



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 10, 2015

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.

FIVE (5) REASONS SOCIAL MEDIA KEEPS YOU FROM GETTING HIRED:

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

Five Reasons Social Media Keeps You From Getting Hired

By Steve Prziborowski, Published on www.firehouse.com on December 22, 2014

Social media and social networking can be an incredible and powerful tool for anyone, especially the future firefighter. When I was testing to become a firefighter in the early 1990s (seems like yesterday, time does fly...), I did not have the luxury of social media as a tool to assist me with getting hired. For that matter, I also did not have to worry about social media keeping me from becoming a firefighter for a number of reasons that I want to share with anyone who uses social media and wants to become a firefighter. I used to be a little paranoid about social media after hearing some horror stories about people getting in trouble at work because of their inappropriate use of social media, as well as some former policies our fire department had in place to prevent personnel from doing inappropriate things on social media that in turn could damage the excellent reputation of the fire department and the fire service.

What I ended up doing was something that was actually the wrong thing to do in hindsight: I ended up not wanting anything to do with social media, and I failed to properly educate myself on the different forms including the limitations and capabilities of each brand of social media, and even the pros and cons of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Google Plus or Instagram.

When I was a captain and an aspiring chief officer, a smart chief officer once told me that even if I didn't use those social media or networking tools, as a chief officer, I at least needed to be aware of each of the social media networks, so I can have an educated conversation with my crews, and not look like a clueless idiot who was living in the past and not progressing into the future. After a change in fire chiefs and our new chief being more open to the various social media networks, I decided it was time to actually explore what each had to offer and see how I could use them to my advantage. I've always been an information junkie, and a little research showed me how powerful Twitter and Facebook could be, for a number of reasons. I created my accounts and started learning as much as I could about both, including how each worked, how to properly use each, as well as proper etiquette when sending out information. I tried to start out slowly, and not do anything stupid I would eventually

regret. One of the best things I tried to do was learn from the mistakes of others, as well as the positive things of others in how they send messages, what they post, what they reply to, how they reply, just to name a few.

To assist the future firefighter with not doing something stupid, and with getting hired as a firefighter, below are five reasons social media keeps you from getting hired:

- 1. *Inappropriate posts on your social media accounts*** – Like it or not, even if you allow only your friends to see your posts, the posts you make may still be subject to scrutiny or to others being offended. If you have pictures that you would be embarrassed to show your parents or grandparents, then they may not be appropriate for social media. If you have pictures or comments that associate you with drugs, alcohol, foul language, extreme political views, excessive partying, sexual activities and any other behavior that could be considered offensive and/or inappropriate, not to mention unprofessional or immature, then you may be scaring off potential employers should they obtain access to your social media account, either through a casual or accidental search, or as shared by someone else that is aware of your desire to work there. Learn to keep your emotions in check, and not fly off the handle or demonstrate anger management issues while on social media. We have all seen postings that make you wonder what the person was thinking or doing when they made the post. Were they drunk? Did they not realize the possible implications or perceptions of what they were going to post? As we all have learned, the Internet is pretty much forever and is also very unforgiving. Consider it the gift that keeps on giving and giving and giving.
- 2. *You spend so much time on social media, you forget what it's like to have human contact*** – Some of you may not get what I'm talking about because you are so entrenched in social media that you have forgotten what it's like to pick up the phone to talk to someone, or better yet, what it's like to actually have a one-on-one, face-to-face conversation. That's one of the downfalls of social media, the ability to really get out of touch with those two key forms of personal communication. I already hear a number of conversations about what our world will look like 10 or 20 years from now when everyone is so used to communicating with others via their smart phone, as opposed to face-to-face.
- 3. *You spend so much time on social media you don't take the time to get your necessary things completed in a timely manner*** – I remember hearing from someone how much one could waste their day away on social media. I completely get it and see how addicting it can be. I can also see how it can easily distract you and if you don't prioritize your life and the necessary things you need to do in regards to your career development, such as applying for jobs, performing your physical fitness routine, practicing your oral interview skills, and/or researching fire departments in person by visiting stations. I can see how you miss out on a number of opportunities that could have benefited you or are required of you. For example, I remember one of our volunteer firefighters, who was trying to become a full-time firefighter, was way behind on his monthly training assignments, and was missing a lot of the required drills and/or emergency responses. I realize everyone is busy and has a life outside of the fire service; I am happy for people that have both away from the fire service as I think it makes them balanced. However, this one volunteer was always behind and every time I would

attempt to follow-up with him to have him complete the outstanding assignments as soon as possible or to start showing his face around the department more (especially if he wanted to get hired full time), he would always tell me something to the effect of how busy he was and he couldn't find the time to do what we asked of him. The main reason this chapped me was that whenever I logged onto Facebook, I would coincidentally come across his various posts. Hanging out with his girlfriend or friends on vacation, at the restaurant, at the bar, at the ball game, in the backyard, pretty much anywhere and everywhere. One could easily assume this firefighter had a great social life and was living life to the fullest. I'm good with that. What I'm not good with is him having all the time in the world to have fun and to then post it on Facebook, and then have the audacity to tell me he doesn't have time to get the few priorities we ask of him done in a timely manner. If he only put the same amount of effort into being a volunteer firefighter as he did on social media, he just may have found himself a full-time position; something he is still apparently attempting to find to no avail.

4. ***Your emails and other forms of official written communication look the same as your text messages*** – Since many do not have the edit feature in place to type emails with proper grammar, spelling and sentence structure (as opposed to typing an email like they would a text message), I see this being a big problem in how they are perceived or received by others. I don't believe social media is helping people with their written communication skills; it's actually hurting them. I value and appreciate written communication skills. I try to type an email the same as I would type an official written communication document such as a memo, a research paper, an article (like this one) I would send to *Firehouse* for consideration to be published into their monthly magazine version or website, or even a staff report. Out of good (not bad) habits, I even try to type text messages the same as I would an official written communication document as mentioned above. Part of my problem is it's hard for me to be brief, part of my problem is I don't want to get bad habits that inadvertently carry over to official written communications, and part of my problem is I just can't get myself to grips of communicating in such an abbreviated manner. The sad part about this is that I receive a fair number of emails from people, and I've received a fair number of reports from students, that look like text messages, full of abbreviations and other items that are meant for a brief text message or even Twitter post.
5. ***Not taking the plunge into social media*** – After reading the above mentioned information, you may be thinking, "Why the heck would I even want to engage in social media if it's going to keep me from getting hired as a firefighter?" Well, engaging inappropriately in social media is almost just as bad as not being involved with social media in the first place. Why? For a few reasons: you can network and build and maintain positive working relationships with other future firefighters as well as current fire service professionals who may assist you in reaching your career goal. You may be able to locate fire department employment opportunities or locate volunteer opportunities to give back to your community and be able to put on your resume. You will be able to research the fire service and the various fire departments you may be applying for, and most importantly, you will be able to stay on top of the fire service, so you have a finger on the pulse of what is going on and as a bonus, you'll obtain timely and up-to-date information you can share with the oral board during your next testing process.

Conclusion:

Realize the above mentioned items are just my opinion, based on my experiences. What works for me may not work for you, or vice versa. I'll let you make the choice of whether to use or not use social media. If you choose not to use social media, just realize the number of things that you may be missing out on in your pursuit of becoming a firefighter. If you do choose to use social media, crawl before you walk, learn as much as you can about the social media networks you are going to get involved with, and then use them to the best of your ability and make the most out of them, time permitting. Knowledge and information is power; use as many tools as you can research and stay to stay up-to-date with your fire service, as well as the other future and current fire service professionals who are also using social media for the right reasons.

- **To view this article**, go to: <http://www.firehouse.com/article/12027698/how-social-media-can-hurt-your-firefighting-profession>
- **To view other career development articles**, go to: <http://www.firehouse.com/contact/10456429/steve-prziborowski>
- **To view other valuable fire service information**, go to: <http://www.firehouse.com>

CHABOT COLLEGE 2015 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 **Summer & Fall 2015** semester at Chabot College has begun!!! For complete registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

CLASSES AVAILABLE - SUMMER SEMESTER 2015

COURSE	DAY
Fire Technology 95 & 96 (Work Experience)	Wednesday nights: 6/17, 6/24, 7/29 & 8/05
EMS 1 (First Responder)	Monday/Wednesdays (0900 – 1450 hours)

CLASSES AVAILABLE - FALL SEMESTER 2015

COURSE	DAY
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: FT 50, section EN1 is a short-term Hybrid course with meetings on-campus, and 20 lecture hours conducted over the Internet. 12 lab hours will be conducted on and off campus over two Saturdays. Online lecture and Saturday lab schedule will be available on the first day of class, August 17. For important additional information, go to http://www.chabotcollege.edu/online	Monday (am)

COURSE	DAY
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: FT 50, section E71 is a short-term web-enhanced course with meetings on-campus, and 12 lab hours conducted on and off campus over two Saturdays. For important additional information, go to http://www.chabotcollege.edu/online	Tuesday (pm)
FT 51 (Fire Service Operations) Note: Monday classes sessions meet: 08/17, 08/31, 09/14, 09/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/02, 11/16, 11/30 and 12/14. Two Saturday lecture/lab sessions: 10/03 [morning-4 hours] & 10/24 [8 hours] FT 51, section 071 meets on alternating Monday evenings beginning August 17. 16 hours will be conducted two Saturdays. For important additional information, go to http://www.chabotcollege.edu/online	Monday (pm)
FT 51W (Fire Equipment Operations) Note: Monday classes sessions meet: 08/24, 09/21, 10/05, 10/19, 11/23, and 12/07. One Saturday lab session: 10/03 [afternoon-4 hours] FT 51W, section E71 meets on alternating Monday evenings beginning August 24. 4 hours will be conducted on one Saturday in October. For important additional information, go to http://www.chabotcollege.edu/online	Monday (pm)
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday evening) is a Hybrid course with meetings on- campus, and 24 lecture hours conducted over the Internet. 12 lab hours will be conducted over two Saturdays. Online lecture and Saturday lab schedule will be available on the first day of class, August 19. For important additional information, go to http://www.chabotcollege.edu/online	Wednesday (pm)
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (am)
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Monday (pm)
FT 88A (Intro to Fire Fitness Training)	Mon & Wed (mid day)
FT 88A (Intro to Fire Fitness Training)	Wednesday (pm)
FT 88B (Intermediate Fire Fitness Training)	Mon & Wed (mid day)
FT 88B (Intermediate Fire Fitness Training)	Wednesday (pm)
FT 88C (Advanced Fire Fitness Training)	Mon & Wed (mid day)
FT 88C (Advanced Fire Fitness Training)	Wednesday (pm)
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - October 7, 9 and 11 (Wed/Fri/Sun) - November 10, 12 and 14 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thu (pm) Saturday (all day) or Wed & Fri (pm) Sunday (all day)
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 1 through 21	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)

COURSE	DAY
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 24, December 1, 3 and 5	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - October 6, 8, 10 and 11	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - September 27, 29, October 1 and 3	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95**	Wednesday (pm)
EMS 1 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)
EMS 1 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)
EMS 1 (First Responder)	Friday (am)
EMS 2 (EMT)	Wednesday (all day)
EMS 2W (Extrication and Triage)	Saturday (one day only)
EMS 4 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - December 1 through 12	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 2015 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

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

NEW VIDEO WARNS OF FIREFIGHTER CANCER DANGERS:

As a camera pans, three Boston firefighters sit in front of a wall plastered with images of their fallen comrades. Their colleagues did not perish in a rampaging fire or in a sundered building. They all succumbed to cancer. Their stories were on full display during a screening last week of a new, emotional video on the toll cancer has exacted on Boston's firefighting force. Since 1990, more than 160 Boston firefighters have died from the disease, fire officials said, and every year, 20 firefighters are diagnosed with cancer.

"The first thing that went through my head when the doctor said I had cancer was that, 'I'm going to die,'" Firefighter Mark Matthews says in the video. "The question I asked him was: 'When?'" The video shows women posting on the blank wall pictures of their husbands lost to cancer. A firefighter tearfully recalls a colleague buried close by. Family members hold the uniform hats of their loved ones. "It's killing our members, simple as that," Commissioner Joseph E. Finn says in the video. "The one thing that is going to kill firefighters more quickly than a building collapse, more quickly than getting trapped — it's cancer." The video is part of Finn's **appeal to the city's 1,400 firefighters to always wear their protective gear — including hoods and air masks — even as a blaze retreats**

and begins to smolder. Chronic exposure to heat and smoke toxins leaves firefighters vulnerable and at risk, officials said.

To view the video, go to: http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/05/03/new-video-aims-show-toll-cancer-boston-fire-department/aJURyaLG1I2kraxy8fpYoK/story.html?p1=Article_InThisSection_Bottom

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone who has been in the fire service for any amount of time, or has been studying to become a firefighter should know by now that the job of a firefighter can be hazardous, and can make you more predisposed to getting cancer. The sad part is that we have to spend money to remind our brothers and sisters to do what we can to not make ourselves more susceptible to getting cancer, with one of the biggest keys being to wear our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) especially our SCBA units when necessary. This shouldn't come as a shock to anyone, sad to say. What should be a shock is that we can definitely do a better job at wearing our PPE, doing a better risk versus gain analysis, being more situationally aware, being a better safety officer of ourselves and our brother and sister firefighters, and taking risk management more seriously. I don't say the above to be disrespectful to anyone that has gotten cancer in the line of duty. I say the above because I actually care and I want to see if we can do what we can within our power of reducing the cases of cancer. If we don't try, who will?

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - Orange County, CA:

Job Title: FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE

Salary: \$26.67 Hourly
\$4,622.80 Monthly

Job Type: FULL-TIME

Location: Headquarters - 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602, California

Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, May 18, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, June 9, at 5:00 P.M.

To view the complete Job Description, select the link below:

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/ocfa/default.cfm?action=specbulletin&ClassSpecID=50004&headerfooter=0>

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education and Experience:

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and possess a high school diploma or high school diploma equivalency certificate. No experience required.

License and Certification (position requirements at entry):

Possession of a valid Class C California Driver License by date of appointment.

Possession of a valid Biddle Physical Ability Certificate from Mt. San Antonio, Rio Hondo, or Santa Ana College within the last six (6) months is required at time of application submission.

NOTE: THE OCFA DOES NOT ACCEPT THE CPAT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Applicants **MUST** provide a scanned copy of your valid Biddle Certificate from Mt. San Antonio, Rio Hondo, or Santa Ana College with your online application.

ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS

In addition to the Biddle Certificate, please **DO NOT** attach any other additional documents except for the documents listed below (these are not required but may be attached if the applicant possesses):

- EMT Certificate
- Paramedic License
- California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I Certificate
- Basic Fire Academy Certificate

For all attachments please use PDF or WORD format.

If an applicant's name is placed on the Eligible List, the applicant will have an opportunity in the future to submit a full resume packet with additional attachments (letter of recommendation, additional certificates, college degree, transcripts, etc.) at that time. Additional information regarding the recruitment process including written examination, panel interview, eligibility list and important dates will be available on the recruitment bulletin that is released on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 8:00 A.M.

2015 FIREHOUSE EXPO AMBASSADOR PROGRAM:

- Do you know a future firefighter currently in a college fire technology or fire science program that is willing to assist with and be a part of Firehouse Expo?
- BE PART OF THE FUTURE OF FIREHOUSE - Join the team by signing up for the 2015 Firehouse Expo Ambassador program - <http://firehouseexpo.com/volunteer.php>

Firehouse Expo is looking for 100 college students currently enrolled in a college or university fire science program to help support our staff at Firehouse Expo 2015. Each Ambassador will be required to commit to volunteering a minimum of 16 hours during the show, being held July 13-18, 2015, at the Baltimore Convention Center. Selected Ambassadors will be assigned support duties, which will include HOT training support team, classroom and registration support, instructor liaison, room monitoring, etc.

Benefits of the Firehouse Ambassador Program:

- FREE Future Firefighters Seminar - July 13, 2015 - 8:00am - 5:00pm*
- FREE Firehouse Ambassador logo attire
- One year complimentary e-subscription to Firehouse magazine
- Complimentary Full Conference Pass to attend the Opening Ceremony, main conference sessions and free access to the exhibit hall.
- Opportunity to meet and interact with active firefighters and some of our nation's most notable instructors
- Opportunity to experience the excitement and discover the benefits of attending a national fire service event

The 2015 Firehouse Expo Ambassador Program is being provided in partnership with American Military University and Fire Alumni.



MAY
22
2015

Hosted At:



UNDERSTANDING FLOW PATH AND TRANSITIONAL FIRE ATTACK

Presented By:

Batt. Chief Tim Adams (Anaheim Fire) & Batt. Chief Chris Manroe (Chula Vista)
\$35.00 Per Student (Includes Tri-Tip Followed By Tour of Sierra Nevada Brewery)

Sierra Nevada Brewery Chico, CA 0830-1230

Understanding Flow Path- All firefighters, regardless of rank, must understand the impact of air movement in structural firefighting. This presentation explains the science behind our traditional tactics and the changes required in combating today's fires. They share the UL/NIST studies and their impact on the fire service; application and safety. They will also discuss Transitional Fire Attack and water application techniques; location and timing for rescue and incident stabilization.

REGISTRATION:

Questions? Call: Brad Arganbright (209)371-7740

www.caltraining.org/store

\$15.00 REGISTRATION for CAL TOs Members [CLICK HERE](#)



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY AND
ALAMEDA COUNTY
TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT**

“Hoarder Homes: Piles of Hazards For Firefighters”

Seminar Description: *A fighting fire in hoarded homes is rapidly becoming a familiar occurrence in today's fire service. While the mission is still the same, the tactics used when fighting these fires need to change to make for a safer environment. This presentation will put you in the first due unit arriving at a reported structure fire inside a Hoarded home. The learning objectives will be to identify factors such as hoarder front yards, tactical changes used while fighting these types of fires, and salvage and overhaul techniques used on massive amounts of belongings. This program hopes to expose students to the different thought processes used while fighting fires in hoarded homes and new ways of thinking when engaged in fire operations inside hoarder homes. The target audience for this program is from the Chief Officer level to the street level firefighter. Knowing your stuff when faced with a hoarder fire is valuable to everyone in the department. “Hoarder Homes: Piles of hazards for firefighters” will return you to quarters with the knowledge and tools to come home safe!*

Seminar Date: May 29, 2015

Time: 0900 – 1630

Location: Church of Latter Day Saints
2930 Treat Boulevard
Concord, CA. 94518

Cost: \$50.00 for dues paying members of CCCFTSOA and Alco TO's
\$60.00 for non-members

Registration: Register at www.cccftsoa.org (pay via PayPal or credit card)

Note: Payment must be received by May 22, 2015 to reserve spot

Registration questions: Elizabeth de Dios liz389@hotmail.com (510) 867-7108

Guest Speaker: Ryan Pennington has over 20 years of combined Fire, Rescue and EMS experience as a Firefighter/Paramedic. He works for the Charleston Fire Department in Charleston West Virginia and is currently assigned to Station 8. He is also part of the West Virginia Task Force 1 USAR team.

Ryan is a Firehouse.com contributing editor where he has multiple articles, blogs, podcasts, has appeared in the July 2010 issue of Firehouse Magazine and has been published in Fire Fighting in Canada magazine. He's currently a WV State Instructor 2, Hazmat Technician, and Certified Fire Officer 2. He's also very involved teaching EMS and firefighter safety. You can find his website at www.viewsfromthejumpseat.com

Help Chief Tim Sendelbach 'Pass It Forward' at Firehouse Expo..Now

Register today!

By now you should have heard from me describing our 'Pass It Forward' theme at Firehouse Expo, encouraging you to share your experiences and new techniques with tomorrow's fire-service in your department, while upholding the rich traditions that have created the foundations of our success.

As a loyal participant at Firehouse Expo I also ask that you 'Pass It Forward' in the form of bringing that colleague or young firefighter in your department that hasn't experienced the rich tradition of Firehouse Expo with you to this year's conference. To help you do that, I have put together special 'Pass It Forward' pricing, that allows you to register for the conference with your peer or colleague at a combined cost that is less than the Early Bird price*.

	Early Bird Price	PASS IT FORWARD PRICE – per registrant
5-Day Conference Package (incl 2-Day HOT)	\$749	\$609
4-Day Conference Package (incl 1-Day HOT)	\$599	\$409
3-Day Conference Package	\$299	\$109
2-Day Conference Package	\$249	\$109
1-Day Conference Package	\$149	\$99
1-Day Pre-Conference Package	\$149	\$99
Exhibit Hall Pass	\$20	FREE

**Applies to core conference pricing. Discount on packages including HOT may not be greater than 50%*

As a thank you to you as a loyal Firehouse Expo supporter this offer is only available to you. In order to participate in 'Pass It Forward' you simply need to register at least one other member of your department with you at the time that you register for the conference.

For a complete look at the conference offerings at Firehouse Expo please [click here](#).

#PassItForward

Respectfully,



Timothy E. Sendelbach
Editor-in-Chief
Firehouse

2015 FIREHOUSE EXPO PASS IT FORWARD PROGRAM:

- The information on the previous page is some information that can save you money on registration fees!
- Pass it forward is the theme of this year's Firehouse Expo!
- See the flyer on the previous page for discounted pricing if you bring a colleague or young firefighter in your department that has never experienced Firehouse Expo!
- If the registration link on the previous page doesn't work, go to:
<https://www.xpressreg.net/register/fire075/attendee/landing.asp?o=&sc=&aban=&hkey=&iq=&tm>
- Additional information can be found at <http://www.firehouseexpo.com>

2016 FDIC CALL FOR PAPERS:

FDIC (Fire Department Instructors Conference) – the largest fire service conference in the world, is looking for presentations for next year's **FDIC International**, which will take place **April 18-23, 2016** in Indianapolis, Indiana.

If you are a current or retired fire service member and have some valuable information to share with others, you are encouraged to submit your proposal.

If you want to submit to teach next year, please send them your proposal via their online submissions system.

To begin submitting, go to

<http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/pennwell/fdic2016/public/Content.aspx?ID=47105&sortMenu=105000&MainMenuID=47105>

- The submissions period runs until **June 19, 2015**.

For complete **FDIC coverage**, go to: <http://www.fdic.com/coverage.html>

2015 FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:

By now your fire department should have received the **2015 Fire-Rescue International full conference brochure** that includes lots of exciting details about the event.

No matter your rank or experience level, **FRI 2015** offers you the best in learning and networking. From the classroom to the expo, you'll receive quality and value that are worth your investment.

