



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 1, 2014

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2014 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 **Fall 2014** semester at Chabot College has begun!!! For complete registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

CLASSES AVAILABLE - FALL SEMESTER 2014

COURSE	DAY
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - December 6 through 21	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 18, 20, 22 and 23	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - November 11, 13, 15 and 16	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - November 2 through 8	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
EMS 4 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - December 2 through 13	Tue & Thurs (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 2014 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.

THE FUTURE FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE:

Do you know of someone who is preparing for a career in the fire service, including becoming a full-time firefighter? If so, please share this information with them!

This January marks the third year of the Future Firefighter Experience being offered at the annual Firehouse World Conference in San Diego, California. I have been very fortunate to have served as the lead instructor for the Future Firefighter Experience for the last two years, an idea that was created and supported by the leadership at Firehouse Magazine. The Future Firefighter Experience was developed in an attempt to inspire future firefighters to come to the conference and be exposed to what Firehouse Magazine and Firehouse World has to offer the fire service, while also providing them with valuable career development information.

Hundreds of future firefighters from within California and even outside of California have taken advantage of this great opportunity since the first time it was offered in February 2012. Past attendees have been Volunteer, Explorer, Cadet, or Reserve Firefighters aspiring to become full-time, career Firefighters; as well as students attending colleges working on their fire technology degree. Attendees have also included individuals without any current fire service affiliation, but who have had an interest in becoming a firefighter and were made aware of this valuable opportunity through someone they knew working in the fire service. This program has assisted some future Firefighters become current Firefighters, and has received very positive feedback from past attendees.

Becoming a full-time, career Firefighter is not an easy process; anyone currently working in the fire service can attest to that. Many candidates start the process, and very few candidates actually get hired. The competition to become a Firefighter has never been more challenging, given the numbers of individuals who aspire to have a career in the fire service. A career in the fire service is highly sought out by candidates of all ages and from all walks of life. There is no one-size-fits-all method to get hired in the fire service. However, there are a number of ways a candidate can make him/herself stand out above the competition and be successful in their pursuit of the badge. The Future Firefighter Experience Program will share some key nuggets that all candidates can benefit from if they choose to take advantage of what is shared with them.

Why should someone attend the Future Firefighter Experience? For a number of reasons; some of the key take-aways for attendees include:

1. Access to the exhibit hall floor to expose them to the vendors and products available.
2. The ability to network with other future firefighters as well as current fire service personnel of all ranks and from around the country.
3. Seminars catering to the future firefighter in an effort to provide valuable career development information. Some of the subjects that have been covered in the past and will be covered in January include how to become a firefighter, how to best stand out from the competition, what to expect during the firefighter hiring process, and what a fire department is looking for in future firefighters, just to name a few topics.

Some of the past sessions I have presented at the Future Firefighter Experience include: "How To Master The Fire Department Testing Process," "Getting Hired As A Firefighter In 2013 – Being The Best Candidate You Can Be," and "The 3 Most Important Phases Of The Firefighter Hiring Process." In the 20 plus years I have been fortunate to serve in the fire service, I have had the opportunity to instruct, coach and mentor hundreds if not thousands of future firefighters, as well as current firefighters who were preparing for promotion. I have a sincere passion for helping individuals get hired and stay hired, as well as get promoted and stay promoted.

On January 28 and 29, 2015, I (Steve Prziborowski) will be partnering with my good friend, Battalion Chief Bob Atlas of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and Co-Owner and Director of Fire Alumni, an organization dedicated to assisting future and current fire service personnel, and who I have been involved with the last few years. Chief Atlas and I will be presenting "Getting Hired As A Firefighter In 2015," and "The 3 Most Important Phases Of The Firefighter Hiring Process." So, what's keeping you from taking the next step to becoming the best prospective firefighter candidate you can be?

REGISTER NOW for Firehouse World 2015 and take the next step!
We look forward to seeing you there!

Below is the information found on their website where you can also register for this free event:
http://firehouseworld.com/future_firefighters.php

FUTURE FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE

This program is intended to give future firefighters an upper hand at the tedious hiring process for the position of firefighter. Sessions on hiring and testing are coupled with networking opportunities and the chance to get hands-on with the latest equipment available to firefighters.

Use promo code: CP12 when registering.

Getting Hired as a Firefighter in 2015: How to be the Best You Can Be

Wednesday, Jan 28 2015 10:15AM - 11:45AM

Steve Prziborowski, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara, CA, FD

Bob Atlas, Battalion Chief/Co-Founder, Contra Costa, CA, FD/Fire Alumni

Attendees will be exposed to 21 key points that will assist them with being the best firefighter candidate they can be during their next firefighter examination. Veteran fire service instructor Steve Prziborowski will also cover the top 25 reasons that a fire department want to hire you as a firefighter and 25 reasons why they don't want to hire you as a firefighter. Learn from the mistakes of others, including myself, to ensure you are the best you can be on your next firefighter exam!

How To Master the Fire Service Testing Process

Wednesday, Jan 28 2015 2:00PM - 3:30PM

Steve Prziborowski, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara, CA, FD

Bob Atlas, Battalion Chief/Co-Founder, Contra Costa, CA, FD/Fire Alumni

Becoming a firefighter is not easy and if it was, everyone would be successful at getting hired. Unfortunately for every one firefighter who is hired, there are hundreds, if not thousands that are never hired. Instead of placing blame on others or being bitter, it is critical that the future firefighter

takes responsibility for their career and takes control of their own destiny. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of locating firefighter exams and the character traits that fire departments are looking for. He will share the common mistakes that you can avoid during the hiring process. Attendees will also be exposed to the most common phases of the Firefighter hiring process, including what to expect in each of the phases, key points for success, and how to best prepare for each phase.

Sessions will be led by Steve Prziborowski, a deputy chief with the Santa Clara County Fire Department in Los Gatos, CA. Steve began his fire service career in 1991 as a fire explorer in Alameda and then participated in a student ride-along program through Chabot College with the Oakland Fire Department. He served as a paid-call firefighter/paramedic with the Elk Grove Fire Department prior to getting hired in Santa Clara County. He is an instructor for Chabot College's Fire Technology Program and a national speaker and author. He has served as a mentor and coach for entry level and promotional level candidates.

Plus...

- All access-pass to the exhibit hall to see the latest technology and tools available to the fire service.
- Access to Wednesday morning's two keynote addresses. One firefighter will talk about adversity after he was seriously injured during his military career and had to overcome a number of challenges before joining the Long Beach, CA, Fire Department.
- Networking opportunities with firefighters and fire officers from around the country.

Program subject to change.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Looking 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 260 different fire departments across the United States are using 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.

FIRENUGGETS.COM:

Want lots of great, **free** Firefighter preparation and career development information? If so, check out the latest (October/November 2014) issue of Fire Nuggets. Go to www.firenuggets.com for more info. Articles in this latest issue include:

- The Bigger Picture by Anthony Avillo
- The Career Corner by Steve Prziborowski
- Leadership Musings by Paul Stein
- Hose Dreams, Part II by Dennis LeGear
- Building Construction by Gar Bowker
- Closing the Deal by Mark vonAppen

VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP:

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District...

Is looking for aspiring Firefighters to be a part of their volunteer program!

The Cadet program is a volunteer work experience program hosted by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District in conjunction with the College of San Mateo. The basic training and knowledge gained from this experience will help to assist aspiring firefighters in achieving a better understanding of the fire service's daily operations, training demands, and emergency scene operations. The term of the program is 1 year and meets the manipulative training and experience requirements in obtaining a California State Fire Marshall's Office State Firefighter 1 certification. The program has been so successful that the Menlo Park Fire Protection District has placed over 50 firefighters that were previously Fire Cadets.

Requirements:

- 18 + years of age(w/ Driver's license)
- EMT certification
- FF1 Academy certification (Or proof that you are a "student in good standing" signed by a Lead Fire Academy Instructor)
- 3 year DMV driving record printout

Application:

- Application period opens October 1st and closes November 16th at 1700 hours
- Current resume' with contact info and copy of everything listed under "Requirements"
- *No application form required*
- Interviews will be November 17th during day & November 18th in evening

Mail or drop-off application materials to:

Menlo Park Fire St. #6 @ 700 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park, Ca 94025

ATTN: Jason Martin

For questions, e-mail Captain Jason Martin at jasonm@menlofire.org

Visit our webpage @ <http://www.menlofire.org/cadetprogram.html>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **San Francisco Fire Department** is now accepting applications for Firefighter! The Entry Level H-2 Firefighter position is now open for application filing. The web link to access the job announcement and to file an online application is at:

<http://www.jobaps.com/SF/sup/bulpreview.asp?R1=CCT&R2=H002&R3=900310>

Please Note: This is a continuous application filing and testing process with no deadline at this time. As part of the registration process to take the exam, you will be required to pay a \$40 testing fee to the National Testing Network. Financial assistance is available to eligible candidates

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer the following California State Fire Marshal certified courses:



COURSE: _____

DATES: _____

2014:

- **Fire Management 2A** November 3 – 7, 2014
NOTE: *Fire Management 2A will be held at the Saratoga Fire Station, 14380 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070.*
- **S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior)** December 1 – 5, 2014
- **S-270 (Basic Air Operations)** December 4 – 5, 2014

2015:

- **S-230 (Crew Boss, Single Resource Boss)** January 5 – 7, 2015
- **S-231 (Engine Boss)** January 8 – 9, 2015
- **Fire Management 2B** January 12 – 16, 2015
- **Training Instructor 1A** January 26 – 30, 2015
- **S-244 (Field Observer)** February 2 – 4, 2015 (0900 start)
- **S-245 (Display Processor)** February 5, 2015 (0900 start)
- **Training Instructor 1B** February 9 – 13, 2015
- **Training Instructor 1C** February 23 – 27, 2015
- **Fire Management 2C** March 9 – 13, 2015
- **Fire Investigation 1A** March 23 – 27, 2015
- **S-336 (Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire)** March 30 – April 2, 2015
- **Fire Investigation 1B** April 13 – 17, 2015
- **Command 1C** April 27 – May 1, 2015
- **Fire Investigation 2A** May 4 – 8, 2015
- **Fire Management 2D** May 11 – 15, 2015
- **Fire Investigation 2B** June 1 – 5, 2015
- **S-234 (Ignition Operations)** June 23 – 26, 2015
- **Fire Management 2E** July 13 – 17, 2015

Course Location:

Unless noted otherwise

McCormack Training Center

485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008

Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

Start Time:

0830 the first day unless noted otherwise.

To Register: Please see below for registration form.

More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski at steve.prziborowski@sccfd.org or 408-896-6890.

Prerequisites: See below.

CLASS PREREQUISITES

COURSE	PREREQUISITES
Training Instructor 1A	None
Training Instructor 1B	Training Instructor 1A
Training Instructor 1C	Training Instructor 1A and 1B
Fire Command 1C	Fire Fighter 1 Training; Fire Command 1A (Command Principles for Company Officers OR Command 1A (Structure Fire Command Operations for the Company Officer); I-200: Basic ICS; S-290 (intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior)
Fire Investigation 1A	None
Fire Investigation 1B	Fire Investigation 1A
Fire Investigation 2A	Fire Investigation 1A and 1B
Fire Investigation 2B	Fire Investigation 1A, 1B and 2A
S-230	S-290 and Qualified as a CICCFS Firefighter Type I
S-231	S-230 and Qualified as a CICCFS Firefighter Type 1
S-234	S-290 and at the minimum an Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB) initiated task book.
S-244	Successful completion of the pre-course work; S-290; ability to use a GPS receiver; NWCG Firefighter Type 2 (or CSFM Firefighter 1).
S-245	Successful completion of the pre-course work.
S-270	None
S-290	S-190 or CSFM Firefighter 1
S-336	Qualified as a Single Resource Boss or Initial Attack Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4)
Ethical Leadership in the Classroom	None
Regional Instructor Orientation	None
Fire Management 2A	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2B	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2C	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2D	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2E	None

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CLASS REGISTRATION FORM**

COURSE:	DATES:	COST:	QUANTITY:
Fire Management 2A	November 3 - 7, 2014	\$295.00	_____
S-290	December 1 – 5, 2014	\$225.00	_____
S-270	December 4 – 5, 2014	\$125.00	_____
S-230	January 5 – 7, 2015	\$150.00	_____
S-231	January 8 – 9, 2015	\$100.00	_____
Fire Management 2B	January 12 – 16, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1A	January 26 – 30, 2015	\$295.00	_____
S-244 & S-245	February 2 – 5, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1B	February 9 - 13, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1C	February 23 – 27, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2C	March 9 - 13, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 1A	March 23 - 27, 2015	\$295.00	_____
S-336	March 30 – April 2, 2015	\$480.00	_____
Fire Investigation 1B	April 13 - 17, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Command 1C	April 27 – May 1, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 2A	May 4 - 8, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2D	May 11 - 15, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 2B	June 1 - 5, 2015	\$295.00	_____
S-234	June 23 – 27, 2015	\$495.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	July 13 - 17, 2015	\$295.00	_____
	TOTAL:		_____

NOTE: **If you are submitting a check for more than one class, please use separate checks for each class. We apologize in advance for the extra work, but it makes it easier for our Business Services Office. Thank you!**

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

For these classes, the only form of payment will be checks, money orders or cash.

- **Please make your check/money order payable to:** Santa Clara County Fire Department.
- **Please mail or deliver your check / money order (please don't mail cash) to:**
Santa Clara County Fire Department - Attention: Steve Prziborowski
14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818
- **Cancellation Policy:**
Full refunds will be provided if requested 14 calendar days in advance (of the first day of class) at 1500 hours. If a class begins on Monday, then the refund deadline is 1500 hours two Mondays prior. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter. Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:
626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Registration for the 2014 **California Training Officers Fresno Symposium**, scheduled to occur Monday November 17 through Friday November 21 is now OPEN, and classes are filling up fast!!!!

See the flyer for more details – numerous training opportunities from some of the leading instructors in today's fire service!

To download the latest flyer or to register or to find out more details, go to: <http://www.to.calchiefs.org>

Classes being offered include, but are not limited to:

- Company Officer Command College
- CSFM Rescue Systems 1
- Chief Officer Leadership Symposium
- Conflict Resolution
- CSFM Fire Prevention 1
- CSFM Firefighter Survival
- CSFM S-404 (Incident Safety Officer)
- CSFM S-330 (Strike Team Leader)
- Modern Fire Dynamics / CSFM Fire Control 3B
- How to Excel at Fire Department Promotional Exams
- Truck Academy – Commercial Ventilation
- CSFM Auto Extrication
- CSFM Trench Rescue Instructor Roll Out
- Cutting Edge Company Officer Course
- CSFM Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational
- CSFM RIC Operations
- Pump Operator Academy
- Fireline EMT
- Heavy Lifting & Stability of the Commercial Vehicle
- Strategy & Tactics for Structural Firefighting
- Lessons Learned from Wildland Fire Entrapments
- Inside the Command Post
- Thru The Lock
- CSFM Ethical Leadership in the Classroom
- CSFM Regional Instructor Orientation
- Fire Behavior Burn Box
- The Perfect Stream
- Anchor and Hold
- Active Shooter
- Emergency Simulations
- Truck Academy – Search

- SLAB Savers
- Truck Academy – Forcible Entry
- Mission Focused Command
- Command & Control – We Need to do it Better
- Elevator Rescue
- Table Top Command
- VES and Multi-Family Search Techniques
- Building Construction for Today's Fire Service
- Firefighting Today's Modern Structure Fire
- Modern Wildland Fire Problems

FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION BOOK:

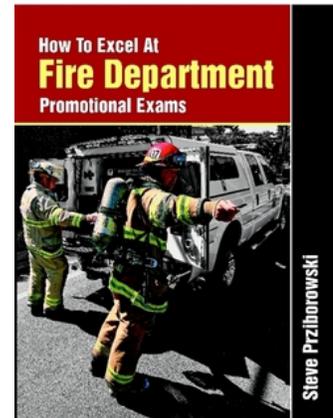
Preparing for promotion? If so, this book is for you and is a must read!

It is titled "**How To Excel At Fire Department Promotional Exams.**" To order, go to www.code3firetraining.com

Getting promoted in the fire service is not an easy process. Many people have that desire to promote, but for whatever reason cannot put the pieces together to make it a reality. Over the 20 plus years I have been in the fire service, I have had the opportunity to be on both sides of the promotional process – as a candidate, and as a rater and proctor. This book will assist fire department personnel specifically prepare for their next promotional exam.

Promotional candidates will be exposed to and offered key points for the most common tasks and events within a fire department promotional process including, but not limited to: promotional preparation, completing the application, resume preparation, the written exam, the oral interview, the personnel problem, the oral presentation, and the emergency simulation.

- Available in soft cover paperback and e-book formats.
- Also available on Amazon and iTunes



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? While the Internet is a great way to locate books, 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:

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – *Fresno, CA* – November 17 - 21, 2014
- Go to <http://www.to.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA* – January 25 - 29, 2015
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – *Indianapolis, IN* – April 20 – 25, 2015. Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD* – July 14 - 18, 2015
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – *Atlanta, GA* - August 26 – 29, 2015
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

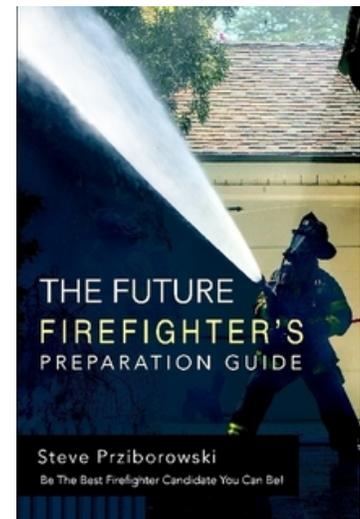
FIREFIGHTER ENTRY-LEVEL PREPARATION BOOK:

Are you preparing to become a firefighter or do you know someone who is preparing to become a firefighter? If so, this book is a must-have for your library!

The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide! Be The Best Firefighter Candidate You Can Be!

Getting hired in the fire service is not an easy process. Many people have that desire to become a firefighter, but for whatever reason cannot put the pieces together to make it a reality. Over the 20 plus years I have been in the fire service, I have had the opportunity to be on both sides of the hiring process – as a candidate, and as a rater and proctor. This book will assist future firefighters specifically prepare for a career in the fire service. This book is not the one-size-fits-all book to becoming a firefighter. There is just not enough room to accomplish that. Instead, this book is meant to be your starting point to get you headed in the right direction as you begin the process of becoming a firefighter. In upcoming books, I will provide more specific direction on the hiring process to becoming a firefighter and with tips for success upon getting hired with your dream department. Nobody said it was going to be easy becoming a firefighter...if it was, everyone would be doing it!

