



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

June 15, 2013

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 2013 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:**

Looking for Fire Technology related courses to either 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.

### **Summer & Fall 2013 Semesters:**

Registration for the Summer and Fall 2013 semesters at Chabot College has begun:

- For complete registration information, go to [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

### **CLASSES AVAILABLE - SUMMER SEMESTER 2013**

| <b>COURSE</b>                          | <b>DAY</b>              |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience )        | TBA                     |
| <b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) | Wednesday (pm)          |
| <b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)     | Monday & Wednesday (pm) |

### **CLASSES AVAILABLE - FALL SEMESTER 2013**

| <b>COURSE</b>  | <b>DAY</b>     |
|--|----------------|
| <b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)<br><b>Note:</b> This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.       | Monday (am)    |
| <b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)  | Monday (pm)    |
| <b>FT 51</b> (Fire Service Operations)   | Tuesday (pm)   |
| <b>FT 52</b> (Firefighter Safety & Survival)   | Wednesday (am) |
| <b>FT 52</b> (Firefighter Safety & Survival)<br><b>Note:</b> This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class. | Wednesday (pm) |

| COURSE  | DAY   |
|---|---|
| FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)  | Tuesday (am)  |
| FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)  | Thursday (pm)   |
| FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)   | Tuesday (pm)  |
| FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation)<br><b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b><br>- October 9, 11 and 13(Wed/Fri/Sun)<br>- November 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat) | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br><b>or</b><br>Mon & Wed (pm)<br>Sunday (all day) |
| FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy)<br><b>**Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**</b>  | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)  |
| FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy)<br><b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**</b>  | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)  |
| FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy)<br><b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**</b>  | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)  |
| FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course)<br><b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b><br>- December 3 through 22                       | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day)                                |
| FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations)<br><b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b><br>- November 19, 21, 23, and 24                                    | Tue (pm)<br>Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day)                          |
| FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS)<br><b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b><br>- November 12, 14, 16 and 17   | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day)                                |
| FT 91D (Firefighter Survival)<br><b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b><br>- November 3 through 9   | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day)                                |
| FT 95 (Work Experience )<br><b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>   | TBA   |
| FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar)<br><b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>  | Wednesday (pm)  |
| Health 61 (First Responder)   | Tuesday (mid)   |
| Health 61 (First Responder)   | Tuesday (pm)  |
| Health 81 (EMT)<br><b>**Must also be registered in Health 83**</b>  | Wednesday (all day)   |
| Health 83 (Extrication and Triage)<br><b>**Must also be registered in Health 81**</b>   | Saturday (one day only)   |
| Health 85 (EMT Refresher)<br><b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b><br>- November 26 through December 10  | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)  |
| KINE 20 (Intro Fire Technology Fitness & Training)  | Wednesday (mid)   |
| KINE 20 (Intro Fire Technology Fitness & Training)  | Wednesday (pm)  |

**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 2013 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**M**y 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  
June 15, 2013 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) 2

increasing. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

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## **ONLINE FIRE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES:**

### **TAKE SUMMER FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET @ ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE**

#### **Open Registration starts May 4 at Hancock College**

Contact Dan Coffman @ [dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu) For Information on how to apply for admissions, register for classes & for additional information on the Fire Technology Program.

#### **On-line Fire Technology Classes Summer 2013 Session June 17 – August 8, 2013**

##### **Core Classes (Required)**

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Principles of Fire & Emergency Safety & Survival

##### **Electives**

- Apparatus & Equipment
- Fire Hydraulics

General Education classes are also offered on-line.

**START EARLY:** Students who want to start early, before the Summer Session actually starts: June 17th, will have access to all of the Core Fire Technology classes on Blackboard as soon as they register. Because these online classes are self paced, the student can complete all assignments at any time prior to the end of the Summer Session. **Fire Academy Applicants:** If you need a class or classes to qualify for a Fall Fire Academy & must have proof, ask the instructor for an e-mail confirming your completion of the class and grade.

**Fall 2013 Semester:** In addition to Fire Technology classes, Hybrid & On-line CFSTES Fire Officer Classes will return in the Fall 2013 Semester. The Online Fall Schedule will be available on-line May 6<sup>th</sup>, Priority Registration will start June 24th & Open Registration starts on June 29th. The Fall Semester runs from August 19 - December 4, 2013. **FY!!!! Register Early, All Classes, Particularly the Fire Prevention Officer classes, Fill Fast.**

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# **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

**May 8, 2013**

## **Fire Officials Selected for Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program**

**Washington, D.C.** – Along with announcements by three other fire service partners, U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell announced today that four senior fire officials will receive fellowships to attend the Harvard University's *Senior Executives in State & Local Government Program* this summer at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The 19-day program includes other State and local government leaders from across the United States and other countries with a focus on exploring the interrelationships between citizens and government, analyzing policy options and examining the ethical and professional responsibilities of exercising leadership.

In announcing the fellowships, Administrator Mitchell stated that "this Harvard experience brings together senior officials from every facet of local and state government to discuss and analyze how to best lead in spite of the myriad array of problems and issues confronting our country at the state and local levels." Mitchell further added "certainly within this discussion are issues of public safety and the need for communities to work together with other local, state and federal entities in planning, response, and mitigation."

Fellowships for this program are provided by Fire Protection Publications (FPP)/International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) administered the competitive selection process and coordinated the final phase which took place at USFA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, on April 30.

U.S. Fire Administrator Mitchell further commented that "USFA along with FPP/IFSTA, IAFC and the NFPA believe that these four senior fire executives will also represent fire and emergency services with a high degree of professionalism. We encourage participation in the Harvard Program because the experience promotes dialogue between fire and emergency services, elected officials and appointed executives. Now more than ever we need to work together to resolve the critical challenges facing our communities and nation. The sponsoring organizations are delighted to award these fellowships. Over the years, the entire fire service benefits from the quality of officials who exercise leadership produced by the Harvard Program."

The selection panel included representatives of FPP/IFSTA, IAFC, NFPA, DHS/USFA and former Harvard University's *Senior Executives in State & Local Government* program participants.

Those selected are:

- Joel Baker, Deputy Chief, Atlanta (GA) Fire-Rescue Department
- Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief, Town of Saugeen Shores - Port Elgin, Ontario, Canada
- Michael Romas, Assistant Chief, Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department
- Derrick Sawyer, Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **New Report: Residential Building Fires (2009-2011)**

An estimated 360,900 residential building fires were reported to U.S. fire departments each year and caused 2,495 deaths, 13,250 injuries and \$7 billion in property losses. Cooking was the leading cause of these fires. Download our free report to learn more about the characteristics of residential building fires. For more information, go to:

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/residential\\_structures.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/residential_structures.shtm)

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## **PARAMEDIC PROGRAM INFORMATION:**



*California Regional Fire Academy & Paramedic Academy*

**Applications Are Now Available For The Upcoming Paramedic Academy Class!**

Visit [www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov)

**to download an application.**

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

**The California Regional Fire Academy is Now Accepting applications for EMT:**

**Paramedic Academy scheduled to begin on**

**Monday, September 9, 2013:**

### **Paramedic Academy 13-2**

#### **Application Deadline:**

**All applications must be received by the Business Office by 5:00pm on Friday, June 28, 2013. There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee due at time of submittal. Late application submissions will not be considered for this academy process.**

All applications will be reviewed after the deadline of  
June 28, 2013.

All applicants will be notified via **EMAIL** on their standing in the Academy within  
**one week** after the application deadline.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

Application Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2013 at 5:00pm  
Mandatory Acceptance Orientation: Thursday, August 2, 2013 at 5:00pm  
~Pending Acceptance into CRFA~  
Mandatory CRFA Orientation: Friday, September 6, 2013 at 5:00pm

Further information is available on the website and in the application packet.

**California Fire and Rescue Training Authority**

(916) 475-1660

[www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov)

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**FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE  
ADMINISTRATION:**

## **Release of the 2013 National Preparedness Report**

Today, FEMA and its partners released the 2013 National Preparedness Report (NPR). The NPR is an annual status report on the nation's progress toward reaching the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. Overall, the NPR found that the nation continues to make progress building preparedness in key areas and identified several significant areas of national strength. The report also identified areas for national improvement in enhancing the resilience of infrastructure systems and maturing the role of public-private partnerships.

The report was developed to meet the requirements of *Presidential Policy Directive 8/PPD-8: National Preparedness*. PPD-8 is aimed at strengthening the security and resilience of the United States through systematic preparation for the threats that pose the greatest risk to the security of the nation, including acts of terrorism, cyber-attacks, pandemics and catastrophic natural disasters. The NPR identifies national areas of strength and progress made towards building a secure and resilient nation, while also identifying opportunities for improvement. Key overarching findings from the 2013 NPR include:

- The nation continued progress in key areas of national strength—including Planning, Operational Coordination, Intelligence and Information Sharing, and Operational Communications—identified in last year's inaugural NPR.
- The nation has made notable progress in improving national areas for improvement—including cybersecurity, recovery-focused core capabilities, and integration of individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs.
- Experiences from Hurricane Sandy and other events in 2012 confirmed that enhancing both physical and cyber resilience of infrastructure systems is a newly identified national area for improvement.
- Maturing the role of public-private partnerships is also a newly identified national area for improvement. Specifically, recent assessments of preparedness-related public-private partnerships across mission areas revealed challenges in addressing long-term resourcing and support for these partnerships.

- Hurricane Sandy response and recovery efforts highlighted strengths in the nation's ability to expedite resources, develop innovative solutions to meet survivor needs, and work with nongovernmental partners. Hurricane Sandy demonstrated that challenges remain with the Federal Government's ability to coordinate efforts when surging resources to respond to disasters.
- States and territories continue to report the highest capability levels in areas they cited as high priorities.
- Whole community partners continue to use Federal preparedness assistance programs to maintain capability strengths and address identified gaps, while key Federal sponsors are identifying strategies to improve program effectiveness and efficiency. Resilience initiatives are improving the nation's ability to measure how well communities can prepare for and adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.

FEMA updated the NPR in close coordination with leaders of federal departments and agencies, and the report reflects input from state, local, tribal and territorial governments, private and nonprofit sector partners, and the general public. Data from the inaugural regional Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment process, as well as State Preparedness Reports, was analyzed and integrated. FEMA also conducted research to identify any recent, independent evaluations, surveys and other data related to the core capabilities.

For a copy of the full report, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-report>

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).

*FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.*

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **WORKSHOP REPORT: Changing Severity of Home Fires**

05/15/2013 04:00 PM EDT

On Dec. 11-12, 2012, in response to an invitation from the U.S. Fire Administration, 28 leading national organizations representing the fire service, fire researchers and other stakeholders in home fire safety came together at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in College Park, Md., to explore how changing building construction methods, materials and building contents are affecting the way fires grow and develop in today's homes. The report from this workshop is now available for download:

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/ops\\_tactics/firefighting/residential\\_environment/index.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/ops_tactics/firefighting/residential_environment/index.shtm)



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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

**Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* – July 22 through 27, 2013

Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

**Fire Rescue International** – *Chicago, IL* - August 13 through 17, 2013

Go to [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri) for more information.

**Fire Shows Reno** – *Reno, NV* - October 22 through 24, 2013

Go to [www.fireshowsreno.com](http://www.fireshowsreno.com) for more information.

**California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium** – *Fresno, CA* - November 18 through 22, 2013 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

**Firehouse World** – *San Diego, CA* – February 16 through 20, 2014

Go to [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com) for more information.

**Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)** – *Indianapolis, IN* – April 7 through 12, 2014.

Go to [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com) for more information.

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## **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>

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## **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](http://www.firerecruit.com)
- [www.firecareers.com](http://www.firecareers.com)

For less than \$100.00 per year (each), those companies (run by firefighters) 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. That is not our job, to replace such companies.

**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**



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

| <b>COURSE:</b>  | <b>DATES:</b>            | <b>COST:</b> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| • Fire Management 2A  | July 15 – 19             | \$295.00     |
| • Regional Instructor Orientation   | August 21                | \$155.00     |
| • Ethical Leadership in the Classroom   | August 22                | \$100.00     |
| • Training Instructor 1C<br><i>(Instructor 1C will be held at Saratoga Fire Station, 14380 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070)</i> | September 30 – October 4 | \$295.00     |
| • Fire Command 2A   | January 13 – 17, 2014    | \$295.00     |
| • Training Instructor 1A  | January 27 - 31, 2014    | \$295.00     |
| • Training Instructor 1B  | February 10 - 14, 2014   | \$295.00     |
| • Fire Command 2B   | March 10 – 14, 2014      | \$295.00     |
| • Training Instructor 1C  | March 17 - 21, 2014      | \$295.00     |
| • Fire Command 2C   | May 12 – 16, 2014        | \$295.00     |
| • Fire Command 2D   | July 14 – 18, 2014       | \$295.00     |
| • Fire Command 2E   | September 15 – 19, 2014  | \$295.00     |

**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@cnt.sccgov.org](mailto:steve.prziborowski@cnt.sccgov.org) or 408-896-6890.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

| <u>COURSE:</u>                           | <u>DATES:</u>            | <u>COST:</u>  | <u>QUANTITY:</u> |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Fire Management 2A                       | July 15 – 19             | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Regional Instructor Orientation          | August 21                | \$155.00      | _____            |
| Ethical Leadership                       | August 22                | \$100.00      | _____            |
| Instructor 1C (at Saratoga Fire Station) | September 29 – October 4 | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Fire Command 2A                          | January 13 – 17, 2014    | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Instructor 1A                            | January 27 - 31, 2014    | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Instructor 1B                            | February 10 - 14, 2014   | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Fire Command 2B                          | March 10 – 14, 2014      | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Instructor 1C                            | March 17 - 21, 2014      | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Fire Command 2C                          | May 12 - 16, 2014        | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Fire Command 2D                          | July 14 – 18, 2014       | \$295.00      | _____            |
| Fire Command 2E                          | September 15 – 19, 2014  | \$295.00      | _____            |
|  |                          | <b>TOTAL:</b> | _____            |

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.

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**FIRENUGGETS.COM LIVES ON!:**

**Some great news from Paul Schuller & Ted Corporandy:**

***Firenuggets.com Lives on!***

When Firenuggets.com closed this past [January 2013](#), we posted a letter titled “The End of an Era”, and in closing, we wrote the following:

“Perhaps in the future a group of energetic, web-savvy, and passionate firefighters would like to make a go of the site. Anyone so inclined is welcome to contact us”.

Many took the aforementioned seriously, and we wish to update our supporters and share an exciting development with everyone....

Lots of great firefighter training and safety information to be found - check it out!

To read more about this great news, log onto [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

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**CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:**

**T**he 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.

**S**uccessfully 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](http://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 and more departments are asking for a CPAT card within six months or one year of the date of their testing process and I've seen many candidates fail the CPAT (and even retests) 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:**

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

**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](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

All,

As of now, it appears that there were 12 deaths related to the fire & EMS operations on the scene.

5 Firefighters with West FD.

2 Firefighters with Abbott FD/West EMS.

1 Firefighter with Merknel FD/West EMS.

1 Firefighter with Bruceville Eddy FD/West EMS.

1 Dallas FD Captain who lived in West went to the scene to assist.

**(The 4 Firefighter/EMT's were at the West EMS Station taking an EMT class, saw the fire and went to assist.)**

2 Civilians who have ties to the West FD were helping on the scene.

**NOTE: Preliminary plans** indicate that there will be a memorial service on Thursday, April 25, at the Ferrell Center - Baylor University in Waco, Texas at 1400 hours. This information is preliminary for those who need to set travel plans, etc. Details on travel, staging, participation etc will follow soon.

HOW TO ASSIST:

**NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:**

As always, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has stepped up-and in this case, has established a national fund to accept monetary donations to assist the survivors and coworkers of the fire and EMS personnel who died in the line of duty. Checks can be mailed to:

West, Texas Fire/EMS Fallen Hero Fund/NFFF  
P.O. Drawer 498  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Donations also can be made by credit card at [www.regonline.com/westtx](http://www.regonline.com/westtx) . All donated funds will be used to assist the survivors and coworkers to rebuild their lives and support the programs and services they will need.

More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-13 / 2220 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A junior Firefighter from North Charleroi, PA is in critical condition after he ran into a moving vehicle while responding on a fire call. Brandon Schwalb, 14, was taken by helicopter to Children's Hospital shortly after the 1555 hours incident. Schwalb, a junior firefighter for Lock 4 Volunteer Fire Co., is the son of the Assistant Chief. Young Schwalb was running when he crossed an intersection and into the passenger side of a civilian vehicle driven by a 17-year old female. Schwalb and the vehicle were

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traveling the same direction when the running Schwalb made a sharp right to run up a street and ran right into the path of the car and suffered a broken leg and a possible hip fracture. We wish him a rapid recovery.

**THE LAW, THE WEST EXPLOSION AND THE WEST FIREFIGHTERS:**

That fertilizer plant on the edge of West, Texas town had been a community fixture, and few seemed to regard it as a threat. "It's been there so long that you just take it for granted," said Jeanette Karlik, a columnist for the local newspaper, the West News. That feeling appears to have shaped the actions of the seven or more state and federal regulatory agencies that collectively shared oversight responsibility for the plant, according to a Huffington Post investigation. In June 2011 -- less than two years before the explosion -- the private company that owns the plant, the West Fertilizer Co., filed an emergency response plan with the Environmental Protection Agency stating that there was "no" risk of fire or explosion at the facility. The worst scenario that plant officials acknowledged was the possible release of a small amount of ammonia gas into the atmosphere.

**HERE** is more: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/22/west-fertilizer\\_n\\_3134202.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/22/west-fertilizer_n_3134202.html)

**HERE IS MORE RELATED TO THE WEST FIREFIGHTERS & THEIR PREPARATION:**

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/04/22/4795203/volunteer-firefighters-in-west.html>

That fire and explosion of course resulted in the Deaths of \* Morris Bridges, 41. Perry Calvin, 37. \* Jerry Chapman, 26. \* Cody Drago, 50. \* Kenny Harris, 52. \* Jimmy Matus, 52. \* Joey Pustejovsky. \* Cyrus Reed. \* Robert Snokhaus, 48. \* Doug Snokhaus, 50. \* Buck Uptmor, 40s.

