterback" or purposely embarrasses anyone, but to provide as factual information as possible as provided by our visitors-with commentary to allow the reader to THINK and decide if, or what they want to do in order to prevent the bad stuff from occurring again. We always welcome corrections or updated information.

As a friend of ours once said, no matter how the firefighting changes, as long as we commit to interior searches for trapped people and interior fire attacks to suppress fires-this job will remain a dirty "hands-on" occupation requiring aggressive, daily training to be of the same "scene" aggressiveness with a strong focus on our safety. Hopefully, TSL and FirefighterCloseCalls.Com helps set that tone by also "putting our \$\$ where our mouth is", that is, by providing this site as well as SOLUTIONS to help make the job that much safer, such as with our [WEEKLY FIRE DRILL](#) sections as well as our [SOP'S/SOG's](#) sections.

To subscribe to The Secret List go to <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/index.php>

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## HSGP and National Strategy for Pan Flu pages launched on *LLIS.gov*

*Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, (*LLIS.gov*) has partnered with the Department of Homeland Security's Technical Assistance Division to bring you a dedicated resource center for the FY07 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP). The [FY07 HSGP Resource Center](#) serves as a repository of guidance, forms, templates, and general information on the HSGP's Urban Areas Security Initiative, State Homeland Security, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention, Metropolitan Medical Response System, and Citizen Corps Programs. The Resource Center also features practices and guidelines from the *Enhancing Grants Management* Technical Assistance program and contains more than 150 documents, most of which are not available outside of *LLIS.gov*.

*LLIS.gov* has also recently launched a resource page for the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. The [National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza](#) page serves as a repository of pandemic influenza plans and policies from all levels of government and is intended to help jurisdictions prepare for, respond to, and recover from an influenza pandemic or other public health emergency. The resource page also includes the most up-to-date information on the White House's Implementation Plan Status, as well as links to the World Health Organization's Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response Web site and *LLIS.gov's Pandemic Influenza page*.

For more information, please contact me offline or visit [www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov).

Jennifer L. Smither  
Researcher  
*Lessons Learned Information Sharing*  
[www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov)  
[jsmither@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:jsmither@llis.dhs.gov)  
DeticaDFI  
Direct: 202-533-0025  
Fax: 202-416-0196

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*LLIS.gov is a partnership between the Department of Homeland Security and the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) and is supported by DeticaDFI and the Henry L. Stimson Center.*

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Lessons Learned Information Sharing, [www.LLIS.gov](http://www.LLIS.gov) has launched two new topic-specific pages that may be of interest.

First, the Radiological Dispersal Devices (RED) page provides emergency response planners with radiological incident response-related documents, plans, and studies to combat terrorist organizations' interest in developing and using "dirty bombs."

Additionally, the School Emergency Planning page houses Airs, documents, plans, news links, and other resources related to school safety. As this issue is one we can't seem to get away from these days, this page is a particularly relevant resource.

LLIS.gov is a free and secure network funded by DHS and the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) and is open only to emergency response providers and homeland security officials. For more information and to register, visit [www.LLIS.gov](http://www.LLIS.gov) or contact me.

**Jennifer L. Smither**

Researcher

*Lessons Learned Information Sharing*

[www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov)

DFI Government Services

Direct: 202-533-0025

Fax: 202-416-0196

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LLIS Colleagues,

I would like to bring to your attention two new enhancements to the Lessons Learned Information Sharing system. The first, LLIS Dispatch, keeps you abreast of the most recent plans, guidelines, and documents in your specific areas of interest added to the LLIS.gov system. The second highlights a new LLIS.gov partner and provides additional resources for response professionals. Both greatly improve LLIS.gov's information sharing capabilities, and I hope you find them useful tools in the important work you perform each day. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [feedback@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:feedback@llis.dhs.gov).

Thanks,

John L. Rabin

LLIS.gov Program Director

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LLIS.gov has partnered with the Emergency Management and Response – Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) to provide LLIS.gov members access to the EMR-ISAC's free, critical infrastructure protection (CIP) information. Located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, MD, the EMR-ISAC was developed to collect, analyze, and disseminate timely, consequential information to assist in the practice of critical infrastructure protection by the leaders, owners, and operators of the nation's Emergency Services Sector.

The EMR-ISAC, a no-cost information sharing program within the Department of Homeland Security, specifically provides information necessary to protect local internal critical infrastructures (i.e., personnel, physical assets, and communication/cyber systems that must be intact and operational 24 x 7) against all hazards, from natural disasters to terrorist activities. The program's main focus is ensuring that emergency response leadership, their organizations, and local policy leaders have both the internal and external support and resources to aid in disaster protection, prevention, and response to enhance survivability, continuity of operations, and mission success.

The EMR-ISAC can be contacted at [emr-isac@dhs.gov](mailto:emr-isac@dhs.gov) or 301-447-1325. To view the EMR-ISAC page on LLIS.gov, please [click here](#) or login to LLIS.gov and click on the EMR-ISAC link on the homepage. To subscribe for the free critical infrastructure protection (CIP) information disseminated by the Emergency Management and Response—Information

Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC), please click on the following link:  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/emr-isac/infograms/index.shtml>

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### **North Las Vegas Fire Department - Firefighter Trainee & Firefighter/Paramedic Openings**

The North Las Vegas FD has opened recruitment for Firefighter Trainee and Firefighter/Paramedic. Below are links to the recruitment information as well as a recruitment video. Please forward this information on to your contacts.

<http://www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com/Departments/HumanResources/Employment/EmploymentCurrentOpenings.cfm>

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=firefighter+recruit+video](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=firefighter+recruit+video)

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

Kevin S. Brame, Deputy Fire Chief  
City of North Las Vegas  
2626 East Carey  
North Las Vegas, NV 89030  
702-633-1106  
[bramek@ci.north-las-vegas.nv.us](mailto:bramek@ci.north-las-vegas.nv.us)

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### **University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute Job Opening**

**Position Title:** Technical Rescue & Hazardous Materials Specialist

**Position Location:** Columbia, Missouri

**Salary:** Commensurate with experience

**Position Summary:** The University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute provides training throughout Missouri and nationally, to volunteer and career firefighters, fire specialists, fire officers, members of industrial and institutional fire brigades, and members of allied emergency services organizations

The Specialist for Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials of the Fire and Rescue Training Institute is responsible for managing and coordinating the operational activities of technical rescue and hazardous materials training programs. This position has responsibility to deliver courses under grant, contract, and fee based funding, and to solicit and seek additional funding opportunities for training within their area of specialization. This position is responsible for the direct supervision and coordination of part-time adjunct, and contract instructors that are qualified in the specific disciplines, and other staff as assigned. The position also coordinates hazardous materials training deliveries in conjunction with the Field Program Coordinator. This position may also provide technical assistance to public and private sector agencies. This position reports to the Assistant Director of MU FRTI.

For a full position description go to

[http://extension.missouri.edu/careers/positionannouncements/PDFRTI\\_TRHMS.html](http://extension.missouri.edu/careers/positionannouncements/PDFRTI_TRHMS.html)

**Qualifications:** Minimum Qualifications: A minimum of an Associate Degree in Fire Science or related field, current Fire Service Instructor II certification with certifications/credentials in technical rescue and hazardous materials are required. Two years experience performing or teaching technical rescue and hazardous materials courses. Two years of experience in the coordination or supervision of training programs for fire and/or emergency services.

**Application Procedure:** An application form can be found at  
<http://extension.missouri.edu/careers/templates/APPLICATION.doc>

All interested applicants must submit a completed application, cover letter, current resume and copies of all academic transcripts to:

MU Extension  
Human Resource Development  
205 Whitten Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. For questions on the application process, please call (573) 882-4721 or email [hrdext@missouri.edu](mailto:hrdext@missouri.edu). For questions specific to the job, please contact either Kevin Zumwalt, Assistant Director ([zumwaltk@missouri.edu](mailto:zumwaltk@missouri.edu)) or David Hedrick, Director ([hedrickd@missouri.edu](mailto:hedrickd@missouri.edu)) or at 800-869-3476.

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### ALS Training Officer

The City of Overland Park, Kansas Fire Department is looking for an individual to work with a progressive Fire/EMS organization for the position of EMS Training Officer with ALS concentration.

**Responsibilities:** Plan, manage, instruct and evaluate the organizations medical education and training program as well as serve as the organizations quality assurance officer.

**Requirements:** Applicants are required to have State of Kansas or National Registry Certification for Paramedic. Applicants must have an Associates degree in Emergency Medicine or related field, with a preference for a Bachelor's degree in Emergency Medicine or related field. Applicants must be certified in ACLS, PHTLS, PALS or PEPP. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and pass a drug screen, physical and mental evaluation, and background check.

Normal Work Hours: M-F, 8-5

Monthly Salary: \$5007-\$6258, commensurate with exp.

Application Deadline: Open until filled

Benefits: Full-time

Apply online, attach a resume to your application, and view online at [www.opkansas.org](http://www.opkansas.org). If you are unable to apply online, you may visit the HR Dept between 1-5 pm, M-F, except holidays. We will provide access to the online application.

City of Overland Park  
Human Resources Dept  
8500 Santa Fe Dr  
OP, KS 66212  
Job Info Line 913/327-5627

Website: [www.opkansas.org](http://www.opkansas.org)

## **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"><li>- Friday <b>March 7, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Saturday <b>March 8, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Thursday <b>April 24, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Friday <b>April 25, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Thursday <b>May 8, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Friday <b>May 9, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Wednesday <b>June 25, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li><li>- Thursday <b>June 26, 2008</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours</li></ul> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>NOTE:</b> All of the above classes will be held at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito (2100 Bridgeway, Sausalito)</p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
Contact person(s):	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

### **- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed**

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Saturday <b>April 12,, 2008</b> from 1230 to 1800 hours</li><li>- Sunday <b>April 13, 2008</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours</li><li>- Thursday <b>June 19, 2008</b> from 1230 to 1800 hours</li><li>- Friday <b>June 20, 2008</b> from 1030 to 1630 hours</li></ul>
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	<b>NOTE:</b> All of the above classes will be held at the San Francisco Paramedic Association – 657 Mission Street, Suite 302, San Francisco, CA 94116  *** Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times.
<b>You will receive:</b>	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.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>Contact person(s):</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information or to sign-up at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or email them at <a href="mailto:director@sfparamedics.org">director@sfparamedics.org</a> or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

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## **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY INFORMATION:**

### **IAFC MEMBER ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: IAFC Communications Department

703-293-0911 • [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

- Enhancing Safety Can't Wait**

*Near-Miss System and Other Tools Can Help Make the Needed Changes in 2008*

**Fairfax, Va., Jan. 24, 2007...** The U.S. Fire Administration reports that there were 116 line-of-duty deaths in 2007 and is already reporting—only shortly into the new year—multiple line-of-duty deaths in 2008. The IAFC is committed to working with our members and other fire-service organizations to reduce preventable firefighter fatalities and injuries. The IAFC offers the following tools and resources to help every member of the fire service contribute to a safer 2008.

### **National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System: Continues to Gain Momentum**

The number of fire departments incorporating the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System into their safety and training programs continues to grow. The Safety Command of the Fire Department of New York recently issued a memo encouraging its members to use [www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com). Assistant Chief Al Hay, Chief of Safety, said, “Familiarization with this website will help promote discussions on near-miss incidents as well as other safety concerns.”

With a number of new resources available, now is the time to fully embrace this safety initiative by making this program part of your recruit schools, company-officer training, safety drills and other fire-department activities.

A limited number of the free 2008 Near-Miss Safety Calendar and accompanying training CD are still available. Email [nearmiss@iafc.org](mailto:nearmiss@iafc.org) to request copies. Please include the number of calendars and CDs you are requesting along with the address to where they should be shipped.

Look for the newly redesigned website being launched in February and the 2007 Annual Report in the February issue of *FireRescue Magazine*. The annual report features analysis of reports on maydays, PPE, traffic blocking, truss construction and flashover incidents.

