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.

• From our family to your family – we wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!!

THE FIREFIGHTER’S NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

To start out with some holiday spirit, I want to share a poem that was provided to be me by a good friend of mine, Lieutenant Mike Daley – www.fspceducators.com

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the station,
The overhead speaker echoed out a location.

The Bravest came running from far and from near,
And raced to the rig, quickly donning their gear.

And I in my bunkers, my coat and my boots,
Clicked onto the CAD to map out the route.

Down at the corner of Hancock and Polk,
The dispatcher reported a house filled with smoke.

We arrived on location to the reported address,
And I did my 360 to size-up and assess.

Smoke poured from the windows, from top floor on down,
Yet up on the roof there was none to be found.

I established command and gave out the orders,
Ladder 8 took the roof, Engine 5 grabbed the water.

So up to the rooftop Ladder 8 raised a ladder,
And climbed to the top to check out the matter.

I came to the chimney and what did I see,
But a fellow in red stuck deep past his knees.

Well, we tugged and we pulled until he came out,
Then he winked with one eye, and said with a shout:
"These newfangled chimneys, they make them too small;  
For a fellow as I, not skinny at all."

And with a twitch of his nose he dashed to his sleigh,  
and called to his reindeer, "AWAY now, AWAY."

As we backed into quarters, he flew out of sight,  
Saying "God Bless our Firefighters", and to all a SAFE night!

**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 Spring 2015 semester at Chabot College has begun!!! For complete registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)</td>
<td>Monday (am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)</td>
<td>Monday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 51 (Fire Services Operations)</td>
<td>Thursday (am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 51W (Fire Equipment Operations)</td>
<td>Thursday (mid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 51W (Fire Equipment Operations)</td>
<td>Thursday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 52 (Firefighter Safety &amp; Survival)</td>
<td>Wednesday (am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 52 (Firefighter Safety &amp; Survival)</td>
<td>Wednesday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 53 (Fire Behavior &amp; Combustion)</td>
<td>Tuesday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment &amp; Systems)</td>
<td>Thursday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 88A (Intro to Fire Fitness Training)</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Wed (midday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 88A (Intro to Fire Fitness Training)</td>
<td>Wednesday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 88B (Intermediate Fire Fitness Training)</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Wed (midday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 88B (Intermediate Fire Fitness Training)</td>
<td>Wednesday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 88C (Advanced Fire Fitness Training)</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Wed (midday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 88C (Advanced Fire Fitness Training)</td>
<td>Wednesday (pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation)</td>
<td>Tue &amp; Thurs (pm) or Saturday (all day)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Note:** Class meets on the following dates:  
- March 4, 6 and 8 (Wed/Fri/Sun)  
- April 14, 16 and 18 (Tue/Thu/Sat) |
| FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) | Tue & Thurs (pm) |
| **"Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C"** | Saturday (all day) |
COURSE | DAY
--- | ---
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) | Tue & Thurs (pm)  Saturday (all day)
**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) | Tue & Thurs (pm)  Saturday (all day)
**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) | Tue & Thurs (pm)  Saturday (all day)
Note: Class meets on the following dates:
- April 28 through May 17
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1st Responder-Operations) | Tue & Thu (pm)  Saturday (all day)
Note: Class meets on the following dates:
- April 21, 23, 25 and 26
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) | Tue & Thurs (pm)  Saturday (all day)
Note: Class only meets the following dates:
- April 14, 16, 18 and 19
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) | Tue & Thurs (pm)  Saturday (all day)
Note: Class only meets the following dates:
- March 29, April 7, 9 and 11
FT 95 (Work Experience ) | TBA
**Must also be registered in FT 96**
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) | Wednesday (pm)
**Must also be registered in FT 95**
EMS 1 (First Responder) | Tuesday (midday)
EMS 1 (First Responder) | Tuesday (pm)
EMS 2 (EMT) | Wednesday (all day)
**Must also be registered in Health 83**
EMS 2W (Patient Stabilization, Extrication and Triage) | Saturday (one day only)
**Must also be registered in Health 81**
EMS 4 (EMT Refresher) | Mon & Wed (pm)  Saturday (all day)
Note: Class only meets the following dates:
- April 27 – May 9

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.

ONLINE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES:

Take CFSTES Fire Officer & Fire Tech Classes on the Internet at Allan Hancock College

Enrollment and Registration Underway: The Full Spring 2015 Semester is 17 weeks that run from January 20 - 5/20, 2015. It Also has two 8 week sessions: Term # 3 runs from January 20 - March 13, 2015 and Term # 4 runs from 3/26 - 5/20, 2015.

Register Early, All Classes, particularly the Fire Officer classes, Fill Fast.

Fire Technology Classes: These classes are completely on-line

December 21, 2014  www.chabotfire.com
• **Core Classes (Required)**
  - Fire Protection Organization
  - Fire Prevention Technology
  - Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
  - Building Construction for Fire Protection
  - Fire Behavior & Combustion
  - Principles of Fire & Emergency Safety & Survival

• **Electives**
  - Apparatus & Equipment
  - Fire Hydraulics
  - Principles of Emergency Management
  - EMT 1 (Basic) Refresher
  - FRO Refresher

**CFSTES Fire Officer Classes**: Except for Fire Prevention 1A & 1B, the CFSTES Fire Officer classes are offered in a Hybrid (On-Line\ln-Class) fashion requiring students to attend an in-class session in Santa Maria, CA.

- Fire Command 1A: Command Principles For Company Officers
- Fire Command 1B: Incident Management For Company Officers **Pre-Requisites**
- Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Firefighting for Company Officers **Pre-Requisites**
- Fire Management 1: Management\Supervision for Company Officers
- Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 1 - **Entirely On-line**
- Fire Prevention 1B: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 2 - **Entirely On-line**

General Education classes are also offered on-line.

For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu

**Online Fire Tech classes are also available at Rio Hondo College and LA Harbor College**

_Dan Coffman, Professor_

1278 Glenneyre #190
Laguna Beach California 92651

---

**THE FUTURE FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE:**

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

This January marks the third year of the Future Firefighter Experience being offered at the annual Firehouse World Conference in San Diego, California. I have been very fortunate to have served as the lead instructor for the Future Firefighter Experience for the last two years, an idea that was created and supported by the leadership at Firehouse Magazine. The Future Firefighter Experience was developed in an attempt to inspire future firefighters to come to the conference and be exposed to what Firehouse Magazine and Firehouse World has to offer the fire service, while also providing them with valuable career development information.
Hundreds of future firefighters from within California and even outside of California have taken advantage of this great opportunity since the first time it was offered in February 2012. Past attendees have been Volunteer, Explorer, Cadet, or Reserve Firefighters aspiring to become full-time, career Firefighters; as well as students attending colleges working on their fire technology degree.

Attendees have also included individuals without any current fire service affiliation, but who have had an interest in becoming a firefighter and were made aware of this valuable opportunity through someone they knew working in the fire service. This program has assisted some future Firefighters become current Firefighters, and has received very positive feedback from past attendees.

Becoming a full-time, career Firefighter is not an easy process; anyone currently working in the fire service can attest to that. Many candidates start the process, and very few candidates actually get hired. The competition to become a Firefighter has never been more challenging, given the numbers of individuals who aspire to have a career in the fire service. A career in the fire service is highly sought out by candidates of all ages and from all walks of life.

There is no one-size-fits-all method to get hired in the fire service. However, there are a number of ways a candidate can make him/herself stand out above the competition and be successful in their pursuit of the badge. The Future Firefighter Experience Program will share some key nuggets that all candidates can benefit from if they choose to take advantage of what is shared with them.

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

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

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

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

REGISTER NOW for Firehouse World 2015 and take the next step!

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

December 21, 2014

www.chabotfire.com
FUTURE FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE

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

Use promo code: CP12 when registering.

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

Wednesday, Jan 28 2015 10:15AM - 11:45AM
Steve Prziborowski, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara, CA, FD
Bob Atlas, Battalion Chief/Co-Founder, Contra Costa, CA, FD/Fire Alumni

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

How To Master the Fire Service Testing Process

Wednesday, Jan 28 2015 2:00PM - 3:30PM
Steve Prziborowski, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara, CA, FD
Bob Atlas, Battalion Chief/Co-Founder, Contra Costa, CA, FD/Fire Alumni

Becoming a firefighter is not easy and if it was, everyone would be successful at getting hired. Unfortunately for every one firefighter who is hired, there are hundreds, if not thousands that are never hired. Instead of placing blame on others or being bitter, it is critical that the future firefighter takes responsibility for their career and takes control of their own destiny. Attendees will walk away with a better understanding of locating firefighter exams and the character traits that fire departments are looking for. He will share the common mistakes that you can avoid during the hiring process. Attendees will also be exposed to the most common phases of the Firefighter hiring process, including what to expect in each of the phases, key points for success, and how to best prepare for each phase.

Plus...........

- All access-pass to the exhibit hall to see the latest technology and tools available to the fire service.
- Access to Wednesday morning’s two keynote addresses. One firefighter will talk about adversity after he was seriously injured during his military career and had to overcome a number of challenges before joining the Long Beach, CA, Fire Department.
- Networking opportunities with firefighters and fire officers from around the country.
2015 FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATE WORKSHOP
MARCH 22, 2015

WORKSHOP TOPICS

- The Values Challenge
- Peeling Back the Layers
- Being the Ideal Candidate
- The Background-Psychological Exam
- Discipline & Accountability
- Networking & Building Relationships
- Chief’s Interview
- Education
- The Written Exam
- Technology in the Hiring Process
- Application & Resume Development
- Physical Fitness

LOGISTICS
Location:
Nertes Center for the Arts
3000 Campus Hill Dr.
Livermore, Ca.
Cost: $20.00

Time:
Registration: 7:00am
Event: 8:00am-5:00pm
Reservations:
firealumnievents.com

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Tim Sendelbach, Asst Chief (ret)
Editor in Chief Firehouse Magazine

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
Dale Carnes - Assistant Chief
San Francisco Fire Department

SPONSORED BY
**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](https://nationaltestingnetwork.com/publicsafetyjobs/search.cfm?position=2&state=All+States)

Over 260 different fire departments across the United States are using to recruit Firefighters. Candidates have the opportunity to have their written test score be used to apply for all of the agencies currently recruiting Firefighters.

**FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

The Oceanside Fire Department is now accepting applications for Firefighter Paramedic Recruit – Entry Level! Go to the City of Oceanside website at [http://www.oceanside.ca.us](http://www.oceanside.ca.us) and navigate to the Employment Opportunities page. The deadline to apply is January 19, 2015. Good luck!

These grant funded entry-level Firefighter Paramedic positions. These provisional positions will be limited to the duration of the grant. Post 9/11 military veterans are highly desirable.

**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](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](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](http://www.firebooks.com)
The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to host

Firefighting Operations in High-Rise and Standpipe Equipped Buildings

Presented by:
David McGrail
District Chief
Denver Fire Department

DATE: Thursday, January 8, 2015
TIME: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
WHERE: Home Church Classroom
1799 South Winchester Blvd.
Campbell, CA 95008

NOTE: The church occupies an old strip mall, and the class will be held in one of the middle classrooms off of the parking lot. 1799 is the address to the offices at the far end, look for a County Fire vehicle and/or signage near the front door to the classroom in the parking lot.

COST: $80

This one-day seminar is designed to give chief officers, company officers and firefighters a solid foundation upon which to build a comprehensive operational plan for high-rise firefighting. Chief McGrail will utilize his 32 years of firefighting experience, from nozzleman to incident commander, to outline critical engine company operations at a high rise incident with an emphasis on “proper weapon selection.” Truck company roles and responsibilities will be addressed including search and ventilation techniques which will include Chief McGrail’s Ten Truck Company, High-Rise, and Operational R’s. Chief McGrail will provide a recipe for success outlining the four essential areas of command and control utilizing the incident command system (ICS) and national incident management system (NIMS).

You DO NOT want to miss this incredible training opportunity!

Space is limited, so register TODAY!

To register, please complete the attached registration form. For inquiries, e-mail Deputy Chief Steve Prziborowski at steve.prziborowski@sccfd.org
Santa Clara County Fire Department Training Registration Form

Firefighting Operations in High-Rise and Standpipe Equipped Buildings
January 8, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Name: _________________________________________________________________

Rank: _________________________________________________________________

Department: __________________________________________________________

Street Address: _______________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code: _________________________________________________

Phone Number: _______________________________________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________

For this class, the only form of payment will be checks, money orders or cash.

• Please make your check or money orders payable to:
  Santa Clara County Fire Department

• Please send your payment (don’t mail cash) to:
  Santa Clara County Fire Department
  Attention: Steve Prziborowski
  14700 Winchester Blvd.
  Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

• Cancellation Policy:

  Full refunds will be provided if requested by December 25, 2014 at 1500 hours. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.
The Salinas Fire Department is proud to host

Firefighting Operations in High-Rise and Standpipe Equipped Buildings

Presented by:

David McGrail
District Chief
Denver Fire Department

DATE: Friday, January 9, 2015
TIME: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Where: Hartnell Community College
411 Central Avenue
Salinas, CA 93901
(Location on campus to be announced)
Cost: $80

This one-day seminar is designed to give chief officers, company officers and firefighters a solid foundation upon which to build a comprehensive operational plan for high-rise firefighting. Chief McGrail will utilize his 32 years of firefighting experience, from nozzleman to incident commander, to outline critical engine company operations at a high rise incident with an emphasis on “proper weapon selection.” Truck company roles and responsibilities will be addressed including search and ventilation techniques which will include Chief McGrail’s Ten Truck Company, High-Rise, and Operational R’s. Chief McGrail will provide a recipe for success outlining the four essential areas of command and control utilizing the incident command system (ICS) and national incident management system (NIMS).

You DO NOT want to miss this incredible training opportunity!

Space is limited, so register TODAY!

