



FIRE & EMS NEWS

March 30, 2014

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2014 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

Looking for Fire Technology related courses to become a firefighter or continue your education if you are currently a firefighter so you can prepare for promotion or become the best you can be at your current rank? Why not start at Chabot College in Hayward, California where we offer a variety of courses year-round to allow students to obtain their EMT certification or recertify as an EMT, obtain their Firefighter 1 Academy Certification, or a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology, or a two-year degree in Fire Technology, or just take various California State Certified classes.

Registration and classes for the **Spring 2014** semester at Chabot College has begun!!! For complete registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

CLASSES AVAILABLE - SPRING SEMESTER 2014

COURSE	DAY
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 8, 10 and 12 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) OR Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: April 29 - May 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Sat & Sun (all day)
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: April 22, 24, 26 and 27	Tue & Thu (pm) Sat & Sun (all day)
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets the following dates: April 8, 10, 12 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Sat & Sun (all day)
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets the following dates: April 28 - May 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2014 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

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



Northern California Training Officers Presents

The Growing hazard to the California Firefighter...

- Marijuana grow houses
- Hash lab explosions
- Drug houses

Battalion Chief Chris Jelinek from Humboldt Bay Fire has teamed up with local law enforcement experts to discuss firefighter challenges related to indoor marijuana and illicit drug production, focusing on hazard recognition, safety, and response considerations.

COURSE DETAILS

TWO LOCATIONS:

April 16th: 0830-1700 - Fresno Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 2233 Ventura St, Fresno. Fee \$40 (includes lunch)

April 17th: 0830-1700 - Foster City Council Chambers, 610 Foster City Blvd, Foster City. Fee \$30 (lunch not included)

Nor Cal TO members receive free attendance!

You may register the day of each class but preregistration is preferred. Call (707) 441-4000 to reserve a seat.

About the Fire District

The Rodeo Fire District was formed on February 26, 1937 as an independent special district to provide fire protection services in the unincorporated community of Rodeo.

In 1978 The City of Hercules was annexed and the Fire District was subsequently renamed Rodeo-Hercules Fire District (RHFD).

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987. California Health and Safety Code §13800 gives specific enumerated powers to fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material responses, ambulance and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property. The District has a five-member governing body.

The District's staff consists of up to 23 authorized full-time positions and 20 paid on-call staff.



Rodeo Hercules Fire District

Filing Deadline: Open Until Positions Filled
Applications may be mailed or hand-delivered to

1680 Refugio Valley Road

Hercules, CA 94547

510.799.4561

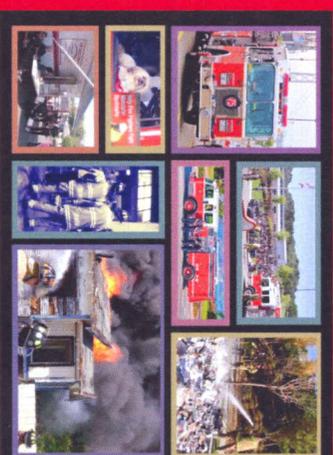
Applications available at District headquarters or www.rhfd.org



RODEO HERCULES FIRE DISTRICT

Pride • Excellence • Professionalism

**Currently
accepting
applications for
Entry Level
FIREFIGHTER I**



Filing Deadline:
Open Until
Positions Filled



About the position of ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER

THE JOB



Under general supervision, provide basic or advanced life support (depending on qualifications) first responder pre-hospital medical care and emergency medical assistance to victims of accidents, injuries or illnesses; responds to fire emergencies, hazardous materials and rescue incidents, and other public service requests; perform inspection and code enforcement activities; conduct education sessions regarding fire/emergency safety practices and procedures; drives and operates emergency apparatus; performs fire station and grounds maintenance; drill and train; maintain, test and operate tools and equipment; attend instruction sessions related to the job; participate in the District physical fitness program; conduct public relations and fire prevention activities; prepare reports; and perform related duties as assigned.

Suppression personnel work a 48/96 shift schedule on one of three platoons.

DESIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

State of California Firefighter I Certification or equivalent; CPAT; high school diploma or GED; valid Class C driver's license; California EMT-B or National Registry.

Additional consideration will be given to current Rodeo Hercules Fire District reserve firefighters and "qualifying military veterans" per District Policy No. 39.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Dental Insurance: Delta Dental. District pays 100% for employees and dependents.

Life Insurance: Premium is paid by the District. Life insurance and AD&D is equal to \$92,590 each.

Other Insurance: District provides coverage for Disability Insurance, State Compensation Insurance and Unemployment Insurance.

Deferred Compensation: Voluntary participation through current carrier.

Contra Costa County Federal Credit Union:

District employees are eligible for enrollment with the credit union.

Retirement: Retirement benefits are provided through Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association. 2% @50, highest year's average. * Non-Legacy employees may be subject to recent changes to 1937 Act.

Uniform Allowance: Uniform allowance is \$660 annually, paid on a monthly basis.

Excellent vacation and sick leave benefits.

Health Insurance/Optical: Coverage by CALPERS Medical. District pays 100% of premium for employee and dependents

No Social Security deductions (except 1.45% Medicare)

Employee pays 3.75% to Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund

COMPENSATION

Salary:

Firefighter I - \$3,500—\$5,000 per month

* First Step After 6 months

SELECTION PROCESS

All applications will be screened for desired minimum qualifications. Successful candidates will complete a supplemental questionnaire and be invited to a Fire Chief interview.

A written test, assessment test and oral interviews will be conducted.

A fitness for duty medical examination is required. A background investigation and psychological test will be conducted that minimally includes the verification of education, employment, military, criminal history, civil litigation, credit history, DMV records and personal history.

At the time of appointment, candidate must be a United States Citizen and willing to sign an Oath of Allegiance.

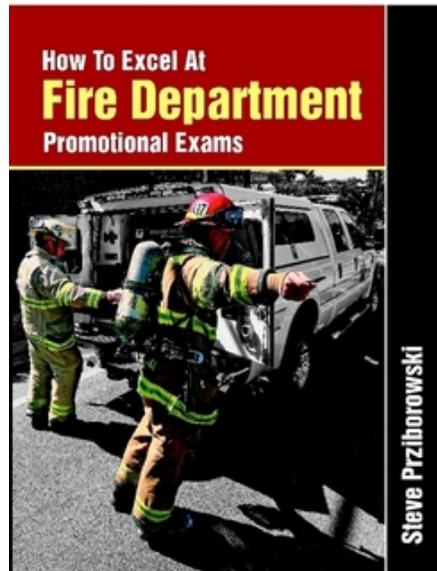
Probationary periods for Firefighter I is 18 months from appointment date.

All aspects of employment shall be without regard to sex, disability, race, religious creed, political affiliation, color, natural origin or age.

Funding for Firefighter I positions will be funded by the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response Grant (SAFER).

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



Department Promotional Exams,” intended for anyone in the fire service preparing for promotion. 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.

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:**

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – April 7 through 12, 2014.
Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD – July 15 through 19, 2014
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

Fire Rescue International – Dallas, TX - August 12 through 16, 2014
Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

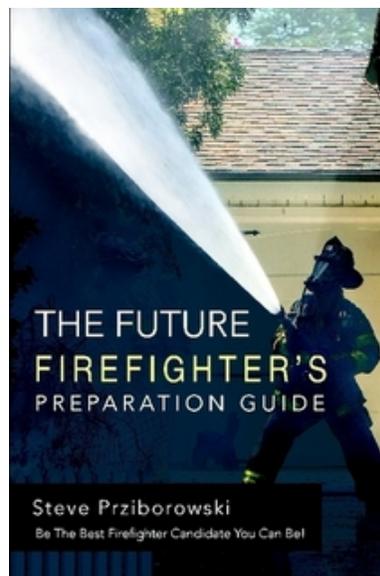
California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – Fresno, CA - November, 2014 -
Go to <http://www.to.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

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

FIREFIGHTER ENTRY-LEVEL PREPARATION BOOK:

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

The Future Firefighter's Preparation Guide! Be the best firefighter candidate you can be!



Getting hired in the fire service is not an easy process. Many people have that desire to become a firefighter, but for whatever reason cannot put the pieces together to make it a reality. Over the 20 plus years I have been in the fire service, I have had the opportunity to be on both sides of the hiring process – as a candidate, and as a rater and proctor. This book will assist future firefighters specifically prepare for a career in the fire service.

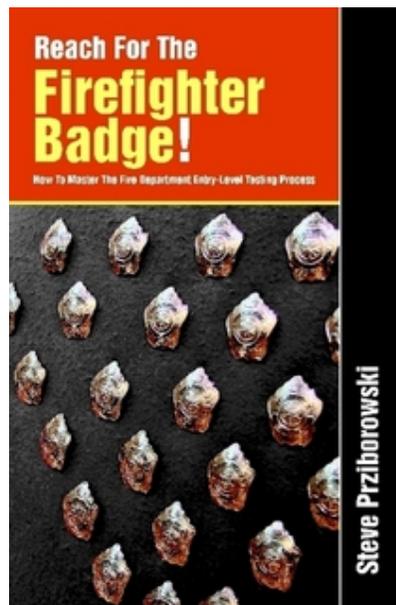
This book is not the one-size-fits-all book to becoming a firefighter. There is just not enough room to accomplish that. Instead, this book is meant to be your starting point to get you headed in the right direction as you begin the process of becoming a firefighter. In upcoming books, I will provide more specific direction on the hiring process to becoming a firefighter and with tips for success upon getting hired with your dream department. Nobody said it was going to be easy becoming a firefighter...if it was, everyone would be doing it!

To order, go to www.chabotfire.com

FIREFIGHTER ENTRY-LEVEL PREPARATION BOOK:

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

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



This book is intended to take over from where my first firefighter preparation book “The Future Firefighter’s Preparation Guide,” left off. That book was intended on providing the future firefighter with a road map of what to do when starting out the journey to becoming a firefighter. This book is intended to provide more focus on what to expect and more importantly, how to be successful at the firefighter testing process, which can vary from department to department.

This book will help future firefighters by providing a road map of how to best navigate the firefighter testing process, so that they are successful in obtaining a position in the best career I am so fortunate to be a part of, a career in the fire service! If you have prepared for the position of firefighter by doing many of the things I suggested in “The Future Firefighter’s Preparation Guide,” and follow the suggestions within this book, your chances for success will greatly increase!

To order, go to www.chabotfire.com

California State Fire Training Command 2C & 2E



Deputy Chief Mike Bryant
(ret.)

L. A. County Fire Department

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant is a 34-year veteran of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

Chief Bryant served as a chief officer for 16 of his 34 years of service. He commanded and provided leadership for the Special & Emergency Operations Bureau's. Chief Bryant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational studies from California State University, Long Beach.

He is a qualified Type II incident commander, operations section chief, safety officer and division/group supervisor. In addition, he is a certified Chief Officer & Master Instructor from California State Fire Training.

Chief Bryant instructs for *Elite Command Training* and provides numerous command, management and safety classes for fire service personnel. For future classes, please visit:

www.elitecommandtraining.com

Class Location:

San Jose Fire Department Training
Facility

Command 2C – April 14 – 17, 2014

Will be using an actual high-rise building in San Jose to perform all of the ICS position assignments during simulations

Command 2E – May 5 – 8, 2014

Will be in the local wildland interface area performing the ICS command position assignments during simulations

0830-1800

255 South Montgomery Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Why would you go somewhere else to take these classes? We are offering you very experienced incident commanders (as instructors) who have actually been in the seat of command during dynamic high-rise & wildland initial & extended attack fires. If you are only looking for a certificate (to check a box) then these classes are NOT for you! However, if you're interested in improving your knowledge, skills and abilities to enhance your command confidence, promotional advancement and incorporate an outstanding command process into your "adult learning" environment then these classes are a must attend!

"DON'T BE THE INCIDENT COMMANDER WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW AT THE TIME THEY NEED TO KNOW IT"

Cost: \$300.00 (per class)

Register now on-line:

www.elitecommandtraining.com

Note: Hurry, classes are reaching their maximum capacity. If you have any questions, please call 626-290-6007

ELITE COMMAND TRAINING

IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE,
SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

State Fire Training S-series Classes 2014

Fullerton Fire Station 6

2691 Rosecrans Avenue, Fullerton, California 92833

Note: Date Changes

S-339 Division/Group Supervisor "all hazard" April 22 - 24

S-430 Operations Section Chief "all hazard" April 28 - May 1

S-404 Safety Officer "all hazard" - May 13 - 15

S-400 Incident Commander - June 2 - 5

What you will receive by attending: State & nationally qualified, experienced, and knowledgeable instructors. An effective incident command system process for all hazard emergencies. "Adult learning" command experiences that can be immediately incorporated into your current position/work environment. Improve your knowledge, skills and abilities by enhancing your command confidence, incident management methods and promotional advancement.

We will NOT waste your valuable time.

Instructors: Assistant Chief Dave Franklin, San Francisco FD

Deputy Chief Michael Bryant (ret.), County of Los Angeles FD

Battalion Chief John B. Tripp, County of Los Angeles FD

Assistant Chief Jeff Brand (ret.), Cal Fire

Assistant Chief Vince Pena, County of Los Angeles FD

REGISTER NOW at: www.elitecommandtraining.com or call: 626-290-6007

"As a student and colleague, I have to say that Chief Bryant's presentation of the CSFM Chief Officer's series is the most dynamic and fundamentally sound, contemporary Command and Control course being offered today."

- Lloyd Ogan

Deputy Fire Chief | Sacramento Fire Department



ELITE@ELITECOMMANDTRAINING.COM



WWW.ELITECOMMANDTRAINING.COM





City of Salinas
S.A.F.E.R. Grant Employment Opportunity
Announcement for

FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT

Salary \$5,027 - \$5,279 - \$5,543 - \$5,821 - \$6,112 Monthly

FIREFIGHTER

Salary post graduation from Salinas Fire Academy:
\$5,254 - \$5,517 - \$5,793 - \$6,083 - \$6,387 - \$6,707 Monthly

FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC

\$5,254 - \$5,517 - \$5,793 - \$6,083 - \$6,387 - \$6,707 Monthly
(Additional 12.5% differential pay for Paramedic upon department approval)

This recruitment will be used to establish an eligible list to fill approximately 4 grant funded positions and future vacancies. The SAFER grant will provide funding for up to two years. The City of Salinas is not obligated to continue employment beyond the two years of funding.

DEFINITION: Under supervision, responds to calls for fire, medical and/or hazardous material emergencies; and performs prevention and administrative shift duties as trained and assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: This is a training and entry level class in the firefighter series. Incumbents attend a fire academy and under direct supervision, incumbents learn and participate in various firefighting and emergency response activities. Incumbents remain in a probationary status for the duration of employment in this classification.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POSITION: **Knowledge of:** Fire suppression and emergency medical care procedures. Modern technical firefighting principles and techniques. Federal, State and local laws and regulations governing fire prevention and safety. Fire chemistry and hazardous materials including flammable liquids, explosives, gases, toxic and radioactive materials. **Ability to:** Exercise common sense, practical judgment to learn and perform technical fire suppression, prevention and related duties within a structured group work setting. Learn Federal, State and local laws and regulations governing fire safety and basic medical emergency in-field treatment. Learn the correct use of equipment and apparatus used in the performance of duties. Learn and perform accurate recordkeeping and report writing relating to fire prevention/suppression activities. Understand, follow, and issue oral and written instructions. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers in a group-living environment, representatives of other City departments, outside agencies/organizations and the general public. Promote the mission, values and standards of an effective organization, with insight toward providing high quality public service. Learn geographic layout of City streets, hydrants and other local public safety landmarks.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CHARACTERISTICS: Physical mobility to sit, stand, walk, crawl, kneel, crouch, squat, lay on back or stomach, climb and balance, reach at shoulder level and above shoulder level, push, pull, twist and rotate for periods of between five minutes to two-and-one-half hours per shift. Stamina to run, walk, and stand wearing protective equipment weighing up to 100 pounds, for periods of time ranging from 5 minutes to two and one-half hours. Physical agility to walk and run over uneven, wet surfaces, climb ladders of up to 100 feet in height, push/pull, squat, twist, turn, bend, stoop, climb and reach overhead. No severe allergic reactions to dust or pollen. Physical strength to lift, carry and drag persons weighing more than 120 pounds for transport to triage, and up to 300 pounds with assistance, while carrying fifty pounds of equipment attached to the body. Physical strength to lift up to 75 pounds on a frequent basis, and to pull, drag and extend a two-and-one-half-inch charged fire hose, and 75 pound ladders. Ability to work at heights on an aerial lift of up to 100 feet above ground. Manual dexterity of neck, wrists, waist, hands and fingers sufficient to wear respirators and other protective gear, to climb through small confined spaces, use hand and power tools, handling and grasping equipment and/or debris, and to administer first aid. Hearing and speaking ability sufficient to converse over the telephone, two-way radio and in person often over the noise of machinery and traffic, to detect and describe noises in machinery or to hear running water. Uncorrected vision of 20/40 or better in one eye, and 20/100 in the other, or corrected to 20/20 in one eye and 20/40 in the other; ability to distinguish colors to recognize flame, smoke, hazardous materials placards and skin signs. Mental acuity to act under stress in life threatening situations, and to maintain calm efficient judgment in serious situations involving quick action or mental stress.

WORKING CONDITIONS: A Firefighter is required to wear protective gear, carry appropriate tools, and wear self-contained breathing apparatus, weighing a combined total of 100 pounds, while performing many of the emergency-related duties. Firefighters work in a variety of very hot and very cold temperatures, and often in a wet environment. The Firefighter must be able to respond physically to alarms and/or calls for help, and be in a full sprint from a standstill or sleep, in a matter of seconds. While performing emergency aid, a Firefighter may lift and carry victims and move equipment requiring the use of stomach and back muscles. It is required that they be able to hear a variety of warning devices and alarms, gas leaks or calls for help. Tools used by a firefighter require precise arm-hand positioning movements such as when operating a chain saw, or using emergency medical equipment. The operation of said equipment often requires the coordinated movement of more than one limb simultaneously. Emergency situations may require work to be performed in small cramped crawl spaces, areas where vision is limited, and/or heights including

rooftops and ladders. Balance is required working in slippery wet conditions, maneuvering on beams and other structural parts of building, hillsides, and fences.

Education and Experience: An example of the education and experience that most likely demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform the duties would be a high school diploma or GED. Additional education in fire science or a related field is desirable.

Minimum Requirements:

The following lists the minimum Firefighter requirements:

- High School Diploma/GED, 18 years of age.
- United States citizen. Must be able to provide proof of citizenship at time of hire.

The following minimum requirements must be submitted in person at in-take as described below:

(Must show original proof of all items below and provide one photo-copy of all certifications)

- Valid **California** Driver's License with photo. Must possess and maintain, at minimum, a valid Class C California Driver's License. Must be eligible for Firefighter endorsement (or equivalent) within one year of completing the Salinas Firefighter Academy. Must be able to obtain and maintain a firefighter endorsement to maintain employment with the City of Salinas.
- An **original** DMV printout dated within six months at time of document intake (DMV long form, INF 1125).
- EMT -1 Card. *Out-of-state EMT-1 cards must be National Registry (NREMT).* EMT-1 Card or NREMT must include a valid CPR card. A valid EMTP License will also be accepted in lieu of EMT-1/NREMT. Ability to obtain and maintain local accreditation is a requirement for continued employment.
- Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) must be Valid within 12 months at time of intake.
For CPAT testing locations and dates, please call 1-877-648-2728 or visit the website at www.cpatonline.org.

Highly Desired - Individuals possessing the following are highly encouraged to apply:

- Valid State of California Paramedic Certificate. Qualification for Firefighter Paramedic differential pay requires 1 year (or equivalent) full time experience as a paramedic with an approved 9-1-1 provider.
- Bilingual English/Spanish speaking skills. Skills will be tested.
- Military Veteran. DD-214 forms required for Military preference points. Photocopies accepted.
- Local residents.
- Firefighter I Certificate issued by the State of California.

All documents submitted become the property of the City and will not be returned or photocopied. Please only submit the required documents requested; all other information will be discarded.

Tentative Recruitment Schedule:

Thursday, March 13th Announcement
Tuesday, April 1st Informational Meet and Greet Session (Attendance is Optional)
Thursday, April 17th Document In-Person Intake (Attendance is Mandatory)
Friday, April 18th – Monday, April 20th Application Submittal (calopps.org)

The following dates are subject to change:

Tuesday, May 6th Written Exam
Tuesday, May 27th, Wednesday, May 28th and/or Thursday, May 29th Oral Board
Week of June 16th Chief Interviews

Documentation In-Person Intake: Thursday, April 17th at Sherwood Hall 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., 940 N. Main St. Salinas, CA

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE PRESENT at time of documentation submittal. The City will not accept documentation submittal from anyone other than THE APPLICANT. Applicants may form a line no sooner than 12:00 p.m. and no later than 3:00 p.m. Applicants may not save places for other applicants. Failure to follow these directions will result in expulsion from the line. All required documentation noted above will be submitted at this time. CalOpps application authorization will be provided to applicants at the completion of this process. Applicants are encouraged to create an applicant profile on calopps.org prior to this date.