### **Fire/EMS Safety Support System**

Last month, the IAFC and the Safety, Health and Survival Section announced the launch of the new Fire/EMS Safety Support System, which includes the monthly Take 5 Safety Drills, Safety Week (formerly the Safety Stand Down) and the Priority Survival Notifications. This set of tools offers a strong foundation for you to continue building your safety program for 2008.

[Safety, Health and Survival Week One of Three Components of the New Fire/EMS Safety Support System, Including Stand Down Notifications](#)

Take 5 for Safety: [www.iafc.org/shs](http://www.iafc.org/shs)

### **12 Steps to Reduce LODDs in 2008**

The IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section Chair, Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, offers 12 recommendations to reduce LODDs in 2008. According to Goldfeder, by acting on these recommendations, we can begin to reduce firefighter line of duty deaths by 75 percent or more. You can read the 12 steps at [www.iafc.org/safety](http://www.iafc.org/safety).

If we want to reduce the number of injuries and death in the fire and emergency service, we must change the problematic, injury-causing culture and related behaviors. Using these tools can help us accomplish this huge, but achievable, goal.

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## **FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Looking to expand your horizons and learn more about the fire service? Looking to get additional training from instructors around the country including the best in the fire service? Looking to see the latest and greatest fire service tools and equipment and apparatus? Looking to network with other fire service professionals around the country? If you answered yes to at least one of the above questions, then you should consider attending at least one major fire service conference per year. Here are some of the major ones and I would encourage everyone to attempt to attend at least one per year to keep yourself up-to-date and continue your education.

### **EMS Today Conference – Baltimore, MD**

March 2008 – [www.emstodayconference.com](http://www.emstodayconference.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [JEMS Magazine](http://www.jems.com) and the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](http://www.iafc.org).

**Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)** – Indianapolis, IN.

April 2008 – [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Fire Engineering Magazine](#).

**Firehouse Expo** – Baltimore, MD

July 2008 – [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Firehouse Magazine](#).

**Fire-Rescue International** – Denver, CO (2009 is scheduled for Dallas, TX)

August 2008 – [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri)

- This annual event is hosted by the [International Association of Fire Chiefs](#)

**Pittsburgh Fire & Rescue Expo** – Pittsburgh, PA

September 2008 – [www.pittsburghfireexpo.com](http://www.pittsburghfireexpo.com)

**Firehouse Central** – Las Vegas, NV

October 2008 – [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Firehouse Magazine](#).

**Fire-Rescue Expo** – Las Vegas, NV

November 2008 – [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Fire Rescue Magazine](#).

**California (North and South) Training Officers Symposium** – Fresno, CA

November 2008 – [www.norcaltos.org](http://www.norcaltos.org)

- This annual event is hosted by the [North and South California Training Officers Association](#)

**Firehouse World** – San Diego, CA

February 2009 – [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com)

- This annual event is hosted by [Firehouse Magazine](#)..

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

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

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## **FREE FIRE PREPARATION INFORMATION, COURTESY OF THE DON McNEA FIRE SCHOOL!**

**S**ome more firefighter written examination testing tips courtesy of the [www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com) - The [Don McNea Fire School!](#)

### **TEST-TAKING STRATEGY FOR READING OR VERBAL COMPREHENSION**

Verbal comprehension measures your ability to read and understand the types of written materials a firefighter might be expected to read on the job. You will be presented with a reading passage and then asked to answer questions about the passage. All the information needed to answer the questions will be included in the passage itself.

In answering the questions based on the reading passage, it is important that you answer the questions only according to the information given in the passage. If you have information from your own experience and knowledge, you should not use it to answer a question of this type. Even if you think that there is a mistake in the reading selection, you must still answer the question on the basis of the information given in the reading passage.

The kinds of Reading Comprehension questions that appear on a civil service exam tend to be somewhat different from the reading comprehension questions on a school related exam. That is because there are different kinds of reading--skimming, reading for general understanding, reading for details, etc. Your exam will be based mostly on reading technical materials, not anything like a novel or essay. Hence, your exam will have more focus on exact grasp of details. There are certain techniques that will help you do well on reading comprehension questions. Here is a summary of the most important techniques.

Use your pencil. To begin with, use your pencil as a pointer. Using the pencil to guide your eye along a line of text helps you to focus on the details in the reading; it holds your attention to the precise words in the passage. In a long test, attention may weaken. Fatigue may blunt

your attention to details. But using your pencil as a pointer will help to preserve your attention to details.

Another benefit of using the pencil as a pointer is that it will probably speed up your reading. The steady flow of the pencil across the page with each line of text draws the eye along at a steady pace. Do not go faster than you can grasp the text, but do try to keep your reading going at a steady pace set by the pencil.

Circle key words and phrases. In a Reading Comprehension test you are not reading for just a vague general understanding of the passage. You usually have to read for detailed understanding. There will be individual words that are important for grasping a point exactly. You do not want to write so much on a passage that it is hard to read a second time if you need to go back to check a detail. But you do want to circle key words or phrases that will enable you to zero in on precise points needed to answer a question.

Read short questions carefully the first time. When you are reading a short question for the first time, read it carefully. A short question is one that is only seven or eight lines long. You can retain all of the main ideas and remember where particular things are mentioned from one careful reading. Hence, you do not want to waste time reading this passage twice.

Besides wasting time, another bad consequence of reading a short question very carelessly the first time is that it may leave you with some false impressions of what you have read. Wrong ideas can get stuck in your head from a careless reading. Then it will be more difficult to get the correct answer.

For long questions, look ahead to see what is being asked. Take a look at the "stem" of the question, the sentence that precedes the answer choices. And look at the kinds of choices that are being offered. Sometimes reading passages are long but the questions are asking only for particular details. In that case you can often skim a long passage to find the particular detail.

Keep forging ahead. Do not get bogged down if there is a word or sentence you do not understand. You may get the main idea without knowing the individual word or sentence. Sometimes you can sense the meaning of the word from the context. Sometimes the word or sentence may not be the basis of any question. If there is some idea you need to answer a question but do not understand, read it one more time. If you still do not understand it, move on. You can come back to this question later if you have more time at the end of the test.

Picture what you read. Try to form a picture in your mind as you read. Schoolbooks used to teach reading contain many pictures because pictures aid comprehension. When reading material without pictures, it will aid your comprehension if you use your imagination to picture in your mind what you are reading. Read as if you were a professional illustrator who has been hired to do an illustration for the passage.

Ask yourself questions as you read. When you finish reading a sentence, ask yourself what the author was saying. At the end of a whole paragraph, ask yourself what the point of the whole paragraph was. If you ask yourself questions, you will find that you are paraphrasing the passage in your mind. That will help your understanding.

Know where the author stands. Sometimes a passage will contain an evaluation of some ideas of tools or procedures. The author may want to make the point that certain practices or procedures are bad or that certain tools may not be right for a particular job. Be sure you know if the author is accepting or rejecting something.

Another good reading comprehension strategy is to read the questions before starting the passage. This does not mean to read the answer choices at this time. By reading the questions, you will have an idea of what information you will need after reading the passage. This may alert you to certain details, ideas and specific areas in the paragraph where the questions are being drawn from.

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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](http://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 our 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](http://www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_exam.html)**

**Don McNea Fire School - [dmfireschool@aol.com](mailto:dmfireschool@aol.com) - 1-800-989-FIRE**

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## **FIREFIGHTER RELATED 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.

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

Name:	Herman S. Jones
Rank:	Lieutenant
Age:	58
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	27
Date of Incident:	01/18/2008
Time of Incident:	1616hrs
Date of Death:	01/22/2008

Fire Department: Raleigh Fire Department  
Address: 310 W Martin St., Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27602  
Fire Department Chief: John McGrath  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.raleigh-nc.org>

**Incident Description:** Lt. Jones was exercising behind Station 10, [2711 Sanderford Road \(USNG: \)](#). When the alarm rang for a respiratory distress call, he ran back inside to respond. At the time, Jones complained to his Captain that he thought he had pulled his left hamstring. He did not complain about the pain anymore during the course of the day which included another medical assist call (shooting). That night, Lt. Jones not feeling well, called his Captain on the phone from his cubicle @ 2355hrs. The Captain found Jones lying on a sofa in extreme pain. He was sweating, complaining of indigestion and pain in his left leg. Station 10 personnel took Lt. Jones' blood pressure which was 225/110 in his right arm. Upon examination of his left leg, it appeared flaccid and personnel could not find a pulse in Lt. Jones' left foot. Garner EMS responded to assist Lt. Jones at 2357hrs, at which time he was transported to Wake Medical Center. Tests indicated Lt. Jones was suffering from a torn aorta. Lt. Jones was later transferred to UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill where he passed away from his injury on 01/22/2008.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Service & Burial to be held Saturday, January 26, 2008. Visitation will be at 1300hrs, followed by the Funeral at 1400hrs @ [Juniper Level Baptist Church, 9104 Sauls Rd. Raleigh, 27603 \(USNG: 17SQV13544560\)](#).

**Condolences:** Louise Jones (mother), 314 New Rand Rd. Garner, NC 27529

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Herman S. Jones at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 9 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

USFA does not have a Line-of-Duty-Death (LODD) criterion nor does it make LODD determinations. "Please note, running totals of firefighter fatalities used on these initial notices do not necessarily reflect the number of firefighter fatalities used in totals for the (provisional) monthly year-to-date USFA firefighter fatality reports, or year-end (provisional) reports posted online ([http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm))

Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online (<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 (<http://www.FireHero.org>) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

**AND:**

Name: Christa Dawn Burchett  
Rank: Assistant Fire Chief/EMS Director  
Age: 33  
Gender: Female  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 3  
Date of Incident: 01/22/2008  
Time of Incident: 0900hrs  
Date of Death: 01/22/2008

Fire Department: Paintsville Fire-Rescue-EMS  
Address: [116 Main St., Paintsville, KY 41240](http://116 Main St., Paintsville, KY 41240)  
Fire Department Chief: Bob Dixon

**Incident Description:** Assistant Chief Burchett, 33, was fatally injured while working at the scene of a minor motor vehicle accident on U.S. 460 in Johnson County near the [Magoffin County line](#). While on the scene, Chief Burchett was evaluating and assisting a female patient, who also happened to be pregnant, when a coal truck that was coming over a hill towards the accident scene braked in icy conditions and struck both Burchett and her patient, Erica Brown, after first striking a police cruiser. Brown was pronounced at the scene. Police say she had not appeared to have suffered any major injuries in the initial vehicle accident. Burchett was transported to Paul B. Hall Regional Medical Center where she was pronounced at 1004hrs. Another firefighter/EMT, Brian Moore, was treated and released from Hall Regional.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Viewing and visitation Friday (01/25/2008) with services on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at Lawrence County Middle School, [9 Bulldog Lane, Louisa, KY 41230 \(USNG: 17S LC 592 174\)](#). Times are still pending, but Chief Dixon invited those interested to contact him on email for more information: [bobdixon@paintsville.org](mailto:bobdixon@paintsville.org)

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor and memory of Assistant Chief Christa Dawn Burchett, C/o Paintsville Fire-Rescue-EMS, [116 Main St., Paintsville, KY 41240](http://116 Main St., Paintsville, KY 41240).