To register, please complete the attached registration form. For inquiries, e-mail Battalion Chief Brett Loomis at brettl@ci.salinas.ca.us
Salinas Fire Department Training Registration Form

Firefighting Operations in High-Rise and Standpipe Equipped Buildings
January 9, 2015
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

All Registrants complete this section:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME:</th>
<th>RANK:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAILING ADDRESS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY:</td>
<td>STATE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE:</td>
<td>E-MAIL:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credit Card Payments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME (as it appears on card):</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BILLING ADDRESS:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BILLING CITY:</td>
<td>BILLING STATE:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREDIT CARD NUMBER:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVN:</td>
<td>CIRCLE ONE: VISA MASTERCARD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AMOUNT TO CHARGE:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paying by Check or Purchase Order (Made out to Salinas Fire Department Training Trust):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHECK OR PO #:</th>
<th>AMOUNT:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Mail registrations to: Salinas Fire Department Training Division
65 West Alisal Street, Suite 210
Salinas, CA 93901

To Register By Phone:
Please call Claudia Topete at (831) 758-7262
Santa Clara County Training Officers Presents:

Fire Chief Dennis Rubin, District of Columbia Fire Department (Ret.)

Dates: January 6 & 7, 2015 – 08:30 – 17:00 daily, the same classes will be delivered both days.

Course Descriptions:

**Rube’s Rules for Leadership:**
Chief Dennis Rubin has developed his personal list of "rules to live by" over the past three decades. Rubin will be sharing his 13 "Mission Critical" rules in an open, honest, and humorous way. Chief Rubin will engage the audience in a discussion as to how these 13 rules can be adopted and implemented into the student’s own leadership style. Participants will get Rubin's insight about these thirteen Rules and much more of his leadership philosophy during this guided discussion.

**“Avoiding Career Crushers”:**
To be successful in the fire & rescue service at any rank, members must avoid the “potholes” that are associated with bad personal or organizational decisions & behavior. Chief Dennis Rubin has prepared a presentation that outlines the 13 most likely “Career Crushers” based on his observations and paying attention to what occurs in our industry virtual every single day. As Chief Rubin leads a guided discussion about the 13 “Career Crushers,” the participants will learn how to avoid these risks and temptations from occurring on their watch. The program points out what the impact maybe and provides a clear focus of learning the key steps to stay away from all 13 of the Career Crushers.

**Instructor Bio:**
Chief Rubin’s experience in fire and rescue service spans more than 35 years. He has served as a company officer, command level officer, and fire chief in several major U. S. Cities including; the City of Atlanta and D.C.F.D. He served on several committees with the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Chief Rubin’s educational accomplishments include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Administration from the University of Maryland. Chief Rubin is a graduate of the National Fire Academy’s Executive Fire Officers Program (EFOP) and the Naval Post Graduate School’s Executive Leadership Course in Homeland Security. Rubin is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM); and a certified Incident Safety Officer as well has obtained the Chief Fire Officer Designation (CFOD - Inactive) and Chief Medical Officer Designation (CMO) presented by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

**Location:**
Home Church – 1799 South Winchester, Campbell, CA.

**Fees:**
$75.00

**Registration:**
Please make checks payable to Santa Clara County Training Officers and mail them to: San Jose Fire Department
ATTN: FE Jeff Seaton
255 S. Montgomery St.
San Jose, CA. 95110

**Contact:**
Jeff Seaton: (408) 710-2045 or by email at jeff.seaton@sanjoseca.gov
FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

It is that time of year again to submit your CAL FIRE Seasonal Firefighter Applications!

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

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

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

PLEASE REVIEW THE UNIT LISTING ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THE FIRE FIGHTER I EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION.

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

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

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

For more information, go to:
http://calfire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• S-231 (Engine Boss)</td>
<td>January 8 – 9, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fire Management 2B</td>
<td>January 12 – 16, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training Instructor 1A</td>
<td>January 26 – 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• S-244 (Field Observer)  February 2 – 4, 2015 (0900 start)
• S-245 (Display Processor)  February 5, 2015 (0900 start)
• Training Instructor 1B  February 9 – 13, 2015
• Training Instructor 1C  February 23 – 27, 2015
• Fire Management 2C  March 9 – 13, 2015
• Fire Investigation 1A  March 23 – 27, 2015
• S-336 (Tactical Decision Making in Wildland Fire)  March 30 – April 2, 2015
• Fire Investigation 1B  April 13 – 17, 2015
• Command 1C  April 27 – May 1, 2015
• Fire Investigation 2A  May 4 – 8, 2015
• Fire Management 2D  May 11 – 15, 2015
• Fire Investigation 2B  June 1 – 5, 2015
• S-234 (Ignition Operations)  June 23 – 26, 2015
• Fire Management 2E  July 13 – 17, 2015

Course Location: McCormack Training Center
485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008
Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

Start Time: 0830 the first day unless noted otherwise.
To Register: Please see below for registration form.
More Info: Contact Steve Prziborowski at steve.prziborowski@sccfd.org or 408-896-6890.

CLASS PREREQUISITES

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

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S-230</td>
<td>January 5 – 7, 2015</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-231</td>
<td>January 8 – 9, 2015</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Management 2B</td>
<td>January 12 – 16, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Instructor 1A</td>
<td>January 26 – 30, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-244 &amp; S-245</td>
<td>February 2 – 5, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Instructor 1B</td>
<td>February 9 - 13, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Instructor 1C</td>
<td>February 23 – 27, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Management 2C</td>
<td>March 9 - 13, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Investigation 1A</td>
<td>March 23 - 27, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-336</td>
<td>March 30 – April 2, 2015</td>
<td>$480.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Investigation 1B</td>
<td>April 13 - 17, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Command 1C</td>
<td>April 27 – May 1, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Investigation 2A</td>
<td>May 4 - 8, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Management 2D</td>
<td>May 11 - 15, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Investigation 2B</td>
<td>June 1 - 5, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-234</td>
<td>June 23 – 27, 2015</td>
<td>$495.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Management 2E</td>
<td>July 13 - 17, 2015</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Name: ___________________________ ____________________________
Rank: ___________________________ ____________________________
Department: ___________________________ ____________________________
Street Address: ___________________ ____________________________________
City, State, Zip Code: ___________________________ __________________ __________
Phone Number: ___________________________ ____________________________
E-mail: ___________________________ ____________________________

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

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

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter. Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California:  
526 Commerce Way 
Livermore, CA 94551

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

FIREFIGHTER PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION BOOK:

Preparing for promotion? If so, this book is for you and is a must read! It is titled “How To Excel At Fire Department Promotional Exams.” To order, go to www.code3firetraining.com

- For a limited time, the paperback version can be purchased for 25% off by clicking on the website link above!!!

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

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

- Available in soft cover paperback and e-book formats.
- Also available on Amazon and iTunes
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Firehouse World** – *San Diego, CA* – January 25 - 29, 2015
  Go to [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com) for more information.

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

- **Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* – July 14 - 18, 2015
  Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

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

- **California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium** – *Fresno, CA* – November, 2015

FIREFIGHTER ENTRY-LEVEL PREPARATION BOOK:

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

**The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide!**

Be The Best Firefighter Candidate You Can Be!

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

- To order, go to [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)
- Available in soft cover paperback and e-book formats.
- Also available on Amazon and iTunes.
- **For a limited time, the paperback version can be purchased for 25% off by clicking on the website link above!!!**
Are you preparing to become a firefighter or do you know someone who is preparing to become a firefighter? If so, this book is a must-have for your library!

Reach For The Firefighter Badge!
How to Master the Entry-Level Fire Department Testing Process!

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

- To order, go to www.chabotfire.com
- Available in soft cover paperback and e-book formats.
- Also available on Amazon and iTunes.
  - For a limited time, the paperback version can be purchased for 25% off by clicking on the website link above!!!

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

Hey,
Once in a while we share something that is not directly related to a firefighter close call. In this case, it personally struck home in three areas:

1-Our Fire-Medic crews respond to these types of runs day in and day out-as yours do.

2-My Mom "Mrs G" , who is 87, fell three times last week-once alone in her independent living apartment with very minor injuries-(she didn't want to worry anyone by pushing her "I've fallen and I can't get up" button)...and twice with one of us walking with her. She is fine...this time.

3-My father in Law "Mr H" died following a fall-he was fine, working in his yard, fell with a serious injury-died three weeks later-after 3 weeks in the hospital with, quite frankly, careless and poor care with a "he's old, he's had a good life" attitude. Seriously.

You probably have stories like that as well.
THIS article is perhaps one of the best for us to understand the issue-and it's impact on EMS response-it also helps those of us who don't understand what Senior Citizens go through-(yet)-to better understand it - as the piece has some very interest "demo" videos-in the eyes of a Senior Citizen. It also opens up another opportunity for fire/EMS related to injury prevention/community contact for seniors and their families. As the population ages and people live longer in bad shape, the number of older Americans who fall and suffer serious, even fatal, injuries is soaring. When they fall-they call us.

CHECK THIS OUT (and especially pass it on to your younger EMS and fire personnel)
http://tinyurl.com/msym6gr
BillyG
The Secret List 11-2-2014-1036 Hours

AND:

Hey,
We meant to share this last week but things got busy. If you click on the below link, there is loads of information as well as a series of 8 x 10 printable posters for use in your firehouse related to:

-The Wash Your Hood Sunday Program.
-Fight It! Firefighter Cancer Prevention (card size and poster size)

As FIREFIGHTER CANCER continues to be the #1 dis-abler and killer of Firefighters, every chance we have to share the word, we do. These FIRE/CANCER-FIGHTING items provide all Firefighters, Officers and Chiefs "in their face" reminders of the easy steps that can be taken to lessen the risk-in an already risky environment. Click, print, post-and its one more step to educate the brothers and sisters: http://tinyurl.com/ommmmatp

BillyG
The Secret List 11/3/2014-0946 Hours

AND:

SOUTH CAROLINA AND AUSTRALIA FF’s DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY
HEART ATTACK/SEVERE BURNS
We regret to pas on to you that 29 year old Firefighter-Paramedic Fleming, Westview-Fairforest Fire Department (SC) suffered a heart attack in the bunkroom of the firehouse in the early morning hours of November 1st. Fleming was treated immediately by a fellow paramedic and other responders at the station and was then transported to the hospital where he went into cardiac arrest. Despite efforts to revive him, Fleming succumbed to his injury. Firefighter-Paramedic Fleming had responded to several emergency incidents and worked fire prevention activities in the hours leading up to his fatal injury.

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
A South Australian Country Fire Association (CFS) volunteer Firefighter died in the Line of Duty from burns after a brush fire on Friday. FF Andrew Harrison, 38, a Mount Templeton unit volunteer, died while fighting the fire on a farm fire unit. The fire was believed to have been sparked by a farmer harvesting lentils. Our condolences to all affected by both losses. RIP.

FIRE CHIEF SUFFERS SELF INFlicted ACCIDENTAL GUNSHOT WOUNDS
Pell City, Alabama Fire Chief Mike Burdette is recovering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the
leg after accidentally shooting himself during firearms training. It happened shortly before 11 a.m. **Friday** at the FOP Lodge Firing Range. The Chief accidentally shot himself in the lower right leg as he attempted to re-holster his .40 caliber pistol. The pistol accidentally discharged as Burdette was getting up from the kneeling position. Newton said the bullet went through his right leg. He is recuperating at home now. Chief Burdette serves as the city's fire marshal and investigates arson cases, as well as serving as the fire chief. He must maintain his weapons certification to remain APOST certified, like all law enforcement officers, so he can keep his arresting powers. We wish him a quick recovery.

**RE-BANDING STRIKES AGAIN**

Here is yet ANOTHER story about a fire departments alerting/communications system that has suffered due to decisions by the FCC...decisions that we have been told, have since been dropped...leaving fire departments with less than adequate communication. Wonderful.

**READ MORE HERE:**

http://fox6now.com/2014/11/02/broken-pager-system-has-firefighters-sitting-at-home-watching-tv-during-emergencies/

**THE PAIN CONTINUES IN DALLAS, TEXAS:**

Dallas firefighter Stanley Wilson died in the Line of Duty more than a year and a half ago. But some of his former colleagues say an internal rift that has formed since his death dates back much further to long-standing departmental politics and a tinge of racial tension within Dallas Fire-Rescue.

**HERE** is more: http://tinyurl.com/owod59f

**PIERCE FIRE APPARATUS RECALL:**

Pierce Manufacturing is recalling 135 fire trucks in the U.S. because a suspension part can fail and cause a wheel to fall off. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in documents posted on its website this weekend that the recall covers Pierce Arrow fire trucks from the 2010 and 2011 model years. The trucks have TAK-4 front suspensions and were built from Nov. 18, 2009, through May 11, 2011. The agency began investigating the trucks in March after getting reports of a wheel falling off two aerial ladder trucks that were responding to emergency calls in Portland, Oregon, and Edmond, Oklahoma. The Wisconsin-based company also told the agency of another case in Milwaukee. Pierce will inspect the lower control arms on the trucks and replace any that are defective.

Contact your PIERCE dealer if you have any questions.

**=INDIANA FIRE CHIEF EJECTED:**

Fire Chief Robert “Bob” Lemons of Indiana’s Vigo Township Fire & Rescue, in Knox County, was killed early **Friday** in a crash involving two vehicles. Chief Lemons, 42, was southbound on SR 67 between Bruceville and Vincennes when he swerved to avoid a deer, went left of center into the northbound lane where his vehicle was then struck by a semi-truck headed north. Chief Lemons was unrestrained and was ejected from his vehicle. He was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes where he was later pronounced dead. RIP.

**=VT FIRE CAPTAIN & WIFE ACCIDENTAL DROWNING**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the passing of long time SW New Hampshire Fire Mutual Aid System Board of Director member Larry Daley from Peru Vt. Larry was also a long time member of the Peru Vt FD. He was very active as a Director and represented the Tri-Mountain area of the mutual aid system. His wife, Ruth, tragically passed away with him.

Funeral services for Director Larry Daley are **Tuesday (tomorrow)** 11/4 at 1400 at the Peru Church. A reception will follow at the Peru Fire Station. RIP.


