



## FIRE & EMS NEWS

April 20, 2013

This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities 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.

#### SPRING 2013 Semester:

Registration for the Spring 2013 semester at Chabot College has begun, many classes are already full!

The following classes are available!

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

COURSE	DAY
<b>FT 91A</b> (CAL FIRE 69 hour - Wildland Basic Training) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 30, May 2, May 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 23, 25, 27 and 28	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 29 through May 11	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)

#### Summer & Fall 2013 Semesters:

Registration for the Summer and Fall 2013 semesters at Chabot College is as follows:

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

## SUMMER AND FALL 2013 REGISTRATION DATES

April 24 - Veterans, Foster Youth students  
 April 25 - 26 - Title 5 (EOPS, DSPS) students  
 April 29 - College Priority (Athletes, Trio, CalWorks, etc)  
 April 30 - Continuing students (by priority)  
 May 11 - Early Decision students (HS seniors graduating in June 2013)  
 May 15 - New & Returning (former) students  
 May 28 - Concurrent Enrollment student registration for **Summer 2013**  
 August 5 - Concurrent Enrollment student registration for **Fall 2013**

### CLASSES AVAILABLE - SUMMER SEMESTER 2013

COURSE	DAY
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>	Wednesday (pm)
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Monday & Wednesday (pm)

### CLASSES AVAILABEL - FALL SEMESTER 2013

COURSE	DAY
<b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization) <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) <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)
<b>FT 53</b> (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (am)
<b>FT 54</b> (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)
<b>FT 56</b> (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Tuesday (pm)
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - October 9, 11 and 13(Wed/Fri/Sun) - November 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) <b>or</b> Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)
<b>FT 90A</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
<b>FT 90B</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
<b>FT 90C</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)

COURSE	DAY
<b>FT 91A</b> (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - December 3 through 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 19, 21, 23, and 24	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
<b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS) <b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b> - November 12, 14, 16 and 17	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
<b>FT 91D</b> (Firefighter Survival) <b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b> - November 3 through 9	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>	Wednesday (pm)
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)
<b>Health 81</b> (EMT) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 83**</b>	Wednesday (all day)
<b>Health 83</b> (Extrication and Triage) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 81**</b>	Saturday (one day only)
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b> - November 26 through December 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)
<b>KINE 20</b> (Intro Fire Technology Fitness & Training)	Wednesday (mid)
<b>KINE 20</b> (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 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.

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

### **New Report: Civilian Fire Injuries in Residential Buildings**

This topical fire report focuses on the characteristics of civilian injuries from residential building fires for the period 2009-2011. Thirty-four percent of injuries resulted from trying to control a fire followed by attempting to escape (25 percent).

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/casualties.shtm>

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## **PARAMEDIC PROGRAM INFORMATION:**



### **LAS POSITAS COLLEGE PARAMEDIC TRAINING PROGRAM LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA**

#### 2013-2014 Cohort

The Las Positas College Paramedic Training Program is approved by the Alameda County EMS Agency and possesses a Letter of Review from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for The Emergency Medical Services Professions (COAEMSP) of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). All graduates of the LPC Paramedic Training Program are eligible to sit for the National Registry Licensing Examination for Paramedic in the State of California.

- Clinical training is provided at sites in Alameda and San Francisco Counties.
- Paramedic Field Internships are provided in Alameda and San Francisco Counties with EMS providers.
- Classes meet Tuesdays and Fridays for Fall and Spring Semester
- Approved for Chapter 33 - Post 9/11 VA Benefits
- Fee Based – Cost - \$9,768.00 for program (internship fee not included)

For further information or applications, visit the Las Positas College Paramedic Training website at: <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/EMT/ParamedicTrainingProgram.php>

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

### **Arson Awareness Week Is May 5-11**

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is pleased to announce the theme for the 2013 Arson Awareness Week: Reducing Residential Arson. The goal for this year's Arson Awareness Week is to provide all residents with strategies to combat arson in their neighborhoods.

Tools and tips for the fire service and communities are available on the USFA's website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/aaw/>

For additional information, please visit:

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention\\_education/strategies/arson/index.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/prevention_education/strategies/arson/index.shtm)

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

The application period for the first semester of National Fire Academy resident classes opens April 15 and closes June 15. The first semester includes those classes scheduled from October 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014. Applications must be postmarked between April 15 and June 15, 2013. All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

The 2013-2014 Resident Course Schedule is available

at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm>

The Application Form is available online

at: [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff\\_119\\_25\\_1\\_75\\_5.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff_119_25_1_75_5.pdf)

Completed applications for resident courses must be sent to the following address:

Office of Admissions, Building I, Room 216  
National Emergency Training Center  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998  
Applications may also be faxed to (301) 447-1441.

For more information, please call the Admissions Office at (800) 238-3358, ext. 1035 or (301) 447-1035.

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## **FIREFIGHTER 1 ACADEMY OPPORTUNITY:**

### ***California Regional Fire Academy Basic Firefighter One Academy***

**Applications Are Now Available For The Upcoming Academy Classes!**  
Visit [www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov) to download an application. (located on the "Apply" page)

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

**The California Regional Fire Academy is Now Accepting applications for Academy Classes scheduled to begin on Monday, July 8, 2013.**

**Academy 22 ~ Full-Time Format Academy  
Academy 23 ~ Extended Format Academy**

**Application Deadline:**

**All applications must be received by the Business Office by 5:00pm on Friday, April 26, 2013.**

**Late application submissions will not be considered for this academy process.**

All applications will be reviewed after the deadline of April 26, 2013.

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

If applicant is then selected to advance to the testing phase, attendance will be required at the MANDATORY Testing Day on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

If candidate is accepted to attend Academy 22 or 23, attendance will be required at the MANDATORY Acceptance Orientation on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

Application Deadline: Friday, April 26, 2013 at 5:00pm

Mandatory Testing Day: Saturday, May 11, 2013 (time TBA)

*~Pending Advancement to Testing Phase~*

Mandatory Acceptance Orientation: Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 5:00pm

*~Pending Acceptance into CRFA~*

Mandatory CRFA Orientation: Friday, July 5, 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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

**Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – April 22 through 27, 2013.** Go to [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com) for more information.

**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.fireshowreno.com](http://www.fireshowreno.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.