- To order, go to www.chabotfire.com
- Available in soft cover paperback and e-book formats.
- Also available on Amazon and iTunes.
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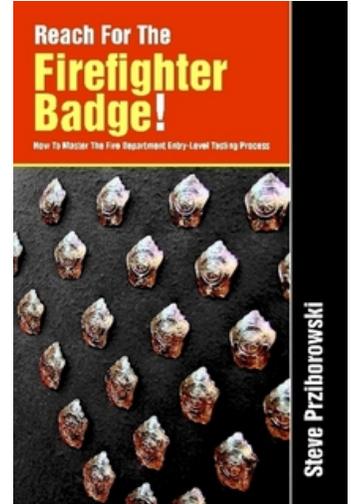
FIREFIGHTER ENTRY-LEVEL PREPARATION BOOK:

Are you preparing to become a firefighter or do you know someone who is preparing to become a firefighter? If so, this book is a must-have for your library!

Reach For The Firefighter Badge!

How to Master the Entry-Level Fire Department Testing Process!

This book is intended to take over from where my first firefighter preparation book "The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide," left off. That book was intended on providing the future firefighter with a road map of what to do when starting out the journey to becoming a firefighter. This book is intended to provide more focus on what to expect and more importantly, how to be successful at the firefighter testing process, which can vary from department to department. This book will help future firefighters by providing a road map of how to best navigate the firefighter testing process, so that they are successful in obtaining a position in the best career I am so fortunate to be a part of, a career in the fire service! If you have prepared for the position of firefighter by doing many of the things I suggested in "The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide," and follow the suggestions within this book, your chances for success will greatly increase!



- To order, go to www.chabotfire.com
- Available in soft cover paperback and e-book formats.
- Also available on Amazon and iTunes.

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 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

It is that time of year again to submit your Cal Fire Seasonal Firefighter Applications!

Fire Fighter I is a seasonal, temporary classification used by CAL FIRE. The Fire Fighter I application period usually occurs between November and January and hiring usually occurs between April and June, depending upon the year's fire and weather conditions.

The minimum qualification to participate in the **Fire Fighter I Classification** is that you must be 18 years of age at the time of appointment to a Firefighter I position.

You must file a **Fire Fighter I Application** at each CAL FIRE Unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment. For a listing of CAL FIRE Units, please refer to the "**CAL FIRE Unit Contacts**". The filing period for the **2015 season** is November 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015. Applications will be accepted by mail OR in person for all units.

PLEASE REVIEW THE UNIT LISTING ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THE FIRE FIGHTER I
November 1, 2014 www.chabotfire.com 17

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED AT EACH UNIT IN WHICH YOU WISH TO BE CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER JANUARY 31, 2015 MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2015 FIRE SEASON.

Applications **will not** be accepted at Sacramento Headquarters, Region Offices, or Conservation Camps.

For more information, go to:

http://calfire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

APPLY TODAY FOR NFA'S MANAGING OFFICER PROGRAM

Have you submitted your application for NFA's new Managing Officer Program? Applications are being accepted through **December 15**. Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of this new program.

The Managing Officer Program targets career and volunteer fire and Emergency Medical Services managers, and includes all four elements of professional development: education, training, experience and continuing education. The curriculum emphasizes leadership, safety, community risk reduction, training, and technology for those men and women who may be embarking on supervisory roles in their organization.

Visit http://www.usfa.fema.gov/training/nfa/programs/mo_program.html for more information; including specific selection criteria and application information.

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

TWO SOUTH AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY-SHIP FIRE & EXPLOSION

We regret to pass on to you that **yesterday**, a ship carrying timber, heading towards the Port of Buenos Aires, caught fire and exploded twice near the city of Zárate, Buenos Aires Province, leaving two Firefighters dead in the Line of Duty and 17 injured. Around 17:45 the ship Urbana declared an emergency with a fire in the engine room which at first was thought to be controlled by the crew. Approx an hour later there was the first explosion that caused a significant number of injuries among the crew, including the captain. Argentina Naval Prefecture (Coast Guard) Firefighters, were caught in a second explosion 40 minutes later, a situation that may have occurred due to accumulation of gas and that cost the lives of two Firefighters-from extreme burns. There are seven firefighters injured, two of which are serious with burns to face, arms and legs. At a time when the boat was at the dock to the actual top there was a second explosion, much stronger than the first "that lit up the sky and felt several blocks around," said witness ..RIP.

**THE LOSS OF A POPULAR FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE WEBSITE CO-OWNER
"FIREFIGHTING CANCER TAKES ANOTHER"**

November 1, 2014

www.chabotfire.com

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Chabot College Fire & EMS News

It's with shock and deep regret that we pass on to you that a good friend of so many (and FFCC), FF/EMT Steve Skipton, lost his tough and extremely brave battle with cancer [yesterday \(Saturday\)](#). Steve gave so much of himself over the years to various communities as a member of the Goose Creek, SC FD and in NJ at the Bellmawr Park FD. Steve was a medic working EMS for UMDNJ both in Camden City and Newark. Steve volunteered to go to NY and spent countless days and weeks on site after 9/11 with the NJ EMS task force. Steve leaves behind his wife and four children...two boys , 19 and 23, and twin 7-year-old girls. Condolences can be left on a Facebook Page that was established: "Steve Skipton Sr. Support Group". If you have any question feel free to contact.Jbrooke@phillyfirenews.com, or in SC area contact tpruitt@sconfire.com

RIP STEVE.

PLEASE:

==PLEASE take a moment to look at this, **ESPECIALLY** page 15:

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

==HERE IS THE SUMMER OF 2014 UPDATE FROM NIOSH RE: MAJOR FF CANCER STUDY:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/pdfs/firefighternewsletter-2014-Summer.pdf>

==HERE IS DATA FROM THE NIOSH CANCER STUDY:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/firefighters/ffCancerStudy.html>

==HERE IS THE IAFF/NIOSH CANCER STUDY WORKSHOP DOCUMENT (Excellent Stats)

http://www.iaff.org/Comm/PDFs/NIOSH_Cancer_Study.pdf

...please pass it ...all on.

INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSION IN OHIO-CAUGHT ON TAPE:

It was the dispatchers reports of the potential "secondary" explosion that raised further concerns as fire companies from Evendale (Hamilton County suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio) and a dozen or so other departments responded to this multi-alarm incident on [Friday](#).

CHECK out the initial explosion-caught on tape:

<http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/hamilton-county/evendale/dispatch-explosion-at-central-soya-grain-silo-in-evendale>

FOLLOWUP Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49qIP636dtc>

A GREAT reminder of the hazards related to industrial elevators-and the CRITICAL importance of pre-plans and related response drills.

Take Care. Be Careful Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8/24/2014-0030 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

We take time to remember and learn about the late Buffalo NY FD Lt Charles McCarthy, 45, and Jonathan Croom, 34 who died in the Line of Duty died while responding to an early morning structure fire on [August 24, 2009](#). Lt. McCarthy was a 22-year veteran is survived by his wife, Terri, three children and a grandchild. FF Croom was a 10-year veteran and is survived by his infant child and his fiancée who was pregnant with their second child. RIP.

Key contributing factors identified in this double LODD include working above an uncontrolled, free-burning basement fire; interior condition reports not communicated to command; inadequate risk-versus-gain assessments; and, crew integrity / accountability not maintained. Firefighter survival related changes sought by the families of Croom and McCarthy include:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- * Following the "two in, two out rule," which means that firefighters do not enter or leave a burning structure without a partner.
- * Having an accountability officer to keep track of firefighters entering and leaving "serious fires," freeing the commander at the scene to maintain an overview of the entire situation.
- * Making numerous equipment enhancements such as upgraded radios, new self-contained breathing apparatus and thermal cameras.

Lack of an accountability officer and failure to enforce the "two in, two out rule" were cited in the lawsuits. Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration work rules, adopted by New York State for the protection of first responders, were not adhered to. That allowed the families to sue, even though the job of firefighter has an assumption of risk. One of the most troubling aspects of the deaths was that the BFD had lacked a standard operating procedure for extinguishing basement fires. That is now in place.

==ARTICLE ABOUT THE LAWSUITS FOLLOWING THIS LOSS BY FF FAMILY MEMBERS:
<http://tinyurl.com/kzechaf>

==BUFFALO FD REPORT: <http://tinyurl.com/8btssyx>

==NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200923.html>

==VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Esc14NWhYPk&feature=youtube_gdata_player

==MEDIA REPORTS / POST FIRE ACTION:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/148634>

Lots to learn so we can all honor their tragic loss.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8/24/2014-2131 Hours](#)

AND:

MONTANA FIRE CHIEF DIES FOLLOWING CRASH

We regret to pass on to you that Fort Shaw Fire Chief Dave Anderson has died in the Line of Duty from injuries he sustained in a crash near Vaughn in July. Chief Anderson was in the intensive care unit at Benefis hospital in Great Falls after being injured in that crash between those two Fort Shaw fire trucks on [July 22](#). The Chief was later transferred to a Billings rehabilitation facility that specializes in traumatic brain injury, and then transferred to Peace Hospice in Great Falls several days ago-but succumbed to his injuries [this morning](#). The apparatus collided while responding to a grass fire near Vaughn; one was a brush truck and the driver of that vehicle was not injured. The other was a water tanker driven by Chief Anderson; the truck tipped on its side and the Chief had to be extricated from the wreck and was then taken to Benefis hospital by ambulance.

==MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

There is a lot being talked about (and being done) these days related to the mental health and wellness of firefighters and EMT's. Like you, I have read a lot about it - and because each person is different - I try to understand it from my perspective-while remembering that it (issues, problems, life etc) is different for everyone. In other words, what may be sad to you may not be a big deal to me-or what some may find funny, I might not-in other words, we all see (and absorb) stuff differently. So, when someone says "it was a bad call" - while I may have blown it off in the past, I don't do that anymore-I try to pay a bit more attention.

I try to size up and keep sizing up those I work with-and listen for a MAYDAY that may not be audible.

PLEASE DO ME A FAVOR...take a minute to read this account from WillieW:
<http://www.ironfiremen.com/2014/08/15/searching/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES RELATED TO FF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

-FF PERSONAL SURVIVAL:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php>

-NFFF: <http://flsi13.everyonegoeshome.com/>

-SAFEcallNOW: <http://safecallnow.org/>

-FF HEALTH ALLIANCE: <http://www.ffbha.org/>

==SERVICES FOR BROTHER STEVE SKIPTON:

As you now know, Stephen Edward Skipton, Sr., 41, of Goose Creek, passed away peacefully with family by his side on **August 23**, 2014. Steve was born **May 24**, 1973 and dedicated his life to his family and the fire service for 25 years. He started his life in the fire service as a teenager as a junior member of the Brooklawn FD outside of his home town. He served as a Firefighter in Bellmawr NJ, later moving through the ranks to Chief of Department of Bellmawr Park in his 20's. Steve worked as an EMT for University EMS in Newark NJ, and the city of Camden for 17 years. During his time there, he responded to the World Trade Center in New York City on **September 11**, 2001 to aid in rescue efforts. In 2010, he pursued his dream of working as a career Firefighter and moved to the City of Goose Creek, South Carolina, where he served faithfully.

HERE ARE MEMORIAL DETAILS: <http://www.sconfire.com/>

RELATED "STEVE SKIPTON-YOU LIVE & LEARN"

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2014/08/steve-skipton.html>

==KENTUCKY FIRE CAPTAIN REMAINS IN CRITICAL CONDITION

The good news is that 2 of the injured Campbellsville firefighters have resumed their posts and another has been upgraded to stable condition. Captain Steve Marrs and Firefighter Alex Johnson are back on duty following **last Thursday's** "Ice Bucket Challenge" accident at Campbellsville University. Simon Quinn has been upgraded from serious to stable condition at University of Louisville Hospital. Unfortunately, Fire Captain Tony Grider, remains in critical condition after numerous surgeries so far. Quinn and Grider were in the bucket portion of a tower ladder that was spraying water on the university's marching band as part of an ALS fundraising event. KTIYP's.

MORE DETAILS: <http://www.supportingheroes.org/>

==ARE YOU A COLLEGE STUDENT/FIREFIGHTER or EMT?

YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO \$\$? QUIT WHINING:

FREE MONEY FOR FIREFIGHTING STUDENTS: YVORRA

Its time for the annual Deputy Chief Jim Yvorra Leadership Development Foundation (YLD) scholarship announcement and application...but you actually have to apply to be considered. The late Jim Yvorra was a Deputy Chief with the Berwyn Heights (Prince Georges County, Maryland) CFD and a nationally recognized author and editor in the fields of fire, hazardous materials, and EMS. Jimmy died in the line of duty when he was accidentally struck and killed in the Line of Duty by a car while at a crash scene on Interstate 95 near Washington, D.C., in **January 1988**. However, both his legacy and his impact continue to this day.

In this era of ever increasing college costs and student loan debt, there are still a large number of emergency responders who do not take advantage of scholarship opportunities such as the YLD Foundation.

Thanks to our sponsors, donors, and our hard working "volunteer" Board and Committee members, we have given away \$130,000 in scholarships since Jimmy's passing. Any active duty career,

volunteer or military member of fire, rescue, HazMat, or emergency medical services can apply. Also, funding isn't limited to higher education; if you have a special project (e.g., fire prevention, leadership, community outreach) that can make a difference in your community, then consider submitting an application. More details are available on the web site at: www.yld.org

Check it out. Lot's of good stuff on there about what their 60+ past award winners think about leadership.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8/25/2014-2000 Hours](#)

AND:

MEDICAL FLIGHT CRASHES IN NEW MEXICO

We regret to pass on that New Mexico authorities say all four people aboard a medical flight were killed when the plane crashed in Las Cruces. New Mexico State Police say the twin-engine aircraft had just left the Las Cruces airport and was headed to Phoenix at a low altitude before it crashed and burst into flames [Wednesday](#) evening. State Police identified the crew members killed as 29-year-old pilot Freddy Martinez, 27-year-old flight paramedic Tauren Summers and 35-year-old flight nurse Monica Chavez, all from El Paso, Texas. The patient who was killed was identified as 59-year-old Fredrick Green of Las Cruces. According to State Police, the plane belonged to Amigos Aviation and was contracted by Elite Medical Transport. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the crash's cause. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

FIREGROUND RISK MANAGEMENT-A CATCHPHRASE?

According to this FD Company Officer:

".....The enemy has changed, and the enemy isn't playing fair. Many of the rules that applied to firefighting 50 years ago are no longer valid [today](#). Firefighters are now operating in environments that are trying to kill them faster and more aggressively than ever before. Lightweight construction components and the increased use of synthetic materials have changed the game for the fire service. It may appear that the fireground has become safer for firefighters because of a reduction in the overall number of firefighter fatalities over the past 30 years, but during this same time frame, there has been an alarming 67 percent increase in firefighter fatalities from traumatic injuries. The fireground has become increasingly dangerous to firefighters everywhere. We are duty-bound to understand why this is happening....."

TAKE JUST A FEW MINUTES TO READ THIS ARTICLE BY LT JENNIFER CHADWICK of the San Antonio FD:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/1/volume-167/issue-8/risk-management/risk-management-it-s-not-just-a-catchphrase-full.html>

SHARE THE LOAD!

Behavioral health is really getting some traction in the fire/EMS service and we wanted to share some additional information...this one is about the NVFC's initiative called "Share the Load".

CHECK OUT "SHARE THE LOAD" HERE: <http://www.nvfc.org/help>

17,000 FIREFIGHTERS HAVE VIEWED THIS VIDEO...

Take time to check out and discuss the **FIRE ATTACK** training video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X80yseC2fmQ&list=UU06fjibLZI6_eGZ-754Vpjw

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8/28/2014-1400 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

The families of Campbellsville, Kentucky (FF's burned in tower ladder electric shock) Captain Tony Grider and Firefighter Alex Quinn want to express their appreciation for all the thoughts, prayers, calls, visits, messages of support, and department patches that have been received. The outpouring of support has been more than overwhelming. The patches have been placed in each firefighter's room as visible signs of the support that has poured in.

--PLEASE SEND PATCHES:

Fire departments and fire/rescue/EMS companies wishing to send patches (two would be appreciated) can please send them to:

University of Louisville Hospital
c/o Burn Unit-Tony Grider and Alex Quinn
530 S. Jackson St
Louisville, KY 40202-1675

While other items have been offered, both families are asking that only patches be sent at this stage.

--PLEASE SEND PHOTOS OF YOUR FIREFIGHTERS:

There is an effort is to gather pictures of firefighters standing in front of their quarters with a sign or message like: "We support Tony and Alex," "Praying for Tony and Alex," or something similar. They can be posted to the facebook page "Prayers for Our Brothers" (<https://www.facebook.com/prayersforcfr>) or emailed to cobb.juliana@gmail.com to be included in a poster.

Thanks for your help.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-28-2014/1800 hrs

AND:

Hey,

With the 13th Anniversary of the attacks and murders on our Country-9/11/01-here are three films well worthy of of your time-and the time of anyone else you can pass this on to. With the very recent threats and proven behaviors of the IS/ISIS group, we (and all of our North American leaders) better remember every aspect and the pre-warnings of 9/11/01.

(In case there are people in your lives that fail to remember-we have some reminders below)

Hopefully, by now, your department or company plans are set for honoring all those killed on 9/11. This year, 9/11 falls on a [Thursday](#)...two weeks from [yesterday](#).

"A BAD JOB"

Just days after [September 11, 2001](#), the Environmental Protection Agency assured the public that there should be no concern about any health hazards associated with exposure to smoke and debris in lower Manhattan. They (the EPA and it's so called leadership) did a bad job...a **HORRIBLE** job. This disturbing documentary (link below) asks whether the EPA's pronouncement was based on science or politics. Now many of the Firefighters, Police Officers, EMT's and other first-responders who risked their lives within that toxic chemical soup are seriously ill or dying. With the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks just around the corner, we urge to view this video narrated by former F.D.N.Y Firefighter - now actor Steve Buscemi. It's a sad reminder that all this time later, good

people are still suffering with serious illnesses and dying everyday as a result of what terrorists did to us:

WATCH IT NOW: <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/dust-to-dust/>

"A GOOD JOB"

"A Good Job: Stories of the FDNY" produced by and featuring actor and former New York City Fireman Steve Buscemi will debut on **Monday, September 8th** on HBO. The term "a good job" means a really tough fire, according to one of the many NYC firefighters included in this documentary directed Liz Garbus (Bobby Fischer Against The World). The film goes inside the unique experience of being a fireman in New York City. Buscemi, who was part of the New York Fire Department at Engine Co. 55 in the early 80s, retraces his steps with the FDNY and talks to the men and women who risk their lives on a constant basis to keep the city and its people safe. "A Good Job" adds to the interviews with rare fire scene footage and photos that capture the physical and mental costs of what it's like to fight fires in the urban landscape of New York now and also in the 5 previous decades, showing how much the job has changed, but the camaraderie hasn't. The FDNY forms its own community of firefighters looking out for each other and the film discusses where that feeling of responsibility comes from for their fellow firemen and the city of New York.

"A Good Job: Stories of the FDNY" airs Monday, September 8th at 9 pm et on HBO.