Written Exam: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2014. All qualified applicants will receive notification via email. The top 150 written scores (plus ties) will be invited to the **Oral Board Interview Exam**. The City reserves the right to use alternative testing dates (once announced), procedures, rating criteria as deemed necessary and invite/drop to lower bands for operational program needs. *Se03/13/14*

VETERAN'S PREFERENCE: A veteran is defined in accordance with California Government Code 18540.4. In order to exercise this preference, the veteran must submit the City's Veteran's Preference Application and provide a copy of the DD-214 form at time of Document In-Person Intake as proof of military status. Failure to submit the required forms will be deemed a waiver of veteran's preference. Further details can be obtained from the Human Resources Division.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The City of Salinas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor. The City of Salinas will make reasonable accommodation for the disabled. **Individuals requiring any accommodation in order to participate in the testing process must inform the Senior Human Resources Analyst *in writing no later than Thursday, April 17, 2014*.** Requests for accommodation should include an explanation of the type and extent of accommodation needed to participate in the selection process and/or to perform the duties of the job for which they have applied. Requests can be submitted via mail to Human Resources, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, CA 93901 or via facsimile transmittal (831) 758-7941.

For a complete list of benefits, please visit the City of Salinas website at www.ci.salinas.ca.us.

For questions, please contact the Human Resources Department at 831-758-7254, Monday – Thursday. This office is closed on Fridays due to furloughs.

Key Dates/Locations:

Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.
The City of Salinas Fire Department will host an
Informational Meet and Greet Session at
Sherwood Hall 940 N. Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906

Thursday, April 17, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Document In-Person Intake at
Sherwood Hall, 940 N. Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES:



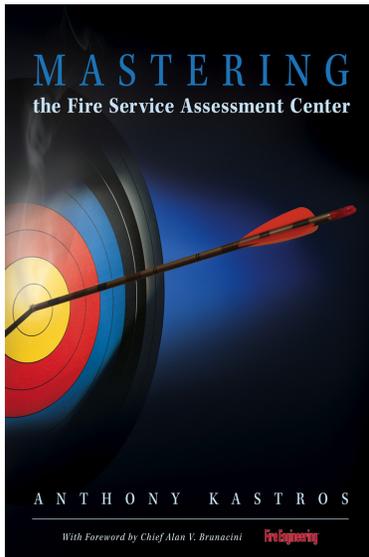
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

BASED ON THE TEXT:

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, VISUAL RESUMES, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, VIDEO COUNSELING, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.
- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- PRACTICE EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND AVOID CANDIDATE PITFALLS.
- * INCLUDES BEST-SELLING BOOK PUBLISHED BY **FIRE ENGINEERING**.



"I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT SEMINAR THAT YOU GAVE IN PREPARATION FOR LA CITY'S FIRST EVER ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR FIRE CAPTAIN. BETWEEN WHAT I HAD BEEN STUDYING IN YOUR BOOK WITH FRIENDS AND WHAT WENT ON AT THE SEMINAR, WE ATTAINED SCORES OF 93.5% AND 100%. I REALLY LIKED THE FACT THAT YOUR INFORMATION ISN'T BASED ON TECHNIQUES OR GIMMICKS RATHER IT TEACHES HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE OUR ALREADY ACQUIRED SKILL SETS." - CHUCK - LA CITY FD

"I JUST WANTED TO DROP YOU A LINE AND LET YOU KNOW THAT I PLACED #1 ON OUR CAPTAINS LIST WITH AN OVERALL SCORE OF 95.36% AND I WAS PROMOTED LAST MONTH. THE PLAN THAT I PUT TOGETHER AFTER YOUR ASSESSMENT CENTER CLASS WORKED. YOUR METHODS ARE PROVEN. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR INSPIRATION THAT YOU GAVE ME TO PURSUE MY PROMOTION." - BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD

"I AM SO, SO HAPPY THAT I TOOK YOUR COURSE. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE DIFFERENCE IN ME BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY PROMOTIONAL PROCESS. I TOOK YOUR COURSE WITH SEVERAL OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM MY DEPARTMENT. I CAME OUT NUMBER 5 OF A LIST OF 47. THERE ARE THREE (3) OF US IN THE TOP 5 FOR CAPTAIN. THERE ARE 5 OF US IN THE TOP 10." - REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD

MAY 6 - 9, 2014 – SACRAMENTO, CA \$595.00*
SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 2, 2014 – FORT COLLINS, CO \$595.00*

GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

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>

FIREFIGHTER 1 ACADEMY:

California Regional Fire Academy Basic Firefighter One Academy

The Application Deadline for the next Fire Academy is Friday, April 4, 2014 at 5pm.

All applications received after April 4, 2014 will be considered for the Spring 2015 Fire Academy.

Visit www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov
to download an application.
(located on the "Apply" page)

Hardcopies are also available at the Business Office or may be mailed by request.

Academy 25 Start Date: July 21, 2014

Further information is available on the website above

California Fire and Rescue Training Authority
(916) 475-1660 - www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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



COURSE: _____

DATES: _____

2014:

- **S-215 (Fire Ops in the Urban Interface)** April 8 – 11, 2014
 - **Fire Command 2C** May 12 – 16, 2014
 - **Fire Prevention 1** May 19 – 22, 2014
 - **S-336 (Tact. Decision Making in Wildland Fire)** June 10 – 13, 2014
 - **S-234 (Ignition Operations)** June 16 – 19, 2014 (*Note: new dates*)
 - **Fire Command 2D** July 7 – 11, 2014
 - **Fire Command 2E** September 15 – 19, 2014
 - **Regional Instructor Orientation (RIO)** September 17, 2014
 - **Ethical Leadership in the Classroom** September 18, 2014
- NOTE:** *RIO & Ethical Leadership will be held @ the Home Church Classroom, 1799 South Winchester Blvd., Campbell, CA 950008.*
- **Fire Management 2A** November 3 – 7, 2014

2015:

-
- **Fire Management 2B** January 12 – 16, 2015
 - **Training Instructor 1A** January 26 – 30, 2015
 - **S-244 (Field Observer)** February 2 – 4, 2015 (*0900 start*)
 - **S-245 (Display Processor)** February 5, 2015 (*0900 start*)
 - **Training Instructor 1B** February 9 – 13, 2015
 - **Training Instructor 1C** February 23 – 27, 2015
 - **Fire Management 2C** March 9 – 13, 2015
 - **Fire Investigation 1A** March 23 – 27, 2015
 - **Fire Investigation 1B** April 13 – 17, 2015
 - **Fire Investigation 2A** May 4 – 8, 2015
 - **Fire Management 2D** May 11 – 15, 2015
 - **Fire Investigation 2B** June 1 – 5, 2015
 - **Fire Management 2E** July 13 – 17, 2015

Course Locations:

McCormack Training Center

485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008

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

Start Time:

0830 the first day unless noted otherwise.

To Register:

Please see below for registration form.

More Info:

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

Prerequisites:

See below.

CLASS PREREQUISITES

COURSE	PREREQUISITES
Training Instructor 1A	None
Training Instructor 1B	Training Instructor 1A
Training Instructor 1C	Training Instructor 1A and 1B
Fire Command 2C	I-300; Fire Command 2A
Fire Command 2D	I-300; Fire Command 2A
Fire Command 2E	I-300; Fire Command 1C and 2A
Fire Investigation 1A	None
Fire Investigation 1B	Fire Investigation 1A
Fire Investigation 2A	Fire Investigation 1A and 1B
Fire Investigation 2B	Fire Investigation 1A, 1B and 2A
Fire Prevention 1	None
S-215	Qualified as a Single Resource Boss or Initial Attack Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4)
S-234	S-290 and at the minimum an Engine Boss, Single Resource (ENGB) initiated task book.
S-244	Successful completion of the pre-course work; S-290; ability to use a GPS receiver; NWCG Firefighter Type 2 (or CSFM Firefighter 1).
S-245	Successful completion of the pre-course work.
S-336	Qualified as a Single Resource Boss or Initial Attack Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4)
Ethical Leadership in the Classroom	None
Regional Instructor Orientation	None
Fire Management 2A	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2B	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2C	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2D	Fire Management 1
Fire Management 2E	None

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

COURSE:	DATES:	COST:	QUANTITY:
S-215 (Fire Ops in the Urban Interface)	April 8 – 11, 2014	\$215.00	_____
Fire Command 2C	May 12 - 16, 2014	\$295.00	_____
Fire Prevention 1	May 19 – 22, 2014	\$225.00	_____
S-336 (Tactical Decision Making)	June 10 – 13, 2014	\$480.00	_____
S-234 (Ignition Operations)	June 16 - 19, 2014	\$495.00	_____
Fire Command 2D	July 7 - 11, 2014	\$295.00	_____
Fire Command 2E	September 15 – 19, 2014	\$295.00	_____
Regional Instructor Orientation	September 17, 2014	\$175.00	_____
Ethical Leadership in the Classroom	September 18, 2014	\$100.00	_____
Fire Management 2A	November 3 - 7, 2014	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2B	January 12 – 16, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1A	January 26 – 30, 2015	\$295.00	_____
S-244 & S-245	February 2 – 5, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1B	February 9 - 13, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1C	February 23 – 27, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2C	March 9 - 13, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 1A	March 23 - 27, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 1B	April 13 - 17, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 2A	May 4 - 8, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2D	May 11 - 15, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Investigation 2B	June 1 - 5, 2015	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	July 13 - 17, 2015	\$295.00	_____
		TOTAL:	_____

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

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

Hey,

In what seems to be becoming *not-so-rare* anymore, in this latest firefighter close call, Kentucky State Police arrested two men in Kentucky on Saturday night after shots were fired at Firefighters. Vance Miller, 44, and David Lefevers, 37, were charged with first-degree wanton endangerment. Members of the Bell County Fire Volunteer Department responded around 2120 hours Saturday after receiving a report of a vehicle burning near a dwelling. When companies arrived, a man came out of the house, cursed the firefighters and fired at them before going back inside. Fortunately no Firefighters were struck. Kentucky State Troopers went to the home and attempted to contact the persons inside the home several times by phone and loudspeaker, but they were unsuccessful. A state police special response team was activated, and chemical agents were tossed into the home and Miller and Lefevers were arrested when they left the house.

Here are links from www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com and previous links we have provided from several recent editions of The Secret List:

=West Webster NY:

Lt. Michael Chiapperini and FF Tomasz Kaczowka were shot and killed in the murderous attacks. Firefighters Ted Scardino and Joseph Hofstetter were wounded in the attack. HERE is the "LIVE" RADIO TRAFFIC: "MULTIPLE FIREMEN DOWN, MULTIPLE FIREMEN SHOT, WORKING FIRE": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siwoJ1rih3kL> Listen to the incredible professionalism by the dispatcher and of course, those under attack. RIP.

=BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER

SHOT: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/130523> =BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT-RADIO AUDIO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKzI0hFAvUA>

=KY FIRE LT SHOT AND KILLED AT

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

=MO FIREFIGHTER SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE: <http://www.fboryanhummert.org/>
<http://www.cityofmaplewood.com/index.aspx?nid=181>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10755387/dispatch-protocols-for-active-shooter-incidents> (FROM FFCC's Barry Furey in Firehouse) <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo43715.pdf> (FROM Charlotte NC FD) http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf (FROM DHS) <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-163/issue-4/departments/fire->

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[service_ems/responding-to-active-shooter-incidents.html](http://www.jems.com/article/major-incidents/arlington-county-va-task-force) (Active Shooter Response) <http://www.jems.com/article/major-incidents/arlington-county-va-task-force> (FROM Arlington County, VA) <http://www.nypdshield.org/public/SiteFiles/documents/Activeshooter.pdf> (FROM NYPD) <http://my.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/is-the-fire-service-prepared-for-an-active-shooter-incident> (FireFighterNation Discussion)

SPECIAL NOTE:

**NEW FIREFIGHTING PROCEDURE AGGRESSIVELY PROTESTED BY FIREFIGHTERS:
"Just another scheme against firefighters, dammit"**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCe1rCUSc98>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/3/2014-1118 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A new, audio-added video from the Boise FD shows a great training opportunity firefighter close call. The video from a chiefs buggy as well as taken by a firefighter's helmet cam shows just how close a call it was for several firefighters as they operated at the 3-alarm, 3-story house fire. Boise Fire Chief Dennis Doan explained it was thanks to an alert firefighter whose training allowed him to recognize signs that the large structure was about to collapse, and the immediately notification from the Incident Commander warning firefighters to back away from the structure that likely saved several lives. "Calm heads mean good decision making especially in a crisis. We train for the worst and that training paid off." said Chief Doan. Two firefighters were injured in the collapse. Both were hit by falling debris that pushed them into the side of the neighbor's home. One firefighter was hit in the chest, the other in the leg. Neither injury was serious. **HERE IS THE VIDEO FROM BFD:** http://youtu.be/nZUbtuRT_qc

Also, Dave has some related updates and previous info on this fire at statter911.com.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-4-14/1614 hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA FF LODD-MEDICAL FOLLOWING A FIRE

We regret to pass on to you that Former Fire Chief Thomas Gerald Lee, 67, died on Saturday, February 1, 2014. He had reportedly responded to a structure fire on Friday evening. He was the former Fire Chief at Four Oaks Fire and was currently volunteering with Blackmon's Crossroads Fire as well as Four Oaks Fire. Arrangements will be posted when available at www.firenews.net as well as www.ncfff.org. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-2-14/2241 hours

AND:

Hey,

A Chula Vista (CA) Firefighter operating at a crash on I-805 ended up in handcuffs last night - courtesy of a CHP officer. **Great move.** And because it's 2014-so "something" has to be recording almost everything, local TV cameras were catching this latest episode - this time of a Firefighter and a CHP officer getting into a dispute over where the fire apparatus should park. Neither agency would

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

make an official statement on camera. Hmm. As you will see, the video shows the CHP officer cuffing the Firefighter, who was still in his PPE, at the scene. In the background, Firefighters and cops can be seen operating at the crash. The Firefighter was detained in the back of the CHP car for about 30 minutes before being released. Word is there will be a meeting with the involved agencies today. We have placed a fly on the wall of that meeting room and will post updates as they all get ready to sing kumbaya.

HERE IS THE VIDEO:

<http://www.cbs8.com/story/24637357/chp-handcuffs-firefighter-in-dispute-at-crash-scene>

IF IT'S FREE IT'S FOR WE!

NOW is the time to meet with all the roadway players so everyone knows our plan - before the crash. Need solutions? FREE Training for fire AND police: www.ResponderSafety.com

18 YEAR OLD ORDERED TO DRIVE APPARATUS-APPARATUS CRASHES

According to Rio Bravo (Texas) Fire Chief Julio Gonzalez the driver of their now crashed tanker is 18-years of age and had no drivers license, something the chief says is legal in the state of Texas. "As far as I know in the state of Texas a volunteer can drive to the scene if it's an emergency. Only to the scene. After that a licensed driver will drive the truck back." Problem was that night the station was short staffed and the 18-year old volunteer Firefighter was the only member left at the station. The Chief needed the water tanker to help fight the fire and asked his volunteer to bring it. It wasn't the first time he drove the truck, there's training in place and certifications."

HERE IS VIDEO: <http://tinyurl.com/mtaxs9a>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass it On.

BillyG

The Secret List 02/5/2014-0445 Hours

AND:

UP TO NINE FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN SOUTH AMERICA NORTH CAROLINA AND OHIO FF LODD'S

We have reports now of up to 9 FF's being killed in the Line of Duty at a fire in Buenas Aires that destroyed an archive of bank documents. The fire at the Iron Mountain warehouse took hours to control and the sprawling building appears to be ruined despite the arrival of numerous firefighters today. HERE are details:

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268743/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Bih98JH3

OHIO NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER LODD-MEDICAL FOLLOWING A CALL

We regret to pass on to you that Fire Lt. Bruce Stayner, 48, a veteran member of the Scioto Twp FD has died in the Line of Duty. Lt Stayner responded on call with Scioto Township on February 3rd at 1855 hours and passed away yesterday morning from an apparent heart attack. Lt Stayner was involved in various county public safety activities. We'll pass on additional as it is made available.

NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER LODD-MEDICAL FOLLOWING A CALL

We regret to announce the death of Glendale Springs (NC, Ashe County) Firefighter Donnie Miller. Firefighter Miller died with 24 hours of a department sanctioned training session. Arrangements pending. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/5/14-1418 Hours

AND:

March 30, 2014

www.chabotfire.com

19

Hey,

Below are links to today's multi-Firefighter Line of Duty deaths in Buenos Aires. We have links to the radio traffic of the collapse and maydays-along with related media video links. It happened in the Barracas area in **Buenos Aires** City. **NOTE-It appears from various accounts that the Firefighters were at this wall when it came down: WATCH THE FIRE/WALL COLLAPSE VIDEO:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZgwNT7Clj0&sns=em>

LISTEN TO THE MAYDAY AUDIO WITH VIDEO:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yacGaV6_PpA

ADDITIONAL VIDEO LINKS FROM THIS MULTI LODD:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qW_Ezn3Kt0

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq8moYp1jYA>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzWgKVp3qGc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN25RTobW6Y>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxk-Zj5Xx6U>

RIP

=RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS CRASH IN NEW JERSEY

A Firefighter was injured when a Three Bridges Fire Company rig went off a road crashed into a big tree this morning around 1010 hours this morning. The Firefighter, who was driving, was trapped in the truck. Flemington-Raritan Rescue Squad extricated him and he was enroute to Hunterdon Medical Center around 1100 this morning. The crash happened while Firefighters from several companies were responding to a reported house fire.

HERE are photos of the apparatus crash: <http://tinyurl.com/p9q53ua>

=CHIEF EJECTED

A longtime member of the Ossining Ambulance Corps who has served as a volunteer and career Paramedic was seriously injured in an accident early Monday. While all the facts are not out on this yet-it serves as another reminder to all of us regarding seatbelt use. Chief Sam Lubin, the corp's chief, was driving south on the Taconic State Parkway about 0205 hours Monday when his car went off the west shoulder before striking several trees. Chief Lubin, 48, of Yorktown was ejected from the car and suffered a serious head injury. He was taken by EMS to the Westchester Medical Center, where he was admitted for treatment. We wish Chief Lubin a rapid recovery.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-5-14/1500 hours

AND:

Hey,

We hope, like us, that your hearts are warm as things "worked out" in California related to the CHIPPY throwing the cuffs on that on duty Firefighter. Not unexpectedly, Chula Vista Fire Chief Dave Hanneman and California Highway Patrol (CHP) Chief Jim Abele issued a statement::

Last night there was an unfortunate incident at the scene of a traffic collision on I-805, where both our agencies had responded. Both the CHP and the Chula Vista Fire Department share a common goal of protecting the public and providing the highest level of safety to responding emergency personnel, involved parties and other drivers at collision scenes.

RELATED AUDIO BREAK:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGWNc1dkOgY>

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Both of our agencies have the utmost respect for each other and our respective missions. This was an isolated incident and not representative of the manner in which our agencies normally work together toward our common goal.

RELATED AUDIO BREAK: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0l6mhZ5wMw>

This morning representatives from both agencies met to discuss the incident to improve communication and ensure the highest level of service is provided to the public. This incident will be a topic of future joint training sessions, in an ongoing effort to work more efficiently together.

RELATED AUDIO BREAK: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G0sOA6hTg0>

And because the love is simply overflowing, here's one final pre-valentines day song to honor this moment of reconciliation XOXO

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpqqjU7u5Yc>

Take Care. Be Careful. **Who Loves Ya Baby?**

BillyG

The Secret List 2/5/14-2200 Hours

AND:

INDIANA FIRE CHIEF DIES FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO A CRASH-LODD

We regret to advise you that Chief James Knesek, Munster (Indiana) Fire Chief died yesterday (Saturday) afternoon from an apparent heart attack after returning home following a response to an auto crash. Chief Knesek, 59, who was a Munster employee for 34 years, became Munster's director of operations (public works) in 1995 as well as serving as the town's Fire Chief since 2005 as well. Our condolences to all affected by the passing of Chief Knesek.

HERE is he MFD Website: <http://www.munsterfire.com/>

GRAB YOUR FIRE NUGGETS!

Ever visited Fire Nuggets? It started in in January of 2000 by veteran Fire Officers Paul Schuller and Ted Corporandy and quickly become one of the most visited fire service training websites out there.

NOTE: The Berkeley (Calif) Firefighters Local 1227, have now stepped up and updated the website and are dedicated to contribute all they to help us survive - thru information.

Check it out! www.FireNuggets.com

In addition to the latest edition-here are approximately 500 archived articles and features that remain posted on Fire Nuggets and are now organized and converted to PDF for easy printing and distribution to be used at the coffee table for a morning drill or out on the streets. Fire Nuggets has been around quite a while... ..think about this, if you are a 21 year old firefighter, you were 7 years old when Fire Nuggets was founded and maybe had no idea that you would pursue a career in the fire service. Whether you are 21 or 50 years old (or more!) now, or somewhere in between, Fire Nuggets has great information provided by some of the best in the business as well as many first hand submissions by Brothers and Sisters who have been afforded the opportunity to share their "Nugget", through Fire Nuggets. We congratulate the Berkeley Firefighters Local 1227 on their accomplishment thus far, and have no doubt they will carry on the great tradition delivering high quality training to all of us. Take a few minutes to visit www.FireNuggets.com - we are sure you won't be disappointed.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/9/2014-0700 Hours

AND:

**EMS CRASH & FIRE LEADS TO THE LINE OF DUTY DEATH OF A PARAMEDIC-TEXAS
FIRE CHIEF LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL-ARKANSAS**

====BREAKING: FIREFIGHTERS DOWN-DETROIT

Detroit Firefighters are operating at a fire in a commercial building on the city's east side that has left at least one Firefighter injured after part of a wall collapsed. The building at 1601 Farnsworth burned a week ago for three days straight. That Firefighter was transported to the hospital after part of that wall collapsed at about 1700 hours. Much more to follow. We will followup. KTIYP.

