



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 22, 2015

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

Since this newsletter is only produced every couple of months or so, the best way to stay on top of what is going on in the fire service, especially when it comes to job opportunities or other opportunities

NEWSLETTER QUESTION FOR YOU:

In today's world of "*I have to have it now*," it begs the question of the relevance or the ability to produce a newsletter once a month, or even once every two or three months (given my available time).

Many time sensitive items never even make it into the newsletter for a variety of reasons. When there are time sensitive items, I do try and post them in one or more of the following areas:

- **Chabot Fire Technology website** – www.chabotfire.com
- **Twitter** - @ChabotFire
- **Twitter** - @SPrziborowski
- **Facebook** – The Future Firefighter page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheFutureFirefighter>
- **Facebook** – The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide book page: <https://www.facebook.com/FutureFirefightersPreparationGuide>
- **Facebook** – Reach For The Firefighter Badge book page: <https://www.facebook.com/ReachForTheFirefighterBadge>

If you have any feedback regarding **whether to continue** with a regular newsletter (every few months, give or take), **or not continue**, please email me at sprziborowski@aol.com - Due to the work involved with putting together a newsletter, sometimes I wonder whether it is still applicable in today's world. I thank you in advance for any suggestions or feedback you may have to offer. Thank you!
Steve Prziborowski

CHABOT COLLEGE 2016 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

Looking for Fire Technology related courses to become a firefighter or continue your education if you are currently a firefighter so you can prepare for promotion or become the best you can be at your current rank? Why not start at Chabot College in Hayward, California where we offer a variety of

courses year-round to allow students to obtain their EMT certification or recertify as an EMT, obtain their Firefighter 1 Academy Certification, or a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology, or a two-year degree in Fire Technology, or just take various California State Certified classes.

Registration and classes for the **Spring 2016** semester at Chabot College has begun!!! For complete registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

CLASSES AVAILABLE - SPRING SEMESTER 2016

| COURSE | DAY |
|--|--|
| FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) | Monday (pm) |
| FT 51 (Fire Services Operations) | Thursday (am) |
| FT 51W (Fire Equipment Operations) | Thursday (mid) |
| FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) | Wednesday (pm) |
| FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion) | Tuesday (pm) |
| FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems) | Thursday (pm) |
| FT 88A (Intro to Fire Fitness Training) | Mon & Wed (midday) |
| FT 88A (Intro to Fire Fitness Training) | Wednesday (pm) |
| FT 88B (Intermediate Fire Fitness Training) | Mon & Wed (midday) |
| FT 88B (Intermediate Fire Fitness Training) | Wednesday (pm) |
| FT 88C (Advanced Fire Fitness Training) | Mon & Wed (midday) |
| FT 88C (Advanced Fire Fitness Training) | Wednesday (pm) |
| FT 88D (Tactical Fire Fitness Training) | Mon & Wed (midday) |
| FT 88D (Tactical Fire Fitness Training) | Wednesday (pm) |
| FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - March 4, 6 and 8 (Wed/Fri/Sun) - April 14, 16 and 18 (Tue/Thu/Sat) | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) or Wed & Fri (pm) Sunday (all day) |
| FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C** | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) |
| FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C** | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) |
| FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B** | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) |
| FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 28 through May 17 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day) |
| FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 21, 23, 25 and 26 | Tue & Thu (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day) |
| FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - April 14, 16, 18 and 19 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day) |
| FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - March 29, April 7, 9 and 11 | Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day) |
| FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96** | TBA |
| FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** | Wednesday (pm) |

| COURSE | DAY |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| EMS 1 (First Responder) | Tuesday (midday) |
| EMS 1 (First Responder) | Tuesday (pm) |
| EMS 2 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83** | Wednesday (all day) |
| EMS 2W (Patient Stabilization, Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81** | Saturday (one day only) |
| EMS 4 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - April 25 – May 7 | Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day) |

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2015 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

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

TAKING ACTION CANCER IN THE FIRE SERVICE:

A must-read for any current or future Firefighter courtesy of Firehouse.com and The Firefighter Cancer Support Network:

The Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) invited a small group of experts to Indianapolis to develop a [white paper on cancer in the fire service](#). Participants included two firefighters who are cancer survivors, fire officers as well as research and medical experts.

The working group outlined and wrote the initial draft of a white paper describing the status of cancer in the fire service and developed answers to very challenging questions.

Studies have demonstrated credible evidence and biologic creditability for statistically higher rates of multiple types of cancers in firefighters compared to the general American population including:

- Testicular cancer (2.02 times greater risk)
- Multiple myeloma (1.53 times greater risk)
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1.51 times greater risk)
- Skin cancer (1.39 times greater risk)
- Prostate cancer (1.28 times greater risk)
- Malignant melanoma (1.31 times great risk)
- Brain cancer (1.31 times greater risk)
- Colon cancer (1.21 times great risk)
- Leukemia (1.14 times greater risk)
- Breast cancer in women (preliminary study results from the San Francisco Fire Department)

Download the white paper, and an 11-step immediate actions checklist, go to:

http://media.cygnus.com/files/base/FHC/document/2015/07/FCSN_Firefighter_Cancer_White_Paper.pdf

WHAT ARE THEY LOOKING FOR DURING THE ORAL INTERVIEW?:

At the request of many, I want to start sharing some articles of mine that have been published in various media, with links to the articles so you can also view other similar articles of interest.

Don't Name Drop During Your Firefighter Oral Interview

By Steve Prziborowski, Published on www.firehouse.com on August 2, 2015.

Many firefighter candidates think it is appropriate to “drop names” when they are participating in any part of the firefighter hiring process, such as a station visit, an oral interview or some other phase of the hiring process. You may think this is a great idea and that by you knowing that special person you are mentioning, you will have an “in” with the fire department. Well, that may be true, but it may hurt you more than it helps you.

While you may be proud of knowing who you are saying you know (it be your father, mother, sibling, best friend, casual acquaintance), the person(s) hearing you drop that name may not be so proud of that person. Say it isn't so? Well, it isn't so! Many tend to forget that all of us have people that like us as well as people that do not like us, or just may not care for us, for some reason. Some people have more enemies than friends and some have more friends than enemies – that is reality.

So, here you go mentioning the name of your father to the oral board and how proud you would be to follow their footsteps in the same department. Well, did you ever think there might be people that did not like your father, as much of a saint or perfect person as your father may have been in your eyes? You may find that hard to believe, but the father you know may not be the same person that others see in the same way you see him to be. Do you think there is a chance that the oral board might look at you and think you are going to be just like your father? It is very likely they will, even while they are trying to remain objective, unbiased, and not discriminate against you or anyone else.

I remember an entry-level candidate who actually listed the names and contact information of his references on his resume (personally I try to discourage candidates from doing this for a number of reasons, one being the oral board cannot call those people, two being that information will be asked for in a background investigation, three being that those names you list may actually be used against you). He listed a number of names, some of whom worked for our department, some of whom worked for neighboring departments or the ambulance company, but who I still knew or knew of. The problem I had with those names he listed. Not one, not two, but about five of those names were individuals who I didn't fully respect or feel were credible enough to list as a reference for a variety of reasons, all of which were not positive. Some of those names I have had to discipline for work related performance (or lack thereof) or behavioral issues, and some of those names were not the most stellar of references I would suggest someone to list. People that were known and proud to have been “problem children” to their employer and/or supervisors, and people that were probably voted as their class clown during high school.

Now they may all have been great people to their friend or acquaintance who was listing them as a reference, but they are not helping the person because “birds of a feather flock together,” right? Guilty by association? Possibly. Now I will go on record that I didn't unfairly discriminate against or show any bias towards this candidate during the oral interview because I was there to rate him on what he said, not what he had on his resume. He didn't come across as a stellar candidate that would make a good fit for us at the time, and he was not able to sell himself or what he had to offer our great department.

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But, let's say he scored high enough to make it to a fire chief's interview. If you were the fire chief, and he started name dropping with names that always caused you problems and took up a lot of your staff's time because of always being in trouble or not doing their job, would you want to hire this person? If their mentors or references were any indication on who this person is or will be, why would you even bother hiring this person? I think Gordon Graham says it best: "if it's predictable, it's preventable."

Is there some truth to the statement, "the acorn doesn't fall far from the tree?" I think there is. I have heard of stories and have experienced first hand family members and friends who have been hired and have turned out to be just like the person they are related or friends with – both in a good way, and in a not-so-good way. Nepotism is not necessarily a bad thing if done for the right reasons – meaning you know what you're getting and not just hiring someone because they are related to someone.

Don't get me wrong; it is ok to mention that you became interested in the fire service because you had a family member or father in the fire service. I just don't think it is a good idea to specifically name that person and/or the department they work or worked for. If an oral board member asks you for names, then so be it; you'll have to deal with any consequences – let us hope they are positive consequences!

To view other valuable fire service information and FREE articles such as this one above, go to: <http://www.firehouse.com>

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE TRAINING FREE EMAIL LIST:

If you haven't already signed up for SFT ENEWS I would strongly suggest that you do so. This is an excellent way for you to be aware of what is happening firsthand within State Fire Training.

Go to: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/subscription.php>

SFT staff is really good about sending information out each week. We already have over 200 + people signed up. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lynne Gibboney, State Fire Training - Instructor Registration & Certification Analyst
1131 S Street, Sacramento, CA 95811
916-445-8154 - Lynne.gibboney@fire.ca.gov

ACCREDITED STATE FIREFIGHTER 1 ACADEMIES:

Looking for a Firefighter 1 Academy to attend in California so that you can apply for more fire departments and so you can be better prepared for the rigors of a typical recruit academy? If so, California State Fire Training has a list of the Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP), also known as Firefighter 1 Academies, that you can view on their website:
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/accreditedacademies.php>

Don't let testing opportunities pass you by. Get your Firefighter 1 Academy completion certificate so that you are a more marketable and valuable candidate

FIRE NUGGETS – LATEST ISSUE (FREE)!:

The November/December 2015 issue of FIRE NUGGETS is now available; best of all, it's FREE!

Some of the articles in the latest issue include:

- The Cutting Edge: Coming Soon to a Theater Near You by Joseph Krueger and David Peterson
- The Career Corner: What to Expect on the Battalion Chief Exam by Steve Prziborowski
- The Bigger Picture by Anthony Avillo
- The Murder of the Impossible by James Greenwood
- Is this the new Normal by Todd McNeal
- Be a Star at Work and Elsewhere by Captain George Burk

To download the latest issue, go to: www.firenuggets.com

To subscribe (free) or to check out the hundreds of other great articles that are archived, go to: www.firenuggets.com

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Want to become a Firefighter? Check out the National Testing Network (NTN) website at: <https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/search.cfm?position=2&state=All+States>

Over 325 different fire departments across the United States are using NTN to recruit Firefighters. Candidates have the opportunity to have their written test score be used to apply for all of the agencies currently recruiting Firefighters.

Some of the fire departments currently using NTN include, but are not limited to:

- Burbank, CA
- Long Beach, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Santa Clara County, CA

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Looking for California State Certified fire training courses? Check out the California State Fire Training CLASS SCHEDULE – it is updated every Friday and contains a statewide listing of state certified classes for personnel of all ranks – even future firefighters.

- Go to: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/trainingclassselection.php>

FIRE SERVICE BOOKS:

Looking for fire service books to help you get hired, stay hired, get promoted, stay promoted, or just be better at your current position? Two of the best resources I have seen include:

- Firefighter's Bookstore – www.firebooks.com
- FSP Books & Video – www.fire-police-ems.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA* – January 31 - February 4, 2016

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – *Indianapolis, IN* – April 18 – 23, 2016.

Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *San Antonio, TX* - August 17 – 20, 2016

Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

Fire Shows West – *Reno, NV* – October 4 - 6, 2016

Go to <http://www.fireshowswest.com> for more information.

Firehouse Expo – *Nashville, TN* – October 18 – 22, 2016

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

California Training Officers Training Symposium – *Fresno, CA* – November 14 - 18, 2016

Go to <http://www.caltraining.org/> for more information.

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

FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY BY FALLEN TREE IN CALIFORNIA

We regret to advise you that a wildland firefighter was killed yesterday (Saturday) while operating at the Sierra Fire near Lake Tahoe in Northern California. The Firefighter was struck by a falling tree around 5:30 p.m. in a remote area between the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Eldorado National Forest. The firefighter was in the initial attack phase on Echo Summit when the accident occurred. The still unidentified firefighter - whose gender is also being withheld until next of kin have been notified -succumbed to the injuries, Gabor said. A second firefighter, who was also

injured during the same incident, was treated and released from a local hospital. Further details were not immediately available. Seventeen wildfires have scorched California homes and rural areas in recent weeks. Yesterdays Firefighter Line of Death comes less than ten days after Black Hills National Forest Engine Capt. David Ruhl died from being trapped in the Frog Fire in Modoc National Forest. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

===CT FIREFIGHTER INITIAL LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORT

===NY FIREFIGHTER INITIAL LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORT

So...we can "yap and chat" about these incidents OR we can look at these tragic deaths as A GOOD opportunity for all of us to HONOR the lives that these two men lead as FIREFIGHTERS, by honestly using the information and reports as "templates" for our own operations, training, equipment, fireground discipline and leadership. Use these reports to help determine "could this happen here?"

Be sure to note the similarities between these-and other structural fire related LODD's.

Among the 22 conclusions in the Hartford (CT) Fire Department's internal board of inquiry report is that there was a failure to properly search the room in which Bell was trapped and that other firefighters did not hear Lt. John Moree's "mayday" distress call. The department released its report [Friday](#) into the death of Bell. The report provides a detailed timeline into firefighters' actions that day, both inside and outside the building.

Among those factors:

*A lack of training for new deputy chiefs and a lack of understanding of when it was appropriate for chief officers to **assume command** of an incident. The report mentions that acting Assistant Chief Terry Waller arrived at the scene and "chose not to assume any role in the Incident Management System." A CFD rep explained that there are scenes in which the highest-ranking officer does not take command.

*There was a **time delay in the forcible entry** into the building "in zero visibility environments." The report points out that about 10 minutes after arrival, entry had not been made into the area of the building where Bell would eventually be trapped.

*There was a **"lack of understanding in regards to utilization of hose streams** to cool down thermal layering and a lack of understanding with regard to fire stream management."

*Failure to recognize the need to **ventilate the roof** in a timely manner, failure to immediately put a **ladder up** against the structure and provide a secondary point of egress and failure to properly implement the **evacuation directive**.

*Improper implementation of the **Mayday Directive**.

*Underutilization and/or **lack of proper use of a thermal imaging camera** and a lack of spare equipment, including thermal imaging cameras.

*The lack of use of **helmet chin straps and ear flaps and personal rescue equipment**.

*The "lack of **crew integrity** in regards to working in teams of at least two."

*The inability of firefighters to **maintain composure** under adverse conditions

*The failure to implement a **personal accountability report (PAR)** directive in an efficient manner.

HERE IS THAT REPORT: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/221933>

**LONG ISLAND FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH:
FIRE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A CITATION FROM THE STATE**

The Inwood (Long Island, NY) Fire Department violated federal safety and training standards when it allowed* a Firefighter to enter a burning house in December without an assigned partner, a state report investigating the firefighter's death has found. Only a secondary mayday issued later (after crews inadvertently found the FF in the basement) and alerted them that Joseph Sanford Jr. was found to be unaccounted for, according to the New York State Labor Department's Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau, which monitors fire departments.