BillyG

Happy 1st Birthday Babies Harper and Vada

The Secret List 11/3/2014-1024 Hours
**AND:**

All,

Bad crash out of Ohio this morning--fire companies were operating on the Ohio Turnpike near Youngstown earlier today. Initial reports are that a tractor trailer that was carrying cars was involved-

lost control, crashing into or near the apparatus. Apparently the car hauler crashed and lost some cars-impacting the Cardinal Joint Fire District apparatus already operating on a scene. There were heavy fire conditions and because the apparatus was struck-and not usable, the members attempted to fight the fire and attempt rescue using extinguishers. There was one civilian fatality in what appears to be a third, separate, driven vehicle, The crash happened on the turnpike at mile marker 222 about 1130 hours this morning between Lordstown and Youngstown near the Kirk Road overpass.where the car hauler collided with the Cardinal JFD fire truck. Some FF's were injured but non life threatening.

We'll have more later, KTIYP's.


BillyG

The Secret List 11/5/2014-1251 Hours

---

**FIREFIGHTER LODD-NUMEROUS INJURED-HAZMAT IN ISRAEL.**

We regret to pass on to you that one firefighter was killed and twenty were injured in the Line of Duty after inhaling ammonia gas released from a 60-ton container in the Emek Hefer region of Israel yesterday. The area around the factory was cordoned off, and nearby residents had been instructed to remain indoors. The warning was lifted a few hours later. Firefighter Samer Asli from Kfar Kara was reported missing after arriving at the scene of the leak, and was found and evacuated only after 2300 hours, and died despite attempts to resuscitate him. One of the twenty injured suffered moderate injuries; the rest are in light condition, suffering from nausea, vomiting and shortness of breath. The leak occurred when a two-to-three centimeter breach opened in the pressurized container. Our condolences to all affected. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-7-2014-0630

---

**AND:**

Hey,

A late night fire struck the Wayne County (West Virginia) Sheriff's house, and sent the Lavalette Fire Chief to the hospital on Friday evening. With ammunition in the structure, one of the stray rounds struck Lavalette Fire Chief Johnny Maynard in the throat sending him to the hospital. He very luckily suffered NLT injuries.

====SUTPHEN TOWER LADDER FAILURE UPDATE:

Frayed cables and a defective pulley are at the heart of a 62 page report detailing what caused three Hall County (GA) firefighters to fall 40 feet to the ground, as the ladder truck they were training on collapsed. The report is below. Investigators believe damage to one of the cables existed "prior to the accident" and that the cable's pulley - or sheave - was "worn, damaged or improperly manufactured." In one picture included in the report, you can see the sheave is too small, and unable to fit the cable that's supposed to run through it.

WORRISOME HISTORY:

The truck was once owned by the Bluffton Township Fire Department in South Carolina. In four years, Bluffton says it tried six times to fix problems with the ladder and extension cables and eventually lost
all confidence in the truck, due its catastrophic and consistent failures. The truck manufacturer, Sutphen, agreed to buy back the truck. Three months later records show, it sold the truck to Hall County, with the promise it would be restored to factory specifications. Hall County says it was told the truck was returned to Sutphen due to a "dispute involving maintenance issues" and that the truck had never "had a design failure."

The county now says both of those statements were false, but has still agreed to settle instead of take the company to court. In a confidential agreement, obtained through an open records request, media learned Sutphen agreed to buy back the truck for $505,000, the same amount the county paid when purchasing it. But in doing so, it does not admit any wrongdoing. The company has repeatedly declined media request for comment.

An internal investigation summary concluded, "there is no evidence that anyone with Hall County had prior knowledge of any prior equipment failures involving Sutphen vehicles, thus decisions to move forward with the purchase of the vehicle were made in good faith."

Media asked the Bluffton Fire Chief if anyone had tried to contact them for more information. Chief Payne said he was "unable to locate any evidence or documentation to the effect that any member of (his) department was contacted by or had spoken with any representative of Hall County prior to the unfortunate incident."

REPORT & COVER LETTER:
HERE IS MORE MEDIA COVERAGE:

====SCBA LAWSUIT:
A Eugene, Oregon Firefighter has filed a $600,000 lawsuit against the maker and seller of a city-purchased air mask that allegedly broke during a training exercise and caused him a serious ear injury. David Pickett, 35, claims in the suit filed Wednesday in Lane County Circuit Court that he and other firefighters were testing recently purchased MSA Firehawk M7 air masks when the accident happened on Dec. 19, 2012. The suit claims that Pickett had placed the mask on his head and was pressurizing the system when an air line running between an air tank and the mask "became violently detached resulting in an explosion next to (his) right ear." As a result of the device's failure, Pickett suffered hearing loss, tinnitus, debilitating headaches and a loss of balance, according to the suit. He now wears a hearing aid in his right ear, the lawsuit asserts.

Pickett claims that the mask's air line was not designed or manufactured to allow it to withstand the air pressure required for the unit's proper use as a self-contained breathing apparatus commonly used by firefighters. Pickett's attorney, Jeffrey Wing of Eugene, said his client still works as a Eugene firefighter. Wing declined to provide additional comment on the lawsuit. Named as defendants in the suit are the mask's manufacturer, Mine Safety Appliances Co. of Pennsylvania, and Sea-Western Inc., a Washington company that sold the masks to the city. Reached Friday, a spokesman for Mine Safety Appliances Co. declined comment on Pickett's allegations. City officials said they could not respond Friday to questions regarding whether or not the fire department continued to use MSA Firehawk M7 air masks after Pickett's accident. Pickett is seeking $72,328 to cover wages that he claims to have lost and expects to lose in the future as a result of his injury; $6,500 to repay his medical expenses; $18,000 to pay for the hearing aids that he expects to need over the course of his life; and up to $500,000 in compensation for pain and suffering.
MORE DETAILS:

====FIREFIGHTER SPECIFIC CPR:
The Leland, North Carolina FD has developed a very important and professionally presented program to address the issue of dealing with firefighters who may experience sudden cardiac arrest on the fireground while in full turnouts. Here’s an article from FireNews.net:
http://www.firenews.net/leland-fr-develops-firefighter-cpr/
They also have a dedicated website with videos and other training materials. All of their content is available for sharing. http://fd-cpr.com/

====CONGRATS CHIEF ROUTLEY:
A belated congrats to Division Chief Gordon Routley, of the Montreal FD who was named Canada's Full-time Fire Chief of the Year in September. Fire Chief Gerald Jones of Petitcodiac Fire Department, is the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. You may remember Chief Routley as he lead the investigation and report on the Line of Duty Deaths of the 9 Charleston, SC Firefighters:
Both awards were announced at the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs’ annual conference, Fire-Rescue Canada, held in Ottawa, Ontario. There are 3,500 fire departments in Canada and 108,000 firefighting personnel. Volunteers comprise 91 per cent of all departments and 77 per cent of total personnel. CONGRATS!
BillyG
The Secret List 11/9/2014-1453 Hours

AND - - - - - - - - - - -

Hey,
The Arizona State Forestry Division posted 21 video clips on its website (link below) yesterday that offer little new insight on the last moments of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, the 19 firefighters who died in the Line of Duty battling the Yarnell Hill Fire on June 30, 2013. The video clips, shot by other firefighters, take place in the moments before the Granite Mountain Hotshots were overtaken by the fire and progress to the point where their bodies were discovered. The bodies have been edited out.

VIDEOS:https://azsf.az.gov/new-video-clips

The Forestry Division website says the video clips were obtained from the U.S. Forest Service through a Freedom of Information Act request. The videos are presented as they were received, the website states and were redacted by the Forest Service. The videos were uploaded to the website yesterday morning and include one clip that was previously released in December 2013-the others are previously unreleased. The clips range in length from fewer than 30 seconds to more than seven minutes. In some instances, the quality of the audio is clear. In others, the audio is muffled by wind or poor radio reception. In a video, the firefighters discussed if it would be possible to get a helicopter to the location and if that would be helpful. Once the bodies are found, the emotion in their voices is apparent. At one point a voice can be heard uttering a profanity and confirming that the bodies of the Granite Mountain crew have been found. A firefighter is heard over the radio saying, "True, and just confirming, no medical treatment is needed at this time."

Entire Media Article HERE: http://bit.ly/1qxQ4sA
RIP.
December 21, 2014 www.chabotfire.com
Baltimore City Fire Safety Officer Found Dead at Scene

It is with deep regret that we pass on to you that veteran Baltimore City FD Safety Officer Lt James Bethea (serving Balto City FD since April 4, 1973) was found dead today at the scene of a fire that occurred earlier. The safety officer vehicle had been on scene at the smoke scene, since the fire began in the early morning. Initial reports are that Lt Bethea had gone to check exposures for safety concerns and while doing so, it appears he fell 8’ into the basement of the abandoned structure - remaining there, initially unnoticed after companies had cleared. Later this morning, it was reported that the FD vehicle was on still the block - assistance was sent. The Balto City FD members searched and found him gone in the basement of the exposure. Much more to follow as they investigate. Our condolences to all those affected by this horrible loss of a very well respected veteran Fire Officer. RIP.

ST James Firefighter LODD-Medical Emergency

We regret to pass on to you that 56 year old St. James Fire Department Ex-Captain Richard Weisse passed away suddenly yesterday afternoon after experiencing a medical emergency. He responded to a school fire alarm late that morning and went down not long after that. As the Director of the St James FD Junior Firefighter program, he worked most of yesterday with them conducting a food drive to provide for needy families within the community during the Thanksgiving holiday. He was a 39 year member of the Saint James department and was very active throughout his service. Our condolences to all affected. RIP. ST JAMES FD: http://www.stjamesfd.org/
**AND:**

Hey,
Reports out of California are that at least 3 Firefighters were rushed to local hospitals morning after chemicals loaded into a vacuum truck exploded in Santa Paula. Approximately 1,000 gallons of an organic peroxide exploded from the truck at the Santa Clara Waste Water Company in Santa Paula, the Ventura County. The explosion scattered the chemical, which began to crystallize and spontaneously ignite. Firefighters had to leave one engine behind because its tires began to ignite as it rolled over the material.

The chemical has also sickened 12 hospital employees at the VCMC emergency room. The hospital was working to contain the ER in order to prevent the chemical from affecting additional personnel.

The cause of the explosion was unclear. The chemical, possibly an organic peroxide, spontaneously combusted as it was being loaded into a vacuum truck. The explosion caused the chemical to shoot out at least 300 feet, creating smaller flare-ups. KTIYP's.

**RAW VIDEO OF THE EXPLOSION:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fx2tdafwP0
**RELATED:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI7CFx8azKc
BillyG
The Secret List 11/18/2014-1720 Hours

**AND:**

**NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER DIES IN QUARTERS-LODD**
We regret to pass on to you that a veteran Summit (Schoharie County, NY, SW of Albany) Firefighter died after being stricken inside the firehouse Tuesday night while he was helping other Firefighters getting ready to deploy to western New York to assist in the aftermath of the blizzard. James Foote, 57, one of the Summit Fire Department Commissioners collapsed in quarters and while treatment was immediate, he tragically died at Cobleskill Hospital. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

**DRAFT REPORT VS FINAL REPORT? QUESTIONS CONTINUE FROM DALLAS.**
A 703-page draft of the Dallas Fire-Rescue line-of-duty death report on Stanley Wilson is far more critical of the incident commander than the official version released by the department weeks ago....raising even more questions of command, control, communication, accountability and integrity.
**MORE HERE:**

**WTF?! RACIST BS FROM A MINORITY FIRE CHIEF**
Nasty comments, even racist ones aren't new-and while they should be a part of a vile history...they aren't and certainly are alive and well. Freedom of speech-absolutely...but...not when it impacts those we "swore" to serve regardless of.....
When all else fails, the public has confirmed-and we have proven time and time again that:
...we are there when you need us.
...we strive to save.
...we are always on the job.
...service for others.
...deeds not words.
...service above self.

We—and others try to make it clear that firefighters will **never** care about the color, race, religion, nationality etc of those we serve...we'll guess that 99% of those in our service get it....but the BS flag has been tossed once again.As sad as it seems, not all firefighters are willing to go out of their way for anyone who may need our help. Even in a non-emergency situation...it just depends...at least according to one **minority** fire chief. Ingenious play on words by us—how 'bout that?!—he's the minority—the great minority at least in the context of being in the minority of local, Kentucky and North American firefighters, officers and chiefs who could even think and act this way in 2014.

Thankfully.

**HERE IS THE VIDEO:** [http://tinyurl.com/mocflp3](http://tinyurl.com/mocflp3)

**ALSO:** DaveS's been all over this as well: [http://tinyurl.com/pnoouee](http://tinyurl.com/pnoouee)


BillyG

The Secret List 11/20/2014-1000 Hours

**AND - - - - - - - - - - -**

All,
Do you know someone who deserves to attend FDIC, but can't due to budget restrictions or other impediments? **What if you could make that happen?**

Honeywell First Responders (Morning Pride, Pro Boots etc) and UL (Underwriters Labs) have partnered together to offer **TWENTY FIRE full-paid** (travel, hotel etc-see below!) scholarship to **TWENTY FIVE** brave men and women protecting our communities to attend 2015 FDIC. *All you need to do is tell them why you're nominating them!*

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!**
The registration link can be found on the FDIC website: [www.fdic.com/scholarship.html](http://www.fdic.com/scholarship.html)

**Whats the fine print? Not much!** TWENTY FIRE FIGHTERS WILL WIN...and that includes round trip travel, a VIP dinner reception, full stay private hotel room and full access to all FDIC classes, activities, sessions, exhibits!

**WHAT DO YOU DO?**
Simply fill out the info on the link and submit a short video, taken with a phone or camera, telling them why you are nominating him/her. Considerations such as demonstrated dedication, or leadership, or remarkable devotion-actions that make an outstanding, deserving fire fighter!...you can read more at the above link. **Registrations end at the close of business, 1700 hours (eastern) on January 15th, 2015. Winners will be announced in February 2015!** As most of you know, FDIC is tough for many to get to...this helps fix that for **TWENTY FIVE** deserving firefighters/fire officers—thanks to UL and Honeywell.

**That's pretty cool.....**

BillyG

The Secret List 11/19/2014-1600 Hours
AND:

All,

Tragic news out of Manatee County (Florida, Tampa Bay area) this morning as a City of Bradenton Firefighter is dead after a standoff Sunday evening between him and Bradenton Police. The veteran FF was also an Iraqi war veteran. Around 2100 hours last night cops responded for a domestic situation involving a that Firefighter that ended with a SWAT team response and gunfire on Oxford Drive West in West Bradenton. The Firefighter came out to his front yard with firearms, threatened to kill himself and threatened to kill his sister. Police arrived with negotiators and after talking, the man came out of the house with two guns, he then pointed at officers-and a police officer fired one shot and killed the Firefighter. Police stated that the Firefighter was influenced by alcohol and it's uncertain if the incident was a suicide by cop or if the man had an illness resulting from his service in the military. Our condolences to everyone affected by this loss. RIP.