Check out the brochure for the following:

- Quotes from past attendees
- Schedule at-a-Glance
- Core education program and highlights
- Officer Development Program
- Networking events including the Firefighter Throwdown and the 9/11 Stair Climb
- Expo info

- Registration
- Housing

Need more info? Visit the FRI website for everything you need to know - <http://www.iafc.org/fri>

Registration and Housing

Registration for FRI is open. Early bird discounts are available through July 15 - <http://www.iafc.org/fri>

Save even more! Not a member of the IAFC? Join and register at the member rate all at the same time -

http://www.iafc.org/micrositeFRIconf/RegistrationHotel/index.cfm?navItemNumber=6454&utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=IAFC+Homepage

View IAFC member benefits. Learn about company officers in the IAFC.

Friendly reminder for FRI Hotel Accommodations:

Book through Travel Planners to ensure you pay the lowest price and get the best service with reservation protection, flexibility and assistance - before, during and after your stay. Book through Travel Planners by calling (212) 532-1660 or (800) 221-3531 Monday - Friday, 9AM-7PM ET.

Please note: Travel Planners is the only official housing company associated with FRI 2015. While other hotel resellers may contact you offering housing for your trip, these are not endorsed by or affiliated with the conference. Entering into financial agreements with such companies can have costly consequences.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ARTICLE:

If you are a current or future fire officer, or someone preparing for a promotional exam, below is an article I wrote that was published in the March 2015 issue of Fire Rescue Magazine, titled: "***CHAOS should not stand for Captain (or Chief) Has Arrived On Scene***," Avoiding Chaos Taking control of the fireground: <http://www.firefighternation.com/article/command-and-leadership/avoiding-chaos>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

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

Over 270 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.

MUST READ ARTICLE FOR FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS:

If you are a future firefighter, below is an article I wrote that was recently published on FireRescue1.com titled: "***4 Reasons You Should Not Become A Firefighter***," <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-jobs-search/articles/2165186-4-reasons-you-shouldnt-become-a-firefighter/>

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:

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

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

FIRE SERVICE BOOKS:

Looking for fire service books to help you get hired, stay hired, get promoted, stay promoted, or just be better at your current position? 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:

- **Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* – July 13 - 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.
- **California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium** – *Fresno, CA* – November, 2015 - Go to <http://www.to.calchiefs.org/> for more information.
- **Firehouse World** – *San Diego, CA* – January 31 through February 4, 2016
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.
- **Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)** – *Indianapolis, IN* – April 18 – 23, 2016.
Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

FIREFIGHTER-TRAINEE RECRUITMENT

The District is seeking highly energetic and motivated candidates for the entry-level position of Firefighter-Trainee. Under supervision, the Firefighter-Trainee is expected to function as a member of a company; assigned to prevent, control, and extinguish fires; perform basic life support medical care; perform rescue operations and maintenance duties. Incumbents are expected to exercise initiative and some independent decision making in assigned work details and carry out all instructions, directives and lawful orders; and participate in District training activities.

TIBURON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIREFIGHTER-TRAINEE

SALARY: \$2845 PER MONTH

BENEFITS: *Subject to eligibility requirements*

- Promoting an understanding of basic firefighting methodology for individuals seeking to become career firefighters
- The program consists of an 18 month training program; incumbents may apply for a second 18 month term; Trainees work same 48/96 as career
- PERS 2.7% @57
- Medical \$385 maximum per month
- 96 hours of vacation annually
- Uniforms reimbursed to \$500

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process shall consist of a notice of examination, and applicants shall submit a letter of intent, resume and application. Applications will be reviewed, in part, according to the criteria contained in this brochure. The first 200 qualified applications will be accepted beginning May 18, 2015 at 9:00 AM. The application period will end when 200 applications are received, or on May 22, 2015 at 5:00 PM, whichever comes first. The examination process may include: application screening, oral and written examination, background investigation, medical and physical evaluations.

- **Week of June 1 - 5, 2015:**
 - 40 applicants that most meet the District's needs will be invited to participate in the oral interview examination
 - Top scoring candidates from the oral interview examination will be invited to a Fire Chief's interview
- **Week of June 8 - 12, 2015:**
 - Selected candidate(s) will advance to a background investigation
 - Successful candidate(s) will be offered a position subject to a physical exam, drug screen and psychological evaluation
- **Start date To Be Determined**

Selection Procedure and Timelines are Subject to Change

Station visits are by appointment only. Call (415) 435-7200 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, to schedule a visit.



Tiburon Fire Protection District

The District:

The Tiburon Fire Protection District was formed in 1941 and is a combination department with 24 career and 12 volunteer firefighters under the direction of Chief Richard Pearce. The District has three shifts with a Battalion Chief, Captain, Engineer, 3 Firefighters and 2 Firefighter-Trainees per shift working a 48/96 schedule; approximately 33% of the members are licensed paramedics.

Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications:

- 18 years of age
- Must possess a valid CA driver's license
- Must possess a valid EMT-B card at time of appointment
- Must obtain a valid CPAT card within six months of appointment
- No tattoo or brand may be visible while wearing the Class B uniform (TFPD Policy)

Desirable Qualifications:

- CFSTES Firefighter I
- Current Firefighting and EMS experience
- College Fire Science studies
- NWCG Firefighter Type 2

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to learn firefighting tactics and EMS techniques
- Ability to learn the operation and maintenance of equipment
- Ability to act calmly and effectively in emergency situations
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to maintain harmonious relationships with others in a group-living environment
- Ability to do strenuous physical activity for extended periods of time

The District provides emergency response, fire prevention and public education to a 6 square mile area. Annually, the District responds to approximately 1600 emergency incidents utilizing a modern fleet of emergency response apparatus including 4 Pierce engines, a Rescue Ambulance and a Moose fire boat from 2 stations. The District belongs to the Southern Marin Emergency Paramedic System, a JPA that provides ALS treatment and transportation to the residents of the Southern Marin area.

The Community:

The Tiburon Fire Protection District is located in southern Marin County. We are bordered by the Richardson Bay, San Francisco Bay, and Angel Island State Park. We serve the communities of Tiburon, Belvedere, and parts of unincorporated Marin County. Our citizens enjoy spectacular views of the Mount Tamalpais and Angel Island State Parks, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and the Richmond-San Rafael, Golden Gate, and Bay Bridges.

How to Apply

Applications are available on the Tiburon Fire Protection District's website and at District Headquarters Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm.

The first 200 applications will be accepted at District headquarters beginning 9:00am May 18, 2015.

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

PENNSYLVANIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HEART ATTACK AT SCENE

It's with deep regret that we pass on to you the Line of Duty Death of Edward Roddy, a Firefighter from Somerset Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County. Firefighter Roddy suffered from a heart attack on November 5, 2014 while at the scene of a fire and did not recover. He passed away on February 22, 2015. He is survived by Wife, Donna, and children. The Funeral arrangements are being handled through Miller Funeral Home and Crematory but are still being finalized according to the PA Fire Commissioners Office. As we get further information. we will post it. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 0900

AND:

All-

Good news from NJ-at least from a FF standpoint. That natural gas explosion that ripped a house apart injured five utility workers this morning and forced evacuations in Stafford Township-but fortunately no FF's were hurt regardless of initial reports. The gas explosion occurred at a home on Oak Avenue near Route 9, gas crews were operating at a report of a natural gas leak when the explosion occurred. Five gas company employees were hurt. At least two of those injured were airlifted to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Trauma Unit--- one person suffered extremely critical injuries and required CPR at the scene.

HERE is the radio traffic:

http://www.nj.com/ocean/index.ssf/2015/02/house_explosion_fire_rock_stafford_township.html

We wish those impacted a successful recovery.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/24/2015-1423 Hours

AND:

All,

Another reminder of why GAS LEAKS MUST always be taken seriously. This is today's incident in NJ.

WATCH THIS: <http://youtu.be/9LuGUBPI5z8>

HISTORY-GAS LEAKS/SMELL OF GAS:

TRAINING & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

Gas leaks resulting in explosions and injured "arriving/operating" Firefighters have a SIGNIFICANT HISTORY in fire operations.

HERE are several examples YOU can use to share with YOUR FF's:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtOOIJCzMSo> (Prince Georges County, MD Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUcSKtBvLt8> (Haverstraw, NY)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEkZIToM0XY&feature=fvwrel> (Haverstraw NY Radio Traffic-LISTEN from arrival to explosion)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFxHQCEF5Ro&feature=related> (Gas Explosion RAW Video/caution-rough language but EXCELLENT video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onK-8ga4Fx0&feature=related> (Philly Gas Explosion video)

BUFFALO NY:

In the original fire transmission call from December 27th, 1983, the night of the North Division Street explosion, you can hear the desperation in firefighters voices as they plea for as many ambulances as possible to be sent to the scene after the explosion. The dispatcher can only offer the reassurance that they would send all that they can. Five Buffalo Firefighters were KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY and two civilians were killed as well when a propane blast leveled a warehouse. The explosion damaged 12 city blocks and remains the department's deadliest fire in modern history. This archived footage of the explosion shows how the entire city mourned the loss of the firefighters and the massive devastation caused by the powerful explosion.

BUFFALO NY RADIO TRAFFIC & MEDIA REPORT:

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/buffalo/Firefighters-remember-North-Division-Street-explosion>

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/buffalo/Firefighters-remember-North-Division-Street-explosion#>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [2-24-2015-1909](#)

AND:

PENNSYLVANIA MEDIC STRUCK AT SCENE-KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

We regret to pass on to you that a Paramedic was killed in the Line of Duty while operating at the scene of a crash in Cambria County. It happened along Menoher Boulevard in Upper Yoder Township. 38-year-old West End Ambulance Paramedic Janice Livingston, of Johnstown was working the scene after two earlier crashes when a coal truck came around a curve on an icy road and essentially ran through the crash scene---PM Livingston died of multiple traumatic injuries. Apparently there were three different crashes, and in the third one, Paramedic Livingston was killed in the Line of Duty when a coal truck slammed into her. We'll post more as it becomes available. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.,

BillyG

The Secret List 3/2/2015-1600 Hours

AND:

All,

Reports from Clearfield Borough (Clearfield County, PA) that a working dwelling fire turned bad this morning. The fire in a dwelling on Daisy Street evolved into a mayday call with some reports of Firefighters trapped or down at about 0920 hours. Initial reports are that there was a collapse with possibly 3 Firefighters injured. We are awaiting additional facts-KTIYP's.

SIREN LAWSUIT

Last week we read of a firefighting helmet lawsuit, now another siren lawsuit. A former FDNY firefighter is suing several fire truck and siren manufacturers for \$150,000, claiming he's suffered permanent, "irreversible" hearing loss because the sirens in the engines he rode were too loud.

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Curtis O'Steen, who served from 1966 to 1981, said the companies sold trucks and engines that were in "defective condition" and didn't protect firefighters from the shrill sirens. The crew compartments of the vehicles lacked sufficient sound insulation or other noise dampening measures that would lower the intense noise," according to the recently filed suit.

HERE is more:

<http://nypost.com/2015/03/03/fire-truck-sirens-made-me-lose-my-hearing-ex-fdny-firefighter-in-suit/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/3/2015-1100 Hours

AND:

All,

Following this morning's multi-alarm fire in Clearfield (Clearfield County, PA) - an 18 year old Lawrence Township Firefighter has been hospitalized in UPMC Altoona after being trapped in that dwelling in Clearfield Borough. FF Jeffrey Buck was trapped after the porch roof collapsed. He was extricated from the dwelling and two others crawled to safety. **Firefighters had to cut through the collapse to rescue the FF- and he was initially in traumatic arrest.** FF Buck obviously sustained very serious injuries in the fire/collapse and remains hospitalized- - the other Firefighters were treated locally at Clearfield Penn Highlands Hospital and they have been released. The adult residents and their pets escaped from the home-companies arrived with fire visible. The family children were not at home at the time of the fire. KTIYP's

FIREHOUSE FIRE SENDS 9 FIREFIGHTERS TO THE HOSPITAL

9 Firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation after a two-alarm fire broke out **in their west Salt Lake City firehouse.** 2 Captains discovered the fire at 0127 hours and it is believed to have begun in a second-floor utility room of Station 2. The captains alerted their sleeping Firefighters and together, escaped the fire, moved a fire engine and truck from the station bay, and then began fighting the fire as additional crews were dispatched to the scene from other stations. All nine members of Station 2's crew were taken to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation, but no serious injuries were reported.

EMS SUV FIRE & EXPLOSION INJURES MA. FIREFIGHTERS

Two Quincy Firefighters were hurt in an explosion at a car fire this morning. Companies were called to the ramp from I-93 north to the Furnace Brook Parkway at 0800 after a Boston EMS SUV caught fire. Just after arrival, the master O2 cylinder in the vehicle apparently exploded and debris flew at the Firefighters. All members are OK. **We have some photos posted on our home page.**

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/3/2015-1600 Hours

AND:

Hey-

A Munson Township (Geauga County, Ohio, east of Cleveland) ladder truck was involved in a serious crash on its way to a house fire this afternoon. Two vehicles were going eastbound, when the first car spotted the fire apparatus and slowed to pull over. The second car did not slow down. It hit the back of the minivan and veered left of center, striking the fire truck head on. The fire apparatus driver and the driver of another vehicle were taken to Hillcrest Hospital in critical condition. Two other firefighters were taken to University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center. More to follow. KTIYP's.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [3-5-2015-1530](#)

AND:

All,

We regret to pass on to you that a Firefighter from the West Coast of South Africa died in the Line of Duty [yesterday](#) when the fire apparatus he was driving left the road and plunged down the side of a hill. Firefighter Nazeem Davies, 25, was on his way back to the fire station from a fire when Davies and FF Niklaas Nel when the rig left the road and plunged down the side of the pass. FF Nel escaped with slight injuries, but the truck hit a large boulder on the way down, which stopped it but crushed the truck to the point where hydraulic jaws had to be used to extricate FF Davies' body from the wreck. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

==THE DEATH OF A PHILADELPHIA FIREFIGHTER-ONE ACCOUNT

There is a lot of media coverage continuing, related to the Line of Duty Death of Philadelphia Firefighter Joyce Craig in December.

HERE IS ANOTHER ACCOUNT WORTH YOUR TIME:

In the moments before Philadelphia Firefighter Joyce Craig lost her life in a West Oak Lane house fire, her coworker FF Nyree Bright stood at the top of a stairway filled with flames. Bright, on the job for just over two years, was holding the nozzle on a hose - the first line of attack in a predawn basement fire last Dec. 9. Her Lieutenant and Craig, a decorated 11-year veteran working an overtime shift, were behind her. Minutes earlier, when they had walked into the house on the 1600 block of Middleton Street, only a light, hazy smoke had filled the first floor. The house's owner, a 73-year-old woman, had walked out on her own. **But then someone opened the basement door, and a burst of flames shot up the stairwell. As Bright directed the nozzle down the stairs, she said in an interview Thursday, her breathing mask collapsed around her face. Unable to breathe, she said, she handed the hose to her lieutenant and left the house.**

READ MORE HERE:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20150306_Firefighter_gives_harrowing_account_of_partner_s_death_in_West_Oak_Lane_blaze.html#pPQZRvqYQrEi3HYA.99

==FIRE APPARATUS PARADE---LAWSUIT NAMES FIREFIGHTER:

The widow of a man killed two years ago in a Maine Fourth of July parade when an antique firetruck struck him after its brakes failed has filed a wrongful death lawsuit. Lorena Fenlason of Holden sued the city of Bangor, the Bangor Breakfast Kiwanis Club, which organized the parade, and **Patrick Heathcote, the firefighter who was driving the truck on July 4, 2013.** Wallace L. Fenlason of Holden died after he was knocked from the tractor he was riding when the brakes on the antique firetruck failed and it struck the 63-year-old man. Fenlason routinely rode his antique farm tractor in local parades. The parade was rerouted that day onto Water Street from its traditional route down Main Street to Exchange Street due to an armed standoff with police on Park Street behind city hall. The lawsuit claims the city, the club and Firefighter Heathcote were negligent and violated safety rules that caused the antique fire truck to strike Fenlason. The police report released about a month after the accident concluded that insufficient brake fluid caused the antique braking system on the city's 1930 McCann Pumper to fail. Heathcote pushed so hard on the brakes while trying to stop the 12,800-pound pumper that he left pedal indents on the floorboards, according to a previously published report.

==RIP FDIC's "LIBBY" Liberatore

We sadly pass on this is information about the funeral for E. James "Libby" Liberatore who had been
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in charge of the Honor Guard competition for many years at FDIC . Libby had been the Chief Judge of this event for many years. He had an outstanding career and was truly a firefighter's firefighter. What he did with the honor guard competition was the seed that planted much of the growth you see [today](#) in our honor guards and in our pipe and drums. Libby understood the importance of final honors and how much it means to the families and friends of the fallen. He was a kind and gentle man and always had a good word for everyone. Thanks to BobbyH for the heads up on the loss of Libby:

http://www.burlingtoncountytimes.com/news/local/funeral-arrangements-set-for-burlington-township-fire-chief/article_0f265b13-2ef1-501f-bd3c-cd5b5eae051.html

==RIP ERIC SONDEEN

We regretfully pass on to you the passing of Eric Sondeen, a veteran firefighter/paramedic and Firefighter Cancer Support Network's first Colorado state director. He died [March 4, 2015](#), at the age of 61. Funeral arrangements are pending. Eric started FCSN's outreach in Colorado, and inspired so many other firefighters battling cancer across the nation. Sondeen served the Littleton (CO) Fire Rescue for 28 years, retiring in 2009 with the rank of paramedic lieutenant. RIP.

Additional HERE: <http://www.firefightercancersupport.org/>

SOME RANDOM FDIC THOUGHTS:

The days are getting closer and we absolutely look forward to seeing you there. This will be my 38th year and the instructors and programs *never* fail to deliver...and neither do the side conversations, the meal chatter and new folks you will meet-learning about how "they" do it. **FDIC=Life Long Friendships & Learning.**

-If this year is your first FDIC and you have a question that hasn't been answered yet-I would be glad to help-shoot me an email thru www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com. If I don't know the answer, I know the folks who do.

-Do not miss: this years **MAIN PROGRAM** keynote from a phenomenal speaker, instructor and veteran TSL member, Batt Chief Sean DeCrane from Cleveland, a very special presentation from US Navy Admiral Moore, the man who was in charge of all Navy special operations including all SEAL operations for the last 10 years, the Instructor of the year award the Lifetime achievement award, the Chief Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award...all on the main program at 0800 to 1030.

-On [Tuesday](#) morning, Gordon Graham and I will be doing our best to provide a **disciplined & nice language** program on fireground & fire station **SURVIVAL**. Correction: No promises on the behavior and language but we'll be glad to see you regardless and promise you time well spent...**especially if you are an aspiring, new or current fire officer.**

-Aerial or Tower Ladder Operations? if you have an aerial...and are attending FDIC, this is a MUST course by Lt Mike Wilbur, FDNY (ret). Check it out:

<http://emergencyvehicleresponse.com/2015/03/03/evr-aerial-and-tower-ladder-ops-class-at-fdic/>

-DO YOU remember this fire in Illinois? It was [March 30th, 2010](#) when Firefighter Brian Carey lost his life in the Line of Duty. I'm thrilled to have the Chief of his department joining me, [Thursday](#) morning at 1030 in the "big room" as we discuss what went wrong, why and what they have done (and what we can learn) since that tragic loss.

HERE is that fire report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201010.html>

-There are some fantastic **SOCIAL activities** that support some excellent causes...do not miss:

-The NFFF Stop, Drop Rock and Roll Party

-The FOOLS Brotherhood Bash

-The FCSN Comedy Night
-The ISFSI Social Event
-The Terry Farrell Fund Beam Fire Party
-The Ray Downey Courage and Valor Fun Run
AND MUCH MORE....listed HERE:
<http://www.fdic.com/special-events.html>

And please take time to stop by the Fire Engineering **BOOKSTORE**...you'll be like a kid in a candy store. And while you are there--please help us continue to raise funds for the NFFF and the Chief Ray Downey Scholarship by purchasing the book, PASS IT ON. Many of the contributors will be there so you can meet them, talk fire and have them sign their section. There is also going to be an AUCTION at the NFFF Stop Drop Rock and Roll event for a few very limited copies (Four!) of the book with every contributors signature in their section. A very cool collectors item that you may want to pass on over time.

We obviously can't list everything FDIC has to offer-especially all the incredible instructors who can, in just a few hours, improve the way we operate forever----so take a look at the program www.FDIC.com and make your list of "must attend" classes and events well before you get there. Just like before a fire, a little pre-planning will go along way. Very much looking forward to see'nya soon. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List [3/6/2015](#)-1230 Hours

AND:

Hey,
A few months ago, a young Fire Protection Engineering lad reached out for some help-as he is doing University level studies related to fire hose lines....specifically hose lines that have burned through at fires. Fires that you have been on-or are familiar with. We told him we are more than glad to help. The young man, Patrick G, from Worcester Polytechnic Institute put together a survey to ask you - fire fighters, a few specific questions to determine if you have come in contact with a burn-through or know about one.

**Please help him out----his work will help us all:
PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY:**

www.wpi.edu/+firehoseburnthrough?&utm_source=secret%20list&utm_medium=email%20%26%20web%20site&utm_campaign=firehoseburnthrough

ABOUT THE PROJECT-Project Website:

<http://www.wpi.edu/research/firstresponder/hoses.html>

Please take a quick moment to provide him with any details you have-and also please pass this on to any firefighter groups you have-to get him and his team as much info as possible/
Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG
The Secret List [3/6/2015](#)-1530 Hours

AND:

EMS LODD-PILOT KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

A medical helicopter crashed into the parking lot of a St. Louis (MO) hospital, killing the pilot. The helicopter went down late last night in the parking lot on the campus of St. Louis University Hospital. Pictures from the scene show charred smoky remains. No patients, employees or hospital

visitors were affected-the pilot was the only fatality, whose identity has not been released. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

9 FIREFIGHTERS TEST POSITIVE FOR MOLD

...AND THE BATTLE OVER "TAKING CARE" OF THE FIREFIGHTERS CONTINUES AS THEY ARE DENIED WORKERS COMPENSATION.

9 Firefighters in Indian River County (Florida) have tested positive for exposure to toxic mold, which could be inside their fire stations, according to The Indian River County Firefighters Union. The union received the test results this week. **Union President, John O'Connor, says the union is now pressing the county to more thoroughly inspect the stations for mold and to correct the problem. O'Connor says firefighters at three stations tested positive.** "It indicates that there's a major problem and we have to fix it sooner than later," said O'Connor. This comes after two firefighters tested positive for toxic mold exposure earlier this year. O'Connor says seven more tests were ordered after those first two came back positive. **He says this helps build the union's case that it is no coincidence the tests are coming back positive, but that there is mold in the fire houses.** County leaders have argued that there is no proof the mold exposure is coming from the fire stations. County administrator Joseph Baird says the exposure could be at their homes or other areas. CHD Baird says four different fire stations were inspected for mold late last year. Those inspections did reveal "suspect visible mold", but the possible mold was not collected or tested to be confirmed. Baird said other inspections will be done, but did not detail to what extent.