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

To date, 7 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Louis P. Berra  
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic  
Age: 49  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 23

February 17, 2008

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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Date of Incident: 01/18/2008  
Time of Incident: 0730hrs  
Date of Death: 01/18/2008

Fire Department: West County EMS & Fire Protection District  
Address: [223 Henry Avenue, Manchester, MO 63011](http://223 Henry Avenue, Manchester, MO 63011)  
Fire Department Chief: Dave Frazier, Jr.  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.wescofire.org/>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Berra was found deceased the morning of 01/18/2008 in the bedroom of his duty station firehouse, [13790 Manchester Road \(USNG: 15S YC 193 749\)](http://13790 Manchester Road (USNG: 15S YC 193 749)). Fellow firefighters noticed he wasn't awake at shift change so they checked his room and found him collapsed there. A cause of death is pending further investigation, though preliminary indications are cardiac related. Firefighter Berra had performed physical fitness activities during his shift the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Funeral Arrangements:** January 21, 2008

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Lou Berra Family Trust Fund, c/o St. Louis Bank, 14323 S. Outer Forty, Town and Country, MO 63017 or to Backstoppers, P.O. Box 66927, St. Louis, MO.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/Paramedic Louis Berra at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 8 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Robert L. McAtee, Sr.  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 55  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 38  
Date of Incident: 01/20/2008  
Time of Incident: 1008hrs  
Date of Death: 01/20/2008

Fire Department: Huttonsville-Mill Creek Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 66, Huttonsville, WV 26273  
Fire Department Chief: Rodney McAtee

**Incident Description:** Firefighter McAtee responded to the fire station and drove apparatus to the scene of a chimney fire. Upon arrival, he reported to the Fire Chief, his son, and told him that he thought that he pulled a muscle opening the apparatus bay door when leaving the station. Later McAtee was observed holding his chest and when asked, indicated that he

thought that perhaps it was the extremely cold weather that was causing him discomfort. Firefighter McAtee declined to be sent for evaluation or treatment and returned the apparatus to the station. He returned home and was witnessed by his wife again holding his chest, but stated it was either a pulled muscle or from the extreme cold. At 1629hrs, Fire Chief McAtee was summoned to Firefighter McAtee's residence, finding him unresponsive. CPR was initiated on scene by the Fire Chief and care was continued through transport to the local hospital where Firefighter McAtee succumbed to his injuries.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Robert L. McAtee, Sr. at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 10 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Walter Clyde Walker Jr.  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 68  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 30+  
Date of Incident: 01/26/2008  
Time of Incident: 0135hrs  
Date of Death: 01/26/2008

Fire Department: Collinsville Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 9137 Old Hwy 19 N., P.O. Box 106, Collinsville, MS 39325  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Walker was operating his POV in response to a motor vehicle accident call when in wet road conditions he lost control of the vehicle striking a tree. The county coroner reported that Chief Walker died instantly upon impact.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Services will be held 01/28/2008 at 1100hrs at the [Stephens Funeral Home Chapel](#), with the Rev. Hal Bates and Bros. Timmy Buchanan and David Sellers officiating. Burial will be in First Baptist Church Cemetery.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Walter Clyde Walker Jr. at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 11 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Paul Swander  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 73  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 55  
Date of Incident: 01/31/2008  
Time of Incident: 1400hrs  
Date of Death: 02/02/2008

Fire Department: Ohio City Fire Department  
Address: 103 S Main St., PO Box 246, Ohio City, OH 45874  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Swander passed away from injuries sustained from a fall off of a ladder while he was working in the firehouse on generators in preparation for a pending storm.

**Arrangements:** Time and date pending. Cowan & Son Funeral Home, [616 S Washington St., Van Wert, OH 45891](http://616SWashingtonStVanWertOH45891). (419) 238-6385.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Paul "Rosie" Swander at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 12 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Donald W. Hubbel  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 42  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 15+  
Date of Incident: 02/01/2008  
Time of Incident: 1430hrs  
Date of Death: 02/01/2008

Fire Department: Baltimore City Fire Department

Address: 414 N, Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202  
Fire Department Chief: Acting Chief Gregory B. Ward  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.ci.baltimore.md.us/government/fire/>

**Incident Description:** Captain Hubbel participated in strenuous fire rescue company training activities at the fire academy throughout the day of 01/31/2008. At his residence at approximately 1430hrs the following day, Captain Hubble suffered an apparent heart attack and passed away.

**Arrangements:**

Viewings will take place at [Schimunek Funeral Home](#) - (410) 638-5360

02/04/2008 and 02/05/2008 1400-1600hrs and 1900-2100hrs

[610 W Macphail Rd # 24, Bel Air, MD 21014](#)

The Funeral will be 02/06/2008 at 1100hrs

Fire Dept. Line up at 0930hrs

Mountain Branch Christian Church

[1824 Mountain Road, Joppa, MD 21085](#)

**Internment:**

Delaney Valley Memorial Gardens

[Padonia Rd., Timonium, MD 21094](#)

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

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:**

Donations can be made to the "Hubbel Family Trust" as follows:

State Farm

PO BOX 87

[Randallstown, MD 21133](#)

Attention: Melinda Lathe

Please make notation: "Hubbel Family Trust Fund" on any donations.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Donald W. Hubbel at

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

To date, 13 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name:	David Sherfick
Rank:	Captain
Age:	40
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	18
Date of Incident:	02/04/2008
Time of Incident:	1550hrs
Date of Death:	02/04/2008

Fire Department: Brown Township Fire - Rescue  
Address: 471 Old State RD 67 N., Mooresville, IN 46158  
Fire Department Chief: David Davis

**Incident Description:** Captain Sherfick passed away at the scene of a vehicle accident between the fire department ambulance he was operating and a privately owned vehicle. The driver of the POV was also pronounced at the scene. Another Firefighter/EMT passenger was reported to have been sent to a hospital in good condition with unspecified injuries.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Captain David Sherfick, C/o Brown Township Fire – Rescue, 471 Old State RD 67 N., Mooresville, IN 46158

**Tribute** is being paid to Captain David Sherfick at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 14 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name: Matthew Hubly  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 43  
Gender: Male  
Status: Paid-on-Call  
Years of Service: 16  
Date of Incident: 02/01/2008  
Time of Incident: 1000hrs  
Date of Death: 02/07/2008

Fire Department: Kankakee Township Fire Protection District  
Address: PO BOX 2407, Kankakee, IL 60901  
Telephone: 815-933-2762  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Hubly was attending a meeting at an industrial facility regarding fire protection systems at the facility with plant personnel. He became hot & sweaty while at the facility. The Asst. Chief convinced him to let him take him to the hospital. As they were leaving the facility he went unresponsive. An ambulance was called and on arrival to the hospital the Chief was in full cardiac arrest. Hubly was revived but passed away from a cause to be determined several days later.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Matthew Hubly at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 15 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name:	James Earl Arthur
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	19
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	4
Date of Incident:	02/11/2008
Time of Incident:	1924hrs
Date of Death:	02/11/2008
Fire Department:	Cold Water Fire & Rescue
Address:	100 1830 Gold Hill DR., PO Box 817, Concord, NC 28025-0817
Fire Department Chief:	James Preddy, Jr.

**Incident Description:** When responding to a motor vehicle accident alarm call, Firefighter Arthur was ejected when the privately owned vehicle he was operating left the roadway and rolled. Firefighter Arthur passed away from his injuries and reports indicate that he was not wearing a seat belt.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation will be held from 5-8:30 p.m. Friday at Wilkinson Funeral Home, Concord. Funeral services with full fire department honors will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at New Gilead Church, 2400 old Salisbury Concord Rd.

Fire departments planning to send personnel or apparatus should contact the Cold Water Fire Department at 704-782-2514.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter James Earl Arthur at  
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 16 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

**AND:**

Name:	Kerry Sheridan
Rank:	Fire Chief
Age:	75

Gender: Male  
Status: Part-Time (Paid)  
Years of Service: 53  
Date of Incident: 02/12/2008  
Time of Incident: 1500hrs  
Date of Death: 02/12/2008

Fire Department: Troy Township Fire Protection District  
Address: [107 W Jefferson ST., Shorewood, IL 60431-9399](http://107 W Jefferson ST., Shorewood, IL 60431-9399)  
Fire Department Chief: Pending  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.troyfirepd.com/>

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Sheridan was found unresponsive in his fire department office Tuesday afternoon. He was transported to Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, where he was pronounced. The Coroner has attributed Sheridan's death to natural causes.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Carlson-Holmquist-Sayles Funeral Home (<http://www.chsfuneral.com/index.html>). Visitation, 02/15/2008 from 1500-2100hrs. Services, Saturday morning (16<sup>th</sup>). Final arrangements are still pending.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Donations in honor of Fire Chief Kerry Sheridan can be made to the Troy Township Fire Protection District, 107 W Jefferson ST., Shorewood, IL 60431-9399

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Kerry Sheridan at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 17 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2008 as a result of incidents that occurred in 2008.

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**Some more firefighter safety and training information, courtesy of Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder and Gordon Graham, hosts of [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

Hey...

A Maryland Firefighter was injured this afternoon when he was thrown from his fire apparatus that was responding to a building fire call. The Firefighter (from the Bladensburg VFD, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Company 9) was thrown from the reserve fire apparatus at about 1330 hours when it turned a corner. The Firefighter, who was wearing full PPE and his helmet, suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to a nearby trauma center.

While the investigation isn't complete, this once again serves as a clear reminder to ALL of us related to the NO EXCUSES USE OF SEAT BELTS. Fortunately, the Firefighter didn't land

worse and wasn't run over and killed...which could have easily happened. An avoidable CLOSE CALL.

And in Texas, 3 Firefighters were injured today while operating at a southeast Houston house fire and were rushed to a hospital with 1 in critical condition. 26-year old FF Brandon Everett, was in critical condition suffering from smoke inhalation....but has improved this afternoon. The other 2 Firefighters suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns.

THE "BROTHERHOOD" & ARSON: Take a look at the FIREFIGHTER ARSON issue coverage from Dave Statter. Dave and I have been friends for 20+ years, is a veteran reporter in the DC area, a former FF and has excellent insight on "us". We feel strongly that the FF ARSON issue starts (or ends with) very strong, very tough, no nonsense, full and complete background checks by the cops for us, well before new personnel are brought on as probies.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/2008/01/whats-going-on-bad-week-for.html>

FF LODD INVESTIGATION: In Boston, the labor and management issues related to the tragic Line of Duty Deaths of FF's FF Paul J. Cahill and FF Warren J. Payne continue very heavily:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/01/21/fire\\_deaths\\_probe\\_questioned/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2008/01/21/fire_deaths_probe_questioned/)

INVESTIGATING FF DEATHS: In a separate but related issue, the IAFC and other major fire service organizations have been working together on some significant changes related to the investigation of all FF LODD's in the United States. Some very qualified and veteran fire folks from around the USA including reps from the IAFF, IAFC, NIOSH and others are all working on positive improvements to further enhance the investigation and prevention of FF LODD's. Look for additional news on that in the near future.

ARRIVE, ALIVE...AND SURVIVE: Arrive Alive and Survive is an upcoming national safety conference for all public safety personnel. More details are below on this excellent opportunity with great speakers:

[http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/detail.asp?COMMITTEE\\_ID=63&EVENT\\_ID=4082&MONTH\\_CHOICE=3&DAY\\_CHOICE=14&YEAR\\_CHOICE=2008](http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/detail.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=63&EVENT_ID=4082&MONTH_CHOICE=3&DAY_CHOICE=14&YEAR_CHOICE=2008)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-21-08 / 1749 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Every once in a while, following a close call/near-miss type incident, or an LODD, a FD "steps up" with the facts so we all can learn...and prevent.

The first time I really remember this happening was when Chief Alan Brunacini stepped up and shared the facts with all of us following the November 15 1984, LODD of Phoenix Firefighter Ricky Pearce, 32 of Ladder Co. 4. The short version of it was that while attempting to rescue a worker who became overcome by fumes while cleaning out a 10,000-gallon toluene tank, FF Pearce was killed and 14 others were injured when the tank exploded. On February 17, 2008

arrival, firefighters could not see the victim and decided to cut into the bottom of the tank to gain access. A protective line was stretched and they began to cut into the tank with a rescue saw. About 35 minutes into the operation, an explosion occurred, venting itself through the partially open cut the Firefighters had made. The Firefighter using the saw was thrown through the air into the dike wall, and the saw flew into the side of Engine 39. His back-up, FF Pearce, was killed instantly when he was also thrown into the dike wall, suffering burns, massive head and internal injuries. The autopsy on the civilian victim later determined that he had died of asphyxiation shortly after entering the tank and was probably dead on arrival of firefighters at the scene.

Following that, when the facts were available, Bruno and the PFD Staff shared all the facts on what went right and what went wrong. It was not normal for FD's to do that back then-and still isn't in many respects these days striking the balance between the legal issues, embarrassment and wanted to provide the facts so we can learn. It is not an easy balance with our culture being right in the middle of it.