**DID YOU KNOW** that one of those killed, Jim Matus, was the owner of Westex Welding - a company that builds fire apparatus: <http://www.westexfire.com> RIP.

**WATCH THE MEMORIAL SERVICE THURSDAY:** The memorial service will be held on Thursday with thousands of Firefighters from all over North America and beyond planning on attending-along with President Obama and the First Lady. The service will be broadcast and streamed-watch [www.FireHero.org](http://www.FireHero.org) for the streaming details.

**BURN-DETROIT AT FDIC:**

A bunch of us went to see the movie BURN last night here at FDIC at the Indiana State Museum IMAX Theatre. **It was excellent.** It is showing all this week for those of you at FDIC: The theatre is right across from the JW Marriott Hotel at the State Museum. **DETAILS HERE:** <http://www.detroitfirefilm.org/events/>

**FDIC & FIREFIGHTERS:**

**SPEAKING OF FDIC:** Don't forget-amongst the numerous events, to lock in time for The FOOLS Bash as well as at NFFF's **STOP, DROP, ROCK & ROLL** where a **TRIBUTE IS PLANNED** for the West Fire & EMS Members who were killed in the Line of Duty Last week. **EVENT DETAILS HERE:**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING:** <http://www.indymetrofools.com/>

**THURSDAY EVENING:** <http://www.stopdroprocknroll.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-23-13 / 0817 Hours

**AND:**

All,

A civilian was killed and a Firefighter has been hospitalized with critical injuries from a fire in Baltimore County, Maryland earlier today. Fire companies turned out around 0100 this morning to a single-family/converted to multi-family dwelling fire in Reisterstown, just off I-795. The dwelling, a two-story

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Victorian, was used as a few separate apartments, and was less than a quarter-mile from the closest fire company, so they arrived quickly. On arrival they had heavy fire and smoke. When they went inside, they found Steven Stark, 58, on the second floor. He was taken to Northwest Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. At some point, volunteer Firefighter Gene Kirchner, 24, issued a mayday call from inside the home. Firefighters found him unconscious, rescued him and transported him to Northwest Hospital, then to Baltimore Shock Trauma, where his condition is critical. What happened and why is unknown yet.

HERE is more w/video: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/photo-gallery.aspx?storyid=256168> - We'll keep you advised. Keep'm in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL  
BillyG  
The Secret List 4-24-13/0700 hours

**AND:**

**CHIEF TOMMY CARR PASSES AWAY**

It is with the deepest regret that we advise you of the death of Fire Chief Tom Carr, of the Charleston, SC FD and formerly the Chief of Montgomery County Fire & Rescue in Maryland. Chief Carr was surrounded by his entire family at the time and is now at peace. Arrangements are forthcoming and we will pass them along. Chief Carr fought Parkinson's disease and related complications with the same humble but tough courage he showed through his entire life. He became Charleston Fire Chief in November 2008, taking command of a department still grieving and rebuilding from the Sofa Super Store fire that killed 9 Charleston Firefighters the year before. He is widely credited with adopting modern techniques and standards in Charleston, as well as charting a more coordinated, regional approach to firefighting. Tommy was a friend - starting when we all hung out at the FDIC's in the early 80's....and remained so up until his passing. The fire service in Charleston, Maryland and the nation is a much better place due to Tommy -- and we send our deepest condolences to his wife Anne and his entire family and friends. We'll pass on additional details and arrangements when they are confirmed. RIP Chief Tommy Carr.

**FIREFIGHTERS WITH PARKINSON'S:**

Parkinson's disease impacts Firefighters. It is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder that affects one in 100 people over age 60. While the average age at onset is 60, disease onset starts by age 40 in an estimated five to 10 percent of patients, and people as young as 30 can also be affected.

**MORE: Firefighters With Parkinsons:** <http://www.firefighterswithparkinsons.net/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 4-25-13 / 0900 Hours

**AND:**

**TWO FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FIRE & COLLAPSE: LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA\***

Two nights ago while operating at a fire in a three story furniture manufacturer and warehouse, there was some type of explosion which caused the building to collapse. Firefighter Francis Saywon and Colonel (Battalion Chief) Nathaniel Wesseh were killed in the Line of Duty. According to Fire Chief, G. Warsuah Barvoul, as of a few hours ago and they are still on the scene attempting to locate and remove the bodies. They believe that there may be additional losses as hoarders may have been in the building when it collapsed. A long time member of The Secret List, Chief Ken P in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota advised us of the double LODD...he has been working with the Republic of Liberia, West



Africa for the past two years to rebuild its National Fire Service. Following a 15 year civil war that ended 7 years ago, the country and its fire service have been left in rubble. A country roughly the size of Ohio, with a population of 3.5 million, has just one working fire engine. In addition, he and his team helped turn an old oil tanker into a water tanker capable of producing decent water flow through 1.75 lines that we delivered. The Liberian National Fire Service has no gear, no airpicks and no tools. When they were last in the country, their team assisted with fighting a commercial fire and a residential fire. He stated: "when Howard County Maryland Deputy Chief John B and I assisted with the commercial fire, I opened the roof with an 18" pry bar and a broom stick handle. \*MORE incredible information on what American Firefighters are doing to help the Liberia National Fire Service is HERE:

<http://tinyurl.com/calhsf8>

<http://tinyurl.com/calhsf8>

**MEDICINE HAT (ALBERTA, CANADA) FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

Members of the Medicine Hat Fire Department have advised us of the passing of one of their active members on April 24, 2013 from an occupational related illness. Our sincere condolences go out to their brother's family. We respect their wishes for support and privacy at this time. RIP.

**MORE DETAILS HERE:**

<https://www.facebook.com/MedicineHatFirefighters>

**NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER/FIRE POLICE OFFICER DOWN AT CRASH SITE:**

A NYS Trooper is being credited with saving the life of a volunteer Firefighter who stopped breathing at a crash scene in western New York. 3 cars were involved in yesterday's crash on Route 417 in the Cattaraugus County town of Portville, on the Pennsylvania border 65 miles southeast of Buffalo. Two drivers were injured and taken to the hospital in nearby Olean for treatment.

Fire-Police from the Weston Mills Fire Department were helping with traffic control when one of them collapsed and stopped breathing. Trooper John Zeigler retrieved an AED from his cruiser. The device and CPR administered by others revived the Firefighter. He was taken to Olean General Hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

**GOOD STUFF.**

**BALTIMORE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER REMAINS CRITICAL:**

24 year old Firefighter Gene Kitchner from Baltimore County FD's Reisterstown VFC was found down while operating in a house fire earlier this week. FF Kirchner remains in critical condition at Shock Trauma in Baltimore. You can read about his current medical status on that site which can be found here: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/genekirchner>

We encourage you to please sign the guest book-and please pass it on.

Here is audio of the fire radio traffic. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-thdbkp80Ts>

**TEXAS EXPLOSION VICTIM DONATIONS FAR, FAR BEHIND DONATIONS FOR THE BOSTON VICTIMS (T-SHIRT SALES FOR WEST TEXAS FF & EMS SURVIVORS)**

As millions of dollars flood into relief efforts for the Boston bombing victims, donations to devastated West, Texas, are lagging very far behind. More than \$26 million has been raised in the wake of the April 15 Boston blasts. And it appears that donations for West total well under \$1 million.

The Salvation Army, for example, has raised about \$200,000 following the April 17 fertilizer plant explosion that killed 14 people, the great majority being Firefighters & EMT's, injured up to 200 and destroyed more than 100 homes. It has already spent about the same amount. The needs in 2,800-person West are vast: food, shelter and transportation for displaced families, medical help for blast survivors, and eventually assistance rebuilding an entire community -- from fire department, EMS, houses and businesses to a school and nursing home. Property losses alone are expected to exceed \$100 million, according to the Insurance Council of Texas.



**MUCH MORE INFORMATION HERE:**

<http://money.cnn.com/2013/04/26/pf/texas-boston-donations/>

**HOW FIREFIGHTERS & EMT'S CAN HELP THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS & EMT'S IN TEXAS:**

[http://firehero.org/news/2013/westtx\\_041913.html](http://firehero.org/news/2013/westtx_041913.html)

**MEMORIAL T-SHIRT SALES FOR WEST, TEXAS:**

<http://teespring.com/thinline02>

<http://www.atxmafia.com/catalog.php?item=159>

**CHIEF TOMMY CARR-RIP (Update) - BELOW** are more details about Chief Carr as well as memorial service information:

[http://m.postandcourier.com/article/20130426/PC16/130429455&template=mobile\\_story](http://m.postandcourier.com/article/20130426/PC16/130429455&template=mobile_story)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-26-13 / 2215 Hours

**AND:**

**PA FIREFIGHTER STRUCK ON THE HIGHWAY-LODD**

We regret to pass on the information that the Chief of the Loganville Volunteer Fire Company (York County, PA, Station 63), was struck by a vehicle and killed in the Line of Duty while working a crash scene on Interstate 83. This happened this morning, April 27, 2013 around 0100 hours. More details will follow. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.]

BillyG

The Secret List 4-27-13 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

**DRIVER CHARGED WITH DUI AND OTHER OFFENSES - NOT HIS FIRST TIME**

As you now know, Loganville Volunteer Fire Chief (York County, PA) Rodney Paul Miller, died in the Line of Duty after being struck by a vehicle on Interstate 83 early yesterday morning. Chief Miller was directing traffic off I-83 south in the area of the Glen Rock exit following an earlier crash. Matthew Scott Diehl, 32, of Shrewsbury, drove his white Chevrolet Trailblazer around Chief Miller's parked emergency vehicle and struck the Chief. The emergency lights on Chief Miller's vehicle were flashing at the time. Diehl continued driving south after striking Chief Miller. Diehl, 32, is in York County Prison after he was denied bail in connection with the following charges:--- homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence;--- homicide by vehicle;--- accidents involving death or personal injury;--- DUI;--- duty of driver in emergency response area;--- reckless driving;--- and duty to give information and render aid. This dirtbag has been charged with DUI-and other crimes in the past.

More details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-28-13 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Without question, firefighter/fireground staffing is beyond critical for success....its been proven time and time again. The need to

**COMMAND**

June 15, 2013

that staffing is as critical-and it is not just a single person role. The need for multiple chief officers to turnout on

**the first alarm** of a report building fire has also been proven...time and time again:

- Establish and run command? yes.
- Run accountability? yes.
- A chief officer in the rear of the building? yes.
- One to coordinate RIT and/or civilian rescues? Yes
- Incident safety officer? Yes....

**Can it all be done by one person? No. Not when you have a working fire, civilians trapped, maydays etc. And to call for help when that happens ...is too late. We need to turn-out acting as if WE WILL have that on the scene. Don't have that? Good news...send them home when the fire is out.**

Has it been done with one chief ...and everyone goes home safe and sound? Sure-until that "one" fire when all the tasks and all the command roles must be done simultaneously...which is potentially your next fire. Keep reading. Remember-the more we do things wrong-the more they "seem" right...until that "one" career and life altering day.

**"BUT**

why not have

**COMPANY OFFICERS**

do that stuff?" Who will supervise and lead the interior crews? And then-

**HOW**

do we explain why we even need company officers to lead companies?

**COMPANY**

officers supervise a company. Take them away or give them unrelated tasks-you then have un-supervised and un-lead companies. You don't want that.

**CHIEF**

officers supervise multiple companies - companies that are lead by company officers.

**CHIEF**

officers command various divisions on the fireground so we don't have to separate company officers from their companies. Seems simple enough.Still don't get it? Try to tell a pro football coach they don't need their assistant coaches on the field.

Just try. And they get to call "time outs" when they are operating on their "field"..

**Check out this OpEd by a friend related to the need for COMMAND staffing.**

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-county-fire-20130429,0,4396700.story>

**RELATED:**

**WHAT ABOUT COMMAND STAFFING? PART 1:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10495755/fireground-staffingyes-but-what-about-command-staffing>

**WHAT ABOUT COMMAND STAFFING? Part 2:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10494092/fireground-staffingyes-but-what-about-command-staffing-part-2>

**BLADENSBURG MARYLAND-OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES.**

It is with the deepest of regrets that we pass on to you that our friends at Prince Georges County (MD) Fire/EMS Company 809, the Bladensburg VFD mourns the very tragic loss of a great Fire Officer - - and the Bladensburg Police Dept. has lost a great Police Officer/Detective. BPD and BVFD Fire Lt. Brian T. Johnson died extremely suddenly on Saturday morning. Our deepest condolences to Keri

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

and the children, Mom and Dad, Brother and all the rest of the family, extended fire department family and the PD family.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE DETAILS:**

Community United Methodist Church 8680 Ft. Smallwood Rd. Pasadena, MD. on Wednesday May 1st, 2013 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM and again from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. There will be a fire department memorial service at 8:00 PM. Funeral services will be at; Community United Methodist Church, 8680 Ft. Smallwood Rd. Pasadena, MD on Thursday May 2nd, 2013 at at 11:00 AM. Any companies wishing to attend may do so. If you wish to bring apparatus please contact Chief Tim Delehanty direct at 240-508-5983 or via email at [funeral@bv9fd.com](mailto:funeral@bv9fd.com). Chief Delehanty is coordinating all attendees with apparatus. Any other questions can be sent to the email and will be answered quickly.

**LOGANVILLE PA MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR THE CHIEF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY BY A DUI DRIVER.**

The viewings for Loganville Fire Chief Rodney Miller, who was killed in the Line of Duty are 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Grace Fellowship, 1405 Seven Valleys Road. The funeral will be held at the same church at 10 a.m. Friday.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-29-13 / 2100 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

This one will turn your stomach. The heartsick Mom whose parents and three young daughters were killed in a Christmas 2011 fire says local building officials ghoulishly rushed to tear down the charred house within 24 hours of the fire in a desperate bid to cover up multiple permit violations - and to profit from the sale of valuable salvaged building materials. Madonna Badger claims in court papers that Stamford's chief building official, Robert DeMarco, and his city operations boss, Ernest Orgera, had an "ulterior motive" when they "intentionally and recklessly" ordered the demolition of the \$1.7 million home just **ONE DAY** after the fire. The fire killed Badger's little girls, Lily, 9 and twins Sarah and Grace, 7, and her parents, Pauline and Lomer Johnson following numerous well documented and heroic attempts by Stamford's Bravest to find those kids and their grandparents.

Badger alleges that DeMarco knew he'd be called out for "multiple failings of the building department" related to permits and inspections on her home renovation - including granting permits to unlicensed contractor Michael Borcina, who had been Badger's boyfriend at the time of the fire, to do the work. DeMarco and Orgera also knew they were sitting on a potential scrap-metal gold mine at the under-construction house, which contained "numerous types of salvageable scrap metal" including wiring, steel beams, aluminum, copper and even Badger's personal silver flatware and jewelry, the suit alleges. **Orgera, Badger notes in the suit, was identified in a Stamford city law-department report as a person "running metals." In 2011, Stamford police and the state's attorney investigated Orgera for allegedly stealing city scrap metal. He is also accused in an ongoing federal case of selling scrap metal and allegedly pocketing the profits to pay for parties, records show.**

Badger also claims DeMarco ignored city law by failing to consult her before he ordered the remains of her house torn down. Instead, he submitted "a perjurious notarized affidavit stating that the owner authorized the demolition," the suit alleges. A demolition permission form in the filing shows someone else filled in Madonna Badger's name. The order, which DeMarco didn't sign until Jan. 10, also shows the tear-down was scheduled for Dec. 28. But the house came down at noon on Dec. 26 - barely 24 hours after the fire that killed Badger's girls, Lily, 9 and twins Sarah and Grace, 7, and her parents,

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Pauline and Lomer Johnson following well documented attempts by Stamford's Bravest to get those kids and their grandparents.

**RELATED:**

911 Phone Calls: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uGht19Vp90>

Fire Radio Traffic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1XkYNZpTMw>

Interview with the Mom:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NZQ5iObzpY>

Fire /Firefighters Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cggkdNbQu14>

Short Video Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjOR8ePEoFM>

HERE is the entire article from the NY POST:

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/wreck\\_ruin\\_vsRKIfu6DDDrrriGRB9mdVK](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/wreck_ruin_vsRKIfu6DDDrrriGRB9mdVK)

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-13 / 1351 Hours

**AND:**

**MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SUCCUMBS TO INJURY-LINE OF DUTY DEATH**

We regret to pass on to you that Residerstown (Baltimore Co, MD FD) Volunteer Firefighter Gene Kirchner has passed away following critical injuries in last weeks dwelling fire in which a civilian was killed. FF Kirchner was injured in that Reisterstown fire on April 24. He was found inside the building, was removed, treated and was taken to Baltimore Shock Trauma. Two days ago it was announced that he was in critical but stable condition and would be transferred to a rehab center. FF Kirchner was pronounced dead early this afternoon at Shock Trauma. "BCoFD's thoughts are with his family at this difficult time," said Baltimore County Public Safety spokesperson Elise Armacost. Resisterstown Firefighters have immediately honored Kirchner's memory as just before 1400 hours this afternoon they had placed black bunting on the firehouse. More to follow. Our condolences to all affected-RIP. **DETAILS HERE:** <http://rvfc.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-2-13 / 1350- Hours

**AND:**

**ALABAMA FIREFIGHTER, 37, DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY ON SCENE**

We regret to pass on to you that yesterday, Monday, April 29, the Oak Ridge Volunteer Fire Department was asked to assist the Morgan County Sheriff's Department regarding a call about an explosion at 19 Iron Man Road in Hartselle. During a search of the area, Oak Ridge Firefighter Dale Scott Queen, 37, of Hartselle, started to feel sick. He was removed to a staging area where his condition continued to worsen. EMS responded and met him at Oak Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Station No. 1. Very sadly, FF Queen was pronounced dead at Decatur General Hospital at 16:42 p.m. yesterday, on Monday, April 29. FF Queen, who was also a member of the Morgan County Rescue Squad, made his living as a truck driver. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and their sons, Tanner, 14; Dakota, 13; and Avery, 9. Peck Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Friday, May 3, from 6-9 p.m. The funeral with firefighter honors will be held Saturday, May 4, at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Departments wishing to have apparatus in the procession are welcomed to. Apparatus should arrive at Hartselle High Stadium on Sparkman Drive by 12:30pm on Saturday. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-13 / 1744 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Once again we are reminded that fires are not a "thing of the past" and that Fire Departments are NOT simply EMS Dept's that "happen" to go to the occasional fire. While EMS certainly is the main call load (and the greatest opportunity to save lives) in any community--be it a community that has one or one thousand fires--our preparedness before that fire comes in, is critical. Additionally, the preparedness before the fire--from a prevention standpoint usually solves most of the problems.