BillyG
The Secret List 11/24/2014-0900 Hours

AND ---------------

Hey,

Thanks to all the folks who coordinated the beautiful memorial service for Chief Harvey Eisner (Former Editor in Chief of Firehouse, Former Chief of Tenafly NJ and Hon FDNY Ass't Chief) this past Saturday. I'm not sure it could have been done any more perfectly-for Harvey, his family and friends. RIP Harvey....

ARTICLE:
Harvey Remembered at "The Rock" FDNY: http://tinyurl.com/mhvkb5s

We also take time to remember another friend and Brother, FDNY Lt. Joey DiBernardo, who suffered massive injuries in the "Black Sunday" fire, and whose injuries claimed his life in the Line of Duty nearly seven years later, on November 22, 2011. RIP Joey D....

More HERE about FDNY's "BLACK SUNDAY" & Joey D: http://tinyurl.com/kl5j3p9

FIREFIGHTER LODD WIDOW: CYA IN COURT:
The attorney for the widow of Dallas LODD Firefighter Stanley Wilson blasted fire officials for what he called a "cultural indifference" that led to Wilson's line-of-duty death last year. Attorney Barry Hasten, reacting to the release last week of a 703-page draft report on Wilson's death, said the document shows that Dallas Fire-Rescue suffers from a lack of accountability. He also believes fire officials botched their response to the investigation. Hasten said Chief Louie Bright III - who has said he does "not believe discipline is merited" for anyone for their actions during the deadly six-alarm blaze - hasn't shown the leadership needed to fix a "cultural indifference to policies, rules, tactics and manual of procedures" cited in the draft report.

"Certainly, Chief Bright's determination that no discipline was warranted is evidence of this lack of accountability, and it serves to nurture this 'cultural indifference' within DFR," Hasten said Wednesday. "It's clear to me now that this cultural indifference led to Stan's death." Dallas Fire-Rescue officials have vowed to fix those problems and move on from Wilson's death on May 20, 2013, inside a far northeast Dallas condo building fire. Hasten said that if the department "is unwilling to change its whole culture, it may be that a change will be forced upon it through litigation."

HERE IS MORE:
UPDATE: FIRE SCENE AMBUSH - POLICE OFFICER SHOT & KILLED.
As you know, Tallahassee/Leon County Firefighters responded to what any of us would have thought was a standard response to a dwelling fire-and literally all hell broke loose...resulting in the Line of Duty Death of 47-year-old Leon County Sheriffs Deputy Christopher Smith. Deputy Smith and Deputy Colin Wulfekuhl were responding to a house fire when the suspect ambushed Smith and killed him. Deputy Wulfekuhl was wounded when the suspect shot him, but his bulletproof vest stopped the bullet.

CLOSE CALL FOR FIREFIGHTERS:
At least one of the Firefighters had bullet holes in his uniform jacket that was left on the jump seat when he bailed out when bullets started flying. Officers exchanged gunfire with the suspect until the suspect was shot and killed. There are also holes in apparatus as well.

LISTEN TO THE RADIO TRAFFIC:
The handling of the scene by TFD personnel is phenomenal.
The suspect in the shooting has been identified as 53-year-old Curtis Wade Holley who had previously expressed anti-government sentiments and that he had discussed harming law enforcement. Holley intentionally set his house ablaze with the intent of harming as many law enforcement officials as possible. RIP.

HERE is the fire/EMS radio traffic:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qMZJcrx1OA

MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTER DOWN-UPDATE:
GOOD NEWS: That Springfield Fire Officer who suffered a heart attack while rescuing an elderly man who mistakenly lit a cigarette while his oxygen tank was on and uncapped on Saturday is expected to survive. Lt. Brian Tredo as the Firefighter who suffered a heart attack assisting that 72-year-old victim from an apartment fire Saturday morning. KTIYP's.

FIREFIGHTER DIES IN HIS OWN HOUSE AFTER MAKING RESCUE
Nantahala (NC) FF Brad McCoy, 36, saved one of his children from his own burning house then went back in searching for the rest of his family early Friday morning. The fire broke out shortly before 0100 hours Friday. After the fire started he got his 9-year-old daughter out. But neighbors say he thought other family members were still in trouble. He went back in to try to save his son that he thought was still in the fire. He carried his daughter out to the front door, set her down. She ran over to the church. He in turn went back to get the rest of his family. Unbeknownst to Brad, his wife had tossed their son out the window and she exited with him. Our condolences to all affected. We don't have any info regarding this being listed as a LINE OF DUTY DEATH but will keep you advised if you get more.
BillyG
The Secret List 11/24/2014-0800 Hours

AND:
Hey,
You don't have to go very far to find discussions related to fireground operations, tactics, command and control.
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.

- How do we 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 department's 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?

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, 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.

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.


BillyG
The Secret List 11/25/2014-1400 Hours

AND:

TWO FOREIGN LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

1--FIREFIGHTER LODD: FALL FROM AERIAL DEVICE:
The first LODD is a Firefighter in Turkey. Unsecured Firefighter/Mehmet Kopuc Kata (age 30) tragically loses his balance on the top of an aerial ladder and fell 4 stories. He was treated, transported, but passed away in the hospital. Another reminder of the risk when operating on aerial devices without being secured. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

HERE is video of the event - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEBkKLpSUNU
2--FIRE FIGHTER LODD: DROWN WHILE TRAINING:
A Fire Officer/Instructor with the 2nd Company of the Fire Brigade in Caceres, Lt Kleiber Rodrigues Alves, 40, died in the Line of Duty Friday morning, while leading a scuba diving course. Lt Kleiber was doing diving at a depth of about six meters, when he began to feel ill. A student noticed his distress, and rescued him out of the water. This LODD occurred in the State of Mato Grosso, Midwest Brazil. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

FIREFIGHTER STRUCK IN WASHINGTON; SERIOUSLY INJURED
A Tukwila Firefighter was hospitalized in serious condition after he was hit by a car while operating at a crash Saturday night. The Firefighter was talking with the driver of the car that crashed near the on ramp to northbound I-5 from southbound I-405 at 1750 hours when a second vehicle smashed into the car and the Firefighter. He was immediately treated at the scene by by other members and taken to Harborview Medical Center with serious but non-life threatening injuries.

FIRE APPARATUS VS HELICOPTER IN CHILE:
Under the "don't do this" subject line...here are two videos of a fire apparatus driving right into the blades of a helicopter....a police helicopter in San Miguel, Chile, yesterday.

WATCH THIS ONE FIRST:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZTox8SX124&sns=em
NOW THIS ONE:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7xWEXEOf7I

SO...EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED?
The police helicopter was requested to a crash scene that was actually involving a police car and a vehicle driven by a drunk driver. That crash left three officers injured who were eventually taken to the hospital. Cops closed off the street to allow the helicopter, with a paramedic on board, to land, to treat the victims. SO THEN, the "not paying attention" driver of the fire apparatus traveled right through the crash scene and struck one of the helicopter's blades, causing the helicopter to spin, and spin, and then tip over (after hitting a police car) and explode with the blades becoming projectiles.. The pilot, Police Captain Mario Esperidón Arce, was critically injured with multiple fractures and another officer was also taken to hospital in the frightening incident in San Miguel in Santiago.

KTIYP's.

FIRE RANT NEWS:
If you have never viewed FIRE RANT NEWS, you will want to check it out. This firefighter owned/operated e-magazine features some great online content. Be sure to check out the story about "true firefighter heroism in action" where Long Island FF Mike Allen rescues a semi-conscious victim from a working house fire.

Check it out HERE:


BillyG
The Secret List 12/1/2014-1100 Hours

AND:

Hey,
Each December, there are some very significant dates for the fire service, worthy of note and well worth kitchen table discussion with Firefighters-especially with the younger ones.

=CHURCH FIRE;
For example, the **OUR LADY OF ANGELS fire** anniversary (Monday, Dec 1, 1958) in Chicago where 92 kids and 4 nuns lost their lives—a day in 1958 where the heroics of Chicago FF's were well documented.

EXCELLENT VIDEOS OF THE FIRE:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CqpQnGIEng
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLhO25vBT5c
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLkKJZqsSMQ

=BUILDING FIRE:
And in that same city, Dec 22, 2010, **Chicago Firefighters Corey Ankum and Ed Stringer** were killed in a collapse—on the 100th Anniversary of the Union Stock Yards fire that killed 21 Chicago Firefighters.
FIRE REPORT: [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports-face201038.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports-face201038.html)

=BUILDING/GAS EXPLOSION:
Additionally, every Firefighter should well familiar with the multi LODD loss in Buffalo (NY) when 5 **Buffalo FD Ladder 5 Firefighters** (and 2 civilians) were killed in a propane explosion on December 27, 1983.
EXCELLENT ARTICLE:
http://www.buffalonews.com/feed/30-years-later-survivors-recount-horror-of-propane-blast-20131221

==BUILDING FIRE:
And on December 20th in 1991, 4 Firefighters were killed when they were trapped in a partial floor collapse in **Brackenridge, PA**. Ever read that report? Here it is along with photos:

In December of 1999, there were also 2 other very significant multiple Firefighter Line of Duty Death fires that we must remember.

The first is the **Worcester Cold Storage fire** that occurred on December 3, 1999. The second, discussed below, is the loss of 3 Firefighters in **Keokuk, Iowa**.

===WORCESTER (MA) WAREHOUSE FIRE TAKES THE LIVES OF SIX FIREFIGHTERS

We all remember wonderful but also (and sadly), tragic events that have occurred in our lives as well. On December 3rd of 1999, I was attending a community Christmas celebration in our town when beepers started to beep providing initial details about missing Firefighters in Worcester (MA)—and then more details—and then even more info and the final incredible details came out. The Worcester Fire Department responded at 1813 hours that night to Box Alarm 1438 for a fire at 266 Franklin Street. (NOTE: 266 Franklin Street is now the address and location of WFD's E-6, E-12, L-1, R-1 and Scuba-1 quarters). 2 members of Rescue 1, Firefighter Paul Brotherton and Firefighter Jerry Lucey, entered the building searching for occupants. Fire conditions worsened in the building at a rapid and unexpected rate. FF's Brotherton and Lucey, on the fifth floor, became disoriented in the smoke-filled building. Lost, and running low on air, they called for help. Several crews began searching for the lost Firefighters. Two crews reaching the fifth floor also found themselves disoriented in the smoke and trapped by the maze of interior walls: Lieutenant Tom Spencer and Firefighter Tim Jackson from Ladder 2, and Firefighter Jay Lyons and Firefighter Joe McGuirk from Engine 3 were now trapped. Though many more highly heroic Worcester Firefighters attempted to locate their missing brothers, their efforts proved futile.

Be sure to read the link below, entitled "A Chiefs Perspective" about WFD District (Ret) Chief Mike
McNamee, who made the beyond difficult decision to end search operations for the missing members-and saved more lives by doing so.

The Line of Duty Deaths of Worcester Firefighters Paul A. Brotherton, Timothy P. Jackson, Jeremiah M. Lucey, James F. "Jay" Lyons III, Joseph T. McGuirk, and Lt. Thomas E. Spencer devastated Worcester, the Fire service, the nation and the world. Their Line of Duty deaths marked the worst loss of Firefighters' lives in more than 20 years in a building fire in America, and the third worst fire in Massachusetts' history. R.I.P.

WORCESTER REPORTS & LINKS:
HERE is the USFA report as well as the "must read" Esquire Magazine/Sean Flynn article:
THE PERFECT FIRE:
http://www.esquire.com/features/perfect-fire-0700?click=main_sr  (Esquire Magazine)
(USFA Report on the fire)
HERE are more links that we hope will be of value and interest to you and YOUR members:

Excellent Collection of Stories, Photos, Audio:
http://www.telegram.com/section/warehousefire
X Marks The Spot: http://www.telegram.com/article/20091130/NEWS/911300384/0/news06
Photos:
http://www.pbase.com/tomcarmody/wor
Photos: http://www.capecodfd.com/PAGES%20Special/Worc1.htm
WFD Sites:
http://www.iaff1009.org/index.cfmhttp://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/fire

KEOKUK, IOWA-THE LOSS OF 3 FIREFIGHTERS-AND 3 CHILDREN IN A DUPLEX FIRE

At 0824 Hours on Wednesday, December 22, 1999, a fire was reported in a multifamily dwelling in Keokuk, Iowa. Several neighbors phoned the Keokuk 911 center to report smoke coming from a residence, and that a woman was outside screaming that there were children trapped inside.

Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally, 48, Firefighter Jason Bitting, 29, and Firefighter Nate Tuck, 39 were killed while attempting the rescue of 3 trapped kids in that fire-who also perished. The 3 Firefighters left 8 kids of their own behind. The Firefighters died when a flashover occurred while the 3 were doing their search. The fire started in the kitchen of an old wooden two-story b/f home that had been converted into apartments. Staffing is a major issue in Keokuk, and that morning, 4 of the 5 total (+ the Chief) on duty firefighters arrived on scene with heavy smoke showing, and upon hearing the mother screaming that her children were trapped inside, they immediately and understandably went in after them. When "Mom" screams that her kids are inside-we go in. The 3 were inside, (the Asst Chief and 2 FF/pump operators) a Lt. was on the hydrant-couldn't see the building and one Firefighter was on side "A"... starting to pack up, to back the interior members up. The Chief made the terribly difficult decision to leave the scene for 3 minutes to personally transport a non-breathing rescued child--there were no other resources available... none. The hospital was a minute away. When he returned, the flashover had already occurred with only the Lt. and the one Firefighter left outside. A/C Dave McNally, FF Jason Bitting, and FF Nate Tuck perished in that duplex. R.I.P.
There are several excellent reports out on the fire:
HERE is the NIOSH report: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200004.html
HERE is the NFPA report: http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Keokuk.PDF
KFD Link: http://www.cityofkeokuk.org/kfd.html

One of the best quotes I have ever heard came from KFD’s Chief Mark Wessell, Ret., is a good friend who has shown true leadership in taking the KFD forward-I don't know anyone who doesn't agree with that. Since that fire, Mark and I have become pretty close and I am continually in awe over how he has made it clear that his FD will (and has) change. Mark makes it clear that as horrible as this was-he did whatever he had to, to make sure it never happens again. To all of us, he made a statement that sums it up...
"Always remember that we as firefighters are there to help people with a problem, while also doing ALL that we can to never become PART of that problem"

===West Webster, NY..."It Could Have Been Any Firefighter ..at Any FD"

When we first heard about West Webster, we couldn't help but also remember some other Firefighters who were shot-and killed in the Line of Duty.....