**MD. FD STEPS UP:** Yesterday, as you read, the Bladensburg VFD, Company 9 of the Prince Georges County (MD) Fire-EMS Department, had a Firefighter get "tossed" out of the rig as it took a corner while responding to a box alarm, reporting a fire in a building. The outcome could have been tragic. Thankfully, it was not. And while the problems with the specific apparatus door/latches (in this case, it was a reserve rig, one of several in service) were well documented, the seat belt use would ultimately solve the problem.

Seat belt usage is a pain in the butt, uncomfortable, too tight, too loose, hard to use while packing up, get in the way, hard to find when responding, don't match the color of our gear, make it hard to reach for our cigarettes or cell phones while responding. Yadda yadda yadda.

Here is a link to info from the Bladensburg VFD on the facts of what happened yesterday....take a sec to read the account. <http://www.bv9fd.com/> Thanks to the BVFD for stepping up to share the facts at a time where they could have just been ignored. The FF who was ejected, FF Ryan Raneiri, is resting at home and doing fine.

**BLACK SUNDAY REMEMBERED:** The 3rd anniversary of Black Sunday is tomorrow, January 23, where FDNY's Lieutenant Curt Meyran and Lieutenant John Bellew (Ladder 27) lost their lives in the Line of Duty. Additionally, Rescue 3 Firefighters Jeff Cool and Joey DiBernardo as well as Ladder 27 Firefighters Brendan Cawley and Eugene Stalowski were very critically injured...but survived and have gone on to instruct other firefighters across the USA on that fire-and what lessons were learned. Some positive changes came out from that fire including the issuance of personal escape systems to all FDNY FF's. Following that, and very recently, an FDNY Firefighter trapped on the top floor of a working row home in Brooklyn, was able to save himself with his issued personal escape system. It was the first instance of a Firefighter using the device to escape since the escape systems were issued. The FF managed to hook the device to a window sill. He lowered himself far enough for other firefighters to grab him. Sometimes when FF's give their lives, some things change.

Below is a link to an in-depth article (New York Magazine) related to that fire from about a year ago. The article can be compared to the changes that their deaths and injuries created.

It is also an important piece for NON-firefighters to read...such as elected officials, city hall dwellers etc.

Remember the Line of Duty deaths of FDNY Lieutenants Meyran and Bellew, along with FF Richard Sclafani, who was killed in Brooklyn at a separate fire on Black Sunday, January 23, 2005.

LINK TO THE NEW YORK MAGAZINE ARTICLE:

<http://nymag.com/news/features/26574/index.html>

LINK TO NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-22-08 / 1243 hours

**AND**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Paintsville (KY) Assistant Fire Chief/EMS Director/Paramedic Christa Dawn Burchett. During icy road conditions shortly after 0900 hours this morning, Chief Burchett responded to a crash with possible injuries about 5 miles west of Paintsville. While evaluating and assisting a female patient at the scene, a coal-carrying semi-truck slid on the ice and struck and killed Assistant Chief Burchett and the female patient. The coal truck was coming over a hill and braked, but slammed into a police cruiser and ultimately the two victims. The patient was 11 weeks pregnant.

Assistant Chief Burchett is 33 years old and has a 14 year old daughter. Additional details will follow and as always, our sincere sympathies go out to all affected, especially the members of the Paintsville Fire/EMS and the family of Chief Burchett.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-22-08 / 2133 hours

**AND**

NC LODD: It is with regret that we advise you that FF Herman Jones of the Raleigh (NC) FD passed away last night at UNC Hospital after suffering an aortic tear a couple of days earlier while responding to a medical call from Station #10. He had served the Raleigh FD since May of 1980. Arrangements are pending.

SCOTLAND APPARATUS LODD: FF John Noble, 46, of the Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service was killed in the Line of Duty when the fire apparatus he was riding in left the roadway about 1330 GMT today and struck a tree. The Firefighters had been responding to an automatic fire alarm at a school after a smoke alarm activated. Firefighter Alan Robertson was also seriously injured in the crash and two others suffered minor injuries. FF Noble had more than 20 years' experience as a firefighter. He leaves a wife and two kids.

TEXAS UPDATE: A Houston firefighter remains in ICU with injuries he received Monday while battling a southeast-side house fire that also sent two other firefighters to the hospital. FF Brandon Everett, 26, was in critical condition at Memorial Hermann Hospital last night after a piece of ceiling collapsed on him inside the burning dwelling. He is suffering injuries related to smoke inhalation after the falling debris knocked his oxygen mask from his face. Two other firefighters suffered burns to their hands and arms as they removed FF Everett out of the home.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER: And lastly, while we cannot write about every cancer related Firefighter death at this time, we will post some based upon time, applicability and information to serve as a continuous reminder of how serious, this soon to be # 1 Firefighter death cause really is. In this case, this is another friend who lost his life this week at a very young age. Assistant Chief Josh Wuertz of the Glen Moore Fire Company in Chester County PA lost his long and heroic battle with cancer at the age of 34, on Monday. Our hearts and prayers go out to all affected, especially his wife, Shannen, his 2 year old daughter Lillyen and the members of GMFC. Additional details can be found here: [www.GlenMooreFire.org](http://www.GlenMooreFire.org)

#### **FF CANCER PREVENTION REMINDERS:**

- FULL PPE.
- BREATHE NOTHING BUT CLEAN AIR.
- NO EXPOSED SKIN.
- DECON YOU AND YOUR PPE AFTER ALL APPLICABLE RUNS.
- PHYSICALS & RELATED HEALTH CHECKS.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-23-08 / 1605 hours

**AND**

CHEST PAINS LEAD TO LODD: It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Huttonsville-Mill Creek VFD (W.Va) Firefighter McAtee. FF McAtee responded to the station for a fire call and drove apparatus to the scene of a chimney fire. Upon arrival, he reported to the Fire Chief, his son, and told him that he thought that he pulled a muscle opening the apparatus bay door when leaving the station. Later FF McAtee was observed holding his chest and when asked, indicated that he thought that perhaps it was the extremely cold weather that was causing him discomfort. Firefighter McAtee declined to be sent for evaluation or treatment and returned the apparatus to the station. He returned home and was witnessed by his wife again holding his chest, but he stated it was either a pulled muscle or from the extreme cold. At 1629 hours, Chief McAtee was summoned to Firefighter McAtee's residence, finding him unresponsive. CPR was initiated on scene by the Chief and care was continued through transport to the local hospital where Firefighter McAtee sadly passed away.

As always, our condolences to all affected by this sad loss....which serves as a reminder to any of us to treat this type of situation as serious....even though it can often be our nature to sometimes not to.

**(See below info on CHEST PAINS)**

TEXAS UPDATE: The Firefighter who was critically injured while operating at a working garage fire at Houston house has now been placed on life support. Firefighter Brandon Everett, 26, was hospitalized with smoke inhalation after he operated at a dwelling fire/garage at a home around 1115 hours Monday. We have posted a picture of that structure on our news/updates.

FF Everett has been in critical condition since he arrived at Memorial Hermann Hospital. He has been with the HFD for five years. FF Everett is suffering injuries related to smoke inhalation after the falling debris knocked his SCBA facepiece from his face. 2 other Firefighters suffered burns to their hands and arms as they removed FF Everett out of the dwelling.

WTF!? VIDEOS: And for our most recently found WTF videos, this one will make you warm, cozy and proud: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=yEEmCc-xwJI&feature=related> ....the PASS alarm activation appears to be the least of their problems....AND speaking of SCBA usage: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=7KAArCwmQSY&feature=related> .....as we continue to come up with more justification and reasons for MANDATORY drug testing, amongst other things, in our fire service. WTF!?

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. THINK.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-24-08 / 1740 hours

**CHEST PAINS OR DISCOMFORT? (From [www.HeartDisease.com](http://www.HeartDisease.com))**

Chest pain is relatively likely to represent a dangerous cardiac disorder - and should be treated as an emergency - if any of the following are true:

1. You are 40 years old or older, and have one or more risk factors for coronary artery disease (family history, smoking, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, elevated cholesterol, diabetes).
2. You are any age and have a very strong family history of early heart disease.
3. The pain can best be described by the terms tightness, squeezing, heaviness, or crushing.
4. The pain is accompanied by weakness, nausea, shortness of breath, sweating, dizziness or fainting.
5. The pain "radiates" to the shoulders, arms, or jaw.
6. The pain is more severe than any you have had before.
7. The pain is accompanied by the uncontrollable feeling that something is horribly wrong (this is often called by doctors, "a sense of impending doom").
8. The pain gets continually worse over the first 15 or 20 minutes.
9. The pain is new – you have never experienced anything like it before.

***When in doubt....DON'T BLOW IT OFF....GET CHECKED ASAP!***

**AND**

Hey...

To add to the earlier Secret List, Houston FF Brandon Everette's condition is stable but he remains in critical condition. FF Everette has been intubated and sedated since he was initially injured and the hospital is keeping him sedated to help in his recovery. Keep him in your prayers and we will keep you advised as he improves. You can also go to: [www.local341.org](http://www.local341.org) for current info from HFD Local 341.

Also, some of you had trouble with the WTF!? video links on the earlier Secret List, so let's try these. If you are unable to click on them, just cut and paste them into your computer to view them.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=yEEmCc-xwJl&feature=related> (WTF!? FD Public Image Program)

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=7KAArCWmQSY&feature=related> (WTF!? SCBA Training)

...and finally, a CLOSE CALL in Omaha (NE). An Omaha Firefighter fell through the floor while operating at a house fire earlier today. Firefighter Kevin Mandina was injured when he fell through the 1st floor of the

unoccupied dwelling when the floorboards collapsed during his entry/search. He fell in but didn't go all the way to the basement, stopping at his shoulders. He stated that for just for a quick second, the floor just felt kind of spongy right when he got on top of it...and then it just gave way. Firefighters at the scene said they worked to pull FF Mandina from the hole, but in the meantime, fire had engulfed his legs, back, chest and torso but he wasn't seriously hurt because of his PPE and rapid rescue. Good stuff.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Watch, feel & TIC the floors ahead.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-24-08 / 2222 Hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you that a 23-year-old EMT with Huron Valley Ambulance (MI) was killed in the Line of Duty early today when she was pinned between two vehicles on I-94 near Chelsea, following her and her partner stopping to help the occupants of a vehicle that had slid off the road on I-94 this morning.

The EMTs were between calls at 0608 hours when they noticed a stranded vehicle...the EMT was struck by a second vehicle sliding off the road when she exited the ambulance to approach the first vehicle. More details to follow.

**LODD UPDATE:** Prince William County (VA) Fire Rescue has released their findings of the nearly 10-month investigation into the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Kyle Wilson. On April 16, FF Wilson, 24, was killed in a wind-fueled, three-alarm light weight wood truss single family dwelling fire. Following FF Wilson's death, a committee was formed to investigate what happened and make recommendations to improve service! . FF Wilson was searching the burning house for occupants and due to conditions, Firefighters lost physical contact with Wilson during the search. Heroic attempts to rescue him were made, but Firefighters were forced to pull out when the house began to collapse. The 7 occupants of the house had

safely escaped and were inside a neighbor's house when firefighters began their search and rescue operation....if they had been outside awaiting the FD, this perhaps could have been avoided. But due to indications that the house was occupied, a search was understandably performed.

We will post the report on our News/Updates section later today, and the report will also be available at [www.pwcgov.org/fire](http://www.pwcgov.org/fire)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-26-08 / 1455 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

This morning around 0615 hours there was a fatal civilian car vs FD ambulance crash in Sussex County, DE. The crash involved a Millsboro FD ambulance. A Paramedic with Sussex County was tragically killed in the Line of Duty, as was a civilian. Other Millsboro FD EMS personnel were injured as well, but are expected to survive. We have posted photos on our home page..initial reports are that the ambulance was returning from a run. The photos indicate that the ambulance was t-boned in the rear box area. Updates will follow.