However--when a community suffers a major fire loss--and in this case, involving kids, different FD's and Chiefs respond differently. Some don't respond. Others set the example, and in this case--this Fire Chief and his troops take the issue to the streets--and to Church--on Sunday morning....whatever it takes--it's what he and his folks do. Another cool example that we can all gain from.

**Check This Video Out:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1F5A6XqlfE#t=4m40s> featuring Prince Georges County (MD) Fire Chief Marc Bashoor and his personnel.

**SAFE BUILDING CODES?**

You are invited to join other industry professionals and leaders in government, commercial, and nonprofit sectors to discuss the nation's current infrastructure for building codes and the opportunities for action at CFSI next week. Speakers include: Thad Allen, Senior Vice President, Booz Allen Hamilton, Steven Palazzo, U.S. Representative, Mississippi, 4th Congressional District, Mario Diaz-Balart, U.S. Representative, Florida, 25th Congressional District, Debra Ballen, General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Public Policy, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, Bill Jenaway, President, Congressional Fire Services Institute Honorable Henry L. Green, President, National Institute of Building Sciences and Jim Salek, Vice President of Underwriting, USAA To RSVP, please email Shemiah Williams no later than Friday, May 3, 2013. Williams\_shemiah@ne.bah.com - When: Thursday, May 9, 2013, 8:30am to 1:00pm - Registration & Breakfast at 8:00am, Forum Begins at 8:30am-Forum Concludes at 1:00pm-Lunch will be served. Where: Washington Hilton, Georgetown Room, 1919 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009

**BALTIMORE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER UPDATE:**

Baltimore County's Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Company <http://rvfc.org> Firefighter Gene Kirchner remains in critical but stable condition. He had an MRI and doctors say he suffered some brain damage. He is expected to be transferred to a rehab center later this week if there are no setbacks. Doctors are trying to get him to the point where he can breathe on his own. FF Kirchner was searching in a working house fire in Reisterstown last Wednesday--where civilians were initially trapped. FF Kirchner reportedly was found, down, inside the dwelling by other FF's.

**Written Today:**

The last two days have been uneventful. They are trying him on CPAP, meaning they are giving him more control and less support with his breathing. They are airing out his burn on his left hand. They put silvadene on it to assist with healing. He has controlled his temperature well and has been fever free since Sunday. He is completely off sedation and anti seizure medicine. They no longer have him on the EEG. He has had minor tremors but none of concern. He is one receiving continuous nutrition. It's been busy on the fifth floor today. They opened up the remaining part of the ICU. With 24 patients in the unit, the traffic has been high. They did open the other waiting room to accommodate everyone.

**Written Apr 28, 2013 8:57pm**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Today was a tough day. Gene had an MRI overnight and we were able to meet with his doctor to discuss the results. Gene continues to be in stable but critical condition. He has suffered some brain damage due to his injury. Gene will be transferred to a rehabilitation center either at the end of this week or early next week if there are no set backs. Gene's progress will determine the long term care plan. At this time the goal is to get him to breath on his own and to continue seeing improvement, however small, on a daily basis. As a family we continue to be grateful for the amazing support we have received. We believe that the support will aid Gene and will help our family. We welcome visitors to Shock Trauma this week.

Prayers continue.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-30-13 / 2136 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

2 L.A City Firefighters were burned while operating at a 3 story dwelling fire in Sherman Oaks (California) early this morning. The fire was reported at 0002 hours today on Sumac Drive, a winding hilly road. The house, which was unoccupied, has two stories below ground level and all 3 floors quickly became unstable. While operating, 3 Firefighters, including a Captain, were trapped in the structure an the Captain was reportedly unconscious when rescued. Reports are that 2 of the Firefighters suffered burns and were transported to local hospitals and the Fire Captain is in serious but stable condition, and 1 of the Firefighters is in fair but stable condition -- all due to burns. We'll post updates as applicable.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-4-13 / 1500 Hours

**AND:**

All,

While we normally stay focused on sending you close call events and incidents where Firefighters were injured or worse-we wanted to pass this along-as it is relevant. It's 2013 and people are still being killed in fires-a reminder for those that don't seem to understand, amongst critical priorities, the importance of:

-residential fire sprinklers.

-multi sensor smoke detectors.

-fire department STAFFING and a heavy, well equipped response to the first alarm.

**CHECK THIS OUT:** (video) - <http://www.fireandfilm.com/?p=825>

Our prayers to the families, friends and the Pottsville (PA) FD and area Firefighters on that scene.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-13-13 / 1100 hours.

**AND:**

All,

It is with deep regret that we inform you that yesterday afternoon, we lost a "Man for the Ages" with the passing of FDNY Captain Jim "Lord Jim" Ellson, Sr, who lost his battle to cancer. He gave more



### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

to his family, his fellow firefighters and to the many friends he made along the way than to his own personal self. Many of you outside of NY may recall him at FDIC for so many years wearing his custom knitted "FDNY sweater" , ball cap and a huge smile. Thanks to Chief Jack Murphy for his personal thoughts about Jim: Jim's stellar fire service career began in 1960, where as a Probie he responded to his first of many numerous major incidents, when two planes collided over the city (12/16/60) with one plane crashing in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn and the other coming down in Staten Island. Within 3 days after this mid-air collision, he was battling the famous major fire on the USS Constellation aircraft carrier that killed 50 workers. The ship was under construction in the Brooklyn Naval Yard.

#### **Some Fire & OEM Career Highlights of Captain Ellson:**

-FDNY: Firefighter/E65 & L102

-Lieut./L124. It was here at L124 that he got the nickname, "**Lord Jim**" while serving as a fellow officer along with Peter Ganci. Pete later became the Chief of Department who lost his life on 9/11/01..

-Lieut./Rescue 1

-Captain/Squad 1

-SOC Executive Officer to Deputy Chief Ray Downey

-USAR/Task Force-1 Team Leader

-Deputy Commissioner in the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management

-Instructor:

-FDNY Fire Academy

-John Jay College Fire Science and Emergency Management Programs

-Guest lecturer at many state and national fire conferences and forums

-Fire Safety Directors Association (NYC)/Board Member

-FDIC Education Team (1997-2005)

-NYS/DHS, his last gig working logistics for Superstorm Sandy.

Throughout his career, the vast response experiences from 1960 to September 11th and beyond, served as a broad knowledge base that he would share in a more perfect union of fire and emergency management expertise. Despite being heroically cited for many Department Service Rating Medals and Unit Citations for bravery, his humbling demeanor spoke volumes as to his character, never seeking any accolades, but always applauding firefighters who were acting as one. Here is just one example of his character, last year he received an EZ Pass late notice bill for passing through a toll booth on the New Jersey Turnpike, the vehicle license plate read, "Tonka Truck". While Jim sold his car more than 25 years ago with this plate, he passed the old plate along to his former company, L124. Rather than contest the EZ Pass as to the type of vehicle photographed on camera, Jim paid the fine of \$50.00 over a challenge to pay a 90 cents toll fee.

His is the best friend that one could ever have in his/her life. In one of the many conversations we have had over the years, he once told me a quote from Father Mychal Judge "That no matter how hard it gets, God has a plan for you"

#### **Mychal's Prayer:**

**Lord, take me where you want me to go;**

**Let me meet who you want me to meet;**

**Tell me what you want me to say,**

**And Keep me out of Your Way.**

When Jim arrived at the Gates of Heaven yesterday, St. Peter needed to put crowd control management plan in place. He will remain a 'Beacon of Light' in our hearts with all he has shared with us. God Speed, Brother Jim.



**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:**

Wake is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday at Fredericks Funeral home in Flushing, Queens .  
192-15 Northern Blvd at 182nd Street.

The phone number is 718-357-6100.

Funeral Mass is scheduled for Thursday, Church (TBA)

RIP Captain "Lord Jim" Ellson. Our condolences to his family and many friends.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-13-13 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

**2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN BRAZIL - FIRE APPARATUS CRASH**

We regret to advise you that this morning, a fire apparatus overturned and caught fire in the city of Guarapari, Southeast Brazil, killing 2 Firefighters in the Line of Duty. The FFs, left the city of Vitória to test the 10-thousand-liter tanker truck, when they lost control of the vehicle on the ES-060 Highway. Two helicopters and ground fire and rescue crews responded to the incident. Police are investigating the causes. Our condolences. RIP.

Picture: <http://g1.globo.com/espírito-santo/noticia/2013/05/caminhao-do-corpo-de-bombeiros-tomba-na-es-060-em-guarapari.html>

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List

**AND:**

**WASHINGTON FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-COLLAPSED ON AN EMS RUN**

We regret to advise you that a 59-year-old Tacoma Firefighter has died after suffering an apparent heart attack while working at an EMS scene. Tacoma Firefighter Albert Nejmech died in the Line of Duty last night at St. Joseph Medical Center. The 12-year Fire Department veteran was given immediate basic and advanced life support by fellow firefighters after he collapsed Tuesday morning. They then took him to the hospital where he was pronounced. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-15-13 / 0700 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Odds are you have responded to a semi trailer tanker fire. Take a look at this Firefighter Close Call video that once again demonstrates that "ya never know" what you'll have when you get there. BE SURE to size it up, ID the placards, find the driver, paperwork etc before making an "aggressive" attack on something that will "aggressively attack back" and potentially kill you and your crew. Luckily, in the below video, that didn't happen-but watch the explosion and the potential. It is imperative that shipping companies and drivers properly follow the hazardous materials regulations. Sure it is-but don't count on it. Improperly shipped hazardous materials can sometimes end with a catastrophic failure. In this case, a corrosive material was placed in an incompatible aluminum cargo tank for shipment. The company involved paid a \$120,200 civil penalty for not following the regulations....and their stupidity could have killed some Firefighters.

June 15, 2013

**WATCH THIS:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=8ZqRU9mBOf8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=8ZqRU9mBOf8)

**TODAYS HOUSE FIRE.**

USFA hosted a workshop a few months ago on firefighting tactics in response to today's DIFFERENT house fires. There were two major topics discussed. First, veteran firefighters, officers and researchers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Underwriters Laboratories and others presented the technical substantiation for two phenomena which are facing the fire service in responding to today's home fires: the first is the shorter times to flashover and wind-driven fire effects which are resulting from modern building contents and configurations. The second is the changing building envelope (much of which is driven by sustainable construction goals) which is creating new hazards in exterior fire attack. Research was also presented which illustrates how modern firefighting personal protective clothing and equipment is not fully in step with changing environments for firefighters and their tactics. The second major topic of the program was modern furniture flammability, a fire issue which is not new but which is receiving renewed attention as research is reinforcing the significant contribution of upholstered furniture to the home fire problem and developing new and environmentally benign methods to lower that contribution.

**HERE IS MORE INFO JUST FOR YOU!**

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/severity\\_home\\_fires\\_workshop.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/severity_home_fires_workshop.pdf)

**And then there are THOSE 2 FIRE CHIEFS:**

<http://youtu.be/7ZDXDz5tir4> - Cya in Chicago this August!

**FINAL WORD:**

Another NYC 9/11/01 WTC Responder has lost their life. This time it is an NYPD Detective (also a Volunteer FF) who died yesterday. Detective Richard Wentz of the NYPD 81st Pct was also a member of the Long Beach, (Nassau County) NY Fire Department. Rich fought a very long and noble fight against the cancer that he contracted from many hours working at the WTC on 9/11 and after. RIP.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-16-13 / 1532 Hours

**AND:**

**PHOENIX FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Apparatus Incident (Video Below)**

We regret to pass on to you that the Phoenix FD lost a Firefighter in the Line of Duty early this morning. Firefighter Bradley Harper, age 23, was caught between 2 fire department vehicles near the scene of an outside fire (large mulch fire) late yesterday. Other firefighters rescued him, treated him at the scene and transported him to the hospital where he tragically died about 0100 this morning. He reportedly had 2 years on the job and is married and is survived by his wife and parents.

HERE is some news and related video from the scene: <http://www.azfamily.com/news/Firefighter--208038261.html> - Our sincere condolences to the PFD and all affected. More details to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-19-13 / 0935 Hours

**AND:**

**POLICE OFFICER DIES FROM SMOKE INHALATION AT STRUCTURAL FIRE**

Horry County (SC) Deputy Sheriff Tim Causey has died (today) in the Line of Duty as the result of smoke inhalation he suffered on March 16th, 2013, after operating at that major fire in the Windsor

Green area. The fire destroyed 26 different condominium buildings. Deputy Causey responded to assist with securing the scene the night of the fire and for several days following the fire. After becoming ill in the following days, he was diagnosed with smoke inhalation and acute respiratory failure. He was subsequently flown to the Medical University of South Carolina where he remained until passing away today, May 19th, 2013. Deputy Causey had served with the Horry County Sheriff's Office for 25 years. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Our sincere condolences. RIP.

**FATAL APPARATUS CRASH IN PA**

There was a fatal fire apparatus crash in **Pennsylvania** this afternoon that resulted in a civilian being killed and several Firefighters being flown out. At around 1130 this morning, a Coolbaugh Township (Monroe County, NE PA) Fire Department vehicle, "Traffic 25", was involved in an accident with a taxi in Coolbaugh Township. In total there were 4 Firefighters injured and one civilian fatality. The taxicab driver was traveling in the northbound lane when he lost control of his vehicle, sliding sideways into the southbound lane of the oncoming fire police van, which then hit the taxicab in the center of its passenger side. The fire police were not at fault. They were going slow at the time of the accident and did not have on their lights and sirens. We'll have more details posted later.

**FIREFIGHTER AND POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-SEPARATE INCIDENTS-PHOENIX, AZ (RAW VIDEO/BRIEFING)**

Phoenix lost a FF and a Police Officer in separate incidents today as a Phoenix firefighter died of injuries suffered when he was pinned between two emergency vehicles while fighting a fire and a police officer working a DUI stop was struck by a hit-and-run driver. Police Officer Daryl Raetz, a six-year veteran of the police department, was struck about 0330 hours. Raetz was standing in the road processing a suspected DUI driver with two to three other officers when he was struck by an SUV that was going north on-the SUV driver fled, turning left on Thomas Road. Raetz was pronounced dead at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Thompson said. He was 29 and had a wife and child. He was also a veteran of the Iraq War. As you know, Firefighter Bradley Harper, 23, was repositioning equipment while fighting a mulch fire near 39th Avenue and Miami Street about 1730 hours yesterday when he was pinned between two emergency vehicles, He was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in extremely critical condition, where he died about 0130 hours this morning. Harper is married and has been with the fire department for two years.

**VIDEO UPDATES:**

<http://www.azfamily.com/video/raw/Raw-video-Phoenix-officials-briefing-on-deaths-of-firefighter-and-police-officer-208056161.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-19-13 / 1900 Hours

**AND:**

All-

Bad news this morning from Texas as Dallas Fire-Rescue says a Firefighter is trapped inside a burning condominium complex. The fire-which is now at 5+ alarms-is at the Hearthwood Condominium complex at 12363 Abrams Road. Reports now are that the missing Firefighter used his radio to say he was trapped inside and did not know where he was. At this point the crews have not been able to reach the Firefighter by radio since that last message. Plano FD USAR has been requested to assist in the search. The fire has taken over 2 dozen units so far. We will post updates as additional information becomes available. **LIVE VIDEO STREAMING FROM THE SCENE:**

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Fire-Torches-Dallas-Condos-208104041.html> **HERE** is the live fire radio audio feed from AlertPage: <http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/2681/web>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

June 15, 2013

The Secret List 5-20-13 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

**DALLAS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MULTI FAMILY DWELLING FIRE**

Dallas Firefighters have recovered the body of a Firefighter who previously reported by radio being trapped while operating at that 6 alarm condo fire early this morning. The fire, under heavy wind conditions, was first reported at 0252 hours and numerous rescues of civilians were performed by the members. A U.S. flag covered the Firefighter's body when it was removed from the rubble this morning. Around 0530 the Firefighter transmitted that he was trapped and lost. It's believed he became trapped when one of the floors collapsed-almost 3 hours later the body of that Firefighter was recovered from the wreckage.

HERE is some video from earlier this morning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxQ8dGIZMO0>

The last two LODD's from Dallas Fire Rescue were Captain Ken Harris who was killed just a few weeks ago while operating at the West (Texas) fire and explosion...and Lt Todd Krodle, who was killed in the Line of Duty at a fire when he fell thru the roof while venting, at a multi-family dwelling fire.