HERE IS A PHOTO FROM THE SCENE:<http://tinyurl.com/loauql8>

EMS CRASH & FIRE LEADS TO THE LINE OF DUTY DEATH OF A PARAMEDIC-TEXAS

That ambulance making an emergency run from Sterling City to Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo (Texas) this morning at 0147 hours ended tragically when a crash and subsequent fire resulted in three individuals losing their lives-one being a Paramedic in the Line of Duty. The ambulance was traveling southbound on U.S. 87, 1.9 miles south of Carlsbad (10 miles north of San Angelo), when it began to lose control on an icy patch of highway, causing the vehicle to slide of the road to the left and into the center median. The driver of the ambulance overcorrected back to the right, crossing both southbound lanes before sliding off the right side of the highway and hitting the west ditch, where the vehicle rolled. The ambulance came to a stop upside down facing northeast in the west ditch of U.S. 87, where it caught fire and burned. **Paramedic Raymond Bernard Allison, 52, died in the Line of Duty-and the patient and a relative in the unit all perished in the crash. The three victims were pronounced dead at the scene** The driver of the ambulance, 45-year-old Joann Adamiak Moore of Sterling City, was transported to Shannon Medical Center with incapacitating injuries. We wish Medic Moore a rapid recovery and our condolences to all affected. RIP. HERE ARE MORE DETAILS:

<http://sanangelolive.com/news/san-angelo/2014-02-11/ambulance-accident-leads-three-fatalities>

FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL FOLLOWING A RUN

We regret to pass on to you that Fire Chief Dennis Channell of the Poyen, Ark. Volunteer Fire Department has died in the line of duty. Chief Channell apparently suffered a stroke during or immediately following a medical call on Sunday, February 9. He died yesterday. Poyen is a small community in Grant County approximately 35 miles southwest of Little Rock. The Sheridan Fire Department, which is a neighboring department, made a public post about the LODD this morning on Facebook: **DETAILS HERE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sheridan-Fire-Department/195599643786499>

Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

MCI , 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Alarm RADIO TRAFFIC:

Yesterday, there was an explosion at N.H. Ball Bearings in Peterborough (New Hampshire) injuring numerous people. We've shared our opinion over the years of how professional the SW New Hampshire Fire Mutual System-and their Dispatchers are-and this is another example. NOTE:"**Mutual Aid**" as they are known in that area, **dispatches for over 100 different individual community fire departments and EMS agencies in 3 states (NH, MA and VT)-** and they do it flawlessly.Take a listen to the SW New Hampshire Fire Mutual Aid dispatchers, handling that run yesterday.

<http://firemutualaid.com/>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/11/2014-1716 Hours

AND:

FIRE CAPTAIN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STROKE WHILE ON A RUN

It is with deep regret that we pass on to you the Line of Duty Death of Poyen (Arkansas) Fire Capt. Dennis Channell, 55. Captain Channell suffered a stroke while on a medical call Sunday night, the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

department posted on its Facebook page. Members wrote: "It is with great sadness that I have to inform you of a Line of Duty Death...Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers..."

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at Regency Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at the funeral home.. Interment will be at Prairie Bayou Cemetery. Fellow firefighters will be honorary pallbearers **HERE** is a news video story: <http://tinyurl.com/ldsgxjb>

Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

DETROIT UPDATE;

Here is a quick video of the collapse at yesterdays fire in Detroit. The Firefighter suffered NLT injuries. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBGHVRbS28I>

BEWARE-A FF SCAM WARNING:

It appears there is another scam going on - on the www. Hopefully we are wrong-but odd's are we are not. This group seems to be popping up selling shirts-claiming they go to a "fallen firefighters foundation" for several states.

FOR EXAMPLE: They state:

"LIMITED EDITION - "Firefighters-United" hoodie. Help Us Raise \$500 for The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. A portion of every single sale is donated to The FFF. Donation updates will be shared on our FB page. BUY ONE NOW WHILE YOU STILL CAN! You are qualified for our \$10.00 discount on this limited edition design. All discounts have been applied. Quantities are limited and will only be available for a few days.Each shirt is 100% American made and comes with a money back guarantee! Makes a great gift for any firefighter friend or firefighter family member."

HOWEVER:

No one from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation knows anything about them.

TAKE A LOOK:

<http://teespring.com/ff-ny-h> (NY)

<http://teespring.com/ff-pa-h> (PA)

<http://teespring.com/FF-ohio> (OHIO)

If you are aware of them and they are legit-let us know and we'll re-post this. Otherwise, beware.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/12/2014-1147 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As you may recall, there was a crash involving a responding California fire apparatus last June. The Poway firefighter driving the fire apparatus that broadsided that Honda Accord - **after the drug-impaired driver of the Honda ran a red light** - hadn't yet passed a test qualifying him to operate the vehicle, according to a wrongful death claim recently filed by the parents of a 19-year-old woman killed in the crash.

Who knows how this tragic event will turn out-but here-once again-the qualifications of the firefighter driving the apparatus is in the spotlight. Take a look at the below info and then apply it to your own department-just in case. The claim - also asserts the fire truck wasn't using its

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

siren at the time of the crash. The deadly collision occurred when the driver of the Honda - 45-year-old Robbie Gillespie - ran a red light while heading south about 4 a.m. June 20. The fire apparatus, responding to a medical call, was heading east on a local road when it struck the car. In the Honda's passenger seat was 19-year-old Evelyn Jean Courtney, who died at the scene. Gillespie had bailed out of jail for a drug arrest just a few hours before the crash and was under the influence of methamphetamine at the time of the accident. He faces a prison sentence of 10 years and eight months pending a competency hearing later this month. However--Attorney Michael Kinslow - representing Courtney's parents, Charles and Teresa Courtney - acknowledged Wednesday that Gillespie shoulders some of the blame for the accident. But he said that doesn't excuse the firefighters who he says should have taken more care.

There were four firefighters on the truck that morning, according to the claim. Engineer/Paramedic Josh Fernandez was the official engineer on duty. However, at the time of the crash, "Fernandez and Capt. (Andy) Page were allowing someone who had not yet passed the engineer's exam to drive the truck - (firefighter/paramedic) James Kleppel," the claim states. "If the person who was actually licensed and certified to drive the truck had been doing so, the accident might have been avoided," Kinslow said Wednesday during an interview. He also said while the fire engine apparently was traveling with its emergency lights on, it was not sounding its siren. he said that a minute earlier the engine's sirens were sounded when it left the station because the fire crew had seen traffic in the area.

"The failure of the crew of the fire truck to use due care in the operation of the truck was the proximate cause of my daughter's death," the claim concludes.

This is not easy-and many departments have allowed "not yet certified/qualified" members to drive at various stages of their training. This is a good reminder to review your training policy and procedures with your legal folks to make sure everyone knows who can do what, where and how-and when not to as well. **THE ARTICLE:** <http://m.utsandiego.com/news/2014/feb/12/poway-fire-accident-courtney/>

RELATED DRIVER TRAINING RESOURCES:

<http://www.emergencyvehicleresponse.com/> (EVR)

<https://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/PowerPoint%20Presentation%20in%20PDF.pdf> (IAFF)

<http://www.fireengineering.com/topics/apparatus-driver.htm> (Fire Engineering)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo28031.PDF> (EFO Paper)

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/firefighter_health_safety/safety/vehicle_safety/index.shtm#
(USFA)

<http://www.vfis.com/additional-materials-downloads.htm> (VFIS)

<http://www.iafc.org/files/MFRI%20Apparatus%20and%20Driving%20Operations%20Drill%20.pdf>
(IAFC/MFRI)

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/13/14-0700 Hours

AND:

Hey,

You don't have to look far for good discussion regarding fire command, control, accountability and especially.....fire behavior. As a matter of fact, the mere discussion of "modern" fire behavior can change rational human behavior. Try it and see.

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There have been several well done fire operational studies (by fire service veterans) in the last few years on that subject. How the fire will or won't behave based upon pre-existing conditions, what's inside, what's the building made of-and how its made, weather, what the occupants may do when a fire is discovered (open doors etc) and of course, what we do when we get to the scene and go to work....are all part of it. You know that. There is no shortage of videos (or real life been there proof) showing fires getting better-and fires getting worse, based upon the actions-or lack of actions by the fire department. As you may have observed, when it comes to the studies and the recommendations for some potential change, some members of the family have gone off the deep end-in both supporting the changes-and not supporting the changes. Real Hatfield and McCoy stuff.

LIFE ALTERING CHANGES!

I am not a fan of change. If you look at me, I continue to represent the 70's in my style, attitude and appearance. I am confident my living fashion statements will come back around very soon. When it's suggested that I dress differently or overly trim my mustache, I often suffer a very tiny mini-stroke. Just a little one. Even my sub consciousness fights change. I also have not been supporter of some changes in our business. I miss roof-less open cab rigs-in the summer. I miss tailboard riding-when we didn't fall off. Some things that have changed, absolutely suck. For example, bring back the staffing of the 50's-you know, 10 firefighters on each rig. Now that was staffing.

On the other hand, I try to remember that when change is brought up, there are two groups we are responsible for. The people having the emergency and the Firefighters responding to that emergency. Change isn't all about what we may personally like or not like. So when the changes related to modern fire behavior were introduced, we paid attention. We looked. Listened and trained on it. Over and over and over. And then after listening to the results of these studies and demos, I started to think back.... This stuff actually isn't new-McAniff, Clark, Fried, Layman (google'em) and many others taught that in the 50's and 60's-it is not new-some old timers call it "reseting" the fire (in some fire situations, hitting it hard and then making entry-based upon conditions). Not new. Neither is controlling the flow path-not new at all. Some old school, time tested firefighting tactics: to be considered. It seems when the subject of MODERN fire behavior is brought up, some fire folks want ONE way to do it all...ONE WAY to fight the fire (not new either) ...but it doesn't work that way.....and the information being shared through the studies is not meant to be taken that way. Some folks read that stuff and say to themselves-or their troops: "OK, now THIS is what we will do from now on". Wrong.

DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR OLD "TOOLS."

The info from NIST, UL, ISFSI, IAFC (www.ULFirefighterSafety.com) and others is another tool, options, for your fireground. We need to apply it as needed - based upon our size up. Don't throw your other tools (tactics, procedures etc) away-add this updated information to do what's best for the people having the fire and the members fighting the fire. If we can end up less hurt or killed-(them and us) - that's a good thing-but fire operations are risky-and sometimes we must take risks to take care of people. Worthy risks. Not predictable, stupid "playground" risks. Try this. Size up the fire....and then identify what's best to make the problem go away. Heavy fire conditions? Force a door, find the fire, protect the victims (water and vent control), get water on it? Yep. Heavy fire conditions blowing out? Hit it first to buy time for your victims and your crew...and then force a door, find the fire, protect the victims (water and vent control), get water on it? Yep. ***It depends on your size-up....it shouldn't be that tough.***

MANY departments have trained their firefighters officers to consider a hard hit as they prepare to go in. Most departments have adjusted some attack guidelines based upon conditions. **But it's all about understanding the expected consequences (both positive and negative) of our actions and focusing on what's best for the people having the fire.**

MODERN FIRE BEHAVIOR.

We want to pass onto to you the website: www.ModernFireBehavior.com . It was an idea created last year idea between the fire folks at Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute and FFCC. It's meant to serve as a basic firefighting source of news and training information related to responding and operating at fires. No ads. No commercial stuff. Just fire tactics and operational stuff. If you have any questions, please contact our Webmaster Brian Kazmierzak, veteran Division Chief and fire instructor. You can also submit articles of ALL opinions to Brian as well. His email address is:brian@firefighterclosecalls.com.

Take time to check out www.ModernFireBehavior.com. It's another "tool" for you to add to your "stuff" when training and operating.

And also watch for FSTAR. The Firefighter Safety Through Advanced Research (FSTAR) program is a federally-funded online in-depth site being created by the IAFC which will share specific information between the academic world, laboratory settings and the fireground. Watch for it in the spring of 2014. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/14/14-1145Hours

AND:

FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN POV RESPONSE-NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

A Firefighter responding to a call of flooding in a dwelling was killed in the Line of Duty this morning when his truck went over an embankment. The Firefighter with the New Germany Volunteer Fire Department, age 60, joined the fire service in 1991. This incident happened near Halifax, in the Lunenburg area. The department received the initial call at 0400 hours to respond to a home where the basement had flooded. The member was responding - however it is not yet known if slippery conditions were a factor in the crash. Initial reports are that his pickup truck had crossed the highway and gone over an embankment and the Firefighter was pronounced at the scene. More to follow. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

EXTREME CLOSE CALL UPDATE: FIREFIGHTER SHOCKED (VIDEO)

Benton Public Utility District (Washington) officials said human error was a factor in an accident that hospitalized a Benton County volunteer Firefighter shocked by a power line this week. Two PUD employees didn't realize a downed power line was still attached to a power pole when they cleared Firefighters to put out a Finley wildfire. The fallen 7,200-volt power line hung about four feet above the ground but sparked a wood pile fire shortly before 8 a.m. Wednesday. Moments after PUD workers told fire crews it was safe to operate, Firefighter Ty Schoenwald, 22, was shocked and knocked unconscious. Firefighters had to use CPR and a defibrillator to revive him. He was taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle as a precaution and released Thursday.

HERE IS THE VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLBqfjGURwc>

GOOD EXAMPLE COMMENTS FROM FIREMEDIAIST DAVE S(tatter):

*"A mistake was made. A young firefighter almost lost his life. Just one day after Benton County, Washington Firefighter Ty Schoenwald went into v-fib because of an electrical shock from a downed power line two pretty remarkable things happened. The first and most important is that Schoenwald walked out of the hospital. The second is that the Benton Public Utility District made it clear it was their fault. **No waiting for the bad news to dribble out, hiding under the cover of an investigation. Watch the video above to learn how smart leaders deal with major errors that impact the reputation of their organization. Well done, Benton PUD.***

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Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 2/14/14-1215 Hours

AND:

All,

Today marks the one-year anniversary of that fire in Bryan that killed 2 Fire Lieutenants and left two others fighting for their lives. The Knights of Columbus hall fire broke out on a Friday night, February 15th, 2013, with initial reports of fire showing. The late Lieutenant Eric Wallace lead the first crew from Engine 1 who entered the building. While operating inside, he and FF Eric Juergen radioed they were low on air and needed assistance. Lieutenant Gregory Pickard and Firefighters Ricky Mantey, Jr. and Mitch Moran went in to pull Wallace out-as they were the RIT team-and it flashed over while the attempts were being made. Despite extreme heroic attempts, Lt. Wallace and Lt. Pickard died in the Line of Duty, Mantey and Moran were seriously injured. FF Juergen got out safely.

THE FIREFIGHTERS RECOVERY:

In December, FF Mantey had reconstructive surgery on his hands and expects to undergo three to four more procedures on each hand in the years to come. FF Moran has since returned on light duty and resumed his paramedic training. He expects to be back full-time in the near future. **We wish them -and the entire Bryan FD the best in this very difficult recovery-on this one year anniversary.** State and national investigative reports on this fire are expected to be released soon.

=NFPA WORKING TO IMPROVE FIREGROUND RADIOS:

From the actual radio, the mic's, the networks and even "fireground" smartphone standards...positive and much needed changes are on the way. MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/m6typur>

=RELATED: CHANGES AT MOTOROLA:

A sincere thanks for the decades of service Cynthia Leighton has provided as Motorola's liaison to the national fire service. Thanks to her efforts, numerous successful projects, significant funding and overall support was received by nearly all fire service organizations. Her genuine caring for Firefighters made a real difference. We wish Cynthia a wonderful, happy and healthy retirement from Moto....and..... **WE ALSO WELCOME** her replacement, Dhiren Chauhan, the new Fire and EMS Marketing Manager for Motorola Solutions. He'll be at the various fire service events coming up-as well as on Twitter: (@dhiren1975 to discuss fire and EMS communications with you. Be sure to reach out to him.

=FINAL WORD: Our condolences to all affected in the tragic off duty death of Newton County Firefighter Bradley Eavenson who had been working through the winter ice storm - and was killed early Friday morning in a one-vehicle accident. 31-year-old Eavenson was traveling around 0130 when he left the roadway onto the right shoulder, traveled down an embankment, and struck a rock wall. The GSP stated that Eavenson was not wearing a seat belt. Weather does not appear to be a factor in the wreck, according to the GSP. Seatbelts? Fatigue? Whatever the cause-another reminder about seatbelts and the issues of possible fatigue in fire and EMS. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 2/15/2014-1100 hours

AND:

Hey,

March 30, 2014

www.chabotfire.com

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Another reminder-again from Texas. Some of you may remember, and those that don't will now know that on February 14, 2000, 2 Dallas Firefighters died in the Line of Duty at a McDonald's restaurant fire in Houston the morning of February 14, 2000. One of them was Kimberly Smith, the first woman on the HFD to die in the line of duty. She was 30 years old, engaged and had been on the HFD since 1994. Also killed when the roof collapsed on them was Fire Engineer/Operator Lewis Mayo, 44, a 19-year department veteran and father of 3. Engr. Mayo was pulled from the fire and taken to a local hospital, but could not be revived. Smith and Mayo were assigned to Engine 76, though Smith was not working her regular shift day. Engine 76 was first on the scene, finding fire through a portion of the roof on their arrival. Along with their Captain, Frank Cucino, they made an interior attack with an 1-1/2" hose line.

About 20 minutes later, the incident Commander ordered Firefighters out of the building, but before Engine 76's crew could back out, a large air-conditioning unit fell through the roof, seperating and disorienting the crew. Captain Cucino was able to find the hose line and follow it out. Engr. Mayo's PASS device activated, and Firefighters were able to locate and remove him within 30 minutes. Firefighters continued their efforts to recover FF Smith, but as time passed, it became more likely she could not be alive. Reports from the scene said Firefighters outside cried, prayed, and hit the sides of their rigs in frustration. Her body was found four hours later, buried under rubble a few feet from an outside door. RIP. Four suspects were arrested in connection with that Houston fire..and a jury decided the fate of those 3 teenagers convicted in the deaths of the 2 Firefighters. Allen Gerome Davis, 17, received 15 years at the Texas Department of Corrections, Pedro Isreal Loreda, 19, received 35 years and his brother Juan Manuel Torres, 17, received 20 years.

In many cases, FAST FOOD restaurant fires are losers-especially when it's had a jump on us. Take some time to learn about this-and other fast food restaurant fires...often disposable buildings-built that way by design:

RELATED LINKS AND TRAINING: DETAILS OF THIS FIRE FROM HFD

[:http://www.houstonfirememorial.org/LOD/Mcdonalds_3-11_fire.htm](http://www.houstonfirememorial.org/LOD/Mcdonalds_3-11_fire.htm)

NIST MODEL OF THIS FIRE:

http://www.nist.gov/el/disasterstudies/fire/texas_restaurant_fire2000.cfm

THE NIOSH REPORT OF THIS SPECIFIC FIRE:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200013.html>

RESTAURANT BUILDING FIRE OPERATIONS:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i1.pdf>

FAST FOOD RESTAURANT FIRES:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2007/12/december-simulation-fast-food-restaurant-fire.html>

BOSTON FD DOUBLE LODD RESTAURANT (RELATED, BUT NOT FAST FOOD)

<http://www.firetactics.com/NEWS1.htm>

FIRE/MEDIA-WATCH THIS ONE MINUTE VIDEO:

Some reporters get it. Some don't. And some FD's have taken the time to educate them. Some haven't. THIS clip is a great example of a built upon relationship with the media-and what they may do when, and to honor a Firefighter is killed in the Line of Duty...such as earlier this week, again, in Texas where-as stated by this reporter:

Dallas Firefighter Scott Tanksley deserves a moment of your time this week.

VIDEO HERE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIFTTk-mKal>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/15/2014-1730 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We do our best to try and share "historic" and significant fires that killed Firefighters in the Line of Duty. The goal being that younger Firefighters can understand and gain knowledge from us "passing it on" - about fire service history...and older ones remember.

CHICAGO-2 CHIEFS KILLED IN FIRE/BUILDING COLLAPSE:

The fire was on Valentines Day in 1962. Friday was the anniversary of that Line of Duty deaths of Chicago Fire Battalion Chiefs Thomas Hoff and Robert O'Brien in a 4-11 fire on Chicago's South Side. As Jim Regan from Chicago wrote: "I can just imagine how proud Chief Hoff would be of his 2 sons who entered the CFD, Ray who retired as a Battalion Chief and has since passed away, and Bob who is now retired as CFD's Fire Commissioner (and now DC in Carol Stream, IL), and his grandson Andy Hoff, Bob's son, a member of the Downers Grove FD" Chiefs Hoff and O'Brien were killed in the Line of Duty when a building collapsed during a fire at 70th and Dorchester in Chicago, Feb 14, 1962. The story of Thomas Hoff, Bob, and his older brother Ray, served as the basis for the movie "Backdraft".

WHAT HAPPENED:

On February 14, 1962, two Chicago Fire Department chiefs died in the line of duty at an apartment building fire on E. 70th Street. Chief Robert J. O'Brien, head of the fire prevention bureau, and Battalion Chief Thomas A. Hoff, the Assistant Drillmaster for the CFD training school, were killed when the fire-weakened building collapsed. A fire was reported in the basement of the apartment building shortly after 11:00 AM. Firefighters responded to the scene and successfully extinguished most of the flames. At approximately 12:35 PM, while firefighters were searching the apartments for trapped victims, the roof of the building began to sag and the west wall started to lean inward. Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn ordered all firefighters to evacuate the building, but the roof caved in before all of the firefighters could escape.