More details HERE: <http://theinterrobang.com/steve-buscemi/>

"EMERGENCY"

This is a Discovery Channel film about the NYPD Emergency Services Unit members who gave their lives on 9/11. Known as "ESU" or "Emergency"-they are a unit unique to NYC and a few New York metro area communities. A one hour special about them: '9/11 E-Men Heroes' Aairs on **Thursday, September 11** at 8PM ET/PT. On the thirteenth anniversary of **September 11th**, Discovery tells the story of the heroism and sacrifice of the NYPD's Emergency Service Unit (ESU) and the "E-Men" who were tasked with rescuing as many people as possible. Featuring previously unseen archive material and moving first-hand testimony, the story of the NYPD ESU cops will be told. NYPD's ESU is a unique institution in law enforcement made up of around 300 specialized officers trained in SWAT, jumpers, search and rescue, building collapse and heavy weapons and hazardous materials containment. Of the 31 E-Men who rushed into the World Trade Center on that day, only 17 survived. The 14 E-Men who lost their lives were among 60 law-enforcement personnel who died on 9/11, the worst single day in US police and fire service history.

9/11 E-MEN HEROES airs on Discovery Channel on **Thursday, September 11th** at 8 PM ET/PT.

NEVER FORGET REMINDERS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ys41jnL2EIk> (FDNY Operating as 1st Plane Strikes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cJ-HQi4Zcl> (FDNY initial radio traffic reports)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsIWPPw-JzU> (9/11 As It Happened)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTnrCkN8rfs> (Final Journey)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=we9AviBVNkM> (Air traffic audio)

R.I.P.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [8/29/2013-0800 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

November 1, 2014

www.chabotfire.com

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An old friend (and one of the original TSL subscribers) Captain Al Hagan has retired from the FDNY. Al was also President of the Uniformed **Fire Officers** Association IAFF Local 854 - www.ufoa.org - Many of you will also know Al as a popular FDIC and Firehouse Expo Instructor-among many other classes and seminars-you are definitely fortunate to have spent time with Al . He is absolutely one of a kind. Al retires almost 41 years working as a Firefighter (E-36), Lieutenant (L-44) and Captain (L-43). He retired **Saturday** morning, **August 30th**, effective at 0900....Labor Day weekend. He is also retiring as President of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association. In Al's words: "Collectively, it was a wonderful experience that I wouldn't trade for the world! I'd like to thank all of you that were kind enough to help." Take a moment to read and enjoy the below story from The Chief Leader. **Even if you haven't met Al-take a look at the below for a great lesson in leadership-at the firehouse-and at the political level:**

A GOOD FIREMAN-CAPTAIN AL HAGAN:

Alexander Hagan last week had already removed all of his personal photos from his office: the many snaps of his family, but also the one that captured himself in a very different time-in gym shorts as a young man who competed in five marathons when he wasn't fighting fires. As he got ready to retire on Aug. 30, the Uniformed Fire Officers Association President and Fire Captain, now 64, looked back fondly on a time when on nice days, he sometimes ran the 13 miles to work. **Smoke Took a Toll.** Those days have slipped past, ended by a bum knee and the chronic bronchitis and cough that have plagued him for more than a decade. The lung problems recently sparked a diagnosis of reactive airway disease, a condition that can result from exposure to noxious substances and that has been called "occupational asthma." Mr. Hagan said he might have gotten it even if he hadn't spent months cleaning up at the World Trade Center site after Sept. 11. **'My Fair Share of Feeds'** - "In the Fire Department, when you get exposed to a lot of smoke, they call it 'taking a feed,'" he said, noting that his 35 years in the field were spent in the South Bronx and Spanish Harlem, two of the city's busiest areas for fire in the '70s and '80s. "I will tell you, I've been to many, many fires and I took more than my fair share of feeds. So a little bit of reactive lung disease is not that bad." He came on the job during what firefighters call the "war years": a decade when 97 percent of the buildings in seven Bronx census tracts were lost to fire or abandonment. Those conditions may be foreign to new Firefighters **today**, when the number of structural fires and the fatalities they cause are at all-time lows, but the department then was going through a similar period of diversification.

Started At Turbulent Time

In 1973, the year Mr. Hagan entered the firehouse, a Federal Judge had just declared that the entrance exam had an adverse impact on blacks and Latinos, was not job-related and needed to be revised. He implemented a three-to-one quota system under which one minority candidate had to be hired for every three white candidates appointed from the list. The percentage of African-Americans in the department was just 3 percent-roughly what it was three years ago when Judge Nicholas Garaufis made the same characterization and went a step further, declaring the FDNY to have intentionally discriminated against people of color for decades and appointing a Federal monitor to oversee hiring. Hundreds of active and retired firefighters formally objected to Mr. Garaufis's decision, in writing or in two-minute statements given in the courtroom, and many predicted that with the revision of the test, standards would plummet and the quality of the firefighting force would be compromised.

Doesn't Fear for Future

Mr. Hagan said he's a strong supporter of the merit system-he paraphrased George Washington Plunkitt, the flamboyant leader of the Tammany Hall political machine a century ago, a book of whose sayings Mr. Hagan is fond of handing out to colleagues and reporters as background on the importance of a strong civil service. "I honestly believe that drink is the greatest curse of the day, except, of course, civil service, and that it has driven more young men to ruin than anything except

civil-service examinations," Mr. Plunkitt once said. But despite the dire predictions by Judge Garaufis's detractors who believe his ruling subverts the merit system, Mr. Hagan said of the new diversity effort, "I think that everything will be fine."

'Quality, Attitude Great'

"From what I've seen, the quality of the new people is high and the attitude is great, it's terrific. They want to be firemen. They love the Fire Department as much as or more than anyone else. And that's what you need." At his first firehouse, Engine 36 in East Harlem, hazing was still the few-holds-barred institution that was discouraged in later years and that former Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano formally banned in [May 2013](#). "They treated you like a scullery maid," Mr. Hagan said, likening it to Mr. Miyagi's treatment of Daniel at the beginning of the "Karate Kid" movie. Probies had to clean the whole firehouse-"they learn to wax on, wax off"-as well as the company's tools, which Mr. Hagan said helped them identify them and remember where on a rig each piece is stored.

Pranks for the Memories

Mr. Cassano's anti-hazing order called for "dignity and respect" for new members; he wrote that "there are no such things as pranks, because somebody may take something a different way than somebody else." The prohibition may not include assigning extra work duties to probies-the Uniformed Firefighters Association at the time complained that its scope was unclear-but it certainly covers a classic prank described by Mr. Hagan in which a probie would be called to the bottom of the fire pole. When he looked up, his colleagues would drop a bucket of water, and then a bucket of flour. During his stint at Engine 36 in the quota era, Mr. Hagan said one minority probie came in who was initially given "the same hard time they gave me," only he took "maybe a little more" guff for being a quota hire.

He Grew on Them

Within weeks, he said, "Whatever initial resentment and trepidation there was melted in the heat. He was willing to be good at his job. He was willing to take the pain." Firefighting is a very experience-driven job, he added; no one understands the way a fire moves until she's seen dozens of them. So for a newbie, "it's all about heart and willingness." Hazing, whatever remnants persist after Mr. Cassano's ban, can affect people differently when they come from a different neighborhood or gender or ethnicity and don't have mentors like them who they see are no longer being singled out, Mr. Hagan acknowledged. He said it's a Captain's job to set the limits on what's acceptable-and he believes that the era of surprise showers at the fire pole are over.

'He's a Unifier'

Captain Hagan may have been particularly suited to set such limits and have them be respected. Battalion Chief John Dunne, a former UFOA executive board member who served with Mr. Hagan and four other presidents, called him the kind of leader who "has the ability to get people on the same page that he is on...he always had us pointed in the right direction and you'd see that he was right and you'd get behind him. "He had a united executive board," he added. "And that's not easy to do, nine guys pulling in the same direction." Mr. Hagan was elected by the membership as Captain's representative in 2008, and then elected president of the 2,700-member union unanimously by his executive board five years in a row. Before he came on board, the union's governing body was deeply divided, Mr. Dunne said, and part of the change was due to Mr. Hagan's leadership style. "We discussed everything," and often made decisions together, he said. "It was very collaborative." Keeping his board informed was the first item Mr. Hagan cited when discussing how he operated as president, and he maintained that his missteps occurred on the occasions when he didn't follow their advice. Such modesty seemed to fit with Mr. Dunne's depiction of him winning over people with his self-effacing nature. "And he's got a great way of articulating that is unique to him," Mr. Dunne said. "He tells you just like it is, he doesn't pull any punches." He later added, "I think even Bloomberg liked

him, I mean personally."

Weathered Mayor's Cuts

Much of Mr. Hagan's energy, of course, was concentrated on fighting the annual defunding of fire companies that former Mayor Michael Bloomberg in each of his last five years in office claimed was necessary due to budget cuts. (The money was restored each year by the City Council, after pressure by the fire unions.) Mr. Hagan invited each City Council member to his local threatened company and educated him on the unique tools and techniques of its members, Mr. Dunne said. But he avoided personal attacks, on either the Mayor or the Fire Commissioner, who he acknowledged was the Mayor's representative and not an autonomous figure. He also, Mr. Dunne said, set a "one-man, one-job" policy at the board, allowing each member to more effectively focus on one goal; began holding popular retiree meetings and ensured that they got the same aid as active firefighters for Hurricane Sandy damage; significantly added to a scholarship fund for the children of active members who die; and boosted the union's focus on political action.

Got Members Involved

"Participation by UFOA members in political action increased a lot during Al's tutelage," Mr. Dunne said. "We turn out members for literature drops, phone banks—we'll have hundreds of guys working citywide for the people we endorsed." The board during Mr. Hagan's term also set up a political education fund, which Mr. Hagan said 98 percent of members contribute to. He is of the mind that a union's political work should be focused not on general social issues but on matters that directly affect all members: salaries, benefits and working conditions. According to Mr. Dunne, every elected official they endorsed was first interviewed by the entire board before each election. Those who voted for the reduced pension benefits under Tier 6 in 2012 had a tough time the following interview. "We had a term for how they were verbally treated by Al: they were Haganized," he said, claiming that at least one official left in tears over his questioning.

Cops Among His Fans

Mr. Hagan is reportedly well-liked among many union officials, and helped solidify an alliance with police superior officer unions into a bargaining coalition. Michael J. Palladino, the president of the Detectives' Endowment Association, paid tribute to Mr. Hagan's famous schedule, adopted during the days he was studying for his promotion exams and woke daily before dawn. "I've always been very impressed by the leadership of the UFOA, Hagan included. I think Al is a very knowledgeable, solid union leader and I am going to miss his wit, his sense of humor and of course, his 5 a.m. e-mails," he said.

'A Labor Legend'

Roy Richter, president of the Captains' Endowment Association, said, "So you're doing a piece on a legend, huh? There's a couple of legends in labor and I think Al Hagan's one of them." He said he admired his ability to get a point across with a mixture of humor and forcefulness, and said he had become "one of the main players in the union business" by forging strong ties with labor umbrella groups including the AFL-CIO and the Municipal Labor Committee. "Al Hagan brings a presence to the table that is unmatched in labor circles," Mr. Richter said. Mr. Hagan cited as his biggest disappointment that he wasn't able to negotiate a contract, accusing the Bloomberg administration of bad-faith bargaining. Mr. Dunne offered perhaps the highest praise.

Honest Al?

"I said to him, 'You're the only man other than my father that I've ever said 'I love you' to,' he recalled, later calling Mr. Hagan "a mensch," "a ball-breaker" and "Lincoln-like." He added that the company he still officially leads until Aug. 30, Engine 36, was widely recognized as one of the best in the city, thanks in part to his leadership. "One of the highest compliments we in the FDNY can pay to another

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

is, "He was a good fireman," he added. The UFOA will hold an election the first week of September to choose a replacement from among the executive board. Our best wishes go out to Captain Al Hagan.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG The Secret List 9-1-2014

AND:

All,

In [May 2013](#), 4 Houston (Texas) Firefighters lost their lives in the Line of Duty while battling a massive fire at the Southwest Inn Motel. Firefighters Anne Sullivan and Robert Garner, Engineer Operator Robert Bebee, and Senior Captain Matthew Renaud were all killed while battling the fire at the Southwest Inn hotel in [May 2013](#). All four deceased firefighters were located in the front of the building close to the entry door. Captain Bill Dowling suffered horrific injuries at that fire leading to the loss of both his legs-as well as other life changing injuries. <http://www.hopefordowling.org/>

Unfortunately, several issues/changes and recommendations that had been pointed out in previous HFD LODD's, by their own personnel, existed in this fire as well. It took just 15 minutes and 29 seconds from the time HFD was dispatched until the collapse of the roof at the Southwest Inn on [May 31, 2013](#). This was the deadliest loss of Firefighters in the history of the Houston Fire Department. More than a year after the fire, the department has released its final report and over 200 recommendations.

The sample items and report BELOW can be used as a template for any of our fire departments in a "could this happen here" scenario....or the report can be ignored.

Hint: please don't ignore this report.

Here is a sampling of issues pointed out in the report:

- the need more training on how to fight fires involving "modern" plastic materials, less on wood and cotton (modern materials are more plastic-based) - all related to tactics and operations required in modern fire behavior command, control and operations.
- some firefighters abandoned radio procedures, creating confusion about who was in charge and cluttering radio channels with non-essential transmissions.
- communication issues in the digital radio system, most notably what's called transmission bonks, when too many people tried to talk at the same time. There were 579 transmission bonks in the first hour. The report says the HFD radio system was a huge problem.
- at times, the response was delayed by limited pre-planning - stations are required to develop response plans for major structures - that includes staging locations for arriving units.
- significant technical challenges with a new radio system, put into use less than a year earlier, fueled the disorganization as strong winds whipped the fire into a much larger fire.
- the report includes stern warnings from the committee to follow procedures, such as adhering to "proper radio discipline."
- the need for policy changes to clarify who issues orders during emergency recovery operations and suggested improvements to the radio system.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- the need for more detail in advance pre-fire plans written by each station for major structures in its district and adding bar codes to every piece of equipment so it can be linked to an individual firefighter in the case of a death.
- the report highlighted issues with the quality of radio transmissions and procedures that delayed the relay of essential information.
- "Due to an excessive number of people trying to transmit messages, company officers were simply unable to communicate on the radio," read the report.
- the thin casing protecting the radio mic wires melted, causing them to touch and inadvertently key about 20 times as rescue crews searched for members in the collapse. Just before the collapse, the team had reported issues with non-functioning microphones.
- fire companies operating without a charged hoseline.

Some of the recommendations that have already been implemented include changes to radio communications and individual firefighter monitoring devices, which were updated a year ago. In December, a new city ordinance was drafted to address buildings with poor radio coverage. In February, HFD began using a new kind of firefighting glove, and in May, the administration began looking at using helmet cameras and dash cams.

---NOTE: Five fire reports going back to a 2000 fire highlighted problems with HFD's coordination, communication and risk assessment at fire scenes. Some of those same issues are highlighted in this latest draft report.

=====HERE IS THE REPORT:

<http://dig.abclocal.go.com/ktrk/PICS/SEPTEMBER14/090114-ktrk-hfd-deadly-fire-report.pdf>

(BE SURE to read APPENDIX A, B, C and D)

=====HERE IS VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRSUEYprPMQ>

QUICK FINAL WORD:

One way to use this information is to understand that right now-our/my FD doesn't have a working hotel fire-at least not at this minute....which affords us a chance to USE this information from our Brothers/Sisters in Houston and determine which of the recommendations even remotely apply to our own FD's. We solidly believe there is no more respectful way to honor the Line of Duty Sacrifices of Anne Sullivan, Robert Garner, Robert Bebee, Matthew Renaud as well as Bill Dowling and the other HFD members who suffered life altering injuries.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/2/2014-1500 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

This evening, NBC Nightly News ran Part 1 of an excellent story about the challenges that fire, rescue and EMS have when trying to turnout/respond and safely reach an emergency call in time.

HERE is this evenings episode:

<http://www.nbcnews.com/watch/nightly-news/every-second-counts-growing-concerns-for-emergency-responders-324550723614>

Watch NBC Nightly News tomorrow evening for Part 2- Check it out.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/2/2014-2003 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

Yesterday-"Down under", a truck carrying ammonium nitrate in outback Queensland exploded with such force that residents more than 30km away thought an earthquake had occurred. Eight people, including four firefighters and a police officer, were injured when a truck carrying 50t of ammonium nitrate exploded in outback Queensland. Firefighters were called to a truck rollover on the Mitchell Highway, about 30km south of Charleville in Queensland's southwest **last night**. As the firefighters arrived, the truck exploded injuring eight people. The civilian truck driver sustained serious but not life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to Brisbane. The force of the blast destroyed a bridge, cutting off the main route between Charleville and nearby Wyandra. It also severely damaged two fire trucks at the scene. Two of the four injured firefighters were still recovering in hospital after the incident. The police officer, the two other firefighters and two men who witnessed the crash all received minor injuries and were taken to a hospital for treatment.

Fire apparatus was also destroyed-we have some pictures on our home page at www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com.

HISTORICAL:

===OKLAHOMA CITY:

Ammonium nitrate (AN) became more well known when convicted bomber Timothy McVeigh used it in the Oklahoma City bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on **April 19, 1995**. BOMBING VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tT5PS_cljgo

===WEST TEXAS:

You also remember when the West Fertilizer Company explosion in West, Texas, caught fire. Around 20 minutes later, ammonium nitrate stored there exploded, leveling roughly 80 homes and a middle school. 133 residents of a nearby nursing home were trapped in the ruins. In all, 15 were killed, and about 200 injured. THE EXPLOSION VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on-M7z_xFBE

===KANSAS CITY:

On **November 29, 1988**, at 4:07 am two trailers containing approximately 50,000 lb (23,000 kg) of the explosive ANFO (ammonium nitrate with fuel oil) exploded at a construction site located near the 87th street exit of Highway 71 in Kansas City, Missouri. The explosives were to be used in the blasting of rock while constructing Highway 71. The result of the explosions were the deaths of six firemen from the Kansas City Fire Department's Pumper Companies 30 and 41. Both companies were dispatched after 911 calls indicated that a fire had been set to a pickup truck located near the trailers. The responding companies were warned that there were explosives on-site; however, they were unaware that the trailers were essentially magazines filled with explosives.

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqbvPh5D90U>

===ENTIRE FD KILLED - 1:

Texas City Disaster: The cargo ship Grandcamp was being loaded on **April 16, 1947**, when a fire was detected in the hold: at this point, 2600 tonnes of ammonium nitrate in sacks were already aboard. The captain responded by closing the hold and pumping in pressurised steam. One hour later, the

ship exploded, killing several hundred people and setting fire to another vessel, the High Flyer, which was moored 250 metres away and which contained 1050 tons of sulfur and 960 tons of ammonium nitrate. The Grandcamp explosion also created a powerful earthshock that broke windows as far as 40 miles away and knocked two small planes flying at 1,500 feet (460 m) out of the sky. The High Flyer exploded the next day, after having burned for sixteen hours. 500 tonnes of ammonium nitrate on the quayside also burned, but without exploding, probably because it was less tightly packed. All but one member of the Texas City fire department died. VIDEO 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-d6cqhCJNE>

VIDEO 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH7t4X9hgBc>

BELLS AND WHISTLES:

Detroit is so broke that firefighters get emergency alerts through pop cans, coins, door hinges, pipes and doorbells....and they make these gizmos themselves - one involving a pop can that gets tipped over by an incoming fax. The clink of the can means there's an emergency. Then there's the chain-reaction gadget: a fax hits a door hinge, which then tugs on a wire, which then sets off a door bell.