**HERE is that report:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201120.html>

**We will post additional details on our homepage as they become available. RIP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

**AND:**

**28 YEAR VETERAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE AT MFD FIRE**

Dallas Fire Rescue has released the name of the Firefighter killed this morning. Dallas Fire-Rescue Firefighter Stanley Wilson-with 28 years on the job, disappeared after radioing that he was trapped during that six-alarm fire at a northeast Dallas condominium building. Wilson was found dead inside the rubble of the fire hours after a radio message was heard from the firefighter saying, "I'm trapped." Wilson is survived by his wife, two sons and his mother. nDFR also revealed a boy was found trapped in the rubble as they searched for FF Wilson, and that child was heard crying. Firefighters were able to pull him from the debris and he was transported to an area hospital in unknown condition We will post additional updates as they become available. Our condolences to all affected, especially the DFR and the family of FF Wilson. UPDATED VIDEO:

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Five-alarm-fire-races-through-Northeast-Dallas-condos-208106231.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-20-13 / 1400 Hours

**AND:**

All,

**Services for fallen Phoenix Firefighter Brad Harper are as follows:** Funeral Ceremony on Friday, May 24th at 2:30 p.m. at: Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV), 7007 W. Happy Valley Road, Peoria, AZ 85383 Procession and Internment to follow at: Greenwood Memorial Cemetery, 719 N. 27th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85009. FF Harper died in the Line of Duty Sunday of injuries he suffered while

working with crews at a mulch fire in south Phoenix when he was crushed between two emergency vehicles while repositioning equipment. **MORE INFO ON THESE SITES:**

<http://phoenix.gov/fire/>

<http://www.1493.org/>

**IRANIAN FIREFIGHTER SAVES LIVES AFTER LOSING HIS IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

Iranian Firefighter Omid Abbasi was part of a crew of Firefighters that responded to a MFD fire in Tehran (Iran) last Tuesday. A young woman with her 2 kids were trapped inside an apartment. The woman managed to escape along with her son, but her 9-year-old daughter was hanging from a window and was on the brink of a free fall when she was saved by the Firefighters. When FF Abbasi learned there was a young girl trapped in the building, he rushed in to save her. He gave her his SCBA mask, but by the time he had gotten her to safety, Abbasi went down from smoke and they were unable to revive him. After his death, Abbasi's family donated his organs to three patients in need of transplants. According to Jalal Maleki, the spokesman of Iran's Firefighters Organization, body parts of firefighter Omid Abbasi were offered to patients in need of transplants. The little girl who was saved was also at the funeral and thanked the Tehran FF who died for her. RIP.

**OUR THOUGHTS** and prayers go out to Moore (OK) Fire Chief Gary Bird and all those operating and or impacted by yesterdays tornado.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-21-13 / 1100 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

In both good and not so good ways, some of the best learning that can be done is from those who have experienced and survived the worst. Specifically, to truly understand what the Charleston (S.C.) Firefighters went through on, after and since June 18, 2007 when they lost 9 Firefighters in the Line of Duty....one would have to be a CFD Firefighter. There is a new video that is essential for every one of us to watch. New firefighters, old firefighters, fire officers, fire chiefs-everyone. The CFD members have horrifically "been there and done that" ...from the fire, to the lessons learned ...to the total transformation of the CFD in honor of those 9 Firefighters....this video outlines where they have been, what happened, and what they have done about it. You will hear first hand from those who were there-as well as from those that have arrived since that fire-all to honor the Charleston 9.

**Watch this BRAND NEW video from the CFD and the NFFF:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqiRN9rygol&feature=youtu.be>

**RELATED:**

**3 minute QUICK REVIEW VIDEO/AUDIO FROM THE SCENE:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WieG\\_eKsJug](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WieG_eKsJug)

**NIOSH REPORT:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200718.html> CITY of CHARLESTON REPORT (Routley Report) <http://tinyurl.com/ornorq9>

**OTHER Phenomenal "Been There-Done That" VIDEOS FROM THE NFFF:**

**FDNY:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqZtOyqJg8s>

**CHICAGO FD:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODww1qwSuE>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-22-13 / 1513 Hours

**AND:**

**PA EMT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-VEHICLE CRASH WHILE RESPONDING**

We regret to advise you that a Wyoming County (PA) EMT was in a crash while responding last night and died in the Line of Duty--early today. Tunkhannock EMT and Rescue Tech Thomas Gruen, 46, a long time member of Tunkhannock Ambulance, was killed on Rt 92 last evening while turning out during bad weather. The vehicle's driver, EMT Jeffrey Plata, lost control while traveling north on Route 92 - and the pickup truck spun into the southbound lanes and struck several trees on the western side of the road at 2130 hours. The driver experienced NLT injuries. RIP.

**NJ FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY INJURED AT TRAINING... "HORSEPLAY"**

A 19-year old FF remains in the pediatric intensive care unit at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick today as a result of a fall he suffered training exercise. Reports are that at approximately 1850 hours Tuesday, Somerset County Communications received multiple 911 calls reporting an unconscious Firefighter who had fallen and suffered a serious head injury at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy. **The 19-year-old Firefighter, was taking training classes at the facility when he and another trainee, described as "lifelong friends," reportedly and unfortunately became engaged in "horseplay" prior to the start of class in the academy parking lot... that resulted in the accident, a police source said.** The Firefighter was flown by NorthSTAR helicopter to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Hillsborough Fire and EMS responded to the scene along with paramedics from Somerset Medical Center, as did a number of EMTs who were already at the facility teaching classes. Keep'm in your thoughts and prayers.

**KNOW SOMEONE OR A FD THAT IS "AWARD WINNING" WORTHY?**

**FIRE SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS:**

Nominations are now open for the annual IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Awards. These awards **ARE FOR YOU TO** recognize organizations and individuals of organizations (of any size or composition) that have made a significant contribution to the overall environment of health and safety in their organizations and/or the fire service. Awards will be presented during the IAFC SHS Section meeting at Fire-Rescue International 2013 in 4 categories.

**DETAILS HERE:** <http://www.iafcsafety.org/awards.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-23-13 / 1730 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**Four Firefighters in Manatee County** (Florida) and a wrecker driver were reportedly transported to the hospital following exposure from operating at a crash involving a pesticide truck and semi - on Friday morning. The crash happened on rural SR 70 in Myakka City, in eastern Manatee County. The Firefighters were working the crash scene when they were exposed to fumes. The Firefighters along with the wrecker driver were taken to Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. Two other patients were transported to Blake Medical Center in Bradenton.

**FATAL FIRE DEPT EMS CRASH IN WASHINGTON:**

A driver in his 80s was killed after a head on crash with a Mason County (WA) Fire District 2 ambulance. The Fire-Medic who was driving the ambulance suffered minor chest injuries in Thursday's crash. A second medic was unhurt. The man's car swerved across the center line, and the



oncoming ambulance did not have enough room on the highway shoulder to avoid the collision. The Fire-medics had no patients on board. They immediately tended to the car driver.

**VIRGINIA FIRE APPARATUS CRASH:**

Details are that a fire department tanker crashed in Dickenson County, near the town of Clintwood early this morning. Few details are being made available but there were requests for 2 medical evacuation helicopters. We'll post additional details on our home page.

**FIREFIGHTER CRASHES WHILE RESPONDING IN PA:**

An SUV driven by a volunteer Firefighter flipped over while he was on his way to an emergency call around 2100 Thursday. FF Edward J. Collar IV, 19, was responding with the blue lights on top of his car illuminated, when another car pulled out in front of him, and he rolled over. The damp roadway conditions made breaking difficult and the SUV rolled over onto its top. FF Collar was not ejected from the car and he was able to climb out.

**FIRE CHIEF LINE OF DUTY DEATH TRIAL: MURDER CHARGES IN STRUCK BY CRASH:**

A 32-year-old motorist will stand trial on charges that he killed a central Pennsylvania fire chief while driving drunk. A York County judge ruled that there's enough evidence to try Matthew Diehl. He is accused of fatally striking Loganville Fire Chief Rodney Miller while Chief Miller directed traffic last month. A third-degree murder charge was added against Diehl at Friday's hearing and he already faces counts including homicide by vehicle while DUI. Cops say Diehl's blood-alcohol level was 0.118 percent at the time of the accident. The legal limit in Pennsylvania is .08. A state trooper testified at the hearing that Diehl has two prior DUI convictions.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-25-13 / 1545 Hours

**AND:**

Hey, Three **Shepherdsville (KY) Firefighters** suffered non-life-threatening injuries this evening when their quint was involved in a responding rollover crash. Shepherdsville Fire Chief Layne Troutman said 3 Firefighters were aboard the apparatus, responding to a dumpster fire at a business when the vehicle turned over. All 3 Firefighters was taken to University of Louisville Hospital.

**DRUNK JAILED FOR CRASHING INTO APPARATUS** A man who slammed into the back of a Sacramento fire truck is out of the hospital and is now in jail. David Hawley, 29, was allegedly driving while under the influence Saturday night when he drove through a red light, hit a taxi van, another car, and then ran into the back of a fire truck near 21st and J Streets. Citizen Hawley got out of his car after the crash, and began to struggle with the Firefighters who were responding to an unrelated medical call. Hawley was taken to the hospital initially after the accident. He is now in jail facing charges of hit and run and DUI.

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTERS CLOSE CALL** A fatal crash and car fire on I- 95 in Delray Burned turned into a major problem early yesterday after at least four subsequent crashes took place, including one involving an emergency vehicle. Fortunately, no Firefighters were injured. It started after a 20-year-old un-seat belted man was ejected from his car and killed when he ran into the rear of a tractor trailer on the interstate, one mile south of Woolbright Road. Several more crashes occurred after emergency vehicles arrived to fight the car fire. With several lanes blocked by fire, rescue and cops, a second crash took place on I-95 south of the first scene. After more units arrived and blocked even more lanes, a vehicle skidded into the emergency scene and collided with a rescue ambulance....crew members were working in the area and avoided being hit by only a few feet and then a fourth crash



occurred when another car was rear-ended. The ambulance struck by a passing car was later taken out of service because some compartments in the rescue vehicle were dented and could not be opened.

**GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS BURNED (VIDEO)** A Columbus firefighter remains in the hospital after being injured while battling a warehouse fire late Friday. Firefighter David Smith remained in the hospital for second-degree burns and had surgery to repair a broken right ankle. Firefighter Chris Burris was treated for second-degree burns and released from the hospital. 3 Firefighters were on the loading dock of the structure when a large explosion blew them back, injuring two of them. The fire was brought under control after midnight, but remained after daylight on Saturday. About 25 firefighters and 12 units responded.

**VIDEO:** <http://www.wtvm.com/story/22424083/two-firefighters-injured-in-warehouse-explosion>

**BAD GUY TAKES AIM AT FIREFIGHTER** A Dallas Firefighter was working outside the firehouse when a couple of dirt bags drove by his station several times in a pickup truck Sunday morning and the driver pointed a gun at him. A shot was fired not too long after that. The FF was outside washing a fire truck at Station 33, near West Illinois and South Vernon Avenues. The Firefighter ran into the station when he saw the weapon and then a gunshot was heard not too far away. Police were immediately called but the people in the pickup got away.

#### **FIREFIGHTER TAKEN HOSTAGE IN BRAZIL**

A FF and a prison guard that were taken hostages during a rebellion in the jail of the city of Ituiutaba, Southeast Brazil, were freed this morning with minor injuries, after 15 hours. Apparently, the FF volunteered to be exchanged by an injured guard taken by inmates. The rebellion ended with no further violence, after a negotiation headed by Police Special Operations squad. **MORE HERE:** <http://noticias.r7.com/minas-gerais/detentos-fazem-rebeliao-de-15-horas-e-ferem-refens-em-ituiutaba-26052013> <http://noticias.terra.com.br/brasil/policia/mg-refens-sao-libertados-apos-15-horas-de-rebeliao-em-presidio,b8e3d7092f1ee310VgnVCM3000009acceb0aRCRD.html>

**Our sincere and heartfelt thoughts, prayers and thanks go out to all those who serve and have served in our armed forces, with special remembrance to Sgt SamG, United States Army WW II. RIP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-27-13 / 2009 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **EMS HELICOPTER CRASH IN CANADA-4 ON BOARD**

Four people were killed when an Ornge air ambulance crashed in northern Ontario (Canada) overnight. There were no survivors in the crash, which killed two pilots and two paramedics. No patients were on board the helicopter, which was en route from Moosonee to Attawapiskat early this morning. The identities of those killed have not yet been released, but Ornge said it had notified the victims' families after the crash. The Sikorsky S76 chopper went down shortly after leaving Moosonee, which is located about 19 kilometres south of James Bay and roughly 600 kilometres north of Sudbury. The isolated community of 3,500 has no road access and all visitors to the community must travel by train or plane. A crew from the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre at CFB Trenton responded to the call Friday morning and located the downed helicopter. Two search and rescue technicians parachuted down to the wreckage, but found no survivors. Severe thunderstorm warnings were in place for some parts of northern Ontario early Friday morning, and light to moderate snow is forecast for during the day. However, it isn't clear if weather played a role in the crash. Our

condolences to all affected. RIP.  
Take Care-Be Careful.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 5-31-13 1030 hours

**AND:**

**FALLEN HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS IDENTIFIED**

As previously posted, the HFD lost 4 Firefighters in the Line of Duty this afternoon following a fire and collapse. The following are the HFD members who gave the ultimate sacrifice at that fire in Southwest Houston this afternoon:

**Captain EMT Matthew Renaud**

(35) of Engine 68. He began his career with the Houston Fire Department in October of 2001 and in addition to Fire Station 68, has served out of stations 51, 39, 83, 73, 37, 60 and 35.

**Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee**

(41) of Station 51. He began his career with the Houston Fire Department in August of 2001 and in addition to Fire Station 51, has served out of Stations 37, 40, 10 and 48.

**Firefighter EMT Robert Garner**

(29) of Station 68. He began his career with the Houston Fire Department in October of 2010 and has served out of Fire Station 68 since.

**Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan**

(24) of Station 68. She graduated from Houston Fire Department Academy this past April and was assigned to Fire Station 68.

The Houston Fire Department has never had 4 Firefighters lose their lives from the same incident in the history of their department. In 1929, 3 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty after their Engine was broadsided by a train. This afternoon, 5 other Firefighters were initially transported to the hospital for a range of injuries from heat exhaustion to a critical injuries. Our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to all affected. Much more to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-31-13 / 2015 Hours

**AND:**

All,

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

If you are a member of the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section, (SHS) we have been asked to remind you that elections are now open. **Please vote ASAP. NOTE: This is a contested election with 4 candidates going after 3 seats-so your vote is important and matters.** If you have any questions or did not receive an electronic ballot, please contact [vlee@iafc.org](mailto:vlee@iafc.org).

**SAVING OUR OWN...An Inside Job.**

**FIREFIGHTER SAFETY, SURVIVAL AND HEALTH WEEK** (Formerly known as STAND DOWN Week) is JUNE 16-22, 2013...THIS YEARS THEME AND ALL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE HERE:

<http://safetyandhealthweek.org/>

**RELATED Article:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

[http://www.iafc.org/onScene/article.cfm?ItemNumber=6728&utm\\_source=Informz&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=IAFC+Homepage](http://www.iafc.org/onScene/article.cfm?ItemNumber=6728&utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=IAFC+Homepage)

**NEW MARYLAND TRAIN CRASH VIDEO AND FIRE RADIO TRAFFIC:**

Below are links to some raw video showing the actual train vs truck crash that occurred in Baltimore County, MD earlier this week. Another example related to the hazards of at-grade railroad crossings. A retired career FF (who is still a volunteer FF) was driving the truck and was seriously injured-but recuperating.

**NEW VIDEO # 1-Train vs Truck Crash:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKyuaGbAYFY>

**NEW VIDEO # 2-The Explosion:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2hkO2XD7dQ&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2hkO2XD7dQ&feature=player_embedded)

**FIRE RADIO DISPATCH AND TRAFFIC:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XC4OVI\\_WUE&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XC4OVI_WUE&feature=player_embedded)

**RELATED ARTICLE:** <http://tinyurl.com/l4t89fa>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 5-30-13 / 1726 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Two Detroit firefighters were hurt last night when debris from a building fire fell on them-raw video shows it below. The firefighters were operating at the 2 alarm fire at East Ferry Avenue when parts of a wall fell from the top of the building. A firefighter on a ladder and a firefighter that was standing under the ladder were hit. They were taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital for injuries to their neck and back. One of them has a severe concussion and a broken ankle. It took more than 35 firefighters to put out the fire -- and sources say the firefighters were also battling broken trucks and issues getting water. This video also shows some of the advantages of DRONES being used on the fireground for observation, size up etc. **The future is now, George Jetson.**

**HERE is DRONE** aerial video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUmfiWV76zY>

**HERE is live** video of the collapse: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/2-firefighters-hurt-battling-blaze-on-detroits-east-side/-/1719418/20351514/-/r5hnle/-/index.html>

**AND** speaking of Detroit, thieves (customers) are stealing equipment off FDF apparatus-such as the jaws of life....nice.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/lifesaving-equipment-stolen-from-firefighters-in-detroit/-/1719418/20348722/-/dcl8iz/-/index.html>

**CITY HALL DWELLER-**

The Headlines Say The Firefighters Went After Him? Hopefully you have already seen this video-but if not-take note of this elected officials care-less comments which, of course, later "he really didn't mean it that way"....His initial clueless poking comment is related to firefighter training facilities-and his cynically questioning the need for one closer to the Martin County FF's-vs them traveling 45 minutes away, out of their area.ENJOY:

[http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region\\_martin\\_county/firefighters-go-after-county-commissioner-on-facebook](http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_martin_county/firefighters-go-after-county-commissioner-on-facebook)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-30-13 / 0849 Hours

**AND:**

June 15, 2013

[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

All,

The media in Houston is reporting that the memorial service will be held on Wednesday, at Reliant Stadium - and that appears to be accurate - of note especially for those working on travel plans. Specific details and instructions will follow IAFF Local 341: <http://www.local341.org> and The HFD: <http://www.houstongovnewsroom.org>

Of the HFD Firefighters still hospitalized from the fire and "catastrophic" collapse, the most critical is Captain William Dowling from Engine 68. He is listed in critical condition in the ICU burns unit. Reports are that both of his legs have now been amputated. Additionally, the injured Firefighters who reportedly remain in the hospital are: -Engineer Operator Anthony Livesay - Rescue 42 -Firefighter EMT Robert Yarbrough - Rescue 42 -Firefighter EMT Foster Santos - Rescue 11 -Engineer Operator/Paramedic Marcus Hernandez - Medic 3 As you are already aware, Captain EMT Matthew Renaud, 35, Engineer Operator EMT Robert Bebee, 41, Firefighter EMT Robert Garner, 29, and Probationary Firefighter Anne Sullivan, 24, all gave their lives in the Line of Duty on Friday.