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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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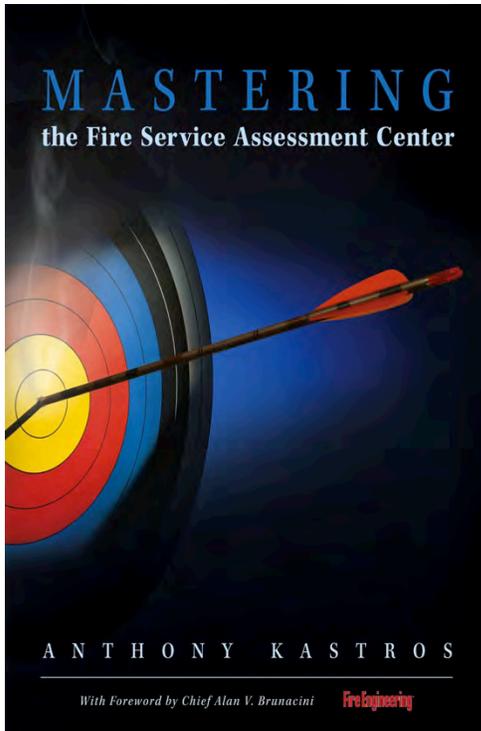
## **FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:**



### **MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER** 4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF  
**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**  
**BY FIRE ENGINEERING**

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



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

CHUCK - LA CITY FD

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

BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD

"I AM SO, SO HAPPY THAT I TOOK YOUR COURSE. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE DIFFERENCE IN ME BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY PROMOTIONAL PROCESS. I TOOK YOUR COURSE WITH SEVERAL

OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM MY DEPARTMENT. I CAME OUT NUMBER 5 OF A LIST OF 47. THERE ARE THREE (3) OF US IN THE TOP 5 FOR CAPTAIN. THERE ARE 5 OF US IN THE TOP 10."

REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD

**Anthony Kastros is a 25-year veteran of the fire service. He is a Battalion Chief with the Sacramento (CA) Metro Fire District. He is author of the Fire Engineering DVD series "Mastering Fireground Command - Calm the Chaos!" and author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center", that focuses on strategy, tactics, leadership and management. Chief Kastros is an FDIC instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. He spent 4 seasons on a Type 1 incident management team, and 10 years as a FEMA USAR Task Force Manager, deploying to New York on 9/11. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and is currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.**

APRIL 29 – MAY 2, 2013 – LOS ANGELES, CA - \$595.00\*

GO TO [WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM](http://WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM) FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION  
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

## **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>
• <b>S-270 (Basic Air Operations)</b> <i>(S-270 will be held at Saratoga Fire Station, 14380 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070)</i>	May 2 – 3	\$95.00
• <b>Fire Management 1</b>	May 6 – 10	\$265.00
• <b>Fire Management 2E</b>	May 13 – 17	\$295.00
• <b>Fire Management 2A</b>	July 15 – 19	\$295.00
• <b>Regional Instructor Orientation</b>	August 21	\$155.00
• <b>Ethical Leadership in the Classroom</b>	August 22	\$100.00
• <b>Training Instructor 1C</b> <i>(Instructor 1C will be held at Saratoga Fire Station, 14380 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070)</i>	September 30 – October 4	\$295.00
• <b>Fire Command 2A</b>	January 13 – 17, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Training Instructor 1A</b>	January 27 - 31, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Training Instructor 1B</b>	February 10 - 14, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Fire Command 2B</b>	March 10 – 14, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Training Instructor 1C</b>	March 17 - 21, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Fire Command 2C</b>	May 12 – 16, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Fire Command 2D</b>	July 14 – 18, 2014	\$295.00
• <b>Fire Command 2E</b>	September 15 – 19, 2014	\$295.00

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

**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>
S-270 (at Saratoga Fire Station)	May 2 – 3	\$95.00	_____
Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10	\$265.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	May 13 – 17	\$295.00	_____
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)	May 2 – 3	\$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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**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:**

**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

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**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)**

Hey,  
A Dayton (Ohio) Fire Captain was struck early this morning and it was caught on tape. In the video, a car slams into an already disabled pick-up truck on the side of the road, which slams into Dayton Fire Captain Barry Cron, and his body is tossed about 15-20 feet. Captain Cron has serious injuries, but

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

NLT. The video shows a pickup truck crash into another vehicle that had already crashed. Captain Cron approached the truck, which ended up overturned on its passenger side, when another Firefighter yelled at him to get back because of another vehicle that had lost control and was about to hit the truck. Captain Cron tried to get away from the crash but the impact pushed the truck into Cron, which threw him onto the nearby guardrail. Dayton Fire Fighters were on scene, responding to a total of 11 crashes this morning on US 35...numerous drivers hit the ice and lost control of their vehicles. Captain Cron has been with the Dayton Fire Department since 1992, and was promoted to Captain in November of last year. We wish him a rapid recovery.

**DASH CAM VIDEO:** [http://fox45now.com/shared/news/features/raw-news/stories/wrgt\\_vid\\_123.shtml](http://fox45now.com/shared/news/features/raw-news/stories/wrgt_vid_123.shtml)

#### **FIRE/EMS HIGHWAY SURVIVAL TRAINING MATERIALS:**

##### **-RESPONDER SAFETY**

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

##### **-IAFF/USFA FIREFIGHTER HIGHWAY AND ROADWAY SAFETY PROGRAM**

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/PowerPoint%20Presentation%20in%20PDF.pdf>

##### **CDC FIREFIGHTER HIGHWAY SAFETY INFORMATION:**

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/NIOSH%20Traffic%20Hazards%20to%20FF%20on%20Roadways.pdf>

##### **IAFC HIGHWAY SAFETY INFORMATION:**

[http://www.iafc.org/files/downloads/VEHICLE\\_SAFETY/VehclSafety\\_IAFCpolAndProceds.pdf](http://www.iafc.org/files/downloads/VEHICLE_SAFETY/VehclSafety_IAFCpolAndProceds.pdf)

##### **ROADWAY SURVIVAL VIDEO**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UwQ8e58IF4>

##### **-USE THIS PSA FOR LOCAL MARKETING IN YOUR COMMUNITY:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LroL2xIVH1U>

##### **-Mike Wilbur/EVR EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER TRAINING/CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS:**

<http://www.emergencyvehicleresponse.com>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-26-13 / 1644 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

The chief of the Potosi (MO) Fire Department was seriously injured when the tanker he was driving overturned yesterday afternoon-and he was ejected. Potosi Fire Chief, Richard Knight, 51, was responding to a reported rekindled fire at 1616 hours, when he lost control along Route 47. Chief Knight attempted to gain control as his tanker truck veered off the roadway...causing the apparatus to flip, partially ejecting Chief Knight. It is not clear if the icy conditions played a role in the wreck and/or the shifting weight of water inside the tanker may have been a contributing factor. Chief Knight was taken to St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Louis where he is still listed in serious condition. We wish him a rapid recovery.