"They've cited it in all the reports and they refuse to acknowledge it," O'Connor said. O'Connor is one of the people who tested positive. He wants the county to do a more thorough inspection to make sure firefighters are safe at work. "It's almost impossible to not go into the station at any length of time. We live there. Every third day it's part of our life," O'Connor said. **"How many more test results do I need to show there is a problem?"** O'Connor says the union is awaiting the results of two more tests. Baird said the county could consider inspecting firefighters houses for mold. **Two firefighters have been denied workers compensation. The other seven are still waiting to hear if they will receive compensation.** An impasse hearing is scheduled March 20 where the county and union will address this issue.

HERE IS MORE WITH VIDEO: <http://shar.es/1f0aw6>

Take Care. be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/7/2015-0900 Hours

AND:

CALFire PILOT DIES ON DUTY-IN QUARTERS

We regret to pass on to you that CalFire helicopter pilot Jerold "Jerry" Bonner, was found dead inside his barracks near Los Gatos Friday. Bonner, 72, died while on duty at Alma Helitack Base, after serving with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for almost 16 years. Bonner, of Helendale, was a U.S. Navy veteran and is survived by family and friends. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

NJ 50 YEAR VETERAN EX-CHIEF/FIREFIGHTER STRUCK, KILLED IN FRONT OF QUARTERS

We regret to pass on to you that on Friday evening. Somerville (NJ) Ex-Chief George Kavanaugh, 75, was killed in front of the Lincoln Hose Company Fire House, the victim of a hit-and-run. Chief Kavanaugh, who had served for 50 years, was leaving the viewing of another fallen firefighter, Charlie Becker, and Kavanaugh was waiting for another FF to pick him up in front of the firehouse around 2130 Hours. Reports are that the suspect backed over him, rolled over him again and then sped off.

He leaves behind four kids and seven grandchildren. The hit-and-run driver and vehicle have not yet been identified. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

FUNERAL DETAILS:

Visitation for Chief Kavanaugh will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Bruce C. VanArsdale Funeral Home, 111 N. Gaston Ave., with firemans services at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home. A funeral Mass will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Church, 35 Mountain Ave. Interment will follow at St. Bernard Cemetery in Bridgewater.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/9/2015-2044 Hours

AND:

Hey,

One SHOOTING suspect died and another was critically injured after crashing their car into the back of a fire apparatus during a pursuit in South Los Angeles last night. The two were wanted in connection to a shooting. Around 2115 hours Los Angeles police received a call regarding a 30-year-old man shot in his doorway on W. Colden Avenue. As officers were responding to the scene, they encountered suspects in a black van. The suspects then led officers on a short pursuit. The van crashed into the back of a fire truck near the 100 block of East 84th Street at about 2125 hours. The vehicle caught fire following the impact. Firefighters from the apparatus were on a medical call in the area when it was struck by the van. Witnesses at the scene said they heard a loud boom and saw the van heading down the street at a high speed. One suspect was transported to the hospital and the other was pronounced dead at the scene. Two firefighters suffering non-life threatening injuries were also transported to the hospital.

CHIEFS TRUCK STRUCK BY KIDS THROWING ROCKS OFF BRIDGE

Two teenagers are in custody for throwing rocks off of a railroad overpass yesterday morning, damaging the windshield and hood of a Portland Fire & Rescue Chief Officer's vehicle while he was driving to work. Deputy Chief Jeff Bancroft was able to pull over and turn on his emergency lights and call police. "I don't really remember how I stopped or anything like that. I was just kind of shocked that it happened. It was as loud as if someone shot the car with a shotgun," Bancroft said. One other vehicle was hit by the rocks, but fire officials said no one was hurt in the incident. Officers searched the area, eventually finding a 16- and 17-year-old hiding along the train tracks west of 148th Avenue. The teens face criminal mischief and reckless endangerment charges.

DELAYED LODD:

KENTUCKY FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HEART ATTACK

We regret to pass on to you that a Kentucky Fire Chief died Tuesday after suffering a heart attack while responding to a fire call on March 4. Fire Chief Billy Jarvis, 54, with the Allen (Ky.) Fire Department, had trouble breathing while responding to a downed power line call. His son, a captain with the department who was a passenger in the vehicle, took over as driver and rushed him to the hospital. Upon arrival, he went into cardiac arrested. He was revived and transferred to a hospital, where he later succumbed to his injury. He was a 35-year fire service veteran. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/12/2015-0800 Hours

AND:

Hey-

The UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute has released an excellent **new firefighter training program** entitled "Residential Attic and Exterior Fire Hazards" - an online course that serves as a culmination of the small scale, full-scale, and field experiments performed by UL as part of a research study funded by DHS. The purpose of this study is to increase firefighter safety and effectiveness by providing PROVEN scientific knowledge on the dynamics of attic and exterior fires and the influence of coordinated tactics from full-scale fire testing in realistic residential structures. The interactive training takes you, firefighters, through all of the details that went into the experiments, experiment results, and tactical considerations derived from the results. Experiments included 28 wall tests, 3 wall and eave tests, 4 full scale attic tests, and 3 field experiments. **Field experiments were conducted in three acquired structures located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.** Fires in these 1 ½ and 2 ½ story residential houses provided a real world application of theories and tactics.

Tactical considerations derived by a fire service technical panel and supported with video and interactive features include:

- Increased use of plastics in exterior walls will change the situation to which you arrive; If the fire starts on the outside, start fighting it from the outside; learn to anticipate where and how an exterior fire will migrate to the interior;
- attic fires are commonly ventilation-limited fires; closely time or limit vertical ventilation until water is in the attic;
- plastic ridge vents can affect size-up and fire dynamics;
- wetting sheathing with an eave attack slows attic fire growth; attic construction affects hose stream penetration; -consider flowing up instead of down with a master stream;
- knee wall fire dynamics; apply water on a knee wall fire at the source and toward the direction of spread before committing to the attic; and Interior operations on knee wall fires.

TO ACCESS THE FREE COURSE:

<http://www.firecompanies.com/modernfirebehavior/AtticFiresOnlineCourse/story.html>

No cost-other than your time to learn.

Interested in other related fire training program and info from them? Go to:

www.ULfirefightersafety.com

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/12/2015-0930 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Please take time to watch the below video. If there has been a recent example of how critical firefighter staffing is on the first alarm...this would be it. Keep in mind that's not necessarily the fault of the firefighters-who like most firefighters, do the best they can. Leadership. Be it at the political, administrative or the operational level have a responsibility to educate the community on what level of service they can expect...and what costs there are to impact the levels of service. This isn't tough stuff, gang...but so many communities "rest assured" that behind those bay doors are a katrillion firefighters that will come running to save the day when their stuff is on fire. You know and we know, that isn't always the case. In some places - and not just rural areas - but heavily populated suburban

May 10, 2015

www.chabotfire.com

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metro areas, the apparatus MAY or MAY NOT get out in time to matter. In some places, that's almost **always** the case.

How many firefighters do you need on the first alarm? It depends on what you want to accomplish. If you want to wet down exposures and let the initial building burn- (if it hasn't already by the time the FF's arrive) -you can calculate that.

Sound stupid? Well-how many communities absolutely know that they don't have the staffing ...but act like, when there is a fire, it will all be ok.

No worries,

We don't have that many fires anyway.

Talk about stupid.

In almost all cases of poor staffing or poor turnout, the outcome was totally predictable. And as GG says, if its predictable, its preventable.

You absolutely know that if, in the case of an un-staffed volunteer FD, if your tones go off right now, how many members will show up. Look at your history. An immediate solution that some FD's are using are systems such as www.iamresponding.com -programs that tell you **immediately** how many members are responding...so you don't wait...so you don't set the tones off over and over ...pretty much knowing "they" ain't coming...while someone or their stuff is burning up.

And about your members, those members who show up an hour later "to sign the book" - is bs-we are talking about qualified and trained members who can get the rigs on the road fast, with enough staffing to matter. What does "matter" mean?

OK-lets make this real easy.... pretend it's your house on fire with your stuff in there and maybe even your family? Now what do you want to happen. What matters now?

Take time to watch this video as the Brothers and Sisters do their best-but at a fire where the staffing was predictable.

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

Interested in taking a look at how many FIREFIGHTERS **you need** on a first alarm?

Take a look HERE:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/article/firefighter-safety/impact-staffing-reductions>

And HERE:

<http://www.iaff.org/10News/042810FireStudy.htm>

And HERE:

<http://www.iaff.org/10news/pdfs/nistreport.pdf>

A community (and the elected officials, the city hall dwellers etc) can and should grasp a real understanding of what their staffing and response will be. If it is known to be low, then develop SOP's that cover that-as well as make public an explanation of what your community can expect when there is a fire-and what they should not expect.

However--- for the bells, whistles, sirens, tones, beepers, horns and whatever else to go off and everyone act shocked and surprised that the response is slow, poor or anything less than whats

needed, is a failure on all of us to educate those who call 9-1-1, on what to expect, before they ever have to call 9-1-1.

Maybe, through educating the decision makers and taxpayers with facts and not emotions-they might support what's needed to have a properly staffed and quick to turnout fire department. **I said maybe.**

Take Care. be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/13/2015-1300 Hours

AND:

All,

On [March 14, 2001](#), the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department lost Firefighter Brett Tarver in the Line of Duty at the Southwest Supermarket fire. The fire occurred at 1700 hours....the store was filled with people, and fire was extending through the building. While inside the smoke filled, darkened, 27,000 square foot building, Tarver became separated and disoriented and was unable to find his way out of the building before running out of air. His fellow firefighters later recovered his body.

PLEASE take a few minutes to understand that the likelihood of this scenario happening again in any of our areas is very real....but it can be minimised with real understanding of what firefighter rescue actually requires, combined with initial and regular hands on training and drills.

Among the many findings, one was that FIREFIGHTER RESCUE/RAPID INTERVENTION ISN'T RAPID....Please take time to learn and share this information with your members. And then drill, train and drill....

VIDEO ABOUT THE FIRE AND BRET TARVER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpig7MiySwY>

FIRE ENGINEERING ARTICLE: Rapid Intervention Isn't Rapid:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-156/issue-12/features/rapid-intervention-isnt-rapid.html>

USFA REPORT: <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/firefighter-fatalities/fatalityData/detail?fatalityId=810>

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200113.html>

HERE is a video about one FD's Drill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h47nI1tawhE>

Take Time to use the information to improve your skills, and to honor PFD FF Bret Tarver.

ABOUT YOUR SCBA:

Who checks YOUR SCBA?

Who is responsible for SCBA maintenance at your FD?

Who is **TRUSTED** to take care of what is the only thing between you and survival.

Seriously-SCBA daily checks (by those who wear them....us) as well as SCBA maintenance is a HUGE deal. *At least it should be.*

While more facts will continue to come out related to the Line of Duty Death of Hartford (CT) Firefighter Kevin Bell, take time to read the latest findings. **And then go check your SCBA.**

Seriously. **HERE is the article:**

<http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-hartford-firefighter-tank-report-20150313-story.html>

RELATED To the Hartford LODD:

Did You Hear The One About The Incident Commander.....?

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/213895>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [3/14/2015-0941 Hours](#)

AND:

===MISSISSIPPI FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

===FRENCH FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FIRST WOMAN LODD IN PARIS

We regret to pass on to you that Firefighter John L. Shoup, 38, a 20 year veteran of the Ashland VFD has died in the Line of Duty. While working at the scene of a structure fire on March 7, 2015, Firefighter Shoup complained to other firefighters that he wasn't feeling well and went home. Several hours after returning home, FF Shoup was taken by his wife Jessica, to the hospital where he was treated for a heart attack and his condition stabilized. Subsequently, Firefighter Shoup was transferred to a hospital in Jackson, Mississippi, where he succumbed to his injury, [yesterday, March 15, 2015](#). He leaves behind his wife Jessica and 3 kids: Jacob, 13, Sarah Grace, 8 and Blake, 6.

PARIS, FRANCE-FIRST WOMAN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

A beloved Fire Officer, 26 year old Master Corporal Salel Aurélie (First Women LODD in that Unit, Company 14) has died in the Line of Duty. This was at a dwelling fire that resulted in two Firefighters being severely burned in Livry-Gargan, she being the LODD. The fire happened [last Friday](#) and she died [Saturday](#). Women have only been in the Paris Fire Service since 2000. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

MAYDAY IN PENNSYLVANIA

Some tense moments [today](#) in Mt Carmel, PA where during a multi alarm residential (row of 7 homes) fire, a MAYDAY was transmitted. Borough Fire Chief James Reed, was carried out unconscious from a burning home earlier [today](#), but was conscious and talking to the troops by the time he was loaded into Life Flight helicopter-thanks to rapid firefighter & EMS intervention. KTIYP's as the Chief has been moved to Lehigh Valley's Burn Center due to airway burns. Updates to follow.

FIREFIGHTERS ELECTRICAL SHOCK IN PENNSYLVANIA

Two firefighters were injured in Philadelphia [this morning](#) after a ground ladder came in contact with a power line, at a fire scene. The house fire started around 0930 hours and was declared under control about seven minutes later. Around 1000 hours, firefighters started breaking down the scene and removing the aluminum ground ladder. **That's when it hit the 7,600 volt power line.** When it came in contact, fortunately the ladder bounced back to the building and did not stay in contact with the wires. FF Robert Taylor, a 14 year veteran suffered 2nd degree burns to his foot and Eugene Coulter, a 9 year veteran was treated and released. KTIYP's.

9/11 KEEPS KILLING:

FDNY FIREFIGHTER CANCER 9/11 DEATH

We are sad to pass on details of the passing of FDNY Captain John Graziano, another victim of a 9/11 WTC related cancer. Captain Graziano was a firefighter in Ladder 172, a Lieutenant in Ladder 132 and Captain of Ladder 78. 9/11 happened while he was Lieutenant in 132 (which lost 6 members that day). Then Lieutenant Graziano spent a lot of time on "the pile" and additionally spent a lot of time aiding and assisting the families of 132's victims. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

IF THESE (FIRE HOUSE) BRICKS COULD TALK....

Here is a wonderful clip about the history of one old firehouse you'll enjoy...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60Nh16_79tg&feature=youtu.be

Take Care. be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [3/16/2015-2033 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

This question seems easy:

It's 2105-Why Are There Any Homes Without Working Smoke Detectors? WTF.

There are so many excuses, or it's simply not thought about-especially since we, you and I, are a very small minority of folks that think about fire-and hopefully **keep fire in our lives.** (*Thanks Erich and Ray*).

The average person doesn't think about FIRE-until something bad happens, Kinda the way most tragic stuff "wakes" people up-and they go back to sleep.

But smoke detectors are different. They are free. Free. I am not aware of any FD or Red Cross Chapter that doesn't have free **SMOKE DETECTORS**. Take time this week to write letters to the editor, reach out to media-do whatever it takes so that what happened in BROOKLYN [yesterday](#) is shard as a warning to anyone in a home. **Ask your "customers" taxpayers, non-taxpayers, citizens and non-citizens alike-to imagine THEIR kids in THIS headline.** Do whatever it takes. The families suffered unconscionable loss that they will never recover from. The Firefighters, EMT's and Medics who responded, like you, would rather NOT have made *that* run.

I'm preachn to the choir but do whatever it takes this week to SHARE this horrific story:

Please SHARE these headlines and articles OUTSIDE the fire service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sXv1zcKnTg> (VIDEO)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdXPrSIxgE> (VIDEO)

<http://tinyurl.com/leq2r2q> (Excellent Local Coverage)

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/the-week> **MOMMY HELP ME!**

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/1-dead-8-injured-brooklyn-blaze-officia-article-1.2157746>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/funeral-kids-killed-fire-set-sunday-article-1.2158565>

...and then there is the issue of fire sprinklers in new residential structures. ...and the selfish profit focused people www.homefiresprinkler.org

==ILLINOIS:

Firefighter Brian Carey

On [March 30](#), 2010, Firefighter Brian Carey of the Homewood Fire Department died in the line of duty in a residential fire. Homewood and area firefighters were dispatched to the fire around 2100, and Carey was among the first firefighters on scene. The members knew from dispatch that a partially paralyzed man was trapped inside the house, and his wife was trying to get him out. Carey and other firefighters entered the structure with a crew on a hoseline but suffered fatal injuries when the fire intensified. Carey was transported to South Suburban Hospital with smoke inhalation and burn

injuries, but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful. The homeowner also died as a result of the fire, and the victims wife along with another firefighter was hospitalized with burn injuries sustained inside the house. **NOTE: The Chief of the Homewood FD will be presenting a "five years later update" at FDIC on Thursday morning in "the big room" session righter after the morning opening keynotes etc.**

REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201010.html>

==OHIO:

Firefighter Bill "Doc" Ellison

On March 8th 2001, Firefighter Bill "Doc" Ellison responded to a structure fire on Jordan Road in Miami Township, Hamilton County. It was reported that there was at least one person trapped. Bill was searching the first floor of the home when he fell through the floor, landing in the basement of the burning house. He was inside the home for nearly ten minutes before his fellow firefighters were able to locate and rescue him. Bill suffered serious burns to over fifty percent of his body. It was later determined that no one was in the house. Bill died twelve days later on March 20th at 8:55pm. He left behind a wife and two young daughters.

REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200116.html>

Firefighter Oscar Armstrong III

March 21 2003, Firefighter Oscar Armstrong III responded to a structure fire on Laidlaw Avenue in the City of Cincinnati. Oscar was part of a crew advancing a hose line to attack the fire when a flashover occurred. He suffered severe burns and was pronounced dead at the hospital. Oscar left behind two children and a pregnant fiancée.

REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200312.html>

==BOSTON:

On March 26, 2014, 43-year-old Lt Ed Walsh, 33-year-old Mike Kennedy, and the rest of the firefighters on duty at the Engine 33 and Ladder 15 firehouse turned out to a fire at 298 Beacon St. But within minutes of their arrival, fierce winds blowing in off the Charles River whipped the fire and gases into a nine-alarm fire, and Walsh and Kennedy got trapped in the basement. They screamed for water. They pleaded, "Come and get us." Then they were silent. Walsh, 43, a married father of three, and Kennedy, 33, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Iraq War, made their final run to a wind-fueled 9-alarm conflagration in a Beacon Street brownstone. Lt. Edward J. Walsh Jr. and firefighter Michael R. Kennedy perished in the Line of Duty. **May they all Rest In Peace.**

Take Care. Be Careful Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/22/2015-2100 Hours

AND:

All,

In the aftermath of the horrible fire Saturday morning that killed 7 kids (and critically burned another and their Mom), there has been a lot of media reporting. FDNY, FDNY-EMS and Hatzolah EMS all responded to this fire.

Take a moment to read this commentary:

Lupica: Kids' faces always on the minds of FDNY - 'In our world, you never forget the children'

The code for those injured or killed in another fire in the city is "1045." When he got the call just after midnight, in the first minutes of Saturday morning, FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro heard what his men had already heard at Engine 255 and Ladder 157, Rogers Ave. and Flatbush: "Fire in Brooklyn,

multiple 1045s." He does not know at the time how many of the victims on this night, a terrible night in Brooklyn, are children. The first firefighters from the FDNY were on the scene in three minutes and 25 seconds, but already it was too late on Bedford Ave., near Avenue L, for seven children in the Sassoon family.

Nigro started out as a kid in the FDNY in 1969. Over the past two days he has talked to others who have done this kind of work in this city for a very long time. Not one of them could ever remember a fire taking seven members from the same family. "The fire was at the front door when they got there," Nigro said. "So they knew they were up against it. They just didn't know they were going to find that many children in three of those four bedrooms." This time the fire at the front door was 3371 Bedford Ave., in the Midwood section of Brooklyn. This time tragedy was ignited by a hot plate used by an Orthodox Jewish mother to heat food, in accordance with laws of her faith against lighting a flame on the Sabbath. Then before these children, seven of Gayle Sassoon's eight, had a chance, there were flames everywhere in the night. "This is one of the nights no one on the scene will ever forget," Nigro said Sunday. "In our world, you never forget the children."

He is the son of a fire captain. He started out at Engine 21 in Manhattan, on 40th St. He was a lieutenant later at Engine 35 in East Harlem, a captain after that at Engine 8, 51st St. between Lexington and Third. He served until 2002 and retired and now he has come back to serve as commissioner for Bill de Blasio. He has seen a lot of bad things, because that is his world in his city. He is another who will not forget this night on Bedford Ave. for as long as he lives. "There was an infant I carried out of a burning building when I was 22," Nigro said. "I tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but it was already too late." He paused and said, "That was the first child for me." Then the commissioner of the FDNY said, "Now we get a night like this. Seven children this time."

He talked on this day about fires being at a record low in the city but how, even with that, the numbers average out to a fire death every four or five days. Another grim reality of his world, in his city. Again: His men are there in a few minutes in Brooklyn, but by the time they are inside this house on this night, it has been ravaged by this fire. As always, they go running in behind their hoses, bringing with them training and instinct and courage, not knowing how many children they will find inside. Then they get the children out windows to other firemen on ladders. It is too late, just because it is sometimes.

The mother, badly burned, could not make it through the fire to the back bedrooms. She finally made it out a window. So did one of her daughters. The father was in Manhattan on business. The fire took everyone else from them. Resuscitation did not save these children the way Nigro could not save an infant when he was a kid out of Engine 21. It is one more reality in the lives of those who run into places like this, some of them like this one without smoke detectors on the first or second floors: Sometimes they do everything right, and the ending is still terribly and tragically and permanently wrong.

"They knew as soon as they went running up the steps that their chances were slim, even as quickly as they got inside and pushed back," Nigro said. "But this is what the members of our department do. They keep going." Then he was not talking as the commissioner of that department, he was talking as a father and grandfather, about the aftermath of what happened, how quickly it all happened, once the first call came in at 12:23 Saturday morning, multiple 1045s in Brooklyn. "None of us can imagine," Nigro says, "what it must be like for these parents."

You always hear this about the extraordinary men and women of the FDNY: They run into these buildings when others are running out. Only this time, seven children never got the chance to run. They were already gone when Engine 255 and Ladder 157 arrived, fire greeting them at the front door, 3371 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn.