**While horrifically tragic, this is also an interesting incident as the Inwood FD was responding to the Woodmere FD-on a mutual aid working fire-and the Inwood FF was killed in Woodmere, outside of the Inwood Fire District. Sanford, 43, and four other Inwood firefighters responded to the mutual aid to Woodmere fire before dawn on Dec. 19, but the Inwood Firefighters did not give the Woodmere incident commander their "accountability tags" -- ID tags used in roll call when firefighters are ordered out of collapsing buildings and other dangerous conditions. These are among other findings shown below.*

HERE IS THAT INITIAL FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORT:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/221929>

Once you read those reports...then read this:

**ARE YOU (OR COULD YOU BE?) THE FIRE GROUND COMMAND OFFICER?
SGT?
LT?
CAPT?
CHIEF?**

Take a few minutes to please read the above reports.

COMMAND, CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY are the "read between the line" headlines. When asked ***"what training do you have to be in command of a fire?"*** How do you answer?

REMEMBER-In COMMAND means the first arriving OFFICER./...or it could be a Senior Firefighter. WHAT TRAINING have you received that covers commanding the single family dwelling fire? The multi family dwelling fire? The row of stores on fire?
THE FIRES WE RESPOND TO 99% OF THE TIME.

TAKE TIME NOW to check out this **FIREGROUND COMMAND** training program/conference. **THIS CONFERENCE** is focused specifically on training you to command the fire ground.

DATES: [September 24-25-26 2015](#)

DETAILS: http://www.bshifter.com/conference_2015.aspx

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-9-2015-2100](#) Hours

AND:

All,

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It was a 21 year-old Firefighter from Shingle Springs, Calif., who died in the Line of Duty [Saturday](#) afternoon as a result of injuries received while suppressing a wildfire on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) in northern California. Firefighter Michael "Mike" Hallenbeck was a member of Organized Crew 36 on the LTBMU. FF Hallenbeck was struck by a tree at approximately 1730 hours during the initial attack on the Sierra Fire, just inside the LTBMU boundary south of Echo Summit. Efforts to resuscitate FF Hallenbeck were not successful. The Sierra Fire is one of several dozen lightning-caused fires that began on multiple national forests in northern California on [Saturday](#). We have posted a picture of FF Mike Hallenbeck and more info on this fire on our home page. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP. Take care. Be Careful. Pass It On. BillyG
The Secret List [8-9-2105-2219](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,
There have been no shortage of videos and articles about firefighters operating on roofs lately. Most showing successful operations-some not so good. Experienced fire officers, who are well trained in clearly understanding building construction ...and fire behavior ...are the best shot we have in understanding why and when **to**-and why and when **not to** be on the roof.

HERE are some EXCELLENT videos of a fire in Oregon last week. Watch the collapse.

TAKE TIME to watch these videos with the troops as a great reminder of when-and when not to be - on the roof.

==BOW STRUNG ROOF FIRE & COLLAPSE VIDEO FROM LAST WEEK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKDp1Tm3HCY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FU4vEW7pMKE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6nMNnNIDV4>

==HERE IS MORE TRAINING INFORMATION ABOUT FIRES IN BUILDINGS WITH BOW STRUNG ROOFS:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/topics/m/video/31939363/bowstring-truss-roofs.htm>
<http://www.fireengineering.com/topics/bowstring-truss.htm>
<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2004/10/reading-a-building-the-bowstring-roof.html>

==MORE RECENT BOW STRUNG ROOF LODD RELATED:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/175980>
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201208.html>

Thanks to Dave "*Brannigan 40 Years Ago!*" Statter and Chief LarryG for the heads up on this Oregon fire.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List [8-10-2105](#)

AND:

Hey-

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A real nasty crash this afternoon in Miami, Florida between fire apparatus responding on different runs. The front end of a rescue ambulance was destroyed and an engine company rolled on its side resulting in multiple injured Firefighters. While serious, injuries are reported as survivable.

HERE IS MORE: <http://miami.cbslocal.com/2015/08/11/rescue-truck-fire-truck-crash-in-miami/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-11-2015](#) 1545 hours

AND:

All,

Here is a surveillance camera video from this weeks violent apparatus vs apparatus crash in Miami, Florida. The intersection crash injured numerous Firefighters and civilians. As you will see, the rescue ambulance (transporting) crosses the intersection without stopping for the red traffic signal-and strikes the side of the responding engine company, going on a separate run.

Could have been worse.

Could have killed some folks or some members-or-as happened in Ohio a few years ago, when the apparatus actually struck and killed two civilians, who were actually relatives of the firefighter driving that apparatus. You never know who's on the roadway. Stop at red lights and stop signs. Just stop. This could have been a multiple LODD. Now it's healing and recovery time and of course, odds are it's wait for "certified mail" from lawyer(s) time for some of those involved. Ask anyone in our business who has ever been involved in an apparatus crash-do all that is possible to avoid it. Stop at red traffic signals and stop signs and go when it's clear. Riveting information.

VIDEO: <http://youtu.be/jzRdWZRVqW0>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-12-2015-2200](#) hours

AND:

All,

As of late this evening 17 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty in the explosion in China. They were among the 50 people killed (known so far) in the warehouse blasts in the northern Chinese port of Tianjin. More than 30 Firefighters are still missing, most of them in their 20s or 30s. The initial explosion, at a warehouse storing dangerous chemicals, at about 11:20 pm on [Wednesday](#) was followed by a number of smaller blasts. About 700 people were injured, 70 of them seriously.

More at: <http://news.asiaone.com>

FDNY FIREFIGHTER SHOT-IN STABLE CONDITION

An FDNY firefighter was shot while responding to a Staten Island house fire [Friday](#) morning, according to the NYPD. Police and firefighters are at 15 Destiny Court where the suspected shooter has barricaded himself. The firefighter was shot in ankle and was taken to a local hospital where he is in stable condition.

22 YEAR OLD EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING LIFE SAVING ATTEMPT IN

PENNSYLVANIA

Samantha Agins, 22, has died in the Line of Duty following her desperate attempts to save the life of a victim. Details on this incredibly sad and highly unusual loss are here:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/222025>

Our condolences to all those affected by both of the above incidents. RIP
Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-14-2015-0700 hours

AND:

Hey-

One hell of a **CLOSE CALL** day for Firefighters in FDNY and Baltimore City.

FDNY THIS MORNING

-WHAT HAPPENED?

Here is the news conference with Fire Commissioner Dan Nigro explaining what happened:

WATCH THIS:

<http://abc7ny.com/news/nypd-flew-in-gunmans-mom-to-staten-island-scene-during-standoff/929372/>

ADDITIONAL VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmHTwyWT_fA

BALTIMORE CITY THIS AFTERNOON

-WHAT HAPPENED?

2 people including that on-duty Baltimore City Firefighter were shot and injured "for no apparent reason" off Liberty Heights Avenue this afternoon, according to Interim Police Commissioner Kevin Davis. Davis said the firefighter, who was in uniform, was walking with a citizen when they happened upon the suspect leaving a cell phone store near the 3900 block of Liberty Heights Avenue. The suspect had some sort of dispute in the store and shot at a building, Davis said. Around the corner, he then shot at the 43-year-old firefighter, who sustained a nonfatal gunshot wound to the hand, and a 65-year-old civilian, who was shot in the leg, according to Davis. "For no apparent reason whatsoever, our shooter indiscriminately and arrogantly shoots at them," Davis said, recounting what happened. "Thank God their wounds are not fatal." The victims were not identified pending notification of their families. Preliminary investigation indicated the shooter was a slim African-American man in his 20s with no facial hair, Davis said. The suspect was described as approximately 5'11". Police reported he remains at large.

We wish both Firefighters who were shot today, a quick recovery.

HISTORY:

FIREFIGHTER RELATED SHOOTINGS DETAILS AND LINKS:

Here are links related to the shooting of Firefighters while responding or in the performance of our duties:

=WEST WEBSTER, NY:

Lt. Michael Chiapperini and FF Tomasz Kaczowka were shot and killed in the murderous attacks. Firefighters Ted Scardino and Joseph Hofstetter were wounded in the attack.

HERE is the "LIVE" RADIO TRAFFIC:

"MULTIPLE FIREMEN DOWN, MULTIPLE FIREMEN SHOT, WORKING FIRE":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siwoJ1rih3k>

Listen to the incredible professionalism by the dispatcher and of course, those under attack. RIP.

=BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/130523>

=BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT-RADIO AUDIO:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKzl0hFAvUA>

=KY FIRE LT SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE:

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

=MO FIREFIGHTER SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE:

<http://www.fboryanhummert.org>

<http://www.cityofmaplewood.com/index.aspx?nid=181>

=PA FIRE CHIEF GUNNED DOWN AT SCENE: <http://tinyurl.com/ctuewa4>

=MEMPHIS, TN: March 8, 2000 in Memphis, TN when 2 firefighters and a Shelby County Deputy were ambushed by a Firefighter. <http://tinyurl.com/bgscebn>

=JACKSON, MS: April 24, 1996: Jackson MI: A disgruntled firefighter shoots, kills 4 FF's in the Firehouse. <http://murderpedia.org/male.T/t/tornes-kenneth.htm>

=NEWARK, NJ: July 15, 1967. Never forget Captain Mike Moran of the Newark FD who was killed on July 15, 1967 during the Newark riots... as he climbed a ladder to check out an automatic alarm about one block from the quarters of Engine 11.

<http://partners.nytimes.com/library/national/race/071667race-ra.html>

RIP.

===HERE is the USFA ACTIVE SHOOTER GUIDELINES FOR FIRE & EMS:

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/active_shooter_guide.pdf

MORE LINKS FOR Firefighters as well as Dispatchers related to similar incidents:

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10755387/dispatch-protocols-for-active-shooter-incidents> (FROM FFCC's Barry Furey in Firehouse)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo43715.pdf> (FROM Charlotte NC FD)

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf (FROM DHS)

http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-163/issue-4/departments/fire-service_ems/responding-to-active-shooter-incidents.html (Active Shooter Response)

<http://www.jems.com/article/major-incidents/arlington-county-va-task-force> (FROM Arlington County, VA)

<http://www.nypdshield.org/public/SiteFiles/documents/Activeshooter.pdf> (FROM NYPD)

<http://my.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/is-the-fire-service-prepared-for-an-active-shooter-incident> (FireFighterNation Discussion)

Take Care Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-14-2015-1600](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,

Bad news (and lessons learned for all of us) out of NY [today](#) as claims that the US Marshals and NYPD provided no coordination, command or control as FDNY companies arrived--at the fire that the marshals called in-with the shooter inside. FDNY Lt. James Hayes was shot and injured because he wasn't warned in advance of the danger he faced when entering the basement apartment of gang member Garland Tyree, who was killed after a six-hour standoff with police, according to a report by the New York Post. Fire Commissioner Dan Nigro acknowledged that Lt. Hayes didn't know what he was getting into when he responded to what initial emergency radio transmissions had reported as a smoke condition and possible fire. "Well, certainly at the time the fire officer was not aware of the person's history," Commissioner Daniel Nigro said [Friday](#). "There was no evidence that he was armed. There was evidence that there was a heavy smoke condition - an unknown number of occupants in the apartment. So, Lieutenant Hayes made a decision to search the apartment."

MORE HERE:

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/08/warning_could_have_prevented_f.html

THE GOOD NEWS IS: The bad guy can't hurt anyone else and the Lt is safe at home...**but lots of "size up" reminders for all of us.**

AND THEN...

THERE IS THIS VIDEO OF POLICE OFFICERS FORCING ENTRY AT A FIRE

We've had this up on the home page-but wanted to pass it on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47nZvRp0nWc>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-17-2015-1930](#) Hours

AND:

3 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.....OTHERS BURNED IN WASHINGTON STATE

Officials in Okanogan County, Washington State are confirming that three Firefighters had died in the Line of Duty in the area of Twisp, WA-about 200 miles east of Seattle. Other Firefighters are reported to be burned as well, a few hours ago. Okanogan Co. Sheriff Frank Rogers initially reported that several Firefighters were burned and transported from the scene and thought they had only suffered "non-life threatening injuries." But things turned out to be much, much worse. Things are exploding in Washington State right now. There are various reports of entire towns evacuations due to wildfires with limited resources.

"I was just told that three firefighters died while battling the Twisp fire and four were injured," said Gov. Jay Inslee in a press release. "My heart breaks over the loss of life."

The fire had burned 50 acres about 8 miles west of the town and was threatening 20 nearby buildings. Evacuations were ordered for the towns of Twisp and Winthrop, which combined have a population of about 1,300. Residents were asked to head south immediately. Wildfires burning in Okanogan County had already forced the evacuation of the small town of Conconully, about 20 miles northwest of Omak. We'll post and send out any additional that we get but right now, the best sources appear to be below.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-19-2015-2030](#) Hours

AND:

All,

Updates [this morning](#) indicate that the three Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty [yesterday](#) fighting that wildfire near Twisp were engaged in initial attack operations and involved in a vehicle crash on Woods Canyon Road, when it is believed the fire overtook the vehicle. Other reports are that they were able to get out of the vehicle and deployed shelters but subsequently lost their lives. They were part of the initial fire response to that wildfire that started shortly after noon up Woods Canyon Road, which is off Twisp River Road. That area is about 5 miles west of Twisp. Initial reports are that the wind suddenly shifted and the U.S. Forest Service Firefighters who were killed, became trapped as the Twisp River Fire turned back on them.

The four injured firefighters suffered burns and were transported from the scene. One of the injured firefighters, a 25-year-old, was airlifted to Seattle's Harborview Medical Center, where he was listed in critical condition. Of those four injured firefighters, one worked for the Forest Service, two worked for the state Department of Natural Resources and one was a DNR contractor. It wasn't immediately clear if the four injured were also involved in the crash.

In Washington there are 11 counties and four tribes affected or threatened by fires. The fires have already destroyed more than 50 homes, 60 other structures, and more than 235,000 acres of land. Conditions [this morning](#) remain terrible and the fires are continuing to spread-combine that with limited resources and the potential remains for more devastation. The Triple LODD Wednesday wasn't the first time that Firefighters lost their lives fighting wildfires in Washington. On [July 10, 2001](#), four U.S. Forest Service firefighters died while at the Thirty Mile Fire in Okanogan County. That was the second deadliest fire in Washington history. In 1974, five Firefighters died when a vehicle overturned.

KTIYP's.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-20-2015 0700 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey-

A Firefighter was shot multiple times [yesterday](#) while responding to a medical emergency in a school in the city of Paranaíba, mid-west of Brazil, SA. A man in a motorbike shot FF Fabrício de Lima Teixeira, 26 years old, in the face, arms and torso, before running from the scene. The FF went through a surgery and is at the hospital in stable condition. The shooter has already identified and is being chased by police. The motivation of the crime is still unclear.

<http://www.correiadoestado.com.br/cidades/suspeito-de-atirar-contra-bombeiro-e-identificado-pela-vitima-e/255374/>

It's always something.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-19-2015-1545 hours](#)

AND:

All,

November 22, 2015

www.chabotfire.com

15

The Firefighters killed in the Line of Duty [yesterday](#) have been identified.