Lexington, KY, Fire Lieutenant Brenda Cowan, Maplewood (MO) Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Hummert, Fayetteville (PA) Chief James Cutchall and Jackson, MS Captain Stan Adams, District Chief Dwight Craft, Captain Merideth Moree and District Chief Rick Robbins, 47 ...all of whom were gunned down in the Line of Duty. ..and there are more related murders and related close calls.

BUT NOW IT WAS WEST WEBSTER, NY
....it was a call, just about two years ago Christmas eve, for a car fire, the sort of routine job that all of us turn out for regularly. But this time-once again in our history-it was a trap....there was a house and a car burning on arrival and they did what any Firefighter would do-go to work. What was initially un-size-up-able was a waiting psycho killer, who had positioned his cowardly self as a sniper on a berm above the unknowing Firefighters. Before they could begin to hit the fire, the Firefighters were met by blasts of gunfire. Four were hit by the bullets, and two were murdered. Radio traffic proves amazing heroism by surviving WW FF's (see below). The 2 Firefighters killed in the Line of Duty were Michael J. Chiapperini, 43, a local Police Lieutenant, and Tomasz Kaczowka, 19, a 911 Dispatcher for Monroe County. The two wounded Firefighters, Theodore Scardino and Joseph Hofstetter fortunately survived (see below).

WHEN a Firefighter dies in the Line of Duty-the least any of us can do is to learn from what happened-and while this incident was as unpredictable as any-what Mike Chiapperini, and Tomasz Kaczowka did, along with the WWFD Officers and members, thru their sacrifice, is greatly heighten the awareness and education for Firefighters everywhere on the potential-and preparedness training related to "active shooter” incidents. As we approach the one year anniversary, we remember the friends and families of the late Mike Chiapperini, Tomasz Kaczowka, their family, friends and the officers and members of the West Webster FD. RIP.

HERE is the incredible radio traffic from that incident. LISTEN as the injured Firefighters, Joseph Hofstetter, who is also a career Firefighter with the Rochester FD, and Theodore Scardino, are incredibly in control on the radio, despite their serious wounds, as they provide updates, protecting other FF's, EMT's and Police Officers-saving more lives.
LISTEN - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i84mHI3teB0

The above information
-and plenty from many other resources and websites as well-provides each of us with an opportunity to share:
-so younger Firefighters understand our history.
-so we all are reminded of the losses.
-so we learn from the lessons learned.
-and so we can honor all Firefighters who gave their lives in the Line of Duty.

Take Care-Be Careful-Pass It On.
Billy G
The Secret List 12-1-2014 1700 hours

AND:

All,
A Detroit man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for his role in a fire that paralyzed a Firefighter. If you have seen the movie DETROIT BURN, you know the Firefighter: Brendan Milewski. Criminal Calvin Jones got the punishment this week in Ann Arbor federal court. He struck a plea deal in and the seven-year sentence was the recommendation of prosecutors and Jones' attorney. DFD Firefighter Brendan Milewski was paralyzed operating at that fire at a commercial building in Detroit in 2010. Many other DFD Firefighters were injured. Jones filled plastic bottles with gasoline for co-defendant Samson Wright who will go to trial next year. Wright and Jones set the fire at that Metro PCS store on Detroit's east side in 2010. As Firefighters operated, the ceiling and roof of the second floor burned completely through. The second story wall of the structure collapsed on seven Firefighters who were attempting to fight the fire. Four firefighters were forced to retire due to their injuries, including, who was paralyzed from the waist down.

INTERVIEW WITH BRENDAN MILEWSKI:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I445Hdzsws

DETROIT BURN VIDEO CLIP:
https://www.youtube.com/user/detroitfirefilm

==MORE PROBLEMS UNVEiled IN HARTFORD:
As the investigation into the Line of Duty Death of HFD Firefighter Kevin Bell enters its third month, there is more about what transpired at Engine 16, where he worked, in the days leading up to the fatal fire. An email was sent from Hartford Fire Lt. John Nolan to Hartford Fire Chief Carlos Huertas outlining safety concerns just two days before the fire. There are reports that firefighters at Engine Company 16 have been without a thermal imaging camera for months--and they did not have one at the time of the fatal fire...and the equipment issues were not new. Much more to come as this tragic loss in investigated.

HERE IS MORE:
http://wtnh.com/2014/12/05/email-days-before-firefighter-kevin-bells-death-outlines-safety-concerns/
HARTFORD IC: RELATED PREVIOUS:

==REMEMBERING THE LOSS OF AN ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER.
We take a moment today to remember a fire that happened on December 6, 1989, taking the life of 27 year old Lt. Joseph Samec of the Pleasantview FPD. The fire was discovered shortly after 4:30 PM, and more than fifty firefighters from twelve different departments responded to the fire at the vacant, twelve-room house that was under renovation. Firefighters initially attacked the fire from outside the
Chabot College Fire & EMS News

house and Samec was among the first firefighters to enter the burning structure. The firefighters entered through the front of the house, but were almost immediately called back when they discovered that the basement was on fire and noticed that the floor was starting to buckle. Samec and Lieutenant Ronald Carlson were backing out of the front entrance of the house when the floor suddenly collapsed beneath them. Carlson was able to grab hold of some of the remaining floor joists and pull himself clear, but Samec fell into the burning basement. Firefighters immediately placed a ladder down the hole and aimed two hoses into the basement. Two firefighters, David Bobar and Ed Switalski, climbed into the burning basement in an attempt to locate Samec, but the heat and smoke were too intense. A second search attempt was more successful, as firefighters found Samec laying face down on the steps leading out of the basement, with no air left in his SCBA. Samec was rushed to La Grange Memorial Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival at about 5:45 PM. Carlson was also taken to the hospital with first degree burns on his head. Bobar and Switalski were awarded Medals of Valor for their rescue efforts.

Samec had joined the Pleasantview Fire Protection District in 1984. He was awarded a medal of valor in 1987, was named the Firefighter of the Year in 1988, and had received a citation for bravery two months before his death. RIP.

==A TRAGIC LOSS IN DELAWARE-A TEEN FF SAVES LIVES AFTER DEATH
While not LODD, a Bowers Beach teenager, who had decided to be a career firefighter when she graduated from high school, died yesterday of injuries she sustained after being hit by a pickup truck Wednesday. 16-year-old Brittany Ford had been a junior firefighter for the last two years with the Bowers Beach Fire Company. Firefighters are distraught by her death because they are the ones who responded to the crash. The incident occurred Wednesday as Shane T. Allaband, 19, of Dover, was driving west on Bowers Beach Road, when he pulled onto the shoulder to make a right turn into a driveway. At the same time, Ford stepped onto the roadway. The driver of the truck attempted to swerve to the left to avoid hitting her, but was unable to and struck her with the front bumper. Upon impact, Ford was thrown onto the center of the roadway. Allaband, a 20-year-old male and a 16-year-old female passenger in the truck were belted and not injured. Ford was rushed from the scene by paramedics to Kent General Hospital. She was later transferred to duPont Hospital for Children where she passed yesterday. A preliminary investigation suggests the teen was standing on the north side of the roadway in front of a row of evergreen trees running parallel to the road. For reasons still unknown at this time, she “jumped into the roadway in front of the truck,” Speed and alcohol do not appear to be a factor in the crash. Pennington said it was dusk at the time and that may have been a factor. RIP. Our condolences to all affected.

Through the donation of her organs, the teen will be able to save multiple lives with this donation and in doing so her memory will live on through others.

==DO YOU KNOW COOS BAY?
We are late in sharing this as last month was the anniversary- but its never too late. In November of 2002, Captain Randy Carpenter and Firefighters Chuck Hanners and Jeff Common died in the Line of Duty when the roof of the Farwest Truck and Auto Supply store collapsed on them back in November 2002. It's a fire we all should be familiar with.

WHAT HAPPENED:
On November 25, 2002, at approximately 1320 hours, occupants of an auto parts store returned from lunch to discover a light haze in the air and the smell of something burning. They searched for the source of the haze and burning smell and discovered what appeared to be the source of a fire. At 1351 hours they called 911. Units were immediately dispatched to the auto parts store with reports of smoke in the building. Fire fighters advanced attack lines into the auto parts store and began their interior attack. Crews began opening up the ceiling and wall on the mezzanine where they found fire
in the rafters. Three of the eight fire fighters operating on the mezzanine began running low on air. As they were exiting the building, the ventilation crews on the roof began opening the skylights and cutting holes in the roof. The stability of the roof was rapidly deteriorating forcing everyone off the roof. The IC called for an evacuation of the building. Five fire fighters were still operating in the building when the ceiling collapsed. Two fire fighters escaped. Attempts were made to rescue the three fire fighters while conditions quickly deteriorated. Numerous fire fighters entered the building and removed one of the victims. He was transported to the area hospital and later pronounced dead. Approximately 2 hours later, conditions improved for crews to enter and locate the other two victims on the mezzanine. The victims were pronounced dead about an hour later by the Deputy Medical Examiner. RIP.

MORE HERE:
REPORT: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200250.html
RELATED ARTICLES:
BillyG
The Secret List 12/6/2014-1044 Hours

AND:

All,
A Firefighter was struck and critically hurt this morning-assisting a motorist on treacherous I-95 in Pennsylvania. Firefighter Daniel Callaway was on his way to work at the Wilmington Manor Fire Company in New Castle County, Delaware, when he came upon a one car crash around 04030 hours in the southbound lanes in Tinicum Township, Pennsylvania, While helping the driver involved in the crash, Callaway was hit by a different vehicle and he was critically hurt. The 31-year-old was rushed to nearby Crozer Chester Medical Center and is reported to be unconscious. FF Calloway also is affiliated with the Belvedere Fire Company in Newport, Delaware and works as an EMT at Urgent Ambulance Services in Newark. Here is more: http://tinyurl.com/nrf3al3 - We'll post more as it becomes available. KHIYP's.

REMINDER: It can't be stated enough how UN-aware motorists are when driving. It isn't unusual for any of us to want to stop and help-on or in this case, off duty. Keep the risk and danger always as a part of your constant size up...they DO NOT see us!

FREE TRAINING: ROADWAY/RESPONDER SAFETY:
If you and your members have not been through this free/NO COST and outstanding training related to operating on roadways-take time now to plan on doing so.
http://learning.respondersafety.com/
BillyG
The Secret List 12/7/2014-1527 Hours

AND:

All,
The following was sent to be shared with you from the NFPA...so check it out:
There is a lot of interest in the design criteria of attack fire hose and research is underway to look at the current design and testing criteria. When the results are available, NFPA® will provide them to
the Technical Committee on Fire Hose, which develops NFPA 1961, Standard on Fire Hose. NFPA will also facilitate any revisions to the Standard that the Technical Committee feels necessary. Our process allows for this to happen at any time, regardless if the Standard is in its revision period or not. Fire service members play a vital role in the development of our Standards. There are two ways you can be part of the discussion on attack fire hose. NFPA 1961 is open for Public Inputs until July of 2015 and this is an opportunity for you and the members of your Department to share your needs and thoughts about fire hose with the Technical Committee. Visit next edition accepting Public Inputs at www.nfpa.org/1961.

The Committee on Fire Hose is seeking members in the interest classifications of Installer/Maintainer, Applied Research/Testing Laboratory, Insurance, Consumer, Enforcer, Labor, Special Expert and User. Your voice and that of your Department is needed and welcomed. To learn more visit submit Fire Hose TC Application on line. Enforcer members are eligible for 80% reimbursement of their travel expenses. More information available at Enforcer Funding Program. You can also view this short video. Feel free to share this with your contacts and network. Thank you for your continued support of NFPA and please feel free to contact me with any questions. kwillette@nfpa.org  Kenneth R. Willette, Division Manager, Public Fire Protection.

Once again, the doors are open at NFPA for FIREFIGHTER input.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/8/2014-1621 Hours
www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com

SECONDARY LINK TO THE ABOVE VIDEO:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiqbhJhs9Us&list=UUt_HiUcYRhNqTFM9b_EVHaA

AND:

PHILADELPHIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY
FIRST WOMEN TO DIE IN THE LODD WITH THE PFD
We regret to pass on that a 36-year-old Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty in Philly early this morning. She was one of several firefighters who responded and operated in the West Oak Lane home, which was around 0315 Hours. While operating, she became trapped inside the home's basement and was rescued by other firefighters a short time later. She was treated by the members and transported to Albert Einstein Medical Center where she was pronounced dead around 0400 hours. The 11-year fire department veteran is from Engine 64, which is stationed in the city's Lawncrest neighborhood. She was moved to that company three years ago. Her name is not yet released due to family notifications. The last firefighter killed in the line of duty was Capt. Michael Goodwin, who died on April 6, 2013. Goodwin, a 29-year fire department veteran, was on the roof of a building near 4th and Fitzwater streets when it collapsed. He was pronounced dead at the scene of the Fabric Row blaze. We'll have more later. Our condolences to all affected by this loss.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/9/2014-0730 Hours

AND:

All,
A Firefighter with the Limestone Fire Department in Owasso, Oklahoma was struck yesterday and is now reported to be in critical condition. The 43-year old Firefighter had been operating at a collision on a 5-lane highway (Highway 20), The conditions were a straight roadway, clear weather and little
reason for them to not be seen, The Firefighter was getting back into the squad - which was being used for traffic control, when the squad was struck by a dually pickup at high speed. The Firefighter is in critical condition in St Johns Hospital in Tulsa. The hit was so hard that the fire vehicle has a bent frame, and may be totaled. The driver of the civilian vehicle had no license and expired tags.
We will keep you advised. KTIYP's.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/9/2014-1100 Hours

AND - - - - - - - - - - -

All,
The Firefighter who gave her life in the Line of Duty is Joyce Craig Lewis, 36, who was a decorated 11-year veteran who loved working is busy companies and is the Philadelphia Fire Department's first female firefighter to be killed in the Line of Duty. She was married with a teenage son and 16-month-old daughter. FF Lewis died during the rescue of an elderly woman. That resident was rescued from the home and is staying with neighbors. The fire was first reported at 0249 hours Tuesday in the 1600 block of Middleton Street. First arriving firefighters said there was fire visible, but soon realized the fire was in the basement. Lewis was among the first crews on the scene. That group took a hose line into the basement to fight the fire, but blinding smoke tends to billow up a stairway in what is called a chimney effect.