Original Article:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/lupica-kids-faces-minds-fdny-article-1.2158981>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/23/2015-1408 Hours

AND:

All,

Today is the 104th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire in NYC's Greenwich Village-one of the deadliest fires in history-**146 people were killed**. They died from the fire, smoke inhalation, or falling or jumping to their deaths.

Because the owners had ***locked the doors to the stairwells and exits***, a common practice used to prevent workers from taking unauthorized breaks and pilferage, many of the workers who could not escape the burning building jumped from the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors to the streets below. The fire led to legislation requiring improved factory safety standards and helped spur the growth of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which fought for better working conditions for sweatshop workers. Every year, FDNY Ladder Co. 20, the first due truck, raises its aerial to the sixth floor, the fullest reach of the ladder in 1911, but the building was taller. It's important for every Firefighter to understand this fire-(and others like it-see below) and the impact it had on fire safety, codes, labor as well the way we operate today. Below are two links, one is a full documentary and the other a personal overview from a family member. Take time to check them out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFJ6cQUJOsg> **(An Excellent Documentary)**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvKrKCLI_0U (A Family Account)

THE HAPPY LAND SOCIAL CLUB FIRE

Today is also the 25th anniversary of the Happy Land Social Club fire in the Bronx.

Twenty-five years ago, what was then the biggest mass murder in U.S. history turned a New York City dance club into a smoky, flame-filled inferno that left dozens of people dead, some with drinks still clutched in their hands. That night, a Cuban refugee named Julio Gonzalez tried to win back the woman who had spurned him. Gonzalez entered the Happy Land social club in the Bronx, which was humming with mostly immigrants partying and dancing. His former live-in girlfriend, Lydia Feliciano, was checking coats and they had a violent argument. Gonzalez was thrown out. In a rage, he returned just after 3 a.m., splashing gasoline on Happy Land's only exit and lighting two matches. Then he pulled down the metal front gate. Within minutes, 87 people were dead.

HERE IS VIDEO ABOUT THE FIRE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3PS1li4-3u0>

TAKE TIME TO READ THE INCIDENT COMMANDERS ACCOUNT FROM FE:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2015/03/happyland.html>

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN AL FRYE-STRUCK AND KILLED

Today is the 13th anniversary of the death of Capt. Al Frye of Roslyn Rescue (Nassau County, Long Island, NY). A drunk motorist plowed through road closure barricades, and hurtled into unsuspecting firefighters, killing Captain Allen Frye, of the Roslyn Rescue Fire Company. Captain Frye been leading Firefighters in a training exercise, when the oncoming car struck and killed him in the Line of Duty.

HERE IS MORE About Captain Frye: <http://www.roslynrescue.org/our-heros.php>

HERE IS INFORMATION AND TRAINING ON ROADWAY SURVIVAL:

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

THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF A MEDIA MOGUL:

A friend since the 80's, Dave Statter (Statter911, our e-fish wrapper version of the National Enquirer) is having a 60th birthday party. So, Dave and his wife (the brains of that outfit) decided to make it useful, since he has very limited time out of the nursing home each day. **The party is a fundraiser for NFFF and YOU ARE INVITED.** It will be on April 12 at Mr. Smith's in Georgetown, Washington, DC. Here is the link to buy tickets, or if you can't make it, please consider using use the "additional donation" box to make a donation - <https://www.firehero.org/event/statter-911/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/25/2015-1101 Hours

AND:

All-

Grimm news this morning from Cincinnati from the scene of a multi alarm working fire with occupants trapped. Most of the injuries are reported minor, but a CFD Firefighter was very seriously hurt. He was reportedly unresponsive about 0620 hours after falling down an elevator shaft at the King Tower Apartments off Dahlgren Street. The firefighter was rescued around 0638 hours and crews removed him from the building.

Video to the right shows some activity from the scene: <http://tinyurl.com/nf96ea9>

Much more to follow....here are some local links as well:

www.fox19.com

www.wlwt.com

www.wcpo.com

KTIYP's.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/26/2015-0710 Hours

AND:

All,

There are media reports as well as reports from the University of Cincinnati Hospital that the Firefighter who was critically injured this morning has died in the Line of Duty. However, the City of Cincinnati has not issued anything yet-but there is a new conference scheduled for 1100 hours this morning.

Local media outlets include:

www.WCPO.com

www.WLWT.com

www.Fox19.com

www.cincinnati.com

www.Local12.com

Also watch:

www.IAFF48.org

<http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/fire/>

Keep Them In Your Prayers. We'll pass on details when they are released.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/26/2015-0920 Hours

AND:

MAYORS OFFICE CONFIRMS FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH

We regret to pass on to you that a Cincinnati Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty this morning after suffering grave injuries in a large, occupied four-alarm apartment fire. **The Mayors office confirms that Darryl Gordon, 54, is the first Cincinnati Firefighter to die in the line of duty since 2003.**

Mayor John Cranley is holding an 1100 press conference to discuss the incident. A second Cincinnati firefighter and some residents were hurt when flames ran through the second floor of a building at King Tower Apartments on Dahlgren Street about 5:30 a.m. "We could just use the community's prayers, the prayers for the family, we have one of our brothers in dire straits," Fire Chief Richard Braun said at the scene. The other firefighter hurt has second-degree burns, and residents suffered smoke inhalation when flames broke out on the second floor shortly after 5:30 a.m., the Chief said.

Much More To Follow. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/26/2015-0930 Hours

AND:

All,

The Cincinnati Enquirer printed a nice piece this morning about the events surrounding the tragic Line of Duty Death of beloved CFD Apparatus Operator/Firefighter Daryl Gordon, a man well known throughout the greater Cincinnati area and it's fire services.

BELOW you will also find a link to the edited radio traffic from the scene.

Here is the piece from the Enquirer with links below:

The radio call went out before dawn Thursday from inside the burning apartment building on Dahlgren Street. The fire was almost out, but something had gone wrong.

"Mayday! Mayday! Mayday! We have a firefighter down!"

Moments later, dozens of firefighters converged around an elevator on the building's second floor, where Daryl Gordon, a bear of a man known for his big smile and big laugh, had fallen down an elevator shaft. He'd tumbled from the fourth floor and was wedged between the elevator and the wall. He wasn't breathing when they pulled him out, so firefighters strapped him onto a stretcher and raced outside in the rain to an ambulance. No one spoke. The only sound was from the stretcher's wheels rolling and clanging over the pavement. Word came from the hospital more than an hour later: "A Cincinnati firefighter died in the line of duty this morning. Rest in peace, sir." Gordon's death in the Madisonville fire is the first line-of-duty fatality involving a Greater Cincinnati firefighter in almost seven years. The loss devastated Gordon's friends and family, moved fellow firefighters to tears, and set in motion an investigation into how a veteran with almost 30 years on the job fell into an open elevator shaft. "You hear the word 'hero' thrown around, but if there was truly a hero, he was it," said Matt Alter, president of the city firefighters' union. "What it was to be a firefighter, what it was to be a man, was Daryl Gordon. "He was a firefighter through and through."

Gordon arrived at the scene with dozens of other firefighters around 6 a.m. The building at 6020 Dahlgren, known as Kings Tower, has 38 apartments and all of them were occupied. The place is more than 50 years old and building inspectors have been chronicling problems there for at least a decade, from broken windows and doors to animals chewing through holes in ceilings.

Gordon, 54, was a fire apparatus operator, which means he drove a truck and ran the water pumps. But on this morning, he joined the team of firefighters that fanned out inside the burning building to do what's known as a "primary search" for victims - the dangerous job of going floor-by-floor, room-by-room looking for someone to rescue. They found plenty of people who needed help. The smoke was thick and many residents had fled to their balconies to escape it. "I heard someone hollering, 'Fire! Fire!'" said Arrick Reeves, who lives in the building. "I opened up my door and it was smoke-filled all in the hallway."

According to radio calls from the scene, firefighters moved quickly but methodically from door to door, evacuating residents. Within minutes, they reported the fire had been "knocked down," but heavy smoke remained throughout the building. That's when the mayday call went out, cutting off the routine radio chatter and launching a frantic search for Gordon. One firefighter reported he'd fallen from the fourth floor. Others said they'd opened the elevator door in the first floor lobby and spotted him stuck, on the second floor, between the elevator car and the wall.

"I need rescue units ASAP!" shouted one of the firefighters. "We have located the firefighter. He is not responsive." For the next several minutes, they worked frantically to free Gordon. After rushing him to the ambulance, many firefighters lingered in the parking lot in silence. The fire was out by then and all of the residents were safe. Five people, including another firefighter, suffered minor injuries. Most heard the bad news before official word came around 9 a.m. from the University of Cincinnati Medical Center's emergency room. Gordon was dead. "Today our firefighters did their jobs," Mayor John Cranley said a few hours later. "Women and children were carried out of the building to safety. When it was over, God delivered all our civilians to safety, but he kept a firefighter back. We know God is holding him tightly." Investigators went to work immediately. They offered up little information Thursday, other than that Gordon died from the fall.

"He was searching to see if there were more victims," said Fire Chief Richard Braun. "The elevator wasn't there and he fell down the elevator shaft." Why the elevator door was open is one of the big questions investigators must answer. Residents described the elevator as unreliable and said some refused to use it because it was "iffy." One said the outer door to the elevator looked like a regular apartment door and, in the smoke and darkness, could have been confusing for someone unfamiliar with it. It's also possible Gordon or other firefighters forced open the interior sliding door to the elevator while searching for possible fire victims.

The building's Boston-based owner, The Community Builders Inc., said the elevator was inspected and serviced in February and the building had passed recent safety inspections. The Enquirer has requested fire inspection reports, but those were unavailable Thursday. The most recent building inspection violation came in October 2013, when water in the building had been cut off for at least four days. City officials promised more details Friday. For most of Thursday, though, they grieved the loss of a friend. Gordon left a wife and two daughters, and plenty of admirers in the Cincinnati Fire Department. "He was a giant teddy bear," Alter said. "He always had a big smile. He had a burly laugh. He was good people." Braun said Gordon was popular with veteran firefighters and an example to rookies. "He will be sorely missed," the chief said. In the hours after Gordon was rushed to the hospital, residents gathered in the parking lot of the building. None had ever met Gordon, but they grieved for him, too. He was a stranger who rushed into a burning building to save their lives. Someone who does that should be remembered, they said. And honored. "I send my prayers out to him and the family," Reeves said. "That's a heck of a thing, to lose your life like that, trying to save others."

HERE IS THE ENTIRE ARTICLE: <http://tinyurl.com/p7zos79>

HERE IS THE EDITED RADIO TRAFFIC:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21_3UzmMOY4

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List

AND:

All,

A Fresno, California Fire Captain is in critical condition with 3rd degree burns after he fell through the roof of a single family dwelling fire. **Take time to watch this video** and consider size up, fire behavior /smoke conditions, building construction and roof operations-specially related to venting. <http://abc30.com/news/raw-video-firefighter-falls-through-roof-while-battling-fresno-house-fire/585413/>

Our prayers go out to the FFD and the Captain.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/30/2015-0700

AND:

All,

Below is a very informative news conference that will bring you up to speed on Fresno Fire Captain Pete Dern. As you will hear, he is in very critical condition, fighting for his life. Please keep him, his family and the Fresno FD in your thoughts and prayers.

=Note they are asking for blood donations. More details to follow.

=Watch for details HERE: www.fresnofirefighters.net

NEWS CONFERENCE UPDATE ON CAPTAIN DERN:

<http://youtu.be/Xtl9SZtjJbl>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/30/2015-2100

AND:

Hey,

An armed suspect is holding firefighters hostage inside a firehouse in Elkins Park (Montgomery County, PA-near Philly) It was around 1055 hours when Cheltenham Police were called out to the Lamott Fire House at Penrose Avenue and Graham Lane in Cheltenham. The Police Chief confirms that there is an armed subject inside of the firehouse holding fire fighters hostage. A media helicopter was over the scene as police detained one man. However, it is unclear if that person is a suspect, or if more suspects remain inside.

MORE HERE:

<http://6abc.com/news/firefighters-being-held-hostage-inside-elkins-park-firehouse/594355/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/31/2015-1130

AND:

All-

We regret to inform you of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Barry Van Horn, 63, of the Somerville, NJ FD. Firefighter Van Horn responded to a fire alarm call at 07:25 hours on March 25, 2015. After the call, he returned to his office to fill out the fire report of the incident (Firefighter Van Horn was also the municipal Fire Official). He felt ill, however, and went home. Shortly thereafter, around noon, Firefighter Van Horn suffered a heart attack. He was transported by ambulance to Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center where he remained until his death on March 27, 2015. Our condolences to his family and all affected by his death.

US Forestry Helicopter Crash at Controlled Burn

While not declared a LODD as of yet. 2 US Forestry Department Contractors died, and another was very critically injured while operating at helicopter that crashed yesterday at a controlled burn in Harrison Co. MS. Eddie Baggett, prescribed fire specialist for the Forest Service, said the three on the helicopter were contract workers. "We lost radio contact and somebody called me on the radio and said we may have an incident," Baggett said. "Usually, I'm talking to them all the time. We've got an ambulance on the way. Baggett lost contact with the crew shortly before 3 p.m. A LifeFlight medevac helicopter arrived near the scene about 4 p.m. EMT units with American Medical Response were seen transporting one of the victims into the helicopter. Members of the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration will arrive on scene today to begin an investigation, Hargrove said. The controlled burn involved 800 acres along the Harrison and Stone county lines. Sullivan said fire crews were called in from several areas, including Keesler Air Force Base, to extinguish some remaining hot spots in the area. As of Monday evening, officials had not yet confirmed the identities of the victims or the cause of the crash.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/31/2015-1930

AND:

Hey,

In the early 70's I worked with a great Chief named Eddie Bennett. While no doubt he was a real character, a WW II veteran from the Greatest Generation, he knew the job and was highly respected on the fireground. He was as old school as old school gets with many "Eddie-isms" that many of us still remember today. For example, when the tones went off he would yell "**heeeere weeeeeeee go!**" in a way only he could bark it - I could fill pages with all his ism's....but since today is the 7th anniversary of the Line of Duty deaths of Ohio Fire Captain Robin Broxterman and FF Brian Shira, I wanna share ONE Eddie-ism with you:

"It's always a fire until we get there and decide what we have--so act like it"

What he was talking about is when there is a run, automatic alarm, reported smoke, a reported fire....act as if it is going to be the WORST CASE scenario and be prepared for it...well before the run comes in **and** then WHEN the run comes it. If the dispatcher says the caller states the fire is out- **IT IS NOT OUT** until we, **the FIRE DEPARTMENT** gets there and determine that it is-or isn't.

If the dispatcher sends us out on an AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM, act as if there is a fire-UNTIL WE, **the FIRE DEPARTMENT** gets there and determines what it is....or isn't.

ITS ALWAYS A FIRE.

That's easy to say, but so many times it isn't. No one cares about that. If you're going to put up a garage up and hang a FIRE DEPARTMENT sign in front, ACT and BEHAVE like the FIRE DEPARTMENT. Apply discipline here.

7 years ago [today, April 4, 2008](#), Firefighters from Colerain Township (Hamilton County, OH near Cincinnati) responded to the type of fire dispatch that we all have turned out on many, many times. However, in this case, what was initially a reported automatic alarm-resulted in double Line of Duty Deaths of a Captain and one of her Firefighters.

While responding to the AFA, the dispatcher upgraded the run, indicating the occupants were reporting a working house fire. Not long after that Fire Captain Robin Broxterman, 37-years-old, a 17-year veteran career Firefighter and Paramedic, and Firefighter Brian Schira, 29-years-old, a 6 month probationary, part-time Firefighter and EMT with Colerain Township Fire & EMS both died in the Line of Duty after the floor they were on collapsed into the burning basement - at that dwelling fire.

Following that loss, the Colerain Township Fire/EMS Department issued a report (numerous document, audio and video links below) - as well as the NIOSH report - both with valuable details on what happened. **DO NOT** miss the chance to review these materials, including videos and share them with your crews. Critical details such as the importance of understanding that EVERY run could be a fire, how critical your size-up is, your 360 walk around and other information is of great value to any Firefighter and Officer. As we have seen in numerous other Firefighter deaths, as Colerain Fire Captain Steve Conn had stated **"There was not one major mistake that caused the death of our 2 Firefighters. There was a perfect storm, a combination several little things that hit all at the wrong time."** The Colerain reports have mattered in several cases, including the City of Defiance, Ohio, where FF's studied the report and following that-applied the lessons at a fire they responded to-and their scene operations were positively altered due to what they learned from Colerain. DEFIANCE FIRE INFO: <http://tinyurl.com/d8samzk>

THE COLERAIN FIRE, REPORTS & VIDEOS:

It was on [April 4, 2008](#), that Firefighters from Colerain Township's companies responded initially to what was a reported automatic alarm. While responding, the dispatcher upgraded the run with additional companies (including auto mutual aid), indicating the occupants were reporting a working house fire. Not long after that Fire Captain Robin Broxterman, 37-years-old, a 17-year veteran career firefighter and paramedic, and Firefighter Brian Schira, 29-years-old, a 6 month probationary, part-time Firefighter and EMT with Colerain Township (Ohio) Fire & EMS **both died in the Line of Duty after the floor they were on collapsed into the burning basement at that dwelling fire.**

==HERE is the NIOSH Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200809.html>

==HERE is the Colerain Township FD Report, Radio Traffic And Related Details:
<http://www.colerain.org/department/fire/lodd/>

SEVERAL IMPORTANT RELATED VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRWm0OnoOPo> (Initial Scene Interview)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGB4yKsXOi8> (Initial Media Report)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2dsAzikvBw> (Coroners Report Video)

<http://tinyurl.com/cnwp7e6> (Media)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oelWuAkmoc> (Media)

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4-4-2015](#), 1014 Hours

AND:

95 YEAR OLD ACTIVE FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN DEATH

We regret to pass on to you the reported Line of Duty Death of Edgely Fire Company (Bucks County, PA) Fire Police Captain Doster. He complained of not feeling well while on the scene of a two-alarm warehouse fire in Hulmeville Borough. FPO Doster was directing traffic on a bitterly cold evening with much of the main street of the borough closed for fire operations. Shortly thereafter, Doster departed for home. Within a few hours, Doster's condition worsened and he was transported to the hospital for treatment. Subsequently, on [April 2](#), 2015, Fire Police Captain Doster passed away at St. Mary's Medical Center. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

WATER WAY LAUNCHED OFF AERIAL LADDER...Remembering Mike Crotty

On [April 8](#), 2008, the Deputy Chief of the Lawrence Park Township VFD (Erie County, PA) Mike Crotty, was tragically killed in the Line of Duty. Companies were on the mutual aid run, for the working factory fire to the Harbor Creek VFD, when the Lawrence Park aerial ladder had a catastrophic failure when a portion of the waterway and master stream separated from the main ladder, flying out and falling, striking the Deputy Chief, who was operating in a command role. The device had a pinnable waterway (un-pinned) and it was flowing water at the time of the failure. Chief Crotty was recently hired as a Career Firefighter for the nearby City of Erie, F.D.

HERE is the NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200812.html>

ERIE, PA THIS WEEKEND:

Public Safety Expo in Erie [this Saturday](#) at the Bayfront Convention Center-hope to cya there:

Details HERE: <http://www.eriepromotions.com/Public-Safety/Default.aspx>

NEXT WEEK-WASHINGTON, DC:

https://www.cfsi.org/events/annual_dinner.cfm

On [April 15-16](#), 2015, CFSI will once again host the annual gathering of fire service leaders in Washington, DC. The theme of the program is "The Future Depends on Informed Leaders." As fire service leaders, we understand the importance of knowledge. It enables us to make the right decisions and helps us to influence decisions made by others. By attending this program, you will gain new knowledge about the federal government and have the opportunity to share your own knowledge with key decision makers in Washington, DC. This experience will not only benefit you, but the entire fire and emergency services. Don't miss it-it is NOT too late to register!

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/8/2015](#)-1837 Hours

AND:

Hey...

As we all get ready to head to Indy for FDIC, just a note of THANKS to those of you that have purchased the book "**PASS IT ON-What We Know, What We Want You To know**"...as so far we have raised over \$30,000.00 for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Chief Ray Downey Scholarship. *Not too shabby*. An equal and sincere thanks to the 99 fire service veterans who wrote chapters in the book..... They are all listed here: www.PassItOnFire.com

Many of the PASS IT ON book contributors will be at FDIC, and will be together, at the Fire Engineering Book Store for book signing opportunities. I personally look forward to seeing many of you at the bookstore as well.

SPECIAL NOTE: At the NFFF Stop Drop Rock and Roll, where each year we auction of some phenomenal prizes at a GREAT party...this year we have something really cool. THANKS to the staff at the NFFF, they have **FOUR COPIES** of "Pass It On" that every contributor has signed. ALL 99 CONTRIBUTORS have signed their sections making these four books something really special. **PLEASE JOIN US THURSDAY EVENING at the Stop, Drop, Rock & Roll Party to bid on each of these four special editions of the book.**

FDIC NOTE:

There are so many outstanding FDIC SOCIAL EVENTS and we try to make them all....FDIC after hours activities have come a long way since our first FDIC in 1977!

We do want to point out one very special event you WILL want to attend: **COMEDY VS CANCER!** It's the annual FDIC Firefighter Cancer Support Network Comedy Night!

Please join us **TUESDAY EVENING** at The Marriott at 1930 Hours (the perfect event following two days of HOT classes and workshops) to support THE organization that support the firefighters and their families dealing with cancer: **THE FIREFIGHTERS # 1 ENEMY.**

DETAILS HERE: http://www.firefightercancersupport.org/event/fdic_comedy_event/

More #FDIC special event related notes in the days coming.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 4/8/2015-2200 Hours

AND:

All,

Like everyone that heard the news [yesterday](#), we were shocked to hear that Chief Glenn Gaines (former Fairfax County, Virginia Fire Chief) and current Deputy United States Fire Administrator passed away very suddenly. He was outside mowing his lawn when he went down. Neighbors saw him and immediately called 9-1-1, and started CPR. Loudoun County Fire Rescue responded forthwith and attempted advanced life support measures but in spite of all these efforts, Glenn had passed away. It was such a privilege to be friends with this true gentleman, who was an absolute firefighters firefighter. We worked as fire service neighbors but also when he became involved at the Federal level. We also spent some social time together as well. This was one good guy. He was definitely a "bridger" between "old school" and "new school". I'm not sure that "bridger" is a word-but he was able to respect and represent the old ways-while significantly creating and causing the new ways.