#### **PRETENDING TO HAVE A FIRE DEPARTMENT RESULTS IN NON-PRETEND BURN INJURIES: (AUDIO & A VIDEO)**

The below phone and radio call recordings are from March 14 when, as you will recall, Benton Harbor (MI) Fire Lieutenant Doug Bell, was trapped and severely burned in a house fire-he was a crew of 1. **By himself.** He responded to the scene, arrived, some public safety officers (police/fire cross-trained) arrived after him and he also called for off duty and reserve Firefighters-why they aren't on the first alarm remains to be determined. **YOU WILL HEAR that his "mayday" was actually called in to 9-1-1, by phone, by a citizen who was watching the incident unfold.**

Nearly two years ago, Benton Harbor laid off most of its Firefighters to save money and create a "Public Safety" Department where cops are somewhat cross-trained to answer police calls and respond to fires....and the city is apparently attempting to "pretend" to have a fire response system-one that works fine, as long as there are no fires.

**THE REALITY** is that the community needs to understand the fact that they may have an EXTERIOR fire response, primarily "exposure protection" at best-with a delayed response of additional resources....and odds are, your sh!t is gonna burn down. But, the city HAS now saved money.  
**It's all good. Except for burned homes. Except for a seriously burned Fire Lieutenant.**

**It's all good as long as no one needs the fire department-because there isn't one....it only "feels" that way. Kinda of like that "pretend" town in this "classic" movie...it FEELS like there is a TOWN, it LOOKS like there is a town...but when it comes down to reality---there is NO TOWN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txEbV9A415E> - We sure fooled 'em!**

Lt. Bell underwent skin graft surgery on Saturday and may get out of the hospital as soon as Thursday. Michigan's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating what happened to Bell and is expected to release its report in two weeks. The organization could fine Benton Harbor and is expected to make recommendations on what to do so this doesn't happen again....which shouldn't be that difficult to figure out. **Shouldn't be.** It will be 4 to 5 months before the Lieutenant can fully use his hands again, and he may require more surgery.

**LISTEN TO THE INCIDENT HERE:**

<http://www.wsbt.com/news/wsbt-benton-harbor-911-calls-house-fire-injures-firefighter-20130325,0,7043035.mp3file> STAFFING OF 1?

One person on a fire apparatus is an apparatus salesman-NOT a fire department. Naturally and somewhat understandably, Lt. Doug Bell did what he felt he had to do in order to make a difference-but he ended up paying the price of budget cuts. He also faced what many now face, the difficulty of understanding that when budgets are cut so drastically-no matter how much "heart" we have-"we" can only do so much. With 1 person on a fire apparatus-until other qualified and trained Firefighters arrive, it's deck gun time and to think we can do anything else provides a false sense of community fire protection. Furthermore, if the firefighter is lucky-all they will get is a visit to the burn unit...vs a name reading in Emmitsburg the following year. Thank God that wasn't the case-this time. We wish Lt Doug Bell a successful recovery and also hope that MI OSHA cleans the clocks of those responsible for pretending to have a fire department.

**AND IN DETROIT:**

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing yesterday said **local business leaders have come up with \$8 million** to buy the city ambulances and police patrol cars. How'bout that! Bing said the money from leaders within the Downtown Detroit Partnership will get the city 23 new EMS rigs and 100 police cars. The announcement came on the same day bankruptcy attorney and turnaround specialist Kevyn Orr began his first day on the job as Detroit's emergency manager. Orr has taken over the finances of the largest screwed up city in the country to come under state oversight. According to Bing, the timing of the announcement was simply a coincidence. **HERE is more: <http://tinyurl.com/cdqmkag>**

**DCFD-The Saga of Our Nations Capital Fire/EMS Service Continues:**

In case things are slow in your neck of the woods, here is an update from DaveS on the latest related to the DCFD....from the shirt and lettering fiasco to staffing issues to delayed responses and

apparatus and EMS units falling apart-there appears to be no shortage of failed leadership priorities in the mission of taking care of the public in DC. **MUCH MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/ckbzsuw>

**DELAYED DOUBLE LODD REPORT: WALL COLLAPSE KILLED 2 SOUTH AEMRICAN FIREFIGHTERS IN THE LINE OF DUTY.**

We regret to advise you that 2 Fire-Rescue Personnel (Agents) from the City of Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro, died in the line of duty last week, when a landslide made a wall fall over them. Agents Fernando Fernandes de Lima, 44, and Paulo Roberto Filgueiras, 37, were evacuating people from risk areas and, according to their commander, they rescued 20 people before being caught by the wall collapse. A third "agent" was severely injured and is in intensive care at Santa Teresa Hospital. Heavy rains already caused the death of 27 people in the region.

<http://www.diariodosudoeste.com.br/noticias/brasil/2,20018,18,03,agentes-mortos-em-petropolis-tentavam-tirar-familias-de-suas-casas.shtml> RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-26-13 / 0948 Hours

**AND:**

**UPDATE: NJ FF LODD-CAREER FORESTRY FF WAS ALSO A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER**

New Jersey State Forest Fire Service Firefighter Jeffrey Scheuerer, 35, who also served as a Volunteer Firefighter on his off days, was struck and killed while conducting a controlled burn today-at his career job. FF Jeff Scheuerer was also a member of the Readington Volunteer Fire Company. He was killed in the Line of Duty today while on the job as a career FF with the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. He had deep roots in Hunterdon County as a longtime resident of Raritan Township and as an active volunteer FF with Readington Fire since 1991. FF Scheuerer was hit by a Jeep driven by a civilian woman (who did stop immediately) on Lebanon-Stanton Road (Route 629) at about 1130 hours today. FF Scheuerer was in the roadway at the time. The accident happened when heavy smoke from the controlled burn, or "prescribed burn," shifted, apparently reducing visibility on Lebanon-Stanton Road near an entrance to the area Round Valley Recreation Area. The driver of the Jeep had not been charged in the accident, but hours later the road remained closed as the investigation continued. Our deepest condolences go out to Mr. Scheuerer's family, Fire Chief John Rathborne and the Readington Volunteer Fire Company; as well as Mr. Scheuerer's Brothers and Sisters in the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. **NJ FOREST FIRE SERVICE HOME PAGE:**

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/fire/aboutus.html>

**READINGTON FIRE COMPANY HOME PAGE:** <http://rvfc32.org>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL:

BillyG

The Secret List 3-28-13 / 2058 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

So, about a catrillion people woke up this morning, Easter morning, and read this headline (**link below**) in their newspaper (which has spread via media wildfire worldwide) - "EMS workers post gory, private photos of patients online" - This will be quick...and be sure to check the 2 links below. Really.

Dumb-being a Firefighter, EMT or Paramedic and posting anything work related on facebook, social media sites or anywhere on the Internet that could be REMOTELY perceived negatively by anyone who may have ANY opposite views of yours. We work for them. All of them. They are us. If you can live without posting, do it. If you can't, call EAP. Dumber-being a Firefighter, EMT or Paramedic and

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

posting any photos on the Internet-anywhere-of anyone or any scene without your department's clear authorization. Prejudice: is a preconceived judgment or opinion or an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge and understanding. **Keep reading...don't pre-judge me - yet.**

**Reality 1:** Everyone probably has some small level of prejudice, it's human nature. I know I do. For example, City Hall dwellers. Counseling has helped. But if we apply to "serve the public" - it is hoped that the background and psych tests might help figure out who is best at serving the public with the least amount of prejudice-or hatred-and who may be better off doing something else. No hard feelings, but if you dislike or hate being around people that will need your help, it just doesn't make much sense to do so. You hate them-so why serve them? Convinced that your attitude toward "them" won't impact your ability to serve? Keep telling yourself that.