Tom Zbyszewski, age 20

Andrew Zajac, age 26

Richard Wheeler, age 31

Daniel Lyon, age 25, was injured, has burns to 60% of his body and is critical, at intensive care being treated at Harborview Hospital in Seattle. An interview with Dr's about his condition is available HERE: <http://q13fox.com/> As you know, the above 3 USFS deaths occurred in that wildfire on DNR land near Twisp, WA [yesterday](#). Washington State along with much of the West Coast is being clobbered by wildfires-and have few resources available....as the East Coast keeps an eye on Hurricane Danny.

TRIAL BY FIRE:

Here is an article about the above Fallen Firefighter Tom Zbyszewski, a 2013 high school graduate, who was fighting fires for the first time last summer as part of a five-person Forest Service engine crew. Zbyszewski said he had never felt personally in danger while battling the fast-moving Carlton Complex fires. They said their supervisors and crew members follow safety protocols that call for identifying escape routes and safety zones wherever they are working. "They really keep us safe. There's no one going to the head of the fire. That would be way too dangerous," Zbyszewski said. **RIP.**

HERE IS THE ARTICLE FROM LAST YEAR ABOUT FF TOM ZBYSZEWSKI:

<http://methowvalleynews.com/2014/08/07/trial-by-fire/>

FATAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDING CRASH [TODAY](#) IN MARYLAND

One civilian and her dog died in a serious crash in Baltimore County late this afternoon that involved a responding Baltimore County FD EMS unit.

The collision involved a passenger car and that Baltimore County EMS vehicle. Doris Scott, 59, died and so did a small dog in the car with her. A Suburban used by the Baltimore County Fire Department was on its way to a call when it hit the back of a Honda at approximately 1600 hours, Our condolences and prayers for all those involved.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-20-2015-1800](#) Hours

[AND:](#)

Hey,

A couple of excellent fire service pieces we wanted to pass on [this morning](#)-well worth your time. The first is a piece by Sarah Kaplan of the Washington Post. It's a phenomenal piece that talks about that very young Firefighter, Tom Zbyszewski, 20; who along with Andrew Zajac, 26; and Richard Wheeler, 31, died in the Line of Duty this week. Four other firefighters were injured, including one with burns over 60 percent of his body: Daniel Lyon, 25. Take a few minutes to read this piece and consider passing it on to those who may not fully understand how this job works in so many parts of North America, and the world:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/08/21/firefighter-tom-zbyszewski-20-died-battling-a-blaze-that-threatened-a-region-he-knew-well/>

FIREFIGHTERS, DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S

Well, admittedly, I knew little about this disease until about two years ago when we started

seeing issues involving my Mom, Mrs. G. Some "weird" stuff went from my denial to a hard smack of reality. We have now become well aware and have learned about it-and while a tough situation for our family, and so many others-she has some decent medication, she has mostly really good days-she lives by us now-and we are together almost daily.

So....I was on Twitter [this morning](#) (@billygoldfeder) and this caught my attention.

A FIRE SERVICE FILM ...on dementia!? Huh!?

Seems that the Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service in the UK is closely involved with dementia charities and works in close partnership with the Alzheimer's Society and Age UK. As part of their involvement, they created a short film that raises awareness of the issues faced by the early onset of dementia.

CHECK OUT THIS short filmed called "THE SHOUT" using the Firefighters from their Bromsgrove Fire Station to produce the film. The film revolves around a Firefighter with dementia and highlights some of the early warning signs that can easily be missed in a younger person.

VIDEO HERE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdTMLQZRPIo&feature=youtu.be>

<http://youtu.be/mdTMLQZRPIo>

Here is the H & W Fire Rescue Service home page: <https://www.hwfire.org.uk>

FIREFIGHTER LODD IN PORTUGAL

OUR CONDOLENCES:

We have had this posted on our homepage but were only able to post it on TSL [today](#).

A Portuguese FF died in the Line of Duty [yesterday](#) due to injuries sustained when his fire truck overturned [Wednesday](#) in the region of Cascais, Portugal. FF José Moreira, 41 years old, was transferred to a hospital in the city of Lisboa, but did not survive. Other FF sustained non-life threatening injuries. The crew was responding to a fire in the region of Talaíde. Our condolences to all those affected.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-21-2015-0800](#) Hours

AND:

FIREFIGHTER SHOT/KILLED IN TEXAS

A Katy (Texas) Fire Department firefighter was shot and killed [last night](#). The firefighter suffered a reported self inflicted gunshot wound at the firehouse on [Sunday](#) evening. He was pronounced dead at Memorial Hermann Medical Center. No further details surrounding the shooting were immediately available. More to follow. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

WASHINGTON STATE TRIPLE LODD UPDATE:

The U.S. Forest Service has released additional information about the Line of Duty deaths of the three wildland Firefighters that occurred in the Twisp River Fire [August 19](#) near Twisp, Washington.

==The fire was reported at 12:30 p.m. PT, [August 19](#), 2015.

==Between 2:45 and 3 p.m. the wind direction changed and the fire activity increased.

==At about 3 p.m. firefighters were entrapped by the fire, and around 4 p.m. fatalities and injuries were reported.

==By 4 p.m. one injured firefighter was being airlifted to a hospital.

Engine 642, from the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest, was found upright **40 feet below Woods Canyon Road**. It had been burned over and three deceased firefighters were found inside.

Two deployed fire shelters were found, but at a press conference, the leader of the USFS investigation team, John Phipps, who currently serves as Station Director of the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, Colorado, said he did not know where they were found in relation to the Firefighters. Of course the deceased have been identified as Tom Zbyszewski, 20, Andrew Zajac, 26 and Richard Wheeler, 31. A fourth firefighter, Daniel Lyon, 25, of Puyallup, Washington, is in critical condition with third degree burns over over 60 to 65 percent of his body. The investigation team is using the Coordinated Response Protocol which was developed in 2014. Part of that process is a Learning Review which, according to a four-page document released by the USFS last year, "is designed to produce at least two learning products, one for the field and one for organizational leadership".

When asked about the process during the news conference, Mt. Phipps appeared to be unfamiliar with the "learning products", and said he did not know if they would both be released to the public.

At least six investigations are going on concurrently:

- Coordinated Response Protocol/Learning Review;
- Office of Inspector General (as required by the Cantwell-Hastings legislation, Public Law Public Law 107-203);
- OSHA
- Washington DNR investigation into injuries to two of their employees
- Forest Service law enforcement
- County Sheriff

HERE IS MORE:

<http://q13fox.com/2015/08/23/new-details-in-deaths-of-3-firefighters-vehicle-fell-down-40-foot-embankment/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-24-2015 0900 Hours

AND:

All,

We want to pass on information and the link to the Texas State FM investigative report related to the Houston Fire Department's LODD of Firefighter Daniel Groover. This report was released two weeks ago.

On [July 9](#), 2014, at 3:52 p.m., the Houston FD received a report of a residential fire at 1510 Mistletoe Lane. Engine 104 was first on scene, staffed with:

- An officer (E104A).
- Two firefighters, E104B and Daniel Groover (E104C).
- A driver, Engineer Operator (E104D).

When Engine 104 arrived on the scene there was fire on the Delta (west) side of the two story residence. **The fire was engulfing an attached storage shed used to store ammunition and ammunition reload equipment. Ammunition in the shed was exploding from the fire.**

Firefighter Groover (E104C), Firefighter E104B, and the Engineer Operator stretched a 150-foot, 1 3/4" attack line to the Delta side to attack the storage shed fire while E104A conducted an assessment along Alpha to the Alpha/Bravo corner and returned to the crew.

NO FIRE. LITTLE SMOKE.

The fire had extended into the first floor attic space and was moving through the attic. E104A took Firefighter Groover and went to a door at the garage to search for fire extension. They forced an entry door to the garage and **did not see fire or smoke**. They went to the main entry door of the residence and forced open the door. Firefighter E104B brought the hose line from the shed to the front door as E104A searched the first floor for fire extension. There was **no fire and little smoke** on the first floor, and they prepared to search the second floor. The three-person crew went up the stairs to the second floor to search for and halt the fire extension. The attack line did not reach the second floor, but E104A and Firefighter Groover continued the search on the second floor as Firefighter E104B tried to get additional slack in the hose line.

FIREFIGHTER SEPARATED.

Firefighter Groover became separated from E104A when smoke and heat filled the second floor. Smoke and heat extended into the second floor from the attic, and E104A ordered the crew to exit. When outside it was discovered that Firefighter Groover was unaccounted for and the electronic accountability system indicated Firefighter Groover's TPASS was in alarm. Continued attempts to contact Firefighter Groover were unsuccessful, and a Rapid Intervention Team was deployed. Firefighter Groover was located inside a second floor room at the French doors leading onto the balcony at the back of the house. Firefighter Groover was removed, and resuscitation efforts began immediately. Firefighter Groover was transported to the Kingwood Medical Center as resuscitation efforts continued. Firefighter Daniel Groover succumbed to the injuries he received while fighting the house fire. An autopsy conducted by the Harris County Forensics Institute revealed that Firefighter Daniel Groover died from smoke inhalation.

HERE is the entire report. <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/reports/fire/documents/fmfffgroover.pdf> - RIP.

MORE FROM THE TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE HERE: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/fire/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-31-2015-1800 Hours

AND:

All,

Thanks to funding from the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) is honored to release the second phase of training videos for the Principles of Modern Fire Attack. The ISFSI has built a series of training videos to assist departments in educating their professionals in the initial attack sequence, incorporating the fire dynamics research from the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

The next four videos in this series break down the SLICE-RS acronym and provide expanded knowledge for [today's](#) fire service.

- Video 1: A quick introduction to the training video series
- Video 2: The importance of Size-Up/360 and properly using the TIC for size-up

- Video 3: Performing Rescues while using SLICE-RS including VEIS
- Video 4: Proper Fire Attack (interior and transitional) using the hose stream properly

When used in conjunction with the full length Principles of Modern Fire Attack: SLICE-RS training video the series is a complete training package provided free of charge for the fire service community. The new series of videos can be found at the ISFSI YouTube channel or through a direct link at:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLLoA04uEI11OsyF7SY7WEZjAorZhraQs>

==MAX FIRE BOX What?

That's what I thought when I was told to check this out. So I checked it out and I am now passing this on to you. Since we started The Secret List in 1998, we send you info on stuff because we want to send you info on stuff. We don't charge to pass stuff on and we accept no advertising or sponsorship's. We also rarely pass stuff on unless it's something very unique or different. **The Max Fire Box is a unique device for #firefighter training purposes, so take a look for yourself:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_KQYuDgSS8 (VIDEO 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWL9U-aJns> (VIDEO 2)

<http://www.maxfirebox.com/about.html> (WEBSITE)

Take a look-its a unique training tool that can be a part of your overall program.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8-31-2015-0900](#) Hours

AND:

MINNESOTA FIREFIGHTER SUFFERS CARDIAC ARREST IN QUARTERS

We regret to pass on to you that 38 year old Saint Paul Firefighter/Paramedic Shane Clifton died last evening at Regions Hospital. Clifton was a Firefighter and Paramedic on Engine & Medic 14. He was on duty working at Fire Station No. 14. 111 Snelling Ave. N. just after 1700 last evening when he suddenly wasn't feeling well, then he collapsed. He was treated by his fellow Firefighter/EMTs and Paramedics on Medic 10, Medic 14, and Rescue Squad 2 and transported to Regions Hospital. Regions Hospital staff worked feverishly for several hours to save his life but could not. Firefighter Clifton was a U.S. Navy veteran who was named Command Sailor of the Year for 2001 aboard the USS Curtis Wilbur. He worked as an emergency department technician for Unity Hospital in Fridley, and Allina EMS, before joining the Saint Paul Fire Department on [October 1, 2007](#). Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to Firefighter Shane Clifton's family and many friends. This is the 63rd Line Of Duty Death (LODD) for the Saint Paul Fire Department, and the first since Ray Hain died in 2009.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-1-2015-0800](#) Hours

AND:

All,

A new 2 day Health and Safety Officer Academy will be presented by FDNY Chief Officers Stephen Raynis and Daniel Melia at the Fire Department Safety Officers Association annual Safety Forum, [\[www.fdsoa.org\]](http://www.fdsoa.org) [September 21-22, 2015](#), in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. This accelerated program prepares fire officers for the successful completion of the Pro Board certified HSO exam that will be offered immediately after the program.

The two-day Health & Safety Officer Academy will be based on the 4th edition Occupational Safety and Health in the Emergency Services by James S. Angle, the text book used by FDSOA to develop the examination for Pro Board certification. Chief Raynis has taught Occupational Safety and Health for Emergency Services at the college level since 2008 and is a member of the Technical Committee for NFPA 1521 Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications. Melia added, "In addition, we will share our unique experiences as FDNY safety officers. Case studies will be presented and student discussions will be encouraged. Time will be provided for students to share their experiences and the opportunity to learn from each other."

Learning outcomes from this program include:

- insight into safety related regulations and standards,
- an understanding of the development,
- management and evaluation of safety programs,
- information management skills,
- safety considerations in the diversified workforce and future trends and technology in emergency service.

Both Chiefs have seen the role of a Health and Safety Officer significantly evolve in the past ten years and with the appointment of a HSO now required by NFPA 1500: Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program. In addition to the HSO academy at the Safety Forum, Raynis and Melia will also present Safety: Everyone's Responsibility. Key takeaways include: Learn a safety program that is very effective and can be taught in the firehouse kitchen and how to empower every firefighter to make the best decisions on the fireground so they are free to focus on operational success.

For more information regarding the FDSOA Annual Safety Forum, [September 21-25, 2015](#), contact Rich Marinucci, executive director, at fdsoainfo@gmail.com or visit www.fdsOA.org.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-2-2015-0730](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,

A few years ago we had a discussion with some industry folks about the idea of a smoke and CO detector the size of a key chain. Attach it to book bags, hand bags, car keys, backpacks, suitcases- whatever-the idea was truly personal "always on the job" protection....especially when people are unknowingly in areas that lacked it. When I was sent this article [today](#), I was THRILLED because people are thinking about fire survival. Check this out...a new patent granted to Apple hinting that the company plans to include a smoke detector in the iPhone, iPad and other other iDevices. **Whoa.**

WHOA! A smoke alarm built in portable devices such as smartphones and tablets is a great and needed idea. Apple's plan to add a smoke detector to its iDevices can protect people WHEREVER they are. The below report explains that a small smoke detection sensor will be installed in an iDevice, which will be similar to the ones found in normal smoke detectors. The sensors can alert users when it detects smoke and also communicate location via GPS and call the fire department.

RUMOR: I am working with Apple to create an iFireSprinkler - where your iDevice would actually discharge water and/or an extinguishing agent to protect you and those around you in the event of fire. haha-just kidding.

Or maybe not...technology is pretty cool these days.