**HFD DETAILS & FF LODD PHOTOS:**

<http://www.houstongovnewsroom.org/go/doc/2155/1792251/Houston-Fire-Department-Line-of-Duty-Deaths-All-4-Member-Photos->

More to follow.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-2-13 / 0700 hours

**AND:**

All,

2 years ago today, Anthony "Tony" Valerio, a 53-year-old San Francisco Firefighter/Paramedic and Valerio's boss, 48-year-old SFFD Lieutenant Vince Perez, operated at a fire that resulted in their Line of Duty deaths. Both men from Engine Company 26 were veteran seasoned and well respected SFFD Firefighters. They died in that multi-level residential structure fire (4 story rear, on a deep slope) while searching for the seat of the fire.

**Note:** The residential structure where the fatalities occurred was built on a significantly sloped hillside common throughout the city. The fire floor was one floor below street level-

**BE SURE to check out these reports for related details and photos...so we can all learn from their sacrifice. RIP.**

**HERE IS THE SFFD REPORT:**

<http://tinyurl.com/lvdmzj4>

**HERE IS THE NIOSH REPORT:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201113.html>

**HERE IS ADDITIONAL INFO FROM THE SFFD:**

<http://sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=1236>

**HOUSTON UPDATE:**

Houston Fire Captain Bill Dowling, injured at the fire that killed 4 other HFD members in the Line of Duty, remains in critical condition today, Sunday. A total of 3 Firefighters remain hospitalized following Friday afternoon's fire and collapse. The two other HFD Firefighters who remained in the hospital were in good and stable condition.

**HFD LODD's MEMORIAL & FUNERAL INFO:**

Despite media reports to the contrary, Memorial Service arrangements are still being finalized. It has

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 5 (Location TBA). Funeral Services are being tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 6, and Friday, June 7 (Details TBA). We'll post as it becomes available from <http://www.local341.org/>

#### **FINAL WORD:**

Congrats to our old friend Lenny Carmichael Jr., a 22-year veteran of the Trenton (NJ) FD who, yesterday, was sworn in as Deputy Fire Chief. Chief Carmichael, who served as acting Fire Director (Commissioner) in 2010, took the oath yesterday afternoon in city council chambers in front of his family, colleagues and friends. Good stuff.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-2-13 / 1530 Hours

#### **AND:**

All,

On February 24, 2012, at 2111 hours, Prince George's County (Maryland) Fire/EMS Department personnel responded to a single family dwelling fire at 6404 57th Avenue in Riverdale Heights, Maryland.

Upon arrival, Fire/EMS Department personnel observed fire extending out of a basement window, pressurized smoke on the first floor, and high winds impacting the rear of the structure. Shortly after arriving, firefighters forced the front door of the structure, which immediately changed the fire's flow path and dynamics by adding a ventilation opening above the fire. This situation was intensified by weather conditions (high winds impacting the rear of the structure). Firefighters entered the structure through the front door, placing themselves above the basement fire and in its outflow path. This exposed them to high velocity and high temperature gases.

Two (2) firefighters were trapped on the first floor without the protection of a hose line, when the front door shut behind them and changed the fire's flow path. The hot smoke and gases that were coming up the interior stairwell and escaping out the front door were now contained to the first floor. This dropped the smoke layer to the floor and temporarily increased the temperatures from floor to ceiling in the front room where the firefighters were trapped. One (1) firefighter was able to self-rescue through a front window and the other firefighter was removed through the front door by the first firefighter and other firefighters. The fire in the basement was burning unchecked, until an engine company entered the basement from the rear of the structure and began putting water on the fire.

Ultimately seven (7) firefighters were injured; the two (2) firefighters that were trapped on the first floor sustained the most significant injuries. There have been several documented incidents in the County, as well as nationally, with similar concerning tactics and operations, that have injured or killed firefighters, such as DCFD Cherry Road, SFFD Diamond Heights and BCoFD Dowling Circle.

These losses make the recommendations of this report vitally important to all Firefighters, Fire Officers and Chiefs. The Safety Investigation Team (Team) visited the scene, reviewed statements, conducted interviews, and gathered data during the course of the year long investigation. The Team identified many factors that contributed to the outcome and injuries to the firefighters.

#### **While the report details all of these factors, the Team identified the following as most critical:**

- An effective size-up was not completed, including no 360-degree survey walk around the building, as well as evaluating environmental conditions.
- No incident action plan was communicated, and firefighters were dangerously positioned above and in the outflow path of the fire.
- A firefighter emergency occurred, but no MAYDAY was effectively communicated.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Multiple existing policies and procedures were not followed.
- Training deficiencies were identified at all levels.
- Command, control, and accountability deficiencies were identified at all levels.

While the Team analyzed the entire incident, the focus of this investigation was to determine what happened, what factors led to the injuries and, most importantly, what recommendations should be made so future incidents do not have similar or worse outcomes. During the course of the investigation, the Team prepared many recommendations intended to assist the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department in improving the operational safety of personnel, fireground operations, command and control of fire incidents, as well as training. These recommendations, which are listed throughout the report, are separated into categories termed: immediate (red - Life safety & firefighter survival), short term (yellow - Relatively easy to implement), and long term (green - May require significant planning including fiscal impacts). A complete list of all recommendations is provided in Appendix 1. **DOWNLOAD THE REPORT**

**HERE:** <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/188570>

### **Take Care-TAKE TIME TO READ THE REPORT - ESPECIALLY THE RED, YELLOW AND GREEN RECOMMENDATIONS.**

BillyG

The Secret List 6-3-13 / 2100 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

Last night there was a crash involving a responding fire apparatus and a tractor trailer that sent 6 Georgia Firefighters to the hospital, one of whom was airlifted. The crash happened just after 1900 Tuesday at the intersection of Old Dixie and Central Avenue in Clayton County near Atlanta. The tractor-trailer was attempting to make a left turn when the apparatus, responding with lights and sirens, hit the tractor trailer from the rear. 6 Firefighters were transported to Atlanta Medical Center for treatment. One of the six was airlifted with multiple fractures.

### **REPORT ON THE FATAL FIRE OPERATIONS THAT RESULTED IN A CRITICALLY BURNED LANCASTER, PA FIRE LIEUTENANT (REPORT & AUDIO)**

This report was developed (and issued yesterday) after the City of Lancaster (PA) contracted with Jim Smith and Bill Shouldis, two retired, very well respected Deputy Fire Chiefs from Philly - to conduct an independent safety investigation of the February fatal dwelling fire operations.

The Lieutenant was injured after he and his FF entered the burning row home at 226 E. Madison St. attempting to save 2 civilians who were trapped inside. Lieutenant Andre Kelley, leading search and rescue efforts, became trapped in heavy fire conditions. Two other Firefighters, FF Tom Bender, who was forced out of a 2nd floor window, but then lead companies to his officer, sustained first- and second-degree burns, and FF Craig Robertson broke a vertebra. Lieutenant Kelley returned home in mid May following that February 18 fire that killed a child and woman. He was flown to Crozer-Chester Medical Center for treatment of critical burns-to 40% of his body.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

(Editorial Comment) The Lancaster City FD has experienced significant cuts and related problems in recent times...and perhaps if those issues didn't exist, or were minimized, these firefighters would have had minimally adequate staffing and resources to accomplish many of the critical tasks identified as problems/issues in the report. This is another example of a city making cuts without genuinely assessing the actual community fire response needs - and the impacts those cuts will have when a



fire, such as this, is reported. A fire like this is not rare in the City of Lancaster, this is a typical fire for them. Simply put, no fire department can respond to a fire, such as this, with less than the predictable and calculable needed staffing and leadership- and expect a positive outcome for the residents-or the members.\* \*

**Amongst the issues identified in the report are:**

- Apparatus placement.
- Lack of a complete size-up including a "360"
- Lack of risk assessment.
- Lack of an Incident Action Plan.
- Failure to quickly establish water from both the hydrant as well as the hand line.
- Operating on the floor above a fire without a charged hose-line.
- Not controlling the first floor fire before attempting to perform rescues on the second floor.
- Delay in stretching a backup 1 3/4-inch hose-line.
- Ventilation was not coordinated with fire attack.
- Training Issues.

**HERE IS THE REPORT:**<http://tinyurl.com/muyzou3>

Including the Fire Chiefs response to the report)

**HERE IS THE EDITED RADIO TRAFFIC:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZPf7bFhBug> (From [www.alertpage.net](http://www.alertpage.net))

**\*\*So what's the solution?** Among many, when a department is cut so that all of *their* typical row dwelling fire tasks cannot normally be performed within the appropriate time, the Fire Chief, Mayor and the rest of the city hall dwellers need to stand up, take ownership and make it very clear to the community, the taxpayers, to NOT expect their fire department be able to perform the basic tasks. Pre-determining what realistically can be done and cannot be done when the available staffing, leadership and resources are matched against the predictable incidents. It's a sad reality...with the other option being to fix the problem by taxpayer supported funding and providing what is needed for the community and members of the department.

**HOUSTON FIRE CAPTAIN UPDATE:**

Houston Fire Captain William Dowling remains in a medically induced coma since the fire and is listed in critical - but stable - condition at Memorial Hermann Hospital. As a result of his injuries, both of his legs had to be partially amputated.

The family has set up a CaringBridge site at [www.caringbridge.org/visit/williamdowling](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/williamdowling) . The site password is ross68. A great way to offer thoughts and prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-5-13 / 0521 Hours

**AND:**

**DOUBLE GEORGIA EMS LODD'S-EMS CRASH WHILE EMERGENCY TRANSPORTING A PATIENT**

Two Coffee County EMS Paramedics were killed in the Line of Duty, along with their patient early this morning when their ambulance crashed into a jackknifing tractor-trailer on Ga. 32 in Ocilla, Irwin County. Irwin County is between Macon and Valdosta, about 190 miles south of Atlanta. The driver of the ambulance was Paramedic Teresa Ann Davis, 44, and her partner Randall Whiddon, 56. Both were employees of the Coffee County, Georgia EMS Department. **WHAT HAPPENED:** The tractor-trailer and a passenger car were headed westbound on the two-lane road when the eastbound



ambulance from Coffee County approached with lights and siren activated. The passenger car began pulling off the roadway to yield to the approaching ambulance...the tractor-trailer jackknifed across the center line and into the path of the ambulance. Reports are that a hearse responded directly to the scene for the removal of all 3. Our condolences to all effected. RIP.

**AWARD RECOGNITION:**

Nominations are still open for the annual IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Awards. These awards recognize organizations and individuals of organizations (of any size or composition) that have made a significant contribution to the overall environment of health and safety in their organizations and/or the fire service. **DETAILS HERE:** <http://www.iafcsafety.org/awards.php>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-6-2103 / 1200 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

There are 2 very important fire service related events/benefits in the NY Metro area-that we wanted to pass on to anyone who is anywhere near a day drive to NYC.

**1-THE JOEY DIBERNARDO\* MEMORIAL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING SEMINAR:**

This program offers you and your Firefighters tactical training from an outstanding line up of Firefighters and officers-all in one session. There will never be a chance to have all of these instructors together for this kind of training. Ever. Take a moment and read about it below and consider a bus ride, car pool or whatever to NY for this phenomenal opportunity. (June 29 & 30, 2013)

**CHECK OUT DETAILS HERE:** [http://joeydfoundation.org/Training\\_Seminars.html](http://joeydfoundation.org/Training_Seminars.html)

**FACEBOOK LINK HERE:** [www.facebook.com/JoeyDFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/JoeyDFoundation)

*\*In January of 2005, then FDNY R-3 FF Joey DiBernardo responded to a tenement fire in the Bronx. This day would come to be known as "Black Sunday" in FDNY history as three firefighters died that day in the Line of Duty. Ladder Co. 27 and Rescue 3 members became trapped on the top floor of this Bronx tenement. Surrounded by fire with no way out and running out of air, they were forced to jump out the rear windows to the yard five stories below. Tragically, two members of Ladder 27 died on impact and two others were critically injured. Joey continued to live in great pain every day of his life from all his injuries and passed away November 22, 2011 as a result of the injuries suffered on Black Sunday...giving his life in the Line of Duty for the citizens of New York City.*

**2-THE 9/11 TRIBUTE CENTER COMEDY NIGHT FUNDRAISER, WITH LAUGHTER SAVES**

**LIVES:** This event, hosted by Joe Piscopo, featuring John Larocchia, will be a very cool evening of laughs, cocktails, raffles and live auction. Proceeds go to the 9/11 Tribute Center of the September 11th Families Association. This event is NEXT WEEK: WED, JUNE 12, 2013 @7:30 PM IN NYC.

**You've NEVER BEEN TO THE WTC TRIBUTE CENTER?** Make it a day in NYC, visit the WTC Tribute Center and then have a great evening with your friends, lovers, ex-lovers or even people you mildly like...all for a great and important cause. Never forget? Here is another opportunity to support the September 11th Families programs...and it's not too late to get some tickets. **CHECK OUT DETAILS HERE:** <http://911families.org/event/laughter-saves-lives-comedy-night-to-benefit-the-tribute-911-visitor-center/>

**I-95 CLOSE CALL IN FLORIDA (VIDEO)**

Boca Raton Fire Rescue Engine 2 was on scene of a vehicle accident with injuries on I-95 last week at around 0330. It initially appeared to be 2 vehicles involved, but turned out to be only one. One Boca Raton PD unit was on scene prior to the FD arrival. The crash vehicle was against the wall, with

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

moderate front end damage and facing the wrong direction. There was a single patient, lying on the pavement. The PD unit was in position to help warn/block/guard the scene. Soon after, a second Boca PD unit arrived. The second unit followed suit with the first and blocked and guarded the scene. A highway safety patrol "Road Ranger" unit arrived and parked behind both PD units, Engine 2 and Medic 2, and the accident itself-with warning lights as well. BFRF Medic 2 arrived and patient care was transferred from Engine 2 to Medic 2. The patient walked to the medic unit for evaluation. While conducting a secondary survey of the scene and speaking with PD units, a single vehicle slammed into the rear of the Road Ranger truck and then the vehicle struck the rear and sides of both PD cars - as it went flying through. The vehicle made it through the 2 police cars and "limped" its way to the other side of I-95. Luckily no person was hit or even injured. Thanks to TomW for the heads up on this CLOSE CALL. **HERE IS VIDEO:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulbmj8nd5k0>  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-7-13 / 1700 Hours

**AND:**

**EMS HELICOPTER CRASH IN KY**

We regret to advise you that a medical helicopter crashed in eastern Kentucky, last night, killing all 3 crew members aboard. The Air Evac Lifeteam unit and crew were on their way back to base around 2316 hours last night, when the crash happened. The company identified the crewmembers as pilot Eddie Sizemore, flight paramedic Herman "Lee" Dobbs and flight nurse Jesse Jones. They were on their back to base after transporting a patient to a hospital in London, Ky. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-Be Careful.

The Secret List 6-8-12 / 1040 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

This morning while on scene of a motor vehicle crash, a North Charleston Firefighter/Engineer, a Charleston County Paramedic and four bystanders were struck by another vehicle that was driven through the scene. In all, five civilians, the Paramedic and the Firefighter were transported to area hospitals. This crash happened around 0145 Hours and the second crash happened 15 minutes later. Numerous emergency vehicles were blocking and diverting but the drunk driver slammed right through. While the Paramedic was treated and released overnight, **the NCFD Firefighter remains at MUSC with multiple fractures and related serious injuries.** He has been through 1 surgery already, is medically sedated and additional surgeries will be required.. One additional Firefighter was assessed and released from MUSC. The driver of the second vehicle was arrested by North Charleston Police and charged with DUI. They identified the driver as Felix Garcia Romera who was charged with three counts of felony driving under the influence. Keep'm in your prayers, we'll post additional updates.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-8-13 / 1251 Hours

**AND:**

**CALIFORNIA FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Wildland Operations**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty at the Saddle Back Fire in the South Warner Wilderness, Modoc National Forest, northeastern CA. Yesterday, FF Luke Sheehy 28,

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of the US Forest Service, serving as a Redding Smokejumper, was killed. Just before 1700 hours, 3 Redding Smokejumpers jumped a small initial attack lightning fire --- the Saddle Back Fire --- in the rugged South Warner Wilderness area, about a mile and a half southeast of the Soup Springs Campground. One of the three, FF Luke Sheehy was hit in the head by a tree limb that fell more than 60 feet before striking him. Efforts to resuscitate Luke were not successful. He was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Alturas where he was pronounced dead. Our condolences to all affected. RIP

#### **UPDATE ON HOUSTON FIRE CAPTAIN DOWLING**

Here is an update from KTRK as Captain Dowling's family speaks out. As you know, he was critically injured during that late May five-alarm fire at a motel in southwest Houston. Captain William Dowling was severely burned in the motel fire that killed 4 Houston Firefighters in the Line of Duty. He also had his legs amputated and is the only firefighter injured in the fire who is still in the hospital. The 40-year-old just had surgery to insert a catheter so that he can have dialysis. He is not yet able to speak, but his parents say each tiny improvement is a blessing. Dowling is married and has three children. "He loves his children, just like we love him. He's a great dad," his father, Rickie Dowling, said. Since the fire at the southwest motel that killed four Houston firefighters, the 40-year-old captain has been heavily sedated. His parents, proudly wearing Houston Fire Department T-shirts and spend most of their time at the hospital, praying for his recovery. "God through all of this is upholding him. That's what I prayed with him just a few minutes ago," Dowling said. Doctors are trying to restore Dowling's kidney function. The next step will be skin grafts, but his family says God has already answered many prayers. "He has responded with sticking his tongue out and his son asked him -- his oldest son Forrest -- 'Daddy can you still wiggle your ears?' And he wiggled his ears so we know that he's there," Rickie Dowling said. "My son has always been a fighter. He's competitive, he likes a challenge," his other, Mary Frances Dowling, said.

Dowling has taken on many challenges, most of them in service to others. The former Marine worked two fire department jobs to support his own family and had opened his home to two foster children. "He still had love for these other children and to realize that they need something. He was willing to give himself and of his family to do that for someone else and that's how we're supposed to do," Mary Dowling said. His family believes Capt. Dowling will recover, and continue to bless those around him. "It wasn't something that we'd have chosen but God has a reason," Mary Dowling said. "God's going to use him in a mighty way to minister to other people."