Chiefs O'Brien, Hoff, and Firefighter Frank Conley were on the third floor of the building and were a few steps away from escaping onto an outside porch when the roof collapsed. They fell with the debris down to the basement where they were trapped in the wreckage. Firefighter Edward Stack, Hoff's driver, was also on the third floor when the building collapsed, but he was able to roll out a door on the first floor as he fell with the debris. Stack later described how they had seen the ceiling start to crack and had heard the shouts from outside to evacuate the building, but when the west wall buckled the third floor gave way and the ceiling collapsed on them before they could reach the porch. Firefighters immediately descended on the debris to try to rescue their colleagues. The rescue squads labored under a stream of water from hose lines, as the previously smoldering fire had rekindled and some of the debris was now burning furiously. Conley, who had fallen under a large beam that protected him from additional debris, was rescued thirty minutes after the collapse, having suffered some bruises and a broken finger. Chief O'Brien's body was recovered a short time later, but efforts to reach Chief Hoff's body were delayed over concerns about the weakened walls that were still standing. After wrecking equipment was brought in to take down the walls, Chief Hoff's body was recovered around 6 PM. This account is courtesy of the Illinois Fire Service Institute: More Details **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/yzzc9fs> and <http://tinyurl.com/yadmpdh>

REMEMBERING 3 FF's: A DWELLING FIRE ON BRICELYN STREET IN PITTSBURGH:

It was in 1995 when 3 Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire Firefighters died in the Line of Dutyon Feb. 14, 1995... in that house fire. On that date, just after midnight PBF's Captain Thomas Brooks of Engine 17 and Firefighters Patricia Conroy and Marc Kolenda of Engine 8 were sent to the now infamous

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Bricelyn Street fire. FF's Conroy and Kolenda were working from Engine 17 that day. Brooks, 42, Conroy, 43, and Kolenda, 27, became separated from other crews when a stairwell inside the home collapsed. At the time, other Firefighters and Officers didn't know the three were trapped and possibly unconscious until it was too late. According to reports, (see below) their SCBA's malfunctioned, they didn't all have radios to call for help, their low-air indicators on their tanks, PASS alarms did not work and there was no system to account for Firefighters operating at the scene. Much has been learned by the fire service since this tragic loss. Captain Brooks, a 13-year veteran, left behind two children. FF Conroy, an 8-year-veteran, and FF Kolenda, a Firefighter for 14 months, were each engaged at the time, but childless. R.I.P.

More Details HERE:

<http://tinyurl.com/yhc3s3r>

<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/Pittsburgh.PDF>

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-078.pdf>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-16-14 / 0900 hours

AND:

Hey,

Lets start this off right-there are some phenomenal fire dispatchers, call takers and dispatch center leaders out there who absolutely understand that time is precious-and respecting time can mean the difference in civilians-and firefighters surviving. On the other hand, there are dispatch systems out there who, in spending way too much time asking irrelevant questions prior to activating companies for a fire/EMS response-have been a proven and integral part of tragic outcomes. It's not that we dislike call processing systems, it's that we absolutely dislike systems that cause a delay in companies turning out-while irrelevant and sometimes ridiculous questions are asked by call takers.

Look-ask all the questions you want-but when someone says

"I live at 12 Maple Avenue in Delayville and there is a fire in our home"

all we need to ask is their phone number...and then we hit a button that makes beep-beep-beep sounds alerting the firefighters to turnout. Then-ask more questions if that's what needs to be done. Quite frankly, why do we need to know more than: Where is it? What is it? What's your phone number?

HOLD PLEASE (or send the "screen" to the dispatcher)-Beep beep beeeep-House fire....

...and then ask what other questions may be critical.

What happens is...

Some dispatch systems use the systems of cards and questions instead of providing good training-fire training, for dispatchers. Some use them to deal with the issues of training-and turnover (just ask these questions-no more, no less). Some use it because they are police dispatch centers who also do fire...and police have different questioning needs than us. Some forget that most police calls **are not** in progress-they already happened-plenty of time to get info.Some forget that most fire-EMS calls for service are in-progress-bad things are happening right now and all we need is the basic info to get the equipment rolling-and more questions can be asked as we are on the way. ..amongst related issues and challenges.

AND NOW...another city has discovered just how bad their call handling/call processing times are-and have decided to make a significant change to limit the questions asked to the caller - while quickly getting units on the road to the people needing the help.

READ ABOUT THE L.A.F.D. CHANGES:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-lafd-dispatch-2-20140210,0,6192381.story#axzz2t1BEdPQE>

RELATED: *please please Please Just Send The Fire Department!*

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/200475>

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/185684>

At the very least, Chiefs should know exactly how their fire and EMS calls are being handled and processed, what questions are being asked/for what types of calls and exactly how long it is taking from the moment the phone is answered in dispatch to the moment your tones are going off. **For each and every call.** Even though the FD may not run the dispatch system, the FD, like the caller, are all customers to the dispatch center---all entitled to the best possible service. And like in the firehouse, leadership should spend time getting input from the veteran fire/EMS dispatchers and call takers who do the job-they can often provide the answers and expertise on these kinda issues-we just need to listen.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/16/2014-1825 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This may be the shortest Secret List ever - with as powerful a message as we have ever passed on. At the LODD service today, the late Dallas FF Scott Tanksley's young son clutched his Dad's helmet. Thanks to the many who passed this picture on to us today. It knocked the wind out of us. RIP. pic.twitter.com/6cNqh0kvtO

REALITY CHECK: At the LODD service today, Dallas FF Scott Tanksley's young son clutched his Dad's helmet. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-17-14/1906 hrs

AND:

**ARKANSAS FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FOLLOWING VEHICLE CRASH
(4th LODD IN ARKANSAS IN 2014)**

We regret to pass on to you that Fire Chief Randy Pogue of the Oak Grove Fire Department died in the line of duty today as a result of injuries suffered during an emergency response. Oak Grove is an unincorporated community located between Maumelle & North Little Rock, Arkansas. On Sunday, January 2, Chief Pogue was responding to a motor vehicle accident when his department pick-up slid on a patch of ice. The vehicle spun 180 degrees, left the roadway and impacted a ditch on the driver's side. Although Chief Pogue was initially conscious and alert following the accident, he developed Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome after being transported to the hospital. Chief Pogue had been on a ventilator in a medically-induced coma ever since. **Chief Pogue is the fourth line of duty death in Arkansas in 2014. This is the most most firefighter deaths in their state since 1997, when five Arkansas firefighters were killed in two separate incidents.** Details from MaumelleFire.Com: <https://www.facebook.com/MaumelleFire/photos/a.10150115206091614.319071.54036366613/10152304058401614/>

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Details from Arkansas Fire Training Academy:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arkansas-Fire-Training-Academy/307906219708>

Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

MAN GETS RETRIAL IN TRIPLE FIREFIGHTER DEATHS ...DUE TO STUDENTS RESEARCH

Greg Brown accused of setting fire that killed Thomas Brooks, Patricia Conroy, Marc Kolenda on Bricelyn Street in Pittsburgh. The man serving life sentences for the deaths of three Pittsburgh firefighters in a fire ruled arson nearly two decades ago has won a new trial, thanks to a ruling by an Allegheny County judge. The decision for defendant Gregory Brown stirred emotions among city firefighters and their families, as well as among those who advocated for the man they felt was done an injustice. **PBF Firefighters Thomas Brooks, Patricia Conroy and Marc Kolenda were trapped and died in the Line of Duty at the infamous fire on Bricelyn Street in the Brushton neighborhood on Valentine's Day 1995.** Brown, now 36, has spent more than half of his life in prison. He was 17 when he was fingered for murder and arson by a then-15-year-old delinquent witness, Imbrahim Abdullah, who claimed Brown admitted when they were detention center bunk buddies that he did set the deadly fire. "What happened at Bricelyn Street many years ago was a great tragedy. There's no reason in the world, though, why that tragedy had to be followed with another tragedy. And what happened here was an atrocious abuse of government power," said Dave Fawcett, one of Brown's defense attorneys. **In his ruling, Judge Joseph K. Williams granted a new trial because prosecutors did not reveal that Abdullah was getting thousands of dollars from a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives reward fund in return for his story. Evidence of that payment was uncovered by Point Park University students' Freedom of Information requests via the Innocence Institute.**As you can imagine, today was extremely tough for PBF veterans and the families of those who died.

HERE IS A MEDIA REPORT:

<http://www.wtae.com/news/local/allegheny/pittsburgh-man-gets-retrial-in-firefighter-deaths/24563202>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/19/14-2146 Hours

AND:

COLUMBIA MO FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-BUILDING COLLAPSE

We regret to advise you that a veteran Firefighter in Columbia was killed in the Line of Duty earlier today. Columbia Fire responded to a call of the collapsed roof at University Village Apartments near the MU campus this morning shortly after 0430 hours. The call came in from two residents of a second story apartment who told dispatchers their roof had caved in. Columbia Fire was the first agency on the scene. The building was in the process of being evacuated when a second story balcony collapsed trapping the member. All residents of the building sustaining the collapse have been evacuated. At least 19 units responded from Columbia Fire, University Hospital Ambulance Service, and Boone Hospital Center Ambulance. We'll have much more later. Keep them in your prayers and thoughts. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/22/14-1030 hours

AND:

All,

Tragically, Columbia (MO) Fire Lt. Bruce Britt, a 23-year veteran of the department, died in the Line of Duty this morning while operating at that structural collapse at a University of Missouri apartment

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

complex. Lt. Britt suffered fatal injuries while assisting the removal of residents at University Village complex. Apparently, a second-floor exterior walkway initially collapsed early this morning, causing MU officials to evacuate the university-owned apartment complex. Shortly after companies arrived, Lt. Britt was on the walkway, trying to communicate with occupants through a window - and shortly after that, the walkway collapsed with the Lieutenant on it. He was rescued, removed and transported - but efforts to save his life were unsuccessful. More details will follow. RIP.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/22/14-1600 Hours

AND:

Hey,

One of the cool things about The Secret List is that it is read by many veteran fire officers and firefighters who have "been there, done that"...and in many cases, they have experience to pass on to us, to pass back on to you. Jim Smith, retired Deputy Chief of Philadelphia (one of nearly one hundred contributors in the soon to be released Pennwell book "PASS IT ON") wanted to pass on this incident-to you. He wants to share what the PFD has done-and what you could do so that first responders don't become part of the problem on CO jobs. Fortunately, last weekend, when the Huntington Manor FD arrived at the Legal Seafood CO emergency, they were prepared to immediately assist and remove the exposed PD and EMT's-who were attempting to assist the numerous initial civilian victims.

Many fire, EMS and even police departments (especially those who respond on EMS runs) purchase mini-CO monitors and clip them on first-in EMS bags...they set it and forget it. It can make a real difference-it's there when you need it. **Here are Jim's thoughts:**

I just read the CO incident in Suffolk County in the Secret List. We had a similar incident in Philly around 2005 where a patient was complaining of similar symptoms that had landed her in the hospital from which she had just returned home a few days earlier. The EMTs felt it was probably a re occurrence of the previous sickness and were going to take her back to the hospital. She was a big woman and the medic unit called for an engine company to assist in carrying her. It was the dead of winter and as the engine company waited in the bedroom to assist in carrying her down from the second floor her son who was a big man collapsed in the bedroom. Next an EMT went down. The firefighters were also exhibiting some signs of lightheadedness. The Lieutenant ordered a window opened and everyone to the exterior. He then called for assistance of a truck company and a battalion chief. The engine company, after donning air paks, then removed the occupants and started to ventilate the structure. On arrival of the BC, he measured the air and found CO levels off the chart. It was later discovered that the chimney flue in the basement had become clogged by falling brick and brick dust causing the situation. In the end I wound up with 2 EMT's from the medic unit and the Lieutenant and 2 Firefighters in the hospital to be checked for CO blood levels. The only company member who was not affected was the engine company engineer.

The gist of this email was that a simple solution was found in that a battery operated CO detector was issued to all companies including medic units and they were clipped onto their medical bag (or first responder bags in the case of engine and truck companies). In the ensuing years numerous incidents of high CO readings were found upon entering a structure when none was suspected or reported. In other words numerous injuries as well as diagnoses of the sick were immediately found. I am not sure how many agencies (fire and EMS) are familiar with or utilize this technique but it can be a life saver. I would guess there are a number of companies who market this type of CO detector. Thought there may be a way that you could get the message out about this potential life-saving CO detector

procedure.

Done. Thanks to Jim for passing it on.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/25/2014-1332 Hours

AND:

Hey,

An analysis of volunteer Firefighter injuries was undertaken by the NFPA to compare their experience to all firefighter injuries. "All firefighter injuries" refers to the firefighter injuries that are estimated based on the NFPA National Fire Experience Survey and reported in the NFPA Annual Firefighter Injury Report. The injury statistics in that report combine career and volunteer firefighters. This one looks as volunteer Firefighters specifically. Volunteer fire departments are highly related to the size of community protected. Departments that protect communities of less than 10,000 population are comprised mostly of volunteer firefighters. Three years of data were used in this analysis because the estimates for some of the breakdown categories are small and can vary considerably from year to year.

HERE is the report: <http://www.nfpa.org/research/reports-and-statistics/the-fire-service/fatalities-and-injuries/an-analysis-of-volunteer-firefighter-injuries-2009-to-2011>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/24/14-1600 Hours'

AND:

FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FLORIDA-MEDICAL

We regret to pass on to you the Line of Duty Death of Lt. Homer "J.R." Harrell, 46, of the Orange City FD-Florida. Lieutenant Harrell passed away from a reported heart attack shortly after coming off his assigned shift which included one or more emergency responses. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

=CO KILLS CIVILIAN, DOWNS NUMEROUS OTHERS INCLUDING NY EMS AND POLICE RESPONDERS

Another CO reminder for the public, EMS and us. This weekend Suffolk County (NY) Police officers and the area FD along with EMS responded to carbon monoxide incident at the Walt Whitman Mall / Legal Seafood restaurant. Suffolk County is on Long Island, east of NYC. Details are that SCPD arrived, forced entry and they found unresponsive victims in the basement - and CPR was preformed by PD. The building was evacuated and several victims were rescued and removed. The final is that there was a faulty heating system with 1 DOA (the manager who was in the basement) and 2 critical patients from the 25+ victims that included several police and EMS personnel: 3 Suffolk County PD officers and the four person crew from Huntington Community First Aid Squad (EMS) were treated and released that night and are doing ok. Additionally it's being reported that the first due fire company had well over 1000 ppm in the basement. REMIND your cops, your EMS members as well as our own of this additional example of how bad it can be-and how unprotected rescuers can become victims. We wish them all a successful recovery. <http://www.mofirefuneral.org/?mdp=notice>

**=NY FIREHOUSE FIRE THIS MORNING:
(WORKING FIREHOUSE FIRE VIDEO)**

A fire erupted in a Westchester County (NY, just north of NYC) firehouse this morning, injuring one firefighter and drawing more than 80 firefighters from 17 other departments around the area to operate. Two people were inside the Goldens Bridge FD firehouse on Waccabuc Road when the fire started broke out. The hurt firefighter had minor injuries. A Firefighter was working out in the gym when he

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smelled smoke and saw an orange glow, just before a small explosion rattled the building. A rescue truck and two utility trucks were damaged, but Firefighters were able to salvage other trucks. GBFD has about 100 members.

HERE IS VIDEO TAKEN DURING FIRE OPERATIONS: <http://bcove.me/hpayddlw>

=BUDDY BREATHING:

NIOSH is revising its policy on the use of Emergency Breathing Support Systems (EBSS) for your SCBA, also known as "Buddy Breathers".

HERE IS MORE:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/resources/pressrel/letters/InterestedParties/ltr-02182014.html>

=UPDATE: W VA FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT CELL TOWER COLLAPSE - FIRST DUE FD BEING QUESTIONED

The West Virginia Fire Commission is investigating a Harrison County volunteer fire department following the Line of Duty Death of a member of another department during the response to a cellphone tower collapse. The investigation of the Summit Park Volunteer Fire Department follows complaints by relatives of Nutter Fort Volunteer Fire Department member Michael Garrett and other firefighters, The Exponent Telegram (<http://bit.ly/1jZD78J>) reported.

Both departments, along with several others, responded to the collapse of a cellphone tower on Feb. 1 in the Summit Park area. Garrett and two workers from Oklahoma were killed when a second tower collapsed. "Anytime there's a complaint - a legitimate complaint - against a fire department, it is investigated," Clarksburg Fire Chief Rick Scott, who serves on the fire commission, told the newspaper. Garrett's relatives and other Nutter Fort firefighters have questioned whether Summit Park had an adequate number of firefighters and equipment. They also have questioned whether the department is properly registered with the state.

=SUBMIT YOUR AWARD CONSIDERATIONS NOW!

In addition to updated info on this years National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner:

www.CFSI.org, CFSI is also accepting nominations for their national awards that honor individuals and organizations for outstanding leadership in advocating for the health and safety of our nation's first responders.

CFSI Leadership Awards include:

CFSI/Motorola Solutions Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award

Recognizes **individuals** who have been proactive at the local, state, or federal government level to improve fire/emergency services and life safety issues. Applications due March 14, 2014.

Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award

Sponsored by CFSI and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation with corporate support from VFIS and State Farm Insurance. Recognizes **organizations** for their outstanding contributions to firefighter health and safety. Nominations due March 14, 2014.

Excellence in Fire Service-Based EMS Awards Program

Sponsored by CFSI and the MedicAlert Foundation. Recognizes and highlights best practices in EMS by fire departments in the United States. Nominations due March 7, 2014.

Dr. Anne W. Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education

Sponsored by CFSI and the International Fire Service Training Association, Fire Protection Publications, Oklahoma State University (IFSTA/FPP/OSU). Recognizes individuals for outstanding achievements at

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the national level in fire safety education. Nominations due March 14, 2014. For questions about the dinner, seminars or awards program, please contact them at 202-371-1277 or www.CFSI.org

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 2/24/14-1500 Hours

AND:

NJ FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING FALL FROM A ROOF AT FIRE SCENE

We regret to pass on to you that a veteran Firefighter fell off a roof and died in the Line of Duty, while operating at a fire at a restaurant in New Jersey, early this morning. The man, who is also a Jersey City career Firefighter, with 29 years on the job, was operating as a member of the Wallington Fire Department, and was at the scene on Paterson Avenue in Wallington when he fell. We'll post more updates later. Our condolences to all those affected by this loss. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On. BillyG - The Secret List 2-28-14/0458 hours

AND:

=ACTIVE MEMBER/FORMER CHIEF DIES WHILE ON DUTY-MEDICAL

We regret to pass on that Former Nesconset FD (NY) Chief-of-Department Ross Huffer died yesterday morning. He was a 48 year member of the department. On the night of his death, he was serving as the department's EMS first responder and had the first responder vehicle. He was found in bed unresponsive and was transported to the hospital where he died. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

=DELAWARE FIREFIGHTERS INJURED-POSSIBLE FLASHOVER

Firefighters from Harrington Fire Company and Felton Community Fire Company operated at a poultry house fire in the 300 block of Hayfield Road in Harrington this afternoon. Two Firefighters were injured - one of them was taken by ambulance to Kent General Hospital, and the other was taken by state police helicopter to Christiana Hospital. Both were injured within moment of entering the structure. We'll keep you advised. KTIYP's.

=FUNERAL/MEMORIAL DETAILS:

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER/OFFICER/FORMER CHIEF LODD UPDATE:

As you know, veteran Firefighter Gregory Barnas, 57, a veteran Chief, career Captain and multi-time volunteer Captain of the Wallington Fire Department, who had 42 years of firefighting experience, was on that restaurant roof, venting it in the early morning hours Friday when he suddenly fell off the one-story building as other firefighters, including his two sons, fought to contain the two-alarm fire. EMTs desperately performed CPR as he was taken to Hackensack University Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead later in the morning. **Both of his sons, John and Kevin, still in their fire gear, and other firefighters held a vigil at the hospital as a Catholic priest arrived to perform last rites.**

The Barnas family's tragedy was compounded by another worry: One of Barnas' sons has cancer and was getting chemotherapy treatment Friday afternoon, just hours after his father's death. Later in the day that Barnas's youngest son John, 23, accompanied by his mother, Patricia, was being treated for leukemia at Hackensack University Medical Center. Gregory Barnas, who also was a career Captain in Jersey City, had been donating blood cells for his son's treatment. In addition to one year as chief, he was a Captain three times. Both of his sons

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are members of the department. Barnas also was a 29-year veteran of the Jersey City Fire Department, where he recently passed an exam to become a Battalion Chief and was in line for a promotion. Last summer, his oldest son, Kevin, (see below re: Kevin) became a Jersey City Firefighter and Barnas was eagerly anticipating the day that his youngest son, John, would join them in the department.

Captain Barnas is the father of Fireman Kevin Barnas of the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department, Company 33 in Prince Georges County, MD. Over the past several years, members of Company 33 have had the privilege of meeting and befriending Captain Barnas. He also rode along with the Department on several occasions with the Tower Ladder and Chiefs "Buggy". Local officials are planning a memorial procession through the borough next week just before the funeral for Fire Captain Gregory Barnas, who died in the Line of Duty early Friday. Captain Barnas will be laid to rest on Friday at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church on Paterson Avenue. **A wake will be held for Barnas on Thursday at Warner-Wozniak Funeral home on Midland Avenue from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The funeral mass on Friday is tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m.** In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that contributions be made to either Hackensack University Medical Center's Bone Marrow Transplant Fund or the Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation.

24-year veteran of Orange County Fire Authority, Eng Hennessey died January 20th while on duty at OCFA Station 45 in Rancho Santa Margarita. He was 49.

Services will be held at Saddleback Church on Tuesday, March 4th at 1000 hrs.
Saddleback Church, 1 Saddleback Parkway, Lake Forest, CA 92630 RIP.

=PROVEN DIRT BAG RESPONSIBLE FOR FF EMT LODD WILL REMAIN IN THE SLAMMER

Remember this dirt bag? Career criminal Taye? While accelerating and braking his car with a stick due to his paraplegia, he killed Delaware City's FF/EMT Michelle Smith at a crash scene on DE's US 13 just before Christmas 5 years ago and then fled the scene while DUI?