**Reality 2:** With the assumption that you got thru the testing process, and got "that" position you wanted (volunteer or career-no matter) ...you are now trusted more than any other profession. **NO ONE** is trusted more than we are-read any survey about ANY local government service. Fire/EMS: # 1. We define and are expected to continuously define trust.  
=Trust that you will actually and genuinely care about any type of "those kinda" people....and take care of "them" as you would your own Mom. Or you would want her treated.  
=Trust that while people are bleeding out, while their limbs are missing, while their Child was struck, while their Sister was raped, while their Dad was murdered or Grandma was puking...that you will think about how else you can help as opposed to taking a few people photos of their really bad day--- and then sharing them. **WTF!?**

Look, we absolutely get how the job can bend us all at times--it's an issue--but it's not an excuse or "free pass" to fail trust. The bottom line is "anykinda" people need us on their worst day-or their not so worst day- even when they just need a ride to the hospital with a sore toe-one that's been sore for a month-that stuff comes with the territory and we can't fix that.

Filled with anger or rage? Talk to someone, don't post it.

Treat everyone who calls you for help the way you want your Mom (etc) to be treated.

Post nothing that even remotely could be perceived negatively by anyone.

Know your Department's SOP's, State and Federal laws related to this stuff...and when you go thru your next HIPAA review, actually pay attention.

**\*HAVE YOU READ THIS HEADLINE STORY YET?**

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/emts\\_are\\_pic\\_and\\_twisted\\_WHMpohpsktzM2epWfrXw9l](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/emts_are_pic_and_twisted_WHMpohpsktzM2epWfrXw9l)

**BE SURE TO TAKE A MOMENT** to read DaveS's thoughts: (A 25+ year friend, Dave is a retired TV reporter and former FF/EMT...with unique media perspective worth your time)

<http://tinyurl.com/cctco7n>

Take Care-Be Careful. Think.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-31-13 / 2139 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A patient and two medics riding in an AmeriMed EMS ambulance was injured in a roll-over accident early Sunday morning in Canton, GA. Cherokee County Fire Dispatchers received a call around 0200 hours Sunday **from the patient** who had been inside the ambulance notifying them of the accident, which occurred along Interstate 575 near Georgia Highway 140 at Exit 16. Cherokee County fire

responded to the crash and found the patient had been ejected from the back of the ambulance. The ambulance was traveling on the northbound side of the interstate when the ambulance allegedly lost control and rolled over. Along with the patient, two female medics were also injured in the crash. Fortunately the patient had a cell phone.

### **MOOCH-UAL AID?**

While this story is in NJ-similar situations are occurring in other places around North America where communities who have cut their budgets, unfairly turn to their neighbors to bail them out.

**MUTUAL AID** should not be confused with **MOOCH-UAL AID**. In this recent case, Firefighters from a number of northern New Jersey towns are po'd, saying they are risking their lives fighting fires in Harrison while that town's fire department is dangerously understaffed. The issue came to a head earlier this month when other fire departments helped fire that fire in Harrison. The six-alarm fire on March 10 resulted in that smoke explosion: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJhLZ822sJw> Five Jersey City firefighters suffered injuries helping to fight the fire. Firefighters union chief Bill Lavin stated: "We are lucky we didn't have to go to a funeral that day." Now a number of fire departments in Hudson County, including Jersey City, Bayonne, Kearny and Hoboken, have signed a letter to the Harrison Fire Director asking for a meeting to discuss the problem. Certainly **MUTUAL AID** (including automatic aid) is an accepted and good practice-but there has to be a balance where both sides gain vs one community mooching off the other, because the community or elected officials choose to under fund their own fire department....and "just call for more help when needed"...another story in the continuing saga of pretend FD's.

### **MORE HERE:**

<http://pix11.com/2013/04/02/new-jersey-firefighters-say-staffing-is-dangerously-low/#ixzz2PK6j3W9R>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-2-13 / 1234 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

5 years ago today, April 4, 2008, Firefighters from Colerain Township (Hamilton Co, OH) responded to the type of fire dispatch that we all have turned out on many, many times. However, in this case, what was initially a reported automatic alarm-resulted in double Line of Duty Deaths of a Captain and one of her Firefighters. While responding to the AFA, the dispatcher upgraded the run, indicating the occupants were reporting a working house fire. Not long after that Fire Captain Robin Broxterman, 37-years-old, a 17-year veteran career Firefighter and Paramedic, and Firefighter Brian Schira, 29-years-old, a 6 month probationary, part-time Firefighter and EMT with Colerain Township Fire & EMS both died in the Line of Duty after the floor they were on collapsed into the burning basement - at that dwelling fire.

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

**THE COLERAIN FIRE, REPORTS & VIDEOS:**

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

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

==HERE is the Colerain Township FD Report, Radio Traffic And Related Details:

<http://www.colerain.org/departement/fire/lodd/>

**SEVERAL IMPORTANT RELATED VIDEOS:**

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

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

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

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

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

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. PLEASE READ & SHARE THE ABOVE INFO.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-4-13 / 0800 Hours

**AND:**

**PHILADELPHIA FIRE CAPTAIN DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCTURE COLLAPSE AT FIRE (UPDATE)**

We regret to pass onto you that with great sadness, the Philadelphia Fire Dept. announces the Line of Duty Death of Captain Mike Goodwin of Ladder Company 27, last evening, April 6th 2013. Capt. Goodwin was a 29 year veteran of the dept. Capt. Goodwin was killed when a collapse occurred while Firefighters were operating at that 3 alarm fire. He had been operating on the roof of the building when it collapsed, trapping him inside. Additionally, Firefighter Andrew Godlinski, with 5 years on the job, was injured while trying to rescue Captain Goodwin following the collapse. He was transported to the hospital with burns. Godlinski tried to rescue him before a second-floor roof and two walls also collapsed. Captain Goodwin is survived by a wife and two grown children. The fire broke out in the basement of a fabric store and extended to the upper floors of the three story store front with apartments above. Captain Goodwin was trapped in the building for a significant amount of time. Rescue Co.1, the Collapse Unit and other special equipment were used to find and rescue the Captain. Firefighters were able to rescue FF Godlinski, but needed to cut through portions of the collapsed roof to free Captain Goodwin.