My first impression of him was a bit intimidating. See, he was a quiet man who spoke when something needed to be said. And he was a listener. So while I was trying to "read" him - little did I know that he was far from a man who would be intimidating-but one that was simply a quiet and very intelligent listening leader, who, when he had something to say, the room stopped and listened. Everyone listened when Glenn had something to say. Glenn was hilarious, in his subtle, dry way, his comments, thoughts and observations about life and firefighters would make you burst out laughing--funny stuff that you rarely saw coming. Something else you wouldn't see coming-his ability to bench press over

300 lbs and he was a gold medal winner at the Police and Fire Games.

Chief Glenn Gaines served with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue for 35 years, and climbed the ladder from Firefighter to Fire Marshal, Training Chief and Operations Chief to become Chief 1991. He started as a volunteer Firefighter at the Dunn Loring VFD, Fairfax Fire Rescue Station 13, where he was a life member. He retired in 1998. So many others will be writing about his professional accomplishments, such as his well known expertise in USAR, structural firefighting...and if you have ever received a FIRE ACT grant--it is because he was behind the development of it. He literally impacted nearly every Firefighter in the USA, North America...and beyond. He wrote what many consider the bible of structural firefighter, specifically: **FIREFIGHTING IN TOWNHOUSES AND GARDEN APARTMENTS** - <http://tinyurl.com/mxxjzh2>

We were also thrilled when he offered to write his chapter in the book, **PASS IT ON-What We Know-What We Want You To Know**Glenn's life was defined as one who always passed his experiences and knowledge on---so everyone could gain, from Glenn Gaines. This **good man** made such a positive, unselfish and beyond measurable difference to everyone that has ever crawled a hallway--and through us, to those that we serve as well. We owe him by never forgetting what we are here for--by preparing, training and helping people when they are having their worst day, regardless of the circumstances.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/13/2015-0800 hours](#)

AND:

SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER LODD-HOUSE FIRE

We regret to pass on to you that a Firefighter has been killed in the Line of Duty, and a resident is also dead after a house fire in Brandon (near Sioux Falls) **last night**. Initial reports are that the fire was reported at 2208 hours at 109 W. Fir St. One resident was still inside the home. At 2210 hours, police reported heavy smoke from the garage and at 2235 hours: Firefighters brought a man out of the home. He was taken to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, where he was declared dead. At 2241 hours all Firefighters were ordered to evacuate the structure and at 2301 hours one Valley Springs Volunteer Fire Department firefighter was reported missing after not responding to a roll call. The missing Firefighter was found dead in the basement of the home at around 0130 hours. The deceased homeowner is David Smith, 37. Our condolences to all those affected-RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/13/2015-0815 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

Today is the 9th anniversary of the Line of Duty Death of New Jersey Firefighter/Foreman Kevin Apuzzio...**who gave his life while attempting to save the life of a trapped civilian.**

There are times where we take risks and there is **no reason** to do what we did...and it was obvious even beforehand. Sometimes we find ourselves so off the scale of doing something so ridiculous (sometimes just 'cause we 'wanna) that we are just thankful we got away with it-or didn't. We freelance, we don't size-up, we ignore officers orders-it happens.

However, there are times where we absolutely must do what we are expected to do--when the

conditions indicate that we, the FIREFIGHTERS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, must do whatever it takes, to take the risk to do the right thing in helping people who count us as **their last resort**. That happens too. While many absolutely are, NOT EVERY LODD is avoidable.

Below are the factual details from the Incident Commander....Chief Danny Krushinski (who is featured in the book "PASS IT ON") of the East Franklin (NJ) FD, about the fire where Kevin gave his life in the Line of Duty as a true hero :

"....On April 11th, 2006, many of our lives changed in a heartbeat, especially the life of 21 year old Firefighter Kevin Apuzzio. Kevin stood courageous on the front lawn of 36 Whittier Avenue and said "Chief, what do you need my crew and I to do?" I Said "Kevin, go in and get her." While it only seems like **yesterday**, to me it is still clear as day. With a house full of smoke and an elderly women trapped, Kevin did not hesitate and attempted to rescue her. I knew when the floor collapsed and my Firefighters fell into that basement from that point forward, their lives along with many others would be changed forever. While several were seriously injured and burned, Kevin lost his life with the victim he and his Brothers were valiantly trying to save.

UNDERSTAND THE FIRE DETAILS:

On **April 11**, 2006, Foreman Kevin Apuzzio died while he and four members of the East Franklin VFD selflessly and heroically attempted to rescue 75-year-old Betty Scott from a single family dwelling fire. Foreman Apuzzio died when he became trapped after falling through a floor that collapsed into a well involved basement....he fell just a few feet from the front door - with Mrs Scott in hand. Mrs. Scott also died in the fire as Kevin and crew, just a few feet from the front door, were attempting to remove her. It is sadly but widely acknowledged, that most FF LODD's can clearly be prevented. **However, in this case, it is documented that Kevin died while he and his crew were heroically attempting a rescue - that based upon conditions and size up, was the right thing to do.**

We take a moment to again remember Kevin, the Apuzzio Family (Kevin's Dad, Dr. Joe Apuzzio also wrote a chapter in the book "PASS IT ON") and the members of the East Franklin FD, along with all area FD's that were impacted by the Line of Duty Death of Kevin. Rest in Peace.

====HERE is the FIRE / LODD REPORT:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dfs/reports/eastfranklin.pdf>

====HERE is the EFFD Website: <http://www.station27.com/>

====HERE IS RELATED VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w05Y6saNYEw>

RIP

NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER LODD WIDOW FILES WRONGFUL DEATH

LAWSUIT: "QUESTIONING ANYONE THAT HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE FIRE"

The widow of Inwood, Long Island, NY Firefighter Joseph Sanford Jr., who died in the Line of Duty after being found in the basement of a Woodmere house fire, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit, according to media. Jacqueline Scott-Sanford, of Inwood, filed a suit seeking unspecified damages. The suit will involve questioning "the owner, general contractor ... and anyone who had anything to do with the fire," Garden City attorney Christopher McGrath. Sanford was a 17-year veteran of the Inwood FD when he died in December. While responding to a mutual aid house fire in Woodmere, Sanford fell through the first floor, he never regained consciousness and died Dec. 23 at the age of 43. On **Tuesday**, the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation announced it would take over monthly payments on the family's \$300,000 mortgage.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-11-15 / 0700 Hours

AND:

INMATE FIREFIGHTER LODD-HEART ATTACK AT TRAINING

A Riverside County jail inmate serving as a state firefighter has died from a heart attack suffered during a training exercise last week. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Inmate Firefighter, 37-year-old Raymond Araujo went into full cardiac arrest during the training on the Morongo Indian Reservation near Banning. He was airlifted to a base camp, where he was declared dead after medics couldn't resuscitate him. Araujo died **Monday**, but word was withheld while his family was notified. Our condolences to all affected.

ABOUT INMATE FIREFIGHTERS:

HERE:

<http://blogs.kqed.org/science/2014/07/25/california-leans-heavily-on-thousands-of-inmate-firefighters/>

HERE: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Conservation_Camps/

IS THE NFPA LISTENING?

It's not hard to find any of us being seemingly annoyed that the NFPA doesn't listen to what FIREFIGHTERS have to say. Actually, they do-and do more than ever-especially since input via the internet makes it easy for NFPA committees to truly represent what FIREFIGHTERS need...not just the few at a table. Surveys like this are a great way to insure that a truly diverse range of input is provided to the NFPA committees...hopefully all fire service related NFPA committees will follow this example regularly.

THIS WILL TAKE YOU 2 MINUTES:

The NFPA committee on Structural Fire Protective Clothing (your bunker gear) is seeking input from firefighters-this wont take more than a moment-so let them know what you think.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FiregroundLiquidExposure>

TAKE TIME TO SPEAK UP so those making the decisions have the facts from firefighters..

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/15/2015-0730 Hours](#)

AND:

All,

FUNERAL DETAILS FOR CHIEF GLENN GAINES:

The viewing will be held on **Thursday, April 16th** from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the McLean Bible Church (8925 Leesburg Pike; Vienna, VA). Funeral services for Chief Gaines will be held on **Friday, April 17th** at 11:00 a.m., also at the McLean Bible Church.

SOUTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH UPDATE/VIDEO:

As you know, Valley Springs Fire & Rescue Firefighter Steve Ackerman, 38 was killed in the Line of Duty late **last night** at a working house fire while on a mutual aid fire call in the nearby town of Brandon. Following an accountability check, it was discovered he was missing. Below is some excellent coverage of local media including video and interviews with the fire chief.

VIDEO HERE:

<http://www.argusleader.com/story/news/crime/2015/04/13/two-dead-including-firefighter-brandon-house-fire/25702907/>

RIP.

"I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!"

May 10, 2015

www.chabotfire.com

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PARAMEDICS & FIREFIGHTERS STRUCK....

Ten years ago this week, Fort Worth (Texas) MedStar EMS Medic 55 and Fort Worth FD Firefighters were involved in an MCI involving their own crew, while they were operating at a crash scene. **LISTEN to the radio traffic below.** Within two minutes of their initial arrival, another vehicle hydroplaned and slammed into the original crash scene critically injuring 5 crew members, requiring multiple EMS, fire units as well as medevacs.. Thankfully, all crew members survived (albeit with very critical, life threatening injuries) due to the actions of the others on duty that day.

As you will hear, there are a lot of emotional and physiological factors at play during an event like this. We can all learn from different bits and pieces of this audio.

The Paramedic struck is Selena Schmidt, who wrote a chapter in the book "PASS IT ON-What We Know, What We Want You To Know"

=="I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE IT" Article about this incident:

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10506388/i-am-not-going-to-make-it-part-1>

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10507040/i-am-not-going-to-make-it-part-2>

==LISTEN TO THE RADIO TRAFFIC: (please share with your dispatchers)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dic_XpqueJg&feature=youtu.be

==For additional followup, check out these NO COST highway survival training programs HERE:

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

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/13/2015-2000 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

You don't have to go very far these days to find discussions related to fireground operations, tactics, command and control. They'll be as active as ever this week at CFSI and **especially** next week at FDIC! Can't wait! You also don't have to go far to find opinions on the above-which is a good thing. What is hard to find, at times, is actual fact. Fact about what might or could happen. Especially what might happen at **YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

How do you really KNOW how, what, why or when our fire department may or may not act based upon the given circumstances. How do you KNOW your first alarm assignments are adequate?

- ***How do you KNOW your first alarm staffing matches the fire?***
- ***How do you KNOW how a line will be stretched?***
- ***How do you KNOW you will have adequate water supply?***
- ***How do you KNOW your officers are able to size up, in order to make the correct decisions?***
- ***How do you KNOW the members know what venting will-or will not do?***

A departments leadership may "feel" that things will go a certain way-or even "know" based upon the last run. The issue is, quite simply, do we KNOW how VULNERABLE our fire departments (and those we protect) are in day to day operations, tactics, training and the other stuff that makes up a FD?

May 10, 2015

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Determining your fire department and community vulnerability has been a guessing game in the past, with only a few, very limited tools that can be used to measure what the FD does right-or doesn't do right-or may not be able to do right. City hall dwellers (elected and appointed local gov't folks) challenge the chief and challenge labor to "PROVE" the needs. Emotional presentations do not have a history of being successful. It's all about fact these days.

There is, however now, a NO COST tool developed by firefighters for firefighters that allows a fire commissioner, a chief or organization leadership to determine where their department really is. Take time NOW to understand how this FREE online tool can help cut out the BS and prove the needs of your department. This tool was developed with active participation from the major fire service organizations including IAFF, IAFC, MVFC, ISFSI, FDSOA with the NFFF and many others.

CLICK HERE for an overview of VAP: <https://www.firevap.org/system/overview>

CLICK HERE to sign in and start the process: <https://www.firevap.org/>

VAP helps leaders, members and elected officials cut through the emotion and get to the facts on WHY a fire department must be properly funded, staffed, trained and lead. **It is FREE.** Take advantage of it ASAP. There's nothing to be afraid of, you'll get factual information about your own FD... and it will provide you with loads to gain.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/15/2015-2000 hours](#)

AND:

All,

As you are hopefully aware, Fire Technician (Firefighter) Kyle Wilson of the Prince William County (VA, Washington DC suburb) Department of Fire & Rescue was killed in the Line of Duty when he horrifically but heroically gave his life at a single family dwelling fire on **April 16, 2007**. **Today** is the anniversary of his Line of Duty death.

PLEASE take time to check out the links below that include video access, slides, photos and graphs to help you-and your crew understand this fire.

===WHAT HAPPENED SUMMARY:

Technician Kyle Robert Wilson was 24-years old when he joined the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue on **January 23, 2006**.

Kyle horrifically died in the line of duty on **April 16, 2007** while performing search and rescue operations at a house fire on Marsh Overlook Drive. On that day, Technician Wilson was part of the firefighter staffing on Tower 512 which responded to the house fire that was dispatched at 0603 hours. The Prince William County area was under a high wind advisory as a nor'easter storm moved through the area. Sustained winds of 25 mph with gusts up to 48 mph were prevalent in the area at the time of the fire dispatch to Marsh Overlook Drive.

Initial arriving units reported heavy fire on the exterior of two sides of the single family house and

crews suspected that the occupants were still inside the house sleeping because of the early morning hour. A search of the upstairs bedroom commenced for the possible victims.

A rapid and catastrophic change of fire and smoke conditions occurred in the interior of the house within minutes of Tower 512's crew entering the structure. Technician Wilson became trapped and was unable to locate an immediate exit out of the hostile environment. Mayday radio transmissions were made by crews and by Technician Kyle Wilson of the life-threatening situation. Valiant and repeated rescue attempts to locate and remove Technician Wilson were made by the firefighting crews during extreme fire, heat and smoke conditions.

Firefighters were forced from the structure as the house began to collapse on them and intense fire, heat and smoke conditions developed. Technician Wilson succumbed to the fire and the cause of death was reported by the medical examiner to be thermal and inhalation injuries.

We take time out to remember the loss of Fire Technician Kyle Wilson---and provide the below links to learn about the fire, an excellent way to honor his life for all FF's.

===PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE RELATED DOCUMENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

<http://www.pwcgov.org/government/dept/FR/Pages/Technician-I-Kyle-Wilson-LODD-Report.aspx>

===NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200712.html>

===PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FIRE REPORT:

http://www.iaff.org/hs/LODD_Manual/LODD%20Reports/Prince%20William%20County,%20VA%20-%20Wilson.pdf

===KYLE WILSON MEMORIAL VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUo_Z-zwZtU

*****KYLE WILSON MEMORIAL FUNDRAISING AND MORE DETAILS ABOUT KYLE*****

www.kylewilsonmemorial.com

RELATED:

AT FDIC NEXT WEEK: SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING FIRES:

Next week at FDIC, in "The Big Room Session" at 1030 on **Thursday** morning (right after the opening session) there will be a presentation on structural firefighting. As a part of that, the **"5 years later"** story of the dwelling fire in Homewood, Illinois that tragically took the life of FF Brian Carey will be shared by the Chief of the HFD. Here is the NIOSH report of that fire.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201010.html>

FDIC Session Title: Fireground Size-Up, Command, Control, Accountability, and Survival: Darn ! It Didn't Go Well, But Why?

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/16/2015-2015 Hours](#)

AND:

NEBRASKA FIREFIGHTER LODD AT SCENE

A Dakota City Fire and Rescue volunteer Firefighter collapsed and died while preparing to leave the scene of a fire **Thursday** evening. Emergency responders on the scene made numerous attempts to revive Andrew "Andy" Zalme without success, the release said. The exact cause of death wasn't known and will require medical tests. Zalme, 42, a longtime member of the department, was with

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crews that had responded to a fire on Highway 35. The Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association said in a statement he will be greatly missed by the organization and the city. Survivors include his wife, Bobbi, and three children. Funeral arrangements were pending [Friday](#). KTIYP's. RIP.
BillyG

The Secret List [4/18/2015-0800 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

5 Firefighters from the Central Bell Fire Rescue volunteer fire department have been transported to a Scott & White Hospital in Temple after their fire apparatus rolled over on FM 439 near Belton [last night](#). 2 Firefighters are reported to be in critical condition with traumatic injuries and 3 were expected to be late [last night](#) or early [this morning](#). 2 civilians were also reported injured. Central Bell County Fire Rescue is a volunteer fire department that operates out of Nolanville not far from Waco. KTIYP's-we'll keep you advised.

Take Care, Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/18/2015-0700 Hours](#)

AND:

==3 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FOLLOWING FIRE IN A SILO-FIRE CHIEF'S SON AMONG THE FALLEN

3 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty late [yesterday](#) in the City of Minga Guazú, where they responded [this morning](#) to continue cooling after a fire [yesterday](#). The area is in Paraguay, in Central South America. The members who lost their lives are FF's Ronald Aguilera, Arnaldo Gonzalez and Saturnino Riveros. **The latter is the son of the Commander of the Fire Department of Minga Guazú, Syriac Riveros, who was also at the scene, was injured but was rescued alive.** The four Firefighters responded to the silo for some post-fire tasks. The fire, which started at 16:00, was knocked down, but required a lot of overhaul and continued cooling. The company was on site and operating when they fell to the dryer and became trapped, according to preliminary reports, indicating they had suffocated. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

==UPDATE: TEXAS FIRE APPARATUS CRASH-FIREFIGHTERS REMAIN CRITICAL-FIRE DEPT MUTUAL AID EMS UNIT CRASHES WHILE RESPONDING TO THE APPARATUS CRASH-ALL MEMBERS OK

2 Firefighters remain in critical condition following a series of crashes on a stretch of rural Texas road [Friday](#), that involved several vehicles including a fire truck and a responding ambulance. The Officer was reportedly ejected and members were trapped under the apparatus. 5 Firefighters were trapped after their truck overturned following a collision with a pickup truck that drove through an intersection. **NOTE:** An ambulance from the Killeen FD whose crew was en route to the crash scene (with other KFD companies) was also involved in an accident. Road conditions at the time were wet.

We have posted additional pictures on the www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com home page.

HERE IS VIDEO FROM THE APPARATUS CRASH SCENE:

<http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Local-Firefighters-Trapped-After-Major-Traffic-Accident-300389681.html>

KTIYP's.

==WTF FREE AT FDIC!

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Our World Famous (No, really.) FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALLS WTF (Well Trained Firefighters) Stickers Are Yours For Free At FDIC. Just stop by Booth #132

==ADD'L IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF NOTE FOR FDIC:

ISFSI Fire Instructors Social Mo's A Place for Steaks, 15 East Maryland Street

Time: Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

ISFSI will be giving away thousands of dollars in door prizes at this event. This social and the subsequent giveaways are the Society's way of thanking its membership and welcoming new members. Not currently an ISFSI member? The Society is also welcoming you to join at the door for an intro membership fee. If you are an ISFSI member or part of the FDIC teaching staff or wish to join that evening, make this a must. It's is an excellent opportunity for instructors to network with outstanding food, drinks, and amazing door prizes. Come by to see your friends and make new ones!

Sponsored by Honeywell & Scott Safety.

FIRE INSTRUCTORS MEETING

ISFSI Annual Meeting (FREE Lunch Provided) Room Sagamore 7

Friday, April 24, 2015, 1:00 p.m.

ISFSI invites you to attend the 2015 spring membership meeting and luncheon free of charge! Participate in the only international membership organization representing the interest of fire service instructors. This meeting is open to all current ISFSI members and those wishing to obtain membership. We will be giving away thousands of dollars in door prizes that all in attendance will be eligible for if you are a member. Come join us and wrap up FDIC International 2015 with ISFSI!

ADDITIONAL DETAILS RE: FDIC:

The Secret List/FireFighterCloseCalls crew members are looking forward to seeing you.

Here are some of our crew members activities:

Monday 4/20/15 -HOT WORKSHOPS

0800-1200 - ISFSI Principles of Modern Fire Attack - Train the Trainer - Brian Kazmierzak

0800-1200 - Instructor and Training Officer Boot Camp - Forest Reeder and Rudy Horist

Tuesday 4/21/15 -HOT WORKSHOPS

0800-1200 - Survival: Why Things Went Right and Why They Went Horribly Wrong - Billy Goldfeder and Gordon Graham

0800-1200 - Building the Ladder - Officer Development Programs - Forest Reeder and Rudy Horist

1330-1730 - ISFSI Instructor Development Clinic - Forest Reeder, Rudy Horist, Brian Kazmierzak

Wednesday 4/22/15 -

1030-1215 - Preplanning for a Wildland Event: A Technology Based Community Approach - Seth Barker

1330-1515 - The Five Most Dangerous Places - Forest Reeder

Thursday 4/23/15 -BIG ROOM SESSION

1020-1215 - Fireground Size-Up, Command, Control, Accountability, and Survival: Darn! It Didn't Go Well, Why? - Billy Goldfeder with guest Bob Grabowski-Chief of Homewood IL.

Friday 4/24/15 -

0830-1015 - MayDay for Mental Health - Pat Kenny

1100-1200 - Pass it On Book Signing At Fire Engineering Booth

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

AND:

FF FALLS FROM FIRE TRUCK - NO SEAT BELT

Officials say a broken door latch is to blame for injuries to an Arnold firefighter who tumbled from a truck on the way to a fire call [Tuesday](#) morning. Arnold's overall fire chief, J.C. Tedorski, said the injured volunteer was treated and released from Allegheny Valley Hospital in Harrison and was advised to see a shoulder specialist. "Fortunately, the firefighter was wearing his helmet and other gear, but he still received a head laceration and a shoulder injury," Tedorski said. "It was a catastrophic failure of the door latch," O'Leath said. He said the truck was turning from Drey Street onto Kenneth Avenue when the door flew open. "We were going only 8 to 10 miles per hour, so it wasn't at high speed. But it was just enough for him to fall out."

WEARING OF SEAT BELTS WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS INCIDENT!

OH FF INJURED IN WALL COLLAPSE

A Marion firefighter was seriously injured [last night](#) battling a blaze in the city's downtown. The firefighter was hurt in the lower leg while combatting the fire on N. Vine Street, a Marion dispatcher said. The firefighter's injury came when a brick wall collapsed, WBNS-TV reported. The injured firefighter was transported to OhioHealth Grant Medical Center in Columbus. The blaze affected a brick building and an adjacent house. WBNS-TV reported the brick building was vacant, and that the residents of the house were not at home when the fire erupted.

FIRE - KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE GRANT PROJECT

The City of Ottawa Fire Services is leading the development of an evidence-based fire dynamics training (FDT) curriculum that will assist in closing current critical knowledge and capability gaps. This training will be incorporated into Canadian firefighting training certification standards for adoption and use by all fire services in Canada. Ottawa Fire Services is partnering with the Calgary Fire Department; Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal; and Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency. Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Canadian Safety and Security Program (CSSP) has funded the project with a \$1.2 million dollar grant and the project has an additional \$2.8 million in-kind funding from participants and industry partners. The DRDC-CSSP mandate is to strengthen Canada's ability to anticipate, prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism, crime, natural disasters, and serious accidents through the convergence of science and technology with policy, operations and intelligence.