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-11-13 / 2100 hours

#### **AND:**

#### **FIRE SGT STRUCK AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-DUI-BRAZIL**

A 46-year-old Fire Sergeant was hit by a car when operating in a car accident on Saturday, in the Capital City of Brasília. Fire Sgt Antonio Tadeu Botelho dos Santos was taken to the hospital but died of his injuries and died yesterday. He was on the Fire Department for 18 years. Police are investigating the case and two drivers suspected of the hit were charged of DUI of alcohol. Our condolences to all affected. **HERE is more;** <http://noticias.r7.com/distrito-federal/bombeiros-usam-o-facebook-para-homenagear-colega-morto-durante-resgate-no-df-09062013><http://g1.globo.com/distrito-federal/noticia/2013/06/corpo-de-bombeiro-do-df-morto-em-resgate-e-levado-em-carro-aberto.html>

#### **CHARITY WARNING**

There is a charity alert targeting people trying to help the families of the four fallen Houston Firefighters. It all involves t-shirts being sold by a woman out of Indiana who's using the Internet site

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[www.teespring.com](http://www.teespring.com) to market the t-shirts. The program on tee-spring is called "Hugs For Houston." "Quick Clicks Donations" being accepted for fallen Firefighter's families. The group is selling the t-shirts for \$10. But local media in Houston spoke with [tee-spring.com](http://tee-spring.com). It told them that \$2.18 of the \$10.00 will actually go to benefit the firefighters. According to a spokeswoman for the Hugs For Houston, the proceeds will go toward the 100-Club of Houston which is a legitimate charity. **However, as well intentioned as it "may" be, the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association has received complaints and questions all last weekend about "Hugs For Houston."** In fact, the 100 Club says it still has not heard directly from [tee-spring.com](http://tee-spring.com). And until the media started digging, the 100 Club didn't even know about Hugs-for-Houston's charitable efforts. The Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association says if you want to make sure you're donations are going to the firefighters and their families that need help, than donate directly to the 100-Club of Houston. It's also advising you to donate to the Houston Texas Fire Fighters Federal Credit Union to benefit the family of Captain William Dowling who was critically injured in the fire. 100% of the money you donate to the 100 Club's Survivor's Fund goes to help victims' families.

**FOR THOSE wanting HFD memorial t-shirts, the HFD Pipes and Drums have them for sale HERE:** <http://www.hfdpipes.com>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-10-13 / 2147 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

A patient was killed and three crew members were injured last night when a medical helicopter crashed in Latimer County, shortly after taking off from Choctaw Nation Health Center in Talihina in LeFlore County, Oklahoma. The Eagle Med helicopter was carrying the patient, a pilot, a nurse and a paramedic when it crashed on takeoff about 150 miles southeast of Oklahoma City. Of the three people who were injured, two are being treated at the hospital. One was airlifted to a different hospital in critical condition. There were four people on-board the helicopter at the time of the crash. Air medical transportation company EagleMed owned the helicopter, which was on the way to Tulsa.

#### **NORTH CHARLESTON FF UPDATE----DUI DRIVER IS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN (Police Dash Cam Records Crash)**

North Charleston FD Engineer Darin Kingery, a 12-year member, suffered multiple fractures following the early Saturday morning crash. FE Kingery remains in the Intensive Care Unit at the Medical University of South Carolina. A second firefighter, Joshua Sader, who's been with the department for six months, was treated and released the night of the crash. SUI driver Garcia-Romero is facing \$300,000 in citations, prison and deportation after crashing into the scene and is charged with three felony counts of driving under the influence after sending 6 people to the hospital. He remains behind bars at the Charleston County Detention Center.. North Charleston FD and Charleston County EMS responded to the collision at 1:44 a.m. where a disabled car was in the street following a collision with another car. The officer reported that when he approached the driver, later identified as Garcia-Romero, he observed the man not wearing a seatbelt, had an odor of alcohol coming from him and had bloodshot eyes. Police say when Garcia-Romero was escorted to a patrol car, he was "very unstable on his feet." HERE is video from the PD Dash Cam:

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/22538139/vehicle-drives-through-accident-scene-injuring-6-driver-charged-with-dui>

#### **COMBUSTIBLE MOTHERS DAY**

Nearly half of Vermont's Bennington Rural FD's 40 volunteer FF's were placed on administrative leave

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Monday, all because of a mud-bogging event. A mothers day mud-bogging event involving the Firefighters setting a fire, using gasoline. Mudder's Day is held on Mother's Day each year in Bennington and - very naturally - draws a massive crowd from far and wide. And there's the grand finale, and this year's was the biggest ever!! An old trailer was doused in gasoline, ignited and then a Cadillac was driven through the burning camper. WTF!? **Nothing demonstrates appreciation and heartfelt love toward MOTHER ...more than an old burning trailer soaked in gas with a Caddy driven through it.** That fire excited the crowd, but also got the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency, who launched an investigation. Mudder's Day organizers claim they had proper permits for the event, but the EPA says not for a fire that large. NTS strikes again. And, it's those Firefighters who are now in hot water because they doused the trailer in gasoline and lit the fire. Each of the 16 suspended members of the Bennington RFD are now looking at up to \$100,000 in fines and up to five years in jail. And now, with so many Firefighters suspended, local residents are concerned about fire staffing. EPA officials say as they continue the investigation into the fire and lack of permits, they do not believe the firefighters would be looking at maximum penalties.

**HERE IS MORE WITH VIDEO:** <http://www.wcax.com/story/22564837/16-volunteer-firefighters-suspended-in-bennington> Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-12-13 / 0900 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

While not an LODD, this is certainly "secret list" worthy as 8 Firefighters have now been charged with failing to properly inspect that nightclub in the southern city of Santa Maria (Brazil) where that January 27 fire resulted in 242 civilian deaths. Brazil's national fire rescue service is part of the military and these charges were filed by military prosecutors. The accusations against the Firefighters come in addition to those presented by civilian authorities against the two owners of the disco and two members of the band that was performing on the night of the fire. The fire broke out in the early hours of January 27 while between 800-900 people were inside the nightclub, whose capacity is just 600, according to investigators. Flammable soundproofing foam on the ceiling caught fire after one of the members of Gurizada Fandangueira lit a flare. Sounds slightly familiar.

According to the new charges, a fire department captain, two fire sergeants and three firefighter privates "committed errors in the inspections made at the nightclub" and omitted information about the few emergency exits at the venue, among other things. In addition, another sergeant with the fire department was charged as he was also working at a fire prevention firm that provided services to the disco - and did not report the risks that were present there. The charges also accuse Lt. Col. Moises da Silva Fuchs, who up until March was the commander of the Firefighters in Santa Maria, for lapses in supervising his subordinates. Serious stuff.

Take Care-Be Careful. Inspect Seriously.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-12-13 / 2200 hours

**AND:**

**NORTH CAROLINA FF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: ELECTROCUTION**

We regret to advise you that Firefighter Tony Barker, with 1 year and 5 months of service with the Mountain View FD in Wilkes County, was electrocuted at the scene of a small fire shortly after 1500 yesterday. His death appears to be caused by winds blowing part of a large maple tree across power lines behind a commercial building. A witness said that FF Barker was bending over as if to look more closely where the fire was coming from beneath a small metal storage building behind the building -

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[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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when he collapsed - other firefighters were able to pull FF Barker away from the building. Efforts by Mountain View FD first responders and Wilkes County EMS to revive Barker with CPR were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead at Wilkes Regional Medical Center. Witnesses indicated that FF Barker was less than 3' away from the storage building but they never saw him touch the structure.

It appears that FF Barker was electrocuted without actually touching the building. The electricity from the power lines on the storage building moved through the building and unpaved ground to Barker. They said the ground was saturated with rainwater that accompanied heavy winds, which helped conduct the electricity. Firefighters on scene reported to the Wilkes Communications Center around 1515 hours that a Firefighter (Barker) was down. He was among the first firefighters on the scene but no other firefighters were immediately nearby when he was electrocuted. A civilian saw him go down and called for help. FF Barker leaves behind a young wife and a 3-year-old son. We'll post additional as it becomes available. Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-14-13/0257 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.

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### **Budget Related Items:**

Layoffs of Milpitas (CA) Fire Department personnel occurred yesterday and a truck was taken out of service to offset an overtime budget deficit. However, previously stated plans to terminate four firefighters were revised. "There will be three firefighters laid off," Milpitas Fire Chief Brian Sturdivant confirmed Monday. The fire department funded one firefighter vacancy more than expected, based on seniority. Regardless of one less layoff, the fire union's president this week said he opposes any staffing reductions actions he feels could potentially harm the safety of firefighters as well as citizens. "I'm disagreeing with any layoffs," Steve King, president of the Milpitas International Association of Firefighters Local 1699, said. With the loss of personnel, the city's four-station fire department will "brown out" a fire truck at the firehouse that sees the fewest calls for service in the city per year Station No. 4 at 775 Barber Lane. According to departmental records, Station No. 4 saw a total of 32 calls for service last December versus more than 110 calls for service for the same month at each of the city's three other fire stations. "Truck 4 will be taken out of service, replaced at Station No. 4 by Truck 1, also effective on (Thursday)," Sturdivant said. He added with two months remaining in the 2012-13 fiscal year, which ends June 30, the cost savings will be \$80,000 to \$100,000:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_23098306/milpitas-firefighters-laid-off](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23098306/milpitas-firefighters-laid-off)

The Lear Avenue fire station is slated for closure effective Saturday, June 1, Twentynine Palms (CA) Fire Chief Jim Thompson announced at the Twentynine Palms Water District/Fire Department's regular meeting on Wednesday, April 24. "If we remember the tax measure for 2005 that the voters approved, we said it would enable the staffing of two stations for an estimated eight years," Thompson told the district directors. "We went active with both stations staffed 24/7 on May 8, 2005. We have truly met that eight year commitment and we definitely did not promise anything beyond that." The decision to close Station 422 in June is

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[www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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due to financial constraints as well as the recent loss of two career engineers and the administrative assistant, Thompson explained. Consolidating operations at the downtown Station 421 on Adobe Road will allow a daily staffing of five personnel per day consisting of a minimum of two full-time career officers and two to three reserve firefighters. Last April, the voters failed to enact tax measure that would have kept both the downtown Station 421 and the Desert Heights Station 422 open full time:

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/the\\_desert\\_trail/news/article\\_a0f9d224-add2-11e2-9882-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_a0f9d224-add2-11e2-9882-001a4bcf887a.html)

Portland (OR) Mayor Charlie Hales' proposed budget cuts 42 positions from Portland Fire and Rescue, and a big way the mayor wants to accomplish that is to create some smaller crews for non-acute medical calls. But some firefighters fear they would lose some of the tools they need to do their jobs. The city currently has two Rapid Response Vehicles, or RRV's, that use a two-person crew, instead of the four-person crews found on bigger engines and trucks. Hales wants the RRV's to replace engines at stations with both an engine and truck company. "It is time to make some changes in the way we respond, and not always send a truck with four-person crew to every medical call," said Hales:

<http://www.kgw.com/news/Portland-mayor-firefighters-at-odds-over-budget-206944241.html>

The Contra Costa (CA) Fire District already closed four fire stations in January because of budget cuts, but officials said Tuesday yet another station may be shuttered. All signs are pointing to Station 87 on West Leland in Pittsburg as the next fire house likely to close. The cuts come right fire season is starting, a fact that makes some neighbors extra nervous. "We are very concerned. That is where we would get our service," said Pittsburg resident Judy Baker. The Contra Costa Fire District is huge, covering nine cities with 600,000 people over an area of more than 300 square miles. "It's a very big district; very urbanized, very busy. A high community threat type of district," said Contra Costa Fire Chief Daryl Louder. But since the recession, the district has gone from 306 firefighters to just 219. With its budget slashed from more than \$105 million to \$94 million, the district doesn't have enough funds to support more staffing: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/local-govt-politics/contra-costa-county-facing-additional-fire-station/nXWMY/>

The city of Cincinnati (OH) has reached the point of no return for laying off some municipal workers, its attorneys said Monday morning. Because the legal battle over a proposed lease of Cincinnati's parking system to the Port Authority hasn't been resolved yet, City Solicitor John Curp said layoffs would be needed to temporarily balance the 2014 budget. If the city prevails in the legal battle, some or all of the workers laid off might be called back to work, Curp added. But callbacks couldn't occur until late July or late August, at the earliest. The positions outlined in that memo include 196 in the police department. The breakdown includes: 149 sworn officers and seven civilians. The remaining 40 positions were from a recruit class, 33 of whom would have gone to Cincinnati and the other seven to other departments or police agencies, said FOP President Kathy Harrell. The other positions in the memo also include: 120 in the fire department; 72 in the recreation department, including 25 lifeguards and eight pool managers; 21 in the health department; and six in buildings and inspections, including five inspectors. Many of the recreation and pool jobs, because they are seasonal, remain vacant: [http://www.wcpo.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/City-attorney-Too-late-to-avoid-police-and-fire-layoffs-in-budget-battle](http://www.wcpo.com/dpp/news/local_news/City-attorney-Too-late-to-avoid-police-and-fire-layoffs-in-budget-battle)

Watsonville's (CA) city manager is proposing to lay off police officers and firefighters if unions won't agree to concessions. But even if workers and management can come to an agreement, public safety and social services would be reduced \$700,000 next year to help bridge a \$3.1

million budget gap under a plan that will come before the City Council on Tuesday. "Our revenue increases are pretty anemic and costs are going up, mostly in pension and health (benefits)," said City Manager Carlos Palacios. "We're at the point where our revenues in the city won't maintain our current level of services."

[http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/watsonville/ci\\_23270960/watsonville-police-firefighter-layoffs-proposed-jobs-line-city?IADID=Search-www.santacruzsentinel.com-www.santacruzsentinel.com](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/watsonville/ci_23270960/watsonville-police-firefighter-layoffs-proposed-jobs-line-city?IADID=Search-www.santacruzsentinel.com-www.santacruzsentinel.com)

The head of the Portland (OR) fire union is disputing Mayor Charlie Hales' claim that the city's new budget includes no firefighter layoffs. Portland Firefighters' Association President Alan Ferschweiler says the new budget actually requires 13 fire bureau layoffs—it just delays the pink slips by three months. Hales' budget takes effect June 30, and provides three months of "bridge funding"—short-term payroll money for senior personnel who were scheduled to retire soon. But that fund runs out on Oct. 1: <http://www.wweek.com/portland/blog-30256-fire-union-prez-says-hales-budget-will-lay-off-13.html>

A fire station closure and layoffs are among some of the cuts proposed by the Chico (CA) fire and police department chiefs in order to meet the \$3.4 million combined cut they are facing. City department heads have been asked to provide a 10 percent reduction plan in order to close a \$4.8 million gap in the upcoming fiscal year, which starts July 1. The Chico Fire Department will see its budget shrink by \$1.3 million and the Chico Police Department will cut \$2.1 million. Having a 10 percent cut is "a fire station for us," Chico Fire Chief Jim Beery said. Last year, the department was asked to cut \$95,000 from its budget and as a result, it closed Fire Station 5, which is near the entrance of upper Bidwell Park, for six weeks. However, a seven-number figure is likely going to result in a station closing for most of the year, Beery said: [http://www.oroillemr.com/news/ci\\_23351589/chief-concerns-chico-police-fire-heads-lay-out](http://www.oroillemr.com/news/ci_23351589/chief-concerns-chico-police-fire-heads-lay-out)

Two and a half years after a celebrated three-way merger of fire agencies, the Modesto (CA) Regional Fire Authority — without a chief at the moment — is talking about layoffs and leaving some stations dark to save money. Firefighters, already responding to emergencies slower than they would like, would take even longer, say officials staring at a \$1.8 million budget gap. They blame the city of Modesto's financial mess for most of the problem. Cost-saving options include smaller crews and pulling out of the fire station at the Modesto Airport. Because airlines can't operate without federally mandated firefighters standing by, the airport would consider contracting with a private firm or other nearby fire agencies to keep from losing six daily flights to San Francisco:

<http://www.modbee.com/2013/06/08/2754136/18-million-shortfall-projected.html>

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**Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:**

A Springfield Township (OH) fire lieutenant has been fired for -- among other things -- showing a picture of his penis to a female firefighter. Township trustees voted unanimously Tuesday to fire Jason Bowman of Swanton for conduct unbecoming of an officer, dereliction of duty, and sexual harassment, Fire Chief Barry Cousino said. The termination stemmed from a complaint filed by a Springfield Township firefighter who said Mr. Bowman had showed her a picture of his penis while on duty and later sent her a sexually explicit text message, Chief Cousino said. Mr. Bowman was suspended March 28; Chief Cousino was unsure when the initial report was made. While investigating the allegations, the department scanned Mr. Bowman's work computer at Station 53 on Garden Road and found pornographic videos, Chief Cousino said:

[http://www.firehouse.com/news/10924442/ohio-fire-lieutenant-fired-for-lewd-behavior?utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS130413003](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10924442/ohio-fire-lieutenant-fired-for-lewd-behavior?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130413003)

**A Camden County (NJ) jury awarded \$596,000 to two Hispanic firefighters who said they were passed over for promotions because of discrimination and their persistent and public complaints about discrimination against minorities within the Camden Fire Department. Andres Nieves, 48, of Medford Lakes, and Samuel Munoz, 34, of Camden, said they were unfairly turned aside for promotion to captain in 2009. On Thursday the jury found the men also faced a hostile work environment and retaliation:**

[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/20130507\\_Jury\\_awards\\_596\\_000\\_to\\_Camden\\_firefighters.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/20130507_Jury_awards_596_000_to_Camden_firefighters.html)

**An FDNY firefighter was charged with assault after he choked a fellow firefighter, officials said Wednesday. Law enforcement sources said Baraka Smith, 43, was charged with assault and strangulation after putting the other smoke-eater into a chokehold during a 9 a.m. dispute at Engine 225 on Lincoln Ave. in East New York. It was Smith's first day at that firehouse, they said. The other firefighter passed out and suffered bruises to the neck. Smith was arraigned and released Wednesday night on his own recognizance:**