HERE is the APPLEiSider REPORT:

<http://appleinsider.com/articles/15/09/01/apple-patents-smart-smoke-detection-system-for-iphone>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-3-2015-1200](#) Hours

AND:

All,

This video was shared with us and we want to pass it on. The following are the comments that accompanied the video: This vehicle accident should serve as a reminder that anything can happen, regardless of how good the chauffeur (fire apparatus operator/driver) is behind the wheel. You can either skip ahead to about the 5:00 mark to view the point of impact or watch it in its entirety, taking every opportunity to learn and discuss all that is available. The latter of the two is obviously recommended. **Rest assured that while there are many videos of accidents involving fire apparatus out there, you haven't seen anything from this perspective.** It should be noted that, thankfully, the three parties involved (the two in the rig as well as the driver in the passenger vehicle) did not suffer from any life threatening injuries.

WHAT HAPPENED:

Units from York County, Pennsylvania were dispatched to a reported basement fire in a single family home. Truck 1 went en route with an acting officer whose helmet cam is on the dash board and recording when the accident took place. A full-time, 25+ year firefighter / driver was behind the wheel. The driver of a silver Pontiac Grand Am came to a stop at the intersection around a curve. She heard the sirens and looked around but did not see the approaching truck **as she was looking into the sun**. She proceeded through the cross road and was T boned by the apparatus. Interestingly, this accident occurred on the heels of yet another fire apparatus accident only two days prior to this event. On [May 29th](#), an engine company was involved in a single vehicle rollover while en route to an incident and several department members were injured. Thankfully, all of them have since made a full recovery.

After the T-bone, a mandatory inspection of Truck 1 was performed by the state police. Although the driver of the vehicle was clearly at fault and there was nothing the apparatus chauffeur could have done to avoid hitting her, there were concerns about litigation as it was determined that the brakes on the fire truck were slightly out of adjustment. The chauffeur was very distraught immediately after it occurred. When asked, he will tell you that he thought he killed her. Ironically, it was his actions that, more than likely, saved her life. If you take notice to the split second just before the point of impact, the rig veers to the left. The damage sustained to the apparatus was to the right front (officer's) side. Had this Firefighter not done what he did, she would have felt the full force of the vehicle which may have ended her life.

The following discussion points can and should be used in relation to your respective state laws and department SOPs:

- 1) Stopping at stop signs and traffic lights
- 2) Speed on both dry and wet road conditions
- 3) Radio traffic (is it escalating or de-escalating?)

- 4) Seatbelts
- 5) Passing through school zones while responding
- 6) Passing school buses while responding
- 7) The use of audio / visual warning devices (Ashley's Law*)
- 8) Taxation of additional resources
- 9) Apparatus Inspection (RIP, LT. Kelly, BFD Ladder 26*)
- 10) Record keeping and documentation
- 11) Physical, mental, and financial repercussions

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=310&v=8boWQvgo18U>

Thanks for the posting of this-an excellent CLOSE CALLS incident worthy of us all watching, learning and being reminded.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-3-2015-1600](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,

Cops are investigating what they think was a **deliberate hit-and-run crash** that injured a Lansing (MI) Firefighter who was collecting donations for MDA "Fill The Boot". **The Firefighter was taken to Sparrow Hospital and appeared to be seriously injured, had multiple fractures although his current "official" condition is unknown.** The Firefighter was dressed in turnout gear and was wearing a reflective vest and there were several other Firefighters in the area collecting donations for muscular dystrophy. The firefighter was standing in the center turn lane when he was hit around 1545 this afternoon. The male driver of the vehicle fled the scene and after a police chase and was arrested in another part of the city,

We'll post updates. KTIYP's.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-9-2015-1630](#) Hours

AND:

FIREFIGHTER LODD-INTENTIONALLY RUN DOWN

We deeply regret passing on that the Lansing Fire Department Firefighter has died of his injuries suffered in a hit-and-run this afternoon. 35-year-old Firefighter Dennis Rodeman, a seven-year veteran of the Lansing Fire Department, died this evening, according to a statement from Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero. Firefighter Rodeman was a Marine veteran, having served in Fallujah, Iraq. He was struck down [today](#) while participating in a "Fill The Boot" charity effort to collect donations to help children afflicted with muscular dystrophy. Rodeman was married and he and his wife were expecting their first child. More details to follow. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-9-2015-1930](#) hours

AND:

All,

A 20-year-old Florida man has been arrested on suspicion of planning to plant a pressure cooker

bomb during a 9/11 memorial observation in Kansas City. Joshua Ryne Goldberg, 20, of Orange Park, Florida, is accused of distributing information relating to explosives, destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction. He would face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

According to the criminal complaint:

<http://www.kmbc.com/blob/view/-/35207964/data/1/-/1syiemz/-/PDF-Bomb-plot-release.pdf>

....an informant said Goldberg sent him information this summer about how to make a bomb with a pressure cooker and poison-dipped pieces of metal, nails, screws, broken glass and other sharp objects.

The records detail conversations where police said Goldberg told the informant to place the bomb at the Kansas City Stair Climb, a 9/11 memorial event planned **Sunday in Kansas City that, as you all know, draws a lot of Firefighters.**

The informant was instructed in those conversations to place the device in a backpack near the crowd, but somewhere where it wouldn't get attention. He was also instructed to buy the materials at different stores in order to avoid raising any suspicions and to dip the metal pieces in poison to complicate the injuries of anyone struck by them. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Clay County, Florida, Sheriff's Office are investigating the case. More details here:

<http://www.kmbc.com/news/police-florida-man-planned-bombing-in-kc-during-911-memorial/35207214>

Eyes Wide Open, Gang.

Take Care. be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-10-2015-2000](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,

Look, while it's taken years, I think we've gotten this towering pillar of the law enforcement community **and** the screen actors guild to "get it." Seriously-most of you know (*and for those who don't, please don't EVER miss a chance to hear Gordon present-see below*) Gordon is a huge supporter of Firefighters and an aggressive advocate for our ability to do the job, take care of those who need us when they are in trouble, so that they-and we-survive. **He "gets it" more than most.** Gordon does some regularly scheduled quick, down and dirty "tips" - consisting of some law enforcement as well as some **FIRE** related messages. Check this out and nope, I didn't pay him for this message-I pay him for every message.

A MESSAGE TO FIREFIGHTERS FROM GORDON GRAHAM: <http://www.lexipol.com/todays-tip/>

AND for those of you NOT familiar with Gordon, HERE is are two short clip videos of his professional career:

-What He Did Before He Retired: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPJAwHQj8SI>

-What He Has Done For Decades-Pre & Post Retirement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og9Usv82CdU>

As you may know, Gordon is the exclusive sponsor of www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com and has been since day one. He will again be presenting at FDIC 2016, on Tuesday April 19th.

You can SUBSCRIBE to GORDON'S LEXIPOL tips HERE: <http://www.lexipol.com/>

HERE ARE MORE RESOURCES RELATED TO FIREFIGHTER CANCER ISSUES:

==THE WHITE PAPER:

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Taking-Action-against-Cancer-in-the-Fire-Service.pdf>

==NUMEROUS FIREFIGHTER CANCER PREVENTION RESOURCES:

<https://www.honeywellfirstresponder.com/en-US/Cancer%20in%20the%20Fire%20Service/Pages/default.aspx>

==SUPPORT FOR FIREFIGHTERS & THEIR FAMILIES DEALING WITH CANCER:

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-15-2015-1200](#) Hours

AND:

All,

THIS WILL TAKE YOU 15 SECONDS.

Seriously.

Please help the Firefighters, Cops, EMT's and other responders who are SICK, in some case DEATHLY ILL from the impacts of 9/11.

PLEASE SIGN THE ELECTRONIC PETITION [TODAY](#).

READ AND WATCH VIDEO on what long time Secret List member, Retired FDNY Firefighter Ray Pfeifer, who worked at Ground Zero says. Now he's working to stay alive, with advanced kidney cancer since 2009. *"I am the luckiest Stage 4 cancer guy out there," he said. "I can't complain. I have 14 more years than my friends did."*

Congress now has the choice whether or not to extend the Zadroga Act to permanently cover health expenses of our 9/11 heroes, and we are asking you to please sign the below petition [TODAY](#) to gain support for our fellow Americans in their time of need.

Tragically, our CONGRESS has **refused** to come together to guarantee support for these victims through an extension of the Zadroga Act (named after an NYPD Police Officer who died from illnesses sustained at Ground Zero). Two key programs in the Zadroga Act are set to expire soon (the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program in September 2015 and [September 11th](#) Victim Compensation Fund in [October 2016](#)). As a Firefighter, please encourage your member of Congress to vote and support American heroes who have been suffering since 9/11. **Please tell Congress to extend the Zadroga Act.**

ELECTRONICALLY SIGN THE PETITION HERE:

<https://www.change.org/p/tell-congress-we-will-never-forget-9-11-first-responders-and-survivors>

LISTEN TO RAY'S WORDS: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2015/09/14/zadroga-act-renewal/>

RELATED VIDEO HERE:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/jon-stewart-lobbies-congress-to-extend-zadroga-act-1.10848382>

Please sign the petition now-and please pass it on.
Take Care. Be Careful. Please Pass This On.
BillyG
The Secret List [9-16-2015-0800](#) Hours

AND:

All,
A Deputy Sheriff was struck and a Firefighter enroute to work was innocently killed in South Carolina [this morning](#) after a high-speed chase ended in a fatal wreck in northern Greenville County. Sheriff Steve Loftis said a deputy was initially investigating a report of a stolen truck at TD's Express Mart on West Blue Ridge Drive early [Thursday](#) morning. When the deputy arrived, he found two trucks parked end to end. A suspect in one of the trucks immediately began driving toward the deputy, who was pinned against a concrete wall with nowhere to go, Loftis said.

Loftis said the deputy pulled out his gun and fired several shots into the truck. One bullet shattered the windshield, but the truck kept going, hitting the deputy in the lower body. He was transferred to the hospital with minor injuries, Loftis said. The suspect then fled the scene. Deputies then pursued the truck on a "wild, high-speed chase," that covered roughly 15 miles on Poinsett Highway and north onto U.S. 25. At one point, Loftis said the truck went into the southbound lanes, driving into oncoming traffic. That's when deputies called off the pursuit. "Apparently the suspect had no worry or concerns for harming anybody else," Loftis said. The suspect was still driving the wrong way when he struck a motorcyclist head-on, Loftis said. Greenville County Coroner Parks Evans didn't release a name but said the motorcyclist was a Firefighter heading to work. No other details on the firefighter are available yet. Loftis said the suspect in the truck tried to flee the crash on foot but was arrested a short while later. After the wreck, deputies learned the truck involved in the chase was not the stolen truck. Investigators returned to TD's Express Mart, where they found the stolen truck still parked and arrested a second suspect. Our condolences to all. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List [9-18-2015-1200](#)

AND:

TEXAS PARAMEDIC LODD-APPARATUS CRASH

We regret to pass on that at Burnet County (Texas) ambulance rear-ended a semi [last night](#) and the Paramedic driving that ambulance has died in the Line of Duty. The crash happened at around 2100 close to the border of Williamson and Burnet counties. The crash caused a gas leak, shutting down the highway. The Medic driving the ambulance was taken to Seton Medical Center Williamson but did not survive. The patient being transported in the ambulance during the crash has been transported to St. David's. The conditions of the others injured are unknown at this time. More to follow. Our condolences to all those affected.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List [9-19-2015-0700](#) hours

AND:

All,
As an update to the earlier Secret List, Firefighter Daniel Hampton, an emergency medical technician

and firefighter from Burnet (Texas), is who was killed in the Line of Duty [last night](#). At approximately 2100 hours, that Burnet FD ambulance FF/EMT Hampton was operating collided with that tractor trailer in the 19000 block of U.S. 290 outside of Liberty Hill, Texas His paramedic partner and the patient in the ambulance both received injuries and were taken to a local trauma center for treatment, with no further information available as of yet. RIP. More details to follow.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-19-2015-1100](#) Hours

AND:

All,

I received a message from Deputy Fire Chief Steve Reid of the Washington DCFD (Ret). As the Grandfather of 6 wonderful grand babies myself-I treat his request as an urgent mutual aid request from him, a long time friend of ours. **Please do whatever you can and if nothing else, pass this on.**

His grandson, Colby James Reid, age 12, woke up one [Saturday](#) a few weeks ago complaining of a toothache. By the following day, his jaw had swollen considerably, so his concerned mother took him to the dentist right away. After x-rays showed nothing wrong with his teeth, he was referred to an oral surgeon, and by the end of the week, we were sitting in front of an Oncology specialist at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., having a conversation that is every parents' worst nightmare.

After much testing and torturous waiting, Colby was diagnosed with Anaplastic Large Cell (Non-Hodgkin's) Lymphoma. His status has been classified as Stage IV. He begin chemotherapy treatment [today](#) for a duration of six months. Doctors have warned that his tumors are growing and he has aggressive deterioration in his bones. No child should have to deal with suffering and sickness. Colby is about to become a teenager. All he wants to do is play football and baseball and video games with his little brother. The family and friends of the Reid/Carr family are devastated and wish to help ensure that Colby gets the best possible treatment and care possible, without the financial ruin that these procedures can cause. The chemotherapy alone costs tens of thousands of dollars each month. Please consider donating to help alleviate the strain of Colby's medical expenses.

With help from the community, we can ensure that cancer is just a chapter in Colby's life, and not the whole story. Assist us in making sure that our family is not alone in his fight against Lymphoma. A family friend has established a Go Fund Me site and your donations are greatly appreciated. Here is the link: <https://www.gofundme.com/helpcolbyfight>

SMOKE ALARM REPORT.

Vision 20/20 and the Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy have released a report (available at www.strategicfire.org) from a national smoke alarm summit that brought together experts working to find solutions to the problem of residential fire deaths. More than 3,000 people were killed in fires in the United States last year, or one every 2 hours and 41 minutes. Almost 16,000 were injured in these fires that caused \$9.8 billion in damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Although smoke alarms can cut the risk of death in half, based on its experience in home safety visits done across the country, Vision 20/20 estimates a need for more than 100 million smoke alarms in homes [today](#).

Fifty-nine representatives from the fire service, academia, government, non-profit and private sector convened for the one-day summit. The goal was to develop consensus recommendations to help guide future actions focusing on evidence-based policy and practices, priority research gaps to be addressed and steps needed to encourage wider installation of smoke alarms. A task force, with

expertise across the technological, data collection, human behavioral and educational messaging spectrum, has been formed to follow-up on the issues presented in the report. The task force will present its findings to Vision 20/20, which will then be shared with the public.

A copy of the report, ***Evidence Informing Action: Consensus Priorities to Increase the Use of Smoke Alarms in U.S. Homes*** is available from Vision 20/20 at www.strategicfire.org.

FIREFIGHTERS/BIKERS LOSE THEIR LIVES OFF DUTY

Firefighters and bikes (motorcycles) often go hand in hand. There have been 2 active duty Firefighters killed recently. While it appears both cases were not at all the fault of the Firefighters-PLEASE used EXTREME caution when riding-they DON'T see you.

===RIP: North Myrtle Beach (SC) Firefighter Jennifer Hannah, 37, who was killed in a motorcycle / vehicle crash [Wednesday](#) afternoon. She was also a volunteer FF in Horry County. Her husband Mitch Hannah was killed in a similar manner earlier this year. He was a Horry County Firefighter.