**PFD LODD RELATED LINKS:**

PFD Fire Commissioner Ayres Press Conference: <http://bit.ly/17k4KEi>

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

Philly.com Article <http://bit.ly/Y5Ag1Y>

Philadelphia Fire Dept. Local 22 Union <http://www.iaff22.org>

Philadelphia Fire Dept. <http://www.phila.gov/fire>

**PA FIREFIGHTER MEDEVAC'D AFTER FALL FROM THE ROOF**

A Firefighter was injured while working at the scene of a dwelling fire in Coolbaugh Township, Monroe County, PA last night. The initial call came in around 2030 hours with reports of a fire in a

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

dwelling. Around 2105 hours, a helicopter was called because a Firefighter had fallen from the roof of the two-story dwelling. Initial reports were that he landed on his back, but was conscious.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-7-13 / 0700 Hours

#### **AND:**

All,

A Fire Officer was rescued following a fire in Queen Village, in Philadelphia this evening. The multi-alarm fire broke out at the Jack B. Fabrics building on the 700 block of 4th and Fitzwater early this evening. Initial reports are that a Philly Fire Captain who was operating on the scene went missing inside the building and was trapped for an extended period of time. Firefighters searched and were able to remove him around 2100. Another Firefighter was injured in the fire. Both Firefighters were taken to Jefferson Hospital. One of the Firefighters is in stable condition while the other is in very critical condition, according to PFD officials. We will post much more but also follow [www.PhillyFireNews.com](http://www.PhillyFireNews.com) the latest facts.

#### **Philly Fire News Update:**

Companies arrived on scene with smoke showing from the first floor of three story store front with apartments above. B/C-4 reported companies had trouble located the seat of the fire in the basement of fabric store. Placed all hands in service (working) Deputy-1 requested the second alarm. Command ordered all companies out of the building and went in service with an exterior operations. Command requested the third alarm struck for heavy fire through out. Command requested a the collapse unit for a firefighter trapped after a collapse of the building. The firefighter was recovered from the building and transported to the hospital with serious injuries. More to follow.

#### **Keep'm In Your Prayers.**

BillyG

The Secret List 2140 Hours / 4-16-13

#### **AND:**

#### **NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL-FOUND IN QUARTERS FOLLOWING A RUN**

We regret to pass on to you that Binghamton (Broome County, NY) Firefighter John M. Janos, 57, passed away during the overnight while on duty at Quint 21-3. He had 24 1/2 years service with the Binghamton Fire Department. According to the BFD, FF Janos, along with the BFD, had answered a call during the overnight (0021 hrs) at 23 Henry St. for an automatic fire alarm and they climbed the stairs to check the building. After the call he wasn't feeling well (seemed like indigestion). They checked on him at approximately 0730 this morning and found him deceased in the bunk room. Our sincere condolences to all affected-especially the officers and members of the BFD, his friends and most importantly, FF Janos' Family. RIP

City of Binghamton FD Website: <http://tinyurl.com/d79j6ma>

IAFF Local 729 Website: <http://www.iaff729.org>

Broome County Emergency Services Website: <http://www.gobroomecounty.com/e911/>

#### **FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH DEBATE**

A spokeswoman for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration says the agency still hasn't resolved its disagreement with the U.S. Forest Service over the events which lead to the Line of Duty death of a 20-year-old Moscow woman, who was killed in 2012 while battling a wildfire near Orofino, Idaho. FF Anne Veseth was killed by a falling tree which had been struck by another tree in a domino effect. It occurred while Veseth was battling the Streep Corner Fire on Aug. 12, 2012. An anonymous

April 20, 2013

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

18

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

federal reporting system for wildland firefighters indicated that a Montana-based firefighting team declined to join suppression efforts on the Steep Corner Fire the day before Veseth died, citing safety concerns. OSHA conducted an investigation, leading to citations and fines for the Forest Service and Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protection Agency. Among the several violations listed in OSHA's report were failure to keep crews informed of weather reports and not knowing what the fire was doing at all times. The report also pointed to "communication problems" and failure in "maintaining control of workforces." In March, OSHA settled with the Orofino-based Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association, with CPTPA agreeing to pay a \$10,500 fine. But this morning's Lewiston Tribune reports that the Forest Service is still at loggerheads with OSHA. HERE is more:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2013/04/forest\\_service\\_osh\\_a\\_at\\_odds\\_ov.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2013/04/forest_service_osh_a_at_odds_ov.html)

#### **WOMEN FIREFIGHTERS**

There is an interesting new website now up all that's about the history of FDNY women Firefighters. The site has a detailed history as well as numerous links, articles, photos, newspaper articles and editorials related to women attempting to - and eventually getting on - the FDNY. It started in the 70's (when women were first able to test) and then 1982 (when the first women successfully passed) and covers the entire history...right up until today.

**HERE is the website-check it out:** <http://www.laborarts.org/exhibits/womenfirefighters>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-6-13 / 1634 Hours

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

#### **AND:**

#### **MO ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CRASH WHILE RESPONDING**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Assistant Chief Harold Hollingsworth, 47, of the Fort Osage FPD (Missouri) was killed in the Line of Duty at 2143 hours last night. Assistant Chief Hollingsworth was responding to a reported structure fire during active severe weather. He was involved in a single vehicle crash during his response when he struck a tree. Chief Hollingsworth was treated and transported to a local hospital where he received further treatment but tragically succumbed to his injuries. Assistant Chief Hollingsworth had been promoted to that rank in 2010 and leaves behind his family, the members of the Fort Osage FPD and many other family members and friends. Our condolences to all affected., RIP. **FOPFD Website:**[www.fortosagefire.org](http://www.fortosagefire.org)

#### **BINGHAMTON NY FIREFIGHTER LODD FUNERAL:**

As you know, Binghamton Firefighter John Janos, 57, died in the Line of Duty early Saturday morning while on duty at the BFD State Street fire station. He became ill after he responded to a fire alarm activation at a multistory building just after midnight. Calling hours for FF Janos will be held at J.A. McCormack and Sons Funeral Home in Binghamton on Tuesday from 4-7 p.m. The funeral service will be held at St. Thomas Aquinas church - also in Binghamton at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Donations in his name can be made to the Professional Firefighters Cancer Research fund. For more information on how you can donate visit [www.iaff729.org](http://www.iaff729.org) . RIP.

#### **PHILADELPHIA FIRE CAPTAIN LODD FUNERAL:**

Funeral arrangements for beloved veteran Philadelphia Fire Captain Michael Goodwin have been announced. As you know, Captain Goodwin died in the Line of Duty operating at that fabric store fire Saturday night.