FORTUNATELY the firehouses that do this do NOT participate in aluminum recycling so they are still able to receive alarms.

HERE is video:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/09/05/detroit-fire-houses-rely-on-pop-cans-doorbells-for-alerts/15160903/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-6-2014-1909 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The "family" connections to 9/11 are shock upon shock. You may know the story of the Langone Brothers-an FDNY FF (Peter) and an NYPD Emergency Service Officer (Tommy)-both also active volunteer Firefighters in Roslyn, on Long Island....both were murdered on 9/11 while operating at the scene. There are so many others with the "family" connection..... A very unique video that we wanted to share again, was made about John Vigiano Sr. ...who is a retired FDNY Rescue 2 Captain - whose two sons also followed him into public service-John Jr. was an FDNY Firefighter, too, and Joe was an NYPD Emergency Service Officer/Detective. On [September 11](#), 2001, both Vigiano brothers responded to the call from the World Trade Center, and both were murdered while saving others. Here, John Sr. remembers his sons and reflects on coping with his tremendous loss in a very unique video:

==WATCH THIS UNUSUAL ANIMATED VIDEO / INTERVIEW WITH CAPTAIN VIGIANO HERE:

<http://storycorps.org/animation/john-and-joe/>

Lee Ielpi is also a retired FDNY R-2 Firefighter ...whose two sons also followed him into the FDNY. Lee and his two son's (Jonathan and Brendan) also served in Great Neck, Long Island, as volunteer Firefighters as well. One of his son's, Jonathan, responded to the World Trade Center, and was also murdered while saving others. Here, Lee. remembers his son and reflects on coping with his tremendous loss.

==WATCH THIS VIDEO OF LEE HERE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0fqIvAeLUo>

THE FDNY BAND OF FAMILY.

There were so many family members looking for family member's on [9/11/01](#)-and the days and months following. Specifically, there were FDNY family members looking for FDNY family members. The

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

"BAND OF DADS"...this group of men were comprised mostly of retired FDNY firemen who persistently dug at Ground Zero for their missing Firefighter sons, dads and brothers. **TAKE A MOMENT** to read their stories and refusal to walk away from the WTC site until every last piece of debris was cleared. Some of the men were fortunate enough to find their sons while others left empty-handed and broken-hearted.

==READ ABOUT THE FAMILY "BAND" HERE AND CHECK THE LINKS AS WELL:

<http://www.groundzeromuseumworkshop.com/band/dad.htm>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/7/2014-1300 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

Take a few minutes to watch this excellent 15 minute TV interview with FDNY Commissioner Dan Nigro, from [this morning](#), as we approach the week of the 13th year since [9/11/01](#).

<http://7online.com/politics/up-close-new-nyc-fire-commissioner-/298087/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/7/2014-1518 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

Well the prior head of DC FEMS's legacy carries on-well after he is gone...and how sad. The latest is that 7 of the 17 truck companies in Washington, DC have failed inspections and are now **out of service**. And as hard as interim DCFD Fire Chief Eugene Jones is trying-and he certainly is-the crap left behind by the former just keeps piling up ...for Chief Jones and staff to fix....**and the potential for citizens to be left...hanging from windows**. DCFD said those seven trucks "will not return" to service "until the issues affecting them are resolved." Nearly all FD's have regular apparatus and aerial device inspection programs ..however.. logos being replaced were the priority of the former....and certainly reflective of the former's lack of leadership-and lack of caring about anything more than logos, t-shirts, ill treatment and whatever else mattered to him. **The book he "wrote" of "how not to lead the DCFD" continues to impact lives of taxpayers, visitors and members of the DCFD.** Inspections of the trucks "are part of a preventive maintenance plan for vehicles within our fleet," said Chief Jones. "It's important that the vehicles our employees rely on when they respond to an emergency are safe."

LINKS:

Checkout DaveS's spot on commentary about this fiasco:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/09/08/legacy-kenneth-ellerbe-7-dc-ladder-trucks-fail-inspection-sidelined/>

Speaking of Books, check out this one about DCFD:

<http://www.pennwellbooks.com/d-c-fire/>

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS? CHECK THIS OUT:

<http://www.firefightersworldwide.com/2014/09/firefighting-over-health/>

It's the VERY INTERESTING results of an online survey of 2,400 firefighters. Some good content as well as feedback from various fire service organizations, plus sidebars about the CDC and Johns Hopkins programs.

REMINDER-HBO TONIGHT: "A GOOD JOB"

<http://www.hbo.com/#/documentaries/a-good-job-stories-of-the-fdny>

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

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

November 1, 2014

www.chabotfire.com

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The Secret List 9/8/2014-1309 Hours

AND:

Hey,
Check this out from the FF Cancer Support Network:

Join FCSN's latest firefighter cancer prevention initiative & WIN: "Wash-Your-Hood-Sunday"!
Cancer is a growing threat to every firefighter. Awareness is growing... but we need to do more to prevent firefighter cancer. A small change can make a BIG difference. Start right now with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network's national **Wash-Your-Hood Sunday!** initiative. The concept began with Capt. Rick Triplett of the Montgomery County (MD) Department of Fire and Rescue Services. His goal? Get his firefighters to wash their hoods once a week and reduce their exposure to carcinogens. So join the fight against cancer in your fire department right away!

Thanks to Honeywell First Responder Products/Morning Pride for their gracious support of FCSN's **"Wash-Your-Hood Sunday"!** initiative.

WIN FF HOODS: Post a picture on Honeywell's Facebook wall featuring your own "Wash-Your-Hood-Sunday" initiative for a chance to win 10 MaskMate Hoods every month!*

To visit Honeywell's WYHS Facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/HoneywellFBWYHS>

For more of FCSN's lifesaving firefighter cancer prevention tips:

<http://tinyurl.com/FCSNwhitepaper>

*Winner will be announced every month. For official Wash-Your-Hood-Sunday Sweepstakes rules, go to <https://www.honeywellfirstresponder.com/en-US/Pages/WYHS-Official-Rules.aspx> No purchase required to enter or win.

Make EVERY Sunday a "Wash-Your-Hood-Sunday"!

Seems like a win win....
Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 9/9/2014 1118 Hours

AND:

ATHENS (GREECE) FIRE OFFICER LODD-LOST WHILE SEARCHING FOR FIRE VICTIM

We regret to pass on to you the Line of Duty Death of Athens (Greece) Fire Sargent Mattheos Mantzios, age 33. Companies were dispatched to a tool and plumbing supply equipment store-and were advised upon arrival that victims were trapped 2 floors above. Firefighters found the first victim, Sgt Mantzios reentered the building to search and remove the woman in the 2nd floor, over the fire. While searching, his low air alarm sounded and he then he became disoriented in the apartment-eventually running out of air. Reports are that he was calling for help for at least 7 minutes but members could not find him. **We have posted some related photos of this incident on our home page. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.**

GERMAN FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY INJURED IN EXPLOSION (Video)

4 Firefighters were been injured, three of them seriously, in explosions as they operated at a fire at warehouses in western Germany. The fire in Hilden, near Cologne, broke out [this morning](#). Reports November 1, 2014 www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

are that there was packaging, including paper and plastic, along with car tires, stored at the site. Forty people were evacuated from nearby houses. The fire was under control after about five hours. The cause was unclear.

VIDEO OF THE EXPLOSION: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id1oMFd-Vf4>

MORE SCENE VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ1cabt3jXc>

URGENT: FDNY FIREFIGHTER---YOUR HELP NEEDED:

A friend of The Secret List, FDNY FF Dan Heglund is facing the battle of his life and some friends found a video of him in L-33 in 1989. They are trying to get people to like his FaceBook page to show him the love and support out there. PLEASE take time to go there, click etc: **CLICK HERE:**

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dan-Heglund-FDNY-Ladder33Rescue4/1481519628769771?notif_t=page_invite_accepted

If the above doesn't work, here is the video: please like it, share on Facebook and generally get it out there so he knows we care.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaDukmTXz1o>

PLEASE NOTE:

Dan is fighting a valiant battle against the terrible World Trade Center related disease. Dan (of Eng 75, Lad 33 & Rescue 4) has dedicated his life to the citizens of New York and Long Island. As you LIKE the above FACEBOOK page and watch the video, Dan-o is the chauffeur of Lad 33, and makes a great move getting into a severely exposed bedroom to search @ 3:41 of the video. His efforts assisted in the successful rescue of two Bronx residents that day.

YOU ARE RESPECTFULLY REQUESTED to comment on this video and wish Dan Good Luck and Thank Him for His Service. Share this with all your friends and let's show Dan-o we appreciate what he's done for all of us. The Fire Service is a Wonderful Brotherhood. Let's connect and get Dan and overwhelming number of likes. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 9/14/2014-2100 Hours

AND:

TEXAS PARAMEDIC LODD-MEDICAL

We regret to pass on to you that a Leon County Paramedic died in the line of duty on [Saturday](#). 46 year old Michael Howard died [Saturday](#) morning....while responding to a call, Howard went into cardiac arrest and died at the scene. He worked for Leon County EMS for 22 years and was also a TEEK Instructor. Our condolences to all affected-RIP.

BRAZIL FF LODD-AMBULANCE STRUCK BY TRUCK

We regret to pass on to you that on [Saturday](#), Brazilian FF Maurício da Silva Valls, 25 years old, succumbed to injuries received when the ambulance he was driving was hit by a truck, while responding to another car crash. The initial incident happened on [Thursday](#) night, in the city of Gaspar, South of Brazil. Two other FFs also were hurt with non-life-threatening injuries. Our condolences to all affected-RIP.

<http://g1.globo.com/sc/santa-catarina/noticia/2014/09/bombeiro-morto-em-acidente-com-ambulancia-sera-enterrado-no-rs.html>

UPDATE ON SCBA DISCONNECTS:

We ran details last week showing the video of the Belgium FF losing his SCBA bottle. They were using Draeger quick connect. Since then, we also heard from the South Australian Fire Service in Adelaide who had similar issues last year with their MSA Quick Connect - and have changed all of

their SCBA back to the old fashioned thread connection. FD Antwerp, is reverting back to standard threaded couplings on their 425 pieces of SCBA.

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Firstly, the annual memorial weekend is coming up (Saturday/Sunday October 11/12) in Emmitsburg. If you have never attended, please consider this as a bucket list item. You will not regret it.

=====**LAST WEEK:** was the first ever NFFF/CFSI Congressional Flag Ceremony **Wednesday** when American flags that flew over the U.S. Capitol were officially transferred to NFFF for the survivors of the fallen firefighters who will be honored during Memorial Weekend in October. **CHECK THIS VIDEO:** http://youtu.be/XC7c_OgGNno

AND for those who have never attended the service at the memorial, here is a short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G7s6FCAdhA>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/15/2014-1430 Hours](#)

AND:

KENTUCKY FIRE CAPTAIN SUCCUMBS TO INJURIES-LINE OF DUTY DEATH

We regret to pass on to you that Campbellsville (KY) Fire Department Capt. Tony Grider, 41, who has been in very critical condition at University of Louisville Hospital, has died in the Line of Duty. As you know, he was the most seriously injured Firefighter when electricity from a high-voltage line arced onto the boom of the tower ladder they were using in the student fundraising event at Campbellsville University, several weeks ago. 3 other Firefighters suffered electrical shocks but were released after being treated. The firefighters were helping students in the marching band raise money for ALS. When the bucket was lowered, it got too close to a high-power electrical line overhead. Current from the line arced, striking the bucket holding 2 Firefighters. The other two firefighters suffered shocks when they took control of the ladder from below, but weren't seriously injured. The accident knocked out electrical power in parts of two counties. Our condolences to all affected. RIP. Details to follow.

SUPPORTING HEROES TRIBUTE PAGE:

http://www.supportingheroes.org/memorial/hero.php?hero_id=1746

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9-20-2014 1300 hrs](#)

AND:

2 SAUDI FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Two Civil Defense fire officers died in the Line of Duty and six people were injured in a massive fire that gutted the Al-Bilad Mall (Nesto Supermarket) in Dammam. Dammam is the capital of the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. The two fire officers were identified as Mohammed Al-Qahtani and Mubarak Al-Khalifa. The fire hit the mall, which spans 30,000 square meters, on **Saturday** morning. Shoppers ran out of the mall for safety. 20 firefighting companies took part in the operation to control the blaze. RIP. **HERE is video of the fire:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3dNpN5p388>

BRAZIL FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-TRAINING

On **Saturday** (20th), a FF died in the Line of Duty during a dive training in the city of Presidente Figueiredo, in the Amazon region of Brazil. FF Israel Aidem Pereira, 40 years old, was on a wreck

diving in a lake, when he lost communication. He was found unresponsive at a depth of 25 meters and brought to surface by other FF. He received CPR and was taken to the hospital, but did not survive. RIP. <http://new.d24am.com/noticias/amazonas/soldado-corpo-bombeiros-morre-afogado-teste-mergulho-embalbina/120301>

CHANGES IN CHICAGO FOR THEIR EMS PERSONNEL:

SCBA's and being taken off EMS units and firefighter PPE is not going to be issued in the future for Chicago FD EMS personnel...the Union and EMS personnel are less than happy with the decision:

More here:

<http://politics.suntimes.com/article/chicago/ambulance-changes-put-paramedics-and-chicago-public-risk/fri-09192014-200pm>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/22/2014-0828 Hours](#)

AND:

SOUTH FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER TRAINING:

The annual Fort Lauderdale Firefighters Fire TRAINING Expo is coming up. Much of it is sold out but there are some excellent training opportunities that are still open.

CHECK IT OUT: <http://fortlauderdalefireexpo.com/index.cfm?Section=1>

ALIVE FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Since 2013, approximately 50,000 firefighters from all 50 American states have used ALIVE training modules. In this project, the team will create and distribute free software that fire departments can use to build their own interactive scenario-based educational modules. These modules can be tailored to their specific needs and shared with their own members or with the worldwide firefighting community. The software's graphical user interface will allow instructors to add and synchronize videos, images, text, and narration to easily present the information and create scenarios that will visually engage the learner. Instructors will also be able to create pre-tests, post-tests, and surveys to analyze learning effectiveness, and students will be able to access these modules from anywhere in the world using their computer, smart-phone, or tablet.

The project link is: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/504929723/interactive-game-like-learning-software>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/21/2014-2000 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

There was a very serious and highly unusual mishap involving Firefighters at training in Rostock, Germany on [Tuesday](#). Rostock, is a large city in the north, directly at the coast of the Baltic Sea. During the training detail, a 52-year-old Firefighter was seriously injured as the members rappelled from their hose tower. The issue is that two safety ropes were actually cut and the firefighter fell from the second floor. He was taken to hospital with serious injuries. After emergency surgery, he is expected to survive. A knife, being carried or attached to one of the firefighters reportedly inadvertently severed the safety ropes.

The investigation has shown that the rope/cables were cut with a "clean cut".

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The Firefighters involved in the training are currently on leave from service and receiving counseling. Reports are that four Firefighters were involved in the high-angle type rescue drill. One of the men, who later became injured, hung on climbing ropes attached to the outer wall of the on-site tower. The cables led through an open window into the interior of the tower and were fastened there. For some reason, the rescue knife one of the Firefighters hooked on to the ropes so that it severed them. Then the 52-year-old Firefighter fell to the ground. KTIYP's. **A good reminder as well related to tools we carry-which we must-but just be aware of secured/protection and access to those tools.**

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/24/2014-1530 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

I remember years ago watching young firefighters in volunteer companies race to ride the front seat-after all, the radio, the sirens and the horns were the priority. In career departments, firefighters would want to "ride up" when the Lieutenant or captain had the day off, sometimes for the same reasons. I did both as many of you did-and do. Be it the front seat or arriving in a car, the SUV or whatever, having command means you literally own that scene and you are responsible for everyone, everything and anything that can happen.

It's no BS and serious, serious stuff.

I'm not sure I can emphasize that any more than so many fire service writers have over so many years.

The first interesting transformation happens (hopefully) when firefighters go from firefighter to company officer-and you have to deal with (as Chase Sargent says) the "Buddy to Boss" stuff. It's a big deal. The next real interesting transformation (again, hopefully), is when a company officer goes from the front seat of the rig-to the front seat of the chiefs car, chief SUV or whatever your command officers arrive in. **Suddenly, you own that scene.** It's a huge deal. You are the bottom line of every aspect and action at that incident. You ARE command, control, accountability and communication. Your "day" has come-and hopefully, those before you have provided solid and verifiable training that is actually applicable to the job you now own - and the massive responsibility you now have.

When things go right-and hopefully they do purposely, it's a good day-and that is what happens most days. Again-hopefully by design vs. just because.

However-when things go wrong on the fire or fire training ground, it can be life altering.

Life altering to civilians.

Life altering to your Firefighters.

Life altering to you...which includes your family and friends around you.

Take a few minutes to read these two articles and the related reports.

==The first is the Line of Duty Death of Dallas Firefighter. If you have every commanded (or dreamed of commanding) a fire, absolutely read this article-and the reports.

Investigative reports show Dallas firefighter died due to fire commanders' decisions, communication problems.

<http://thescoopblog.dallasnews.com/2014/09/investigative-reports-show-dallas-firefighter-died-due-to-commanders-decisions-communication-problems.html/>

==The second is the Line of Duty death of a Fire Officer during "smoke diver" training:

When a Lesson Took a Dangerous Turn, a Room Full of Firefighters Couldn't Save One Of Their Own: Fire Officer Neal Smith.

http://blogs.houstonpress.com/news/2014/09/neal_smith_firefighter_death.php

Above related NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201227.pdf>

Above related Texas State Fire Marshal's report:

<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/reports/fire/documents/fmloddsmith.pdf>

Take some time to read the articles and the related reports. If these reports do anything, they remind us that like every firefighter, training as a command officer never stops. Everyday is a training day...from reading, reviewing, studying, simulators, hands on, live drills or whatever-the "coaching staff" of the fire departments responsibility to take care of their "players" is never ending-it's a massive responsibility-and it is not for everyone.

These reports also remind us of our total no BS responsibility to take care of our people in what can certainly be tough conditions....but that is our 24/7/365 commitment and responsibility. While our people operate in tough conditions-and just like we expect them to perform as expected operating "interior"-they must be able to expect and count on us on the outside, in command roles, to do what we must do - to take care of them.

And lastly, these reports remind us that in 2014-people are asking questions, families want to know, investigations are conducted, and attorneys are lined up to help them determine the truth on how and why their loved ones died.

Command is nothing new in the fire service. However, the defined responsibility, the tasks, complexity and expectations have evolved over the years into what we know as **today** as an extremely intense role requiring training and skills like never before.

Need more poof? Seriously?!