As more companies arrived it was decided to use a second crew through a back door. The first group was withdrawing when something went wrong. In the process of those members withdrawing from the basement, she became trapped. As soon as it was known, members found her, rescued her and started immediate life saving efforts. Lewis was one of 150 women serving in the Philadelphia Fire Department. At a news conference early Tuesday, Sawyer described her as a Philadelphia native and a dedicated, hard-working public servant who never shied away working in the busiest engine companies, most recently Engine 64. "She had a strong worth ethic," Sawyer said. "She prided herself on working at busy fire companies." Commissioner Sawyer said he set a goal when he became commissioner in June that the department would never lose a member on his watch.

"I've already failed in one of my goals," a somber Sawyer said. More than 40 Philadelphia firefighters have been killed in the line of duty since 1943, according to the International Association of Fire Fighters. The last was Capt. Michael Goodwin on April 6, 2013. The 53-year-old Goodwin died in a roof collapse while battling a fire in a three-story building in the city's Queen Village section.

LISTEN TO THE RADIO TRAFFIC:
Take a moment to LISTEN to this radio traffic. This is from this mornings fire that resulted in the Line of Duty Death of Joyce Craig Lewis, the above noted Philadelphia Firefighter. As you will hear, when the first companies arrived-the report was nothing showing. Not long after, as it was further sized up, and the fire dispatcher provided critical update information (occupants trapped) it was determined to be a working fire in the basement. While no one yet knows exactly happened this morning in Philly, and no one should assume anything, this audio helps remind us how things can go from nothing showing to something-quickly. Many of you/us have been there-which is just what is seen "initially" from one angle or spot-to the further size up determining if the fire is "nothing"--or "something".....

Another reminder to all of us to always prepare, turnout, respond and operate as if it may be SOMETHING...until COMMAND makes it clear to all on the fireground that it is nothing.

RADIO TRAFFIC: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9OCXBEo_Oc

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

reason for them to not be seen, The Firefighter was getting back into the squad - which was being used for traffic control, when the squad was struck by a dually pickup at high speed. The Firefighter is in critical condition in St Johns Hospital in Tulsa. The hit was so hard that the fire vehicle has a bent frame, and may be totaled. The driver of the civilian vehicle had no license and expired tags.
We will keep you advised. KTIYP's.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/9/2014-1100 Hours

AND - - - - - - - - - - -

All,
The Firefighter who gave her life in the Line of Duty is Joyce Craig Lewis, 36, who was a decorated 11-year veteran who loved working is busy companies and is the Philadelphia Fire Department's first female firefighter to be killed in the Line of Duty. She was married with a teenage son and 16-month-old daughter. FF Lewis died during the rescue of an elderly woman. That resident was rescued from the home and is staying with neighbors. The fire was first reported at 0249 hours Tuesday in the 1600 block of Middleton Street. First arriving firefighters said there was fire visible, but soon realized the fire was in the basement. Lewis was among the first crews on the scene. That group took a hose line into the basement to fight the fire, but blinding smoke tends to billow up a stairway in what is called a chimney effect.

As more companies arrived it was decided to use a second crew through a back door. The first group was withdrawing when something went wrong. In the process of those members withdrawing from the basement, she became trapped. As soon as it was known, members found her, rescued her and started immediate life saving efforts. Lewis was one of 150 women serving in the Philadelphia Fire Department. At a news conference early Tuesday, Sawyer described her as a Philadelphia native and a dedicated, hard-working public servant who never shied away working in the busiest engine companies, most recently Engine 64. "She had a strong worth ethic," Sawyer said. "She prided herself on working at busy fire companies." Commissioner Sawyer said he set a goal when he became commissioner in June that the department would never lose a member on his watch.

"I've already failed in one of my goals," a somber Sawyer said. More than 40 Philadelphia firefighters have been killed in the line of duty since 1943, according to the International Association of Fire Fighters. The last was Capt. Michael Goodwin on April 6, 2013. The 53-year-old Goodwin died in a roof collapse while battling a fire in a three-story building in the city's Queen Village section.

LISTEN TO THE RADIO TRAFFIC:
Take a moment to LISTEN to this radio traffic. This is from this mornings fire that resulted in the Line of Duty Death of Joyce Craig Lewis, the above noted Philadelphia Firefighter. As you will hear, when the first companies arrived-the report was nothing showing. Not long after, as it was further sized up, and the fire dispatcher provided critical update information (occupants trapped) it was determined to be a working fire in the basement. While no one yet knows exactly happened this morning in Philly, and no one should assume anything, this audio helps remind us how things can go from nothing showing to something-quickly. Many of you/us have been there-which is just what is seen "initially" from one angle or spot-to the further size up determining if the fire is "nothing"--or "something".....

Another reminder to all of us to always prepare, turnout, respond and operate as if it may be SOMETHING...until COMMAND makes it clear to all on the fireground that it is nothing.

RADIO TRAFFIC: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9OCXBEo_Oc
HERE is a related piece by John Salka well worth reading-related to "nothing showing"...check it out:
http://www.firehouse.com/article/10773506/the-fire-scene-nothing-showing
BillyG
The Secret List 12/9/2014-1306 hours

AND:

FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN HORRIFIC RESPONDING CRASH-APPARATUS VS LOGGING TRUCK
We regret to pass on that a Firefighter from Savannah (Hardin County, Tennessee) was killed in the Line of Duty this morning while responding on a run. A truck driver was also killed. 4 year Veteran Firefighter Gus Losleben was airlifted to Memphis and later died. The head-on crash with the loaded log truck and a Hardin County Fire Department tanker happened around 1030 this morning as he was responding to a working dwelling fire. Initial reports are that FF Losleben was headed west toward the two-story dwelling fire when the head-on with the eastbound log truck happened. The apparatus was "obliterated" as posted on our home page. Our condolences to all affected. More to follow.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/9/2014-1700 Hours

AND:

AUSTRALIAN FF KILLED-LODD-STRUCK BY FIRE APPARATUS
South Australia Country Fire Service volunteer Deputy Fire Officer Brian Johnston would have marked 50 years of fighting fires in 2015 - a great milestone cut short by a tragic accident yesterday afternoon. The 65-year-old, who was a member of the Millicent Brigade and Deputy Group Officer of Wattle Range, was killed in the Line of Duty when he was hit by another fire truck while preparing to fight a grass fire late yesterday afternoon. DFO Johnston was standing behind the fire service utility truck he had responded in and was preparing to hit the fire when another truck responding to the fire crashed into him. Mr Johnston is the second CFS volunteer Firefighter to be killed this year, after father-of-two Andrew Harrison was killed while fighting a fire at Nantawarra in October. The incident happened in low visibility, due to smoke from the nearby fire Johnston was fighting. He was struck by the other firefighting vehicle and he was standing next to his fire fighting vehicle. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/9/2014-2200 Hours

AND:

Hey,
Here is another opportunity for us to learn. A new NIST computer-modeling study of a 2012 Chicago house fire reveals the conditions that unleashed a surge of searing gases, leading to the death of a veteran Fire Captain. NIST examined the fire dynamics of the incident at the request of the NIOSH and the Chicago Fire Department. Simulations conducted with NIST's Fire Dynamics Simulator examined the fire's temperature and pressure at various locations and the resulting flow path. With the agency's Smokeview visualization software, NIST researchers also developed a graphical representation of the fire's behavior and the conditions that firefighters likely experienced during the course of their interior operations.

December 21, 2014
www.chabotfire.com
The video simulation shows that fire in a covered back porch caused a closed steel-faced, wood-framed door to crumble, releasing pressure and causing hot gases to pour into the adjoining hallway where the victim and another firefighter were advancing a fire hose. The coincidental timing of the responders' "interior attack" and the door's failure proved to be deadly.

In less than 5 seconds, the flow of gases caused the hallway temperature to soar, from about 60 degrees Celsius (140 degrees Fahrenheit) to at least 260 degrees Celsius (500 degrees Fahrenheit), the study found.

The victim, 54-year-old Capt. Herbert Johnson was overwhelmed by the rapid rush of fire gases. He was removed to the exterior by Firefighters, revived by paramedics, and transported to a hospital, where he died.

NIST OVERVIEW WITH VIDEO:
http://www.nist.gov/el/fire_research/chicago-120214.cfm
NIST VIDEO:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY3JO_Kf9Qk
NIOSH REPORT ON THIS FIRE:
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201228.html
BillyG
The Secret List 12-9-2014-2242 Hours

AND:

All,
As you probably know, there were some close calls and Line of Duty deaths in recent years where radios - being used in fire environments (our environment) were part of the problem. In once again their attempt to separate fact from fiction and rumor, NIST did some scientific testing-with the cooperation and participation of the fire service and others.

These new test results (below) from the NIST confirm that portable radios used by firefighters absolutely can fail to operate properly within 15 minutes when exposed to temperatures that may be encountered during firefighting activities...and not just obvious physical failure.

We rely on our radios to report our location, conditions, action, progress and our needs...often urgently. Performance problems with portable radios have definitely been identified by the NIOSH as contributing factors in some firefighter Line of Duty deaths.

ALL PORTABLE FIRE RADIOS FAILED:
All seven of the firefighter portable radios tested by NIST failed to perform properly within 15 minutes when exposed to temperature levels encountered in "fully involved" fires, as when all the contents in a room or structure are burning. Four of the handheld radios stopped transmitting, and three experienced significant "signal drift," rendering the radios unreliable for communication. The failures occurred while the radios were subjected to a temperature of 160 degrees Celsius (320 degrees Fahrenheit), termed Thermal Class II conditions. The temperature is representative of a fully involved fire or conditions outside a room when its contents flashed over. During the post-test cool-down period, three of the radios did not recover normal function. Like any tool we use-we need to understand the current capabilities of our radios-what we can expect-and what we cannot expect.
PLEASE TAKE TIME TO REVIEW THESE FOUR REPORTS:

1-NIST RADIO REPORT
http://www.nist.gov/el/fire_research/radios-120914.cfm

2-RELATED LODD REPORT
HERE is an LODD report (see recommendation 9) demonstrating the problem:
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201113.html

San Francisco FD Double LODD:
The above FIRE killed SFFD Lieutenant Vincent A. Perez and Firefighter-Paramedic Anthony M. Valerio on June 2, 2012--READ THE BELOW for additional details and the SFFD report.

3-OVERVIEW:

4-ACTUAL SFFD INTERNAL REPORT-See Page 93:
http://tinyurl.com/lvdmzj4

==SIT THE F*CK DOWN....
Well I guess that headline got your attention-good. It’s supposed to. Offended? Not my intention but please get the f*ck over it and keep reading--what should be offensive is the following. Each year some Firefighters die in the Line of Duty because they had to, the conditions indicated the risk in saving a life was worth taking-and tragically they died. They are the great minority, the ones who die because there was a clear risk worth taking in attempting to save a life.

Nothing new-the majority of Line of Duty deaths prove (after the investigations) that they often could have been avoided...and we try to learn from all of them.

When I was a young Firefighter in the early 70's, one of the things I enjoyed most was standing up and looking forward (over the cab) when our apparatus responded. To me, it was the ultimate opportunity to see "what we had" (size up?) as we turned out. Back then we also used porto-powers, we thought Jet-Axes were a good idea and we kept our SCBA's in boxes (all two of them on Rescue 30 plus the officer had a 15 minute pak) JUST IN CASE the fire and smoke was really bad. That was in the 1970's.

Since then, smart people decided putting company officers in 15 minute air paks wasn't a particularly good idea, Jet Axes didn't work as we thought (ask me about my intimate experience with a Jet Axe sometime) and a company named Hurst invented a tool that changed how we extricate people forever.... and because FIREFIGHTERS were FALLING OFF apparatus when standing (in the open seat area, the running boards and tail boards) ... that maybe we should be seated and belted. Good firefighters thinking they were doing the right thing fell off and got killed. So we stopped doing that many years ago for a variety of reasons. Lawyers are a big part of why we are expected to be seated and belted. Keep read'n.

IF you have never experienced what it is like to stand up, unsecured and look over the cab while responding, you now have a chance to experience that today, when our apparatus responded. To me, it was the ultimate opportunity to see "what we had" (size up?) as we turned out. Back then we also used porto-powers, we thought Jet-Axes were a good idea and we kept our SCBA's in boxes (all two of them on Rescue 30 plus the officer had a 15 minute pak) JUST IN CASE the fire and smoke was really bad. That was in the 1970's.

Since then, smart people decided putting company officers in 15 minute air paks wasn't a particularly good idea, Jet Axes didn't work as we thought (ask me about my intimate experience with a Jet Axe sometime) and a company named Hurst invented a tool that changed how we extricate people forever.... and because FIREFIGHTERS were FALLING OFF apparatus when standing (in the open seat area, the running boards and tail boards) ... that maybe we should be seated and belted. Good firefighters thinking they were doing the right thing fell off and got killed. So we stopped doing that many years ago for a variety of reasons. Lawyers are a big part of why we are expected to be seated and belted. Keep read'n.

IF you have never experienced what it is like to stand up, unsecured and look over the cab while responding, you now have a chance to experience that today, thanks to these Firefighters who, in December of 2014-this month, decided that it was OK to stand up during their response. In December....traditionally one of the WORST months for Firefighter death...as we saw yesterday as two more Firefighters gave their lives.