This project addresses gaps between the science of fire dynamics and current firefighting strategies and tactics, translating knowledge into practice and resulting in safer and more effective fire-related emergency and disaster mitigation. The project goals are to reduce social, economic, environmental, legal and life-safety risks and impacts due to fire through the development of a collaborative, evidence-based fire dynamics curriculum, and safe, realistic live fire training tools. The project will confirm theory and make it accessible to front-line workers, confronting a wide range of existing, inaccurate and potentially dangerous assumptions and replacing them with complex, often non-intuitive research findings in a valid and reliable way. Project transition to the operational level will occur through new industry standards, endorsed curriculum and validated technologies. These outcomes will inform fire service investment decisions, policies, procedures and practices nationally and internationally and present innovative commercial development opportunities for industry.

The project has received widespread support from the international fire service community, including: the Canadian Council of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners; the Canadian Fire Service

Education, Training and Certification Council; the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Fire Fighters; the Ottawa Professional Fire Fighters Association; the Association des Pompiers de Montréal; the Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association; the National Research Council of Canada; the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG U.S. Department of State); Underwriters Laboratories; the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the Ontario Association of Fire Training Officers; the North American Fire Training Directors; the International Fire Service Training Association; International Society of Fire Service Instructors; and the National Fire Protection Association; the University of Waterloo; Carleton University; Algoma University; and the University of Toronto; and fire services from the United States (FDNY, Columbus Division of Fire, L.A. County), Australia (Brisbane - QFRS, Sidney - NSWFB) Belgium (Brussels), England (Lancashire Fire & Rescue), France (Yvelines), Germany (Frankfurt), Ireland (Dublin), Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Sweden.

Industry partners include Bullard, Bullex, DQE Inc, Fire Engineering Magazine, Firefighter Close Calls.com, LION, Logistik Unicorp, Mercedes Textiles, MSA and Task Force Tips. Through this tremendous international collaborative effort it has been made possible that the curriculum and all project content will be made available free of charge internationally for adoption/adaptation by interested fire services and standards organizations. For further information contact the Project Manager: Peter.McBride@Ottawa.ca

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4/23/2015-1100 Hours](#)

AND:

ALABAMA RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

An Etowah County (NE of Birmingham) Rescue Squad member has died in the Line of Duty as a result of injuries during a search for a missing kayaker in an Etowah County creek. Squad Member Vicky Ryan, 46, died last night at Riverview Regional Medical Center. **Ryan, along with three rescue squad coworkers, was injured when two boats capsized during a search on Big Wills Creek.**

WHAT HAPPENED?

A 25-year-old man was out kayaking with family members about 1107 hours yesterday (Saturday) in Big Wills Creek when he was swept into the water. The man went missing near an old low head dam that was once used to pump water into the Gulf States steel mill nearby. The Etowah County Rescue Squad began a search, and employed two rescue boats. One of the boats got too close to the dam and was swept over the side. The second boat soon followed and nine Rescue Squad workers were cast into the creek. Members of the Gadsden Fire Department and the Etowah County Sheriff's Office assisted in rescue efforts. One other worker was taken to Riverview, and two more to Gadsden Regional Medical Center. Fire medics have still not located the missing kayaker. Members will maintain a presence in the area overnight and resume searching tomorrow, but will not attempt any more recovery efforts tonight. Water levels were already high at the creek because of spring rains, which also made the current especially dangerous. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

TWO APPARATUS CRASHES IN MARYLAND

Last night there were two apparatus crashes in Prince Georges County, MD. The first one, early this morning, involved an overturned engine company (827) out of the Morningside firehouse. A bit later, heavy rescue squad (806) out of the Spingdale firehouse collided with a passenger car at Route 202 and Arena Drive in Largo. One Firefighter and a civilian suffered NLT injuries. We have some photos on our home page.

They'll be more details posted HERE: <http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/>

LAME APPARATUS EXCUSES

We wanted to share these dead on comments with you from an old friend of FFCC, veteran Firefighter and Police officer Chris Daly, from www.DriveToSurvive.org

Check it out:

I just read an article about a firefighter who fell out of a truck while it was responding to a call. The incident itself is disturbing on many levels, but what disturbed me more was the comments and discussions that were generated on social media in reference to the use of seatbelts. Let's get one thing straight. For anyone who defends the NON-USE of seatbelts, you're an idiot. Yes...I said it...an idiot. The fire service has tried to gently get you fools to wear your seatbelt for years now, but that approach just isn't working. So here you go...you're an idiot. Now, allow me to immediately put to rest the comments that are about to manifest themselves under this post. I've been a firefighter for 25 years. I've served as nozzleman, Captain, Battalion and Assistant Chief. I've driven to fires, I've fought fires and believe it or not, I figured out how to put my airpack and my seatbelt on at the same time. It's not rocket science.

I've also spent 18 years as a police officer, reconstructing thousands of serious and fatal vehicle crashes, some of which involved emergency vehicles. I have a Master's Degree in Safety, having worked for several years in the private industry conducting OSHA-type safety audits. And I've testified in real-life court trials as an expert witness on the proper operation of an emergency vehicle. In addition, I've taught the "DRIVE TO SURVIVE" emergency vehicle crash awareness seminar over 350 times to over 15,000 firefighters and emergency responders across the country. So to those of you who feel the need to troll the web saying that firefighters can't pack up and wear seatbelts at the same time, and anyone who says otherwise doesn't know what they're talking about...see above. You're an idiot.

If you can't put your seatbelt on around your gear, buy seatbelt extenders. They're easy to find. If you can't put your airpack on with your seatbelt on, practice. Or wait until you arrive. If it takes you longer than 15 seconds to sling a pack on your back as you hop out of the truck, you should probably revisit the fire school. If you're jumping off the truck with a fogged up mask to save a ½ second running to the front door, you're missing the big picture. Calm down, take a deep breath and size-up the building before you put your mask on. That's what real firemen do. Not keyboard warriors who graduated high school two years ago and have melted "NO FEAR" stickers on their helmets from crawling around a concrete fire school. I especially love the comments that say NFPA doesn't require drivers to make sure everyone has their belt on. I won't bore you with all the details because I'm pretty sure the guys who say this sort of thing have already stormed away from the keyboard or put down the smart phone by now, but let's just look at one of several standards that address this fact:

- NFPA [1500 \(6\)\(2\)\(5\)](#) - Drivers shall not move fire apparatus until all persons on the vehicle are seated and secured with seatbelts in approved riding positions, other than as specifically allowed in this chapter (there are no exemption provided anywhere in the chapter).
- NFPA [1500 \(6\)\(3\)\(2\)](#) - Seat belts shall not be released or loosened for any purpose while the vehicle is in motion, including the donning of respiratory protection equipment or protective clothing.
- NFPA [1451 \(8\)\(2\)\(7\)](#) - Drivers/Operators shall not move fire department vehicles until all persons on the vehicle are seated and secured with seat belts in approved riding positions, other than as specifically allowed in (8)(3)(3) (which addresses patient care in an ambulance).

So there you have it, NFPA makes it pretty clear that if you don't have your seatbelt on, the truck shouldn't move. If you claim the truck doesn't have seatbelts, the truck shouldn't be in service. I don't

care if it's a "loaner" truck, a reserve piece, or heaven forbid, a first out rig. If your fire truck doesn't have seatbelts, put it out of service. You can't do the job. Sorry. Tell your city hall dwellers to get off their wallets and install some seatbelts. I'm pretty sure a bake sale or a boot drive would cover the cost in a few hours. For those who think there are exemptions to the vehicle code regarding this matter, I can tell you this... no exemption in the vehicle code is going to help you as you fly out the window at 45 MPH. For those who may be making reference to the incident that generated this rant, I can tell you that unless you are a rural postal carrier in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you have no exemption for wearing your seatbelt. Last I checked, fire trucks don't carry mail.

So...if your nose is out of joint...good. I made my point. Yes, I'm sure your grandfather told you about his best friend Larry who would be dead today if he had been wearing that pesky seatbelt, but those instances are few and far between. There are tens of thousands more people who would be alive today if they had worn their seatbelts.

Stop making excuses, suck it up and make sure you go home to your family. Peace.

Thanks Chris.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 4/26/2015-1200 Hours

AND:

KANSAS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY: TURNING OUT

We regret to pass on to you that Fire Training Officer Mike Corm, 68, of the Conway Springs FD, died in the Line of Duty [yesterday](#), While putting on gear at the station preparing to respond on a fire call, Fire Training Officer Corn collapsed. Fellow Firefighters immediately provided medical assistance but Corn succumbed to his injury, the nature and cause of which is still to be determined. **F.T.O. Corn was retired from the Wichita FD, as a Battalion Chief.** Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 4/2/8/2015-1900 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Dallas fallen Fire Captain Stanley Wilson's widow, Jenny Wilson, has one simple wish after her husband's line-of-duty death: a fireground radio transmission recording system. But City Manager A.C. Gonzalez said yesterday that he can't guarantee that Jenny Wilson will get what she covets because the price tag could end up being too high. "If it's something that is very reasonable ... why not?" Gonzalez said. "If it's something that's very expensive, I'll have to look at what we are trading off for that - is that the best use of our money?" "In the absence of knowing what that's going to involve cost-wise, I don't know if that is something I can say we're going to do."

Nice thought out answer to the widow of a man that lost his life working for you, boss.

Recording on-scene radio transmissions was among the many recommendations by investigators following Captain Stanley Wilson's death on May 20, 2013, while operating at that building fire.

THIS ISNT THE FIRST TIME...as a system of recording fireground transmissions was also recommended - to no avail - after the 2011 line-of-duty death of Dallas Fire-Rescue Lt. Todd Krodle. **Stop the bullsh*t**---a system that records repeated or simplex radio transmissions won't break the

City-or most any other jurisdiction. It can be done through a central location or battalion chief buggies can be equipped with them...simple fireground recorders. And you don't even need to form a committee... As an example, I searched and found www.FireVideo.net and for much **less than \$200.00 each**, you can have a dash (or rear of command buggy) recorder with audio and video for every buggy-it can record over 10 hours and it automatically turns on.

So let's just say the "big D" has 9 battalions and a few other senior chiefs/safety officers etc per shift. So, for about \$2000.00 total, EVERY on-duty DFR buggy has a working, state of the art recorder. That's less than it will cost to buy lunch at the next city council meeting. Where there's a will, there's a way. **That was easy.** Either way, it's 2015 and it's ridiculous to not be able to go back and listen to fireground channels-after fires that went well or ones such as this one where Captain Wilson was tragically killed. Look, if we can go on the Internet and watch Freddie firefighter with his helmet cam stretch a booster line to a raging mulch bed on fire, fireground channels can be recorded right at the buggy. It may cost some a little money, but that's the price of putting a sign in front of a building and calling it the "**FIRE DEPT**"

Here is more:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20150429-dallas-official-request-of-firefighters-widow-will-come-down-to-cost.ece>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [4-30-2015-0830](#)

AND:

TENNESSEE FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT SCENE AFTER A TREE FALLS

We regret to pass on to you that a Madison County (Tennessee-NE of Memphis) Firefighter has traumatically died in the line of duty. While operating at an overnight vehicle fire at Highway 18 and Medon-Malesus Road last night. Firefighter Chris Blankenship was fatally injured when a tree unexpectedly fell on top of Firefighter Blankenship trapping him beneath the tree and the ground. Firefighter Blankenship was taken to Jackson-Madison County General Hospital after being administered first-aid on scene by fellow firefighters but later passed away at the hospital.. FF Blankenship was assigned to Fire Station #2, served 10 years with the department and leaves behind a wife, Ashley Chism Blankenship, and two children, Baily and Chase. Funeral arrangements are pending. More to follow. KTIYP's. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

MISSOURI FIREFIGHTER DIES WHILE RESPONDING

The Missouri Fire Services Funeral Team is assisting the Orchard Farm Fire District with Line of Duty Death services for a member who died this morning while responding on a call. Further details will be announced on completion. More to follow. KTIYP's. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 5/3/2015-1400 Hours

AND:

All,

As an update to the earlier Secret List, we regret to pass on to you that the Orchard Farm Fire Protection District is mourning the loss of a longtime volunteer Firefighter today. Firefighter / Engineer Larry Lawhorn, 60, suffered an apparent medical event while responding to an emergency call in

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Portage Des Sioux early this morning and later died in the Line of Duty. Shortly after 0200, Lawhorn was traveling northbound on Highway J responding to a structure fire on Second Street in Portage Des Sioux when his OFFPD vehicle left the roadway and came to rest in a field. He was found by other personnel as they left the Portage Des Sioux call. Despite resuscitation efforts by Firefighters from the OFFPD and Rivers Pointe Fire Protection District and Paramedics from St. Charles County Ambulance District, Lawhorn was later pronounced dead on-scene. Lawhorn had a long career in fire protection, serving with the St. Charles Fire Protection District prior to volunteering for OFFPD. Arrangements are pending with Baue Funeral Homes in St. Charles. For additional information, please contact: Chief Jeremy Hollrah: jhollrah@offpd.com.

Our condolences to all affected. RIP.
Take Care. be Careful. Pass it On.
BillyG
The Secret List 5/3/2015-2030 Hours

AND:

All,
There is a new "must watch" video that was just released that features Boston Firefighters. The video doesn't show them losing their lives at fires or collapses, it shows them dying of **FIREFIGHTING CANCER. This is a must watch video for every firefighter-everywhere.** Their stories were on full display during a screening last week of a new, emotional video on the toll cancer has exacted on Boston's firefighters. Since 1990, more than 160 Boston firefighters have died from the disease, fire officials said, and every year, 20 firefighters are diagnosed with cancer.

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

"The first thing that went through my head when the doctor said I had cancer was that, 'I'm going to die,' " Firefighter Mark Matthews says in the video. "The question I asked him was: 'When?' "

"It's killing our members, simple as that," Fire Commissioner Joseph E. Finn says in the video. "The one thing that is going to kill firefighters more quickly than a building collapse, more quickly than getting trapped - it's cancer."

The video is part of Finn's appeal to the city's 1,400 firefighters to always wear their protective gear - including hoods and air masks - even as a blaze retreats and begins to smolder. Chronic exposure to heat and smoke toxins leaves firefighters vulnerable and at risk. You know that, but perhaps this video will drive the point home to every Firefighter. Finn commissioned the documentary as part of his safety, health, and wellness campaign. He also called on veteran members of the Fire Department living with cancer to help him.

MORE ABOUT THE BOSTON FD PROJECT:

http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/05/03/new-video-aims-show-toll-cancer-boston-fire-department/aJURyaLG1I2kraxy8fpYoK/story.html?p1=Article_InThisSection_Bottom

MORE INFORMATION FOR EVERY FIREFIGHTER AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING FIREFIGHTING CANCER:

The FCSN (Firefighter Cancer Support Network) white paper has been downloaded thousands of times...keep downloading: **"Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service"**---take a moment to download it, read it, post it and pass it on.. If nothing else, check out PAGE 15 of the document. Seriously.

Here's the document link:

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

Here are Printable Posters For Your Firehouse: <http://tinyurl.com/ommmatp> (scroll down)

The intention of the FF Cancer Support Network paper is to discuss what we currently know regarding firefighting cancer, and it pinpoints the various items that we need to learn more about. Below is a video well worth checking out-notice the video is not just older Firefighters...it's young and middle aged ones. **That in itself is sobering.**

CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUqm9DMdISl>

Previous Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iftbui2dpL4>

RELATED FIREFIGHTER CANCER VIDEOS:

FD Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7_nJDErpPg (Palm Beach County FF's)

FD Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKmhlB2lO3o> (Toronto FF's)

FD Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9T0ouDF728> (Houston FF's)

FD Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1ls5EUZ2FE> (Long Island FF's)

FD Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOvBypsaHog> (Boston Firefighters)

FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT LINK: www.FireFighterCancerSupport.com

If you know of a Firefighter dealing with cancer-and odd's are you do-MAKE SURE they are connected to the FF Cancer Support Network. No Cost. All Support, Help And Understanding....For Firefighters BY Firefighters.

Take Care-Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [5-4-2015-0600](http://www.firefightercancersupport.com) hours

AND:

TWO FIREFIGHTERS DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY: PENNSYLVANIA AND GEORGIA

We regret to pass on to you the Line of Duty Deaths of the following two Firefighters:

Swainsboro, Georgia:

Lt Ricky Thurman died in the Line of Duty this evening Monday, May 4, 2015, Lieutenant Thurman was operating at the scene of a house fire on Wadley Road at around 2200 hours. While operating at the fire, he suffered cardiac arrest and was unable to be revived. Swainsboro is east of Macon and south of Augusta.

Pine Grove, Pennsylvania

Firefighter Timothy Peters, 46, responded to a medical assistance call with his fire company (Pine Grove Hose, Hook and Ladder Fire Co. No. 1) on the afternoon of April 30, 2015. Later that evening at 1930 hrs, Peters was stricken by an apparent heart attack at his residence. Emergency personnel were summoned and treated Peters then transported him to the hospital where he succumbed to his injury. Pine Grove is northeast of Harrisburg.

Our condolences to all those affected by the loss of both Firefighters. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG
The Secret List 5/4/2015-2300 Hours

AND:

POUGHKEEPSIE NY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HOUSE FIRE

We regret to pass on to you that a Poughkeepsie Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty from cardiac-related issues he experienced while fighting that fatal house fire yesterday. Firefighter Timothy Gunther, 54, was a 21-year veteran of the fire department. One occupant of the building, a man, was found deceased upstairs in a closet. The victim apparently died of smoke inhalation.

HERE are more details:

VIDEO:

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/central-dutchess/2015/05/04/structure-fire-church-street-pok/26868613/>

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/2015/05/05/city-announce-condition-hospitalized-firefighters/26925613/>

Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 5/5/2015-1500 Hours

AND:

Hey,

There are lots of discussions these days about firefighting...some of it good, some of it head scratching. But that's OK, lets keep talking-and learning from facts, experiences and each other. But while we are talking, we need to not lose focus of the fact that there are "those fires" where we must decide immediately what to do. And unless you really are not "into the job" (career, volunteer-whatever, as JohnS says) - you have, in the back of your mind, the understanding that the "next" fire may be THE FIRE. It's why we plan, train and train. And train.

When we get to THE FIRE, **we must rapidly size up, looking at the conditions, the needs and our immediately available resources.**

There was a horrible dwelling fire in Baldwinsville, New York last Sunday that I wanna pass on to you. It was THE FIRE to the members of this FD. 2-year-old Nora Lamirande was napping inside her upstairs bedroom Sunday while her mom and brother were outside in the nice weather. The 4-year-old boy ran to a neighbor's home and his mother followed after. When she looked back to return home, she saw her home, with her little girl inside, on fire.

THE FIRE.

Neighbors called 911 immediately. The Baldwinsville Firefighters responded. Fast. **REALLY FAST.** Neighbors tried to help until the first FD unit arrive...and they did within 3 minutes. Fire investigators said the fire started in the kitchen because of something on the stove. Neighbors first tried to rescue the little girl, but the fire was too heavy...the smoke too thick.

Baldwinsville Firefighters responded in minutes. Impressive response times for any FD.

1431 Dispatched

1434 On Scene

1434 Working Fire Transmitted

May 10, 2015

www.chabotfire.com

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1434 2nd Alarm Transmitted

1435 Crew Goes In-Finds Child In 2nd Floor Crib

1439 Firefighter (D/C) Collapses On Front Lawn After handing Off Child For Treatment

Veteran 40 year Firefighter, Deputy Chief Anthony DiGregorio was the first to arrive and attempt entry - but the fire conditions stopped his heroic attempts. He tried his best-he gave it his all. He made a difficult but *no other option* decision to wait for the engine company that was on the way, while he sized up the fire and determine exactly what to do when companies arrived.

Chief DiGregorio told the media "I didn't want that child to die alone. People know me. I would have... if I could have gotten in there, I would have gotten in there."

Chief D told Engine 7 to hit the stairs with their line. The fire conditions were extremely heavy-but there was a baby inside and a family on the front lawn. Engine 7's crew, lead by Lt. Corey Perkins did just that-they protected the stairs. They needed a way to get in-and get out-if at all possible. Ladder 2's crew, with Lt Tony Harper-went up the stairs behind the two Chiefs, to protect their means of egress.

After Chief D and Battalion Chief Tim Kennedy found the baby, they removed the baby (because they could-because the engine and truck crew did their jobs) and gave the baby to EMS...Chief D collapsed on the front lawn. A superhuman attempt in a ***beyond human*** situation. The fire conditions were extremely heavy.

Chief DiGregorio, Chief Kennedy and their companies did what they did based upon decades of experience and decades of training-the two go hand in hand. Then, when THE FIRE comes in, we apply our very best in a battle that we sometimes win-and sometimes don't win...it is not always within our power.

The loss of a victim is never easy.

The loss of a child victim goes beyond that.

And while this is about as tough as tough gets, those Baldwinsville Firefighters-can hopefully find some level of peace knowing that they did what Firefighters are expected to do, and they did their very best.

Hearing and then reading about the loss of this child hit me.

Middle of the day?

How can that happen?

All the questions go thru our minds.

I'm a Dad and I'm a Poppie. I LOVE being a Dad and a Poppie. My 2 ***without question*** most important jobs. If you are a parent or a grandparent you know the love and feeling of "I would do anything for these kids"...and when you are a firefighter, it multiplies and emotionally explodes in numerous dimensions...when you hear about THE FIRE. In this case, the BFD members experienced THE FIRE. With all the emotions that go along with it-as parents-as firefighters. The fact is that food was left on the stove-we have all done it-but this time resulted in a horrific outcome for the family. The fact is also that the Baldwinsville FD members did their very best and as Firefighters, we often feel that our best (solid training, rapid response etc) is not enough. Sometimes it isn't-but it's all we can do when dealing with THAT FIRE that we are presented with. Our condolences to everyone involved in this very tough situation.