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [9/18/2014-2106 Hours](#)

AND:

LONG ISLAND FIREFIGHTER LODD

We regret to pass on to you that Firefighter Allen Westby, 67, of the East Islip (Suffolk County, Long Island, NY) FD responded on [9/22/14](#) at 1721 hours for an automatic alarm. Sadly, he was found at home on [9/23/14](#) at approximately 0900 hours. FF Westby was a Past Commissioner, Past Captain and a 43 year member of the East Islip FD. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

LEADERSHIP IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

The tragic loss of this Firefighter continues to understandably put fireground **and** administrative leadership in the spotlight. **Newspaper Editorial: "Instead of shameful silence, Dallas fire chief owes answers"**

<http://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/editorials/20140924-editorial-instead-of-shameful-silence-dallas-fire-chief-owes-answers.ece>

Related: DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO BE IN COMMAND?

SERIOUSLY? <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/212355>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-25-2014/0857 hrs

AND:

All,

Yesterday, a 29-year veteran of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue died after he was hit by a car while changing a tire on Interstate 95 in Boca Raton, Palm Beach County, FL. Fort Lauderdale Fire Lt. Kevin Johns was on his way to work, and stopped to take care of a flat tire around 0730 - when two cars were involved in a crash near the Yamato Road exit. One of the cars hit the other and after the initial impact, the car continued off the road and hit Johns. The Lieutenant was taken to Delray Medical Center after Boca Raton Fire-Medics did their best to save his life. He leaves behind his wife Brenda, three children and a huge firefighting family. **WHILE not a Line of Duty death-Lt. John's tragic death is a reminder of the constant dangers of highways and interstate roadways...be it off duty-or on duty.** Our condolences to all affected-RIP.

===REMEMBERING THE CATLETT, VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN TRAIN VS APPARATUS CRASH.

On September 28, 1989, we remember the radio traffic like it was **yesterday**-when a train struck a responding fire apparatus in the county south of us. We were operating at a pipeline leak when the mutual aid hazmat truck radio from Fauquier County "exploded" with urgent transmissions. Killed in the Line of Duty were Catlett (VA) Firefighters Mark Miller and Matt Smith when they responded to a vehicle fire on Route 28 around 1930 hours on **September 28, 1989**.

SOME DETAILS WORTH READING----- "STRESS WHILE RESPONDING":

Catlett (Virginia, outside of Washington, DC) Volunteer Firefighters Miller and Smith were two of the five firefighters aboard Wagon 7 as it turned out to a vehicle fire on Route 28 south of Catlett just before 1930 on **September 28, 1989**. Less than 10 minutes after the alarm, Miller and Smith were dead, the three other firefighters seriously injured, the engine was destroyed, an Amtrak passenger train with 2 locomotives and 16 cars had derailed, 57 of the 399 passengers were hurt and there was fire on the railroad tracks. Wagon 7 (an engine company) was struck at the unprotected grade crossing as the engine was trying to get back to a driveway it had overshot on the way to the vehicle fire. The train was going 77 mph. The engineer stated that he observed the fire apparatus and believed that Wagon 7 was going to stop at the crossing. When the engine entered the crossing, the engineer applied the brakes on "emergency" and sounded the horn. **The engineer reported that the firefighter riding in the front passenger seat of Wagon 7 never looked at the train before the collision.**

The driver of Wagon 7 was a 24-year-old member of the department who had several years of experience in operating large vehicles. **The actions of the driver of Wagon 7 indicated he was undoubtedly experiencing added stress for several reasons.** First, the engine left the station without an officer on board, contrary to department policy. The chief's radio transmissions asking "who is in charge" and the indirect response from the crew of Wagon 7 would indicate that the driver was under added stress from the initial moments of the response. Wagon 7 radioed the chief to request that any additional apparatus be held in the station until they arrived at the scene to verify the nature of the call.

Another contributing factor, which may have been affected by the first, was the fact that Wagon 7

missed the turn for the driveway leading to the fire and traveled approximately 1.5 miles past the fire before asking for directions from communications. It is likely that the crew of Wagon 7 focused their attention on "redeeming themselves" by performing satisfactorily in reaching and extinguishing the fire. The tanker and the engine approached the scene at the same time. Tanker 7 stopped to allow Wagon 7 to enter the driveway first. The heightened level of stress on the driver of Wagon 7 is indicated by the fact that as he approached the driveway leading to the location of the fire call, he overshot the turn and had to back the vehicle to make the turn into the driveway.

At this point, the car fire was visible to the driver of Wagon 7 and the crew probably focused all their attention on reaching the fire. **This is reinforced by the statements of the Amtrak engineer, who stated that he placed the train's brakes on emergency and sounded the horn when he realized that the vehicle was not going to stop. As the train headed toward the pumper, the engineer stated that the front seat passenger never looked at the train, although the passengers in the rear jump seats did observe the approaching train.** "Although some level of stress can enhance human performance, excessive stress can lead to substandard performance. **When a person's arousal level is unduly increased by stressors, the focus of attention is narrowed to performance of the task perceived to be the most important, while the quality of the performance of any peripheral task(s) deteriorates.**"

HERE is the entire report and photos:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-048.pdf>

===REMEMBERING THE TRUMBULL STREET FIRE IN BOSTON WHERE FIVE FIREFIGHTERS WERE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

On the night of **October 1, 1964**, a passerby spotted a fire on Trumbull Street and pulled Box 1671 located at Shawmut Ave. and West Brookline Street. Boston Fire Alarm transmitted the box at 1232 hours. **Five members would die in the Line of Duty that night. Fire Lieut. John McCorkle, Engine Co. 24; Fire Lieut. John Geswell, Ladder Co. 26, detailed to Ladder Co. 4; FF. Francis Murphy, Engine Co. 24. FF. James Sheedy, Ladder Co. 4 and FF. Robert Clougherty, Engine Co. 3.**

At around 1245, without any warning the first collapse occurred. Men were knocked from ladders and the balcony fire escapes, other men on the ground were buried and burned. Also killed was a civilian, a freelance photographer and "fire buff/spark". His name was Andy Sheehan and he often sparked at the quarters of Engine Co. 3 and Ladder Co. 3. He had graduated from Cathedral High School a few years before and had become friends with some of the members. He died several hours after being brought into Boston City Hospital - he was 25 years old. A very large funeral was held for the five members killed at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross ' the South End on **5 October 1964**. A large delegation from other fire departments attended. A separate funeral was held that same day in Milton for Andy Sheehan of which firefighters attended as well. The 12 injured members were taken to Boston City Hospital. Some were very seriously injured.

This turned out to be an arson fire. The cause of the collapse was the "rapid deterioration of the roof rafters due to the heavy burn and being termite ridden for years". This left little support for the main steel "I" beam, which led to the collapse of the front walls. The report also states that after further investigation the original mortar had lost some of its bonding and had deteriorated. From outside observation the wall appeared sound. The report also states that the operations of the fire department did not induce or contribute to the collapse of the wall.

The fire had been burning for a while as the person that pulled the box told investigators that he had smelled smoke in the area for several hours, but he could not locate the source.

TAKE TIME TO READ THE REPORT AND VIEW THE PHOTOS IN THESE LINKS:

http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire/reports_publications/trumbull_st_fire.asp

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/09/30/survivors-recall-tragic-toy-factory-fire-years-ago-that-killed-five-boston-firefighters-and-civilian/5N0oy9XwZQQxNZJHKI950I/story.html?event=event25>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-1-2014-1008 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

Media reports indicate that four firefighters were injured while trying to control a fire in Hartford [Tuesday](#) evening. Hartford PD confirm that the fire is located at 598 Blue Hills Avenue. Officials said four firefighters were injured. **One firefighter is currently in critical condition and another firefighter has serious injuries and was transported to the Bridgeport Burn Unit.** The injuries of the other two firefighters are not considered serious. We will keep you advised as more becomes available on this story.

CAL FIRE TANKER MISSING AT YOSEMITE FIRE

This afternoon contact was lost with one of the CAL FIRE air tankers flying over a fire near Yosemite National Park. Emergency personnel are currently responding to the last known location of the aircraft. The airtanker was assigned to the Dog Rock Fire burning near Yosemite's Arch Rock. The status of the aircraft and the pilot have not been determined," according to a press release from Daniel Berlant with Cal Fire. "Nobody has reported a crash to us but Cal Fire is telling media a plane is down," Ian Gregor Public Affairs Manager for the FAA. Please keep both the Hartford and CAL FIRE Firefighters in your thoughts and prayers.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-7-2014 2130 hrs](#)

AND:

All,

Hartford, Connecticut officials confirmed at 11:00 p.m. ET that one firefighter, 48-years-old, was killed in the fire [tonight](#) on Blue Hills Avenue. A second firefighter suffered burns over 10 percent of his body. Two other firefighters have been injured. At this point the names of the firefighters are not being released. We will keep you advised as more details become available.

CAL FIRE PILOT LODD AFTER CRASH

The pilot of an air tanker battling a wildfire at Yosemite National Park died after the tanker crashed [Tuesday](#), Cal Fire said. The tanker was being used to help battle Dog Rock Fire when authorities lost contact with its pilot [Tuesday](#) afternoon, Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said in a statement. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said the plane -- which had only one pilot on board -- went down near an entrance to the park. The pilot's family requested the name be withheld pending notification of other relatives. Please keep both the Hartford and CAL FIRE Firefighters and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-7-2014 0700 hrs

AND:

All,

The Hartford, CT FF who died in the line of duty at a house fire earlier this week has been identified as 48y/o Kevin Lamont Bell was on the front lines **Tuesday** night and was among the first to enter the burning building, fire officials said. He's also the first Hartford firefighter to die fighting a fire in 40 years, according to state records. "The Hartford Fire Department family has lost one of its own. Firefighter Kevin Bell represents and embodies the best in all of us," Hartford Fire Chief Carlos Huertas said during a news conference **Wednesday** afternoon. "He made the ultimate sacrifice without hesitation or reservation." **According to the Hartford Firefighters Association**, Bell was critically injured and pulled from the burning building in cardiac arrest. He was rushed to Saint Francis Hospital and pronounced dead. Bell, a member of Engine 16, worked for the fire department for more than six years and leaves behind a wife and daughter, according to Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra.

CAL-FIRE PILOT KILLED IN CRASH AT WILDFIRE

Geoffrey "Craig" Hunt was a former Navy lieutenant commander, a college science instructor and a firefighting pilot for 13 years. "My dad died a hero," said Sarah Hunt Lauterbach. "There was not a day that went by that I didn't talk to my dad," said Lauterbach, who lives in Chicago. "He was my best friend." Rescuers found Hunt's body **Tuesday** evening outside the smashed hull of the Grumman S-2T fire retardant air tanker. The crash site stretched for a quarter mile. Hunt worked for Cal Fire through DynCorp International, which contracts with the state agency. "We know wildland firefighting is an inherently dangerous job," said Cal Fire director Ken Pimlott, "but Craig made the ultimate sacrifice." Hunt's body was draped with a flag and accompanied by an honor guard as it was turned over **Wednesday** to Cal Fire officials. Gov. Jerry Brown ordered Capitol flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of Hunt. Cal Fire said it lost contact with the Hollister-based air tanker about 4:30 p.m. **Tuesday**, while it was fighting the Dog Rock Fire that was threatening dozens of homes in the community of Foresta. Please keep both the Hartford and CAL FIRE Firefighters and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-9-2014 1720 hrs

AND:

All,

Today is the anniversary of the infamous 23rd Street Fire that took place on **October 17, 1966**. Firefighters from the FDNY responded to a fire at 7 East 22nd Street entered a building at 6 East 23rd Street as part of an effort to fight the fire. Twelve members of every rank, from a probationary Firefighter to a Deputy Chief, made the Supreme Sacrifice, were killed in the Line of Duty when the ground floor of the store collapsed. The fire originated in a basement storage area, which was concealed by a four-inch thick cinderblock wall illegally constructed by the building's previous owner. It was the largest loss of life in the department's history until the collapse and murders at the World Trade Center in the **September 11, 2001** terrorist attacks. R.I.P. **MUCH MORE HERE:**

http://www.nyfd.com/history/23rd_street/23rd_street.html

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/17/nyregion/17fire.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Take Care-Be Careful-Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-17-2014 1132 hours

AND:

Hey,

A new recall has been issued by the maker of the fire apparatus chassis involved in that June crash that killed a Montana Fire Chief and a family of five. The recall of the double Cardan front drive shaft comes from **Navistar which manufactures the International 4800** apparatus involved in the crash in June.

The recall by Navistar is for International 4800 trucks built between 1999 and 2002 that are equipped with Fabco TC-200 transfer cases. The recall notice says the driveshaft may separate and cause axle lockup if a joint in the driveshaft seizes.

The recall was issued after the Montana Highway Patrol released their accident report. The recall is slightly different from previous recalls in that this one requires the part to be removed and replaced. Navistar's communications director, Steve Schrier tells media that Navistar has not received their report, but issued the recall after conducting their own investigation. He says an investigation is often launched after consumer concerns about a possible defect. During their investigations they look at things such as warranty claims and gather data from field reports. If a defect is found, Navistar then issues a recall and notifies their customers to correct the defect. In this particular case, Schrier said their investigation found 5 other incidents since 2008 which prompted them to issue the voluntary recall. Navistar has notified all customers and are in the process of implementing the voluntary recall.

CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER LODD FUNERAL:

Firefighters will gather together to pay their respects to Airtanker Pilot Geoffrey "Craig" Hunt as well as to his family, who paid the ultimate sacrifice with his life while fighting the Dog Rock Fire near El Portal, California. A celebration of Craig's life, with full Line of Duty Death fire service honors, will take place **Tuesday, October 21**, 2014 at 10 a.m. On **October 7**, 2014, Dyncorp Pilot Geoffrey "Craig" Hunt was involved in a fatal crash while flying a CAL FIRE S-2T Airtanker over the Dog Rock Fire burning near Yosemite's Arch Rock. Geoffrey "Craig" Hunt was born **October 14**, 1951 in Richmond, IN. He is survived by his wife, Sally, who he married in September of 1975, and his two daughters, Nancy Hunt and Sarah Hunt Lauterbach. Hunt served as a US Navy P3 pilot from 1975-1984 and was in the reserves for 20 years.

HARTFORD (CT) FD LODD FUNDRAISER SHIRTS

As we "tweeted" several days ago, this is a reminder that the City of Hartford Fire Department is selling memorial T-shirts to help support the family of Firefighter Kevin L. Bell, who was killed last week fighting a house fire on Blue Hills Avenue. All proceeds from the shirts, which are \$20 each and come in two colors, will go to the Kevin L. Bell Memorial Family Fund. T-shirts can be purchased by calling Local 760 at **860-296-3523** or the Hartford Fire Department Special Services Unit at **860-757-4520**.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List **10/19/2014-2036 Hours**

Happy Anniversary Teri XOXO

AND:

All,

The IAFF has released the below video of interest to all fire fighters and EMS personnel related to Ebola education and response. Take a moment to watch and learn from this excellent presentation---- and note the recommended **SAFETY STAND DOWN**: <http://youtu.be/4cL-BZw6u3E>

WATCH the Stand Down statement video from the IAFF GP: <http://youtu.be/4AFtdMYI6tk>
Check out www.IAFF.org for more.
Additionally, the IAFC has provided an excellent resource page: <http://www.iafc.org/ebola>

The IAFC has formed an Ebola Task Force to provide guidance for the health and safety of fire fighters, EMT's and responders and patients in response to the recent diagnoses of several Ebola patients in the United States. The task force will be chaired by IAFC 2nd Vice President Chief John Sinclair and will include members and leadership from the Safety, Health & Survival Section-of the IAFC. The IAFC's Ebola Task Force will review the management of Ebola patients from the time an emergency call is placed until the patient is confirmed as either having or not having Ebola. The task force will review several important issues with short- and long-term implications, including:

- Screening 9-1-1 calls for potential Ebola patients
- Proper PPE
- Training for PPE donning/doffing procedures
- Decontamination practices
- Definition of *exposure*
- Quarantining employees who provide care for potential Ebola patients
- Other issues as they arise

Fire and EMS personnel should understand that this is an evolving and dynamic process; current best practices will evolve as new information is received. The task force will be meeting with the experts and will continue to educate and inform the fire service. Watch IAFC.org for more.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-20-2014-2220](#) hrs

AND:

MISSOURI FIRE CHIEF/POLICE OFFICER LODD-RESPONDING CRASH-EJECTED

We regret to advise you that Alton Fire Chief Eddie Johnson Jr., 45, was responding to a house fire six miles west of Alton when he lost control, went off the left side of the highway, hit a driveway approach, and rolled his vehicle several times. He was ejected from the vehicle and killed in the Line of Duty. He was also an Alton Police Officer. The crash was on U.S. 160 about five miles west of Alton. An ambulance took the Chief to the hospital in West Plains but he did not survive. State troopers suspect Chief Johnson was not wearing his safety belt. The Alton Fire Department was responding with other area fire departments to a house fire at an area known locally as Royal Oak. The fire destroyed the home. Besides being a full-time police officer and volunteer fire chief, Johnson also was an Oregon County reserve sheriff's deputy. He'd been fire chief since 2010 and worked in the Alton Police Department for nine years. His wife and three children survive him.

We'll post more details as they become available. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-20-2014-2233](#) hrs

AND:

All,

As you may have read, two Canadian soldiers were struck by a vehicle **on purpose yesterday**. It's reported as a terrorist attack....and one soldier died. His name is WO Patrice Vincent. **What you may not know is that he was a Canadian Forces Firefighter.** Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, 53, had been a member of the Canadian military for 28 years when he was killed in the Line of Duty **yesterday**

after being hit by a car driven by that homegrown terrorist. Vincents career as a Firefighter (and Chief Fire Officer) brought him to military bases across Canada, serving in Halifax, Valcartier, Que., Montreal, Trenton, North Bay, Edmonton, Comox, B.C. and Esquimalt, B.C. Vincent had been a member of Joint Personnel Support Unit at the Integrated Personnel Support Centre in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., an office run by the departments of defense and veterans affairs that help injured veterans and current soldiers, as well as their families, access support services from the federal government.

WHAT HAPPENED:

The attack occurred in the parking lot outside the IPS center **yesterday morning**. Terrorist Martin Couture-Rouleau **sat** and waited-and then he struck two members of the military with his car in a St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., parking lot in what was "the violent expression of an extremist ideology." One of those victims, Firefighter/Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, as noted above, has since died. Couture-Rouleau was shot and killed by police following a high-speed chase as he fled the scene. According to Quebec provincial police,Couture-Rouleau waited in the parking lot for at least two hours before he drove his car into the soldiers - one of whom was in uniform. The parking lot in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, located about 40 kilometres southeast of Montreal, served a number of provincial, federal and military administrative offices, as well as several commercial properties. Couture-Rouleaus gold-beige-coloured 2000 Nissan Altima, was spotted in the parking lot as early as 9:15 a.m. **Monday**. The men were hit by the car at around 11:30 a.m. Our condolences to all those affected by this loss. RIP.

FIRES DO CONTINUE-SUCH AS THIS MORNING.....