===RIP Seminole County (FL) Diana Gilboy, 43, a wife and the mother of two. Gilboy worked for the Casselberry FD for 10 years as a FF/Medic-they recently merged with Seminole County. Gilboy and her passenger, Sarah Post, 34, died [Sunday](#) when Gilboy's motorcycle struck a pickup truck that. Our condolences to all those affected by these losses.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-8-2015-2026](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has released its report on the LODD of Baltimore City (MD) Lieutenant James Bethea, who died in the Line of Duty last year following a row house fire.

On [November 12](#), 2014, Bethea, a 62-year-old Lieutenant, who was serving as the shift safety officer, died after falling through a hole in the floor of a vacant row house. At approximately 0019 hours, the department was dispatched to a report of smoke in a vacant row house. Firefighters began arriving on scene starting at 0022 hours and encountered a fire on the rear stairway that extended up the stairwell to the second floor. Battalion Chief 2 arrived on-scene at 0024 hours and assumed incident command. He quickly upgraded the dispatch to a working fire dispatch, which sent additional trucks, engines, battalion chief, and the shift safety officer. **The fire was quickly brought under control and the incident commander began releasing companies around 0046 hours.**

Remaining crews used ventilation fans to clear smoke from the fire structure and the vacant row house on side Delta. **Crews working inside the Delta exposure observed that the ground-level floor at the rear of the structure had been completely removed but did not report this hazard to incident command when they exited. The shift safety officer entered the Delta exposure alone and apparently fell through the hole, receiving face and head injuries. All remaining personnel cleared the incident scene by 0223 hours.** The fire department dispatch center began receiving phone calls reporting the shift safety officer's unattended vehicle blocking traffic around 0647 hours. Fire department resources were dispatched at 0748 hours to investigate the unattended vehicle. **The shift safety officer was discovered in the basement of the Delta exposure at 0824 hours and was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was determined to be smoke**

inhalation.

The report cited these contributing factors:

- Floor system at rear of the Delta exposure completely removed prior to incident
- Hole in floor (fireground hazard) not reported to the incident commander
- Smoke accumulation in the un vented basement of the Delta exposure
- Ventilation in the Delta exposure was not completed
- **Shift safety officer entered Delta exposure alone**
- **Fireground accountability was ineffective**
- **Crew integrity was not maintained and single unit resources operated alone**
- **Fire Communications Bureau placed shift safety officer in service without verbal confirmation with him, of his location.**

It made these recommendations:

- Fire departments should utilize a functional personal accountability system requiring a check-in and check-out procedure with the designated accountability officer or the incident commander
- Fire departments should ensure that the incident commander accounts for all resources before dissolving command
- Fire departments should train fire fighters on the principles of situational awareness
- Fire departments should train and empower all fire fighters to report unsafe conditions to Incident Command
- Fire departments should train all fire fighters and officers to report when tasks are completed or cannot be completed to their officer or the incident commander
- Fire departments should ensure that every fire fighter on the fire ground utilizes a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device including the ability to provide PASS devices for personnel operating in a potentially dangerous environment not requiring the use of self-contained breathing apparatus
- Fire departments should provide Battalion Chiefs and Chief Officers with a staff assistant or chief's aide to help manage information and communication
- Fire departments should ensure that single resource units (e.g. safety officers, fire investigators, etc.) do not function alone in IDLH environments at emergency scenes
- Fire departments should ensure that dispatch centers forward all reports of suspicious or unusual events to the appropriate authorities in a timely manner
- Fire departments should ensure that Mayday training program(s) are developed and implemented so that they adequately prepare fire fighters to call a Mayday.

Download the entire report HERE: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201424.pdf>.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10/9/2015-1505 Hours

AND:

MEMPHIS FIRE LT DIES FOLLOWING RUN/SHIFT

We regret to pass on to you that Fire Lieutenant Antonio Smith, from the Memphis Fire Department, died suddenly Wednesday afternoon near his residence. Lt. Smith had answered a fire call at 1933 hours on Tuesday, 06 October, and was found unresponsive in his vehicle at approximately 1844 hours on Wednesday, 07 October. Neighbors had seen him sitting in his truck earlier in the day but thought that he was sleeping. They did not attempt to wake him until later in the day. Our condolences to all this affected by this loss. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10/10/2015-1530 Hours

AND:

TWO KCMO FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCTURE COLLAPSE

We regret to pass on to you that 2 Firefighters were killed and two hurt after a burning building on Independence Avenue collapsed on them just a little while ago. Firefighters were dispatched to a building in the 2600 block of Independence Avenue about 1930 hours. and found the structure heavily damaged by smoke and fire, said Kansas City Fire Department Battalion Chief James Garrett. Fire crew evacuated people from the building, which included apartments. While clearing an area with a partially collapsed roof, a further collapse of the structure injured four firefighters. Two of the firefighters died in the Line of Duty, Garrett said. Crews continue to operate at the scene. Much more to follow. Our condolences to all those affected.

VIDEO:

<http://www.kctv5.com/story/30244129/two-firefighters-killed-2-injured-while-battling-kansas-city-blaze>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgfKiWRmPGQ>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xgsYVddb_U

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-12-2015-2250](#) Hours

AND:

All,

Here is the timeline to last night's fire that took the lives of KCMO Firefighters Larry J. Leggio, a 17-year member, and John V. Mesh, a 13-year member.

--Firefighter Leggio leaves behind a wife, a mother and many immediate family members.

--Firefighter Mesh leaves behind a wife and four young daughters.

7:27 p.m. - Multiple Kansas City firefighting units were dispatched to Independence and Prospect avenues on an apartment fire.

A second alarm response was ordered shortly after crews arrived at the scene.

7:52 p.m. - An evacuation of all personnel was ordered because of deteriorating conditions.

8:07 p.m. - A collapse was reported on the east side of the structure. Two mayday calls were received, indicating four firefighters were in urgent distress.

8:13 p.m. - First ambulance transported a firefighter to Truman Medical Center, arriving at 8:18 p.m.

8:21 p.m. - A second ambulance transported another firefighter to Truman Medical Center, arriving at

8:26 p.m.

Both firefighters died a short time later after doctors and nurses attempts to revive them were unsuccessful.

8:23 p.m. - A third firefighter was rushed to the University of Kansas Hospital.
8:27 p.m. - A fourth firefighter was transported non-emergency to St. Luke's Hospital.

36 YEAR OLD COLORADO FIREFIGHTER DIES FROM CANCER (C-LODD)

A memorial service for North Metro firefighter Craig Moilanen, 36, who died Oct. 8 after a two-year battle with cancer, will be held Friday morning in Littleton. The service will take place at 10:30 a.m. at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church, 6673 W. Chatfield Ave.

During an 11-year career, Moilanen served as a firefighter and captain with Foothills Fire and Rescue in Evergreen, and then as a firefighter and paramedic with North Metro Fire in Broomfield and Northglenn. A procession with fire trucks will travel from the Horan and McConaty Funeral Home at 3101 S. Wadsworth Blvd. in Lakewood to the church, arriving at 9:30 a.m. A procession after the service, including firefighters and police officers from several agencies, will travel from the church to Horan and McConaty in Aurora, 11150 E. Dartmouth Ave. Moilanen will be buried Oct. 21 in his hometown of Bismarck, N.D. He is survived by his wife, Amy, and their two children, ages 5 and 3.

Donations in honor of Moilanen and to support his family may be made:

www.donatetocraig.com

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10/13/2015-2100 Hours

AND:

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER DIES ON SCENE-LODD

We regret to pass on to you that South Amboy (NJ) Firefighter Gerald Celecki died in the Line of Duty while operating at a fire scene this morning, just around the corner from his home. Gerald "Bear" Celecki, 70, collapsed after responding to the fire call for the smell of gas at a home on Parker Avenue. Firefighters found Celecki lying face down on the ground near the scene of the fire call, which came in at 0816 hours, and they immediately came to his aid. Paramedics took Celecki to Raritan Bay Medical Center, where he died a short time later. Celecki grew up in Perth Amboy and served as a volunteer at the Perth Amboy Fire Department before moving to South Amboy and becoming a firefighter there. In all, he spent more than 50 years as a fireman. He also served as a fire policeman for Middlesex County. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10/14/2015-1530 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This was a CLOSE CALL for an autistic kid, and Firefighters and EMT's in Linden, New Jersey went above and beyond...which should be no surprise. Station WIAT did a great job covering this emotional story-that we are passing on to you via The Secret List. A young autistic boy, bullied on the school bus, has some real-life superheroes in his corner now - his firefighters. To many these new basketball shoes look like just sneakers. But to 12-year-old Jonathan Moran, they mean a lot more. "I love them a lot," said Jonathan. On Thursday, the 7th grader was bullied on the bus to school. "Started making fun of my sneakers and calling me fat, plus he called me stupid," said Jonathan. When he got on the bus to go home it escalated. "Started punching me, he broke my glasses, split my lip and gave me bruises around my face," said Jonathan. Enter Linden EMT and firefighters who drove Moran home after treating him.

"We came back from the call and it just struck a chord in my heart and was telling the guys what

happened and we decided to get the kid some shoes," said Brian Paster, Linden Firefighter and EMT. The firefighters surprised Moran at his home with sneakers, a t-shirt, socks and a wooden American flag. "A negative thing turned into a positive thing, he's more outgoing, he was so happy his mother said he's more talkative," said Paster. Jonathan has autism and has only been at his new school for a week or so. His mother said he's been bullied in the past and is proud of how he handled himself this time. "He's gotten in trouble in the past so to have all this positive attention this time perhaps it's gonna change the direction of his life," said Hope Moran, Jonathan's mother. With Halloween around the corner, Jonathan has a really good idea for a costume, which may eventually turn into a career. "Be a fireman or in the military," said Jonathan. So not just new sneakers, but the ability to walk with confidence from now on.

Tip the helmets to the Firefighters in Linden* for doing what people may not realize Firefighters do-and to WIAT for sharing the story.**

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10/14/2015-1130 Hours

AND:

OHIO FIRE CAPTAIN DIES FOLLOWING A RUN-MEDICAL

We regret to pass on to you that Captain Chuck Horning, 54, of the Townsend Township (Huron County in Northern Ohio) has died in the Line of Duty. Captain Horning was found slumped over the wheel of his truck at 1500 hrs. Tuesday, October 13, 2015 after responding to an emergency call in the early morning hours that day. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCED FOR KANSAS CITY FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

The city-wide, public memorial service to honor fallen KCMO Firefighters Larry J. Leggio and John V. Mesh will be at the Sprint Center on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. The public memorial service will be hosted by IAFF Local 42*. A fund to support the families of fallen firefighters is available through IAFF Local 42. Tax-deductible donations will be given to the families of Firefighters Leggio and Mesh. Donations can be made by check, payable to IAFF Local 42 and should be sent to 6320 Manchester Ave., Suite 42A; Kansas City, Mo. 64133. Sympathy cards may also be mailed to the same address.

***FOLLOW THIS PAGE FOR ALL RELATED DETAILS: <http://www.iaff42.org/>**

THE ATTACKS OF 9/11 CONTINUE TO KILL FDNY FIREFIGHTER DIES FROM WTC CANCER

FDNY FF Dennis J. Heedles Sr., 56, died Saturday in Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, Manhattan, of complications of lung cancer. FF Heedles operated at Ground Zero on 9/11 and also worked tirelessly in the recovery effort. FF Heedles had a 20-year career with the FDNY and loved being a firefighter. He retired in 2002 from Ladder Co. 76 in Tottenville. Surviving are his wife of 33 years, Veronica; his sons, Dennis Jr., Thomas and Erik; his daughter, Allison Spagnuolo; his mother, Stella Heedles; his brothers, Edward and Bobby; his sisters, Nancy Wright and Karen Ferrari, and a granddaughter. The funeral will be Friday from the Hanley Funeral Home, New Dorp, with a Mass at 10:15 a.m. in St. Charles Church. Burial will follow in Ocean View Cemetery, Oakwood. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10.15/2015-0730 Hours

AND:

At least 14 people died and 15 were injured when a bus and a fire truck collided in northern Honduras (South America). A first responder speaking on the radio said that 10 people died at the scene of the accident and another four passed away while being treated at a hospital.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUCYy-K5mCs>

The accident occurred on a highway in Yoro province, apparently after a fire engine crashed and turned over for unknown causes. The fatalities included two children, according to the Fire Department's report. Those who were injured, including five firefighters, were admitted to a hospital in the area. According to the report, at least four of the injured were airlifted by helicopter to Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in the northern city of San Pedro Sula due to the gravity of their injuries.

AND:

All,

Some of your Brothers and Sisters took time to create these videos on our biggest battle-cancer.

Here is an excellent 10 minute new video that is worth your time to watch, to share and pass it on. It's from the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

Please check Out This New Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WV4dUoq330A>

Related Videos:

Here is a hard hitting video on cancer from Boston FD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOvBypsaHog>

Here is the Firefighter Cancer Support Network video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUqm9DMdISl>

Here is the Fire Engineering Video on the FF Cancer Epidemic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaVN2IYFnHM>

Honor, Pride, and Tradition - The Fight Against Cancer in the Modern Fire Service (Fairfax County FF's) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2YhL2fBvTs>

And HERE is one from New Zealand Firefighters:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nqWSEE6xs0>

Please take time to watch and share these important messages.

Take Care. be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10/16/2015-1530 Hours

AND:

All,

An engine from the Ritchie VFD (Prince George's County Fire/EMS, MD Co 37) was parked in a barrier (protect the scene) position on the beltway, when they were violently struck from behind about 2300 hours **last night**. According to PG County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor, they had just arrived at the scene of a separate accident where a rescue squad and ambulance were already working a minor accident - the first arriving units were actually positioned in front of the scene due to confusion over a flat tire they stopped at first on the other side of the road vs the minor accident,

The engine company was positioned and 2 of the 5 Firefighters dismounted to determine whether any additional hands would be needed to assist. Just after they dismounted, a van at speed struck the rear end of the engine (pictures on our homepage as well as links below).

Units on the scene were used to extricate the entrapped van driver, who was transported to the hospital in serious condition. The three members on the engine were transported to a local hospital for a checkup - they will be ok. Once again, another example of where barrier protection worked to protect an active scene.

More photos and details of the crash here: <http://ritchie37.com/>

Additional details will be posted at: <http://www.pgfdpio.blogspot.com/>

FREE FIREFIGHTER TRAINING related to operating apparatus/positioning and protection on roadways is **HERE:**

<http://learning.respondersafety.com/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/16/2015-0800 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

2 Detroit Fire Department paramedics are in serious condition after they were attacked, slashed and stabbed repeatedly while trying to help a woman on Detroit's west side, and the suspect remains on the loose. It happened just after midnight [this morning](#) in a neighborhood just east of the Lodge Freeway along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The paramedics had been called to the area to treat a woman with an ankle injury when a man who was with the woman became "agitated" and attacked. A male subject on scene was upset at the assessment of the medics as they were treating her and at some point during the encounter, he produced this weapon. The suspect first went for the male paramedic, who has been working with the department for about two years. When the female paramedic, a 13-year department veteran, stepped in to help her partner, the suspect turned his attention - and his weapon - to her. Both paramedics were stabbed and slashed repeatedly before making it back to their vehicle. The paramedics then drove themselves to Detroit Receiving Hospital where both remain in serious condition.