LISTEN TO THE INTERVIEW WITH CHIEF DiGREGORIO: <http://tinyurl.com/nk46z34>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 5/5/2015-1100 Hours

May 10, 2015

www.chabotfire.com

57

AND:

All,

DC Fire & EMS Department Lt. Kevin McRae died in the Line of Duty [this morning](#). Lt. McRae was in charge of first due Engine 6 at a two-alarm high-rise fire in the 1200 block of 7th Street, NW. After exiting the building, Lt. McRae collapsed and went into cardiac arrest. CPR was started immediately. Lt. McRae was pronounced dead at the Washington Hospital. Center. A second firefighter was treated and released from the hospital. Lt. McRae was 44 and is survived by his wife, three children and his mother. The last line-of-duty-death for the DC Fire and EMS Department was Lt. McRae's cousin, Technician James McRae III, who died on [July 7, 2007](#). James McRae was tillerman at Truck 12 when he complained of shortness of breath while in quarters and died later that day. Lt. Kevin McRae is the 100th DC firefighter to die in the line-of-duty. He joined the department as a cadet on [July 31, 1989](#).

DaveS has much more on this tragic loss at www.statter911.com.

More to follow.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

AND:

Hey,

Here's a followup to the audio we sent out last weekend following that fire in Highland Park, MI. As you'll recall, fire was rolling through the second floor of an occupied house when Highland Park Firefighters arrived. The call didn't go thru Detroit Fire Communications, who dispatches for HP, so the HP crew told the DFD Dispatcher they were responding. Doing her job, the DFD dispatcher asked the HPFD officer "Do you want the box?" meaning do you want a full first alarm that includes automatic aid from the DFD? Nope-they decided they would give it their best, without adequate staffing, equipment, command and control. **Listen for yourself on the video link below.**

The result: because the commanding officer decided to go it alone, an NTS decision (non thinking syndrome) that risked the lives of the HP Firefighters and allowed the house to burn for more than four hours [Sunday morning](#). But wait-there is more-lots more. Because the approx half dozen HP Firefighters were not able to handle a fire that required 30 or so Firefighters to do it with a chance of saving something. Pissed off that the fire was predictably, not going out, Lt. Eric Hollowell, demanded that firefighters stay in the burning house until the blaze was out.

"Do not come back out of that house until that second floor is out," Hollowell told firefighters at 0552 Hours "All interior crew, acknowledge." "Got the message," one crew responded. When the firefighters emerged from the house, three of them were treated at the scene for injuries.

1970? Nope-2015.

"This was unacceptable," Highland Park Fire Chief Derek Hillman told the media (full article below). "I want to make sure this is handled properly and never happens again. The idea behind mutual aid was to make Highland Park safer."

This has happened before. Not doing what's best for those having the fire...and those fighting the fire.

And not just in Highland Park. This happens in communities all over North America every

day....not doing what is best for those who have the fire...be it proper funding, proper staffing, fair and mutual vs "moochual" aid agreements....

But back to Michigan. It's happened in HP before too...just before 2300 hours on [March 21](#), Highland Park Firefighters arrived to a house fire after several people, including one with third-degree burns, jumping. As the fire got worse, Highland Park firefighters never called for help and lost the building, which burned for more than five hours.

KUMBAYA

Folks from both FD's said tensions are heavy over who takes command of a fire. On [March 2](#), as fire swept through four houses on the boarder, Detroit firefighters requested a senior chief because a Highland Park officer allegedly got mad after losing command to a more senior Detroit Fire Officer, Wonderful.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE CRAP:

So often-all of us talk about "we had a fire." STOP. You didn't "have" crap-some poor person who we swore to serve and protect HAD THEIR FIRE...and they called us to make it got better. Sometimes we can make it better-sometimes we can't-but when personal BS gets in the way of doing what's best for the people calling us, it's time to reset, reevaluate and reconsider how we conduct business.

HERE IS THE RADIO TRAFFIC:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/219739>

HERE IS A MEDIA REPORT: <http://tinyurl.com/o5dec46>

==FUNERAL DETAILS:

City of Poughkeepsie Firefighter Tim Gunther

Services for the wake will be held on Saturday [May 9th](#) from 2p.m. to 7p.m. at McHoul Funeral Home, 895 Route 52, Hopewell Junction. Funeral service is set for [Monday, May 11](#), 2015 at 9 a.m. there will be a private procession that will leave McHoul funeral home to the city's Public Safety Building, at 505 Main Street Poughkeepsie, NY for a short, public ceremony that will be held at approximately 10 a.m. After which a public, nondenominational service will be held at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center, 14 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

NOTE: For both days,, please do not bring fire apparatus into the city. Carpooling is highly recommended. Folks traveling from the south can utilize Metro North Railroad and walk from the train station to Main St. & Market St.

DCFD NOTE: There is no announcement related to services for Fallen DCFD Lt. McCrae as of yet. Details will be posted by us as well as:

www.IAFF36.org

www.dcfcd.com

==NYPD COMMISSIONER STOPS-AND THANKS FDNY FIREFIGHTERS:

Here is a video worth watching-as NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton Stops, In The Procession With Fallen Police Officer Brian Moore, To Thank The FDNY Members Who Were Out, Saluting The Fallen P.O. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=62&v=ojUqD2FTGq4>

Good Stuff.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [5/7/2015](#) 2100 Hours

AND:

TWO FIREFIGHTERS IN INDIA DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY-OTHER FIREFIGHTERS CRITICALLY INJURED WITH CRITICAL BURNS-BUILDING FIRE/COLLAPSE

We regret to pass on to you that 2 Firefighters were killed and two others, including the city's Fire Chief, were seriously injured after a five-story building in Kalbadevi collapsed while firefighters were trying to attack a multi alarm fire that broke out on [Saturday](#). Three other people also suffered injuries. Kalbadevi is an old and densely populated neighborhood in Mumbai, India. The fire reportedly started from the electricity meter room on the ground floor around 1630 hours and spread quickly at a building that is more than 50 years old. The fire has since been brought under control. The Firefighters who died were identified as Assistant Divisional Officer SW Rane and Station Officer MN Desai.

NOTE: The city's fire brigade Chief Sunil iNesrikar suffered 50% burns, while Deputy Chief G Amin was fighting for life with 80% burns. Both were admitted to the National Burn Center at Airoli.

Residents said the building was undergoing repairs when the fire broke out and the entire structure was gutted within hours. A cylinder blast during the firefighting process made the situation worse. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

Take care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [5/10/2015](#)-1000 Hours

AND:

Hey,

DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DCFEMS) announces funeral arrangements for the Line of Duty Death (LODD) of Lieutenant Kevin McRae, who was serving as the officer in charge of Engine Company 6, Platoon No. 4.

Funeral services will be held:

[Friday, May 15, 2015](#)

9 a.m. Public Viewing

11 a.m. Public Service

D.C. Armory

2001 East Capitol St. SE

Washington, DC 20003

Interment:

Fort Lincoln Cemetery

3401 Bladensburg Rd.

Brentwood, MD 20722

"Lt. Kevin McRae was a true hero. For more than two decades he served his city with distinction and made the ultimate sacrifice while helping others. Lt. McRae may be gone, but he will never be forgotten," said Mayor Muriel Bowser.

At about 8:15 a.m. Wednesday, [May 6th](#), Lt. McRae responded with his crew to an apartment building fire located on the ninth floor of 1330 7th St. NW. After descending the stairs with his crew, he collapsed. He was immediately assessed and treated by paramedics on the scene. He was transported from the fire ground to the hospital, where he later passed away. The cause of death has not been determined."The McRae family has experienced the tragic loss of their son, brother,

husband, father, nephew, cousin and uncle. It's important for them to know we are here for them," said Acting DCFEMS Chief Gregory M. Dean. "We are deeply saddened by the death of our brother and friend, Lt. Kevin McRae." Lt. McRae, 44, was a graduate of Frank W. Ballou High School in the District. He joined the Department through the cadet program in [July 1989](#). He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2003; then promoted to lieutenant in 2008. He is the 100th DC Fire and EMS Department firefighter to die in the line of duty.

Donations can be mailed to: DC Fire and EMS Foundation, Inc
c/o Kevin McRae Survivor Fund
439 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Fire and EMS personnel from outside jurisdictions who would like to attend the funeral, volunteer their honor guards and or apparatus for the procession are asked to submit their request via email to dcfd.ltmcrae@dc.gov.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [5-10-15 1200](#) hours

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

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

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

The task force formed in December to look into a rash of embarrassing incidents at the Hartford (CT) Fire Department over the last year is recommending that the department return to a command structure that includes two assistant chiefs. "We believe that a fire chief alone can not manage a fire service," said retired Hartford Fire Chief John Stewart, chairman of the task force. "We believe a second assistant chief's position should be restored." In the last year several firefighters have been involved in on- and off-duty incidents involving alcohol, some of which resulted in arrests for DUI. Another off-duty firefighter was arrested after an accidental shooting that involved alcohol, and two lieutenants are still on paid administrative leave after getting into a fight at the scene of an active fire late last year:

<http://www.courant.com/community/hartford/hc-hartford-fire-task-force-meets-0220-20150219-story.html>

Fifteen years after the city of Providence (RI) released firefighter John Sauro with a job-related disability pension, the Retirement Board declared Wednesday that he no longer qualifies for it. The city board terminated Sauro's \$3,902-a-month tax-free accidental-disability pension, effective immediately. He had been collecting for a dislocated shoulder and torn rotator cuff suffered when he helped to carry a heavy person down a flight of stairs in 1998. The Sauro case has been widely publicized because he was the subject of a TV news exposé in which he was shown on an undercover video during a vigorous workout at a fitness center, lifting heavy weights despite the injury:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/2161425-Board-revokes-retired-firefighters-disability-pension/>

The Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department has been hit with a steady stream of personnel lawsuits over the last decade, some of them extraordinarily expensive. The City Council spent \$1.5 million to settle a discrimination lawsuit filed by a black firefighter who was deliberately fed dog food by his colleagues. Council members paid an additional \$2.5 million to two white firefighters punished in that incident, who said they too faced racial bias. Recoiling from a string of payouts, voters in 2009 established a watchdog at the Fire Department to review the agency's handling of employee misconduct cases. What they got instead were more employee lawsuits. But these cases were filed by the very people charged with keeping a lid on legal claims: <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-adv-fire-lawsuits-20150504-story.html>

One Cal Fire captain supposedly received an Internet link from a colleague for a private sex club on his state cellphone. An assistant chief allegedly thought nothing of a supervisor slapping the rear end of a female cadet. Investigators said another captain put hundreds of sexually explicit pictures of his wife on his state cellphone. And, according to Cal Fire employee discipline records released Friday, there was drinking on the job. Sometimes a lot of it. Those allegations and others have surfaced in employee disciplinary documents released Friday that portray some of the department's employees as indulgent frat boys on state time. The department fired one accused manager, demoted one and suspended and demoted two others, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection files issued in response to a Sacramento Bee Public Records Act request:

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article10763096.html>

A pair of Glendale (AZ) firefighters have been suspended without pay for punching a patient and cursing at him and his family during an October medical call at a home near 83rd and Glendale avenues, Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick confirmed. Last week, Burdick suspended Capt. Sean Alford for two days and Firefighter Danny Padilla for one day after an administrative investigation determined the men used excessive force to restrain James Murillo, 30, when Murillo punched Alford as his crew attempted to take him to the hospital. A portion of the incident was captured on cellphone video, posted to YouTube and has received more than 60,000 views:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/glendale/2015/03/04/glendale-firefighters-suspended-striking-cursing-patient/24379591/>

Five volunteer firefighters in Ellis County (TX) are under arrest, accused of sexually assaulting a rookie in the fire station. The laughing firefighters, who included officers, initially tried to use a broomstick, but then one said: "I have something better" as he retrieved a chorizo sausage from the refrigerator, according to court documents quoted by The Dallas Morning News:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/12062387/ellis-county-firefighters-charged-in-sexual-assault-of-waxahachie-probationary-firefighter?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS150402003

An Austin (TX) firefighter is suspended from work for five days for bringing a handgun to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. According to a disciplinary memorandum, Troy McMillin, an Austin Fire Department Fire Specialist, went through a TSA checkpoint in January with a loaded handgun accidentally stored in his carry-on luggage. Following interviews and investigations, fire officials determined McMillin's act was a mistake and not intentional. In the memo, Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr says McMillin violated AFD Code of Conduct by failing to comply with laws, i.e. bringing a weapon into a prohibited location. McMillin is suspended for five days without day from April 6-10:

<http://kxan.com/2015/04/06/austin-firefighter-suspended-for-bringing-loaded-gun-to-airport/>

A bicyclist remained hospitalized Sunday following a serious collision with a San Francisco (CA) fire engine over the weekend in San Francisco's Tenderloin. The cyclist, a man in his 30s who was not identified, collided with the truck around 2:15 a.m. Saturday at Turk and Mason streets, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said. The man was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital with "pretty serious head injuries," Hayes-White said. No firefighters were injured in the wreck. It was not immediately clear who was at fault in the crash, but the firefighter behind the wheel of Engine 1 was tested for alcohol and drugs, both of which came back negative, Hayes-White said:

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Cyclist-remains-hospitalized-after-wreck-with-6122399.php>

HIV-positive firefighter alleges widespread harassment, discrimination. After 10 years of trying, Stephen Kloster joined the Fire Department in 2001. But five years into what the San Francisco native hoped would be a long career, he fell extremely sick. Constantly lethargic and losing an enormous amount of weight — he dropped from 240 pounds to 140 — tests revealed the reason: Kloster was HIV-positive. His health and T-cell count recovered well enough for him to return to duty in 2007. That's when the other trouble began. His positive status became common knowledge with his fellow firefighters, some of whom heaped abuse on him for having HIV, he said:

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/hiv-positive-firefighter-alleges-widespread-harassment-discrimination/Content?oid=2922811>

Bernalillo County (NM) fire officials could be terminated after fight. Emergency Medical Services Division Chief Michael Chavez and Logistics Division Chief Danny Valenzuela got into a fight in March. It started as a joke, and ended with one of them shoving the other. Interim Fire Chief Greg Perez called Bernalillo County Sheriff's deputies after the incident to file a report. The county has a very strict policy when it comes to workplace violence, a department spokesman said. "It is a zero tolerance policy. People can be anywhere from reprimanded to termination," said spokesperson Larry Gallegos: <http://www.koat.com/news/bernalillo-county-fire-officials-could-be-terminated-after-fight/32854070>

Two Washington D.C. firefighters—one a rookie, the other a veteran hailed as a hero after nearly losing his life in a fire—are under arrest for two separate incidents. Both are accused of assaulting a police officer, among other charges:

http://www.firehouse.com/video/12053484/dc-firefighters-arrested-for-assaulting-cops-in-separate-incidents?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS150306003

It's something the chief of Portland (OR) Fire and Rescue said she never thought would happen: a fire captain arrested three times for driving drunk. Now, she says his criminal behavior off the clock will mean a new policy for all Portland firefighters:

<http://www.kptv.com/story/28417097/fire-captains-repeat-dui-arrests-will-mean-new-policy-for-portland-firefighters>

An Asian firefighter wannabe is suing the FDNY over its physical exam, saying it discriminates against minorities — because their lungs aren't as big as those of white people. Rickey Lall, 32, who is of Indian ancestry and lives in The Bronx, claims in his Manhattan Supreme Court suit that he passed all the Department's entrance exams in 2013 with flying colors except for a pulmonary-function test administered to detect lung disease. Lall says the test's metrics are unfair because studies show "there are differences in normal lung volumes among various ethnic or racial groups." Blacks and Asians, for example, have a 12 percent lower volume, his suit states: <http://nypost.com/2015/03/14/aspiring-firefighter-sues-fdny-over-breath-test-exam/>

Multiple sources inside the New Haven (CT) Fire Department have confirmed that two firefighters have been suspended for engaging in a physical altercation while responding to a house fire last Wednesday on Winchester Avenue. The nature of the altercation is unclear, although sources said it was “more of a shoving match” than an “actual fight.” An internal City Hall document received Thursday confirmed Chief Allyn Wright ordered a 1-day suspension for Roundtree and a 6-day suspension for D’Amato. The document states that Roundtree violated department rules and regulations by engaging “in conduct that is prejudicial to the good name and reputation of the department,” engaging “in conduct unbecoming of a firefighter or officer” and “fighting or assault.” D’Amato’s document states that he violated rules and regulations by being “insubordinate to a superior officer, neglecting and refusing to obey the authorized orders of a superior officer, engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the good name and reputation of the department, engaging in conduct unbecoming of a firefighter or officer, fighting and assault and using obscene, immoral or disrespectful language.”

http://www.firehouse.com/news/12054074/two-new-haven-firefighters-suspended-for-shoving-match?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS150307003

Clark County (NV) firefighter Donald Munn’s 20-year firefighting career didn’t end with a plaque and public words of praise from his county bosses. His career was winding down by the end of 2013 after a tumultuous three years. He had been fired in 2011 as part of [the county’s sick leave abuse probe](#), and reinstated to the Fire Department in 2012 after an arbitrator cleared him of wrongdoing. He also had sued the county over his firing. In December 2013, both sides were finalizing a settlement of \$50,000 that also would require Munn to retire. [The sick leave scandal had generated headlines and ignited public anger](#) toward firefighters throughout the valley, putting the county Fire Department under intense scrutiny. It sparked an internal county probe that [uncovered email records](#) raising questions about sick days being routinely scheduled in advance, with the shifts covered by firefighters working overtime. The benefit was intended to award sick leave when employees or their families were really sick:

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/firefighter-fired-rehired-clark-county-sick-leave-probe-fights-disability-pay>

Two Philadelphia Fire Department employees have accepted undisclosed punishment in a sexual harassment scandal that has roiled the department, officials said Tuesday. The employees, whose names and ranks were not released, waived a departmental hearing on the allegations against them and chose to accept punishment, Frank Keel, a spokesman for the firefighters’ union, said in a statement. They are among seven - two battalion chiefs, a captain, a lieutenant, a paramedic, and two firefighters - who faced discipline for their interactions with a paramedic who filed a sexual harassment complaint against the department last year. Four were charged with failure to supervise; three, including one of the battalion chiefs, were charged with unbecoming conduct; and one was charged with having sex in a firehouse. Also, some of the department members were charged with sexual harassment, which union president Joe Schulle has described as “inappropriate behavior while at work, but not sexual interaction” with the paramedic:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20150318_Two_accept_punishment_in_Fire_Department_sexual_harrassment_scandal.html

Two Cal Fire managers allegedly cheated to get leadership jobs at the department’s lone academy, and others drank while on duty and on state property, according to state records released Friday. Other Cal Fire employees engaged in sexually inappropriate behavior, the documents show, and one allegedly lied to police investigators about kissing a cadet. The records add more details to a sordid story that started with a homicide that prompted a \$2 million investigation of Cal Fire’s academy southeast of Sacramento. The fallout led to one

employee's resignation, the firings of two others and suspensions, demotions and pay cuts for 13 more. All but one worked at the academy. None work there now, said Cal Fire spokeswoman Janet Upton. Eight contested the actions taken against them for everything from drinking on the job and condoning sexual harassment of women to using state property to meet prostitutes and displaying explicit images on state cellphones. None of the five employees named in the latest batch of records, received by The Sacramento Bee via a Public Records Act request, contested the department's disciplinary actions. In some instances they admitted to their misbehavior: <http://www.modbee.com/news/article15552458.html>

Cal Fire's chief seeks to change discipline after scandal. Two captains demoted after a scandal at California's firefighting training academy were restored to their previous rank within a month, prompting the agency's chief to say Monday that he will try to demote them again. Cal Fire Ken Pimlott also said he was working with the state's personnel department to develop better training after learning that the disciplinary reports filed against the two captains inadvertently allowed for the rapid reinstatements. Records obtained by The Associated Press show other recent CalFire disciplinary actions unrelated to the training academy scandal also failed to stand. The cases include a helicopter pilot who flew while wearing a full-face gorilla mask and a deputy chief who ordered firefighters to shed their shirts and dance at charity events. Both appealed their punishment to the personnel board and had the penalties reduced. Pimlott spoke to the AP during his first interview since 16 employees quit or were fired, suspended or demoted earlier this year at the fire academy near Sacramento for activities that included drinking on duty, sharing sexually explicit photographs, using a state vehicle to visit prostitutes, and sexually harassing a civilian at a local bar: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/article20210646.html>

Ilya Bykov and Rostislav Krylov, two firefighters from Russia, must not have been thinking about the potential consequences when they stopped to take a picture while on the job. Now, the controversial photo, which you can see in its sickening entirety [here](#), could cause both workers to lose their position because the building they posed in front of burned to the ground, killing 17 people. Another 55, including police officers and emergency workers, were injured: <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/2015/03/17/firefighter-selfie-fire/24896685/>

A seemingly simple drunken driving case against a former San Francisco firefighter whose rig struck a motorcyclist collapsed under the weight of police and Fire Department bungling, inexplicable delays and dubious testimony, a Chronicle review of grand jury transcripts shows. The two-year prosecution of ex-firefighter Michael Quinn — whose rig was involved in the crash that badly injured Jack Frazier on the night of June 29, 2013 — ended abruptly Friday when a judge found the investigation was so badly botched there had not been any legal justification to arrest Quinn: <http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Mistakes-bungling-doom-firefighter-s-DUI-case-6150634.php>

Phoenix (AZ) Valley cities are experiencing sticker shock over a \$28.6 million spike in police and fire pension bills for next fiscal year. Seven cities will fork over more money, with Mesa taking the biggest hit, an \$8.7 million increase, and Phoenix coming in second, at \$6 million. Tempe and Glendale will experience the next-highest spikes of \$4.2 million and \$3.3 million, respectively, followed by Chandler at \$2.7 million, Scottsdale at \$2.6 million and Gilbert at \$1.1 million. Cities have seen their pension costs rise steadily in recent years, but next year they will experience the additional bump mostly due to the Arizona Supreme Court's decision to strike down part of a 2011 state law crafted to rein in pension costs: <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2015/03/23/phoenix-valley-cities-reel-pension-spike/70359496/>

Los Angeles police and firefighters work in a culture that encourages filing “excessive” workers’ compensation claims, according to a pair of city audits released Thursday, and taxpayers are doling out up to \$28 million a year for what amount to preventable injuries. The majority of injuries claimed by firefighters in recent years occurred while doing things other than responding to emergencies, including maintaining equipment, playing racquetball and preparing food at their fire stations, according to one of the audits by City Controller Ron Galperin: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-workers-comp-audits-20150325-story.html>

Two members of the Baltimore County Fire Department have been suspended without pay amid a police investigation into alleged sexual misconduct at the Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company. The two men — one a probationary EMT and the other a firefighter/EMT — were suspended Wednesday following the execution of search warrants, she said. Both also volunteered at the Reisterstown station and also were suspended from their duties there, said J.P. Snyder, president of the volunteer company. A police investigation began in January after a county fire commander heard about allegations of sexual misconduct involving the Reisterstown volunteer company: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/crime/blog/bs-md-co-firefighters-suspended-20150326-story.html>