It's not hard to find **the unknowing** talking about the need for less staffing, less companies, less training, less response, etc-in many circles these days. As stated here so many times before, bare bone cuts are like cutting your home insurance-you immediately do save some money and as long as you have no fire or claim, life is good. In those "cut" communities, the same thing happens, "all is good" to the clueless-until there is a fire. And the fire comes-as it always does-and always will.....but now the **SOIFSFD** - (shadow of it's former self fire department)-and it's firefighters, have to attempt to make it work. Expecting a fire department-any fire department-to operate as if they have adequate staffing and resources-when they have far less, is foolishness with a predictable outcome.

There are still fires and be it 5 or 500 in your area, the preparedness and response has to be able to match the incident initially-or the result will be similar to you calling your insurance company and wanting to file a claim-and them reminding you that you are no longer covered. Don't let anyone feed you the "less fires=less of a need for a well equipped and staffed FD" nonsense-there are fires. Hats off to the FF's in Lawrence (MA) who are no strangers to budget cuts-and working fires. They tried to save two young kids **this morning, trapped in heavy fire conditions.**

WATCH THIS VIDEO FIRST: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmJ7PLpoRyU>

Other videos and coverage of the Lawrence fire and the heroic attempts by the LFD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg7mGOIItRQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pKEyutr55k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg7mGOIItRQ>

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2014/10/21/family-reports-2-children-missing-after-lawrence-house-fire/>

<http://www.ksby.com/news/firefighter-hospitalized-after-trying-to-rescue-young-boys-trapped-in-burning-apartment/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/21/2014-2056 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

Here is the radio traffic from this mornings extreme close call in Detroit where the FF was forced out of tower ladder 7's bucket.

=RADIO TRAFFIC INCLUDING THE EMERGENCY THAT HAPPENS AT AROUND 5 min :45 sec:
(Listen to the audio from the start, great professionalism in command, control and restricting companies from concerns related to the vacant building-in addition to the emergency traffic that followed)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnNNPq6vG1o&feature=em-uploademail>

=VIDEO:

DFD FF Nicholas Benskey was injured at the above fire [this morning](#) when he came down from the bucket of tower ladder 7 during a fire at that longtime vacant Fisher Body plant. While operating, part of the building started to collapse. Indications are that Firefighter Benskey dropped 30 to 40 feet. A second firefighter in the bucket of the tower ladder was not injured. The fire was at the vacant Fisher Body plant-he is expected to recover and is in fair condition. KTIYP's

Take care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/22/2014-1500 Hours](#)

AND:

All-

It is with profound regret that we pass on shocking news to you---we have been advised that Firehouse Magazine Editor In Chief Emeritus, Former Tenafly NJ Fire Chief and Hon FDNY Assistant Chief Harvey Eisner has passed away from a heart attack. We will provide additional information on this huge loss to the nation and worlds fire service. Quite honestly, there is not a single Firefighter on the streets [today](#) that Harvey didn't positively influence in his teachings, writings and amazing photography. Harvey was a dear friend to us and so many and a true Brother to all in the fire service.

Much more to follow about this man whose life was always all about doing for others. That is said about many, but that absolutely defined who Harvey was. All you needed to do was to spend a moment with him-and that statement held true forever-and will continue to hold true...forever. Chief Harvey Eisner-did so much for so many and now he is gone.

RIP.

More about Chief Eisner:

<http://www.firehouse.com/blog/11663803/the-jersey-guys-blog-recognizing-harvey-eisner>

Take Care. Be Careful Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-24-2014-0839 Hours](#)

AND:

FIREFIGHTER DIES WHILE TURNING OUT TO A BUILDING FIRE

We regret to pass on to you that a 26-year-old female Firefighter (and brand new Mom who just had a baby about a month ago) died in the Line of Duty [this morning](#) in Fulton Township, Lancaster County, PA. Christi Rodgers, 26, was a volunteer Firefighter with the Robert Fulton Fire Company in

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Wakefield, <http://www.513rffc.com/>. She was home when her pager went off to respond to the house fire at 394 Pilottown Road. While turning out, she went into cardiac arrest and was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The fire was dispatched around 0453 Hours-it is near the Maryland border. "The two-story dwelling was fully involved when we got there," Assistant Chief Dan Appel said. "Flames were 40 feet in the air." About 50 firefighters from Lancaster, Chester in PA, and Harford and Cecil counties in Maryland worked together to put out the blaze. It was declared under control around 6:45 a.m. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

REMEMBERING DCFD SGT CARTER:

Take a moment to remember Sgt. John M. Carter who was killed on [October 24, 1997](#) at a store fire at 4th & Kennedy St's NW. **NOTE: If you have never viewed this video-it is time well spent.** RIP.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7Cqw-BSt44>

Additional: <http://www.dcfid.com/carter.htm>

Takje Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/24/2014-0948 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

We take time to remember-and learn about the Pennsylvania fire instructor who was conducting live fire training ([October 23, 2005](#)) and was **very critically burned** (and died in the Line of Duty, two days later) in that fire training building at the State Fire Academy. Altoona Fire Captain/State Instructor Bob Gallardy, 47, was working at the State Fire Academy in Lewistown that weekend as an Instructor for the Suppression Instructor Development Class. They were starting the last fire of the day (after several days of training) wherein the Instructor candidates would be evaluated in a variety of positions. Captain Gallardy was found by the candidates in the corner of the burn room as they entered. The candidates quickly extinguished the fire and removed the victim from the room, a Mayday was immediately called by another Instructor in the basement and the RIT team was sent to the basement to assist with removal. It has been noted in the report (below) that Captain Gallardy's face piece had a heat damaged lens from previous burns. Two others found at the training academy also had similar flaws.

The investigators also noted that another instructor was concerned when Gallardy emerged from the basement after setting the fire, and encouraged him to get out and take a break. After remarking about how hot the fire was, Gallardy went back into the basement to add pallets to the fire and await the students for the final scenario of the day. The three firefighters said they called a Mayday after hearing someone moan.

They also wondered if it was part of the grand finale scenario. But, they suddenly realized it wasn't. Captain Gallardy was removed, treated and then flown to the Lehigh Valley Burn Unit with very serious 2nd and 3rd degree burns over a large portion of his body including respiratory and facial. He was listed in critical condition and succumbed two days later. He was wearing an SCBA with a damaged face piece-from previous training burns-when he entered the operating area. Gallardy was career Fire Captain in the Altoona City FD and had been in the volunteer and career fire service for nearly 30 years. He was an Adjunct Instructor and Local Level Instructor for OSFC/State Fire Academy.

TAKE TIME to read this report and to then learn and honor the life of Captain Gallardy.
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200531.html>

RELATED:

On [July 30, 2002](#), a Florida Fire Lieutenant and a Firefighter died while participating in a live-fire training evolution. A flashover occurred several minutes after the fire had been lit in the acquired vacant structure while both of the victims were performing a simulated search and rescue. The Lieutenant and the Firefighter were both transported to a local hospital where they were pronounced dead. **READ:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200234.html>

Learning from those who have lost their lives is the best way to honor the fallen---both PA and Florida have made very significant, recognized and noted changes since these losses. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/24/2014-1410 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

We take time [today](#) to remember Fire Capt. Mark Loutzenhiser, 43, FF's Daniel Najera, 20, Jess McLean, 27, Jason McKay 27 and Pablo Cerda, 23 who were killed in the Line of Duty on [October 26, 2006](#) at the Esperanza fire in California. The members of USFS Engine 57 were protecting a structure and the fire over ran their position. This was an arson fire and the arsonist has been sentenced to death.

FIRE REPORT AND DETAILS HERE:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/downloads/esperanza_00_complete_final_draft_05_01_2007.pdf

UPDATE ON YESTERDAYS LODD IN LANCASTER COUNTY, PA.

Here's an article on the tragic loss of a volunteer Firefighter, her husband (also a Firefighter), their **one month old child** and community.

http://m.lancasteronline.com/news/local/volunteer-firefighter-mother-of--month-old-child-dies-responding/article_50a75094-5b78-11e4-93c3-001a4bcf6878.html?mode=jqm

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-24-2014-1000 hrs](#)

AND:

Hey,

As the fire service mourns the sudden loss of fire service icon, friend and Brother, Chief Harvey Eisner, I thought you would find comfort and a bit of enjoyment (as I have) learning how "it" all started-meaning Firehouse Magazine...and so much that followed that. **At the risk of thinking that some of our younger Secret List members don't know who Dennis Smith is, I'll give you a very quick briefing.**

Dennis is a retired firefighter from FDNY. He is best known for writing the best selling memoir **Report from Engine Co. 82**, a chronicle of his career as a firefighter with the New York City Fire Department in a South Bronx firehouse - the worlds busiest - during the late 1960s and into the 1970s. **(Note-if you don't have "Report from Eng Co 82" in your personal library-get it. Seriously. Get it. \$14.00 Here is a link)** <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/br1001.shtml> Dennis also founded Firehouse magazine in 1976. While the editor and publisher of Firehouse, Smith also created the Firehouse Muster and Convention in Baltimore. Immediately following 9/11, Dennis also wrote:

Report from Ground Zero: The Story of the Rescue Efforts at the World Trade Center. The above is merely the tip of the iceberg about Dennis-you can learn more **HERE:** <http://www.dennis-smith.com/>

I'm fortunate to be friends with Dennis for many years-and we were emailing this weekend about our deep sadness in Harvey's passing. We also spoke of Bruce Bowling who also died last week. So instead of me writing anything else, take a moment to enjoy Dennis's thoughts related to how he got Harvey started at FIREHOUSE, and how Bruce Bowling played a role as well.

TO: The Members of The Secret List
FROM: Dennis Smith-Brother Firefighter (an original TSL member)
SUBJECT: BRUCE BOWLING, HARVEY EISNER, RIP

I have always liked fire buffs. Jack Lerch, (FDNY Hon. Chief of Department) whom I think of as the leading fire buff in NYC, has become an invaluable friend over the years, and I still call upon him whenever I need a particular piece of history or folklore in the fire service. Fire buffs will go anywhere, and read anything that brings them closer to the actual firefighting experience. Indeed, there was a wealthy fire buff in New York, Bob Russell, who along with the one-time owner of Macy's Department Store, Ken Strauss, came to visit me several times in the firehouse. They had more radios and lights in their car than the fire commissioner! I became a close friend of Bob's, who had the honor and distinction of being the first investor in Firehouse Magazine when I invented that journal written exclusively for firefighters. Even some of our NYC firefighters and fire officers were dedicated buffs - I, for instance, worked as a volunteer at the Waldbaum Drug Store fire in Brooklyn, the 23rd Street fire, and then the 9/11 World Trade Center alarm, three of our greatest tragedies. And, so, it was no surprise for me to see a car of four men sitting in a car outside of Engine Co. 82 on Intervale Avenue in the South Bronx sometime in early 1973. They never got out of the car, respecting the privacy of the firehouse, but they followed us to every alarm. During a pause in our usual **40 alarms a day**, I went over to speak with them. And, that is when I first met Harvey Eisner. I met Bruce Bowling just a few years later. They each had a similar impact on my personal life, much beyond the long lasting success of Firehouse Magazine.

I am now in Manila, (The Philippines) writing my 16th book, and was collapsed in sadness when I received word that the former publisher of Firehouse Magazine-Bruce Bowling-has passed. He was such a good friend, and I am sure we knew each other as well as anyone in the world. I talked to him regularly at his retirement home in Florida. My first thought was with his wife Phyllis, who was his strength during his various illnesses, and his son David, who himself grew to be a magazine executive and of whom Bruce was so proud. Being a good father and a good husband were two things that Bruce cared about, and also got right.

Bruce always told people I hired him because I thought he was Irish - he happened to have red hair at the time. I enjoyed that informality with him. I actually brought Bruce into the Firehouse family when we were in the Crown Building on 57th Street and Fifth Avenue, which was a penthouse office given to us for one year as a courtesy of the late Jeff Byers, who owned the building - and an early investor in the magazine. I am sure no one remembers that office where the company struggled through its start-up difficulties. It had a millionaire's view overlooking Central Park, and I know Bruce remembered how impressive it was. He later told me he thought the company was well financed, and did things with flair. He did not know we had free rent, and that free rent could not last forever. But, he also saw that he got along well with me in his several interviews, and he took the job when I offered it to him. I had a partner then who owned The Village Voice, Bartle Bull, who said we had to hire Bruce, not because he wore Hermes ties, but because he was so good at what he did. He sold advertising for us - and nobody could do it better than Bruce. He fit right into the Madison Avenue mold, always perfectly

dressed with the perfect tie, pocket handkerchief, and his red comb-over perfectly in place.

Subscription income was not enough to sustain Firehouse magazine in the start up period, and we would have folded without his work and the income he brought to us. I confess we had long discussions about the question of taking cigarette advertising. Can you imagine, cigarettes advertised in a journal for firefighters? Well, we did take those ads for awhile, with a sort of rob Peter to Pay Paul, sink or swim rationalization. But, just for awhile. As soon as we had a positive cash flow we were able to get out of that alliance with Dr. Evil. But Bruce always throughout his long career with Firehouse produced sufficiently to generate not only our success but our future growth. He was a better businessman than I, and always saw opportunity where it existed. And so we built a going concern. It was Bruce who decided finally on Baltimore when we decided to finance a convention business, which gave us an opportunity to develop very long term and satisfying friendships with that city and with its fire department. Bruce produced so much for the Magazine that I invited him into a partnership stake in the company. Literally, I could not do without him. Indeed, when we decided after the first fifteen years to sell the magazine to a man named Stanley Sills, I began to get anticipation fears - a little like being on the nozzle waiting for the water at a working fire. I then decided that I would back out of the deal, the way a firefighter at the nozzle never can. But, Bruce was determined to go forward. I admired Bruce so much that I allowed him to talk me into rethinking my position. His needs were very different from mine, and I felt it was my duty to respect that. It was that decision that brought Firehouse from being a family business into the cold realities of the corporate world, bringing the calculating hard decisions that considered only the bottom line. Bruce went on to work for Stanley Sills, and he continued to like his position and his ability to keep Firehouse at the top of the field.

I now am very sad that he is gone. He contributed much to the fire service, though his contributions are mostly unsung. He understood that a magazine can find its success in direct proportion to its ability to finance new projects. That is the part of the business I miss, but there are a million more reasons to miss Bruce Bowling. For Bruce also understood what the value was in having a good friend.

I do not count the funerals I have gone to for firefighters, dozens and dozens certainly, but at every Mass or Service I always realize the sadness, sometimes hopelessness, that our heroes leave behind. They leave a new and empty space in the lives of so many - family members and friends. I will never get used to the death of a firefighter, even though in the heart of my experience I know that another one will come. And it will come soon. I was the Chairman of the original National Near-Miss Reporting System Committee, and the main thing we learned, which is something we have known for a long time, that especial attention to safety issues is the only thing that will bring, and has brought, the number of those awful Line of Duty Deaths down. This is why we have the national NFFF memorial in Maryland and the IAFF memorial in Colorado. The inevitability each year comes with the profession, and we pray that the firefighters in our firehouse are safe and healthy always. If you studied the hundreds of editorials that Harvey wrote over the years you will find that his fundamental responsibility, as he saw it, was to bring these issues to the fore. But even with great concentration, we all know a tragedy will soon strike, and this is what I felt when I received word of Harvey's death while still in his fifties. There was so much more that Harvey would have accomplished if he had been given the normal life span. But there is no determined equality in nature, and neither in the physiology of life. And so Harvey has left a big and empty space for so many in the fire service. I had introduced myself to Harvey that night during the early war years of the South Bronx. He was a nice enough guy, just about to start as a crime scene photographer for the Bronx District Attorney's Office, and the firefighters in what was called "The Big House" eventually invited him and the other buffs into the firehouse for the coffee that was usually reheated thirty or so times.

Harvey, modestly and quietly, subsequently became a friend to many in Engine Co.82 and Ladder

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Co.31. He was easy to like, for his modesty drew you in. It impressed you. To say that Harvey was low-key is like saying that a combination lock requires a combination. He was quietly spoken then, as he remained quietly spoken throughout his lifetime, but he was able to communicate his views as forcefully as the loudest voice.

Harvey's passing followed by just days the death of our dear friend Bruce, who was 77. My family, especially my son Sean and daughters Deirdre and Aislinn, knew both of these men well and thought of them, along with the late Hal Bruno, another celebrated Firehouse personage, as personal friends. I know I can speak for everyone when I send condolences to the Bowling family, and to the Eisner's. And also we send out our respect to the Tenafly, New Jersey Fire Department where Harvey had served at every rank - up through Chief of Department.

I asked Harvey if he had some time to help out at the Firehouse offices very early in our history - odd jobs of writing and editing, and also the more mundane jobs like hanging photos or moving desks around. He was always willing to help, and finally Harvey just simply found a desk at the office that he could call his, and he became attached to it. I cannot remember anyone actually offering Harvey a job at Firehouse, but he most definitely became associated with one. Most people did not know that for most of his life he kept is job as a highly respected full time Bronx DA Office crime scene photographer while he was working for the magazine. And, it says something about him that he was able to do two jobs without ever complaining that he was tired. And he did everything so well. He was reliable. He gave important assistance to everyone, and so his magazine competence increased every years, and so did our evaluation and the respect that came with it. When we started the "Great Firehouse Exposition and Muster" (yes, that is the original name of the Firehouse Expo's) in Baltimore, Harvey excelled in putting people together with things to do, and it was usually a flawless performance. It was during this period that Harvey kept acquiring friends who were growing in importance in fire departments from coast to coast, the contacts who would add significantly to the substance of the magazine's articles. Harvey would see an issue that he thought important to the fire service, and he knew immediately who to call to write the story.

And, so, in one week we have lost two important thinkers and doers in the American fire service. I have lost two good friends. I already feel the burden of that loss. I wish I would have called them more. I wish I would have made more of an effort to meet with them. There peregrinations of life always keep getting in the way. It reinforces what I came to believe decades ago, and that is there is no substitution for friendship.

Bruce, Harvey.....rest in peace.....Dennis Smith

Our sincere thanks to Dennis for this wonderful piece about two wonderful men who made such a positive and measurable difference to the Fire service. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/27/2014](#)-1918 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The Hartford (CT) Fire Department is launching an "internal" investigation to find out what happened when a a 6 year Firefighter died in the Line of Duty at that house fire. See video below. FF Kevin Bell was killed in that two-alarm fire at a two-family home on Blue Hills Avenue on Oct. 7. Their board will be made up of seven people, all with very close ties to the HFD. Their goal will be getting answers for the public, but more importantly, Bell's family. Hartford Fire Chief Carlos Huertas appointed Chief Dan Nolan, who is the deputy fire chief of training, to chair a board of inquiry to review everything that went

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down on that night. Along with him, the fire marshal, two line deputy chiefs, two union officers and a representative from the employee assistance program make up this board. For the next six months, they'll be looking into the reports that were filed as well as interviewing the responding firefighters. Then, the board members will go through the footage taken on scene by local stations and eyewitnesses. They will also be looking at the gear that was used that night including Bell's to make sure everything was working right prior to him using it. The board along with the fire marshal and Occupational Safety and Health Administration will all be doing separate investigations. FF Bell's death is still a mystery. The medical examiner has not released a cause of death just yet.