**REPORTS ARE THAT FF** Andrew Godlewski displayed incredible heroics attempting to save the Captains life. FF Godlewski was treated at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital for burns to his hands but was released yesterday

April 20, 2013

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

19

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**FUNERAL DETAILS:** Tuesday at noon there will be a memorial service at City Hall honoring Captain Goodwin as well as Capt. Robert Neary, 59, and Daniel Sweeney, 25 who were killed last year in a massive fire collapse. Viewings for Captain Goodwin will be held Wednesday evening from 5 to 9 and Thursday morning from 9 to 10:45 at the Givnish Funeral Home on Academy Road. The funeral will follow at noon at St. Michael's Lutheran Church on 2139 E. Cumberland Street in Kensington. He will then be buried at the Hillside Cemetery in Roslyn, Pa. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Goodwin's memory should be sent to the Firefighters Widow Fund, Local 22, 415 N. 5th Street Philadelphia, Pa. 19123. NOTE: You can also share your memories of and condolences for Captain Goodwin by visiting the Life Celebration website: <http://www.lifecelebration.com/> - Captain Goodwin is survived by his mother, Elizabeth; wife, Kelly; children Michael Goodwin and Dorothy Dunn; two grandchildren; two brothers; and a sister. **NOTE:** FF Andrew Godlewski, who attempted to save Captain Goodwin, was treated at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital for burns to his hands and released Sunday.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-13 / 1100 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Below is a **CLOSE CALL** video from an ambulance dash cameras of an incredibly close call. Thanks to the Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance in Clifton Park, NY, Mike McEvoy, Operations Supervisor and to our long time FFCC video hosting partners, FIRE CAM: [www.FireVideo.net](http://www.FireVideo.net)

**WHAT HAPPENED:**

On Saturday morning, March 30, 2013 just before 0700 hours, Clifton Park & Halfmoon Ambulance was dispatched to a medical emergency on the Southbound shoulder of the I-87 Interstate just above a major bridge. An ambulance returning from a local hospital was in the vicinity and first responded to the call, pulling well off shoulder behind the vehicle involved. A bystander vehicle was already blocking one lane of traffic. The crew donned ANSI vests and approached the patient in the vehicle. A police patrol arrived several minutes later, parking adjacent to ambulance in the slow lane to block traffic which had narrowed to two lanes. A Fire Chief arrived shortly thereafter, pulling to the front of the other vehicles. While the crew was assessing patient and the police officer was approaching, a vehicle moving at a high rate of speed lost control, skidded sideways, narrowly missing the ambulance and crashing into the police vehicle, pushing it towards crew. There were no injuries to crew, patient or police officer and no damage to the ambulance. The ambulance originally dispatched to call arrived moments after impact and both crews treated the original patient and driver of the out of control vehicle (who had been talking on her cell phone). **CHECK OUT THE VIDEO HERE:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOLPIUQBmmw&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOLPIUQBmmw&feature=player_embedded)

**MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER: "TODAY MARKS ANOTHER YEAR SINCE THE FIRE THAT ALMOST TOOK MY LIFE"**

This story was authored by a Prince George's County Firefighter that suffered severe burn injuries while battling a house fire in Kettering four years ago. A firefighter that had sustained such horrific burn injuries we were not sure he was going to survive. He did survive and than we became concerned that he would never be able to return to work as a firefighter again, he did. On the fourth anniversary of his sustaining burn injuries he has shared, on his Facebook page, his thoughts as he remembers them and we have reprinted them here. OUR THANKS to Mark E. Brady, Chief Spokesperson of the Prince Georges County (MD) Fire-EMS Department as well as FF Dan McCown for passing it on....

In his own words, Fire Fighter Daniel McGown writes.....

"Well boys n girls, men n women & guys n gals... Today marks another year since number 87 Harrington Drive almost took my life. As you can tell and feel from outside last night/early this morning, it was a beautiful, relaxing, cozy temperature, nothing can go wrong, amazing kind of night, much like it was this day 4 years ago, but obviously things did go wrong. It started out as a thought to be bread and butter auto fire (later determined to be intentionally set) in an attached car port that turned out to be a snot slinging house! Things went bad, the smoke and soot I took in after I thought I was outside and removed my regulator to stop my throat from burning screwed me up and disoriented me to the point where I did not know what to do but scream at the top of my lungs, bloody murder for help!" "As I bashed and pushed myself into the full length brick wall 5+ times, and what felt like slowly losing consciousness as I couldn't hold my self up anymore and slowly sliding down that wall, hoping to fall thru it to the exterior or fall out of a window, I did not know what to think other than "How can I get out of this situation and is this really how it's going to end?!?!" I have never said what I was thinking, because well that my friends, is not a pleasant thought! After I was discovered by Joe Brown via. my P.A.S.S. device/alarm and removed by him, Pat Mann, and Tim Moore in the interior of the home, with Curtis Patterson and Peter Johnson outside on ladders, I regained consciousness, only to first yell at them to stop cutting my coat.

**I was under the impression I had made it out on my own. ...."**

**READ FF McCOWN'S ENTIRE STORY OF THIS FIRE, WITH PREVIOUS COVERAGE, PICS ETC ..AND DETAILS ABOUT THOSE WHO HELPED HIM: <http://tinyurl.com/cpd9gyb>**

### **IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH 1-1/2 " ATTACK LINES?**

So often these days, firefighters are looking for "the one" answer on numerous tactical issues-and as always, the answer is that: **it depends**. There rarely is "one" answer. Normally, the outcome of the fire depends on your size up (what do you have?), your tactical plan (what do you wanna do?) and your resources to do what you just decided upon. In other words, do you have the resources, the stuff, the equipment to get that plan done? While the correct # of firefighters on the 1st alarm is our most critical resource for success, the tools and equipment is our "artillery" ....such as hoselines and nozzles...getting the needed water on the fire. The hoseline and nozzle debates have been around for years-and will continue well past most of us-and like anything, there is not always **ONE** answer....it depends on some of the above stuff. Again-whats on fire (or what may be on fire) ? What do you want to do about it? And what do you have to get that done?

**CHECK OUT** this piece by DaveF that discusses the 1-1/2" line compared to the 1-3/4" line ...as well as a little history of WHERE the 1-3/4" actually came from: <http://tinyurl.com/d3or5sj>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-13 / 1952 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

(Note: After reading this, be sure to see the below related link on the IAFC/IAFF Report on Public Safety Officers)

Interesting news in light of the many recent discussions about "cross training" police and firefighting duties for "public safety". In this case, the very powerful Port Authority of NY & NJ gets their heads handed to them by the FAA for "egregious" fire operational safety violations-gets fined millions of (tax)dollars-and now take look at the changes that are going to happen....**because FIREFIGHTING must be a priority. How 'bout that! The changes include ordering them to create a dedicated fire service without cross-police officer duties-all under a FIRE Chief....**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) reached a settlement agreement about aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) violations from December 2010 to June 2012 at four New York area airports owned and operated by the PANYNJ - John F. Kennedy, Teterboro, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty International.