"It was a horrific scene. The EMS rig, the scene inside of the rig is horrific. Their injuries are horrific," Fire Commissioner Jones said, adding that both paramedics will have significant scarring. "Both of the EMTs are going to require some extensive surgeries. The injuries - they came to within inches of dying." The suspect took off running after the attack and is currently being sought by police. His description was not immediately released. KTIYP's

Take Care. be Careful Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-20-0800 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

32 year old (a/k/a young!) Hampton (NH) Firefighter Kyle Jameson saw his doctor for a routine physical. And then....the lymphoma they detected took everyone by surprise. It's not typical of healthy young men. They soon realized it was due to the exposure to multiple toxins from fighting fires. He's a

YOUNG FIREFIGHTER and that can change everything....

PLEASE WATCH and pass on this video to see his story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FME-QrMlrBs>

In the past two days, national fire service leadership has been meeting outside Washington, DC to discuss many of the issues Kyle - and so many other firefighters like him - are battling ...and identifying new directions in fighting and preventing firefighter cancer.

As so many have asked, there is now **one coordinated collaborative focus** through the **Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance**, utilizing leadership from organizations such as the IAFF, NFFF, IAFC, NVFC, FCSN, FEMA, CFSI, USFA, IABPF, IWOMEN, USFS, NIOSH, NFPA, NAFTD, IFSTA and others to insure a path to success. We're gett'n there.

---Firefighters-do your part. The last thing you want is to have a video made about you.

---Fire Officers-accept no bs-protect your members even when some don't get it.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-23-2015-1100](#) hrs

AND:

Hey,

This week, actually right now, the Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance is meeting in Arlington, VA. Coordinated and lead by the NFFF, the alliance is the group of firefighters, medical and industry professionals - fighting the firefighter CANCER challenges. Amongst the presentations (and working break out sessions) include Boston Fire Commissioner Joe Finn-and the efforts he and his Boston Firefighters IAFF Local are taking to reduce firefighter exposures and cancer.

If you hadn't seen it, here is the outstanding BFD Firefighter Cancer Video:

http://youtu.be/FFynPPz_iM8

The following organizational leaders are on hand here in Arlington, seriously working on the challenges of firefighter cancers...we are well represented including: IAFF, IAFC, NFPA, NFFF, FCSN, FEMA, NVFC, IABPF, NIOSH, USFS, CFSI, FASNY, NFSA, IFSTA, medical experts and several supportive fire service businesses and fire service media leadership from Fire Engineering and Firehouse. Most Firefighters don't know a Firefighter who was traumatically killed in the Line of Duty....but you'd be hard pressed to find a Firefighter who DOESN'T know another Firefighter that has-or had cancer. It's a big deal.

Fortunately, the leaders from the above organizations and others are now hard at work in a very coordinated effort (on behalf of all of us) on the Firefighter cancer fight. Much more to follow. In appreciation for their efforts, here are some things we can all do now to minimize our chances of getting FIREFIGHTER CANCERS. Download it, print it, post it, pass it on:

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Taking-Action-against-Cancer-in-the-Fire-Service.pdf>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-22-2015-0945](#) Hrs

AND:

TEXAS FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING AN EMS RUN.

We regret to pass on to you that 58 year old Firefighter Larry O'Neil of the Lone Camp Fire Department (Palo Pinto, west of Fort Worth) died in the Line of Duty [last Sunday](#), the 25th. The 40 year veteran Firefighter was on an emergency medical call in a fire department vehicle and had just arrived on-scene when fellow Firefighters noticed that he had become ill. Firefighter O'Neil was removed from the vehicle, provided medical assistance, and transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to a nature and cause of injury still to be reported but thought to be cardiac related. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

More details here: http://www.mineralwellsindex.com/news/volunteer-firefighter-dies-responding-to-emergency-medical-call/article_70b2b25a-7c21-11e5-99ea-833f48561c4e.html

==YOUR SUPPORT IS STILL DESPERATELY NEEDED

RE HEALTH SUPPORT TO 9!!! FIREFIGHTERS, COPS AND EMT's:

Re The Zadroga Act. Please take time to make sure that you, your Brother and Sister Firefighters, family & friends followup in making sure their members of congress "get it"

PLEASE SIGN (and pass it on) THE PETITION ASAP, HERE:

https://www.change.org/p/tell-congress-we-will-never-forget-9-11-first-responders-and-survivors?tk=TmAH2IXWS5Tji2YhX3c4SYD4xA02Aauik5CRPnwHxmQ&utm_source=petition_update&utm_medium=email

ADDITIONAL HERE:

<https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/32742-9-11-responders-need-your-help>

==FINAL WORD: CONGRATS CHIEF RONNY K!

CONGRATS to life long Secret List member Ronald Kanterman who was sworn in as the Chief of the Fire Department of Wilton, CT last week. Heres a great piece about ut and him:

<https://goodmorningwilton.com/kanterman-sworn-in-as-fire-chief-makes-it-about-my-guys-photosvideo/>

Take Care. be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-28-2015-1100 Hours

AND:

Hey,,

Terrible news out of South Africa [this morning](#) when tensions at the City of Johannesburg's Emergency Management Services (EMS-Fire Rescue) boiled over [last night](#) as a Firefighter shot and killed his boss. This isn't the first time horrible events like this have happened. For example, here in the United States, you may recall Kenneth Ternes, a Jackson, Mississippi FF, a walking time-bomb, joked about going to the firehouse and killing "the chiefs". But on [April 24](#), 1996, his "joke" became reality when, after gunning his wife at home, he went to fire headquarters to hunt "the bosses". Before leading police in a high-speed chase, Kenny, an eight-year fire department veteran, killed four supervisors in the fire station. RIP.

[Last night](#) in Johannesburg, the shooter was one of the Firefighters recently placed on suspension following an illegal strike over the Line of Duty of two firefighters who died of smoke inhalation after being trapped in an inner-city building this year. [Last night](#), the Orange Farm fire station's commander, Lesedi Phatsoe, arrived at the Firefighter's home to serve him with a notice to appear before a hearing. The fire officer was shot dead. The suspect was arrested.

One Firefighter says the shooting was the culmination of events that followed the Line of Duty deaths of those two firefighters in May. Firefighters Michael Letsosa, 33, and Dan Zwane, 54, died of smoke inhalation after being trapped in that building fire. It was alleged that the incident manager had taken the pair with him into the building to determine where the ignition point was although he was supposed to have remained outside because he was in charge of the scene.

When the men went down, they did not have a hoseline as a possible way out of the building if they got lost, and they would not have been able to flow water if had they found it. Long after the three went into the building, the incident manager reportedly crawled out, struggling to breathe. Other Firefighters entered the smoke-filled building and found Letsosa. He had taken off his boots and SCBA, which had run out of air, to try and make a run for it, but was overwhelmed by the smoke. Zwane was found on the other side. He had also taken off his SCBA. Many firefighters at the time blamed the deaths on bad management. The alleged gunman, who has since been arrested, was one of the firefighters who had initiated complaints about their working conditions and salaries.

Upset by difficult working conditions due to lack of equipment and low salaries, Firefighters recently went on an illegal strike protesting that they were being made to work 12-hour shifts without compensation. Instead of reporting to work at 7am and leaving at 7pm, they started working their own hours from 8am to 4pm, leaving stations understaffed. The Firefighters claim that management had been blatantly ignoring their grievances, leaving them no choice but to embark on the illegal strike. They were subsequently suspended and only returned to work last week. But [last night](#), that Station Commander went to that Firefighters house to give him the letter that warned him to appear at an ethics and compliance court ...and the rest is now history. A Fire Officer has lost his life and another is now facing prison. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

VIDEO - BUS ON FIRE - ROLLS AWAY -FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL

Fortunately, no one was injured after a school bus caught fire outside an elementary school in Prince George's County, Maryland [yesterday](#). No one was on board the bus when it caught fire outside 3:15 p.m. outside Overlook Elementary School in Suitland. The bus rolled across the parking lot while county firefighters stretched their hoseline. Firefighters believe the fire burned through the brake lines, allowing the bus to roll on its own, right across the parking lot.

VIDEO HERE: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/223801>

Take Care. be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-29-2015-0730](#) Hours

AND:

Hey,

FDNY Firefighter Ray Pfeifer is an old friend, and, like you, has been a member of The Secret List for many years. So I figured if that connection helps with any of you who also belong to The Secret List-then we'll give this a try. We need your help. Every one of you. This is a big deal.

Your Mutual Aid Action To FDNY As A Brother Or Sister Firefighter Is Needed Now.

Right Now.

This Is a MAYDAY.

Please read on.

For Ray, the repercussions from his days with FDNY responding in the aftermath of 9/11 are severe. From the World Trade Center cough to now **stage four renal cancer** that has spread to his bones has left him in a wheelchair. Pfeifer was forced to retire last year and [today](#) one of many begging

members of Congress to do the right thing and pass, once again, the James Zadroga Health and Compensation Act. "It looked like it was sailing to pass it and then the day they swore in the new speaker, Speaker Ryan, another bill was introduced. **A bill that would gut and kill the program,**" explained Congresswoman Maloney.

The Zadroga Bill has bi-partisan support, but was allowed to recently expire. Now the House Judiciary and the Energy and Commerce Committee, with its Republican leadership released two separate bills that not only slashes funding by 60%, but also limits the bill and extends it for only 5 years.

"We do not support this proposal. My colleagues from New York do not support this proposal. The heroes of 9/11 and the survivors of this neighborhood do not support this proposal," said Congressman Nadler. Maloney, with Nadler and other members of Congress stood with first responders to plead with Washington colleagues not to play politics with this one and urged them to keep the bill's existing funding and to make it permanent. "Congress told us in 5 years come back to us and we'll take care of it. Well they haven't and now we have to go down there and beg again," said Pfeifer. The bill expired at the end of [September 2015](#) and according to Maloney has only enough funding to sustain itself without action until the [September 2016](#).

MUTUAL AID ACTION: PLEASE contact YOUR member of congress:

<http://www.renew911health.org/take-action/take-action-contact-your-members-of-congress/>

MUTUAL AID ACTION: WHO SUPPORTS FIREFIGHTERS & THE ZADROGA ACT AND WHO DOES NOT: <http://www.renew911health.org/>

Video: <http://pix11.com/2015/11/02/new-york-city-firefighters-continue-to-fight-for-zadroga-bill/>

Please take time. It may not be FDNY Firefighters, Cops or EMS suffering after the next time North America is attacked. It May Be Your Department.

Gang-we never waste your time on anything on The Secret List. Since 1998, we take each one of these we send seriously-knowing how much crap you get via email-we work hard to make sure each "Secret List" matters and is crap-free. Please help.

PENNSYLVANIA LADDER COLLAPSE UPDATE

A man doing a fire department aerial ladder truck certification test was flown to a Pittsburgh hospital this afternoon after he was struck by that ladder at the Clymer Fire Department. Chief Mike Aikens said a rigger that supports the truck broke at about 2:35 p.m., causing the ladder to fall on the man. "We had a catastrophic failure on the truck, and he got injured from it," Aikens said. The man, whom Chief Aikens didn't identify, was flown to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Oakland. Information about his condition was not available. A helicopter landing zone was set up at the fire station. The man suffered injuries to his head, arm and ankle, Aikens said. **HERE IS VIDEO AND PHOTOS:**

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/news/local/1-person-taken-hospital-after-accident-fire-dept/npD54/>

KHIYP's

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [11/2/2015-1926 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

I know that I have been pushing this hard-and its for a reason. Please give us one minute to explain.

November 22, 2015

www.chabotfire.com

38

We were attacked on 9/11...and while we pray to never experience that again, it is certainly within the realm of possibility...and the next attack-and victims-could very well be from **YOUR department**. Your family, friends, firefighters, police officers, EMT's....**"the next community."**...so now how would you like to be treated? it's a big deal. Prior to congress taking their winter break, there is a great deal of need for them to support Zadroga-the REAL Zadroga Act that will last until it is no longer needed...without a "sunset" clause. **We are being asked to pass this on-please CALL the offices of the Federal Judiciary Committee at 202-225-3951 and respectfully express displeasure cutting the Zadroga bill to a 5 year window...as that is hardly enough for long term care for those who need it now-and those who don't yet know they need it.**

If you wish to use web access to express your concerns, go to <http://www.renew911health.org/>

This video may also help you better understand why help is needed by everyone reading this.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEaZHyA4-3w>

==WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTERS AND EMT'S.

Here is a FIRE and EMS TRAINING opportunity **next week** in Wisconsin that we have been asked to pass on. Check it out-maybe we'll cya there:

<https://www.emstrendsetters.org/>

==ON-CALL EMT STABBED IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK:

An "on call" New York City* volunteer EMT was slashed last evening in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, NYPD is investigating the assault as a possible hate crime. The Hatzalah Volunteer EMS member (<https://www.hatzalah.org/>) identified as 34-year-old David Katz was at Eastern Parkway and Rogers Avenue when around 2020 hours, a man walked up from behind and slashed him in the back. While injured, he called in on his radio for help, in which other nearby Hatzalah members responded to the call. The ALS and BLS members treated him fellow member for injuries to his upper right side in the back. He was transferred Kings County Hospital where he is listed in serious, but stable, condition. NYPD investigators from the Intelligence Division & Counter-Terrorism Bureau and the Hate Crimes Task Force are not ruling out anything at this time. It might be a hate crime and it might be terror related. The suspect, who is described as a 6-foot-tall black male was wearing a mask, fled from the scene on Eastern Parkway, Investigators are in the process of studying some surveillance video.

*(*While FDNY EMS is responsible for EMS city wide in NYC, there are numerous communities that have-and have had for decades-local volunteer ALS/BLS EMS transport squads that work with FDNY. Here is a listing of them: <http://www.nycremsco.org/newsflash1.aspx>)*

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [11/4/2015](#)-1200 Hours

AND:

Hey,

FDNY Firefighters responding to a medical emergency in the Bronx [Monday](#) night entered what turned out to be a CO leak -- and fortunately equipment on an EMS crew coming behind them averted what would have been a really bad situation. The firefighters were reportedly unaware they had walked into a building that was literally filled with CO. It wasn't until the FDNY EMS crew from Station 15 got on the scene that an alarm was sounded. Some 10 residents and the Firefighters evacuated

from the building at E. 217th St. Four people, including the initial patient who called 911 with difficulty breathing, were taken to Jacobi Hospital for treatment of minor injuries related to the CO exposure, according to FDNY. The call that came in just before 0100 hours was for a cardiac arrest and Firefighters were the first on the scene for the emergency call, taking care of the patient, who was actually having an asthma attack.

But when FDNY EMS members from Station 15 stepped into the building, they immediately knew there was trouble. **The carbon monoxide meters the units carry with them began to go off, alerting them to the potential deadly danger.** The first readings showed a level of 600 parts per million, which can cause nausea and headaches and can be deadly with extended exposure of three hours or more. The EMS monitors will spike at 35 parts. As the crew worked to evacuate the building residents, their alarms kept climbing, and by the time the building was emptied, the monitors were registering 1000 parts over 1 million. None of the Firefighters or EMT's were harmed. The residents taken to Jacobi Hospital with CO-related injuries included a woman in her 40s and a man in his 60s, according to FDNY.