When I saw this video, I thought that I just wanted to tell these kids to....
"SIT THE F*CK DOWN"
Trust me, your parents, girlfriend, boyfriend or whoever would expect nothing less. We would hope the Chief doesn't support this-after all-the Chief would be named if you were killed. Trust us. So would
the President of your FD. Trust us.

There is a lot HEROIC about being a Firefighter-but there is NOTHING HEROIC about getting tossed out of a responding rig because you wanna stand-and your pal wants to videotape. THINK.

HERE is the video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFchDOesOYA
OR HERE:
http://youtu.be/SnikRBdJRDE

"SIT THE F*CK DOWN"
These people would thank you....
Irwin "Buzz" Gross (Google me)
Joseph Tynan (Google me too!)
Neil Rossman (Google me but you don't ever want to meet me)
Peter Pirsch (I wish the above two people had never met-or I would still be in business)

It's 2014-Sit The F*CK Down and buckle in. We have already had heroes die in the Line of Duty years ago because they didn't know any better. Today-doing the same is blatant stupidity and disregard for those that died years ago, those who didn't know any better----because in 2014, we know better.

And take a moment to read these:
http://www.firefighternation.com/article/firefighter-safety/dangers-unbelted-driving

==WOMEN FIREFIGHTERS
With it being the Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa: the Holiday Season, some of you may want to get a cool gift for the women firefighters in your life. Well, obviously you have probably ALREADY purchased them the book "PASS IT ON, What we know, what we want you to know"....
........but there is also another EXCELLENT gift idea for Women Firefighters. Consider membership in this organization, as these are a great group of Firefighters:
https://i-women.org/membership-account/membership-levels/
BillyG
The Secret List 12/10/2014-1100 Hours

AND:

All,
It's been a crazy 24 hours between the NSW terror hostages, the Prince Georges County Ambulance jacking and so much more....and now this... As you may have read or heard, a 27 year old Baltimore City Police Officer was shot last evening during a traffic stop in west Baltimore. The officer and his partner conducted the stop in the 2600 block of Gwynns Falls Parkway around 1915 hours. They did a car stop on suspicious activity, and they walked up to the car...and shots were fired.

Police Officer Andrew Groman was hit under his vest and was rushed to Sinai Hospital were he underwent surgery and is in stable but critical condition. Groman is also a past Captain with the Warrington Fire Company in Bucks County, PA. You may remember that he was also one of two Firefighters we wrote about, that where injured in 2011 during a fire call for a front loader fire at a mulch farm. He and the other member received burns after the loader exploded when preparing to attack the fire.
Last night, thankfully, the bullet missed one of Officer Gromans main arteries by a millimeter. It went through his intestines and colon—leaving two holes in his intestine. They repaired that but the bullet is still lodged above his right pelvic—and they will remove that at a later date. The Dr's wants to remove his catheter and have him walking by the end of the day and are talking about getting him out by the end of the week. He is doing well but in a lot of pain.

INITIAL REPORTS ARE THAT after the officers approached the car, a struggle ensued, a Taser was used and then someone in the car fired three shots, striking the officer once in the abdomen, They do not believe officers fired their service weapons during the shooting....the officer's partner then rushed him to Sinai Hospital, where he had surgery last night. A few people were taken into custody, but only one man, a 19-year-old, was charged in the shooting so far....a violent repeat offender, Donte Jones. Cops have recovered the gun. We are so thankful that Officer Groman survived this attack and wish him a rapid recovery. For those out there looking to protest something, how about protesting this attempted murder on these Police Officers? Just say'n...Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/15/2014-1600 Hours

AND:

All,
Every once in a while we like to "pass on" actions that some take related to AVOIDING things going wrong, close calls or direct hits. This would be one of those cases. This is a memo sent to the members of the San Antonio Fire Department by their Chief, Charles Hood a few weeks ago. It's pretty simple and clearly spelled out regarding his and the departments stand on driving while intoxicated.

How do you argue with a boss who is looking out for his people, their family and the other innocent victims of DUI? You can't. Well-I guess you can. You can also argue that water on a fire isn't a priority. But anyway....

Here is Chief Hoods letter as written:

Dear Members of the San Antonio Fire Department Family:

Throughout my tenure as Fire Chief I have had the unpleasant responsibility of addressing a wide range of disciplinary issues related to both on and off duty conduct. One area that has become increasingly troublesome is that of Firefighters arrested for the offense of driving while intoxicated.

In 2010, the San Antonio Fire Department rolled out a labor-management joint initiative that included alcohol awareness education and a disciplinary model intended to deter personnel from engaging in this type of conduct. At this point in time, it has become clear that this program did not produce the desired results. To the contrary, we have now witnessed a number of repeat offenders. It appears inevitable that, sooner or later, a member of our department will make the decision to drink and drive resulting in the serious injury or death of themselves and/or others. It is my duty to insure that I do everything within my power to see that this never happens. As emergency response personnel, we are all very cognizant of the devastating impact impaired drivers have on our community. It must become the goal of our department to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the number of instances in which our Firefighters operate motor vehicles while intoxicated.

This memo shall serve as notice to all uniformed personnel that, effective immediately, the
first offense of driving while intoxicated will result in an indefinite suspension. Based upon circumstances surrounding the arrest, a release and settlement agreement may be offered to the employee that will include a minimum sixty day suspension, as-well-as rehabilitation and counseling requirements. A second offense for driving while intoxicated will result in termination.

It is my sincere hope that this disciplinary model will effectively convey the severity of driving while intoxicated and deter personnel from engaging in this destructive behavior. I cannot do this alone; each and every employee must do their part. Discipline is a reactive necessity and we clearly need progressive steps to prevent these occurrences from happening. Plan your activities accordingly if you know you will be drinking alcohol. Having a designated driver is always preferable, but when that is not an option, personnel can take advantage of the "Take the High Road on the Highway Program" through Deer Oaks EAP Services. Deer Oaks will reimburse eligible employees and their dependents for cab fare in the event that they are incapacitated due to impairment by a substance or extreme emotional condition.

We must also identify our duty to take care of one another. Do not let a fellow Firefighter who has been drinking drive or operate a vehicle. If you have not been drinking, then offer our sister or brother a ride, or assist them by finding them a safe way home. We are leaders in our community and the patrons of our city look to us as an example of honor, duty, and courage. Remain steadfast on maintaining our high standards of service to our community and to each other.

Finally, the fire service has a well documented culture of enablement, and the SAFD is no different. If you have an alcohol or substance abuse problem, or know someone that does, be proactive and seek out the help necessary before a truly life changing event occurs to you or someone you care about. You are our most valuable resource and we have created numerous programs to assist, help, and guide you through our Employee Assistance Program. Please do not hesitate to reach out for help.

Thanks to each and every one of you for what you do. Yours in Service,
Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief

END

Some may like what he is doing...and some may not...but the bottom line is that it is now very CLEAR to members what the repercussions will be when they are proven to place themselves and others in harms way.
BillyG
The Secret List 12/19/2014-1520 Hours

AND:

All,
Inwood (Nassau County, LI, NY) Firefighter Joseph Sanford Jr., 43 remains in critical condition at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset after being found in the basement of that mutual aid dwelling fire in Woodmere this morning. He was discovered "by chance" in that basement after the first-floor collapse. The Inwood Chief of Department Rivelli stated that "I didn't know he was missing until I heard the Maydays going out," FF Sanford remains at North Shore University Hospital, breathing with the help of a ventilator - in stable but critical condition. Sanford is a 17-year department veteran and a former Inwood Assistant Fire Chief. He is a husband and a father who works full time.
for the Nassau County Public Works Department

More than a dozen departments responded to the dwelling fire on Central Avenue after neighbors reported the fire shortly before 0400 hours. The house had been recently renovated and the owners were at their Manhattan apartment at the time of the fire. The fire had reportedly started in the basement and spread quickly. Firefighters entered the home on arrival and discovered that a section of the first floor had collapsed. At that point, the firefighters were ordered to evacuate. Firefighters later entered the basement - and while stretching a hose line in the rear, found the downed Firefighter as they went down the basement steps. Members worked aggressively to remove Sanford while administering life saving techniques simultaneously. **Please keep him, his family and the Inwood and area Firefighters in your prayers.**

---REMEMBERING: More incidents around this time of year in the NY Metro area for us to remember....

**TWO COMMERCIAL PLANES COLLIDE OVER NYC:**
The day was Dec. 16, 1960, and two airplanes had collided in midair over Staten Island. One, a United Airlines DC-8 from Chicago heading to Idlewild (now Kennedy) International Airport, smashed into buildings in Sterling Place, just west of Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, Brooklyn ... many thought a bombing occurred......

**WATCH THE VIDEO:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjYyBCuysG0

**READ THE NEWS ACCOUNTS:**
http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/54-years-planes-collide-midair-city-article-1.2047397

**3 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED-WIND DRIVEN CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED:**
**THIS WEEK** Today is the anniversary of the tragic Line of Duty Deaths for Canarsie (Brooklyn) Firefighters from FDNY Ladder 170: Joe Cavalieri, Chris Bopp and Jimmy Bohan. Early Friday morning December 18, 1998, FDNY along the entire fire service experienced another tragic multi-loss LODD 7 days before Christmas. At 0454 hours Brooklyn C.O. send 1st alarm companies for a top floor fire of a 10 story 50 x 200 fireproof building used as a senior citizen's residence. Engine 257 and Ladder 170 were 1st due and arrived within 4 minutes with fire showing out 2 windows. Second and 3rd alarms were quickly transmitted. As per SOP, 1st due Ladder 170 were assigned to search the fire floor for victims. Lieutenant Joseph Cavalieri with FF's Christopher Bopp and James Bohan went up 10 flights of stairs with cans and tools to search for and rescue the resident of apartment 10-D, who was believed trapped...but she got out prior, unknown to FF's.

**On her way out, the lady left her apartment door open.** The additional air from the hallway fed the fire and blew it out the windows. The halls were equipped with sprinklers but they were deactivated. As the Lieutenant and FF's got to the door, the winds changed and blew estimated 30 mph winds back into the apartment creating a 2,000 degree fireball now blowing into the hallway.

The 3 FF's were able to transmit a MAYDAY ...but that was it. The extreme heat trapped them, horrifically asphyxiated them and burned their masks off. Also injured in the fire were 6 other FF's and 4 residents. Despite efforts to save their lives they succumbed to the injuries. **Today, December 19, 2014, we remember FDNY's Lieutenant Joseph Cavalieri, FF Christopher Bopp and FF James Bohan.**

**READ THE FIRE REPORT:**
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face9901.html

**MORE FROM CHIEF MONTAGNA:**
http://www.chiefmontagna.com/memorial/memorial.htm
BillyG
The Secret List 12/19/2014-2100 Hours

AND:

All,
Charlotte. (North Carolina) Ladder 32 overturned last night but thankfully, the only injury was the driver who has a hand injury. No one else was hurt. Ladder 32 was the company that overturned and caught fire this past summer—but this was a different shift. This truck was a reserve truck they have been using. Initial reports are that a mechanical failure may have caused the driver to lose control while they were responding to a fire alarm activation around 0330 hours.

HERE are photos of the apparatus crash.

OUR CONDOLENCES:
While not fire related, we—as you—remain beyond shocked at the assassination of two NYPD Officers yesterday afternoon by a career murderer/criminal. Additionally, when we woke this morning, we learned that another Police Officer was gun downed and murdered in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

NYPD SHOOTING-RADIO TRAFFIC (Special Operations Radio)
(MOS=Member of the Service)
(Adam 8=an NYPD Emergency Services Unit patrol unit for that area)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJOPOpmAPz0

Our condolences to the friends and family of NYPD Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos as well as Tarpon Springs Police Officer Charles "Charlie K" Kondek.

JUST A REMINDER..IF YOU CAN SPARE A FEW BUCKS:
THANKS for your response to TSL request-donations form all over the USA hit that site hard yesterday—which is great. As you know, Inwood (Long Island, NY) Firefighter Joe Sanford continues to fight for his life after being critically injured at that house fire in Woodmere on Friday. Some friends set up a fundraiser to help cover the astronomical medical costs, provide for his family—etc. He is a veteran Volunteer Firefighter—he was injured as a Volunteer—not his source of income. If you can afford it, please click below and donate to help FF Sanford and his family.

BillyG
The Secret List 12/21/2014-1200 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.