HERE IS MEDIA VIDEO:

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/video/#!/on-air/as-seen-on/Fatal-Fire-Probe-Examines-Air-Tanks--Mayday-Call/280880112>

Lots to learn about FF Kevin Bell, the fire, what happened and why he died.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10-30-2014-0930](#) hrs

AND:

Hey,

The term "did you hear the one about..." is usually related to a joke that's being told...or story,.usually a good one-but not always. This time it's no joke. Did you hear the one about the Hartford FD incident commander at the fire that tragically killed Hartford FF Kevin Bell? If you read (and especially watched) the news report we passed on earlier-you did hear "the one about." But, like every Line of Duty death-at this early stage, the facts are not out. In nearly all line of duty deaths, the facts do come out...and I said nearly because there are some where the facts do not come out for a variety of reasons-from confusion to impossible determination to even political. Yeah-political. How about that. When you watch the news report-it is confusing to you-because you are Firefighters...so when you listened and watched the report I have to assume - word used intentionally - that you, like me, were confused and perhaps even annoyed-because of the way general aspects of the incidents were described in that story.

This was not at all the first fire that the IC had command of.

Why would the media report that?

Who would be a "source" to the media and give them that information?

It's easy for spectators on a [Sunday](#) to yell and scream at the football coach-especially in the comfort of the stands-and especially when they have never been coaches. The same fits to some extent to those who command fires. I remember as a young firefighter it was easy to criticize the IC's (we called them Chiefs back then) - and then in 1982, I became one. Things are a bit different when one goes from player to coach-you gain required perspective in now understanding you own this. Every aspect of the incident.

In this latest case, who knows what happened? No one yet. NIOSH? Not yet. State FM? Not yet. HFD. No-not yet.. Was a mayday call missed? I don't know-and neither will any of us until every aspect of the fire-.is investigated. "But the tape shows it!!!" Yeah-but that doesn't mean it was heard by the IC or others for that matter. In other fires across the US, maydays were transmitted - but not heard by radios on the fireground-even though the "tapes" show it. The facts aren't out yet. "Sources reported....." So-called sources can be the most credible-or incredible-folks to those who may have a certain motivation for being a source. We don't know yet.

Hose lines in front and back? Not unusual on any fireground. It sounded like the rear company asked for a line. Were the front and rear companies opposing and flowing at the same time? Were they communicating? How does fire science and fire behavior play into this? What about "modern" fire behavior? Don't know yet-at least we don't-because the HFD, the SFM and NIOSH have not provided that info-it's way too soon. 30 minute's on an SCBA? Were they "30 minute" packs? Were they 45? Were they properly maintained and tested? What were the conditions of the masks? Did they run out of air too soon? Facts? Not yet.

The Hartford Fire Department has some of the best Firefighters and Officers out there-that's been proven over time. They also have had a solid record of fireground survival-backed up by the fact that this was their first LODD in 40 YEARS. The fact is that the only thing that's really been proven-tragically-is that some Firefighters were injured-and a Firefighter, Kevin Bell-gave his life while serving Hartford. The rest - hopefully - will come out as facts - so that all of us can honor Kevin's life by learning about exactly what happened.

A fire department is most fragile following the loss of one of their own. It can get very, very emotional, ugly and even nasty as every member on the scene-or not-deals with the loss of their Brother. The next layer are those members-all of them-who were there when their Brother or Sister was lost. Fragile? That doesn't even begin to describe it. And "it" is different for everyone involved-at every level...how we each grieve and deal with an insane range of emotions is just that-different for everyone involved.

Mark Twain said "Never pick a fight with people who buy ink by the barrel."...(meaning don't fight with the media) ...but on the other hand, Abe Lincoln said ""If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what's said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference." Let's hope that as the professionals determine the facts in exactly what happened on [October 7, 2014](#), the media goes easy with the "ink" - especially from info pushed by "sources"---understanding that the volatility of the family, the firefighters and the officers are directly impacted by what's said and printed. Fact or not.

RIP Kevin Bell, God Bless his family, friends and all those impacted by this tragic loss.
Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [10/30/2014-1534 Hours](#)

AND:

KENTUCKY FF LINE OF DUTY DEATH-FOLLOWING FD ACTIVITY

It is with deep regret that we pass on to you the Line of Duty Death of a Fire Officer in Jefferson County, KY. Major Malcolm Jenkins of the Fern Creek Fire Department passed away [yesterday](#) from an apparent heart attack. www.ferncreekfired.com We'll post more as it becomes available. RIP.

FIRE INSTRUCTORS:

It's the final countdown till ISFSI Fall FIRE INSTRUCTORS Conference Nov. 14-15 being held at the Ohio Fire Academy in "easy to get to" Columbus, Ohio. Register now to take advantage of this two day instructor conference. In addition, they are offering two pre-conference workshops including Principles of Modern Fire Attack 8 hour SLICE-RS as well as Blue Card Command CE. Please check out <http://isfsi.org/links/2014-fall-conference/> for additional details.
<http://isfsi.org/links/2014-fall-conference/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 10-31-2014-1108 Hours

AND:

NY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN QUARTERS - TRAINING.

We regret to pass on to you that Donald "Pete" Martin, 84, with 53 years service died [yesterday](#). A member of the Sanborn NY Fire Company, he was at the station for mandatory department training, Firefighter Martin fell ill and other firefighters subsequently took Firefighter Martin to his residence - where 911 was called after he became unresponsive. Firefighter Martin passed away from a nature and cause of injury still to be determined. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

FDNY RESCUE OPERATIONS TV STORY:

CBS news in New York did an "exclusive" story on FDNY rescue operations/"hi angle rescue-check it out: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/video/10792023-cbs2-exclusive-inside-fdnys-rescue-operations/>
Take Care. Be Careful. Pas It On.

BillyG
The Secret List 10-31-2014-1300 Hours

AND:

All
The Texas State Fire Marshal Office released their report [today](#) into the deadliest incident in the department's history. The May, 2013 fire at the Southwest Inn Motel killed Firefighters **Anne Sullivan** and **Robert Garner**, Engineer Operator **Robert Bebee**, and Senior Captain **Matthew Renaud** in the Line of Duty. Here is the link to the report:

<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/reports/fire/documents/fmloddhouston2013.pdf>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 10-31-2014-1900 hrs

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

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

Budget Related Items:

Tucson (AZ) Fire has set up a plan for a brownout to deal with budget cuts, specifically overtime issues. The department will idle certain equipment when it reaches a certain point in its overtime limit. The overtime budget was cut by \$1.5 million. Right now, when an employee calls in sick or is on vacation, they can be replaced by bringing in another firefighter on over time. That maintains the staffing needed to man all the equipment. But in the near future, the department may reach a limit where it may not be able to call back workers for overtime. In that case, there will be a manpower shortage and the equipment will sit idle. First to be abandoned will be a water tanker. Second on the list will be haz mat vehicles. It's hoped the department will not have a shortage severe enough to affect ladder trucks or entire stations: <http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/26432100/tucson-fire-plans-for-brownout>

The West Metro (CO) Fire Rescue is making cuts and changes in order to save money. More than 40 employees will be affected and there will be seven fewer firefighters on the streets every day. The announcement comes a few months after voters rejected a property tax increase. It would have generated \$8.6 million a year for the department, which is experiencing a \$1.25 million budget shortfall. The department will demote 20 employees and cut 22 positions. Also, two employees, who are not firefighters, will be laid off. Among the changes, the department will cross-staff its heavy rescue unit, which responds to all building fires and rescue calls. West Metro, which has 320 firefighters and 50 civilian staff members, will also downsize one station and relocate an ambulance at another. It has also decided to eliminate one of its District Chief positions:

<http://kdvr.com/2014/09/03/west-metro-fire-rescue-slashing-staff-to-make-up-budget-shortfall/>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

Two former Shreveport (LA) firefighters accused of hiring a prostitute for an intellectually disabled man at Fire Station No. 8 will plead guilty Thursday to that charge in a deal to have other charges dropped. The agreement includes dismissing a more serious felony charge -- cruelty to the infirm -- made against the men. Additionally, another defendant in the prostitution case is expected to be named Wednesday, according to Caddo Assistant District Attorney Dale Cox. He says the new person is not a firefighter and doesn't work for the Shreveport Fire Department. Clint Richardson, 28, and Jason Vaughan, 35, will agree to testify truthfully for the state against their former Shreveport Fire Department colleagues, Derrick Harris, 51, and Billy Glass, 38, during their trials on the prostitution charge, Cox said. The trials begin Thursday:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/story/news/crime/2014/08/26/firefighters-plea-deal/14625141/>

Wilkes-Barre (PA) Township Fire Chief John Yuknavich will enter his guilty plea in federal court on Sept. 25 at 10 a.m., according to court documents filed Thursday afternoon. Yuknavich will appear before U.S. District Judge Edwin M. Kosik, the judge who presided over the cases involving the key players in the infamous kids-for-cash scandal in Luzerne County. Earlier today, federal prosecutors announced Yuknavich agreed to plead guilty to stealing \$45,000 from his volunteer fire department and must soon resign his post. Yuknavich, 50, has agreed to plead guilty to a charge of stealing from programs that receive federal funds, a felony that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, according to court documents. Yuknavich, who was already facing state theft charges for stealing from the department, is accused of skimming from checks from Wilkes-Barre Township intended to cover the fire department's mortgage and other bills:

<http://citizensvoice.com/news/yuknavich-guilty-plea-set-for-sept-25-1.1743358>

Two men say they were bullied and mistreated in the time they spent hoping to become Albuquerque (NM) firefighters. The former AFD cadets say it was hazing. They both were in the academy within the last year and say they have never been treated so poorly:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/09/14/two-men-claim-hazed-albuquerque-fire-academy/>

The Memphis firefighter wanted for shooting his former girlfriend in the parking lot of an East Memphis Target has been arrested, officials confirmed Thursday. Ronald Ellis, 51, was taken into custody around noon in Jacksonville, Fla., U.S. Marshals spokesman Seth Bruce said. Cathey was shot multiple times Monday outside the East Memphis store at 601 Colonial; she died Tuesday morning. Ellis was officially on leave without pay from the fire department, primarily because he missed his shift on Tuesday. Ellis has a long history of trouble with the

Memphis Fire Department, as well as with police. In January of this year, Ellis was disciplined by MFD for an October 2013 arrest by Olive Branch police in which the firefighter was charged with malicious mischief (over \$500), domestic violence (simple assault), stalking and expired tags in connection with an incident involving Cathey, according to his disciplinary record and law enforcement documents:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/11685597/memphis-firefighter-on-run-for-murder-nabbed-in-florida?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140906005

Eight years after a scandal over stolen morphine vials rocked the Sacramento (CA) Fire Department, a city audit has found that the agency could do more to keep an accurate count of the potent narcotics it uses to administer medical care. The department has generally strong controls over its inventory of morphine and Versed, but "it could be better," City Auditor Jorge Oseguera said on Tuesday:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/11684204/audit-sacramento-crews-need-to-keep-better-tabs-on-drugs?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140904003

Only Channel 9 talked to the whistleblower who claimed Orlando (FL) firefighters were cheating the city out of money -- a complaint that sparked a police investigation after 9 Investigates exposed the problems with off-duty pay. The veteran Orlando firefighter blew the lid on his own department, risking retribution by sending a complaint to the city attorney telling her about something that was widely known in the department but never addressed. Firefighters were being paid cash for off-duty events with little or no accountability. "I don't think the people involved in this were here to benefit others, they were here to benefit themselves," he said.

http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/whistleblower-orlando-firefighter-duty-pay-investi/nhR8b/?_federated=1

Columbus Fire Division was a 'free-for-all' of sex and bad behavior, witness says:

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/09/24/firehouse-sex-hearing.html>

Four Glendale (AZ) Firefighters remain on leave after allegedly punching a patient multiple times. They say he was being combative and he is facing felony assault charges. Now the Glendale Fire Department is speaking out about the fight. Glendale's Fire Chief did not comment about the actions because of an internal investigation but did apologize for the language used. "That language was offensive by any standard, I understand it, I know this because I was offended by it myself," said Chief Mark Burdick. Firefighters had responded to take the victim to the hospital after he allegedly overdosed on pills. He also allegedly punched his father and two firefighters. The firefighters admitted to punching him to get him to stop fighting: <http://www.fox10phoenix.com/story/27170073/2014/10/30/glendale-fire-officials-speak-out-about-fight-caught-on-tape>

Los Angeles (CA) Fire Captain Daniel Costa liked to go all out on the racquetball court at the LAX fire station. A fellow firefighter described him as a "very competitive" player who "likes to win." Costa seemed in fine form after five spirited games in the fall of 2011. So his supervisor was skeptical when Costa, then 53, said he'd hurt his knee on the court and needed time off, according to a report by investigators for the city attorney's office. Costa was out on injury leave for a year, collecting his full salary, tax-free. In 2009, he took a nearly year-long paid leave after a run-in at the fire station with subordinates he described as "bullies." He complained of chest pain, high blood pressure and other symptoms, state records show:

<http://www.dailydispatch.com/DDR/index.aspx?st=CA&lk=http%3a%2f%2fwww.latimes.com%2flocal%2fcityhall%2fme-sworn-injury-leave-20140928-story.html&ddv=1&ddid=54843&typ=1&it=314453>

The city of Cottonwood Heights is upset that a Unified Fire Authority paramedic allegedly stole morphine, but they're even more irate with how authorities handled it. Or as they say, didn't handle it. "A paramedic had actually been caught taking drugs out of the safe," said Cottonwood Heights Police Chief Robby Russo. "That firefighter was allowed to simply resign without any further investigation or that being reported to law enforcement." Russo said the paramedic supposedly resigned in June, but UFA never told anyone. "We found out through a third party who was from Unified Fire Authority who felt compelled to tell us that that occurred three months prior to us being notified," Russo said. Russo believes this same paramedic could be connected with a rash of thefts of morphine and fentanyl, which occurred at several stations, including in Cottonwood Heights, back in 2013. In some of those cases, the real drugs were replaced with other substances:

<http://fox13now.com/2014/10/01/police-upset-after-paramedic-who-allegedly-stole-drugs-was-allowed-to-resign-rather-than-face-charges/>

Hartford (CT) Firefighter Douglas Caldwell, back from a suspension for using alcohol on duty, was expected to resign Monday evening following a Sunday firehouse incident where his alleged strange behavior left other firefighters feeling unsafe to work with him, and he cursed at the chief and walked off the job: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-chief/articles/2010769-embattled-firefighter-walks-off-job-expected-to-resign>

The San Bernardino (CA) Fire Department has handed off one of every four medical calls to a private ambulance company each of the past two months, part of a new program to reduce workloads and response times to reach a target the city has missed in recent years. In both August and September, firefighters received nearly 2,800 calls for emergency medical service, and immediately gave about 700 lower-priority calls to American Medical Response, which works out to 26 percent of calls in August and 25 percent in September, said Battalion Chief Nathan Cooke, who oversees the program. "The ultimate goal is to get our average response time down," said Cooke, who doesn't yet have numbers showing that happening but hopes he soon will. "The average response time from the time someone dials 9-1-1 is 9:50, and we want that within 8 minutes." <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20141026/san-bernardino-fire-department-gives-amr-25-of-9-1-1-medical-calls>

When firefighters respond to an emergency they save lives, act quickly and keep the community safe. But, Albuquerque Fire Department Chief David Downey said recently two firefighters got into a physical altercation at the scene of a rollover accident. "It's bad. I can't sugarcoat it. It's bad," Downey said. "It's embarrassing and unprofessional. I can't say anything else about it. It's not a behavior we would ever condone." Right now, Downey said an investigation by AFD will find out what sparked the altercation, and if firefighters got into it before the people injured in the rollover were treated:

<http://www.koat.com/news/chief-firefighters-got-into-altercation-at-crash-scene/28361260>

Offering six-figure pay and generous benefits, jobs at the Los Angeles County Fire Department are among the most sought-after in the field. Nearly 95% of applicants are turned away. Department officials say the hiring of firefighters is based purely on merit, with the best candidates selected through an exacting regimen of testing and interviews. But a Times investigation has found that the process favors one particular type of applicant: sons of L.A. County firefighters. At least 183 sons of current or former firefighters have served on the force since the start of 2012, according to an analysis of payroll, pension, birth, marriage and other records. All told, sons represent nearly 7% of the county's 2,750 firefighters. When brothers, nephews and other relatives are included, at least 370 firefighters — 13% of the department ranks — are related to someone now or previously on the force, The Times found:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-county-fire-family-20141026-story.html#page=1>

Washington Firefighter sentenced in IRS ripoff scheme - Olympia man duped government out of nearly \$1M running unlicensed tax prep business:

<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/article/Firefighter-hoping-to-dodge-prison-points-to-5825144.php>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Lots of questions in Garden Grove, California and few solid answers. One firefighter seems to be at the center of a recent no-confidence vote in the fire department's chief, David Barlag. That firefighter is Jeremy Broadwater, the son of Garden Grove Mayor Bruce Broadwater. Orange County Register reporters Martin Wisckol and Salvador Hernandez tell us that Jeremy Broadwater was hired despite 10 arrests and at least four misdemeanor convictions. Since his hiring, Wisckol and Hernandez report that Broadwater has amassed a series of complaints by supervisors that question his attitude and abilities:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/08/25/hired-despite-10-arrests-documents-show-mayors-son-dismal-record-firefighter/>

As family members of his slain girlfriend muttered in disgust in the courtroom audience, former Cal Fire battalion chief Orville "Moe" Fleming pleaded not guilty Monday in the May 1 stabbing and strangulation death of 26-year-old Sarah Douglas. Fleming, who next faces a preliminary hearing scheduled for Dec. 16 in Sacramento Superior Court, entered the plea to the single murder count despite earlier statements by Sheriff Scott Jones that Fleming had given detectives a full statement in the slaying and "admitted culpability in the stabbing."