=FIRES AND POOR PEOPLE

So... I was looking at a website about a fire conference in South Africa and noted a unique product being shown by a vendor-and what struck me is the very real issue of fires in their slums and shanty town. Communities filled with thousands of people-living literally in shacks...and that's a nice description for some of their living conditions. I looked up their site and found a really interesting solution to help detect FIRES in these poorest of the poor communities. We already KNOW that children, elderly and the poor are most often the victims of fires. Show us a poor community and we'll show you fires. Socio-economic stuff. I found the website of a "start up" group called Lumkani. Lumkani has developed an early-warning system to reduce the damage and destruction caused by the spread of shack/slum fires in those urban informal settlements.

THESE ARE NOT SMOKE DETECTORS

Many cooking, lighting and heating methods used by the people living in these informal settlements and slums produce smoke. Because of this, the Lumkani detectors use rate-of-rise of temperature technology to accurately measure the incidence of dangerous fires and limit the occurrence of false alarms. Population density is a challenge that all urban informal settlements share - and as you know, is a major risk factor that enables the rapid spread of fire. In order to provide sufficient early-warning, a "community alert" is required. These Lumkani detectors are networked within a large area radius so that in the event of a fire-all the devices in the range will sound together, enabling a community-wide response to the fire. This buys time for communities to react-and fire companies to respond. Sort of like the old days of bells sounding so all can assist in fighting the fire, bucket brigades-the Ben Franklin days-only those days exist now, in 2015. These devices are smart and centralized as they gather information through the detector mesh network. These devices constantly check the health of the system and in the event of fire, store GPS coordinates and simultaneously send text-message warnings to members of the affected community. The next phase they are working on is to send, in real-time, the coordinates of fires to the fire department.

Whoa....pretty cool.

I thought you would find this of interest-here is a link to their website-WATCH THE VIDEO and check it out...already they have stopped fires before they could spread. When you see the photos of the communities, you will see just how serious a fire problem they have-and how this has already made a huge difference. <http://lumkani.com/>

(MAIN WEBSITE) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0K0rsSk_d8
(WATCH THE VIDEO)

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List [11/5/2015-0943 Hours](#)

AND:

NJ DEPUTY CHIEF DIES FROM MEDICAL EMERGENCY

We regret to pass on to you that Protection Fire Company #1 of Keasbey, NJ Deputy Chief Thomas J. Kolarick has died in the Line of Duty. On [November 11](#), 2015 Deputy Chief Kolarick succumbed to a medical emergency sustained while responding to an incident on [September 17](#), 2015. Deputy Chief Kolarick joined Protection Fire Company #1 on [August 12](#), 1974. During his service with the Department he served in many roles including Fire Chief and President. Funeral Services will be held [Today- Monday November 16](#), 2015 at Mitruska Funeral Home at 10:00am. A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 am at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church located at 630 Amboy Ave, Edison, NJ 08837. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS STRIKES CIVILIAN-CRITICAL CONDITION

A San Antonio Fire Department truck hit a man as it was responding to a fire on the Northwest Side [yesterday \(Sunday\)](#). It happened around 12:30 a.m. on the 3900 block of NW Loop 410 near East Crestline Drive. The man wearing dark clothing stepped into the path of an oncoming fire truck that was running with its lights and sirens. The driver of the ladder truck didn't see the man at first but then tried to avoid him but was unable to avoid hitting him. EMS transported the man to University Hospital in critical condition. KTIYP's.

FIREFIGHTER CRITICALLY BURNED DURING VICTIM SEARCH RECEIVES A FACE TRANSPLANT

(Be sure to click the below link to watch this story) Being a Firefighter meant everything to Fire Captain Pat Hardison, but when an accident during a rescue mission left his face severely burned, he thought he would never be the same again. "It was terrible," Hardison, 41, told "ABC Nightline." "I mean, I left home one day a normal dad, leaving to go to work, just a blonde-haired, blue-eyed-- that had everything going, I thought, and just like that everything changed drastically."

But 14 years later, Hardison got the call to come to NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City, where a surgical team, led by renown reconstructive surgeon Dr. Eduardo Rodriguez, who is the chair of the hospital's Wyss Department of Plastic Surgery, would prepare him for the most extensive face transplant ever performed. It was a procedure so extreme and so risky that his doctors warned him he only had a 50-50 chance of surviving it. But it was a risk he was willing to take for the chance to get his life back and feel normal again. "I prayed daily that there would be a miracle to help me get through this, and you know, it's all in God's timing," Hardison said. In 2001, Captain Hardison and his second wife Chrissi were raising their three children in his hometown of Senatobia, Mississippi. At 27, he was a charming, successful salesman who ran the family tire business, but his real passion was working with the local volunteer fire department where he was a Captain.

"It was my way of life, that was what I did," he said. "I didn't do it to make a living, I did it because I loved it... at this department it's different. It's not like a fire department that volunteers, we're a brotherhood." It was a brotherhood made up of the kind of men willing to rush headlong into a burning home, which is exactly what Captain Hardison did on Sept. 5, 2001. "It was just a normal day," he said. "Just like every other fire... we went in looking for a lady." Captain Hardison and his fellow firefighters got the call to respond to a house fire, and when they arrived, he entered the building with three other firefighters. He doesn't remember much of what happened next, except the ceiling collapsing around him.

"[My mask] was melting to my face," Captain Hardison said. "My hose [was] already melted." He pulled the mask off, held his breath and closed his eyes, which doctors say saved his throat and lungs from smoke inhalation damage and from losing his vision. He doesn't remember exactly how he managed to escape the inferno but by the time he got out, he was unrecognizable. "There was nothing left of his face to tell you who he was," said Brickly Cole, one of Hardison's friends and another volunteer firefighter on-scene that day. His friends rushed to save Hardison's life, but they didn't realize who they were working on until he was being loaded into an ambulance. "He pulled me down over his face... and said, 'you got to take care of Chrissi and the kids,' and my world shut down," said Cole. "You never think it's going to happen to you or yours. We closed the door on that ambulance and I figured it was the last time I would ever see him alive." Captain Hardison spent the next 63 days at the hospital recovering from the burns that took his scalp, ears, eyelids, nose and lips. His entire face was gone. When he got home, Hardison said his three children, Alison who was 6, Dalton who was 3 and Averil who was 2 years old at the time, were terrified of him.

HERE IS HIS ENTIRE STORY:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/unprecedented-face-transplant-surgery-firefighter-hope-life/story?id=35218667>

<http://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/face-transplant-recovery-90-days-35221039>

We wish Fire Captain Hardison the best!

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 11/16/2015-0700 Hours

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

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

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

Police in Texas have charged a former Oregon firefighter with sexually assaulting another firefighter when the pair were on a training trip in Grapevine last year. The two were among 12 Port of Portland Fire Department firefighters taking FAA training. Since the incident, Jason McCann has been fired and the unidentified victim has resigned. The victim's husband is also a battalion chief at the same department: <http://www.statter911.com/2015/08/26/oregon-firefighter-charged-with-sexually-assaulting-another-firefighter-during-out-of-town-training/>

From rural communities and small towns to big cities, everyone who handles EMS has frequent flyers. In Everett, Washington it appears 51-year-old Kirk Spencer meets that definition. Firefighters have had more than 100 responses to assist Spencer. But on July 1 a captain and two firefighters made it clear they apparently had enough of Spencer after the second call of the day. According to an article by Rikki King of the Herald, the firefighters of Engine 1 gave Kirk Spencer a fire truck ride. They transported the homeless and intoxicated man almost out of the city limits and left him in a grassy area underneath the shade of the highway and told him not to come back to town until he got "off the sauce." All three firefighters received reprimands for their actions and Chief Murray Gordon has said "that's not a level of conduct that we will in any way condone and we're going to move forward": <http://www.statter911.com/2015/08/27/firefighters-disciplined-for-taking-a-frequent-flyer-for-a-ride-out-of-the-area/>

On Wednesday at around 2 p.m., Michael Patterson, 45, a lieutenant in the Hartford (CT) Fire Department, turned himself in to the Hartford Police Department pursuant to an arrest warrant issued for breach of peace in the 2nd-degree. The arrest resulted followed a police investigation into an incident alleged to have happened at a fire scene on Friday, August 14, at West Morningside Street. Patterson was on duty at the time and is alleged to have engaged Captain Thomas Dalton, also on-duty, in a physical and verbal altercation:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/08/26/hartford-fire-lieutenant-arrested-after-fight-at-fire-scene-with-captain/>

A Fairfax County (VA) firefighter who suggested putting police officers in body bags has been placed on paid administrative leave. Khalil B. Abdul-Rasheed is under investigation for his Facebook posting that read: "We have (to) start putting them in body bags . . . stop filming and rally to your fellow citizen. Pull the cops off, lay on the individual, form a circle or throw punches. Do something . . . They can't massacre a mob," according to the [Washington Post](#). The post was made on a Facebook page that discussed citizen videos of police officers making arrests. The post angered county law enforcement officials. "The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will not tolerate committing or inciting violence against law enforcement officers," Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers Jr. wrote in a statement:

http://www.firehouse.com/article/12100327/fairfax-county-firefighter-on-leave-after-anti-police-facebook-posting?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS150731003

The chief of the New Florence (PA) Volunteer Fire Department is accused of threatening to kill a firefighter from a neighboring department. Keith Boring is facing charges of harassment and making terroristic threats in connection with an incident in August between Boring and an assistant chief from the Seward Volunteer Fire Company:

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/news/local/new-florence-fire-chief-accused-threatening-member/nn7Kz/>

A group of FDNY Firefighters taking the recent lieutenants exam dashed off to the bathroom to access the answer key on their cellphones, The Post has learned. The alleged cheats, taking the promotions test at a Queens high school, clicked a link to pull up answers to all 100 multiple-choice questions via a website that states, "We are very confident in this answer key and believe it to be 100% accurate." About 2,300 firefighters took the exam on June 20. The city's Department of Citywide Administrative Services, which oversees the exam, and the Department of Investigation are jointly reviewing the possible cheating scandal after an FDNY supervisor was tipped off by an anonymous person, sources said. "Somebody walked into the bathroom and saw these guys on their phone," a high-ranking FDNY source said. "They were pulling up the test material." Cellphones and other electronics are banned during city civil service exams, but the hopefuls managed to slip the devices into the school undetected to gain an upper hand on their fellow Bravest, the sources said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/12104817/fdny-probes-allegations-of-cheating-on-lieutenants-test>

A [Marion County](#) (FL) firefighter is getting heat after someone shot cellphone video of him driving around a stopped school bus. In the video posted to Facebook, he got mad at the parents who were yelling at him to stop. "As soon as the kids started loading the bus, he decided to pull out and zoom past," said parent Catherine Fernandez. Not only did he go around the bus, he also passed it in a no passing zone. When parents saw the driver, several of them let the driver have it, but instead of apologizing, parents said he fired back. "He said if we all had jobs, our kids wouldn't have to ride the buses," Fernandez said. Witnesses were able to get the man's license plate and eventually found out the driver is a lieutenant with the [Marion County](#) Fire Department. "He should have had more care than anyone just on that fact," said parent Bonnie Zufelt. Deputies said once the investigation is complete, they'll send

it to the State Attorney's Office. The fire department is waiting on the outcome of the investigation before deciding if any actions will be taken:

<http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/witness-records-marion-county-firefighter-driving-/nnPJ2/>

Police say on-duty Shreveport firefighter left firehouse thinking he was going to have sex with young teen & her mother:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/11/12/police-say-on-duty-shreveport-firefighter-left-firehouse-thinking-he-was-going-to-have-sex-with-young-teen-her-mother/>

A New Haven (CT) fire lieutenant has been suspended without pay for the entire month of September following racist remarks found posted through his Facebook page. The comments touched a very personal nerve with New Haven Mayor Toni Harp. "I am a person that has been called that name in elementary and high school, and I'll tell you it's very demoralizing and hurtful," Harp said Tuesday afternoon. "My people helped to build this country on slave labor. I am enraged by this comment, but we've got to go through a process." The post with the racial slur showed up under the name of Kevin Owens, who has been identified as a veteran lieutenant with the New Haven Fire Department:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/09/02/new-haven-lieutenant-suspended-over-racial-slur-in-facebook-post/>

The driver of a Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department ambulance is under investigation after being caught on video texting or surfing the web on his phone while transporting a child to the hospital. The original video, seen on the link below, was posted to Facebook by the mother of the child, Ebony Clarke:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/09/09/caught-on-video-driver-of-philadelphia-fire-department-ambulance-surfing-web-while-taking-child-to-hospital/>

The friend of a homeless man being taken to a hospital in an ambulance takes video of what appears to be a member of the Washington DC Fire & EMS Department sleeping in the back of the ambulance. Dave Statter offers up some great dialogue on why this is an issue, contrary to what some fire service personnel are saying. You need to get used to the fact that citizens are now taking video of you doing your job, even in the back of an ambulance:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/09/11/caught-on-video-someone-was-sleeping-in-the-back-of-a-dc-ambulance-it-wasnt-the-patient/>

An Ellis County (TX) grand jury indicted seven volunteer firefighters, including the department's chief and assistant chief, on Wednesday in connection with the alleged sexual assault of a fellow male firefighter with a chorizo sausage in January, according to media reports. Five firefighters with the Emergency Service District Number 6 Volunteer Fire Department in Waxachachie have been indicted on charges of aggravated sexual assault and attempted aggravated sexual assault: Keith Edward Wisakowsky, 26; Casey Joe Stafford, 30; Preston Thomas Peyrot, 19; Alec Chase Miller, 28; and Blake Jerold Tucker, 19. Gavin Satterfield and William "Billy" Getzendaner — the department's chief and assistant chief, respectively — have been charged with tampering with witnesses, a first-degree felony:

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/crime/article/North-Texas-firefighters-indicted-in-chorizo-6493555.php>

Atlanta (GA) City Councilman wants answers on Firehouse sex ad photos apparently taken at an Atlanta Fire Station: <http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/19854685-story>

An Atlanta (GA) Fire Rescue lieutenant is now on administrative leave as part of the investigation into photos for an escort service that were taken inside a firehouse:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/09/16/escort-service-photos-shot-in-atlanta-firehouse-leads-to-lieutenant-placed-on-administrative-leave/>

Cleveland's (OH) outgoing fire chief and two supervisors will face [internal charges](#) after an audit revealed dozens of missing and erroneous records at the department's training academy. The charges, outlined in letters released by the city Tuesday, make Patrick Kelly the third consecutive chief to leave the embattled fire department under a cloud of controversy. Kelly recommended the charges against himself, Battalion Chief Sean DeCrane and Capt. Patrick Corrigan after an audit performed by the city's Integrity Control Unit showed that the academy failed to keep proper records of continuing education courses, according to the city's findings. The state requires the department to keep such records:

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/09/cleveland_fire_chief_two_other.html

A firefighter from the Los Angeles County Fire Department was taken into custody near an El Monte school hours after a woman was allegedly sexually assaulted in the area on Wednesday, police said. He also faced charges of driving under the influence and possessing a firearm near school grounds, according to police officials: <http://ktla.com/2015/09/17/l-a-county-firefighter-suspected-in-sexual-assault-case-arrested-near-el-monte-school-police/>