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/fdny-vet-charged-choking-fellow-firefighter-article-1.1358964>

**The Tucson (AZ) City Council has agreed to pay \$125,000 to settle a sexual harassment claim filed by a former Tucson Fire Department paramedic Paramedic firefighter Cody Jenkins filed a \$500,000 claim against the city in February, alleging he was "physically and sexually assaulted ... multiple times" by former TFD Capt. Roger Sloan Tamietti on Nov. 9. Jenkins' claim contends Tamietti harassed him on three occasions that day. The first incident occurred when Tamietti "forcibly humped and ground" against Jenkins while holding him against a couch. Later that day, Jenkins said Tamietti swatted him on his buttocks after a shower. The third incident allegedly occurred in the captain's office. Jenkins said Tamietti rubbed his groin against his head while Jenkins was working on a computer. Tamietti said he was only "horseplaying" and denied he committed any lewd acts. He said it was common practice for firefighters to joke around with each other as a way to relieve the stress of a demanding job. But a fire department isn't a frat house, Councilman Steve Kozachik said. And taxpayer money shouldn't be squandered as a result of sophomoric high jinks. "These guys need to act like professionals and not adolescents," Kozachik said. "It's not summer camp. That childish behavior is costing taxpayers \$125,000." TFD officials determined Tamietti's behavior was "inappropriate" and demoted him to paramedic. The city also filed three misdemeanor charges against Tamietti:**

[http://azstarnet.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/firehouse-allegation-costs-tucson/article\\_98046741-0b49-5916-82a1-597a3bb94537.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/firehouse-allegation-costs-tucson/article_98046741-0b49-5916-82a1-597a3bb94537.html)

**Firefighter pranks: Not what the public wants to see. To be accountable to the public for their financial support, we cannot post firefighter pranks on social media sites. The more negative attention the fire department receives translates into rescinded funds. It also leads the general public to mistrust us. If we are constantly producing videos or pictures of pranks in the fire station, the trust factor of our service delivery will be questioned. So how does this handicap a fire department? The small dominos that are being lined up are in the form of financial aid and policy creation. The less money given to the fire department, the less we can do in terms of maintenance, replacing old equipment, and even perhaps personnel:**

<http://www.firerescue1.com/print.asp?act=print&vid=1443460>

**News report: TV station says Miami-Dade (FL) Fire Rescue 'did virtually nothing to discipline' captain who went on tirade against videographer. Calls it a 'cover up':**

<http://statter911.com/2013/06/05/news-report-tv-station-say-miami-dade-fire-rescue-did-virtually-nothing-to-discipline-captain-who-went-on-tirade-against-videographer-calls-it-a-cover-up/>

Detroit's (MI) fire commissioner said Wednesday that he will continue to crack down on internal drug abuse after a recent audit found the Fire Department failed to follow its substance abuse policy. Four employees who tested positive for cocaine or high blood-alcohol levels — but faced no disciplinary actions — were among a handful of incidents described in an auditor general's report presented to a City Council committee Wednesday. "If there is one member on the department that uses any of these illegal substances, that's too many," Fire Commissioner Donald Austin told the council's Budget, Finance and Audit Committee. "The problem I have, it's a cultural thing here of acceptance through pressure." The report also found that 21 on-duty Fire Department workers tested positive after a urine drug screening and seven tested positive after a breath alcohol test between January 2008 and September 2011. Those with a positive test included three chiefs, one captain, two lieutenants and three sergeants, according to the audit. According to the report, seven workers should have been fired because of drug or alcohol abuse but were offered a last-chance agreement to stay on the job. Two of those workers later tested positive for cocaine or alcohol for a second time and were fired, the report said:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20130509/NEWS/305090043/Auditor-cites-Detroit-Fire-Department-for-drug-policy-violations>

Washington D.C. Fire and EMS put five firefighters on desk duty after one of them posted a picture critical of D.C. police on Facebook and four others commented on it. After a D.C. police officer wrote a traffic ticket for a firefighter, that firefighter took a picture of the officer walking toward his cruiser and posted it on his Facebook page with a comment to the effect of "This is why we should be careful and take our time getting to incident scenes," sources told News4. The post is said to be so inflammatory it was brought directly to the attention of both Fire Chief Kenneth Ellerbe and Police Chief Cathy Lanier. D.C. fire immediately transferred those five firefighters from the field to desk duty. "Right now it's in the investigation phase," said Ed Smith, of the firefighter union. "Hopefully they'll be back to duty soon, and then we'll have to deal with any disciplinary proceedings if there are any depending on the outcome of the investigation." <http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Five-DC-Firefighters-on-Desk-Duty-After-Facebook-Post-Critical-of-DC-Police-207296821.html>

The West Newton (PA) fire chief came under fire on Monday for permitting his son to be driven to the Yough High School prom last month in a borough fire truck. Borough council unanimously approved a resolution it will send to the fire department expressing its "displeasure" that the fire department permitted one of its trucks on April 26 "to be used as a prom limousine" to drive Chief Craig Sanner's son, Dustin, and his date to the high school in Sewickley Township. "If true, we feel this is an inappropriate use of public monies," council stated in the resolution. The borough provides money for insurance coverage for the fire department, said Charles Wade, borough solicitor: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-apparatus/articles/1447410-Pa-fire-chief-slammed-for-sons-use-of-fire-truck-at-prom/>

Four firefighters are being investigated for an alleged sexual assault of a female firefighter at a Washington DC firehouse, officials say. The firehouse where the alleged incident occurred at Engine #1 which is located on the 2200 block of M Street, N.W. Two firefighters and two supervisors have been placed on administrative duties. The female firefighter is from the same unit as the four that are being investigated, officials say. D.C. Police say that a report for a misdemeanor sex abuse at 2200 M Street NW was filed on May 31. The incident occurred around midnight. The police report shows the accuser reported "she was asleep at the Firehouse when she felt someone touched her inner thigh."

<http://statter911.com/2013/06/03/two-dc-firefighters-accused-by-female-firefighter-of-sexual-assault-two-supervisors-actions-are-part-of-the-investigation/>

A Cuyahoga County grand jury indicted 13 Cleveland (OH) firefighters Wednesday, accusing them of illegally paying co-workers to cover most of their shifts -- freeing them to work other full-time jobs or run their own companies while continuing to collect salaries and benefits from the city. The indictments, which include counts of theft in office and soliciting or receiving improper compensation, might mark the first time firefighters anywhere in the country have faced felony charges for the illegal practice, commonly known as "caddying." Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy J. McGinty said in a news release that the firefighters each failed to work at least 2,000 hours -- the equivalent of about one year -- of their scheduled time. The most egregious case involved firefighter Calvin Robinson, who had colleagues work 8,456 hours on his behalf. That amounts to about 4 1/2 years, according to the release. "The public's trust was violated," McGinty said in the release. "In addition to not working and receiving full pay, these individuals abused the system and collected retirement, vacation, medical and other benefits. They caused other firefighters to work multiple days without rest. Fatigued firefighters put the safety of the people [they serve] at risk as well as their fellow firefighters." [http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/05/13\\_cleveland\\_firefighters\\_indi.html#incart\\_river](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/05/13_cleveland_firefighters_indi.html#incart_river)

Cleveland (OH) Fire Chief Daryl McGinnis said in a press conference Thursday that the indictment of 13 firefighters for charges including illegally paying co-workers to cover their shifts, theft in office and improper compensation is not a reflection of the generally high quality and heroic work the department continually produces. "I cannot comment of the investigation itself," McGinnis said in a brief conference at Fire Department Headquarters, "but it's a sad day for the Cleveland Fire Department...and personally I'm not happy. "But one moment doesn't reflect the true value of this department. Our emergency response is outstanding, and being there for citizens is what we do." McGinnis said because of the indictments -- which were a culmination of an audit of fire payroll practices that started in 2010 -- and the city's internal audits, the department is undergoing changes to improve payroll policies and accountability:

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/05/cleveland\\_fire\\_chief\\_calls\\_ind.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/05/cleveland_fire_chief_calls_ind.html)

A second firefighter is facing possible drug charges triggered by a review of what happened to medications missing from the Unified Fire Authority (Salt Lake City, UT), and a third employee could be under scrutiny as well. Bruce Bergdahl, 44, was arrested Wednesday in a drug-related investigation. He has been a paramedic with UFA for 18 years. The arrest comes less than two weeks after assistant chief Marlon Jones, 48, was charged with 14 counts of obtaining a prescription under false pretenses, a third-degree felony. Jones was charged May 10, the same day UFA announced an investigation into discrepancies with its stock of controlled substances. A third, unnamed UFA employee is also being investigated, Unified Fire Chief Michael Jensen said Wednesday. The three men worked at separate stations on different schedules, and they are accused of obtaining drugs outside of work, he said:

<http://www.ksl.com/?sid=25292412&nid=148>

The Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department has failed to properly investigate misconduct allegations against the fire chief, top union officials and members of an elite unit that delves into charges involving rank-and-file firefighters, according to an audit presented to the city Fire Commission on Tuesday. The report by the agency's top watchdog concluded that the process of investigating such sensitive cases is underfunded, poorly run and plagued by sloppy record-keeping and incomplete fieldwork. The department has ignored complaints and routinely allowed cases to drag on until after the statute of limitations to impose discipline has expired, the report found:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0605-lafd-audit-20130605,0,1776220.story>



A former deputy chief for the Compton (CA) Fire Department has been arrested for allegedly starting a fire at headquarters and stealing thousands of dollars in radio equipment. Marcel Melanson, 37, was arrested Wednesday without incident at his Torrance home on charges of felony arson and grand theft, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The arrest stems from what investigators say was a suspicious fire that broke out at Compton Fire Department headquarters on Acacia Avenue on December 11, 2011. They believe Melanson deliberately set fire to the facility to conceal theft of Motorola radios worth thousands of dollars with the intent of selling them over the internet. Melanson was an employee of the Compton Fire Department for over 15 years. He was terminated earlier this year:

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2013/05/16/former-compton-fire-department-deputy-chief-arrested-for-arson/>

Embattled Boston (MA) Fire Chief Steve E. Abaira, facing sharp criticism from his command staff over his management style and response to the Boston Marathon bombings, is threatening to sue his deputy chiefs if they continue launching what his lawyer claims are "defamatory" attacks. In a letter sent to the deputies last week and obtained by the Globe, Abaira's lawyer, Louis M. Ciavarra, referenced an earlier letter critical of Abaira that 13 deputy chiefs sent on April 26 to Mayor Thomas M. Menino. The deputies wrote that the fire chief showed no leadership after the bombings and acts as a spectator at major fire scenes, instead of taking command as his predecessors did. In response, Ciavarra wrote that his firm is prepared to file a lawsuit "should any further such conduct occur" to put a stop to it and obtain damages. "Your conduct is nothing more than a transparent effort to hide the inadequacies of your own performance and to interfere with my client's efforts to improve the Boston Fire Department," Ciavarra wrote to the deputies:

<http://www.boston.com/metrodesk/2013/05/30/boston-fire-chief-threatens-sue-command-staff-they-continue-defamatory-attacks/mllyw30tp5tL6jRrVtBCQK/story.html>

Eleven of 13 Cleveland (OH) firefighters pleaded not guilty this morning to theft in office and soliciting or receiving improper compensation, charges stemming from accusations that they illegally paid co-workers to cover most of their shifts. The firefighters, who were suspended without pay last week, each face up to 18 months in prison and a \$5,000 fine if convicted of the felony theft-in-office charges. They also could be subject to six months in jail, a \$1,000 fine and a seven-year ban from public employment if convicted of the misdemeanor charges of soliciting or receiving improper compensation:

[http://www.cleveland.com/cityhall/index.ssf/2013/05/cleveland\\_firefighters\\_plead\\_n.html#incart\\_river](http://www.cleveland.com/cityhall/index.ssf/2013/05/cleveland_firefighters_plead_n.html#incart_river)

A firefighter was arrested last week outside an I-Hop restaurant after getting into a heated disagreement with police. WJLA.com reported that D.C. firefighter Keith Chung, 25, improperly parked in a handicap spot outside the restaurant and started screaming, cursing and insulting officers who had ticketed him. Chung dropped the ticket on the ground and became uncooperative. According to the police report, Chung "refused to produce his license, refused multiple orders to exit his vehicle and replied with various expletives based on race and assumed sexual orientation of the officers." Police charged Chung with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, open container of alcohol, willfully disobeying an officer and littering, according to the report: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/1456314-Video-DC-firefighter-arrested-after-dispute-with-police-over-parking-violation/>

A San Luis Obispo (CA) city firefighter accused of beating a man in a bar bathroom has been reinstated. This comes after a grand jury ruled in John Ryan Mason's favor 8 to 4. Mason will return to the force but as a lowest level firefighter along with disciplinary conditions that are 'unprecedented'. Mason has gotten a second chance to wear his uniform as a San Luis



Obispo city firefighter. "He has obviously repented very contrite," says San Luis Obispo City Fire Department Chief Charles Hines. "He is willing to come back as a first step firefighter with a five year probation attached to that. We believe that this is good choice. We believe he will contribute back to the community as a positive public servant." This comes after a grand jury couldn't find Mason guilty of assaulting alleged victim Jory Brigham:

<http://www.kcoy.com/story/22527021/slo-city-firefighter-accused-of-beating-man-reinstated>

Denver (CO) firefighter attempted to lure teen while driving in a fire department vehicle. A 59-year-old firefighter was arrested Thursday after he allegedly showed up to meet who he believed to be a 15-year-old girl for the purpose of sexual contact. The teen was actually an undercover investigator. An investigator with the D.A's Child Offender Internet Investigations Unit was contacted online by Ronald Michael Ascitutto Wednesday. The investigator was portraying himself as a 15-year-old girl. The communication - primarily via text message -- between Ascitutto and the investigator allegedly became sexually graphic, and continued throughout the day Wednesday and on Thursday morning:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article/340042/222/Police-Denver-firefighter-attempted-to-lure-teen-while-driving-in-a-fire-department-vehicle>

A wrongful termination trial scheduled to begin today in federal court threatens to revive the salacious details of a sex scandal that rocked the Sacramento (CA) Metropolitan Fire District. Capt. Mark Thomsen claims he was fired because he disobeyed orders from the district's chief and its attorney to keep quiet about multiple on-the-job sexual encounters and, instead, pushed others for a criminal investigation of alleged rape and sodomy. On the other hand, the district insists Thomsen was fired "for illegally altering computer records" in an attempt to protect a district board member caught up in an embarrassing situation. Thomsen, 45, dismisses that account as a pretext. He was terminated in March 2007 but was reinstated at the same rank in November 2008 as part of a binding arbitration award that also included back pay and benefits. The arbitrator found the district did not present "clear and convincing" evidence of wrongdoing:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/06/10/5484246/sac-metro-sex-scandal-is-backdrop.html>

Uniontown (PA) resident Chris Shellhammer likes to know what's going on in his neighborhood. So when he saw police and fire vehicles near his home on Monday, he walked over to see what he could see. He also started capturing video with his cellphone. In the video, Uniontown Fire Chief Charles Coldren approaches Shellhammer in plain clothes and ask him to move back, which Shellhammer does. Shellhammer suggests the area should be taped off if the public is not allowed. That's when the encounter escalates. "You're not going to tell me how to do my (expletive) job. Now, if you want to keep running your lip I'll have you (expletive) arrested. You can record me all you want. I don't give a flying (expletive)," Coldren says in the video. "So you don't think the chief should have acted that way?" asked Channel 4 Action News reporter Matt Belanger. "Absolutely not. Absolutely not," said Shellhammer:

<http://www.wtae.com/news/local/fayette/uniontown-resident-records-expletivefilled-confrontation-with-city-fire-chief/-/10931844/20543382/-/d3gvmt/-/index.html>

Fresno (CA) Fire Chief Rob Brown threatened to kill family members, one of whom then used pepper spray against him; a Fresno County sheriff's spokesman said following Brown's arrest on domestic violence charges Wednesday night. It's not clear which family member used the pepper spray, but sheriff's spokesman Chris Curtice said Brown knocked his wife, Fresno city emergency manager Beth Brown, to the floor and choked another family member. The Browns have four sons. Deputies went to Brown's home on Spyglass Lane, in a county island just east of San Joaquin Country Club, about 9 p.m. after receiving a 911 call, Curtice said. Deputies

were told Brown had assaulted other family members and was acting violently. Curtice said deputies found Brown in the front yard of his home. They reported that he was intoxicated and initially uncooperative. He was handcuffed and put into a patrol vehicle:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2013/06/13/3341489/fresno-fire-chief-rob-brown-arrested.html>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Union members with the Lebanon (OR) Rural Fire Protection District say they're willing to forgo cost of living raises next year to help pay for steady staffing. President Ken Foster of the Lebanon Professional Firefighters brought the proposal Tuesday to a meeting of the Lebanon Fire Board. He said the union has been looking for ways of "bringing solutions" to the table for discussion in light of political controversy over the coming board election. "We're concerned about covering our district," Foster told the Democrat-Herald following the meeting. "I sat down and we discussed, what can we do to basically put our money where our mouth is?"

[http://democratherald.com/news/local/fire-union-would-forgo-raises-to-keep-staffing/article\\_c7fbfbc-bdd9-11e2-9a8b-001a4bcf887a.html](http://democratherald.com/news/local/fire-union-would-forgo-raises-to-keep-staffing/article_c7fbfbc-bdd9-11e2-9a8b-001a4bcf887a.html)

The Merced (CA) Fire Department didn't just "Fill The Boot" on Tuesday -- it overflowed the boot with more than \$11,000 in donations, a record for the annual fund-raiser. The funds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association and help send local kids to an annual camp. More than 20 fire personnel volunteered to raise money for the association during the seven-hour event at G Street and Olive Avenue. "We've had a great turnout from our members which helps us collect more donations," said Fire Capt. Cory Haas. "Merced has traditionally done a great job supporting Muscular Dystrophy Association." The fund-raiser, a 59-year-tradition in cities across the country, is supported by the local firefighters union. Chad Englert, union president and Fire Department engineer, said the event would not be possible without the public's support. "We want to thank the community for donating. They're the ones that make it possible," he said. "We're just out here facilitating."