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article3108463.html>

U.S. bankruptcy law allows the California city of Stockton to cut pension benefits because it can treat its obligations to the public retirement fund like other debts, a federal judge said in a ruling that could help clarify who gets paid first by financially strapped cities around the nation – pension funds or creditors. Stockton argued that it must make its pension contributions for public employees before its creditors are paid the entire amount they are owed. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Klein ruled Wednesday that federal law and the U.S. Constitution trump special protections that attorneys had argued protects the inland California city's contract with the nation's largest state pension fund, the California Public Employees' Retirement System. The ruling, which is likely to be appealed, was prompted by a key creditor's contention that pension obligations should be treated like other debts. Franklin Templeton Investments said the pension payments are fair game as it tries to collect on an unsecured \$32.5 million claim against the city, which is about 80 miles east of San Francisco:

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2014/10/02/ruling-lets-bankrupt-stockton-cut-pension-benefits/>

A former Sioux Falls (SD) Fire Rescue division chief is facing felony computer hacking charges for accessing internal fire department documents, including emails involving the president of the local firefighters union. Patrick Eugene Warren, 47, is charged with 10 felony and five misdemeanor counts of unlawful use of a computer for offenses between Jan. 5 and May 5 of this year: <http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/city/2014/09/17/ex-fire-division-chief-charged-hacking-documents/15805819/>

Official reports: Commanders' decisions, confusion led to firefighter's death. Tactical errors by commanders and miscommunication led to the death of a Dallas firefighter last year in a six-alarm blaze, according to a pair of official investigations released Thursday. The state fire marshal and Dallas Fire-Rescue line-of-duty death investigations detail the spread of the fire,

confusion among commanders and decisions leading up to the death of Stanley Wilson on May 20, 2013. The reports offer a few conflicting accounts about what happened that night, but several firefighters allege that Deputy Chief Bobby Ross ordered Wilson and three other firefighters back into a collapsing condominium building hours after the fire had started. The state report faulted commanders' failure to properly assess the fire, the structure and available personnel. It also raised questions about their supervision and decisions on how to battle the blaze and whether to search buildings:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20140918-official-reports-commanders-decisions-confusion-led-to-firefighters-death.ece>

Houston (TX) Firefighters' union president resigns over threats. Bryan Sky-Eagle says he's been looking over his shoulder ever since he saw a posting on Facebook warning he should watch his back. And he says that's not the only threat posted on social media. "This is very serious stuff," said Sky-Eagle. "The nature has been physical violence towards me, a premeditated altercation, removing the wheels off of vehicles." He says the people threatening him are none other than Houston firefighters who are members of the union he was elected one year ago to lead. But now, he's had enough:

<http://www.khou.com/story/news/local/2014/09/01/hfd-union-president-resigns-over-threats/14949667/>

Clark County (NV) could see a surge of thousands of firefighter applicants in the coming months to fill only a few dozen open slots in its five fire departments. The jobs always draw lots of applicants, primarily because of their good pay and benefits and the fact that they don't require college degrees. But the anticipated boost from the long lines of past years might have something to do with the county, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City fire departments placing their recruitment efforts into one big package. In an effort to save money in recruiting fire cadets, the fire departments have joined together to create Southern Nevada Fire Recruitment. Applications will be accepted through snvfire.com from Oct. 27 through Nov. 26. The program will conduct a series of public outreach sessions to help those interested learn about the different departments, the application process, employment requirements, testing tips and benefits:

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/las-vegas-valley-firefighter-jobs-could-draw-thousands>

Springfield (MA) Fire Commissioner **Joseph A. Conant** was assaulted at his Springfield home by a former "disgruntled" city firefighter on Tuesday evening, according to Jim Leydon, communications director for Mayor **Domenic J. Sarno**. The suspect in the alleged assault has been identified as Michael R. Richard Jr., a retired Springfield fire captain who previously complained that Conant had unfairly bypassed him for a promotion:

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2014/08/springfield_mayors_office_city.html

The Houston (TX) Fire Department today (Monday) released its final report into the deadliest incident in the department's history. The 2013 fire at a Motel killed Firefighters Anne Sullivan and Robert Garner, Engineer Operator Robert Bebee, and Senior Captain Matthew Renaud. The fire also injured Captain William Dowling, Firefighters Robert Yarbrough, Foster Santos, and Tony Livesay. The report was leaked to the news media in Houston on Labor Day. It provides more than 200 recommendations for safety improvements:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/09/02/read-report-houstons-southwest-inn-fire-killed-4-firefighters/>

How refreshing to see this example of leadership and public relations from a top public safety official. It started with a bit of a fender bender Tuesday in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The man above was driving an SUV that smacked into the car in front of him. A passenger in the car that was struck had to be checked out at a local hospital. Elizabeth Dinan, a reporter with

Seacoast Online, wanted to follow-up on the crash because the SUV involved belonged to the Portsmouth Police Department and was driven by Deputy Chief Corey MacDonald. Here's what she found out: After crashing a Police Department sport utility vehicle into the rear of a car on Tuesday night, Deputy Police Chief Corey MacDonald accepted responsibility and said the crash was "100 percent my fault." <http://www.statter911.com/2014/08/20/dont-see-often-public-official-100-percent-fault/>

Boston (MA) Fire Commissioner Joseph E. Finn, in his first major initiative since taking the job in July, is moving to tighten the work schedules of the city's 1,400 firefighters to eliminate rampant misuse of sick time and ripe-for-corruption swapping and selling of shifts. Beginning Saturday, firefighters on the job will have a new work week that includes two full 24-hour shifts. They must submit requests for time off in the same way most other city workers are required. And they will be forbidden from banking swaps for the future, a standard practice that officials say has gone out of control: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/09/12/fire-commissioner-finn-tightens-work-schedule-tests-hour-shifts/4arclt2jflSdorkwABNCbK/story.html>

The Jacksonville (FL) Fire and Rescue Department may have to close three stations and a marine unit to pay for new trucks: <http://www.news4jax.com/news/jfrd-may-close-stations-to-buy-trucks/27955124>

The FDNY is trying to ax a black firefighter — who allegedly tested positive for marijuana — before he can retire on a three-quarters disability pension. If he wins, firefighter Kevin Simpkins, who made \$97,500 in 2013, would receive a lifelong, tax-free pension of 75 percent of his last 12 months' pay. If fired, he would get 50 percent, and the payments would not start until 2023. Simpkins, who joined the FDNY 11 years ago after serving in the Navy and at other jobs, testified that he was ostracized and taunted by fellow Bravest at Engine 233 in Brooklyn. "I was called a n—r, a lowlife, a chimp," he said, adding: "The treatment I received escalated because I was a Vulcan member." <http://nypost.com/2014/08/24/fdny-tries-to-ax-firefighter-for-pot-charge-before-disability-collection/>

Detroit (MI) is so broke that firefighters get emergency alerts through pop cans, coins, door hinges, pipes and doorbells. And they make these gizmos themselves — one involving a pop can that gets tipped over by an incoming fax. The clink of the can means there's an emergency. Then there's the chain-reaction gadget: a fax hits a door hinge, which then tugs on a wire, which then sets off a doorbell. "It sounds unbelievable, but it's truly what the guys have been doing and dealing with for a long, long time," said Detroit Deputy Fire Commissioner John Berlin, adding that technological upgrades are long overdue. "We're in desperate need. We're probably 30 years behind." <http://www.freep.com/article/20140905/NEWS01/309050185/Detroit-fire-pop-can-fax>

The son of Garden Grove (CA) Mayor Bruce Broadwater was hired as a city firefighter despite a criminal record, and his work there subsequent to his October hiring has drawn severe reprimands from his superiors, documents show. Rookie firefighter Jeremy Broadwater's job performance has included potentially life-threatening mistakes on medical calls, according to internal department records obtained by the Register. Doubts about his abilities have resulted in him being removed from at least one fire call and have led a captain to call him "unsafe" and recommend his termination: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/broadwater-632535-department-city.html>

When a veteran Austin (TX) Firefighter was fired after a drunken driving arrest this summer, it came after a stern warning Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr had sent to all uniformed personnel

about driving while intoxicated. "It is inevitable that sooner or later, one of our own who makes the decision to drink and drive will seriously injure or kill another person," she said in a November memo. "While this behavior is not unique to the Austin Fire Department, it is a problem that, despite my best efforts, is not getting any better." To gauge the prevalence of drinking and driving among public safety personnel in Austin, the American-Statesman reviewed public disciplinary records for the city's police and fire departments in the past 5 1/2 years -- from 2009, the year Kerr became chief, through July of this year, when firefighter Mark Madison was fired. During that time:

--Eighteen suspensions or firings at the Fire Department were related to DWI allegations, or about 36 percent of 50 disciplinary measures.

--Seven suspensions or firings at the Police Department were related to DWI allegations, or about 3 percent of 263 disciplinary measures.

--Twenty-two percent of all disciplinary measures at the Fire Department were related to incidents involving alcohol or drugs that do not appear to involve DWI.

About 5 percent of all disciplinary actions at the Police Department were related to such incidents:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/11681377/austin-chief-kerr-takes-tough-stance-on-dui?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140902003

Audit: Garden Grove (CA) Fire Department's hazmat inspection records were wrongly identified. Garden Grove fire officials must identify records that wrongly suggested hazardous material inspections were completed and analyze fees that businesses were charged for inspections that weren't done, according to a new county audit. The recently completed audit was launched after the Register reported the Garden Grove Fire Department failed to conduct hazmat inspections in 2012, even though department records indicated the work was done. The Register also found the department justified collecting more than \$150,000 in fees that year, in part because of costs that included a \$167,129 hazardous-material coordinator position to run the program – even though the city budget shows that position had been eliminated: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/department-633911-inspections-fire.html>

Seven of 17 ladder trucks with the D.C. fire department failed inspection and were taken out of service, according to the DC Fire Emergency Medical Services. The department released a statement about the inspection, which was part of a preventative maintenance plan, on Sunday. The trucks had rust at the base of their ladder supports. The statement didn't say how long the trucks would be out of service. Prince George's and Montgomery counties will help the department if needed, according to the department. The DC Fire Fighters Association released a statement on Monday morning about the failed inspection saying: "Forty percent of DC Fire Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS) ladder trucks fail inspection. While this fail rate is atrocious and completely avoidable Local 36 commends the new department leadership and interim Chief Jones for testing and acknowledging the current state of our ladder truck fleet. The bottom line is the safety of Local 36 fire fighters, the citizens, workers and visitors to the District of Columbia should never be compromised. Unfortunately this is the legacy that has been left behind by the former chief who failed to address these serious issues."

<http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/2014/09/08/dc-fire-ladder-trucks-fail-inspection/15282771/>

The city of Reno (NV) finally has an answer for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, which had offered to provide free automatic aid to areas served by closed city fire stations: Thanks, but no thanks. Indeed, city staff is recommending that the Council refuse the county's offer for help, saying accepting the offer would imply that Reno is unable to keep up with its

own service demands. "Reliance on high levels of automatic aid by an agency serves to indicate that the agency's resources are not properly located to effectively respond to all of the agency's service areas," Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez wrote in a staff report. In June, after news the city had lost a federal grant and would try to layoff 35 firefighters, the Washoe County Commission extended an offer to provide free automatic aid to calls in areas served by three Reno fire stations that faced closure for six months:

<http://www.rgj.com/story/news/2014/09/23/reno-washoe-county-can-fight-fires/16128315/>

California State officials are investigating recent changes made to the Los Angeles Fire Department's hiring process after a complaint from a white male applicant who says he was unfairly passed over. In July, city officials introduced a lottery system to winnow a pool of thousands of applicants for spots in a new recruit class scheduled to begin in December. The change was part of an overhaul of the LAFD hiring process, which was suspended earlier this year amid claims of mismanagement and possible nepotism. About 300 applicants were allowed to advance via the lottery. To further Mayor Eric Garcetti's goal of diversifying the department, each gender and ethnic group also was guaranteed a percentage of slots equal to their proportion of the initial applicant pool. Robert F. Holmes, 34, was one of the more than 10,000 applicants who applied under the new system. When his name wasn't picked to advance to the written exam, background check and scored interview that decide who is hired, he filed a complaint with the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing. "Sampling an applicant's ethnicity before they even test doesn't sound right to me," Holmes said in an interview. "If I'm not selected because my test scores aren't up there, I'm fine with that. I just think everybody should be able to test."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-lafd-lotto-complaint-20140923-story.html>

It's a move that's expected to save a lot of taxpayer money: Las Vegas (NV) area fire departments are combining resources to recruit firefighters. The partners in this first-of-its kind regional recruitment drive include the Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, Boulder City Fire, Henderson Fire, North Las Vegas, and Pahrump Valley. On Thursday, they hosted a neighborhood outreach session at Las Vegas City Hall. It was a chance for firefighter hopefuls to hear from firefighters from the different departments and ask questions. During this session, about three dozen potential applicants showed up. Benet Murphy is the human resources administrator for the City of Las Vegas. She says this move to combine recruitment resources will lead to a lot of savings for the fire departments. "We've estimated (it costs) anywhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000 per agency to run a recruitment for firefighters," said Murphy. "So if you couple that times six agencies, the cost savings is really substantial."

<http://www.jrn.com/ktnv/news/Firefighter-recruitment-drive-looks-for-applicants-saves-taxpayer-money-275645731.html>

The Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department has opened an investigation into allegations of misconduct at a city fire station made by the recently hired son of a high-ranking fire official, according to documents and interviews. The charges come from Nicholas Rose, who alleged he was the victim of a hostile work environment after being assigned in June as a probationary firefighter at Fire Station 26 on Western Avenue, north of the 10 Freeway. The allegations present an early challenge for newly appointed Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas, who inherits a department with a long history of charges and countercharges of discrimination, hazing and retaliation at city firehouses. Payouts in related lawsuits have cost taxpayers nearly \$20 million over the last decade.:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-lafd-allegations-20140915-story.html>

Somebody call 911 — the FDNY's recruitment practices need some emergency help! An unprecedented number of fire recruits have been injured during probie training this year — after the department dropped its normally rigorous standards and hired a host of “physically unprepared” wannabes, department -insiders claim. “These kids are dumb and out of shape,” a high-ranking source said. “The standards are in the toilet.” At least a dozen recruits out of a class of 300 have had to go on paid medical leave, the Post has learned. They were overwhelmed by the department's grueling 18 weeks of training at Randall's Island, sources said: <http://nypost.com/2014/09/26/rookie-firefighter-injures-rise-after-fdny-lowers-standards/>

Shreveport (LA) Fire Department Chief Craig Mulford was fired Thursday after an internal investigation revealed he violated administrative policies during his handling of complaints in the Fire Station 8 scandal. Assistant Chief Tommy Carpenter was also fired Thursday after the investigation showed that he violated policies as well, the mayor's office announced in a statement. Mulford was placed on paid administrative leave in June following his indictment in June that included allegations of a cover-up in the Fire Station 8 scandal. Mulford was charged with five counts of malfeasance in office. Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover placed him on leave after he was arrested and ordered an internal investigation to find out if the fire chief had violated department policy: <http://www.ksla.com/story/26630898/shreveport-fire-chief-assistant-fire-chief-fired-following-internal-investigation>

A high-ranking Dallas (TX) Fire-Rescue commander has been transferred after he was roundly criticized for his handling of a blaze last year that left a firefighter dead, department officials confirmed Monday. Deputy Chief Bobby Ross, a 30-year veteran of the department, has been temporarily shifted to a “staff position,” according to department spokesman Joel Lavender. He would not give specific details of Ross' new job. “Dallas Fire-Rescue does not discuss personnel moves, transfers or reassignment,” Lavender said in an email. He did not elaborate or respond to follow-up questions. Another high-ranking department official familiar with the situation said Monday that Ross has been placed on what amounts to desk duty and would no longer serve as a fire scene commander. The official asked that his name not be used for fear of retribution from his superiors. aRoss' transfer came roughly a week after the release of two investigative reports — one by Dallas Fire-Rescue and one by the state fire marshal's office — detailing a May 2013 apartment fire that killed firefighter Stanley Wilson. The reports highlight miscommunication, botched decisions and general chaos at the scene. Much of the blame fell on Ross, the incident commander: <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20140929-commander-during-blaze-that-killed-dallas-firefighter-reassigned.ece>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti issued a warning to city police officers and firefighters who might be abusing a leave program that pays them 100% of their salaries, tax-free, while out with claimed injuries. “Watch out,” Garcetti said during a downtown news conference. “We're going to make sure that we're coming after you.” The mayor's comments come a day after a Times investigation that found the city spent more than \$328 million on salaries, medical bills and other expenses for police and firefighters on injury leaves from 2009 through 2013. Total salaries paid to those employees increased more than 30% — to \$42 million a year -- from 2009, The Times found. The number who took leaves grew 8%, and they were out of work an average of nearly 9 weeks — a 23% increase compared with 2009. The increased frequency and cost of those leaves has forced the Fire Department to spend millions of dollars a year in overtime and reduced the number of police officers on the street, city officials said <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-garcetti-mayor-injury-leave-lapd-lafd-20140929-story.html>

The Boca Raton (FL) firefighters' union wants the city to butt out of firefighters' smoking habits. After 24 years of contract prohibitions against firefighters using tobacco — on or off the job — Boca Raton's fire union wants to change the contract so they can light up without consequences. In Boca Raton, the firefighter-smoking issue baffled Jerry Cochrane, a former Boca fire union president. The former battalion chief, who worked for the city for nearly 38 years, said both the city and the union agreed on the wisdom of prohibiting tobacco use back in 1990. "We realized the need for it," he said. "Why they would want to go back on that puzzled me to say the least. "Why would you advocate something that you know is going to cause major, long-term impact on the cost of health insurance as well as the health of the people you represent?" he added:

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2014-09-26/local/fl-firefighters-smoking-20140926_1_john-luca-union-contract-tobacco-use

When Dallas (TX) firefighter Stanley Wilson died battling a condo blaze last year, everything fell apart — from the building where he was trapped to his commanders' questionable orders. Miscues, miscommunication and missed opportunities contributed to Wilson's death inside a far northeast Dallas apartment on May 20, 2013, according to two investigative reports released this month. And now two former North Texas fire chiefs have expressed concerns about tactics like those described in the reports. The reports — one from the state fire marshal's office, the other a Dallas Fire-Rescue line-of-duty death examination — lay much of the blame on a deputy chief in charge of the fire response, as well as on other commanders at the scene. Silence persists among city officials. Fire Chief Louie Bright III has acknowledged that mistakes were made but refuses to take questions about the tragedy:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20140927-former-chiefs-question-tactics-like-those-used-at-dallas-blaze-where-firefighter-died.ece>

Passing along something that has become somewhat big news in Arizona after a neighbor shoots video of the aftermath of a confrontation between firefighters and an EMS patient. The video only captures part of what happened Sunday between a man who reportedly overdosed on prescription drugs and the crew of firefighters From the Glendale Fire Department. What it does seem to show is the firefighters restraining a man after the firefighters say he assaulted them. That initial attack is not seen on video. Neighbors, including the videographer, claim the firefighters overreacted as they fought back and were, as one man put it, "crazy". On the video there is angry language directed by at least one firefighter toward the patient including, "You're fucking dead meat bitch. I'm gonna have you for everything you have. You piece of shit." You hear the firefighters trying to explain what they did to people nearby who were complaining about how the firefighters are handling the situation. At one point a firefighter says to the small crowd, "All of you are going to fucking jail."

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/10/29/video-controversy-firefighters-investigated-fighting-back-patient-accused-assaulting/>

Texas Firefighters' random act of kindness goes viral:

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/2014/08/31/firefighters-random-act-of-kindness-viral/14895847/>

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Please make every day a training day and a learning opportunity – 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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Bob Buell Fire Technology Coordinator – Chabot College (510) 786-7565 - cellular phone bbuell@chabotcollege.edu	Steve Prziborowski Fire Technology Instructor - Chabot College Editor / Publisher - Chabot College Fire & EMS News (408) 205-9006 - cellular phone sprziborowski@aol.com
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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:

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- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – sprziborowski@aol.com to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.