We regret to advise you that Four firefighters drowned when a City of Harare (Africa) fire apparatus was swept away by a flooded river on Friday night, while returning from a rescue call. The apparatus driver was the only survivor when a passerby was able to assist in his rescue. The accident happened at about 2230 Friday when the Firefighters tried to cross the swollen Ruwa River on their way back from rescuing 3 people who had been marooned. The fire apparatus was swept away when the driver tried to negotiate his way past a bridge. The area has been slammed with heavy rains have caused flooding in many rivers across the country with cases of drowning increasing. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

The latest NIOSH LODD report has been released. This LODD occurred when a Firefighter was trapped by a collapsed canopy during a two alarm attached garage fire in PA. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200708.html> This report provides some outstanding very detailed information and graphics. Additionally, please take note the on-duty staffing and compare it to the community served.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-28-08 / 0947 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

We were initially advised (and confirmed twice) by officials that hospital staff had advised that the Paramedic in Sussex County had passed away, but now the **good news** and updated information is that the Paramedic is still alive. We will keep you advised. Please keep all in Delaware and especially Sussex County, the Paramedics family and all affected, in your prayers and hope for the best following this very positive news.

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-28-08 1023 hours

**AND:**

**CHIEF KILLED WHILE RESPONDING:** It is with regret that we advise you that in the early morning hours of Saturday, the Fire Chief of the Collinsville VFD, Clyde Walker, was killed in the Line of Duty while responding to a crash. Chief Walker's truck hydroplaned and hit a tree...and he tragically died instantly. Chief Walker leaves behind a wife and three children, several grand children and two great-grandchildren. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

**DELAWARE UPDATE:** As you are aware, at approximately 0615 hours this morning, a Millsboro (DE) Fire Company ambulance was involved in a collision with an SUV at an intersection in eastern Sussex County. The ambulance was returning from a medical call to Beebe Medical Center in Lewes when, for an unknown reason, an SUV crashed into the right rear side of the ambulance. The ambulance was occupied by two EMTs, a male and female, from the Millsboro Fire Company and one paramedic, a male, from Sussex County Emergency Medical Services....one fatality, in the SUV, occurred. Initially, we were officially advised that the Paramedic was fatally injured, but very thankfully, that was not true. The 3 EMS personnel all suffered injuries that required immediate medical attention. The female EMT, identified by Millsboro Fire Company officials as EMT Mercedes Berry, was transported to Beebe, where she was treated and released for minor injuries. The male EMT and Sussex County Paramedic III John Schmitt were flown to Christiana Hospital near Stanton, Del., with serious injuries. The male EMT, also identified by Millsboro Fire Company as EMT Frank DeFord, is still being evaluated at Christiana Hospital. Paramedic Schmitt, a 15-year veteran of SCEMS, was admitted to the intensive care unit with possible head injuries, and is still under examination. Sussex County EMS Director Glenn Luedtke said the incident has touched many within the SCEMS family, as Paramedic Schmitt is a long-serving member of the unit with many friends and colleagues.“The collective thoughts and prayers of the SCEMS family are with John and the other medical personnel who were injured in this crash,” Director Luedtke said. “Our staff, and other public safety providers like them, risk their lives every day to provide quality, compassionate and professional care. Sometimes that risk catches up with you. We’re hopeful John can mend quickly, and we here at SCEMS will do whatever we can to support him and his family in this time of need.” We will keep you advised on Paramedic Schmitt’s progress.

And in Columbus (Ohio) over the weekend, 50-year-old Firefighter Charles Moser suffered 1st and 2nd degree burns while training in a flashover simulator. FF Moser, a 20-year veteran, was taken to The Ohio State University Medical Center burn unit, but is now resting at home. He is expected to make a full recovery. Details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-28-08 / 1425 hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you that Fire Captain George Egerton, 61, and an 18 year veteran of East Gwillimbury Emergency Services (a volunteer department in Ontario...and he was also recently retired from Toronto Fire Services) suffered a heart attack at his home shortly after returning from an alarm. This is being treated as a line of duty death. Our condolences to all affected by the loss of Captain Egerton.

And also from Canada, the Maple Ridge FD rolled an engine this weekend as they were responding to an MVA. While responding in their 20 year old Mack cabover canopy cab pumper, they hit a patch of black ice, slid onto a soft shoulder and rolled on its side crashing into a pole where it came to rest. The MRFD has a strictly enforced "non-democratic" (see below) seat belt policy-no one got hurt. The rig has been written off but no caskets have been ordered. The "strict" Chief was interviewed on camera and spoke to the strict seat belt policy they have in place...he was clearly emotional when interviewed, but his strict policy saved his members from death/serious injury and some kids from becoming daddy-less and mommy-less. The rig is mush - the members are home. Ordering new apparatus is fun when there are no hospitals or funerals prior to that. We'll have more details and pics of this crash posted tomorrow on News/Updates.

Related to the "seatbelt" issue...we had a chance to attend FDSOA's Apparatus Symposium last week, and if you have never been-plan on it for 2009. It was 1st class and is specifically targeted at everything related to fire apparatus. An outstanding couple of days.

While at FDSOA's program, I was yapping with some folks when someone asked the group, in general, what they can do to "solve" the seatbelt problem at their FD. This really shouldn't be that tough....if a FD or Chief wants it "solved"....the discussion was something like:

----Make the "seat belt" policy very clear and train everyone on it. Clear written and objectively enforced policy w/no excuse training. Make it clear what the organizational consequences will be to the officer, the driver and the wearer(s) if they fail to wear seat belts: 1st offense suspension or termination. 2nd offense, termination ...and your and your family doesn't get your pension. The other consequences of being unbelted, apparatus or not, should be obvious. If not, show'm this

reminder:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA0FRpbJt1s>

--The officer must be reminded that an officer is a supervisor, not just the apparatus siren and air horn blower...we can teach a clown to do that, and have. Fire Officers supervise their members and they make sure the policies are clear and followed. Understand that if they aren't trained on and enforced by the officer, that the officer will be held accountable.

--The driver is responsible for the safety of their members. The driver can't be that if the firefighters are unsecured and go flying around in the back like donuts in the powdering machine.

--The firefighter(s) need to take personal responsibility. That doesn't mean if you don't personally like wearing seat belts, you don't have to...no one cares about what you think on this...it means that you understand that when you got the training, graduated probie school,

received a badge, got your gear etc that you have figured out that you are responsible to more than just yourself...and that your bosses really don't care what you "think" about the "restrictive" seatbelt policy on the only \$500,000+ vehicle you will ever get to ride on. If we cared, we would ask for a vote. No one asked for a vote. This is the non-democratic part. No rights. No choice. No votes. Nothing but the sounds of clicking before "Speed Racer" up front, starts the rig.

As another reminder "why" ...look at "who is in your wallet" and then just put your @%#\$\*&! seat belt on and sign the pledge (link below) so you can get this issue off the table and start talking about something important....such as the fact that engines or trucks with 1 person on board is an apparatus salesman, not a "staffed" company.

<http://www.trainingdivision.com/seatbeltpledge.asp>

Take Care-CHECK OUT "THE PLEDGE"

BillyG

The Secret List 1-29-08 / 0008 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Well even though some feel that seat belts and the fire service seat belt "issue" is getting old, like a mother-in-law that has stayed at your house for way too long (I am **not** referring to mine, so don't start)...there have been many more examples of Firefighters lives being saved in the past few weeks...because they were belted in.

Here are 2 more seat belt videos for your collection...picture your rig, picture your crew:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWvNeJXE\\_cY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWvNeJXE_cY)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-u3yy02vCYQ&feature=related>

Yesterday, Amarillo (Texas) rolled an engine company and every FF was belted in...but perhaps they were because of a very personal reason. As you should remember, on April 23, 2005, 24 year old Firefighter Brian Hunton fell out of an Amarillo ladder truck while putting on his gear, he wasn't wearing his seat belt. He died the next day from the injuries he sustained in the crash. GOOGLE: "Firefighter Brian Hunton" ...for more.

Yesterdays crash: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=58190>

We also posted the info on our news/updates.

**GA SAFETY OFFICER TRAPPED:** A Gwinnett County (GA) Firefighter was injured this morning when he was trapped by collapsing debris at a house fire. Functioning as the incident safety officer, he was walking the perimeter of the dwelling when a portion of the roof and wall collapsed. The debris knocked him to the ground and pinned his legs under the collapse. He was able to transmit a mayday call over his radio at the RIT team deployed and quickly extricated him. He was conscious and talking before being taken to the hospital for treatment of his non life-threatening injuries.

**BALTIMORE CITY: 1 FIRE OFFICER, 1 DRIVER & 2 FF's SUSPENDED:** 4 Baltimore City firefighters have been suspended without pay after that fatal December crash involving their apparatus. The Firefighters have been off duty since the Dec. 9 crash, and within the last two weeks they were suspended without pay until a final disposition hearing, where they could face additional penalties. Irina Petrov, 49 and her husband, Mikhail Petrov, 35 along with 24-year-old Igor Saub were killed when the apparatus responding to an emergency call went through the red light and collided with their SUV.

**The above decision is of interest to all of us. While we understand why the Fire Officer needs to be held accountable as the supervisor of that company, and of course the Apparatus Driver, being responsible as well...it is interesting that the Firefighters riding in the back were also suspended. We shall see what further facts come out.** But whatever happens, the "stop at red lights until it is clear" issue smacks us all in the heads...again. Those close to this in Baltimore, rightfully describe it as a horrific reality nightmare at many different levels.

**DELAWARE UPDATE:** And for some good news, the 2 Delaware paramedics who were injured in that fatal crash on Monday are home and recuperating after several days in the hospital. Sussex County Paramedic John Schmitt III was released yesterday and is doing well. Millsboro Fire Company EMT Frank DeFord was released earlier this week and MFC EMT Mercedes Berry, who was riding in the front passenger seat of the ambulance, was treated for minor injuries and released on Monday.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-1-08 / 1555 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Today, February 2, 2008, marks the 30th anniversary of the City of Chester (PA) opening their first city-owned, career firehouse, Fire Station 81. Little did they know by 1544 hours on that same day, most of the Firefighters' lives would be changed forever. On February 2, 1978, only five blocks away, a one minute response from their firehouse, they rolled to a fire on Flower Street at the old Eastern Rubber Reclaiming Inc, an old rubber-shredding plant. An area now called "The Wade Dump", named for Melvin Wade, who owned the property and allowed companies to dump hazardous volatile chemicals on the site. **Approximately 45 firefighters from that day have been diagnosed with numerous different medical ailments and 28 of them at last count...have died.**

While years ago we didn't have some of the PPE/SCBA, detection equipment, laws, understanding, training and knowledge in HazMat and related hazards as we do today, this is another example of what those who did this job before us, went through...and those who did survive, still suffer through. It also serves as a good reminder of how the way we operate today can impact the way we are in the future. And while we have better training, equipment and knowledge, the HazMat related hazards of today are more prevalent than ever. Below is an excellent story about the fire and a small EPA description as well...check these out: <http://inquirer.philly.com/specials/2000/fire/>

<http://www.epa.gov/Region3/rcei/inthenews/toxicinferno.htm>

Our helmets are off to all those Firefighters who operated at the "Wade" fire...who gave their lives in the Line of Duty, as well as to those who have survived.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-BOCA (Breathe Only Clean Air)

BillyG

The Secret List 2-2-08 / 0620 hours

**AND:**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Captain Donald Hubbel, Baltimore City Rescue Company #1 which occurred yesterday, February 1, 2008. **For those who knew Captain Hubbel, and those who are learning about him thru The Secret List, this tragic loss is especially harder to cope with and understand because his death occurred just a few hours before they were planning on attending his Son's graduation ceremony from the Baltimore City Fire Academy.** Last evening the entire membership of Baltimore City Rescue Company #1 filled in for their Captain in presenting his son his certificate of completion of training at the Baltimore City Fire Academy graduation ceremony of Class 01/07.