A Delaware judge has rejected his appeal.

As you may recall, it started with a motorcycle crash. The operator of the bike, was injured in the incident and was lying in the roadway. A Delaware City Fire Company ambulance (standing by to cover that area for the Wilmington Manor Fire Company) arrived on the scene within minutes and DCFC FF/EMT Michelle Smith got out of the ambulance and began to administer care. A New Castle County Police Officer then arrived on the scene and activates his emergency equipment.

Moments later, veteran career criminal Taye, driving someone else's BMW entered the crash scene and sideswiped the county police car causing significant damage. The Police officer leaped back into his car just prior to the impact and avoids injury. Taye lost control and struck Smith and Reiss. The BMW comes to a stop on the right shoulder south of the crash scene. Smith later died in the Line of Duty. At that point, a light colored Honda pulls up to the crash scene. The operator of the Honda, an unidentified black male, **ACTUALLY HELPS TAYE** into the Honda (Taye is unable to walk himself due to his physical disability) and the Honda subsequently flees the scene. Witnesses describe the fleeing Honda and also advised that the operator was ...who we all now know as career criminal Taye. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 2/1/14-1700 Hours

AND:

FIRE CAPTAIN DIES AT TRAINING

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A veteran Captain in the Anchorage (Alaska) Fire Department died in the Line of Duty at 1146 hours **Friday**. 51-year-old AFD Captain Jeff Bayless collapsed during active fire training, as part of an air management training exercise. Crews on scene began treating him immediately before taking him to Alaska Regional Hospital where he passed away. We'll post more as it becomes available. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [3/8/14-0730 hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

A very popular Firefighter was very seriously injured in a fall while operating at a fire on Thursday evening. He fell off an icy roof, was treated and transported and now, after undergoing surgery yesterday, Westport (MA) FF Steve Lopes is listed in serious condition at Rhode Island Hospital as of [this morning](#). **Steve became an internet hit a few years ago with his "Portuguese Fireman" routine:**

STEVE'S WEBSITE: <http://www.portuguese-fireman.com/>

Some of Steve's videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7PgIEuLXFM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kRA0oOtYdQ&list=UU-hY0OMMMPliomx8upnka8Q>

The two and a half story dwelling caught fire around 2000 hours **Thursday** evening. During the fire, two firefighters went up on the roof to extinguish the fire in the chimney. **While on the roof, 47-year-old Steven Lopes a 7-year veteran of Westport Fire slipped on ice and fell nearly thirty feet.** Robert Manchester, 41, also slipped in his attempts to stop Lopes from falling. Manchester fell approximately ten feet. He was treated at Charlton Memorial Hospital and released. Lopes was brought to Rhode Island Hospital where he remains in critical condition with traumatic injuries. Tiverton Fire assisted Westport Fire with the hospital transports. Steve is a well-known member of the community who is involved in a comedy troupe known as the Portuguese Firemen.

We wish Steve a very successful recovery. KHIYP's.

HERE is the FACEBOOK Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westport-Fire-Department-Massachusetts/110388165702195>

PRE-ALERTING YOUR RUNS-A GOOD SOLUTION

We've been very critical of dispatch systems that spend way too much time asking non-critical questions-prior to alerting fire and EMS companies. To us, it's simple-get the basic questions and then get the tones out. Avg time? 30-60 seconds max from the time 9-1-1 is answered until the appropriate companies are alerted to the run....with the basic info.

Asking questions such as "what in the kitchen is on fire" or "what is the model of the car that is on fire" or "oh you see smoke, but not fire, tell me about the smoke" are a proven and documented waste of time in saving lives and property.

The bottom line-when people call 9-1-1 for an emergency-they wanted the help there 5 minutes ago...and while we cannot turn back the hands of time-we can make sure the leadership of dispatch centers understand how critical it is to get fire/ems companies alerted absolutely as soon as possible. Once companies are alerted, there is then time for "pre-arrival" additional questions, updates etc...but get the companies alerted.

It's kinda important to remember that this is not "our" emergency but it belongs to the people calling 9-

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1-1....and they deserve nothing less than immediate notification with the basics asked...and then ask more questions after the alert.

Pre-alerting allows dispatch call takers to send the basics...

Where it it?

What it is?

Whats your phone number?

and then...beeeeeep....alert the appropriate companies...

Whether "alerting" or "dispatching" your FD sounds like this:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUlyai2YKro>

or this:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17UHjmfSb3I>

or this:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OawJjqE5Dho>

...the quicker we get there-the better it is for those who called.

Fire Chiefs in Dane County, Wisconsin (including the City of Madison) were greatly concerned about how long it was between 9-1-1 calls were answered--and the time it took for their companies to be alerted....so working with the 9-1-1 center leadership, have come up with a solution.

CHECK IT OUT HERE: <http://youtu.be/RDvR3St9H4A>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On. www.PassItOnFire.com

BillyG

The Secret List 3/8/14-1453 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Last year I was approached to do a book with advice to future and current firefighters, fire officers etc. I figured that the best way I could offer advice was to reach out to some veteran firefighters and good folks in our business...and "pass on" all of our advice....

especially theirs.

Well, I reached out (and got it about 95% correct!) and their contributions were put together in a brand new 400+ page book published by Pennwell entitled:

"PASS IT ON...What We Know...What We Want You To Know"

.....and I want to pass this on to the Secret List members.

The nearly one hundred contributors (see link below and click on the pdf once the link opens), have all donated their time, thoughts and experiences in this major fundraiser with 100% of the royalties being evenly donated jointly to both the Chief Ray Downey Scholarship Fund and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Both organizations have fully and officially supported-and contributed, to this book. The book is jam packed with real life lessons, advice, experiences that include the good, the bad and the ugly-and will, without question-add to any firefighter's collection of deep and career lasting information. All of this from as diverse a group of fire folks that has ever been brought together!

In addition to the words in this book, you will also be privileged to view some never before published photos and documents - several with some very personal words of advice from fallen heroes who have given the supreme sacrifice. Please take a look at the below information-I am confident that you will not be disappointed. This book is an excellent gift for someone considering our profession, as well as a probie or rookie, a veteran firefighter, a newly or soon to be promoted fire

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officer-and simply put-anyone who has any level of interest in the fire service.

In addition to being ordered on-line, "PASS IT ON" will be available at FDIC 2014's Fire Engineering Bookstore-April 7-12 ...and at the National Fallen Firefighters booth-....as well as at Stop, Drop, Rock & Roll on Thursday evening at FDIC week: <http://www.stopdroprocknroll.com/> - We hope to also have some of the books available in the two classes I'm presenting at FDIC-on Tuesday afternoon with Gordon Graham...and then my classroom session on Thursday afternoon.

To be clear-this is a fundraising project with nearly 100 fire service folks contributing to the cause....your order or purchase is a sincerely appreciated donation for these two very important charitable causes.

THE CONTRIBUTORS:

Here's the link to the list of the contributors and about the book:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/204453> (click on the pdf)

TO ORDER "PASS IT ON"

Here's the link to order the book: <http://www.pennwellbooks.com/paitonwhwekn.html>

Please check out the above links and feel free to "Pass THIS EMAIL On"- to your e-mail groups, and help us benefit two very important charitable organizations --with 100% of my royalties being donated equally to both.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/6/14-1827 Hours

AND:

All,

Today is the 10 year anniversary of the Pittsburgh (PA) "Ebenezer Baptist Church" fire that killed PBF Firefighter Richard A. Stefanakis, 51, and Battalion Chief Charles G. Brace, 55 in the Line of Duty. On March 13, 2004. PBF Firefighters had the church fire under control as the shell of the building steeple still stood, smoldering. Suddenly, FF's who went inside, were trapped when the building's steeple completely and predictably collapsed within seconds, killing 2 of them. 29 Firefighters were also injured, 5 seriously as well as a backdraft that occurred earlier in the fire that injured an additional 6 Firefighters. **HERE is the NIOSH report** w/photos:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200417.html>

RIP

RESPONDING FIREFIGHTER STRIKES AND KILLS PEDESTRIAN

A Clairton (PA) Firefighter was turning out on a run yesterday when a civilian walked in front of him. The civilian had just gotten out of his car in a downpour, pulled his jacket hood over his head and started to cross the street but not in the crosswalk. The responding Firefighter was on his way to the fire station. Witnesses state that he was not speeding and his blue light was on. Cops are investigating. Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On. Please support these two charities: www.PassItOnFire.com

BillyG

The Secret List 3/13/14-2249 hours

AND:

ARIZONA FIREFIGHTER DIES DURING TRAINING-MEDICAL MICHIGAN FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING TRAINING-MEDICAL

ARIZONA:

An Arizona firefighter died during a training exercise on Saturday. 61-year-old Bobby Mollere (with 12 years of service) worked with the Hellsgate Fire Department in Star Valley, Arizona, near the city of Payson. Mollere was taking part in a wildland fire training exercise in Payson on Saturday morning when he reportedly collapsed. His fellow first responders were not able to resuscitate him. FF Mollere lived in the Phoenix area with his wife, but that he would drive up to Star Valley several days a week to work with the department.

MICHIGAN: While participating in pumper training at the fire department on 3/5, Ironwood Township Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Jamie Peite, 43m began to not feel well but thought it was not serious. While attending classes at the University of Wisconsin-Superior the following morning, Chief Peite suffered a heart attack. Fire Chief Peite was treated and transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injury.

Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On. www.PassItOnFire.com

BillyG

The Secret List 3/10/14-1600 Hours

AND:

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BillyG

The Secret List 3/13/14-2249 hours

AND:

SPOTSWOOD NJ FF LODD-MEDICAL.

A veteran volunteer Firefighter collapsed and died **last night**, hours after he responded to a gas leak run. Joseph Bove, 53, had been with the Spotswood Volunteer Fire Department for about 30 years. Spotswood Firefighters responded to the call about 1230 hours **yesterday** but around 1900 hours, he collapsed at home. Spotswood emergency medical services responded, treated and transported him took the Firefighter to a local hospital, where he died. "They are reporting this as a line-of-duty death

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because it's within 24 hours of answering the fire call," Mayor Nicholas Polisenio said. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-14/1458 hours

AND:

All,

As we posted earlier, EMT Wayne O'Neal Jeffers, 64, was found deceased in his quarters while on duty for Haynes Ambulance Service in Montgomery County, Alabama. He was found after not responding to an emergency call. Personnel from Haynes Ambulance and South Montgomery Fire Rescue responded and began treatment, but Jeffers was pronounced at an area hospital. NOTE: FF/EMT Jeffers had also responded to a call with the South Montgomery Fire and Rescue (MVA) at 1348 Saturday (March 15, 2014) afternoon prior to reporting for work with Haynes Ambulance.

Funeral Arrangements for Wayne Jeffers:

Visitation 11:00 am -12:00 pm [Wednesday](#) at Dillard's Funeral Home in Troy.

431 Highway 231 Byp N · Troy, AL

(334) 566-1720

Graveside Services at 12:30 Pm [Wednesday](#) at Hills Chapel on Long Road.

In Lieu of flowers the family is asking for financial assistance during this unexpected death. Any questions please call Pastor Thompson at 334-782-6531 RIP.

=GUILTY! IN LINE OF DUTY DEATH OF ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER

A McLean County (IL) jury returned a guilty verdict of reckless homicide Friday against the driver of a semitrailer truck that killed Hudson firefighter Chris Brown in the Line of Duty. Mansur Shakirov, 29, will be jailed until an [April 24](#) sentencing hearing, when he faces a possible term of 14 years. The verdict brought emotions from relatives, friends and Hudson Firefighters. The trial was attended at some times by dozens of Brown supporters. Brown, the father of two, was a volunteer Firefighter with the Hudson department and was a career Firefighter for the City of Bloomington. The jury rejected a defense effort to limit the criminal charge to reckless driving. The more serious charge accused Shakirov of failing to reduce his speed and move over to the right lane to avoid hitting a Hudson FD command vehicle and FF Brown, who was standing near it. FF Brown and others were operating at the crash on an icy, snow-blown stretch of Interstate 39 when the second accident occurred. Evidence showed that Shakirov was traveling at least 37 miles an hour when his 74,000-pound truck slammed into the first emergency vehicle, setting off a chain reaction that also damaged a state police squad car and fire apparatus. Prosecutors successfully argued that activity log books collected from the truck were relevant to the issue of reckless conduct. A state police review of the books showed that Shakirov violated federal rules that require minimum breaks from driving. The driver was in compliance with the rules on the day of the accident, so he was not cited for the previous violation.

=NO MORE FD?...What's The Plan?

The Coventry (RI) Firefighters Union has filed a court appeal to halt the pending liquidation of the Central Coventry Fire District. Union President David Gorman said that the union appealed to the state Supreme Court because, *"First and foremost, as of today, there is not a plan in place that would provide emergency services or fire protection to the community, secondly the liquidation is not necessary, the district has plenty of money, there is nearly \$2 million in the bank, cash on hand and an approved budget. If someone was willing to sit down with the firefighters and negotiate with us, we know that it can work, but no one is willing to do that, no one will give us the opportunity. Lastly, there*

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is no need to saddle the ratepayers with a liquidation assessment of nearly twenty million dollars when this can be resolved." Gorman said the union filed the appeal [Friday](#). The organization did not request an injunction or a stay from the liquidation order because, "If we need to request a stay we will do so, but we are hopeful that we can resolve this without any further legal action, as long as we are given the opportunity". The Fire District is set to close [May 16](#) at 11:59 p.m. **Last month**, a judge ordered the liquidation of the fire district after it went bankrupt. The order mandates that the district close by [May 16](#). That means 44 firefighters and four administrators will lose their jobs. The Central Coventry Fire District is the largest of the town's four fire districts. Ideas discussed included establishing a volunteer fire department, WPRI reported. Other options previously talked about include having the three other fire districts absorb the Central Coventry area.

MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/lp87kfs>

=FINAL WORD:

CONGRATS to FDNY Probie Jordan Sullivan and the Firefighters he was with:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TSE6FjND2U>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [3/17/14-2016 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

As has been a tradition for many years, many of the HOT and Classroom Instructors have a get together with their students, at the conclusion of training on [Tuesday](#) evening. Many others of you arrive on [Tuesday](#) ...to start FDIC, beginning on [Wednesday](#) morning.

This request applies to each and everyone who will be in Indianapolis on Tuesday, [April 8th, 2014](#).

This year, on Tuesday [April 8th](#) at FDIC, there is a social event that we hope you will consider as the "get together" after HOT/Classroom training-or before kicking off FDIC 2014-to support **FIREFIGHTERS WITH CANCER**...and we all know at least one FF with cancer.....and many know many more. **Look, you're gonna eat, drink and relax ANYWAY...why not do it and support OUR OWN.**

WHAT: Party Benefiting the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. WHEN: [Tuesday, April 8, 2014](#) TIME/LOCATION: Entrance opens at 6:30 p.m. / Show starts at 7:15 p.m. Indiana Roof Ballroom, 140 West Washington Street, Indy. Get your tickets now! Don't wait! After two days of "HOT Training," or arriving to start the FDIC week, kick back, relax and laugh with an evening of "Slammin' Standup Comedy & Music" hosted by comedian/actor Joe Nipote and joined by 3 other professional national comedians. Sponsors' proceeds and donations benefit the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN).

FCSN developed the white paper "Taking Action Against Cancer in the Fire Service"

<http://tinyurl.com/lw4q55b> and provides badge-to-badge support for firefighters diagnosed with cancer. **Together We Can Make a Difference.**

MORE DETAILS AND TICKET INFORMATION FOR [TUESDAY NIGHT AT FDIC](#) HERE:

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

ABOUT JOE NIPOTE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr02PZW8oyc>

JOE ON TV & MOVIES: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSCg-FvrcaY>

**==NEW JERSEY EX CHIEF LODD MEMORIAL DETAILS:
INFORMATION FOR INTERESTED FIRE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNING THE PASSING OF EX-
CHIEF JOSEPH BOVE
ARRANGEMENTS / FIRE DEPARTMENT STAGING**

It is with deep regret that we report the line-of-duty death of Ex-Chief and Past President Joseph Bove. Chief Bove, 53, passed away [last Thursday, March 13, 2014](#) after collapsing at home several hours after responding to a fire call.

ARRANGEMENTS:

Visitation will be on Monday, ([TOMORROW](#)) [March 17, 2014](#) from 2:00-4:00 pm and 6:00-9:00 pm at Brunswick Memorial Home, 454 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816.

Funeral services will be held on [Tuesday, March 18, 2014](#) at 10:15 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Spotswood, 23 Manalapan Road, Spotswood, NJ 08884.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

There will be limited parking adjacent to the funeral home on Evergreen Boulevard on [Monday](#) for wake services. We ask that departments limit the amount of apparatus to help maximize parking.

Fire departments wishing to pay their respects the day of the funeral are asked to stage all apparatus in the Immaculate Conception Church parking lot, 23 Manalapan Road, Spotswood, NJ 08884 no later than 9:15 am on [Tuesday](#) morning to line up in the immediate area of the church.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE APPARATUS ALLOWED AT THE FUNERAL HOME OR IN THE PROCESSION ON [TUESDAY](#) MORNING. ALL VEHICLES ARE TO GO TO THE STAGING AREA ONLY.

For any further information or questions please email Assistant Captain Robert Drako at sfd2674@yahoo.com RIP.

==OUTSTANDING VINTAGE VIDEO:

This is a 1962 video called "The Story of a Fireman" featuring the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Check this out!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYu7n_kwbWM&list=UUIRY1Wn49zxMgnIGKxB__NA

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

www.PassItOnFire.com

BillyG

The Secret List 3/16/14-2010 Hours

AND:

INDIANA ASST. CHIEF DIES FOLLOWING A RUN-LODD

It is with deep regret that we pass on to you details of the line-of-duty death ("Hometown Heroes" Provision) of Assistant Chief Tom Stevens, Sr. of Bright Fire Department in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Assistant Chief Stevens suffered a fatal heart attack early [yesterday morning](#) just hours after returning home from an emergency response involving a carbon monoxide alarm activation. Chief Stevens was 59 years old and leaves behind his wife - Debbie (a Bright FD EMT); son - Tom, Jr. (a Bright FD firefighter); son - Michael; mother - Alma; sisters - Brenda Loschiavo and Robin Loper; and four grandchildren.

NOTE:

Chief Steven's death is classified as "line of duty" pursuant to the provisions of the Hometown Heroes Act. In general, if a Firefighter suffers a heart attack or stroke (that later proves fatal) within 24-hours of non-routine stressful or strenuous duty, it is presumed to have occurred in the line of duty -- absent compelling evidence to the contrary. As noted, Assistant Chief Stevens engaged in such duty a few

hours before his death. Thanks to www.supportingheroes.org for this info.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

VISITATION -- Thursday (March 20th) - 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. (Eastern)

FUNERAL -- Thursday (March 20th) - 5:00 P.M. (Eastern)

LOCATION -- Bright Christian Church - 24457 State Line Road - Lawrenceburg.

Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

AN OFF DUTY TRAGEDY

A frightened 64-year-old Texas woman shot and killed an off duty Firefighter she thought was trying to get into her home [last night](#). The man was later identified as 27-year-old Sam Keen, a Firefighter for the Houston Fire Department. He lived next door to the woman. Reports are that FF Keen took a cab home after a night of drinking to celebrate St. Patrick's Day....he asked to leave the bar so his friends put him in a cab. He reportedly got dropped off in the wrong place and wasn't aware of it....he tried to get into what he thought was his house and was tragically shot. Cops said the woman heard something on her front porch [last night](#). She looked out and saw a young man outside. She said she yelled for the man to leave, warning him that she had a gun. The woman told cops the man kept trying to get into her home so she fired two shots through the door and then called 911. Keen was rushed to a Houston hospital where he later died. Keen and his wife were newlyweds who moved to the neighborhood about a year ago. RIP.

OUTSTANDING FDNY VINTAGE VIDEO:

"LADDER 43

" from retired BC Jack K via Capt Al H. The late, great Chief Ray Downey *may* be the Lieutenant in Engine 58 (he was assigned there in the early 1970's). The video was taken in the old 111 St qtrs.-filmed in the late 60's/early 70's. **ENJOY THIS VIDEO:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlk2t5Ge5Y4> Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On

BillyG

The Secret List [3/18/2014-1930 Hours](#)

AND:

Hey,

The woman whose husband was shot and killed in a horrific carjacking at the Short Hills Mall in New Jersey in December has filed a lawsuit. Her husband, Dustin Friedland, 30, was shot and killed in the parking lot of the mall on Dec. 15 of last year. His widow, Jamie Friedland, filed the wrongful death lawsuit - naming several - this week in Newark Superior Court, according to local media. Amongst several named in the lawsuit, is the EMS, the Millburn-Short Hills Volunteer First Aid Squad. Of interest to fire and EMS, the suit also accused the Squad of taking an "excessive" amount of time to respond to the 911 call, both in turnout/response time and also in part because the ambulance was reportedly too big to get into the parking garage and thus, EMS had to wheel a stretcher up a ramp for Friedland and then wheel him back down. The lawsuit claimed further that the mall operators should have known a large vehicle such as an ambulance could not get into the parking garage. Tapes of 911 calls released earlier this week suggested it may have taken the ambulance "too long" to get to Friedland, 30, after he was shot.