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2013/04/23/2965021/merced-firefighters-boots-overflow.html>

The Salem (OR) Fire Department raised a record \$40,000 from this year's Fill the Boot campaign. Proceeds were presented by check to the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Wednesday at Fire station No. 2 on Madison Street NE. Eighty firefighters were involved with this year's campaign, according to Captain Ian Fitzgerald. He said he was thankful for community support:

[http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20130614/UPDATE/130614003/Salem-firefighters-present-40-000-check-Muscular-Dystrophy-Association?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20130614/UPDATE/130614003/Salem-firefighters-present-40-000-check-Muscular-Dystrophy-Association?nclick_check=1)

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

Today the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released its annual Firefighter Fatality Report. There were a total of 64 on-duty firefighter deaths in the U.S. in 2012, making 2012 the second consecutive year that the total has been below 65 deaths. For the past four years, now, the annual total has been well below 100, dropping the annual average over the past 10 years to 88 deaths:

[http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=64306&cookie\\_test=1](http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryId=488&itemId=64306&cookie_test=1)

A series of mistakes and misjudgments by fire personnel contributed to the injuries suffered by seven Prince George's County (MD) firefighters when a fireball blew through a burning house last year, according to a 301-page report issued Monday by the county's Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. After an exhaustive 15-month safety investigation, the report identifies a litany of factors that contributed to the severity and number of injuries in the February 2012 fire — including how fire personnel assessed the blaze's dangers, critical strategic and tactical decisions once firefighters entered the condemned house, and problems with protective gear: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/mistakes-contributed-to-injuries-of-7-prince-georges-firefighters-report-finds/2013/06/03/5d881a3a-cc6a-11e2-8845-d970ccb04497\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/mistakes-contributed-to-injuries-of-7-prince-georges-firefighters-report-finds/2013/06/03/5d881a3a-cc6a-11e2-8845-d970ccb04497_story.html)

**Special Report: Poor planning left West, Texas firefighters unprepared.** The initial responders' fates were sealed by the decision to fight the fire, which was reported to 9-1-1 operators at 7:29 p.m. The first firefighters arrived at the plant swiftly - about three minutes later. They began spraying water on the fire from a tanker truck, and began laying hoses to the nearest fire hydrant, about 2,000 feet from the plant, farther than the length of their longest hose, said Maler, one of the surviving firefighters. They had decided to begin hosing down anhydrous ammonia tanks on the property, worried the tanks might overheat and explode, releasing the toxic gas into the atmosphere and endangering thousands of people who lived around the plant. An apartment complex and nursing home sat within a few hundred yards. In hindsight, Maler said, fighting the fire was the wrong call. About 20 minutes after the responders got there, an explosion sent a massive fireball into the sky, killing most of the firefighters on the scene. The state fire marshal says ammonium nitrate was the source of the explosion. The exact cause of the fire and explosion remains undetermined. Firefighters who have battled ammonium nitrate fires elsewhere - without death or injury to first responders - say having the Tier II information was critical to their success. They knew what they were facing going in, and responded accordingly: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/23/us-chemical-emergency-specialreport-idUSBRE94L19020130523>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

Some San Francisco (CA) firefighters are raking in six-figure overtime paychecks because of staffing shortages that have department managers scheduling numerous extra shifts, a newspaper reported. A lieutenant at Station 39 on Portola Avenue collected \$221,000 in overtime last year, raising his total salary to \$363,000, according to the San Francisco Chronicle. A paramedic-firefighter at Station 51 in the Presidio made \$191,000 in overtime, taking his pay to \$337,204, while three battalion chiefs made \$113,000 to \$124,000 each in overtime, boosting their pay to \$316,000 to \$332,000 each, the San Francisco Chronicle reported on Wednesday. The fire department already has spent its \$38 million overtime budget with two months to go in the fiscal year and is asking the Board of Supervisors to approve another \$4.1 million, according to the newspaper: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/04/25/san-francisco-fire-lieutenant-makes-221000-in-ot-due-to-understaffing/>

More minorities are applying for jobs as Pittsburgh (PA) police officers and firefighters, but their ranks among those in uniform continue to dwindle, a review by the City Controller's Office found. "We're seeing recruits drop off through the testing process," said Controller Michael Lamb, who released the audit Tuesday. Lamb said the city should use federal workforce investment money to pay for more training available at Community College of Allegheny County to help recruits pass the necessary tests to become officers, firefighters and paramedics: <http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/3939539-74/police-lamb-minority#axzz2S9DsiFU1>

Los Angeles (CA) Fire Chief Brian Cummings vowed Thursday to press ahead with a [controversial plan](#) to reassign dozens of city firefighters from fire engines to ambulance duty, despite an outcry from groups representing city firefighters and the department's top commanders. The plan would add 11 new ambulances to the LAFD's fleet by removing one member per shift from 22 firetrucks across the city. The chief said the change is necessary to reshape the department to fulfill its primary task: providing emergency medical care. Medical calls account for more than 80% of 911 responses, according to department officials and an independent data analysis by The Times. And the chief says that lopsided figure is growing rapidly. In the first two months of this year, medical calls increased 6.2%, compared with the same period last year, Cummings said [in a written report](#). Cummings' plan drew intense criticism from the firefighters' union and the association of chief officers at a special Fire Commission meeting Thursday on the redeployment. Labor leaders said the chief had failed to convince his rank-and-file force that his plan will work and not compromise the safety of firefighters battling fires: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-lafd-chief-presses-ahead-with-plan-to-reassign-firefighters-to-ambulances-20130425,0,3357774.story>

A year and half after taking over the 911 calls for 14 Santa Clara County cities and its vast unincorporated areas, the Rural Metro ambulance company has violated its contract by repeatedly responding too slowly to emergencies, has paid more than \$4.7 million in fines and faces the threat of the first paramedics strike in recent history. County Executive Jeff Smith said last week that with just one more contract violation of the type that occurred in 2011 and twice in 2012 the county may have to consider terminating the agreement with the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based company, which was notified Jan. 18 that it was in breach of contract. Rural Metro's performance is being closely watched in part because of the process under which it took over the county's ambulance contract from a longtime incumbent in 2011. "We've made it clear to them we have remedies that go beyond fines," Smith said. "We've specifically told them that if you can't perform, we're going to cancel the contract and start all over again." Although the ambulance company's failures to meet required response times of less than 12 minutes affected only a small fraction of the roughly 6,500 trips Rural Metro makes each month, Smith and other industry watchers called the breach significant:

[http://www.marinij.com/ci\\_23119425/santa-clara-county-threatens-yank-rural-metros-ambulance](http://www.marinij.com/ci_23119425/santa-clara-county-threatens-yank-rural-metros-ambulance)

The "twit" has quit. FDNY EMS Lt. Timothy Dluhos, 34 — known as the "Bad Lieutenant" on Twitter — resigned from the FDNY April 16, less than a month after he sobbed when The Post confronted him about his racist posts. Dluhos — who called Mayor Bloomberg "King Heeb," made racist comments about African-Americans and Asians, and posted a picture of an overweight patient — avoided potential disciplinary charges that could have led to his firing when his 30-day suspension ended April 24. "He had an option to resign, and that's what he chose to do," FDNY spokesman Jim Long told The Post. He is the second disgraced EMT to resign since The Post exposed the racist rants of Commissioner Salvatore Cassano's son. Joe Cassano, a rookie EMT, resigned in March. The move likely allows Dluhos to collect a partial pension in 13 years, but far less than he would have made if he completed 25 years of service. Dluhos made \$93,561 in 2011, payroll records show. "He displayed bad judgment," said First Amendment attorney Ron Kuby, who said he spoke with Dluhos. "It's incredibly sad that stupid tweets could erase over a decade of service."

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/whiner\\_loser\\_quits\\_ems\\_5GQ8nB1YtIsf0HnRKpNW4O](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/whiner_loser_quits_ems_5GQ8nB1YtIsf0HnRKpNW4O)

Fire captain gets it right & admits he screwed up. Those above him don't have a clue on how to deal with on-duty rap video:

<http://statter911.com/2013/06/05/fire-captain-gets-it-right-admits-he-screwed-up-those-above-him-dont-have-a-clue-on-how-to-deal-with-on-duty-rap-video/>

FDNY EMS Lt. Leonard Tiberi, arrested three years ago for shooting at subordinates with a BB gun, was tapped for a promotion to captain, according to an FDNY memo, dated May 1, that the Daily News obtained. Tiberi, 42, was among six lieutenants “promoted to the rank of captain, effective Sunday, May 5,” according to the EMS order. Unlike promotions to lieutenant, which are awarded based on scores from a written test, promotions to captain are determined at the discretion of top FDNY brass, department sources said. But after a query from The News on Thursday, the FDNY was quick to draw. “I checked it out when you asked, and was told it was being amended,” said FDNY spokesman Frank Dwyer. “Tiberi is not being promoted.” Back in Feb. 2009, Tiberi was a lieutenant at Station 58 on E. 83rd St. in Brooklyn when he showed up for work toting his trusty BB gun. The decorated medic, who joined the FDNY as an EMT in 1996, was accused of using his staffers for target practice because he thought it was fun, according to the city Department of Investigation, which collared him. A complaint was made by the subordinates who said they found themselves under fire as Tiberi allegedly sprayed stinging pellets around the station, officials said at the time:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/fdny-nixes-promotion-medic-bb-gun-arrest-article-1.1333742>

You might notice a change the next time you call 911 here in Yakima. Dispatchers are no longer automatically sending fire trucks on calls for medical emergencies. It's part of a new program that started this week. Dispatchers will gauge the severity of a call and make the crucial decision on who needs to be sent. It's the Yakima Fire Department's way of being more efficient with equipment and manpower. The deputy chief said trucks and firefighters need to be saved for critical emergencies. "If we run those on every bloody nose or foot pain call that we have and I'm not trying to push fun of that, but we wear them out," said Yakima Fire Deputy Chief Bob Stewart. A three-month pilot program in 2011 found only sending an ambulance to EMS calls was more efficient. Now, the department's following up by implementing its Criteria Based EMS Dispatch program this week. Calls deemed to be routine won't get a response from firefighters. Peg Braden called 911 when her husband fell. "It seemed like I had anywhere from five to seven people in my house at the time and that seems like an awful lot of people for one call," said Peg: <http://www.kimatv.com/news/local/Yakima-Fire-no-longer-sending-trucks-to-every-EMS-call--210178211.html>

Boston (MA) Fire Commissioner Rodrick Fraser today sounded off against his 13 deputy chiefs, calling them a “bunch of dinosaurs” for resisting change and being “unprofessional” for releasing a letter to the media saying they had no confidence in their chief for not taking command during the chaos after the marathon bombings. “I think this whole thing in my opinion is a revolt against change by a bunch of dinosaurs. They don’t run the department. I do,” Fraser told city councilors at a Ways & Means Committee hearing, adding that the department’s response protocol is in line with national standards. As first reported on bostonherald.com Tuesday evening, 13 deputy chiefs recently fired off a scathing letter to Mayor Thomas M. Menino voicing “no confidence” in Fire Chief Steve Abaira for not taking command at the deadly marathon bombing, as well as other fire scenes. Boston’s long-standing policy has been for the highest-ranking officer to take charge at a scene, but Abaira said Tuesday he changed that policy to comply with “national standards.” He also said his deputies’ job is to handle on-scene operations and said he was satisfied with the marathon response. Today he told councilors that by the time he arrived on the scene of the bombings on April 15, there were no more victims. “By the time I got there we had things well in hand,” he said:

[http://bostonherald.com/print/news\\_opinion/local\\_coverage/2013/05/boston\\_fire\\_commissioner\\_calls\\_deputy\\_chiefs\\_dinosaurs](http://bostonherald.com/print/news_opinion/local_coverage/2013/05/boston_fire_commissioner_calls_deputy_chiefs_dinosaurs)



The call came over the radio -- "Rescue One, priority three" -- and Vancouver (WA) Fire Department Capt. Bob Carroll and firefighter Natalie Newgent stood up from the kitchen table at Station 3 and headed to the vehicle bay. Instead of climbing into the fire engine, they got into a sport-utility vehicle, dubbed Rescue One, and headed for Roosevelt Elementary School, a few miles away. The call was for an allergic reaction. Carroll, a firefighter-paramedic, explained it was ranked a priority 3 call because a school nurse had treated the student with a dose of epinephrine. Had the call been about a person who had not received epinephrine, the call would have been ranked a higher priority and an engine would have been dispatched. En route to the school, Carroll contacted the responding two-person crew from American Medical Response, a private ambulance company. The ambulance and SUV arrived at the school at the same time. A short while later the student, with a sheepish smile on his face and his mother walking beside him, was wheeled out and loaded into the ambulance. In the meantime, the fire engine remained at Station 3, with a three-person crew ready to respond to fires or higher-priority medical calls. A variation of that April 10 scenario has been playing out repeatedly since a three-month pilot project began April 1. Capt. Jay Getsfrid, who oversees the department's Emergency Medical Services program, describes it as "taking care of the background noise." The goal? Cutting response time on higher-priority calls. That means keeping engines on standby at the department's 10 stations while two SUVs roam the department's 91 square miles. Fuel costs will drop, as it costs \$1.34 a mile to drive an SUV compared to \$7.47 a mile for an engine, but the project wasn't just meant as a cost-cutting move. It should get help to more people faster:

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/apr/30/vancouver-fire-department-emergency-response-more/>

A federal appeals court in Manhattan (NY) ruled on Tuesday that the district court judge presiding over a long-running lawsuit against the New York Fire Department claiming discrimination against minority applicants went too far in forcing the department to revamp its hiring process, and that he had raised enough doubts about his impartiality to require assigning a key part of the case to another judge. Though the city did not dispute Judge Garaufis's finding that the Fire Department's entrance exams had a discriminatory impact, it argued that he was wrong when he declared that the discrimination was intentional, a finding he made after a preliminary hearing:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/15/nyregion/appeals-court-rules-judge-went-too-far-in-fire-dept-hiring-case.html?hpw&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/15/nyregion/appeals-court-rules-judge-went-too-far-in-fire-dept-hiring-case.html?hpw&_r=1&)

A flap over missing medical records is brewing at the Boston (MA) Fire Department as state investigators are probing allegations that the department has tossed out crucial documents detailing firefighters' exposure to chemicals and hazardous materials, the Herald has learned. The state Department of Labor Standards is investigating reports that records that are supposed to be kept in firefighters' permanent medical files have disappeared, including those that document "unprotected exposure to blood or other infectious body fluids" and "unknown chemical exposure," according to a letter from the DLS to BFD brass. In addition to missing medical records, the state is probing allegations that firefighters' bunker gear isn't being cleaned or inspected, as required "to ensure ... performance of the equipment is maintained," the letter states: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10952039/state-probes-missing-medical-records-of-boston-jakes>

Daisy Mountain (AZ) Fire earns money by advertising on trucks. Daisy Mountain Fire Department makes big bucks with ads like this. They need the money. The fire department runs on property taxes. "Over the course of the last 5 years, we have seen about a 57 percent decrease in property value, putting a big hit on our operating budget." Programs like drowning prevention and fire prevention, CPR and first aid classes, along with training and school



programs, all gone. So far the advertising has brought in \$65,000. Captain Wilson estimates it could bring in \$95,000. He also believes other fire departments are watching Daisy Mountain: <http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/story/22491252/2013/06/03/daisy-mountain-fire-earns-money-by-advertising-on-trucks>

By year's end, Stockton (CA) Fire Chief Jeff Piechura wants to change the way his department responds to low-level medical calls. Rather than sending three firefighters on a large, fuel-guzzling fire engine to every medical call, Piechura proposes putting a more nimble, heavy-duty pickup in the rotation. According to statistics sent daily to The Record, the Fire Department regularly responds to 85 or more medical calls each 24-hour period. If the City Council adopts Piechura's proposal, the change could save wear and tear on the expensive engines and reduce costs overall to the city: [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10955312/calif-chief-send-pickups-not-engines-to-ems-calls?utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS130530003](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10955312/calif-chief-send-pickups-not-engines-to-ems-calls?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS130530003)

The competition to land a job as a Las Vegas (NV) firefighter is heating up after a pool of 500 applicants was filled in less than half an hour Monday morning. It took only 24 minutes to receive the maximum 500 applications for the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue firefighter trainee program after the job was posted on the city's website at 7:30 a.m. today. About two dozen people will be chosen to enter the department's academy and ultimately become firefighters upon graduating, a job that pays a \$46,797 minimum salary. Applicants, who must have Emergency Medical Technician certification and a high school diploma or equivalent, will continue the competitive process with a written exam that is scheduled for July 22-25. Candidates identified to move forward will take a physical ability test and be interviewed by the city. The department will select 24 people, roughly equal to the number of vacant firefighter positions, to enter the recruit academy, which will likely begin in January and lasts 20 weeks, interim chief Steve Smith said. The city hadn't planned to recruit more firefighters this summer but decided to do so after a cheating scandal in the previous class led to 14 recruits not graduating in February. The entire class was dismissed after suspicions of cheating were raised on a written exam, costing the city \$718,984, or \$51,356 per recruit, in salaries, benefits and training costs: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/jun/10/las-vegas-fire-department-gets-500-applications/#axzz2Vy8QE9ZI>

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

Also, thanks to everyone for their 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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| <b>Bob Buell</b><br>Fire Technology Coordinator –<br>Chabot College<br>(510) 786-7565 - cellular phone<br><a href="mailto:bbuell@chabotcollege.edu">bbuell@chabotcollege.edu</a> | <b>Steve Prziborowski</b><br>Fire Technology Instructor - Chabot College<br>Editor / Publisher - Chabot College Fire & EMS News<br>(408) 205-9006 - cellular phone<br><a href="mailto:sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu">sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu</a> |
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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:**      [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

**Chabot College web site:**      [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

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