The Baltimore City Fire Officer's web site has a general discussion on the forum of those in mourning over the loss of Captain Hubbel, as he has touched so many on Local, State and National levels. While he died at home from a cardiac while working out, the death of Captain Hubbel falls as a Line-Of-Duty Death, as it is within the guidelines of the amended Hometown Heroes Act to include heart attacks and strokes when death occurs within twenty-four hours of an on-duty activity including training.

Those of you who want to leave condolence messages are encouraged to do so by visiting the site: <http://www.baltimorefireofficers.com/fireofficers/index.htm> and clicking on the "Forum" link. **We also encourage you to check out Rescue Company # 1's web site: <http://www.bcfdrescueone.com/>**

We will post additional details as soon as they become available. The above sites will also keep you informed. It is no secret that the Baltimore City Fire Department has been thru some very tough times, and this just adds to their grief. We sincerely send our condolences to all affected, especially the members of the Baltimore City FD, Rescue Company 1 and of course, Captain Hubbel's family.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-2-08 / 1650 hours

**AND:**

**OHIO CHIEF LODD:** It is with deep regret that we advise you that the Chief of the Ohio City FD in Ohio City, Ohio (30 miles to the east of Ft. Wayne, IN) has died in the Line of Duty. Veteran Fire Chief, Paul Swander, age 74, went to the fire station around 1400 hours on February 17, 2008

Thursday January 31 to fuel the station generator due to an impending winter storm. To fuel the generator, it required him to ascend a ladder into a loft area where the generator is located. At some point he fell from the ladder and was discovered 3-4 hours later by his son. He was transported to the hospital where he was then transferred by helicopter to the Parkville Hospital in Ft. Wayne, IN where he passed away yesterday. Additional details will be posted. As always, our condolences to all affected.

#### **TEXAS FIREFIGHTERS BURNED:**

Several Dilley (Texas) Firefighters were injured yesterday while operating at some of the worst wildfires to hit south Texas in years. During the worst of it, 3 Firefighters were caught in the fire and suffered burns. 2 are reported to be out of the hospital and one other Firefighter is still in the hospital," Dilley FD spokesperson Daryl Kallio, stated "We know she has a broken leg and some burns."

#### **BALTIMORE CITY LODD UPDATE:**

Captain Hubbel entered the Baltimore City Fire Department on March 15, 1993. He would have been 43 years old on the 27th of this month. Captain Hubbel leaves behind his wife, Diane and 5 children: Amanda, Nicholas, Tabitha, Michael and Andrew. His son Nicholas graduated from the Baltimore City Fire Academy the evening of his Fathers death and Captain Hubbel would have presented a certificate and badge to his son as part of the graduation ceremony. The members of Rescue Co. 1 did so for him.

#### **Memorial Info for Rescue Co. 1 Captain Donald Hubbel:**

Shimunek's Funeral Home - 610 West McPhail Road (at Route 24) - 410-893-9301 Monday, February 4 and Tuesday, February 5, 2008 from 2 to 4 pm and from 7 to 9 pm. Funeral services will be on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 (additional details to follow) Waiting on BCFD Incident Management Team for those details of Wednesday's events which will be posted on [www.bcfdrescueone.com](http://www.bcfdrescueone.com) as well as:

[www.baltimorefireofficers.com/fireofficers/index.htm](http://www.baltimorefireofficers.com/fireofficers/index.htm)

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-3-08 / 1325 hours

#### **AND:**

Hey...

Yesterday a member of Hunlock Creek Ambulance (Luzerne County, PA) and also a Firefighter, was involved in a very serious crash while responding to his quarters. And while this is of interest from the crash and injury standpoint, it also shows how, once again, fire/rescue dispatchers make a major difference. It is easy for us on the "other side of the radio" to have opinions on what dispatchers do, but here is an excellent example of how critical the role of the fire/rescue dispatcher really is.

While responding, David C. Sanfanandre skidded his 2005 Ford Ranger on an icy road on Sunday morning, striking a utility pole and tree. The 29 year old EMS officer was taken by helicopter with head, back and leg injuries but was conscious and alert after the accident.

From the Hunlock Creek Ambulance Assoc: We would like to say thank you to all responding units and everyone for your thoughts and prayers. Please continue to pray, Dave is going to have a very long journey ahead of him. He is now at St. Lukes Hospital in Allentown. He is in a lot of pain, but has high spirits. After speaking to him tonight he has 9 broken ribs, c7 spine fracture, minor tear in lung, multiple lacerations, pelvic, hip and femur fractures.

To the Luzerne County 911 Dispatchers, You did an excellent job you never gave up trying to raise him, everyone was dispatched quickly. I know how you feel hearing his distress shallow voice over the radio was very difficult. I just had a bad feeling, I am sure the same for you, that after both of us trying to call him there was no success until he came up on radio several minutes later. Dave is a very strong and dedicated person being an experienced EMT and member of both fire and ems departments, with everyone's prayers he will get through this very difficult time.

Here's the links to the audio dispatch tapes. There is other traffic besides the EMS POV accident. At the 3:30 minute mark on the first audio tape you can hear the County Fire Rescue Dispatcher page Hunlock Creek EMS for a portable to come up on the air. This is the portable involved in the accident. After not being able to raise him on the air, they toned the company out hoping he would hear his pager and come up on the air. Then at the 6 minute mark is the initial dispatch for an accident with confinement on Sorbertown Hill Road.

<http://www.lcforumfiles.info/Febuary08/02-03-08-10-02-38.wma>

<http://www.lcforumfiles.info/Febuary08/02-03-08-11-00-01< wbr>.wma>

We wish FF/EMT Sanfanandre a quick recovery and kudos to the Luzerne County 911 Fire/EMS dispatcher(s) for setting the example.

#### **BALTIMORE CITY UPDATE:**

Any pipe bands interested in participating in Weds. funeral to contact EVD Robert McCurdy (Balto City FD Truck 1) at 410-458-2481 or at [irishevdpcf@hotmail.com](mailto:irishevdpcf@hotmail.com).

#### **Viewing:**

Schimunek's Funeral home, 610 West Mac Phail Road, Bel Air Maryland 21014,

410.893.9301

Mon & Tues 1400 – 1600 & 1900 – 2100

<http://www.schimunekfuneralhomes.com/belair/index.htm>

#### **Funeral:**

Mountain Christian Church, 1824 Mountain Road, Joppa Maryland 21085

Wednesday 1100 hours

[http://www.mountainchristian.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=14171](http://www.mountainchristian.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=14171)

**Firefighters attending the funeral for Captain Hubble are reminded to assemble on Wednesday at the church at 0930 hours.**

**Internment:**

Delaney Valley Memorial Gardens-Padonia Rd-Timonium Maryland 21094

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

Repass to follow services at the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company

109 South Hickory Avenue, Bel Air Maryland 21014

<http://www.bavfc.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-08 / 1020 hours

**AND:**

We regret to advise you of an LODD FD ambulance crash involving the Brown Township Fire Department in Central Indiana (Morgan County). Police report that an SUV crossed the center line on State Road 144 and struck the ambulance head on. A member of the BTFD was killed in the Line of Duty. Another BTFD member was transported to the hospital in an unknown condition. The civilian driver of the SUV was also pronounced dead at the scene. The ambulance was not in an emergency response when the crash occurred....they had just dropped off a patient at the hospital. Additional details will follow. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-08 / 1812 hours

**AND:**

**UPDATE: Indiana LODD.** This is a follow-up on yesterdays Line of Duty death of Brown Township (Indiana) Fire Captain David Sherfick. Captain Sherfick and Firefighter/EMT Evan Kerkhof were in a BTFD Ambulance when they were involved in a head-on collision with a civilian SUV. They two had just cleared from a patient transport and were returning to the firehouse when the crash occurred around 1600 hours yesterday, Monday. Cops at the scene credit Captain Sherfick's evasive maneuvers with saving the life of his partner FF Kerkhof. Kerkhof was airlifted to a hospital with injuries that are serious but not life threatening. Captain Sherfick is 40 years old with 18 years on the Brown Township FD and is survived by a 10-year old son. Neither alcohol or weather conditions were thought to have contributed to the crash and the ambulance did not have its sirens or lights flashing on.

**There were 22 fatal ambulance crashes in the U.S. in 2006, according to the Fatal Analysis Reporting System:** <http://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Main/index.aspx>

We have also posted details and a photo on our home page news/updates of the crash.

**LONG ISLAND, NY FD LODD-**The West Islip FD (Suffolk County) experienced an LODD. EMT Edward Mueller, age 49, suffered a heart attack within the 24 hours of responding to his last alarm this weekend. He was West Islip's top responder in 2007. Our sincere condolences go out to all affected.

Arrangements: Chapeys Funeral Home, Montauk Highway, West Islip. Thursday - February 7th 2pm - 4:30 & 7:00p - 9:00p & Friday - February 8th 2pm - 4:40 & 7p-9p

FIREMATIC SERVICES: Friday - February 8th - 19:30 HOURS, Funeral Services Saturday, February 9th Glory Del Church, Luther Place & E. 18th St. Huntington Station At 9:30 AM. Burial To Follow At Holy Road Cemetery – Westbury

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-5-08 / 0040 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Under "positive relations", a KY State Trooper and an Owsley County Firefighter who responded to a crash Saturday got into a not-so-friendly fight at the scene that resulted in the Firefighter's arrest and a state police investigation of the incident. Firefighter Christopher Gabbard, 28, was taken to Kentucky River Medical Center for treatment of a minor injury. He was then charged with third-degree assault and menacing and was taken to jail. State police apparently want to determine whether Trooper Sonny Dunaway used appropriate force in arresting FF Gabbard. More to follow.

**CHIEF VERY CRITICAL:** On Friday, February 1st, 2008 Kankakee Township (IL) FPD Chief Matthew Hubly, age 43, was attending a FD related meeting...the chief was previously at the fire station shoveling snow. While at the meeting the Chief became warm and diaphoretic. They decided to take the chief to the hospital to get him checked out. As they left the site, the chief became unresponsive. An ambulance was called. The fire district's ambulance provider was unavailable and the Kankakee City FD was called....and arrived on the scene and performed defibrillation. The Chief was transported to the hospital in full cardiac arrest. He was revived and taken to the cath lab. He went into cardiac arrest two more times at the hospital. He is currently on a ventilator and unresponsive at Provena St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. Thoughts and Prayers are needed for Chief Hubly. This also serves as a reminder that if you think you might be having a heart problem, respond/request immediate EMS at the highest response level. Treat as if it IS ...vs. it isn't...just like a fire that turns out to be minor. Better to send a heavy response vs assuming it is nothing...and finding out it is.

**NEW HEART RELATED NIOSH REPORT:** Fire Fighter Suffers Sudden Cardiac Death During Extrication Demstration: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200703.html>

**OHIO LODD UPDATE:** Update on the LODD of Chief Paul Swander, Ohio City FD, Ohio. Visitation ; Wednesday February 6, 2008 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Cowan and Son Funeral Home, 616 S. Washington, Van Wert, Ohio. Firefighter services at 8:10 p.m. Funeral Service; Thursday February 7, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Calvary Evangelical Church, 10686 Van Wert – Decatur Rd. Vehicle line up will be at the Church until 12:30 p.m. prior to the service. As you know, Chief Paul Swander tragically passed away on Saturday February 2, 2008 after being injured from a fall at the Fire Station on Thursday January 31, 2008. If you plan to send personnel for Honor Guard's please forward information to Chief Wilkins (419)-277-4240 Oregon Fire and Rescue or Chief Barry Cousino (419)-351-4193 at Springfield

Fire.

**FIREFIGHTERS SHOT:** And while this was not on-duty, our thoughts and prayers go out to the 2 Dallas Firefighters who were seriously hurt in ! a drive-by shooting early Monday as they walked from a bar to their hotel in Peoria, Ariz., after the Super Bowl. Charles Whitaker, 38, and Reginald Cuington, 43, were heading back to their room between 0100 and 0200 when a car pulled up and someone inside opened fire. Both men were taken to a hospital. FF Whitaker had life-threatening injuries.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-5-08 / 1053 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

Two Columbia County (St. Helens, OR) Firefighters were rushed to the hospital yesterday (Tuesday) after they were burned in an explosion during a training drill. Fire and Rescue Chief Jay Tappan said a group of firefighters had just finished a demonstration drill in the nearly completed new training tower. Thinking the drill was over, the firefighters removed their helmets when some unburned materials re-ignited and sparked propane used in the drill. The low level explosion of the ignited propane burned the faces of two of the firefighters. The injured men were being taken to the Burn Center in Portland with second degree burns to the face. The new tower was not damaged by the blast. Details to follow.