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------ ----------

Budget Related Items:

West Metro (Colorado) Fire is about to cut back, losing seven firefighters on every shift due to a $2.2 million budget cut. "We will have to make decisions a little bit differently," said West Metro Fire Department Division Chief Steve Aseltine. Station 14 near W. Chatfield Ave. and
Kipling St., for example, will lose an engine and three of its seven firefighters at a time when fire concerns are high:

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

Four Glendale firefighters have been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into an incident on Sunday, according to Michael Young, public information officer with the Glendale Fire Dept. In a video of the incident, the firefighters are seen calling the man “dead meat,” using profanity and making other threats. “I want to offer our sincere apologies for the language that was used on the video produced last Sunday, that language was offensive by any standard,” said Glendale Fire Chief Mark Burdick:

This is an article well worth reading. A sexual harassment suit brought by Kerry “Kira” Mansueto, a former female volunteer member of New Jersey’s Carteret Fire Department, was settled out of court last month for an undisclosed amount of money. But that doesn't mean this one’s over. Sergio Bichao, a reporter with MyCentralJersey.com, has thousands of pages of documents in the case and featured some highlights (or lowlights) in an article today (Sunday). These include a series of incidents the newspaper reports were never properly investigated and where no one was disciplined, despite confirmation that some of the incidents occurred. Among them, a firefighter who admitted texting a picture of his penis to Mansueto, a paid fire captain who evacuated a burning home without Mansueto and a firefighter who admitted lying during a sexual harassment investigation:
http://www.statter911.com/2014/10/19/really-dirty-laundry-comes-nj-fire-department-lawsuit-settled/

Seattle (WA) firefighters arrested multiple times for DUIs in their time off were allowed to continue driving for the Seattle Fire Department for months, sometimes even years, against department policy. KIRO 7 discovered the lapses in policy in a five-month investigation during which Fire Chief Gregory Dean repeatedly refused interviews on the topic before finally acquiescing due to the intervention of the Seattle mayor's office. Fill-in driver Linda Wells was convicted in 2010 of two DUIs. In one of them, police said she almost hit a car along the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and had a blood alcohol concentration that measured more than .24, three times the legal limit. Wells was required by the court to install an ignition interlock device in her vehicle, and she did so in August, 2009. Court records show it's ordered to stay on for 10 years. But KIRO 7 discovered the Seattle Fire Department let Wells drive dozens of times over more than four years, until finally suspending her driving privileges on March 13th, 2014. "Chief, it looks like the policy is failing. Would you agree?” KIRO 7 asked Dean:

Lieutenant resigns after FL firehouse sex video surfaces. Lt. Stephen Coward’s 19 year run with the Clearwater Fire Department ended abruptly last month with his resignation after a graphic cell phone video and sex talk emails surfaced indicating he had been having intimate encounters with women other than his wife inside Clearwater Fire Station 51. “We began an investigation immediately and tried to figure out what happened,” said City Spokesman Rob Shaw. The video shows Coward engaged in intercourse with a woman inside the bathroom of his dormitory room at the firehouse. He’s smiling and holding up a cell phone that is recording that sex act in a mirror. That video, along with 40 salacious emails involving Coward and another woman were on a flash drive sent to a Clearwater fire chief on August 6th:
The Coventry Fire District’s (RI) board voted Monday after a little more than an hour of executive session to suspend Fire Chief Paul Labbadia with pay pending an independent authority’s investigation into allegations of job misconduct. The board’s action prohibits the chief from entering the fire station premises and requires him to surrender all keys. The five-member board would not comment on which independent entity would conduct the investigation, nor would they discuss any details of a Channel 12 investigation that raised questions about the chief’s conduct. The emergency meeting was prompted by a Channel 12 investigation that allegedly shows Labbadia drinking during the workday and taking a department vehicle to a party on Federal Hill, where he drank and apparently smoked marijuana before driving the truck home. The months-long investigation by Tim White also appears to show Labbadia leaving work in a department vehicle to play golf for hours before returning to work. Labbadia has denied any wrongdoing. A second report by Channel 12 claims that the chief drove on a suspended license for more than a year. His license was reportedly suspended because of an unpaid parking ticket from the University of Rhode Island. The chief allegedly missed two court appearances, which triggered the suspension:
http://www.providencejournal.com/breaking-news/content/20141103-coventry-fire-district-chief-suspended-with-pay.ece

Seattle (WA) fire chief finally speaks on firefighters driving department vehicles after DUI convictions:

A Sacramento Metro (CA) firefighter was arrested for allegedly using his authority to enter several homes to steal items. Police said the burglaries happened Friday afternoon at the Sunrise Vista mobile home park in Citrus Heights. Originally, police thought the suspect was a man impersonating a firefighter. Craig White, 30, was booked into the Sacramento County Jail Saturday on five counts of burglary and three counts of elder abuse. Police said White told residents he was a firefighter and was there to perform fire inspections. "He looked exactly legit. He had a uniform, he had a patch on his uniform," said Mimi Artatas. She was one resident who was duped by the suspect:

A Boston (MA) fire chief was “shocked” to find himself accused of stealing close to $50,000 and lavishing his Kingston home with a 52-inch HD TV, indoor and outdoor furniture and fitness equipment, his lawyer said yesterday “My client is an individual whose entire life has been devoted to service — service to his family, service to our country and service to the Boston Fire Department. He’s not guilty of these charges and looks forward to his day in court. He’s a person who has risen through the ranks. He’s a highly respected firefighter,” attorney Michael Doolin said after District Fire Chief Edward A. Scigliano IV, 45, an Air Force veteran of Desert Storm, pleaded not guilty in Suffolk Superior Court to procurement fraud and larceny charges:

A longtime Everett (WA) firefighter is now been charged with attempting to hire a 15-year-old prostitute from a man who turned out to be an undercover Seattle police detective. David P. Vier, 60, was charged Tuesday with one count of attempted commercial sexual abuse of a minor. Vier, of Arlington, has been free on bail while awaiting trial on the King County Superior Court charge. He is on paid administrative leave from his city job and is the focus of an
internal investigation, Everett Fire Chief Murray Gordon said. “We recognize that the Seattle Police Department’s investigation involving Mr. Vier is ongoing. However, the alleged behavior is unacceptable, and entirely inconsistent with the Everett Fire Department’s policies and the standards to which we hold our firefighters,” Gordon said in a prepared statement. Vier was arrested Nov. 19 after an online sting targeting men looking for sex with underage girls. He allegedly used the email account “Fire Medic Pete Vier” to negotiate with a detective who was posing as a man who was willing to sell sex with his teenage daughter for $150:


Montreal’s fire trucks have a new look. Firefighters upset about Bill 3 — Quebec's proposed municipal pension reform plan — have painted most of the city's trucks black. The first black truck appeared during Wednesday's provincewide one-day strike held by more than 5,000 municipal workers. Now the trucks have shown up all over the city. Denis Doucet, the assistant director of the Montreal fire department, said 150 of the city's 200 trucks have been covered bumper to bumper in black watercolour paint. He said the department has asked the firefighters’ union to wash it off, but has not yet received a response. "If they don't wash the fire trucks we will do what we have to do, and we make the invoice to the firefighters union," Doucet said, adding that the black fire trucks look unprofessional, could confuse motorists and slow response times. Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre said he’s not happy either, and he warned firefighters that they won’t win over any public support with this tactic. “You have the right to gather, you have the right to [protest], you don’t even have to like me. But you have to respect your function, and you have to respect the equipment,” Coderre said:


Criminal investigators with the U.S. Coast Guard are probing an elite group of Los Angeles firefighters at the city's port to determine whether federal licensing records were falsified for crew members assigned to large fireboats, The Times has learned. In June, a special agent of the Coast Guard Investigative Service requested 10 years of LAFD logs, journals and other records that document the operation of the department's fleet of five fireboats, according to a copy of the request obtained by The Times:


A Houston (TX) firefighter has been reassigned because of a post threatening Hispanic teens that was on his Facebook timeline. The post appears to have been the result of a truck break-in early Tuesday morning at the fire captain's Missouri City home. Five hours after the burglary, the African-American father, whom we are not identifying, appears to have shared his anger publicly on Facebook. The post first addresses all parents of Hispanic male teenagers in his subdivision, threatening to make them "deceased" if he finds them. It then goes on to say parents who don’t know where their kids are "must suffer the consequences of burying their child, needlessly." It ends by saying that "hands up, don't shoot (expletive) doesn't work" with him, driving the point home that he's furious. It’s not the only offensive Facebook post written by Houston firefighters that we’ve told you about. In June, an EMT referred to Victor Gonzalez, a drowning victim, not once but twice as a “drunk Mexican.” In September, a 24-year veteran posted an image of Islam on his Facebook timeline along with a profanity:

A Hartford (CT) firefighter has been charged with unlawful discharge of a firearm and second-degree reckless endangerment after he accidentally shot a friend in the jaw while showing off a gun last month, police said: http://www.courant.com/breaking-news/hc-hartford-firefighter-arrested-1204-20141203-story.html

The Central San Mateo County (CA) fire chief was placed on administrative leave and is in custody on $80,000 bail, as he faces pending charges alleging he and his wife were involved in a fraudulent credit card scheme. Mark Ladas, 50, was put on paid administrative leave after being arrested Wednesday morning on six counts of grand theft property from January 2011 to June 2013, two counts of making a false tax return and two counts of tax evasion. His wife, Peta Ladas, 49, who is a co-defendant in the theft case, has fled the country and there is a warrant out for her arrest, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office: http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/lnews/2014-12-04/fire-chief-arrested-for-theft-central-countys-mark-ladas-held-on-80000-bail-placed-on-administrative-leave/1776425134451.html

A coveted parking spot leads to a sticky situation between police and fire. Detroit (MI) police and fire work as a team and often times where you see one, you’ll see the other. Earlier this week one firefighter was heated over a police officer's pick of parking spot at the Detroit Public Safety Building. The officer’s car then ended up covered in firefighter stickers along with a note, which made Edsel Jenkins, the executive fire commissioner, livid. "Totally embarrassing, inexcusable and unacceptable," he said. "There are designated parking spots inside headquarters and at times, depending up the urgency, somebody might park in somebody else's parking space, but that is no reason to put stickers on someone's windshield, that's inappropriate." Stickers stuck to the personal car of a police officer, along with a nasty gram from a firefighter which read "Stay out of our spot, you are not the senior chief of fire department, I will be informing the chief of police," signed: http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/story/27553960/sticker-shock-spat-between-detroit-fire-and-police-over-parking-spot

She’s the FDNY’s “Sleeping Duty.” The city stripped EMT Serele -Ehrlich of her lieutenant's rank after co-workers and bosses accused her of sleeping on the job an astounding 12 times. The 57-year-old serial snoozer endangered the public for half a decade while on duty — snoring during training sessions, dozing at her desk and catching some Zs behind the wheel of her command vehicle, the FDNY contended. Ehrlich slept so deeply, co-workers claimed, she missed phone calls to her desk and radio communications while on patrol. Even flashing lights and blaring sirens failed to rouse her, they complained. Yet it took more than a dozen complaints over five years before the FDNY took any action against her. The department tried to fire Ehrlich in 2012, charging her with the sleeping incidents, chronic lateness and going AWOL six times in 2009. A city administrative judge upheld six snoozing charges but recommended only a 45-day suspension, saying Ehrlich had an otherwise unblemished history: http://nypost.com/2014/12/07/emt-demoted-for-constantly-sleeping-on-the-job/

A Tucson (AZ) Fire Department paramedic has been indicted on four felony counts alleging work-shift fraud, court records show. Herbert Oxnam was indicted on four counts of fraudulent schemes and artifices after a Tucson Police Department investigation showed he double-billed the city to spike his pension and earn a little extra money through overtime. Oxnam’s charges stem from paying fellow firefighters up to $200 to call in sick when he was up for the next overtime opportunity. The result: the city paid twice for the same shift. That’s because the city paid one employee sick leave and overtime to Oxnam to cover the “sick” employee’s shift, according to the indictment. Since Oxnam, a 19-year veteran, was approaching retirement and the final three years of income are used to calculate monthly pension benefits, the overtime
dollars could boost his monthly retirement check, the indictment said. Pension spiking by working overtime isn’t illegal. But Oxnam engaged in fraud to pursue it by paying firefighters to call in sick. Oxnam was paid $31,689 in overtime pay for 2013. His final salary for that year was $109,935:

A Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department paramedic has apologized for posting on Instagram a photo of two black men pointing handguns at a white police officer under the caption: "Our real enemy." Paramedic Marcell Salters continued from there: "... need 2 stop pointing guns at each other & at the ones that's legally killing innocents." Mayor Nutter on Thursday said he condemned the behavior "in the strongest possible terms," calling its message "reprehensible." "We celebrate the exercise of our First Amendment right to expression," Nutter said, "but there are clear limits, and this posting went far beyond standards of decency. Inflammatory speech or behavior like this is simply irresponsible and could potentially incite others to inappropriate actions." Salters said his post was not meant to hurt anyone, including the police, whom he called his "brothers in blue." Yet in a since-deleted Facebook comment Salters said he "never did or will like police." "Because of what i do i have to work with them but dont have to like them," he said. "... There are numerous crooked & corrupted cops (mostly white) & mostly they harass, beat, or kill innocents(mostly blks)." Joseph Schulle, head of the firefighters’ union Local 22, issued a statement Thursday afternoon that said that during "this difficult time" the union members stand "shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in blue."

General Fire Service Related Items:

Las Vegas (NV) won’t have to reinstate all 12 rookie firefighters accused of cheating on an exam in 2013, at least not yet. The Nevada Employee Management Relations Board on Tuesday found the city was within its rights to dismiss the dozen trainees who were investigated for “irregularities” uncovered during a hazardous materials test in January. This means the city will not be forced to pay out damages or lost wages to the recruits, while the recruits won’t be required to repay the cost of putting them through the academy. About half of the classmates subsequently completed the training program and are now city firefighters. The board’s ruling doesn’t change their status. The cheating scandal, called the worst in the city Fire Department’s history, wiped out the 2013 recruiting class one day before graduation. Las Vegas had already invested $718,984 in putting the dismissed recruits through its 18-week training academy. The city dismissed the training officer who oversaw the test dealing with hazardous materials and brought in an outside proctor for academy tests, one of four enhanced test oversight measures recommended by the state fire marshal:

A judge has ordered former Cal Fire chief Orville Fleming to stand trial in the murder of his fiancée. Fleming is accused in the homicide of his live-in girlfriend, Sarah Douglas. She was found dead inside a South Sacramento home in May. Fleming, who made a court appearance on Tuesday, went missing for weeks before authorities found him in Elk Grove, not far from where his Cal Fire truck was discovered the day after Douglas’ homicide:
On Sunday, December 21, 2014, from noon to 3 p.m., Reno (NV) firefighters will turn the downtown Reno Ballroom into a center of holiday activities for children experiencing homelessness. The children, ages six to 14 and primarily from Reno’s downtown area, are pre-selected by the Washoe County School District, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada, Pathfinders Children’s Ministry, and the Family Shelter. Current and retired Reno firefighters and police officers, their families, and other volunteers will gather to host the annual holiday party. The children will have an opportunity to make Christmas ornaments and gifts, play games, and participate in face painting and other activities along with adult role models to create a special day filled with fun, laughter, and good food:

An Augusta (GA) firefighter had a nearly $8,500 accident with a new aerial truck before it was even put into commission. A lieutenant, whom the fire department declined to name, damaged the truck’s console shell – an area located at the top of the truck and the bottom of the aerial ladder – while driving it into the garage behind the fire administration building on Deans Bridge Road around 4:45 p.m.:

Hartford (CT) Deputy Chief James McLoughlin has become the sixth Hartford firefighter placed on paid administrative leave since November. He joins firefighter Justin Wood, who was charged in the accidental shooting of a friend; firefighter Jeffrey Vendetta, who was charged with drunk driving and evading arrest; firefighter Cinque Scott, who was suspended following an on-the-job alcohol-related incident; and lieutenants Vernon Tyson and Scott Cunningham, who were involved in a fight at the scene of a fire:

# # # # # # #

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
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.