HERE is the lawsuit: <http://cbsnewyork.files.wordpress.com/2014/03/friedlandsuit.pdf>

HERE is the 9-1-1 Call: <http://tinyurl.com/muave89>

FIRE OFFICER WHO "DEFINED HEROISM" TO BE HONORED POSTUMOUSLY AT FDIC

Bryan (Texas) Fire Lieutenant Gregory Pickard, a 32 year veteran of the department, died in the Line of Duty in February of last year from injuries sustained while serving on a rapid intervention team. He

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lead his crew in to the burning Knights of Columbus Hall to recover another Lieutenant who radioed he'd needed urgent help. Lt. Pickard and his crew entered to answer Lt. Eric Wallace's call for help. While approaching his friend, the room flashed - and other firefighters who witnessed this extraordinary event, saw Lt Pickard, on fire, literally "fully involved"-still moving and attempting the rescue of his Brother Firefighter. He would not stop. Both Lt Picard and Lt Wallace tragically died in the Line of Duty with 2 other Firefighters seriously burned. His family will receive the Ray Downey Courage and Valor award at the Fire Department Instructors' Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis on [April 9, 2014](#). As you know, the award is given to those Firefighters who go to extraordinary efforts to help others through heroic actions. **Lt Picard defined that by his incredible actions that evening.** The Ray Downey Courage and Valor Award commemorates the life and career achievements of Deputy Chief Ray Downey, who lost his life while commanding rescue operations at the World Trade Center attack on [September 11, 2001](#) The final reports on the Knights of Columbus fire is due out sometime in April from the State Fire Marshall's Office as well as from NIOSH.

FINAL WORD: ENJOY THIS 30 SECOND TV COMMERCIAL:

Check out this fairly Firefighter related TV commercial...you will enjoy it: <http://youtu.be/9MRLE4522jo>
Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List [3/20/2014-1646 Hours](#)

AND:

PA. FIREFIGHTER STRUCK BY TRAIN DURING SEARCH

A member of the Youngwood VFD was killed in the Line of Duty around 1800 hours this evening during a search for a missing woman in western PA--they were assisting the North Versailles FD. FF Edwin "Lance" Wentzel, in his 50s who has been a Firefighter for 30 years - was hit by a train on the tracks under the Westinghouse Bridge - while looking for Ruth Ann Mullenix of Wilmerding. FF Wentzel was a qualified dog handler and part of his FD's K-9 search team. The woman had been missing since Monday-her phone and coat were found in the area where FF Wentzel was struck. Firefighter Wentzel was with several others and the search dogs at the time. Murrysville medics tried to save his life. Lance joined the YVFD on Feb. 12, 1979, and was a life member with 35 years of service. He held numerous positions during his career. He was named the Firefighter of the Year in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Judy, sons, Chris and Jeremy and several grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the McCauley Funeral Home, Youngwood. This area is just SE of Pittsburgh. Our condolences to all affected-RIP. More details to follow.

YOUNGWOOD FD WEBSITE: <http://www.youngwoodfire.com/>

=FIREFIGHTER CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:

Take a minute to read the below article. It's a real WTF!?! moment.

Pay very special attention to the Mt Vernon, NY Mayor's comments.

FAIRNESS?

What really struck us is that in one part of the news this weekend, a NJ FF has been terminated because he had a pot sales conviction 20 years ago. That FD recently started background checks and it "officially" came out: <http://tinyurl.com/olzyp1e>

And then of course, we have all read what's been happening under the current leadership of the DCFEMS:

<http://tinyurl.com/ogsjnjr> (CurtV)

<http://tinyurl.com/npw42kz> (DaveS)

AND NOW..... there is the latest from NY..well...just read the below link.

Fire departments are owned by the public-they simply "loan" us this stuff-and the opportunities we get. The taxpayers give us their trust-assuming we would actually do the right thing-and hire the right folks. Who are the right folks? Well, you figure it out-and then you decide who you want taking care of those closest to you during emergencies. Who will be alone with your kids in that hallway? On a EMS run? At a public-ed demo? Who will be walking around your house with all your "stuff" in there during a smoke investigation.

Criminal backgrounds? Who to hire?

We totally "get" that folks deserve a chance. Absolutely. But we don't think that the fire/EMS service is the place to do that...especially when there are so many "non-criminal" and highly qualified folks busting their azzes to get those jobs.

At a time where the public trust and support of FD's are so vitally important-and FD's and FF's still being attacked in many areas by those with selfish, political, distracting and self serving agendas, city hall dwellers and Fire Service Leadership must insure that the most qualified folks are on those rigs. Qualifications that include those without a convicted criminal background.

READ THE NY PIECE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/pb3qx5m>

=SALEM NH FIRE CAPTAIN FUNERAL DETAILS:

A beloved New Hampshire Fire Captain has lost his life to cancer. Another Firefighter life lost to cancer. Salem Fire Captain Stephen J. McKenna have been finalized and are as follows:

WAKE: MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014 - 1400 hours to 1800 hours (2 pm to 6 pm)

Fletcher Funeral Home-3 Marlboro Street-Keene, NH - There will be a Firefighter Walk-Through at 1700 hours. Firefighters wishing to participate shall assemble at the Keene State College Outdoor Sports Complex on Krif Road (off Winchester Street) at 1600 hours. Members will be shuttled from this staging area to the Funeral Home and returned after the wake. Uniform of the day is Class A with cover, white gloves, and mourning badge tab.

FUNERAL: TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 - 1100 hours

St. Bernard's Church, 173 Main Street, Keene, NH - Firefighters wishing to attend the funeral shall assemble at the Keene State College Outdoor Sports Complex on Krif Road in Keene (off Winchester Street) at 0830 hours. Members will be shuttled to the church where they will await the procession from the funeral home. Uniform of the day is Class A with cover, white gloves, and mourning badge tab. Following the funeral mass (Liturgy of the Word), members will be shuttled to the Best Western Hotel/Waxy O'Connors on Winchester Street for a firefighter coalition. Shuttle service will also be available back to the Sports Complex. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Best Western Hotel for Monday night and Tuesday night. The direct number is (603) 357-3038. The double-occupancy rate is \$76 (plus tax) under "Salem Fire Department". Rooms are also available at the Marriott Hotel, 75 Railroad Street in Keene. There is no special rate at this time. Honor Guards that are interested in participating in the funeral are welcomed and can obtain further instructions by contacting Firefighter Phil MacCallum at pmacallum@ci.salem.nh.us

In lieu of flowers, a trust account has been established for Steve's sons' college education. Donations can be sent to: Service Credit Union 403 Winchester Street, Keene NH 03431. "McKenna Children Trust, Account #28402696. Captain McKenna memorial t-shirts will be available at the coalition. The Salem FD and the McKenna Family are extremely thankful and humbled by the outpouring of support the fire service and the community has displayed over the last 48 hours. RIP.

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Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 3/22/14-2108 Hours

AND:

Hey,
Yesterday in Scioto County, (in southeastern) Ohio, there was an apparatus crash in Vernon Twp. The Vernon Township engine was in a rollover crash with Chief Mike Davis driving the apparatus. Differing reports state they were either responding to or returning from a run. For a yet undisclosed reason, the apparatus rolled several times and landed up right on its wheels. Chief Davis was air lifted to Huntington (W. VA) trauma and the other Firefighter was transported to Southern Ohio Medical Center. Initial reports are that Chief Davis has a C1 vertebrae fracture. KHIYP's.

UPDATE/VIDEO re: PA FIREFIGHTER STRUCK BY TRAIN-LODD

HERE is video and interview w/the Youngwood VFD Chief:

<http://www.wpxi.com/news/news/local/member-crew-searching-missing-woman-hit-train/nfJk6/>

As you now know, Youngwood VFD suffered the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Edwin J. "Lance" Wentzel early last evening. Lance, 57, succumbed to injuries sustained during a search, with the YVFD K-9 team, on a mutual aid search for a missing person in Allegheny County. Lance joined the YVFD on Feb. 12, 1979, and was a life member with 35 years of service. He held numerous positions during his career. He was named the Firefighter of the Year in 2012. He is survived by his wife, Judy, sons, Chris and Jeremy and several grandchildren. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the McCauley Funeral Home, Youngwood. More to follow. RIP.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

Have you and your department really been listening to the message behind all of the new so called "modern" fire behavior studies and tactics? It seems to the writers of the below article from FIRE ENGINEERING, that most of us are only hearing one side or the other and not the entire message behind the tactics and the fact based, proven studies off which they are based. Hmmm. **What was that you said??**

Check this out:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2014/03/are-you-listening-to-the-research.html>

And for another opinion: (Because we NEED another opinion)

Check this out: <http://www.firefighternation.com/article/nozzlehead-stop-fighting-what-s-new>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/23/2014-1439 Hours

AND:

Hey,
According to media reports, Norfolk Southern officials said they did not know crews had resumed their search for a missing woman along railroad tracks in North Versailles where a train fatally struck a Youngwood firefighter. Youngwood Fire Chief Lloyd Crago, whose department's search-and-rescue dog team was assisting in the effort on Saturday, said someone told the rail operator they would be working beneath the Westinghouse Bridge. A Norfolk Southern spokesman denied that.

"The search team had contacted NS to stop trains in the area Thursday at 12:30 a.m. to conduct its search," said company spokesman David Pidgeon. "NS stopped all traffic in compliance with that

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request. The search team withdrew that request about three hours later at 3:23 a.m., at which point Norfolk Southern resumed normal train operations. "Neither the NS police nor the NS Pittsburgh dispatch center were notified on Saturday before the search team resumed its search on Norfolk Southern's property." Officials in Westmoreland County, home to fallen firefighter Edwin "Lance" Wentzel, provided few details about what they called a "freak accident."

"There is nothing we are allowed to say because of how the accident occurred. The (North Versailles) police department is still doing the investigation," said Dan Stevens, spokesman for the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety. Crago called Wentzel, 57, a "terrific firefighter." Wentzel, a 35-year firefighter, died at the scene after being hit about 5:45 p.m. while searching for Ruth Ann Mullennix, 55, of Wilmerding, who has been missing since Monday.

Bloodhounds and a swift-water rescue crew found only her coat and cellphone. They returned on Saturday to Mullennix's last known location. "We'd already sent out one or two dogs," he said. "We were coming back from the one trail ... and there was a freak accident. He was hit by a train." FF Wentzel held numerous positions during his career, and was named Firefighter of the Year. Wentzel is survived by his wife, Judy; sons, Chris and Jeremy; stepsons Justin and Jason Vestrand; and several grandchildren. Wentzel was both an organ and tissue donor, Stevens said. "That says a lot about the man we lost. ... I ask you to please keep not only the family of Lance in your thoughts, but all of the firefighters here in Youngwood," Stevens said. Visitation for friends and family will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the C. Richard McCauley Funeral Home, 101 S. Fourth St., Youngwood, with additional visitation from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Science Hall at Westmoreland County Community College.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/24/14-1035 hours

AND:

Hey,

As funeral plans are set for tomorrow, (Funeral info: www.youngwoodfire.com) some details are coming thru the media regarding how 57 year old FF Lance Wentzel lost his life in the Line of Duty. The area is made up of numerous railroad tracks, and Youngwood Fire Chief Lloyd Crago watched his search-and-rescue team run their dogs on a hunt for that missing woman on Saturday. Around 1745 hours, Chief Crago saw FF Lance Wentzel, a 35-year veteran and his best friend, walking on a narrow roadway between two sets of railroad tracks. "We knew trains were there; we had been in the area for a couple of hours looking. There were train tracks as far as you could see," Crago said.

IT APPEARS THAT a Norfolk Southern train was headed toward FF Wentzel on one track, but a second train on another track approached him from behind. The Chief was at the command post, watching. There was a whistle from the train behind him but FF Wentzel must have thought it was coming from the train in front of him, but it was the other one....and he moved over toward the other track and he was struck by the (train) behind him ... the one that blew the whistle...according to the Chief. Firefighter Wentzel died at the scene. According to the Chief: "We got down there a couple of hours before the accident, and the first train that came through was a car carrier and it was just flying," Crago said. "We met with East Pittsburgh police at the site and they said they'd notify the railroad, and the rest of the afternoon the trains all slowed down."

Norfolk Southern spokesman David Pidgeon on Monday repeated his previous statements that no one notified the railroad the search would resume in North Versailles on Saturday. "Neither the March 30, 2014 www.chabotfire.com

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railroad police nor the NS Pittsburgh dispatch center were notified on Saturday before the search team resumed its search on Norfolk Southern's property," he said. The only record the railroad has is related to the search conducted there on Thursday, he said. "And NS stopped all traffic in compliance with that request. The search team withdrew that request about three hours later, at 3:23 a.m., at which point Norfolk Southern resumed normal train operations," Pidgeon said. "It's certainly a tragedy and our condolences go out to the family of the fallen firefighter, that fire department and certainly our own train crew who were involved. Safety is a priority of NS and we have procedures in place with emergency responders," he said. Cops are investigating. Pidgeon said the locomotive was equipped with an event recorder that documents data about the train's operation and performance, including its speed. "We're working to pass that information along to investigators," he said. Crago said investigators interviewed him on Saturday.

FF SIZE UP: A GOOD DAY.

Now look

...**SIZE UP** is critical in what we do. Be it before the run or arriving on the run, make sure you **SIZE UP** the situation before taking radical actions that could result in bad circumstances. Typically it includes identifying what you have, what you want to do about it and what resources you have available to get it under control.

A SIZE UP MOST CAN RELATE TO:

It appears that this Ohio Firefighter properly sized up the situation prior to taking the risky actions that he did. Size up is good. Take A Look: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAvnF7jsD2A>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/25/14-1500 Hours

AND:

All,

As you will remember, on Friday, August 30, 2013 at approximately 2237 hours, two Whitley City (KY) Fire Officers discovered a dwelling fire on Water Plant Road in the Stearns community of McCreary County, Kentucky. Arlie "Pooh" Hill III, 37, was at the home of his neighbor and brother-in-law, Adam Stephens, when they noticed a fire down the road. Both men served as Lieutenants with the Whitley City VFD at the time of the fire. They called it in and went to investigate. The fire was located at the former residence of Allen Ball. As the Ball family was still in the process of moving, Lt's Hill and Stephens feared that there might be someone in the home-and knew they had a baby. As they attempted to enter the house, a "flashover" trapped Lt. Hill in the living room and blew Lt. Stephens to the porch floor. Lt. Stephens was able to grab Lt. Hill and get clear of the structure. While suffering burns to his face and arms, Lt. Stephens did not require immediate medical transport. Lt. Hill, however suffered major burns covering at least 90 percent of his body. He was airlifted first to the University of Kentucky Medical Center, then to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

After being hospitalized for nearly two months Lieutenant Hill died in the Line of Duty as a result of the injuries he sustained in the fire. He leaves behind his wife, a young son and a very young daughter-as well as numerous friends and family. After an 8 month long investigation, Kentucky State Police Detective Lewis has determined the cause of the fire to be arson. At this time Detective Lewis is still following up on leads. Anyone with any information in reference to this investigation is asked to contact the Kentucky State Police. RIP.

ANOTHER FIREFIGHTER LOCKED UP...

AND A PREVIOUS ONE WHO WAS DETAINED ...FILES A LAWSUIT.

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Here is a video of yet another Firefighter getting detained by cops. This time it was in a residential area in Louisiana...and the witnessing public have opinions!

http://www.wbrz.com/videoplayer/?video_id=18902&categories=58,280

AND remember the Brother Firefighter in California, the one CHP cuffed and detained? HE is filing a lawsuit against the CHP. The Chula Vista FF has filed a claim against the agency, claiming he was arrested "with malice." Firefighter/Engineer Jacob Gregoire said that he doesn't want to file a lawsuit, but hopes the CHP will settle the case by agreeing to not obstruct fire crews performing their duties on state highways. Sounds reasonable.....

PROVING YOUR CANCER IS BECAUSE YOU ARE A FIREFIGHTER:

Here is a story of a battle a veteran Firefighter is going through...and this FF is not alone in her illness: **At least 230 San Francisco firefighters have died of cancer over the past decade.** Breast cancer rates among women in the San Francisco department are six times the national average.

=READ MORE:

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/S-F-firefighter-s-new-battle-proving-cancer-is-5348988.php>

=REMINDER: If you are a FIREFIGHTER with cancer-or know one who is dealing with it, BE SURE to reach out to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network:

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org>

=ATTENDING FDIC?

Tuesday Night is the FCSN COMEDY NIGHT to raise funds to help FIREFIGHTERS WITH CANCER- DETAILS AT THE ABOVE LINK.

OHIO FIREFIGHTER PASSES AWAY DUE TO JOB RELATED HEPATITIS

We have been advised that Rick Halcomb passed away on March 21. Rick was a member of Dayton Fire Department (Oh) for 9 year before being medically retired. He contracted hepatitis on the job. While treating a patient, his DFD ambulance was involved in an accident. Our condolences to his family, friends and the DFD. RIP

TRAVELING TO FDIC FROM THE EAST?

If you are traveling to Indy on I-70, there is a cool BBQ restaurant with great chow and loaded with beautiful firefighting memorabilia (including a full size pumper as their bar) just 1000 feet north of I-70 at the St Rt 48 Englewood exit... one exit west of Dayton (Ohio) Airport Exit.....about 2 hours out of Indy. **Company 7 BBQ.** Company 7 BBQ is the same group of Firefighters and their family that were at FDIC last year, and will be there again this year on South Street between Convention Ctr and Lucas Oil.

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.

BillyG

The Secret List 3/26/2014-1432 Hours

AND:

DOUBLE LODD IN BOSTON

We regret to inform you that 2 firefighters have perished in basement fire in the Back Bay Section of Boston in a 4 story building. Few details exist at this point but we do know there was a mayday called from the basement of a 4 story brownstone. A total of 17 people have been transported from the fire. We will provide more information as it comes in. Please keep the members of the Boston Fire Department and the families of the fallen firefighters in your prayers.

Here are are some links with some videos and photos of the fire:

<http://www.wcvb.com/news/firefighter-trapped-in-basement-in-boston-blaze/25177578#!Bxeej>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

<http://boston.cbslocal.com/2014/03/26/crews-battle-multi-alarm-fire-on-beacon-street/>
<https://twitter.com/BostonFire>
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/03/26/five-alarm-fire-breaks-out-beacon-street-back-bay/RopoEtQsZ0bgRXwBhgggQI/story.html>
<http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/26/listen-live-boston-9-alarm-fire-multiple-maydays/>

Audio of the incident: <http://archives.broadcastify.com/497/20140326/201403261348-982919-497.mp3>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 3/26/2014-1900 Hours

AND:

UPDATE: DOUBLE LODD IN BOSTON

Two Boston firefighters died today while battling a wind-whipped nine-alarm blaze that raced through a rowhouse in the city's fashionable Back Bay neighborhood, city officials said today. "We lost two heroes here today," said Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. Lt. Edward J. Walsh, 43, of West Roxbury, and Firefighter Michael Kennedy, 33, of Hyde Park were killed in the fast-moving blaze, officials said at a news conference. "Today's a sad day in the history of the Boston Fire Department," said Fire Commissioner John Hasson. "Our hearts go out to the families. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them." A total of 3 firefighters were also injured, one seriously. We will continue to update our home page as more information becomes available.