**EMS LODD:** The Rio Grande Valley's Medical Helicopter (South Texas Emergency Care) based in Harlingen (Texas) was lost from radar this evening and it has been determined that it crashed and all on board were killed in the Line of Duty. This happened in lower Laguna Madre, a large bay, in deep South Texas. Additional details to follow.

**FIREFIGHTER STRUCK:** A Udall (Ark) Firefighter directing traffic at two accidents north of Udall this morning was struck by a passing motorist. Thomas Foster, 56, was transported to the hospital and was treated and released, according to a hospital spokesperson. The police are investigating.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-6-08 / 0120 hours

**AND:**

**ILLINOIS LODD:** We regret to advise you that Fire Chief Matthew Hubly, 43, of the Kankakee Township FPD died in the Line of Duty Thursday several days after being stricken at that fire department-related meeting. Funeral arrangements are pending. Our condolences to all affected by the sad loss of Chief Hubly.

**FIREFIGHTER TURNOUT COAT/DRD INFORMATION:** At a training session this week, a Firefighter in upstate NY was performing a wall breach maneuver when his DRD (Drag Rescue Device) got caught on a sheet rock nail. As he worked his way through the wall

maneuver, the device deployed fully as you can see in the pictures on our news/updates area on the home page. Due to the way it deployed and the tension created on his upper body from the strap under his arms, movement was limited and he was unable to reach the strap to free himself. Even by attempting to go back through the wall he was unable to get the strap free due to the fact that the head of the nail had worked its way into the weaving of the strap material.

Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters should inspect their bunker gear and determine how well (or if) your DRD is fully secure from accidental deployment. Additionally, contact your specific bunker gear manufacturer for additional questions, direction and information to help insure that your DRD won't catch or if any options exist to fully secure the DRD, so the chance of it "catching" is eliminated. See our home page for additional information and photos.

**FIREFIGHTER CYANIDE ISSUE:** FF Kenneth Baker, the Providence (R.I.) Firefighter whose collapse at a house fire helped to draw more national attention to the problem of cyanide poisoning of Firefighters, has been pensioned off by the city. Baker had a very disabling heart attack at a house fire in 2006. FF Baker is no longer able to be active and has had very serious and long term problems due to this event. Many Firefighters did not realize the everyday threat of cyanide poisoning until March 2006, when some were sickened at two "routine" building fires and an alert emergency room Physician diagnosed them as having cyanide poisoning. 8 Firefighters were found to have elevated levels of cyanide and 2, including Baker, were administered antidotes for cyanide poisoning. Cyanide gas is emitted by burning plastics and polymers used in numerous items in buildings. Here is more information on the issue:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/maillist/archive.php?id=SecretList&issueID=486>

[http://www.fireengineering.com/display\\_article/285838/25/ARTCL/none/HLTHS/Cyanide-antidote-database-published-online/](http://www.fireengineering.com/display_article/285838/25/ARTCL/none/HLTHS/Cyanide-antidote-database-published-online/)

Additionally, here is an old RESCUE 9-1-1 video, related to the issues of fire conditions, fire/smoke off gassing and FF heart attacks: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boNBAq7lruU>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-8-08 / 1145 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

The following is from the NFFF. Needless to say, Hal has made countless priceless contributions to the fire service for decades and decades ....and has totally defined "making a difference"...Hal Bruno has announced his retirement as Chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. He has served on the Board of Directors since 1993 and has been the Chairman since 2000. The Board unanimously approved Bruno's recommendation that he be succeeded by Vice Chairman Dennis Compton.

"I considered retiring for several months," Bruno explained, "because I believe that the

Foundation needs younger leadership at this time. However, I intend to remain active as a member of the Board, where I will continue to work on special projects with the Foundation's professional staff—which makes up the most dedicated and effective team I have ever known. I am grateful that Chief Compton is able to take my place and continue to support our Executive Director, Chief Ron Siarnicki, in carrying out our mission."

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was established by Congress in 1992 to honor firefighters who die in the line of duty and assist their families in rebuilding their lives.

"It is with a deep sense of gratitude and bittersweet feelings that we accept Hal's decision," Chief Siarnicki said. "The Foundation's programs have grown tremendously during his years as Chairman, and we are pleased that he will continue to serve as an active member of the Board of Directors."

Bruno had a 50-year career as a professional journalist with ABC News, Newsweek magazine, The Chicago American newspaper, and the Chicago City News Bureau. Away from work, he served as an active volunteer firefighter over a period of 40 years with fire departments in Arlington, VA, Port Chester, NY, and Montgomery County, MD. He is a director of the Chevy Chase (MD) Fire Department, a member of the District of Columbia's Friendship Fire Association and a contributing editor to Firehouse magazine, where he has written the "Fire Politics" column for 32 years. He has won numerous awards for his work in journalism and the fire-rescue service.

Chief Compton was the Fire Chief of Mesa, AZ, for 5 years and Assistant Chief in Phoenix, AZ, for 27 years. Chief Compton has served as Chair of the Executive Board of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee, is Chair of the Home Safety Council Board of Directors, and serves on the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute Steering Council.

Chief Compton was selected as the 1991 George D. Post National Fire Service Instructor of the Year and the American Fire Sprinkler Association's Fire Service Person of the Year in 2000. Dennis was also named the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by the University of Phoenix and received the 2003 Mason Lankford National Fire Service Leadership Award. He was the recipient of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award and is a charter member of the Arizona Fire Service Hall of Fame.

"I can only echo the feelings of the other Board members when we say that we accept Hal's decision with regret. I am honored to accept the Chairmanship and will do my best to carry on Hal's legacy," Chief Compton stated.

For further information on the Foundation and its programs, visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org). More on Hal to follow soon.

**Take Care-THANKS FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE HAL. There is not a Firefighter in the USA that has not benefited from all the good that Hal has done.**

BillyG

The Secret List 2-14-08 / 1820 hours

**AND:**

Hey...

**MO. FIRE CAPT WINS AFTER "APPARATUS BLOCKING" ON-SCENE ARREST:** Federal court jurors awarded \$17,500 yesterday to a Fire Captain arrested by a Hazelwood cop in a dispute over where the fire apparatus was parked during a 2003 car crash rescue. Juror Betsy Vennemann said after the verdict, "We wanted to make a statement that this kind of behavior will not be tolerated."

Capt. David Wilson won \$7,500 in compensatory damages and \$10,000 in punitive damages. Jurors, including a nun, said they went easy on the defendant, Officer Todd Greeves, because he has a family and they weren't sure who would pay the costs. Fire Captain Wilson testified that the Robertson FPD apparatus was parked in a way to protect rescuers working to free a victim from wreckage along I-270. Greeves ordered that the truck be moved to accommodate passing traffic and arrested Wilson for ignoring him. Wilson was released after 2! 3 minutes and never charged. He sued, claiming civil rights violations that opened him to anxiety and humiliation. Greeves told the court the truck was creating a hazard and not adding to safety at the scene. Jurors interviewed after the verdict said their feeling about Greeves was reinforced during the punitive phase of the trial, when they heard there had been other complaints about him. An internal affairs investigation determined that Greeves used excessive force in a 2002 arrest, court documents show, and was the subject of several other complaints. Before Wednesday's deliberations, U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary Ann Medler had already ruled that Greeves had no probable cause to arrest Fire Captain Wilson, who she said had state law on his side. She also dismissed the City of Hazelwood as a defendant. "The whole police and fire communities have been watching this case," said Bevis Schock, one of Wilson's lawyers. "**Everybody wanted to know! who controls the fire scene.**" Greeves' lawyer, Pe ter Dunne, said he was disappointed in the verdict and the discussion of the other complaints against Greeves. Dunne also said it was unfair to suggest that Greeves did not care about the firefighters' safety. Dunne said that the city's insurance would not pay for the costs and that the issue is "complicated." Schock said he thinks the insurance probably would pay the compensatory damages, and possibly the punitive. Also at issue is payment of unspecified lawyers' fees.

**Another lesson for fire & cops to get together before the next run...and figure out the laws and rules-and develop the plans... so everyone knows who will do what when operating on the roadways.**

**APPARATUS STRUCK IN NY:** A woman was injured when her SUV hit a fire truck at the scene of a truck fire on I-287 in Westchester County (NY) this morning. She was injured and transported. No FF's were injured.

**In the MAKE US PROUD Department,** Firefighter from Gretna (Florida) was arrested early this morning on DUI after stealing a fire truck and driving it while intoxicated, according to the Florida Highway Patrol. Volunteer FF Ricardo Charleston, 25, of Gretna, was arrested and taken to the Gadsden County Jail. He is facing charges of DUI, grand theft and not having a driver's license. Charleston submitted breath samples that showed his alcohol level was double the legal limit of .08.

**FIRE COMPANY TO DEPART?** While we don't normally cover non-FF safety, health or survival issues...**FF safety, command and control is named for the primary reason** that the Ocean City (MD) Volunteer Fire Company is planning on leaving the resort island and covering West OC exclusively. Dave Statter 911 has some updated info in this dispute that has numerous "angles" ...check out:

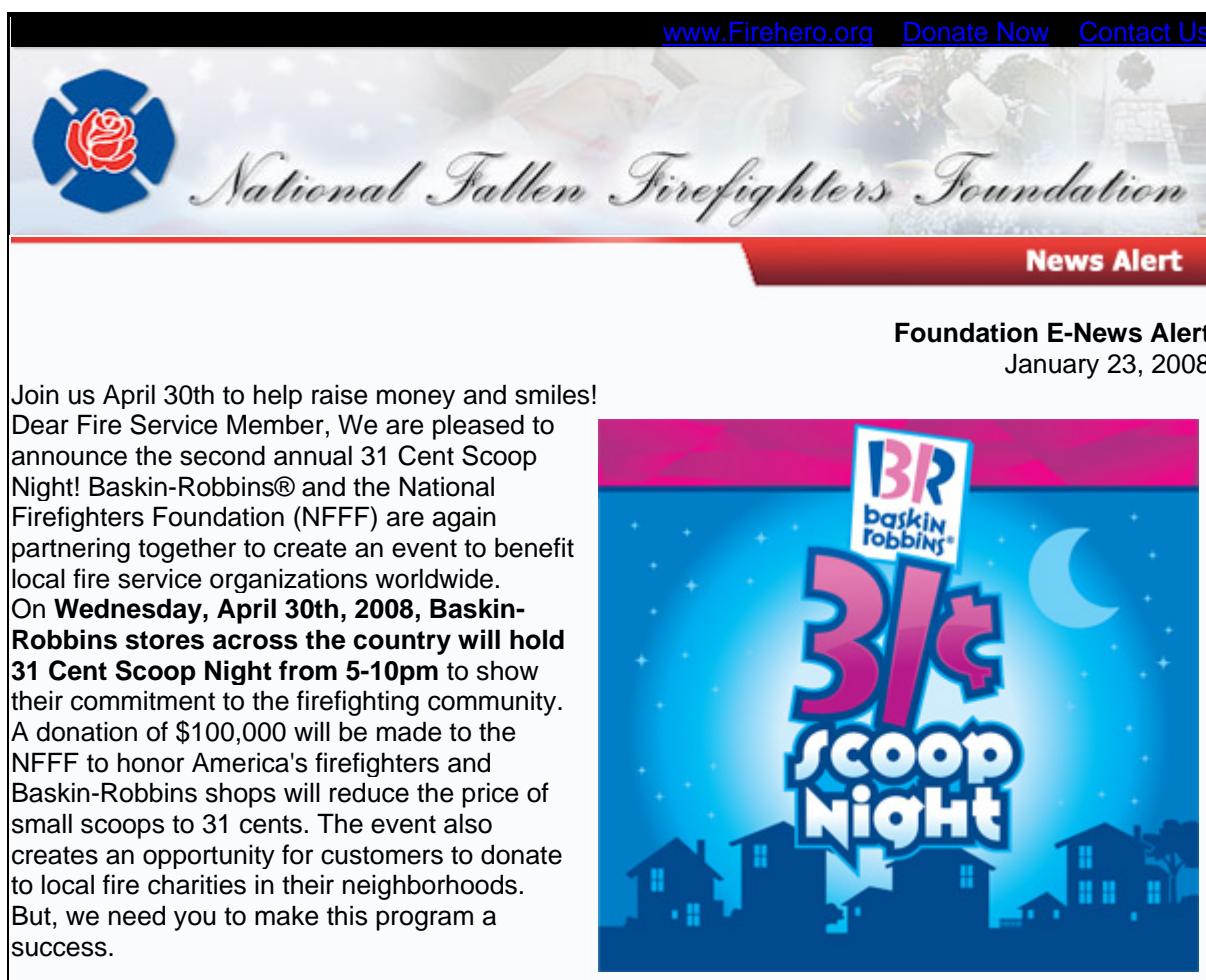
<http://www.wusa9.com/news/columnist/blogs/davestatter.aspx> . The Ocean City VFC owns the fire apparatus and stations covering the resort island where career firefighters (employed by the Town of OC) provide services as well.