**"We expect all airports to comply with our safety regulations and to correct any deficiencies immediately," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "These violations were egregious, and they will not be tolerated."**

**Under the agreement, the PANYNJ agrees to pay a \$3.5 million fine within 30 days.** If there is a violation of the settlement agreement, the FAA will impose an additional fine of \$1.5 million and will assess an additional \$27,500 daily for each violation. In addition to the fine, the PANYNJ has agreed to take the following actions, with FAA approval, to address the underlying problems that led to systemic noncompliance with ARFF requirements at the four airports:

- **The Port Authority will create a dedicated ARFF force to carry out airport-related ARFF functions with no collateral police officer duties.**
- **The staff will report directly to the Department of Aviation and be operational no later than March 31, 2014.**
- **The Port Authority will hire an ARFF fire chief and facility captains as soon as possible, but no later than March 31, 2014.**
- The Port Authority will submit a curriculum for training to the FAA on or before December 31, 2013, which includes at least 75 hours of initial ARFF training and 40 hours of annual recurrent firefighting training in addition to Part 139 training, pertaining to an airport's operational and safety standards and providing for such things as firefighting and rescue.
- The ARFF personnel will work a 12-hour shift.
- The Port Authority will amend the airport certification manuals for the four airports to include: an organizational chart; a process to maintain ARFF training records; and a description of ARFF operations, including shift assignments, personnel training records management, and Department of Aviation oversight.
- The Port Authority will conduct monthly internal audits of ARFF training and shift assignments and annual external audits to ensure that all ARFF personnel assigned to a shift are trained.

**"We expect the Port Authority to have trained safety personnel to ensure the safety of the travelling public and airport personnel, just like we have at all airports in the United States," said FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta.**

The FAA became aware of ARFF violations as a result of an annual airport certification safety inspection of JFK in December 2011. The FAA also discovered similar violations at Teterboro, which prompted a full review of training at LaGuardia, Newark Liberty International, and Stewart International Airports. The review of ARFF training revealed violations at LaGuardia and Newark, with no violations at Stewart. The FAA believes the settlement agreement provides the best long-term solution to ensure ARFF compliance, given the systemic nature of the PANYNJ airport problems. HERE are the media articles and more details:

<http://tinyurl.com/d3k33a3> (Article)

<http://tinyurl.com/d2jxdnh> (Article)

<http://tinyurl.com/cbybdng> (Video)

==RELATED REPORT:

**IAFC & IAFF: Public Safety Officers: An Ineffective Use Of Resources.**

<http://www.iaff.org/09News/PDFs/PSOSystems.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-8-13 / 2222 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Two Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS-SW Australia) Firefighters were seriously injured in a house fire in Adelaide this afternoon. 35 MFS Firefighters responded to the well involved house fire around 1535 hours today. Firefighters conducted an interior search of the home as there were reports of disabled occupants trapped, none were found, and then worked to knock the fire. During fire fighting operations, 2 Firefighters, who were wearing PPE (SCBA and gear) received very significant burns. Both were immediately treated at the scene by SA Ambulance Service paramedics with the assistance of MFS firefighters, before being transported to the hospital. Both firefighters are undergoing treatment at this time. **1 FF is reported to have 60% burns and the other less.** We'll posted updates-keep'm in your prayers.

**HERE is their homepage:** <http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

**PHILADELPHIA FUNERAL DETAILS FOR OUT OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS, FIREFIGHTERS & APPARATUS**

We have been asked to pass this along-especially for departments and Firefighters traveling to Philadelphia from out of town for the funeral of Battalion Chief (promoted posthumously by PFD Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, Michael R. Goodwin, Sr. of IAFF Local 22 - Philadelphia, FD PA. Chief Goodwin, 53, died in the Line of Duty on Saturday, April 6, 2013 at that building collapse while operating at the three-alarm fire.

Visitation

will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Thursday, April 11, 2013 from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m. at John F. Givnish Funeral Home, 10975 Academy Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19154, [\(215\) 281-0100](tel:2152810100). Prior to the visitation on Wednesday, there will be a procession to the funeral home from Archbishop Ryan High at 3:00 p.m. A Life Celebration Service will be held Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 12:00 Noon at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 2139 East. Cumberland Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125, [\(215\) 423-0792](tel:2154230792). Prior to the Service, there will be a procession from the funeral home to the church. Interment will follow the service at Hillside Cemetery, Roslyn, Pennsylvania.

**OUT OF TOWN Apparatus & Vehicles:**

Apparatus and marked vehicles from outside Philadelphia that will be part of the procession from the church to the cemetery are asked to stage on Lehigh Avenue by 11:00 a.m. Vehicles should enter Lehigh Avenue eastbound from Frankford Avenue. Personnel traveling in private vehicles should consider parking on York Street. Parking in the area will be limited. Off Duty Members Not In Procession: The Horatio Hackett School parking lot at York and Sepviva Sts. for off-duty PFD members who do not want to be in the procession, or want to carpool in the procession. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Fire Fighter Widows' Fund, Local 22, 415, N. 5th St., Philadelphia, PA 19123. Other expressions of sympathy or condolences can be sent to Local 22 at 415, N. 5th St., Philadelphia, PA 19123 or to [bgault@iaff22.org](mailto:bgault@iaff22.org).

**DETAILS FROM LOCAL 22 HERE:** <http://www.iaff22.org>

Take care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-9-13 / 1457 Hours

**AND:**

All,

April 20, 2013

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Here are some updated details. The Gwinnett County Firefighters initially responded to medical emergency with 1 engine and 1 EMS unit-and were reportedly met by a gunman. The man who called 911 apparently faked a heart attack to lure in the firefighters-according to local reports. A SWAT team is there trying to negotiate and reports are now that 1 FF has been released to move an apparatus. Police have sent out a request to local TV stations telling them not to send helicopters over the area, in the interest of assuring the safety of those involved in the situation. **Here is some Audio of the incident:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu5uPMkLp1U&feature=youtu.be>

#### **UPDATES:**

Go to our home page at [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com) and watch the ALERT PAGE screen on top for "live" updates:

Keep'm in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-10-13 / 1800 Hours

#### **AND:**

All-

Here is the latest study (with link below) to demonstrate the issues and facts related to staffing on the fireground.

**When responding to fires in high-rise buildings, firefighting crews of five or six members-instead of three or four-are significantly faster in putting out fires and completing search-and-rescue operations, concludes a major new study\* carried out by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), in cooperation with five other organizations.**

Results of the study, carried out with 13 Washington, D.C.-area fire departments, were presented today at the 2013 Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Conference in Phoenix.

"Unlike most house fires, high-rise fires are high-hazard situations that pose unique operational challenges to fire service response. How big a fire gets and how much danger it poses to occupants and firefighters are largely determined by crew size and how personnel are deployed at the scene," says lead researcher Jason Averill, a NIST fire protection engineer. "It's not simply that larger crews have more people. Larger crews are deployed differently and, as a result, are able to perform required tasks more quickly."