Nearly one in four Compton (CA) firefighters is working without a permit to perform emergency medical care, a key credential required by other local fire agencies, a Times investigation has found. Out of 74 firefighters at the Compton Fire Department, 17 lack a valid emergency medical technician, or EMT, card, according to city records obtained via the California Public Records Act. That amounts to 23% of the agency’s rank and file. Top officials are scrambling to certify rescuers who lost their permits in recent years, according to Fire Chief Jon Thompson: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-compton-firefighters-without-emt-permit-20150326-story.html>

A former Sacramento firefighter has pleaded no contest to charges that he stole prescription drugs while pretending to inspect people’s homes for smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. The Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office said 31-year-old Craig White entered the no contest plea Tuesday to two counts of first-degree burglary. Prosecutors say White dressed in his Sacramento City Fire Department uniform while off duty on Dec. 5, then went to seven homes where he pretended to conduct fire inspections. They say he targeted elderly residents, searching their medicine cabinets to steal prescription drugs: <http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2015/04/01/ex-sacramento-firefighter-pleads-no-contest-to-raiding-elderly-victims-medicine-cabinets-for-drugs/>

A Seattle (WA) firefighter who passed out in his SUV was convicted of drunken driving and could face jail time. Police said Joseph Dempsey had a blood alcohol of .176, more than twice the legal limit, when he was found on Fifth Avenue March 29, 2014. He was sentenced late Thursday, April 2. According to court documents filed by the Seattle City Attorney’s Office it was at least his fourth DUI arrest. In those documents it said Dempsey “poses an extreme danger to public safety.” After he installed his interlock device on April 4, the Seattle Fire Department allowed him behind the wheel for six shifts before taking him off the road. A KIRO 7 investigation showed that Dempsey was one of multiple firefighters who were allowed to continue driving against department policy. Click here to read that investigation from reporter Linzi Sheldon. The department checks licenses twice a year. When asked about problems with the policy, former Chief Gregory Dean couldn’t answer whether it was a failure of the department to react or of employees to report. “We have some lapses in our policy,” Dean said. “We are looking to correct that.” <http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/firefighter-who-drove-department-convicted-dui/nkmYQ/>

Nearly 40 years after the first female firefighter began working at Tampa (FL) Fire Rescue, a majority of the city's fire stations still lack designated women's bathrooms and private changing areas. Many male firefighters wear boxers when they sleep in the open dorms at firehouses. But some female firefighters who sleep in T-shirts and underwear have become targets for vulgar and sexist insults. And in some firehouses, verbal abuse and harassment reaches levels that one male firefighter described as "a living hell." Fire stations across the nation have had to adjust their policies as more women enter the male-dominated field. But some say Tampa Fire Rescue, which employs nearly double the national average of women, has been slow to adapt. After news of a personnel chief retiring amid a sexual harassment investigation broke last month, female firefighters began talking to the *Tampa Bay Times* about discrimination. Their concerns ranged from overt sexual advances from male fire department employees to retaliation for reporting problems:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/fire/women-face-multiple-hurdles-within-tampa-fire-rescue/2224251>

Top brass at the volunteer firehouse in Ellis County (TX) tried to cover up the sexual assault of a male firefighter by instructing the victim and five accused firemen not to talk about it, authorities said Thursday. Chief Gavin Satterfield, 31, of Waxahachie and Assistant Chief Billy Getzendaner, 34, of Midlothian were arrested Thursday on felony charges of tampering with a witness, a first-degree felony. Richard Rozier, a former president of the board, said he was disappointed to hear of the latest accusations against staff at the volunteer fire department. "Quite frankly it's concerning that people in a leadership role didn't exercise better judgment if they knew about it," Rozier said. The new arrests came after five volunteer firemen were arrested Monday over allegations that they sexually assaulted a fellow fireman in January. Five men face charges of aggravated sexual assault, a first-degree felony: Keith Edward Wisakowsky, 26, of Waxahachie; Casey Joe Stafford, 30, of Midlothian; Preston Thomas Peyrot, 19, of Waxahachie; Alec Chase Miller, 28, of Waxahachie; and Blake Jerold Tucker, 19, of Midlothian. Each faces five years to life in prison if convicted. Wisakowsky's girlfriend, 23-year-old Brittany Leanne Parten of Waxahachie, is accused of recording the assault on a cellphone. She is charged with improper photography or visual recording, a felony. Conviction carries a sentence of six months to two years in state jail:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/crime/headlines/20150409-ellis-county-fire-chiefs-arrested-accused-of-sex-assault-cover-up.ece>

While David Watson was rising through the ranks at the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department, authorities working to solve three cold-case murders had him in mind as their main suspect. Watson, 46, was finally arrested on Saturday, nearly 15 years after the first of the killings. The fire department captain is accused of killing his ex-wife, her mother and a third woman, and he now faces three counts of first-degree murder: <http://www.abc15.com/news/region-central-southern-az/tucson/arizona-firefighter-capt-david-watson-charged-with-murder-in-3-cold-cases?autoplay=true>

Buffalo (NY) firefighters are required to be Emergency Medical Technicians, or EMTs, as a condition of employment. But as News 4 Investigates discovered, around 200 members are lacking recertification, which needs to be done every three years. "Their lack of certification means that they have not been tested. They have not had that state exam that would recertify them. And that's been our problem," Buffalo Fire Commissioner Garnell Whitfield said:

<http://wivb.com/2015/04/27/around-200-buffalo-firefighters-lack-emt-recertification/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

The San Francisco Fire Department has not acted on a warning from the city's district attorney that it needs to toughen its alcohol-testing rules for firefighters — a warning that anticipated a judge's dismissal of drunken-driving charges against an ex-firefighter who crashed his rig. Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin — citing a "Keystone Cops" investigation — tossed felony charges last month against Michael Quinn in the June 2013 crash at Fifth and Howard streets that left a motorcyclist seriously injured. In addition to police delays in responding to the crash, Tsenin blamed the Fire Department for not properly maintaining equipment that measures blood-alcohol content. Nearly a year before the case against Quinn fell apart, District Attorney George Gascón sent a sternly worded letter to Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White about problems with the Fire Department's testing equipment — along with several other "troubling practices" in its antialcohol program. Gascón wrote in the April 2014 letter that the department's practices had "serious firefighter and public safety implications." The Chronicle obtained the letter through a state Public Records Act request:

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/S-F-fire-officials-reject-D-A-s-call-for-6173558.php>

The FDNY for the first time in its history will allow someone who failed its crucial physical fitness test to join the Bravest, The Post has learned. Rebecca Wax, 33, is set to graduate Tuesday from the Fire Academy without passing the Functional Skills Training test, a grueling obstacle course of job-related tasks performed in full gear with a limited air supply, an insider has revealed. "They're going to allow the first person to graduate without passing because this administration has lowered the standard," said the insider, who is familiar with the training. Last December, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro told a City Council hearing on the FDNY's efforts to recruit women that he had changed FST requirements to lower obstacles. "We still grade the people. You can still fail it if you go beyond the time, but you're not automatically failed from the program," he said. He also indicated he wanted to act before a possible sex discrimination lawsuit after the city paid \$98 million to settle a lawsuit that accused the FDNY of discriminating against minorities. "We must no longer wait for a judge's ruling to tell us what fairness means," Nigro said:

<http://nypost.com/2015/05/03/woman-to-become-ny-firefighter-despite-failing-crucial-fitness-test/>

Faster response times - for life or death situations. That's the goal of the Chandler (AZ) Fire Dept., which is changing the way it handles 911 emergencies. Instead of sending a big fire truck, ambulance, and four to eight person crew, Chandler will sometimes dispatch a smaller non-critical call truck, with only two firefighters on-board. Chandler Fire Battalion Chief Keith Welch said that non-critical calls can be anything from a strange odor in the house, a headache, to someone who's slipped out of their chair and can't get up. The idea is that the smaller trucks - with a paramedic and EMT on board - can respond to minor medical calls, freeing up other firefighter teams to respond faster to life or death emergencies. The smaller units can still handle critical calls if they arise, Welch said. "We carry all the same medical equipment, the drugs, the heart monitor, everything an engine carries that we provide in terms of medical care," said firefighter Scott Onyett:

<http://www.azfamily.com/story/28655115/chandler-fire-dept-looks-to-improve-response-times>

The rising cost of providing retirement benefits for firefighters has officials at fire districts worried tough decisions could be on the not-too-distant horizon for the districts providing fire protection to areas of San Joaquin County (CA) not covered by municipal fire departments. The pension price tag has kept growing, even though new employees are receiving less-generous benefits and longtime employees are contributing more to the cost of their pensions,

fire officials said. And even though the recovering housing market has meant there are more tax dollars coming into the districts, that recovery has been outpaced by the rising pension costs, officials said, saying they are concerned about the trend. “We’re getting crushed,” said Bob Bob Byington, member of the Board of Directors of the Morada-Waterloo Fire District, which operates in the northeastern outskirts of Stockton. The 2015 contribution rate for public safety workers is at nearly 65 percent, which means that for every dollar paid in wages, another 65 cents goes to the pension fund. “For every two firefighters we have to pay, there’s more than one more guy that isn’t even there,” said Clay Titus, another Waterloo-Morada director. “It’s just gone up, so much, so fast.” The rate last year was below 59 percent. In 2012 it was just below 51 percent. That was the last year before all new hires would fall into a newly created tier for public pensions under statewide reforms. But there are only a handful of employees under the new tier at Waterloo-Morada, according to Fire Chief Robert Tuitavuki. “It really wasn’t the saving grace we thought it was going to be for the district,” he said. Something will have to change, Tuitavuki said. It could be looking to get out of the county retirement pension system, ask voters to approve more money for the district, or “just eat it,” but that would mean laying off firefighters:

http://www.recordnet.com/article/20150406/NEWS/150409835/101114/A_LIFE

The early success of “fast response” squads, San Diego’s (CA) experimental effort to quicken emergency responses in poorly served areas, has prompted Mayor Kevin Faulconer to propose an expansion. With firefighters in a pilot project shrinking response times more than 20 percent since July in the Encanto neighborhood of southeastern San Diego, Faulconer included \$600,000 in his proposed budget for a second two-person crew in University City. “I think it’s making a huge difference because seconds matter when it comes to saving lives,” Faulconer said of the Encanto pilot. “It’s an important step to give these communities the help they need until a permanent station is ultimately built.”

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/may/03/fast-response-fire-units-to-expand/>

As Arizona heads into fire season, one high country fire district is facing serious budget issues. Chino Valley Fire District Chief Scott Freitag said he’s forced to eliminate three firefighter positions because of a decrease in revenue and an increase in pension costs. Two are layoffs, effective when the new fiscal year begins July 1, and the third position won’t be filled once that person retires. The Chino Valley Fire District, which employs 36 firefighters and has three fire stations, will have an operating budget of \$4 million for the 2015-2016 fiscal year – down about \$300,000 from the year prior:

<http://www.azfamily.com/story/28746088/budget-crisis-forces-layoffs-in-high-country-fire-district>

The public has rejected the latest idea for solving a funding issue for the East Contra Costa (CA) Fire Protection District through a benefit assessment which aimed to keep fire stations open. The District had hoped to raise more than \$4.2 million in additional revenue to re-open the downtown Brentwood fire station and keeping open the Knightsen fire station while ensuring firefighters would not be laid off. Monday night, the District learned their efforts failed after they mailed out 38,529 ballots and had 9,495 ballots returned—the results showed voters did not support the Districts effort. Yes: 46.96% (4,369 votes with dollar amount of \$588,202). No 53.04% (5,085 votes with dollar amount of \$600,889). The District will now work on a timeline to shutter stations while also working on plans of what calls the district will respond to and not respond to in the future. It will also determine which three stations in the District will remain open. By July 1, four firefighters will be laid off: <http://eastcountytoday.net/eccpfd-fire-services-to-be-reduced-40-after-benefit-assessment-fails/>

A Contra Costa County (CA) fire protection district is preparing to close two stations and make service cuts following the failure of a measure that would have raised more than \$4 million a year for the next five years, officials said Tuesday. The benefit assessment for the financially troubled East Contra Costa Fire Protection District was rejected by 53.04 percent of the district voters who returned a mail-in ballot, the district announced Monday at a special board meeting. It needed a simple majority to pass. The district, which protects more than 100,000 residents in a 249-square mile area that includes the cities of Brentwood and Oakley, now expects to close two of its five fire stations and is looking at cutting firefighter positions and service as well, Board President Joel Bryant said Tuesday:

<http://www.ktvu.com/story/28924606/east-contra-fire-protection-district-faces-cuts-amid-drought>

They broke the FDNY gender barrier — but, for many, firefighting broke them. A startling 70 percent of female Bravest have retired from the FDNY on three-quarters disability pensions claiming injuries on the job, The Post has found. They include Brenda Berkman, who won a landmark lawsuit that forced the FDNY to hire its first 41 female firefighters in 1982. One historian called her “the Jackie Robinson” of the department’s women. By comparison, 9,978 of 15,616 retired male firefighters — 63 percent — get disability pensions. They include 8,922 men, or 57 percent of all male retirees, with job-related injuries. One of them is under age 30. Pension costs for the FDNY have exploded in recent years, reaching \$1.1 billion annually. That’s just shy of the active-duty budget of \$1.2 billion:

<http://nypost.com/2015/02/22/seventy-percent-of-fdnys-females-are-retiring-on-disability/>

More than seven years after she was promoted as the first woman battalion chief in Columbus (GA), Janice Bruner was dismissed Friday after a two-week investigation found her untruthful on whether she responded to an Easter fire at Brighton Park Apartments. Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, who serves as the city’s public safety director, said Tuesday that Bruner was given five days to present a reason to the city why she shouldn’t be dismissed from the position she has held since November 2007. An investigation launched April 6, a day after the fire, revealed that Bruner made false statements on whether she responded to the fire at 6254 Warm Springs Road:

http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2015/04/28/3692873_columbus-first-woman-battalion.html?rh=1

A former firefighter is in custody after allegedly holding four firefighters hostage at gunpoint inside a firehouse in the Elkins Park section of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County (PA). It was 10:39 a.m. when Cheltenham Police were called out to the LaMott Fire House at Penrose Avenue and Graham Lane. Police say one male was holding four firefighters hostage in the basement with a handgun. Prior to officers arriving on the scene, the armed suspect allegedly fired one shot into a wall and threatened to shoot the firefighters:

<http://6abc.com/news/firefighters-being-held-hostage-inside-elkins-park-firehouse/594355/>

An audit probing allegations of cheating in the Los Angeles County Fire Department's hiring process found that high-ranking officials improperly shared job interview questions and answers that were supposed to be confidential. The audit was launched in response to an LA Times investigation last year which found that an unusually high number of family members of firefighters were hired by the department and that insiders had access to the interview questions and answers. The county review determined that 17 sworn department officials, including one battalion chief and 10 captains, had obtained the testing materials and sent them to others, including to non-county email accounts:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-fire-cheating-20150222-story.html>

A Dallas (TX) firefighter who was knocked from an icy overpass last year while helping stranded motorists took an unnecessary risk in the moments before his death, according to two investigations:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20150304-reports-describe-chaos-preceding-dallas-firefighter-s-2014-fatal-fall-from-icy-overpass.ece>

This may be the strangest case of early onset SMACSS (Social Media Assisted Career Suicide Syndrome) seen by Dave Statter of Statter911. Early onset, because it involves a recruit with the Rochester (NY) Fire Department who has been fired before his career has really started. He was let go for a YouTube video. While videos are a common cause of SMACSS, this one is different because it involves a puppet that made the offending remark labeled as anti-semitic:

<http://www.statter911.com/2015/03/09/a-puppets-anti-semitic-remark-talks-a-firefighter-right-out-of-his-job/>

How fire officers can be better coaches - There are two types of coaching fire officers engage in, and both take unique skills to get the desired results from the coached firefighter:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/2116974-How-fire-officers-can-be-better-coaches/>

A number of Los Angeles County Fire Department employees will face dismissal or lesser punishment as part of a crackdown on cheating in the agency's hiring process, fire Chief Daryl Osby said Wednesday. Osby did not disclose the precise number of employees who could be fired or otherwise disciplined, but said it was fewer than 50. An inquiry by the county Auditor-Controller Department found that the employees improperly accessed or shared confidential testing material used to hire firefighters, Osby said. The inquiry was triggered by a Times investigation last year into nepotism and cheating in the department. The Times reported that at least 13% of county firefighters on the payroll as of 2012 were related to someone currently or previously on the force, according to birth, marriage and other records. In addition, the investigation determined that department insiders could easily get their hands on questions and answers used in interviews of job applicants, material that was supposed to be kept under lock and key:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-fire-officials-face-discipline-in-cheating-scandal-20150318-story.html>

A draft of the federal report that details the January 2014, fire that killed two Toledo (OH) firefighters concludes numerous factors contributed to their deaths. The 46-page report on the deaths of Pvts. Stephen Machcinski and James "Jamie" Dickman was compiled by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and took more than a year to complete. A draft of the report was obtained by The Blade and a final report is due out this week, sources said. The report lists eight factors as contributing to the deaths: arson, risk assessment and scene size-up, resource deployment, fireground tactics, inadequate water supply, crew staffing, lack of a full-time safety officer, and no sprinkler system in the building. The report also makes 11 recommendations for departmental implementation, but does not go further than pinpointing those:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2015/04/29/Firefighter-report-lists-8-factors-in-TFD-deaths.html>

Pennsylvania does not require volunteer firefighters to be trained. But just over the state line, West Virginia requires 120 hours of training before a firefighter can set foot on a fire truck. Firefighters say that makes them better prepared to protect the public and themselves. FEMA

records show Pennsylvania ranks second in the nation in line-of-duty firefighter deaths during the past decade, with 84 firefighters in Pennsylvania having died on the job:

<http://www.wtae.com/news/pennsylvania-does-not-require-volunteer-firefighters-to-be-trained/32798960>

Out of 6,700 firefighter hopefuls, 4,511 applicants showed up at the Pomona fairgrounds Wednesday to apply for open positions with the LA County Fire department. Almost as many are expected to return Thursday. The gates opened at 5:00am and will continue until 3:00pm. The applicants are taking a 2 part written exam, The exams are actually flown in by helicopter, and delivered by a Brinks truck to the site. Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby announced Wednesday he will be recommending discipline ranging from suspension to firing for employees who helped applicants cheat on firefighter employment exams. Osby did not specify how many employees would be disciplined, but said a county audit of the hiring process implicated "fewer than 50" people in the cheating scandal:

<http://www.ktvu.com/story/28561661/thousands-gather-to-apply-for-jobs-with-la-county-fire>

Sunday local firefighters came to the rescue of an 8-year-old boy who is battling cancer and his family battles growing expenses to treat it. Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County firefighters presented a check for \$6,900 to Hayden Jilka's family. Through tears Samantha Jilka said "It's been amazing. Words can't even express how thankful we are." Hayden Jilka was diagnosed with Rhabdomyosarcoma, cancer of the soft tissue, last fall. Hayden started five weeks of daily radiation and the Jilka's insurance covers a lot of the medical expenses but not everything. "It's been a major stress reliever to not worry about our bills and focus on Hayden," said Jilka's mother: <http://www.kionrightnow.com/news/local-news/santa-cruz-and-santa-clara-firefighters-make-big-donation-to-8yearold-battling-cancer/31958316>

THREE MONTHS after Joyce Craig became Philadelphia's first female firefighter to die on duty, three investigations into her death remain unresolved. That's because a series of errors occurred that morning, complicating investigators' probes, sources said. Fire spokesman Clifford Gilliam declined to comment on the Dec. 9 fire in West Oak Lane that killed Craig, saying he couldn't talk about ongoing investigations. But veteran firefighters described it as "a perfect storm of things that went wrong:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20150304_THREE_MONTHS_after_Joyce_Craig_became_Philly_s_first_NO_HEAD_SPECIFIED.html

Some East Contra Costa (CA) residents will be getting insurance sticker shot from a self-inflicted wound: failure to pass an assessment last week to keep their fire district intact. Monday night, folks in the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District will get the bad news officially. Their district, which has five stations now, down from eight stations five years ago, will soon have only three. The downtown Brentwood station is already closed and the one in the rural town of Knightsen and its crew will soon be gone, leaving the remaining three stations and just nine firefighters to cover the District's 250 square miles. Now, a company that tells insurers how to rate risk has told the District that homes here will be re-rated and charged accordingly for much greater risk. The rejected \$100 a year per parcel assessment will quickly be surpassed by much higher insurance rates:

<http://www.ktvu.com/story/28976454/east-contra-costa-fire-station-closures-to-increase-home-insurance>

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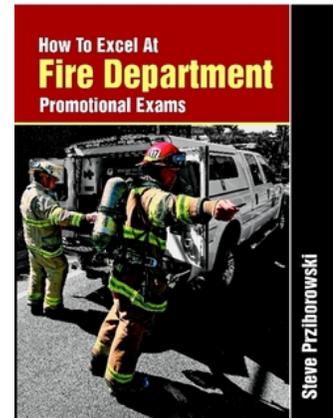
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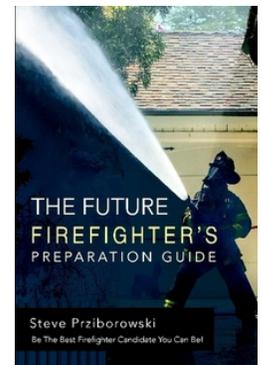


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Getting hired in the fire service is not an easy process. Many people have that desire to become a firefighter, but for whatever reason cannot put the pieces together to make it a reality. Over the 20 plus years I have been in the fire service, I have 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!

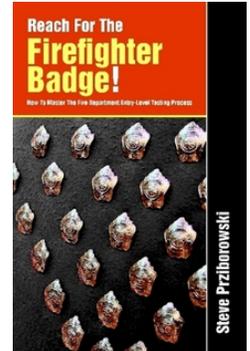


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Reach For The Firefighter Badge!

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.

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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Chabot College web site:

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Chabot College Fire Technology on Twitter:

@ChabotFire

The Fine Print:

- If you would like to be added to our mailing list (no, I won't give your email address out to others), email me at sprziborowski@aol.com and I will add you to the list. Benefits of being on the mailing list include being notified when the latest Fire & EMS news is published, and being notified of firefighter testing opportunities, volunteer opportunities, or training opportunities.
- If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter (as well as other updates) email me at sprziborowski@aol.com and I will place them on the mailing list.
- If you want to take your name off of the mailing list, just send me an email at sprziborowski@aol.com and in the subject heading, and type in "unsubscribe from mailing list" and I will remove your name.
- 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.