Take Care,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-15-08 / 1220 Hours  
[www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

**To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

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**A great way to raise some money for needy individuals and for a good cause:**



The image shows an email from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The header features the foundation's logo (a red rose inside a blue Maltese cross) and the text "National Fallen Firefighters Foundation". The subject line is "News Alert" and the body text is "Foundation E-News Alert January 23, 2008". The main content discusses the second annual 31 Cent Scoop Night, a partnership between Baskin-Robbins and the NFFF to benefit local fire service organizations. It details the event on Wednesday, April 30th, 2008, at Baskin-Robbins stores across the country, where small scoops will be reduced to 31 cents. A donation of \$100,000 will be made to the NFFF. To the right of the text is a graphic for "31¢ scoop night" featuring the Baskin-Robbins logo and a night sky background.

Join us April 30th to help raise money and smiles!

Dear Fire Service Member, We are pleased to announce the second annual 31 Cent Scoop Night! Baskin-Robbins® and the National Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) are again partnering together to create an event to benefit local fire service organizations worldwide.

On **Wednesday, April 30th, 2008**, Baskin-Robbins stores across the country will hold **31 Cent Scoop Night** from 5-10pm to show their commitment to the firefighting community. A donation of \$100,000 will be made to the NFFF to honor America's firefighters and Baskin-Robbins shops will reduce the price of small scoops to 31 cents. The event also creates an opportunity for customers to donate to local fire charities in their neighborhoods.

But, we need you to make this program a success.

Locally, Baskin-Robbins franchisees would like to help raise money for YOUR local fire service organization. The 31 Cent Scoop Night event at participating Baskin-Robbins shops nationwide can support your fire service organization.

Involvement at a local Baskin-Robbins shop could include any or all of the following:

- Presence of firefighters from your station collecting money that will go directly to your firehouse or for National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.
- Firefighters taking photos with customers in front of the shop with your fire truck.
- Firefighters scooping ice cream at Baskin-Robbins. Any time spent helping out will be appreciated.

Your local Baskin-Robbins franchisee will contact you to arrange for representatives from your organization to participate at their store on **Wednesday, April 30, 2008**. Additionally, we encourage you to contact franchisees. If you would like to help with this worthy cause, sign up and receive more information at: [www.BaskinRobbins.com/firefighters](http://www.BaskinRobbins.com/firefighters)

Please spread the word to your firefighters and to the local community and help make the 2nd Annual 31 Cent Scoop Night even more successful than last year.

Sincerely,

**Chief Ron Siarnicki**  
Executive Director, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation  
[www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org)

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**A sad state of affairs for government and public safety (which includes our fire service): An article from a Los Angeles newspaper titled: “Lawsuit sweepstakes at the Los Angeles Fire Department,” due to the recent and current lawsuits and more than likely, future lawsuits. Before you think this stuff is limited to the LAFD, take a look around. More and more lawsuits are being filed (and won) against fire departments and fire department personnel for their actions or non-actions. Let’s learn from the mistakes of others to hopefully not allow ourselves to be in such positions.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/news/lawsuit-sweepstakes-at-lafd/18194/>

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**More on the Firefighter from Portland (OR) who was on the Dr. Phil show, airing his issues. He was recently arrested and charged with official misconduct. And some folks wonder why some departments don’t do thorough background investigations or psychological evaluations!**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story\\_id=120173753344964800](http://www.portlandtribune.com/news/story.php?story_id=120173753344964800)

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**Another one of those “Dear Chief, nobody was more surprised than I when.....” letters for this incident from Baltimore. Poor Baltimore, they seem to be in the news more than they would probably like to be. Most departments seem to get no publicity and the BFD has gotten so much publicity in the last year for a variety of tragedies**

(firefighter fatalities, serious vehicle accidents, allegations of cheating on promotional exams, sudden firefighter deaths, etc.) that I hope things can start taking a turn for the better for them some time soon. This time, a BFD Engine collides with a Baltimore Police Department Police Car in route to a house fire.

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58085&sectionId=46>

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### **A Dallas (TX) Firefighter is arrested on suspicion of arson.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58092&sectionId=46>

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**Another Dallas (TX) Firefighter is dead after a post-Super Bowl shooting in Arizona, which may or may not be related to his getting implicated with three other Dallas Firefighters on selling fake NFL jerseys (punishable as a felony), two of the other firefighters also were charged with marijuana posession.**

For the full story, go to:

[http://www.yourwestvalley.com/news/toomey\\_1761\\_article.html/police\\_cuington.html](http://www.yourwestvalley.com/news/toomey_1761_article.html/police_cuington.html)

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### **A DCFD Engine in route to a call strikes and critically injures a pedestrian.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58206&sectionId=46>

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**A very positive article from the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department, who recently hosted the Super Bowl. They hosted a “super” lunch for kids involved with the Make A Wish Foundation. A great public relations story that shows our positive sides and pays large dividends in the way of public support, something especially important with all of the negative stories affecting our industry today.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.glendalestar.com/articles/2008/02/07/news/news08.txt>

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**From Kentucky, comes a story of an on-scene altercation of a State Trooper and a firefighter, resulting in the firefighter’s arrest and a state police investigation. Can’t we all just get along?**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/news/newsArticleDisplay.html?id=156991>

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**A South Carolina Firefighter is charged with arson – setting a blaze in his own fire station.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58347&sectionId=46>

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**From Flint (MI) comes an interesting yet appropriate story relating to firefighter safety. A new change in strategy has resulted in firefighter injuries dropping – which is good. The change, which some of us may wonder why it took so long to implement – but culture is very tough to change, is that they will do a better risk versus gain analysis when determining whether to go inside vacant structures to fight a fire as opposed to calling it defensive from the start and not risking the lives of the firefighters when there is a very low probability of someone being inside. And for those that argue there may be residentially challenged folks inside the building – yes, there may be. But, there may not be. And if the building is ready for demolition and uninhabitable, we should assume it is uninhabitable. Our personnel are more important than risking their lives for “a homeless person who may illegally be inside trespassing.”**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58359&sectionId=46>

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**Firefighters in a Georgia Fire Department may lose their jobs if they fail some upcoming tests. Hopefully they will get a second chance and hopefully they do what it takes to prepare for their tests. Before you get emotional about this subject and say this is ridiculous, take an objective look – would you want a doctor working on you or your family member if they had failed their state tests? Would you want a mechanic working on your car if they had failed their state tests? Would you want an airline pilot flying you in a plane if they had failed their certification tests? Don’t get me wrong, we don’t need to needlessly fire people, but there is nothing wrong with raising the bar to ensure our personnel are ready for action and more importantly, capable to perform the jobs they are getting paid to do.**

**If you’re thinking “they can’t do that to us,” think again. Most firefighters are funded with public funds – meaning we work for the people who pay their taxes and we are held to a higher standard as we should be. Do you want a paramedic working on your new born baby that only successfully establishes an IV 70% of the time? Or one that successfully establishes an IV 90 to 100% of the time? It is interesting that we in the fire service want to be considered a profession, and subsequently professionals, but some personnel don’t want to be held to that higher standard that a professional typically is.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=58359&sectionId=46>

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A real tragedy – a Marin County (CA) Fire Captain – Ruben Martin is pinned between two fire apparatus while backing in his driver. This can happen anywhere, unfortunately it happened to him. If you're the driver of a rig backing up, you have to have a spotter – as he did in this case, and you have to have complete situational awareness at all times. Look in both mirrors, know your apparatus bay that you're backing into (have landmarks so you know where to stop), and take it nice and slow. In this case it sounds nice and slow, but even at a few mph, it was still tragic. If you're the person backing the driver, and your rig has headsets, hopefully there is a plug-in console you can plug into on the rear of the rig to directly communicate (better than using your portable radio as there may be other radio traffic and it may be tough to have to key the microphone in a split second) with the driver. If you don't have such capabilities, something to think about the next time you spec a rig. Also, consider back-up video cameras for the driver to use in addition to a live person. Lastly, if you're the person doing the backing, make sure your hand signals have been pre-arranged and agreed to and you are out of the line of fire if the rig goes farther than you want it to. Once again, if we don't learn some lessons from history, we're doomed to repeat the same mistakes and have the same tragic results.

For the full story, go to: [http://www.marinij.com/marin/ci\\_8236483](http://www.marinij.com/marin/ci_8236483)

And an update: <http://cbs5.com/local/marin.fire.captain.2.652274.html>

And the latest update:

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080214/NEWS/450581566/1033/NEWS01&template%3Dkart>

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Budget crunches are back, and for those that don't want to officially declare that we are going into a recession, it doesn't take a brainiac to determine that tough times are here and will probably not be going away anytime soon for government agencies like fire departments. I've talked to many firefighters around the country and I haven't heard from one department that was doing "great" in the way of maintaining and increasing their budget. I don't say this to sound negative or pessimistic, but to just wake us up to the realities we're faced with now and in the near future.

The first story comes from the Lake Tahoe area (CA / NV) where they are looking at station closures due to budget reductions.

<http://www.tahoebonanza.com/article/SS/20080211/NEWS/596815570/-1/REGION>

The next story comes from Santa Cruz County (CA) where the County Department is looking at closing a station and reducing staffing because of budget shortfalls:

[http://www.kion46.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=a18ef1b8-f5fd-49e4-bd42-686ca3bdb894](http://www.kion46.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=a18ef1b8-f5fd-49e4-bd42-686ca3bdb894)

**And in San Mateo County (CA), a couple of fire departments are looking at combining two fire stations into one to save about 1.5 million dollars per year:**  
<http://www.redwoodcitydailynews.com/article/2008-2-15-bq-fire-study>

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**A mayor in a New Jersey town orders the shutdown of a fire station because of it being poorly run. Before you think this is ridiculous, when you read about the allegations, it shouldn't surprise you.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080213/NEWS01/802130364/1006>

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**A Georgia Fire Chief is arrested on the way to a call.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/news/article/3376/>

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**From Austin (TX), the mayday traffic of an AFD firefighter in danger – he survived.**

For the full story, go to:

<http://www.myfoxaustin.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=5781850&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=VSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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**A Fire Chief in Tennessee retires after a very ugly report is released about his lack of leadership and inability to actually do his job. He's lucky he was not fired, and more importantly, that there have been no known major firefighter injuries or fatalities on his watch. A wise person once told me you can learn something from everyone – good and not-so-good things.**

For the full story, go to: <http://www.firerescue1.com/laborissues/articles/350626/>

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**Please be safe out there and make every day a learning opportunity – because it is!**

**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. Take care.**

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

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