Here is a link with some videos and photos of the fire:
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/03/26/five-alarm-fire-breaks-out-beacon-street-back-bay/RopoEtQsZ0bgRXwBhgggQI/story.html>

Audio of the incident: <http://archives.broadcastify.com/497/20140326/201403261348-982919-497.mp3>

Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 3/26/2014-2100 Hours

AND:

All,
Due to the intense media coverage, this is probably the easiest and least complicated means of getting the needed memorial information for BFD's Lt Walsh & FF Kennedy:
www.bostonfirelocal718.org

VIDEO: Boston Firefighters Lt Walsh & FF Kennedy, killed in the Line of Duty and the Back Bay fire, were honored at City Hall Plaza today: flag-raising:
<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/03/28/relatives-boston-firefighters-killed-back-bay-fire-expected-city-hall-plaza-for-flag-raising/FO7uKI9GKnY56GUuBtWZKJ/story.html>

RIP
Take Care. Be Careful. Pass It On.
BillyG
The Secret List 3/28/14-1839 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:

The negative results of a recent survey might upend East Contra Costa (CA) Fire District's plans to place a parcel tax measure on the June ballot, which would all but ensure station closures and layoffs. Board members were dismayed Monday to learn that of those constituents likely to vote in June, only 54 percent are willing to pay more for fire protection and medical aid -- significantly fewer than the number the cash-strapped agency needs to maintain its current level of service. United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County's Local 1230 hired a polling firm to call 300 district residents last month to see if that the same level of anti-tax sentiment that sunk a previous attempt at a parcel tax still exists. "We were hoping that the board would consider that and work on other options," Local 1230 President Vince Wells said. "If we put all this time into (the June parcel tax measure) and it fails, that's four more months wasted." After reviewing the numbers, the consultant the district has hired to help inform the public about what's at stake agreed that the chances of a tax measure succeeding don't look good. "It's risky to think we could get to two-thirds," said Charles Heath, district consultant, of the approval rating that a parcel tax must have to pass. "I do not think you can make up a 13 percent deficit between now and June."

http://www.timesheraldonline.com/news/ci_25063189/survey-results-might-upend-east-contra-costa-fire

The Houston (TX) Fire Department could begin limiting the number of firefighters on duty, idling some fire trucks in the process, in a bid to reduce soaring overtime costs. The so-called "rolling brownouts," in which HFD intermittently would take trucks out of service at stations around the city, are the central cost-cutting measure Fire Chief Terry Garrison is expected to propose to the City Council's budget committee Thursday:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/11315338/brownouts-a-good-possibility-in-houston?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140214002

The Delano (CA) City Council is cutting its ties with the Kern County Fire Department. In a recent City Council meeting, members voted 3-2 not to renew the city's \$3.2 million contract with the county. "It was just a blaring issue we could not ignore," said City Council member Joe Aguirre, who voted to sever ties. "Kern County Fire Department is a first-class agency, but the city has been operating in a deficit for over 14 years." Delano has been trying to find ways to cut costs, and it scrutinized current contracts, said Aguirre. He said no one had apparently reviewed the city's contract with county fire in some time. "When you get down to those numbers, you obviously start to realize that I think we can run our own department," said Aguirre. The city plans to start its own fire department, which it once had. Delano has been contracting with the county since 1987 for fire protection services. Aguirre said he expects the city to save around half a million dollars a year in the first five years alone:

<http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/Delano-plans-to-cut--248912781.html>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

Santa Clara County (CA) supervisors slapped the San Jose Fire Department with big penalties for its 911 medical response times, which have been so slow that crews have been showing up late to emergencies about once per hour over the last year. The Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously voted to pull funding from the Fire Department but offered it a chance to shape up and get the money back. The city gets about \$2.1 million in county funding per year, which is equivalent to the operation of one fire station. But the money is contingent on crews responding to at least 90 percent of emergencies within eight minutes, a mark the department has failed to meet for 14 straight months:

http://www.marinij.com/ci_25060655/san-joses-slow-911-medical-responses-prompt-big

Captain fired in TX over Facebook image of noose around President Obama's neck & other complaints: <http://www.statter911.com/2014/02/10/captain-fired-tx-facebook-image-noose-around-president-obamas-neck-complaints/>

Two top officials in the San Francisco Fire Department are among at least two dozen firefighters who have been subpoenaed to testify before a criminal grand jury investigating a crash last year in which an allegedly drunken firefighter rammed a motorcyclist with his truck and left the scene, The Chronicle has learned. The grand jury is looking into whether any firefighters helped their colleague try to evade responsibility for the crash, said two sources with knowledge of the investigation. Prosecutors with District Attorney George Gascón's office will ask the firefighters about the night of June 29, when firefighter Michael Quinn - who has since left the department - struck and seriously injured motorcyclist Jack Frazier at Fifth and Howard streets. Quinn was responding to an alarm when he entered the intersection on a red light and struck Frazier, 49, who was thrown into a fire hydrant and suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung. Quinn allegedly defied a supervisor's orders to await drug and alcohol testing, left the scene and did not return to his Station 1, down Howard Street, for several hours. When he finally arrived, his blood alcohol level was measured at 0.13 percent, sources have said. That is well above the 0.08 percent legal limit for driving and would also violate the Fire Department's rules against on-duty drinking. Quinn, 43, resigned from the Fire Department last year and has not been charged with a crime:

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/S-F-firefighters-subpoenaed-in-drunken-crash-5226143.php>

A longtime San Jose (CA) firefighter was arrested at the station where he worked Thursday afternoon and is facing drug and sex crime charges involving children, according to the state Department of Justice. Mario Enrique Cuestas, who has worked with the department for decades, is being charged with the sale and possession of methamphetamine as well as sex assault and oral copulation charges with minors, according to DOJ spokeswoman Michelle Gregory. "We believe he was providing drugs to minors, and soliciting them through websites," Gregory said. Cuestas, 53, was booked into Santa Clara County Jail after being arrested without incident at his workplace, Gregory said. No bail was set as of late Thursday:

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_25139716/san-jose-veteran-firefighter-suspected-sex-and-drug

Rossford (OH) Fire Chief James Verbosky was told to resign, retire, or face termination after an investigation showed he had sent electronic messages of a sexual nature to a female firefighter in January. He chose retirement. Chief Verbosky, 48, submitted a letter Thursday stating he would retire March 31. His last day in service is March 14, Rossford Administrator Ed Ciecka said. City officials said text messages were sent to a female firefighter who joined

the department in November. The messaging, described as an “isolated” incident, took place and was reported to a supervisor in mid-January, and the city’s legal department, Mayor Neil Mac-Kinnon III, and Mr. Ciecka were alerted. An investigation determined Chief Verbosky sent messages that were “inappropriate” but not illegal, Mr. Ciecka said:

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Police-Fire/2014/02/14/Sexual-texts-inquiry-leads-fire-chief-to-retire.html>

Five Washington D.C. firefighters and four emergency dispatchers could face discipline over the poor handling and lack of response to an incident in which firefighters failed to aid an elderly man who collapsed across the street from a D.C. fire station, according to a report released Friday. The 13-page report issued by Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Paul A. Quander Jr. lays the blame on both the trained medical personnel inside the fire station who did not come to the aid of a man who was suffering from a heart attack as well as on emergency dispatchers, who after receiving calls about the incident sent responders to an address in the wrong quadrant of the city. The report states there were “substantial lapses in judgment and the failure to adhere to established policy and procedures” and highlights the step-by-step mistakes that led to the failed response. Medric Cecil Mills Jr 77, died last month of a heart attack after collapsing at a shopping center across the street from Engine 26 in Northeast D.C. in an incident that drew national headlines and outraged Mayor Vincent C. Gray, who demanded an immediate investigation. Bystanders and family members ran across the street begging for help at the fire station, but ultimately none of the five firefighters stationed there came to the aid of Mills. “All five employees were aware of a medical issue in which assistance was requested; however, none took any action to provide assistance,” the report states: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/feb/21/report-slams-dc-fire-crew-dispatchers-over-botched/>

Following an investigation, two dozen Santa Clara County (CA) Rural/Metro ambulance company employees were fired Wednesday for reportedly obtaining CPR recertification cards without undergoing the mandatory four-hour training program. Company spokesman John Karolzak confirmed that 24 workers were let go for breaching company policy and procedures. He said each of the workers admitted receiving their cards but not taking the course. "I cannot recall a time where we had issues with people renewing a four-hour certification course," said Karolzak, who said he has been with the company for 29 years. "This is about community trust, and we want to maintain the trust of the people we serve," he said. "Why not just do the four-hour training?" http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_25187395/rural-metro-ambulance-company-fires-24-workers

A former Kyle (TX) firefighter and battalion chief was sentenced to four years probation on Thursday for stealing thousands of dollars from taxpayers. Richard Craig Kolls, Jr., 39, was arrested last year and accused of stealing \$3,800 from the department's training programs. An investigation by the Texas Rangers later determined Kolls had pocketed more than \$8,000, said prosecutor Ben Moore:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/11316147/kyle-texas-training-chief-gets-probation-for-theft?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140215002

A veteran Seattle (WA) firefighter has been charged with multiple counts of raping a child after reportedly engaging in a relationship with a then-15-year-old girl he met through a theater group. According to charging documents filed Tuesday with Whatcom County Superior Court, 53-year-old Ferndale resident Michael Sulak, who worked at Fire Station 8 in Seattle until going on disability following a car crash earlier this month, had sex with the victim four times in November and December. When Sulak went to Seattle Dec. 27 for two nights of work, he reportedly took the victim with him, having sex with her in his truck parked near the fire station

in Queen Anne. According to the charging documents, Sulak admitted to having sex with the victim despite her age, telling detectives he was wrong and made an error in judgment. In addition to four counts of raping a child, Sulak has been charged with the unlawful harboring of a minor: <http://www.komonews.com/news/crime/Seattle-firefighter-charged-with-having-sex-with-a-minor-246039671.html>

New Austin (TX) documents provide more specific terms of a proposed settlement between the City of Austin and the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the hiring of Austin's firefighters. The KVUE Defenders and Austin American-Statesman first reported possible terms last month soon before the City Council delayed voting on the proposed consent decree. The council is now set to again consider the consent decree next week. According to the proposal, the city could begin hiring new firefighters after delaying a cadet class for more than a year until matters with the Justice Department were resolved. The city, however, would have to pay 780,000 in compensation to about 40 minority firefighters who were not hired in a previous cadet class and who federal officials said were victims of discrimination. They also would have to include about 30 positions for black and Hispanic candidates for the next eight years. The move comes after the Justice Department said last year that it had found discrimination in the fire department's hiring process: <http://www.kvue.com/news/Terms-of-city-settlement-with-feds-over-firefighter-hiring-formalized-246041761.html>

Two notes defining the term "scab" were placed inside a vandalized Milwaukee (WI) firehouse two weeks after a union vote calling for members not to request a transfer to the station, according to documents released Tuesday. The vote was in protest to the transfer of firefighters already assigned to the station, according to complaints against five firefighters in connection with the vandalism. The notes were found inside Engine 32, 1551 N. 30th St., which fire officials say was vandalized during the Sept. 28 overnight shift -- the last shift before members already assigned there were to be transferred, according to the complaints. Fire officials believe the notes targeted newly assigned station members, especially those who asked for placement there, according to complaints. The five former Engine 32 members identified in the complaints are firefighter Ryan T. Trapp, heavy equipment operator Mark C. Pegelow, heavy equipment operator Justin C. Lemke, Lt. Timothy C. Kaye and Lt. Daniel C. Krause. All five were suspended for 30 days. Krause was also demoted to the rank of firefighter and Lemke was demoted to an unspecified position, according to the complaints. Two other firefighters, Robert J. Rutley and David R. Krebsbach, were suspended for five days without pay in January for violating department rules on general conduct. Two probationary firefighters, Nathan Fager and Joseph Siegert, were fired for reasons unrelated to the internal investigation, fire officials said: http://www.firehouse.com/news/11314713/details-of-milwaukee-fire-station-vandalism-surface?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140213002

A veteran San Jose (CA) firefighter was arraigned Tuesday on charges of drug dealing after he allegedly sold meth to an undercover officer but no charges have been filed on allegations that he gave drugs to and had sex with an underage teen. Mario Enrique Cuestas, 53, of San Lorenzo, did not enter a plea during the brief hearing where he answered to three felony counts involving the sale and possession of methamphetamine. Judge Deborah A. Ryan set his bail at \$75,000, and he was taken back to protective custody at the Santa Clara County Jail. Cuestas was arrested Thursday at the headquarters for the San Jose Fire Department, where he was recently named its director of public outreach, making him the agency's primary liaison with schools and community and church groups. He has worked with SJFD for 20 years, most of them as a fire engineer and driver and partly as a fire investigator: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_25172987/san-jose-firefighter-arraigned-drug-charges-but-not

A second wave of suspects was arrested Tuesday in a far-reaching disability-pension scheme that netted cops and firefighters accused of faking emotional trauma from 9/11, officials said. Sixteen of the 28 accused cheats were drawing pensions from the NYPD and one from the FDNY. One defendant was drawing a pension from both. "These defendants are accused of gaming the system by lying about their lifestyle, including their ability to work, drive, handle money, shop, and socialize, in order to obtain benefits to which they were not entitled," said Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. "Their lies were repetitive and extensive." Several of the suspects could be seen limping and shuffling in court, where they pleaded not guilty on a variety of charges, including grand larceny, conspiracy and criminal facilitation: <http://nypost.com/2014/02/25/more-arrested-in-fdny-nypd-911-pension-scam/>

A report states a series of miscues, poor communication and outright apathy led five firefighters to ignore desperate pleas to treat an elderly man who had collapsed across the street from a Washington DC fire station and later died of a heart attack, made public Friday, urging that all five be disciplined. Three firefighters who were in the station's kitchen and a veteran lieutenant heard two announcements by a just-hired firefighter but didn't immediately react. When one firefighter finally sought out the station's lieutenant, instructions were unclear or dismissed. Instead of rushing across the street to help, the firefighter retired to his bunk bed to study for a promotional exam, the report produced by the mayor's office says. All five firefighters assigned to Truck 15 — the only vehicle there at the time — and four emergency dispatchers face discipline that could range from reprimands to termination if found guilty. The lieutenant, 28-year veteran Kellene Davis, has been charged with a misconduct offense and faces an internal administrative hearing, similar to a trial, on March 4, according to two city officials. She has submitted her retirement papers:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/report-on-death-of-man-outside-fire-station-says-five-firefighters-should-be-disciplined/2014/02/21/f35f111a-9a2a-11e3-b88d-f36c07223d88_story.html?tid=pm_local_pop

A national black firefighters association and African-American leaders in Anne Arundel County (MD) are criticizing state officials for allowing an all-white class of firefighter recruits at BWI Marshall Airport. The new class of firefighters, which started on the job last month, is composed of nine white men, airport spokesman Jonathan Dean confirmed. With their arrival, the Maryland Aviation Administration's 89-person fire and rescue department became 26 percent minority and women, and 13 percent African-American, he said:

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-03-04/business/bs-bz-bwi-fire-recruitment-20140304_1_firefighters-group-gerald-stansbury-new-class

A New Jersey volunteer fire company has come under fire from its former president who says the organization has been illegally selling beer and allowing members to operate fire trucks after drinking. Jason Zangara was serving his second term as president of the nonprofit Manville Volunteer Fire Co. 1 until this month, when he says the organization removed him from office after he blew the whistle on the company's long-standing practice of selling beers out of a soda vending machine. "I brought it up and they crucified me," Zangara told the Courier News last week. "They thought I was out to get someone. But there is a bigger issue going on here. I told them, 'Take out the machine or the borough is going to get sued and the chief is going to get sued.'":

http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20140224/NJNEWS20/302240047/Manville-fire-company-illegally-sold-beer-ousted-president-says?nclick_check=1

With more than 100 private ambulance employees glaring at his back Wednesday, Las Vegas (NV) Fire Chief Willie McDonald told City Council members he has changed the balance of lucrative hospital transports so his department will handle 50 percent of the calls. McDonald's goal is to eliminate the dual response system in which medical calls are answered by the Fire Department and private ambulances, with only one getting to bill for transporting a patient to a hospital. He told the council it's a waste of resources to have both respond unless there is a critical need. By eliminating the dual response method, he said, "you don't send 'em when you don't need 'em." His report sparked some opposition from Councilmen Ricki Barlow and Bob Beers, while other council members kept their opinions to themselves. When McDonald left the chambers, he was surrounded by some angry American Medical Response workers fearful of losing their jobs under his new plan. After media interviews, he took questions from the paramedics and emergency medical technicians, who challenged his contention that firefighters were better trained and faster on the scene:

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/amr-workers-flame-las-vegas-fire-chief-over-patient-transport-takeover>

Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Fire Commission Tuesday ordered an independent investigation into the Los Angeles Fire Department's recruiting and hiring process. Garcetti has recently criticized the ethnic and gender make-up of the LAFD's mostly white candidate pool. A recent LA Times article also found that 20 percent of the most recent recruit class of 70 new firefighters are related to current city firefighters. The mayor said the problem pre-dated his administration, but vowed that this, and other LAFD issues, are top priorities: <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/03/04/garcetti-fire-commission-orders-investigation-into-lafd-recruitment-process/>

The Los Angeles Fire Department requires a sweeping overhaul of how it responds to hundreds of thousands of medical rescues and 911 calls each year, according to a long-awaited consultant's report commissioned by the city. The recommendations call for significant and potentially costly changes at the troubled agency, which has faced scrutiny over increasing response times to medical emergencies and recurring problems inside the dispatch center. The 80-page report found "significant cultural, organizational, process and technology challenges which seriously impair the department's performance." "There is a lack of accountability, engagement and community presence," said the report, prepared at the direction of the City Council by PA Consulting, a global firm, and presented Monday to City Administrative Officer Miguel A. Santana. The report comes as the Fire Department has been buffeted by political and management challenges, including the 911 response problems and employee discrimination and bias complaints that have cost taxpayers \$20 million since 2005: <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-0304-lafd-overhaul-20140304,0,4376961.story#axzz2vR6JNifb>

Marc Cain, the Columbus (OH) firefighter who was accused of having sex in a fire station, was fired yesterday. Mitchell J. Brown, the city's director of public safety, signed the order terminating Cain's employment on Thursday. Cain was given the report yesterday morning. The report says the city fired Cain, who has been with the department for 24 years, for "dishonesty, insubordination and failure of good behavior." Cain had sex with the same woman several times in Station 17 on the Hilltop between September 2011 and April 2013, often during his shift or late at night, the report says, violating department policy. It says he lied about doing so and continued to defy orders from his superiors to stop. The report also states he sent a picture of his genitals to the woman from his cellphone while he was on duty. Cain, 48, was married when he began the affair with the woman, who was 18 when it began:

http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/02/28/Cain_fired.html

In the past three years, the Washington D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department has been ravaged by plummeting morale, strife between the rank and file and management, and a series of public blunders under the tumultuous tenure of Chief Kenneth B. Ellerbe. While the District's population surged and the demand for medical calls increased, more than 60 paramedics have left in the past three years. At the same time, there is growing concern over Ellerbe's commitment to a 2007 task force effort that sought to reform and unify the department as it dealt with the demands of more medical calls. The rancor has intensified in the past year. Ellerbe's face was digitally imposed onto Osama bin Laden's body and circulated in text messages among firefighters. "Taliban" is their code word for Ellerbe allies. During the holiday season, a photo of the chief's face was shaded green and transposed onto the body of the Grinch: http://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/in-the-dc-fire-department-a-cold-war-simmers-between-the-chief-and-the-rank-and-file/2014/03/01/3e757d4e-9b55-11e3-9080-5d1d87a6d793_story.html

Two top commanders who oversaw hiring and training at the Los Angeles Fire Department have been reassigned after officials learned their sons advanced during a recruitment process that has come under scrutiny at City Hall. Interim Fire Chief James G. Featherstone learned about the situation after being appointed last November and concluded that it posed a potential conflict of interest, his spokesman said Friday. Last year, thousands of people applied for 70 coveted LAFD firefighting jobs, which pay an average of \$143,000 a year in salary and overtime. The Times reported Thursday that more than 20% of the recruits in the new training class are sons or nephews of current members of the force. One reassigned commander, a battalion chief who was an acting assistant bureau commander in the LAFD training division while applicants were being screened last year, has a son in the recruit class now underway. Another battalion chief who headed recruiting has a son who passed an interview and could be hired in a future class. Both were moved out of those roles and now work in other sections of the department. A third commander, Asst. Chief Patrick Butler, recently named to oversee the LAFD training division, also is expected to be transferred because he has a brother-in-law in the new class, Sanders said. The agency became aware of Butler's family connection Friday after an inquiry from The Times, Sanders said. When contacted Friday, Butler reserved comment, saying he had not been officially told that he would be transferred: <http://articles.latimes.com/2014/feb/28/local/la-me-0301-lafd-hiring-20140301>

The San Francisco Fire Department responds to only 72 percent of 911 calls seeking medical assistance, leaving the rest to private companies. It also leaves millions of dollars in potential revenue on the table each year, according to a recent report and interviews with city officials. A lack of investment in ambulances and medics has left the city far short of the 80 percent response rate required by the state and could be putting patients' safety at risk, according to the report by the Board of Supervisors budget and legislative analyst. It found that last year alone, nearly 2,500 people had to wait to be transported to a hospital because an ambulance wasn't immediately available - a fourfold increase since 2008. In those situations, firefighters and paramedics did respond on a fire engine to administer medical care within three to five minutes of the 911 call, but the patients couldn't be immediately taken away because an ambulance wasn't available: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/S-F-Fire-Department-911-response-is-short-of-5281377.php>

Removal of beer vending machine in New Jersey firehouse results in president voted out: <http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/07/removal-beer-vending-machine-nj-firehouse-results-president-voted/>

There is more trouble for the Washington D.C. fire department. Another firefighter has been arrested on criminal charges. Antwan Jordon has been accused of second-degree sex abuse. He was arrested Wednesday night at his firehouse, Engine 15, in Anacostia. Jordon's arrest brings the number of firefighters accused of wrongdoing in the last several months to more than 12. A court affidavit filed in the case says D.C. police detectives found surveillance video showing Jordon in his firefighter uniform slapping a woman's buttocks as she picked up her child at a Southeast D.C. elementary school:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/06/dc-firefighter-arrested-firehouse-duty-uniform-sex-offense/>

Background checks & physicals may force out almost half the volunteer firefighters in Leonia, NJ: <http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/04/half-volunteer-firefighters-leonia-nj-forced/>

Firefighter on his 8th arrest – Will the charge of assaulting a pregnant woman be the one that ends his career? <http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/13/firefighter-8th-arrest-will-charge-assaulting-pregnant-woman-one-ends-career/>

Channel 9 has learned that three Orange County (FL) firefighters have lost their jobs for lying on their timesheets to rack up overtime. Lt. Eddie Brown was one of those fired Tuesday night. He sometimes served as a spokesman for Orange County Fire Rescue. Two other lieutenants were also fired; they were accused of falsifying their time sheets, misusing their county-owned vehicles and racking up overtime. In all of the cases investigators with Orange County Fire Rescue compared the workers' time sheets to the GPS tracking devices in their county vehicles. They reported finding many instances of the firefighters reporting those times as work-related, when they were actually attending to personal business: <http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/10/three-orange-county-fl-lieutenants-fired-accused-padding-timesheets-ot/>

Cleveland (OH) firefighters Thursday dealt a blow to the city in the first contract vote covering the integration of fire and emergency medical services. Members of Cleveland's Firefighters Local 93, the union that represents firefighters, rejected a collective bargaining agreement with the city Thursday night, union president Frank Szabo said. The contract was the first offer by the city to either the Division of Fire or the Division of Emergency Medical Services that included significant details on the integration of the two departments. Szabo declined to say if the vote was close, saying that he wanted to have an in-person discussion with city officials before he spoke in-depth to the media. In a statement released after the vote, the city called the rejection "a barrier to improving fire, medical and rescue response." http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/03/cleveland_firefighters_reject.html

Nine Washington D.C. fire department employees came forward in response to an agency call to report undisclosed prior arrests and driving infractions ahead of a plan to conduct criminal-background checks on 1,800 first responders. But those background checks are now on hold as agency officials and the firefighters union wrangle over the manner in which they are conducted. Fire Chief Kenneth B. Ellerbe called for the criminal-background checks in order to identify those who failed to disclose prior charges amid a series of employee arrests that has now reached 14 since October. The latest arrest was made Thursday in Prince George's County on arson charges after authorities said a firefighter set his car ablaze to collect insurance money. In response to the series of arrests, Chief Ellerbe issued a special order in January that gave employees 10 days to report any prior infractions from the past three years or face termination if infractions were later uncovered: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/13/background-checks-stalled-as-firefighter-arrests-m/>