Today's SMACSS (Social Media Assisted Career Suicide Syndrome) case comes from Brampton, Ontario. The fire chief says he is "shocked and offended" by Firefighter Darren LaCroix's Facebook post Friday that blasts a tow truck driver who was killed when his rig was hit by a GO train. CP24.com reports LaCroix wrote "Are all GTA tow truck drivers fucking idiots?" and "Ya buddy at least you only hurt yourself this time and inconvenienced everybody else." <http://www.statter911.com/2015/11/02/firefighters-facebook-post-blasts-tow-truck-driver-killed-by-train-chief-blasts-firefighter/>

Atlanta (GA) Mayor Kasim Reed is vowing to fire any city employee who had a role in an embarrassing photo scandal in which an Atlanta fire station was used as a backdrop for escort advertisements. "We're going to fully investigate it, get to the bottom of it, and fire the people involved," Reed said on Thursday. Earlier this week, photos of at least three women in suggestive poses and wearing Atlanta Fire Rescue gear, appeared on the website Backpage.com. Backpage, an online classifieds portal, advertises escort services and has been accused of facilitating sex trafficking. Reed said he's concerned that "folks who have a sacred duty" allowed public facilities to be used in a way that is "inappropriate and demeaning to women." The women depicted in the photos are not city employees:

<http://www.myajc.com/news/news/local-govt-politics/mayor-plans-to-fire-any-employee-involved-with-fir/nnhMm/>

A Denver (CO) Fire Department captain is hanging on to his job after being arrested twice within nine months for breaking into a swingers club where couples go to swap partners and explore their sexuality. "He was the perfect candidate for rehabilitation," said Fire Department Chief Eric Tade. Tade talked to CBS4 about why the department decided to not fire Captain Bradley Thayer after he was caught twice in 2013 jumping a fence to get into the "Squirrel Creek Lodge" which hosts "fun and erotic evenings." The incidents were never reported until now. Tade said he decided to keep Captain Thayer because he had a very good reputation, a good track record and a high level of performance. At this time, Thayer, who declined to be interviewed, is on stringent department probation and can be fired for any rule infractions:

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/09/17/denver-fire-captain-keeps-job-after-2-swingers-club-break-ins/>

The news is pretty ugly these days at the Hallandale Beach (FL) Department of Fire Rescue. Two weeks ago, Fire Chief Dan Sullivan was fired after an investigation discovered that Sullivan allowed a “culture of fear, intimidation and hostile management.” Sullivan had been on paid leave for six months. The investigation began because of Sullivan’s involvement in a dispute over a deputy chief’s concerns about a female administrative analyst being able to do her job while pregnant. **Susannah Bryan of the Sun Sentinel now reports** Battalion Chief **Jeff Lyon** has been fired over harassment charges that included his reference to shifts without female firefighters as “no bitch Tuesdays.” Other allegations include that Lyon asked female firefighters about their sexual orientation and made comments about women not belonging in the fire service because they can’t do the job:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/11/03/fl-battalion-chief-follows-fire-chief-out-door-after-sexism-charges-that-include-no-bitch-tuesdays/>

Firefighters, flip remarks and public trust - Life comes down to the small things, and seemingly small, off-handed comments to the public can undermine their trust and support:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/8285018-Firefighters-flip-remarks-and-public-trust/>

Former Middletown (NY) fire Captain Greg Justice pleaded guilty Thursday in Butler County Common Pleas Court to a felony charge **for submitting a fake doctor’s note** to allow him to stay home rather than returning to duty. Justice, 52, of Springboro, is facing a maximum of 12 months in prison for forgery, a fifth-degree felony. He was charged with three counts of forgery and two counts of tampering with records. The remaining charges were dismissed:

<http://www.journal-news.com/news/news/crime-law/ex-middletown-fire-captain-pleads-guilty-to-forgin/nnsFp/>

Texas Firefighter indefinitely suspended over gang related activities. Bill Dudley, 33, a 13-year veteran of the Waco Fire Department, has been on administrative leave with pay since May 15. Last week Waco Fire Chief John Johnston ordered Dudley’s “indefinite suspension” (for those not from Texas... that means he was fired) for “unlawfully carrying a weapon while being a member of an outlaw gang” as well as what was characterized as a “multitude of violations of state law and city policies”. In a disciplinary letter sent last week, Chief Johnston listed five “skirmishes” that involved members of the Bandidos motorcycle gang that occurred while Dudley was reportedly riding at the time:

<http://www.firelawblog.com/2015/10/20/texas-firefighter-indefinitely-suspended-over-gang-related-activities/>

An FDNY EMT who was dispatched to Brooklyn for a sick toddler used a pay phone to call 911 with a fake emergency closer to his post in a pathetic attempt to avoid the cross-borough schlep, officials said on Friday. William Medina, 27, had just dropped off a patient at a hospital on Aug. 19 when he got the call for the ill child, according to the Department of Investigation. But instead of rushing to the scene, he rushed to the nearest pay phone — where he told a 911 operator a man was going into cardiac arrest at 74th Street and Roosevelt Avenue, just 10 blocks from where he was stationed. Medina was arrested and charged on Friday with falsifying business records, obstructing governmental administration and falsely reporting an incident, which are all misdemeanors, according to the DOI. Medina, who has been a paramedic for a year and who was earning \$31,930, resigned in August during the DOI’s investigation:

<http://nypost.com/2015/10/09/lazy-paramedic-faked-911-call-to-avoid-work-sources-say/>

Augusta Fire Department (GA) Fire Marshal Jason Beard has been indicted on extortion charges. According to the federal indictment returned by a grand jury Thurs-day, Beard is accused of extorting money from nightclub owners and managers with threats of economic harm. The indictment, which contains six counts of extortion and one count of attempted extortion, accuses Beard of making threats to enforce overcrowding regulations and ignoring such violations if owners did pay, which allowed the clubs to operate in an overcrowded and dangerous manner. In a statement, Augusta Fire Chief Chris James said he has submitted a notice of proposed termination of Beard to the city human resources office. Beard has worked in the fire department since July 1987. In 2010 he was a lieutenant, and by 2013 he was a captain fire marshal. In 1996, Beard was fired from the department after testing positive for cocaine use. His firing was upheld by the commission, and Beard sued. He was reinstated at his same pay and rank in 1997: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/crime-courts/2015-10-09/augusta-fire-marshal-indicted-extortion-charges?v=1444427614>

An administrative judge has ordered Dave Wheeler, former Fire Chief and current town council member of Loomis (CA) to pay nearly half a million dollars back to the state pension fund, after evidence showed he was illegally receiving both a public employee salary and a pension. A local watchdog group helped expose the fact that Wheeler was "double dipping". Originally the group began to question his authority to hold positions as both fire chief, and council member when they discovered the questionable salary and pension. According to court documents, Wheeler retired from the Alameda County Fire Department in 2006, and began collecting a six figure pension from California's public employees retirement system: http://fox40.com/2015/10/10/loomis-council-member-former-fire-chief-under-fire-for-double-dipping/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Ktxl-Fox40NewsAtTen+%28KTXL+-+FOX40+Sacramento%29

1 message fire chiefs must convey. When crime drops, cops are doing their jobs; when fires drop, firefighters are lazy — here's how to overcome that perception: <https://www.firerescue1.com/fire-chief/articles/15543018-1-message-fire-chiefs-must-convey/>

She never meant to make a statement about women's rights. She definitely didn't intend for her career as a firefighter to end with a small victory in a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. But after 21 years with the Tucson Fire Department, one of Tucson's first female firefighters fought for 10 years -- and won -- a sexual harassment case involving inappropriate signs posted on her bathroom door and on her truck at a fire station. "What I really want to come out of this is for people to know the city doesn't do anything to stop these behaviors, and it's costing taxpayers," Michelle Maliniak said. She won \$35,000 and \$200,000 in attorneys' fees for her case in the ruling. The city also paid a contractor, Mesch, Clark & Rothschild, for legal representation. The city has also paid \$125,000 and \$60,000 settlements in recent years for cases related to Fire Department employee misbehavior and assaults: http://www.firehouse.com/news/12127542/ex-tuscon-firefighters-hopes-sexual-harassment-lawsuit-creates-better-work-environment?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS151013005

Jason Waldeck sometimes slept at the Ellis County (TX) firehouse where he volunteered, just to be sure he wouldn't miss a call. As a high school senior, he would jump out of class or baseball practice to respond to fires, car crashes or whatever else the world threw his way. He said a brutal sexual assault on him at the fire station by other Volunteer Firefighters in January put an end to that work — but not to his passion: <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20151104-ex-fireman-attack-derailed-my-dream.ece>

A Mosinee firefighter accused of taking a fire engine on an early morning joyride and then crashing it after a night out drinking has resigned and his chief has requested that no criminal charges be filed in the case. Kody Krieg resigned in August after an investigation into the crash, according an internal investigation report obtained by Daily Herald Media under open-records law. He remains employed as a dispatcher with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department:

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/crime/2015/11/04/firefighter-crashes-truck-resigns/75156576/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

It was time for Fresno (CA) Fire Capt. Pete Dern to go home. After 164 days recovering from burn injuries at Community Regional Medical Center's Leon S. Peters Burn Center, the day had come for Dern to leave the downtown Fresno hospital. But before he walked between a line of firefighters in blue uniforms who had assembled for his send-off, he had a few people to thank. "I want to thank God for collecting me out of there and giving me a second chance at life and putting everyone in place who helped along the way," he said. Members of his firefighting crew who rescued him from a house fire on March 29, he affectionately called "studs." The firefighters broke through a garage door to get their captain, who had fallen through the roof of the home into an inferno: <http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article34619991.html>

First firehouse clinic in California opens in Hayward:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_29109476/hayward-first-firehouse-clinic-state-opens-friday

Denver's manager of safety says if she had it to do over, she would not send a text message to a friend on the fire department warning him about personnel complaints against him. [Stephanie O'Malley's text message](#) to former Denver Fire Cpt. Harold Johnson warning him of internal complaints about him prompted the Denver police union to file an ethics complaint last week against O'Malley accusing her of improperly sharing inside information with a friend. "If I had it to do all over again, as a matter of judgment, I probably wouldn't do it again," O'Malley said during a wide ranging interview with CBS4:

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/10/20/denver-manager-of-safety-regrets-tip-off-text/>

Boston Fire Department preference for veterans hurts minority hiring:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/08/16/veteran-hiring-preference-thwarts-minority-candidates-fire-department/wEZPToft7PmwrnKdngPnMO/story.html>

The Great Recession has widened the gap between Contra Costa's (CA) rich and poor fire agencies, leaving several areas with fewer stations and slower emergency response times and the entire county less equipped to handle a disaster as an already destructive fire season grinds on. While most fire agencies across the county are getting their fiscal houses in order after years of belt-tightening, the East Contra Costa and Rodeo-Hercules fire districts face continuing financial hardship, exacerbated by low tax rates and property valuations that are still below pre-recession levels. For now, Rodeo-Hercules' financial future is primarily tied to a \$900,000-a-year special tax that property owners approved but has been challenged in the courts. East Contra Costa property owners twice rejected a similar tax proposal. Leaders are gearing up for another tax measure, while also working on a temporary plan to open a fourth station until the election using funds from Oakley, Brentwood and the county:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/breaking-news/ci_28917847/money-woes-imperil-contra-costa-fire-districts

The Denver Fire Department fired Captain Harold Johnson Tuesday claiming he behaved as a firehouse bully who mistreated firefighters under his command and was more concerned with making personal calls at work than with public safety:

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/09/30/denver-fire-department-fires-black-captain-calling-him-a-bully-liar/>

Paramedics' changing role in Southern California: Lancaster and about two dozen other paramedics from the Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach fire departments are taking part in a statewide pilot study that could change the way paramedics do their jobs – testing an idea called community paramedicine. Currently, paramedics are required to take all 911 callers to an emergency department – a costly ride that may be unnecessary for someone with a simple laceration or the flu. The study is looking at whether, with additional training, paramedics can take callers with nonserious conditions to urgent care centers instead:

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/care-688422-patients-paramedics.html>

Low Acuity 151, launched by the Glendale (AZ) Fire Department in mid-September, is being deployed to help handle low-emergency calls in Glendale. The truck is reducing the use of emergency vehicles for non-life-threatening purposes, said Ron Hart, a spokesman for the department. The low-acuity truck is equipped to handle the "stuff you'd never expect a fire department to handle," including minor falls, cuts, bites and dealing with strange odors. It also has the ability to call for additional resources, if necessary. "The goal is to not take away resources from a situation that needs them," he said. The Glendale Fire Department responded to 37,000 calls for assistance in 2014, including 9,000 that could be classified as "low-acuity," or non-emergency and less-severe. Previously, a four-person crew on a paramedic ladder or engine company truck would be dispatched in those situations, he said. Last year, about 50 percent of the department's 19 vehicles responded to more than 3,000 calls a year, which is well above the national average of 2,000. LA151 is attempting to handle a portion of those calls, Hart said. The truck is staffed by a two-person crew, made up of a captain paramedic and an emergency medical technician firefighter:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/glendale/2015/10/23/glendale-fire-launches-low-emergency-pilot-program/74242396/>

An unexpected budget deficit is forcing Sacramento Metro (CA) Fire to eliminate a fire truck at Station 62 on Bradshaw road, which serves the Rancho Cordova and Rosemont areas. Last year the truck responded to 115 fires and 436 EMS/rescue calls, according to Metro Fire records. The fire district says it will save \$1,200,000 by closing the truck company and eliminating the 12 firefighter staff positions. Fire officials blame the closure on a \$4 million reduction in Medi-Cal ambulance transport reimbursements. Metro Fire is also reducing the size of their fire academy, and will defer purchasing a station-signaling system and burn tower to save money: <http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2015/11/03/fire-truck-serving-rancho-cordova-rosemont-neighborhood-closes-due-to-budget-reduction/>

A leading killer of firefighters - crashing the truck on the way to a call:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-leading-killer-of-firefighters-crashing-the-truck-on-the-way-to-a-call/2015/11/12/14e88948-7cd2-11e5-afce-2afd1d3eb896_story.html

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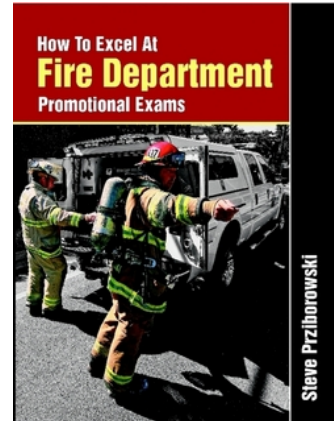
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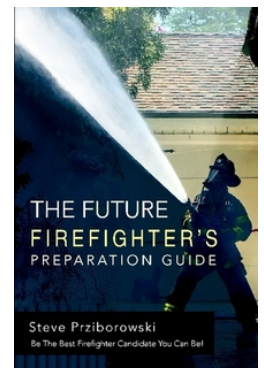


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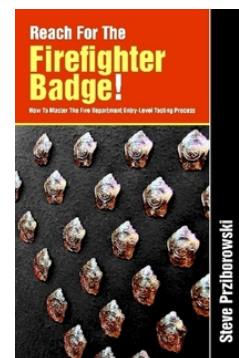


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– more importantly, train like your life depends on it – because it
does!***

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

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

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