Readington (NJ) Volunteer Fire Company Tender 32 overturned while responding to a call on March 1 in Readington Township, New Jersey. At the wheel was Deputy Chief Ken Apsley, 54, who was trapped in the rig and suffered a concussion. Readington Township Police have charged Apsley with drunken driving:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/14/overturned-tanker-brings-drunk-driving-charge-deputy-chief-readington-nj/>

FOX 5 has learned another Washington D.C. firefighter has been arrested. He is the 14th firefighter charged since October. 27-year-old Marcus Anthony Jackson is accused of setting his car on fire with the intent to defraud his insurance company. According to court documents, Jackson's 2006 Dodge Charger was found on fire in Capitol Heights, Md., on January 23. In an initial interview with authorities, Jackson reported his car was missing on the following day. But phone records revealed that Jackson was in the area 13 minutes before the fire was discovered. Jackson then later admitted in a follow-up interview that he poured gasoline and ignited his car with a match, according to the court documents:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/03/13/washington-dc-firefighter-charged-setting-car-fire-md/>

Three people - including two off-duty Seattle (WA) firefighters - are being investigated for an assault on a homeless man Saturday night. Police say a woman and the two firefighters were walking through Pioneer Square when they came upon the victim at the Fallen Firefighter Memorial near 1st Ave. S. and S. Main St. "This guy and his girlfriend were sitting on the monument," said Alvin Taliaferro. "He may have perceived it as disrespect," said Taliaferro. "He told me his brother died in the service as a firefighter and didn't appreciate the homeless sleeping on the memorial." Police say that's when the woman yelled at the man, then started kicking him and beating him with a stick: <http://www.king5.com/video/featured-videos/Seattle-firefighter-stabbed-in-Pioneer-Square-fight-250497011.html>

Seattle (WA) Fire Chief Gregory Dean has given an apology to the city, following the accusations that two firefighters drunkenly attacked two homeless men in Pioneer Square on Saturday. In a press conference held Monday, Fire Chief Dean described how disappointed he was to learn two of his men - Robert Howell and Scott Bullene - are accused of kicking and punching a homeless man who was sleeping on the Fallen Firefighters Memorial. "The actions that these firefighters are accused of is not representative of the conduct we expect of Seattle firefighters," Chief Dean said. "I expect Seattle firefighters to treat every person in our community with respect." According to police reports, off-duty firefighter Howell and Mia Jarvinen were walking through Pioneer Square after the Sounders game when they came across a homeless man sleeping on the Seattle Fallen Firefighters Memorial near the intersection of Occidental Avenue and Main Street:

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Seattle-fire-chief-disappointed-in-firefighters-accused-of--250708561.html>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department truck that smashed into an SUV in a central-Phoenix intersection last summer ran a red light without coming to a complete stop – a violation of department policy – but the driver who was spun through the intersection had smoked marijuana the night before, according to Phoenix police investigative records released this week. A police spokesman could not immediately say whether there were any pending citations against either the SUV driver or the firefighter behind the wheel of the 16-ton Phoenix fire engine that ended up on its side following the collision:

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2014/03/25/phoenix-police-records-firetruck-ran-red-light-crash-abrk/6879111/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

In a blistering ruling against Cal Fire, a judge in Plumas County has found the agency guilty of “egregious and reprehensible conduct” in its response to the 2007 Moonlight fire and ordered it to pay more than \$30 million in penalties, legal fees and costs to Sierra Pacific Industries and others accused in a Cal Fire lawsuit of causing the fire. The ruling is the latest twist in an epic legal battle that began not long after the fire erupted on Labor Day 2007, scorching more than 65,000 acres in Plumas and Lassen counties. Sierra Pacific, the largest private landowner in California, was blamed by state and federal officials for the blaze, with a key report finding it was started by a spark from the blade of a bulldozer belonging to a company working under contract for Sierra Pacific. “The court finds that Cal Fire’s actions initiating, maintaining and prosecuting this action, to the present time, is corrupt and tainted,” the judge wrote. “Cal Fire failed to comply with discovery obligations, and its repeated failure was willful.” The agency withheld documents for months, “destroyed evidence critical (to the case) ... and engaged in a systematic campaign of misdirection with the purpose of recovering money from (Sierra Pacific).” <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/02/05/6132239/judge-orders-calfire-to-pay-30.html>

There’s a new duo on call that’s not only responding to public emergencies, it’s helping Redwood City’s (CA) budget by giving a pricey asset a rest. The Redwood City Fire Department implemented a new Rescue Squad Program last month to help reduce some of the unnecessary wear and tear on Station 9’s ladder truck. Instead of a standard three-person fire engine team, Station 9’s rescue squad is comprised of a captain and paramedic equipped in a smaller vehicle and primarily responds to medical calls, said Deputy Fire Chief Stan Maupin: <http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2014-03-03/rescue-squad-new-two-man-vehicle-reduces-wear-of-larger-engines-and-trucks/1776425119067.html>

Baltimore-Washington International Airport Fire Department terminates African-American fire chief amid complaints about diversity. Officials at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport announced the hiring of its fire-and-rescue department's first Hispanic fire chief Thursday, shortly after acknowledging that they had terminated its acting chief, an African-American, the day before. The hiring of Victor N. Ferreira Jr., a 52-year-old retired Prince George's County fire official, comes amid complaints about diversity within the airport's fire department, following the hiring of an all-white class of firefighter recruits last month: http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-03-06/news/bs-md-bwi-fire-chief-terminated-20140306_1_fire-chief-fire-department-county-fire

Cleveland (OH) officials on Thursday took disciplinary actions against eight firefighters who took part in a prank that involved urinating on a photo of the division's former chief. The firefighters received punishments ranging from demotion to suspension. Safety Director Martin Flask said the conduct "brought dishonor to the ranks of fire officers." A Department of Public Safety investigation uncovered that the official photograph of former Chief Daryl McGinnis was stolen from the Fire Training Academy in August and placed in urinals at two Kamm's Corners bars during a celebration held in honor of newly-minted firefighters, officials said. The investigation found firefighters relieved themselves onto the photo or failed to remove McGinnis' portrait from the urinals. "Numerous members of the public and family members of the graduates, including children, were exposed to this despicable and reprehensible act," according to a department summary of the investigation: http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/02/cleveland_firefighters_demoted.html#incart_river

A dozen Cleveland (OH) firefighters accused of illegally paying co-workers to cover their assigned shifts pleaded guilty Monday to minor charges and asked the city to put them back

to work immediately. Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Carolyn Friedland accepted pleas to the misdemeanor charge of complicity to receiving unlawful compensation and ordered the firefighters to pay court costs but no fines. The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office did not seek jail time in the case and prosecutors said city officials did not ask for restitution. In May, 13 firefighters were indicted on felony charges of theft in office and misdemeanor charges of receiving improper compensation. At that time, the city placed them on unpaid administrative leave:

http://www.cleveland.com/court-justice/index.ssf/2014/02/cleveland_firefighters_ask_the.html

Modesto, Stanislaus County and Salida (CA) merged their fire agencies four years ago, creating the Modesto Regional Fire Authority to save money and increase efficiency. City Manager Greg Nyhoff and county Chief Executive Officer Stan Risen told MRFA board members Wednesday that the fire agency has made impressive strides in achieving those goals but questioned whether those gains can continue under the MRFA's current structure. "We want to take a step back and ask, 'Is there another model that would be more conducive?'" Risen said in an interview after the board meeting. "My gut tells me a little less formal model" would work: <http://www.modbee.com/2014/03/05/3224489/modesto-regional-fire-authority.html>

From Dave Statter at Statter911 - I was under the impression that part of the job description for Detroit's fire commissioner is to run and hide from reporters anytime there is a hint of bad news. If that's the case, Interim Commissioner Jonathan Jackson isn't qualified for the job. This week, WXYZ-TV investigative reporter Ross Jones reported serious problems with Jackson's recent promotion of Andre Johnson from battalion chief to senior chief. Apparently unknown to the department, Johnson has a long record of alcohol related driving violations and his license has been revoked since 2010. Watch the stories above and below to see how Commissioner Jackson dealt with reporter Jones and think back to all of the stories we ran of the three previous commissioners running and hiding from reporters and generally making a mess of already bad situations:

<http://www.statter911.com/2014/02/14/detroit-fire-commissioner-doesnt-run-hide-admits-scew/>

Many times it's the little things a person in uniform does that are every bit as important as the big ones. The crew from Manchester (NH) Fire Department Engine 6 saw a problem in the middle of Thursday's snow storm that was meant for a Boy Scout. No Boy Scouts were around, but some firefighters were. The lieutenant gave the order to block the traffic and the crew sprang into action. And unknown to these firefighters a number of people with cameras took notice. Firefighter Tom Faucher, who was assigned to Manchester Fire Department's Engine 6 during the storm, saw an elderly woman having difficulty crossing Elm Street on Thursday afternoon. Heavy snow throughout the day made the trip difficult, so he got out of the apparatus to help her across the street: <http://www.statter911.com/2014/02/14/simple-act-kindness-firefighters-gets-lot-attention/>

The face of the fire service is changing and emergency medical service is becoming the staple of fire departments nationwide and those who aren't in the game will suffer the consequences. Those are words shared by Harry Beck, chief of the Mesa (Ariz.) Fire and Medical Department. Mesa is so serious about providing quality EMS care to its residents, the department changed its name to include medical. "We got so much praise for doing that it was incredible," Beck told an overflow crowd at Firehouse World conference in San Diego. "Eighty percent of what we do in Mesa are EMS runs. Our city councilors were pleased that we finally accepted it." And the change for Mesa was far more than a cosmetic name change, Beck explained in a presentation he gave titled "Transitional Response Vehicles: The Mesa (Ariz.) Fire Department

Model.” Dr. Gary A. Smith, Mesa’s medical director, was a co-presenter for the class. The presentation was part of the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Summit Fire Service Update that was offered during the Firehouse World conference. Beck explained that he recognized that something different needed to happen to survive how health care is being delivered now and in the future. He said 60 percent of emergency 911 medical calls resulted in transport to the hospital, but 40 percent didn’t need transport. Yet, Mesa would send four highly skilled people to every call, reducing the number of available units for the more severe calls. The solution for Mesa was to create two units that were staffed by a captain paramedic and a firefighter and send them on low acuity calls that had already been prescreened and determined during the initial call intake: http://www.firehouse.com/news/11315508/ariz-fire-chief-examines-changes-in-fire-based-ems-at-firehouse-world-in-san-diego?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS140214002

A group of New York City firefighters from Ladder 115 came to the rescue of a woman and two children being attacked in Queens Friday. According to the FDNY, Lt. Brendan Connolly, and Firefighters Ronald Donati, Leo Lopez, Daniel Morales, Nicholas Nugent and Steven Tomicic were driving through Astoria on their way back to the firehouse when they saw a boy waving to the truck. “We like to wave to little kids,” Lopez said. “But as soon as we waved to him, he stopped. Then we saw a lady calling for help.” He immediately shouted to stop the truck and hopped off. The woman was pointing to a man, her husband, who was dragging a young girl down the street. The firefighters ran towards the man, who was large and appeared inebriated, and made a barrier between him and the woman and children. The man was taken into custody by police officers from the 114 Precinct. “We just tried to make the situation better for them,” Firefighter Lopez said. “I’m just glad we were there ... sometimes things happen for a reason.” <http://www.statter911.com/2014/02/15/fdnys-ladder-115-steps-help-mother-children-queens-attack/>

Orange County (CA) Fire Authority Chief Keith Richter is proposing a major redeployment of emergency crews, concentrating more paramedic teams during the busiest daytime hours. The proposal — part of the Standards of Cover and Deployment plan updated every five years — is scheduled to be considered by the independent Fire Authority’s governing board at its Feb. 27 meeting. It would not raise costs but hopefully decrease response times for medical emergencies, which constitute about 80 percent of all 911 calls, said Richter at a news briefing yesterday. A key aspect of the proposal involves shifting a paramedic from a four-person engine company crew to create paramedic units operating from smaller, less-comprehensive vehicles called “squad trucks.” These added units then would be available from 8 a.m to 8 p.m. when about two-thirds of emergency calls are made: http://www.voiceofoc.org/countywide/county_government/article_416387b8-997e-11e3-817b-0019bb2963f4.html

For months, there's been a mystery surrounding that case of the San Francisco (CA) firefighter who plowed into a motorcyclist at a South of Market intersection: Sources say he tested as drunk, but prosecutors have never charged him. Now we know why. The district attorney's office hasn't come up with a way to legally prove that Michael Quinn had any alcohol in his system. Quinn, 43, was at the wheel of a fire truck that struck and badly injured a 49-year-old motorcyclist, Jack Frazier, at the corner of Fifth and Howard streets late June 29. Quinn left the scene, was spotted guzzling water at a nearby bar, and didn't return to his Station 1 down Howard Street until about two hours later. When he did, sources have said, his blood alcohol limit was tested twice at 0.13 percent. That would be well above the 0.08 percent legal limit for driving and would also violate the Fire Departments zero-tolerance policy for on-duty drinking: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/Firefighter-s-alcohol-test-blurs-motorcycle-5238877.php>

Moraga-Orinda (CA) Fire District Chief Stephen Healy will ask the board of directors Wednesday for a temporary 9.5 percent pay cut to his base salary. According to a district report, Healy is requesting the salary reduction in response to a projected district general fund deficit in fiscal year 2014-15. The district estimated a \$523,227 deficit if it does not act to reduce costs. At a meeting Feb. 5, governing board members approved reducing district costs by June 30. If Healy's pay is reduced, the chief's base salary will be \$199,100 beginning July 1 and lasting until June 30, 2015. The board greenlighted Healy's five-year contract in November; the approval allows officials to negotiate the chief's salary if they decide to implement across-the-board pay cuts. The 9.5 percent reduction is the same proposed by the district for union firefighters in a "last, best and final proposal" made during contract negotiations that have since deadlocked: http://www.contracostatimes.com/contra-costa-times/ci_25147929/moraga-orinda-fire-chief-proposes-cut-his-salary

The 12 Cleveland (OH) firefighters who pleaded guilty earlier this month to minor conspiracy charges tied to a shift-trading scheme were barred from receiving pay and allowed to return back to work. In disciplinary hearings held over the past several days and announced Wednesday, Cleveland Assistant Safety Director Ed Eckart ruled the men would not be reimbursed for the eight months they spent on unpaid leave after 13 firefighters were indicted on theft in office and conspiracy to receive improper compensation charges. On Feb. 10, 12 of the firefighters pleaded guilty to the conspiracy count and were ordered to pay court costs, which totaled between \$307.50 and \$319.50, according to Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court records. So far, five firefighters have completed payment, records show: http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/02/cleveland_firefighters_involve.html

One in five recruits in a new Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department training class are related to firefighters working at the agency, according to figures released Thursday evening. Of the 70 recruits hired for the class now in training, 13 are sons of firefighters and three are nephews, according to figures provided to The Times by the department. A spokesman for Mayor Eric Garcetti said an investigation was being launched to determine how 22% of the positions went to relatives of LAFD members. "We are going to get to the bottom of this," spokesman Yusef Robb said. "This needs to be fully investigated." The Times reported Thursday that thousands of firefighter candidates were disqualified last April from being considered because they failed to submit a key piece of paperwork in a 60-second period: www.latimes.com/local/la-me-0228-lafd-recruit-20140228,0,1584181.story#axzz2ugLVCWhz

In a matter of seconds, qualified applicants lose out on LAFD jobs. Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department hopefuls who submitted key paperwork more than one minute after the filing period opened were eliminated from consideration: <http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-lafd-hiring-20140227,0,5250682.story#ixzz2ugNUwslC>

A year after their class was disbanded because of suspicions of cheating; four of the 14 would-be Las Vegas (NV) firefighters won a second chance. They were accepted again and are in a 24-week training academy scheduled to graduate in May. Jonathan Christensen, Brady Kiesel, Bryson Prisbey and Cynthia Reveles observed the cheating and didn't report it, according to the Nevada fire marshal's investigation. Now they're in the academy for a second time. The failure of the entire academy to be certified by the fire marshal last year cost taxpayers nearly \$719,000. "We have findings that seven of the 14 did not participate in cheating. They had failed to report it but there's no evidence they cheated," State Fire Marshal Peter Mulvihill said Thursday. His office caught the cheating a year ago, discovering a suspicious pattern of similar answers on a written exam. Fire training officer Michael Jackson,

the proctor who supervised the test Jan. 11, 2013, is no longer with the city, where his annual base pay was \$98,417 and nearly \$174,000 with other pay and benefits. "Our investigation determined the test proctor did not actually conduct the practical examination portion of the exam," Mulvihill wrote Las Vegas Fire Chief Willie McDonald on Sept. 5. Jackson had already left the city months earlier: <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/4-recruits-back-las-vegas-fire-academy-after-cheating-scandal>

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti suspended the city's firefighter recruitment program Thursday amid concerns about mismanagement and nepotism, including new emails that show special recruitment workshops were organized for relatives of department insiders. "I have determined that the Fire Department's recruiting process is fatally flawed," the mayor said in a statement Thursday. The action follows a Times report last month that thousands of candidates who passed a written test were excluded from consideration for a new training class because some of their paperwork wasn't received in the first 60 seconds of a filing period last spring. Nearly 25% of the 70 recruits eventually hired were related to LAFD firefighters. Internal LAFD emails newly obtained by The Times show dozens of department officials were alerted last year that the paperwork, certifying that candidates had passed a physical fitness test, needed to arrive at the city in the first minutes of the filing period if applicants were to have a chance. Another email discusses a coaching session for relatives of firefighters that was held at a city fire station. The captain who wrote the emails is the focus of a disciplinary investigation. He told The Times he also gave workshops to people not connected to the LAFD. As part of Thursday's announcement, Garcetti said a new training class scheduled to begin later this year has been canceled. He also said Santa Monica-based Rand Corp. was being retained to conduct a thorough review of LAFD recruitment and hiring practices: http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-lafd-20140321_0,6241555.story#axzz2wf9Hm8Y8

Abandoning a legal battle hard-fought by his predecessor, Mayor de Blasio on Tuesday agreed to have the city shell out more than \$100 million to a group of 1,500 minority firefighter applicants who sued over FDNY entrance exams that were found to be biased. De Blasio made no secret of his desire to settle the controversial case upon taking office in January and the Vulcan Society and its lawyers took full advantage, scoring \$98 million out of a \$128 million cap on the city's financial exposure. The generous settlement amount doesn't include at least \$3.7 million more the city will be on the hook for in fees to the plaintiffs' lawyers. "I think it was pretty clear that they were going to get what they wanted with de Blasio — or something close to it," said an FDNY union source. "There was no way this was going to make it to court. The only question was the amount and we got that answer today." Besides back pay, the settlement includes more than \$6 million to cover lost medical payments, fringe benefits and interest. The payment method hasn't been determined and will have to be approved by a federal judge. If evenly distributed, the payout would be about \$65,000 for each member of the class action: <http://nypost.com/2014/03/18/de-blasio-agrees-to-98m-fdny-discrimination-suit-settlement/>

The first disciplinary hearing for one of five Washington D.C. firefighters accused of failing to help a dying man outside a station began behind closed doors Wednesday, contrary to the hopes of District officials that the entire inquiry would be open to the public. Battalion Chief Charles Battle, who chairs the four-member board that runs the hearing, said the panel decided to keep the proceedings private to protect the "safety of the members." Neither the firefighter, Lt. Kellene Davis, nor the prosecutor, a lawyer for the D.C. attorney general's office, requested that the board close the hearing. Davis and four other firefighters are accused of failing to help Mills even after bystanders rushed to the station's door and pleaded for them to help. The lieutenant, a 28-year veteran, is charged with six administrative counts of neglect of

duty that include alleged failure to render assistance to the public and properly command her unit, lying to investigators and not documenting the incident in the station's journal. The case is the latest test for a fire department marked by scandal and facing repeated problems of slow response times, a shortage of paramedics and a fleet in disarray. The Mills case has been the subject of a public hearing before the D.C. Council's public safety committee and a scathing report that rebuked the firefighters at the Rhode Island Avenue station for failing to provide the most basic of public services: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/dc-fire-lieutenant-faces-disciplinary-hearing-over-death-of-medic-cecil-mills/2014/03/19/a6cf2e04-aed2-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19_story.html?tid=hpModule_99d5f542-86a2-11e2-9d71-f0feafdd1394

Despite talk of severe layoffs and cuts to services, North Las Vegas (NV) officials insisted today a financial calamity still could be averted if a deal was struck with the city's employee unions. But the window to reach agreements with the city's four unionized employee groups is closing quickly: A tentative budget detailing solutions to the city's \$18 million deficit is due to the state on April 15. City officials were meeting with representatives from several unions again today, with an eye on settling past contractual disputes and agreeing to new terms that will help right the city's financial ship. If a deal is not struck with the unions, city officials say, North Las Vegas could be forced to institute across-the-board cuts to its departments, leading to layoffs and reduced public Officials said in a news conference today such a scenario isn't acceptable, and they're focusing on negotiating with unions to prevent any layoffs. "The situation that we're in right now has happened over decades. We see that there's a lot of heavy lifting for this organization. It won't be done overnight," said Jeff Buchanan, North Las Vegas interim city manager. "With the help of our employees and the bargaining groups and everybody coming together, we think that we can solve the issue."

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2014/mar/27/north-las-vegas-still-holding-out-hope-unions-will/>

***Please make every day a training day and a learning opportunity
– more importantly, train like your life depends on it – because it
does!***

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

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

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