An analysis of 14 "critical tasks"-those undertaken when potential risks to building occupants and firefighters are greatest-found that three-member crews took almost 12 minutes longer than crews of four, 21 minutes longer than crews of five, and 23 minutes longer than crews of six to complete all tasks. Four-person crews took nine minutes and 11 minutes longer than five- and six-member crews, respectively.

The study also looked at the effect of using fire service access elevators to move firefighters and equipment up to the staging floor and concluded that most tasks were started two to four minutes faster when using the elevators compared with using the stairs.

The study, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program and conducted in a 13-story vacant high-rise office building in Crystal City, Va., involved 48 separate controlled experiments, plus 48 corresponding computer-modeling simulations, which evaluated three types of representative fires, from slow to fast growing. "This study will result in

better-informed policy and operational decisions influencing levels of staffing and other resources available for responding to high-rise fires," says Dennis Compton, former chief of the Mesa, Ariz., fire department and chairman of the board of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation. "These are decisions now confronting hundreds of communities across the country." On the basis of the results of computer modeling, which incorporate data from live experimental burns, the study team concluded that smaller crews end up facing larger fires because of the additional time required to complete tasks.

A three-person crew, for example, would battle a medium-growing blaze that is almost 60 percent larger than the fire faced by a six-member crew, which would start extinguishing a fire roughly three-and-one-half minutes earlier. In an office building, this difference is equivalent to four employee cubicles on fire for a three-person crew versus two cubicles for a six-person crew.

Comparing the performances of different-sized crews, the researchers found that adding two members to three- and four-person teams would result in the largest improvements in starting and completing critical tasks, such as advancing the water hose to the fire location and beginning search and rescue. Improvements ranged from one minute to 25 minutes, depending on the task.

The research team also evaluated whether dispatching more three or four-member crews to a high rise fire-accomplished by sounding a higher initial alarm-would be as effective as sending a low first alarm contingent of engines and trucks staffed by more firefighters. They found that a "low-alarm response with crews of size four or five outperforms a high-alarm response with crew sizes smaller by one firefighter."

"Prior to this experiment, some fire departments attempted to deploy with smaller crews on each piece of apparatus," explains Lori Moore-Merrell of the International Association of Fire Fighters, a co-principal investigator for the study. "The logic suggested that, if the fire is big enough, just send more units, but it ignores the fact that larger crews have tactical advantages that reduce risk exposure to people and firefighters. Crews of six and even five can carry out crucial tasks in parallel rather than in series. Saving time can save occupant lives and prevent firefighter injuries and property damage."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) defines high-rises as buildings that are seven stories or taller, the height that exceeds most types of fire service ladders. In most U.S. communities, new high-rises are required to have automated sprinkler systems, which are designed to control the spread of fires, not to extinguish them. But according to the NFPA, 41 percent of U.S. high-rise office buildings, 45 percent of high-rise hotels, and 54 percent of high-rise apartment buildings are not equipped with sprinklers, as compared with 25 percent of hospitals and related facilities. Moreover, sprinkler systems fail in about one in 14 fires.

As a result, Averill says, "fire departments should be prepared to manage the risks associated with unsprinklered high-rise fires regardless of whether a building is actually sprinklered." High-rise buildings now dot the U.S. urban, suburban and even rural landscapes. While concentrated in large cities, such as New York with 6,543 skyscrapers and buildings seven stories or taller, Chicago with more than 2,300, and Phoenix with about 175, high-rises are also common in smaller metropolitan areas, according to the building inventory maintained by Emporis. For example, Omaha has about 70 buildings seven stories or taller, Fargo, N.D., has 22, and Gulf Shores, Ala., has about 65.

While much less frequent than house fires, about 43 high-rise fires occur in the United States every day. Between 2005 and 2009, according to the NFPA, high-rise structure fires averaged 15,700 annually. Average annual losses totaled 53 civilian deaths, 546 civilian injuries and \$235 million in

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

property damage. The new study on responding to high-rise fires complements a 2010 study from the same research team that looked at staffing levels and arrival times in the context of fighting residential fires.\*\* "Rather than providing a one-size-fits-all answer, our study provides a scientific basis for discussions in communities as they consider matching resources deployed to their particular risk levels." says Averill.

"Until now, high-rise staffing, deployment and even operational decisions have been based on decades of applying trial and error strategy and tactics," says NFPA's Russell Sanders, a retired Louisville, Ky., fire chief. "Tragically, the fire department standard operating procedures and industry standards that we have today have, in many cases, been established at the high cost of civilian and firefighter lives: the science to prove these policies, procedures and standards as the best practice has been absent." Sanders says NFPA consensus committees will use the results of the new study as they update safety and best-practice standards for firefighters.

**THE REPORT:** D. Wissoker and K. A. Notarianni, Report on High-Rise Fireground Field Experiment, [NIST Technical Note 1797], April 2013. Available at: [www.firereporting.org](http://www.firereporting.org) \*\*The Report on Residential Fireground Field Experiments [NIST Technical Note 1661] can be downloaded at: [http://www.nist.gov/manuscript-publication-search.cfm?pub\\_id=904607](http://www.nist.gov/manuscript-publication-search.cfm?pub_id=904607)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-10-12 / 1500 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

That heavily armed man is now dead after cops stormed his suburban Atlanta home to rescue 4 Gwinnett County Firefighters who were taken hostage when they responded to an EMS run in Suwanee ...which is located about 35 miles northeast of downtown Atlanta. A SWAT team used "flash-bang" type explosives to enter the home and take the gunman by surprise after negotiators believed that the lives of the firefighters were in "imminent danger"...and there was an exchange of gunfire. 5 FF's were initially held hostage but 1 was released shortly after he was taken hostage to move the fire apparatus, leaving 4 in the house when the police entered it with grenades...unfortunately one police officer was wounded in the exchange of gunfire (he was shot in the hand) but is reported to be doing well. Gwinnett County Fire Capt. Thomas Rutledge advised that members of the PD's SWAT team were initially attempting to negotiate with the man, who had barricaded himself in the house on a leafy block in a subdivision in Suwanee. The man initially demanded that utilities at the house, which had been turned off, be restored. The house at 2440 Walnut Grove Way is a bank-owned repossession, public records show. At around 1930, it was reported that multiple explosions were heard in the neighborhood as negotiators had determined that the lives of the Firefighters were in "imminent danger" and that they had to go in. Captain Rutledge said that the firefighters, like any fire or EMS personnel, had no idea they were being set up when they received the medical call.

**HERE is video from the scene:** <http://tinyurl.com/d4776xa>

**HERE is video AFTER the suspect was killed:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5RD5f1RQk8>

**HERE is an initial video interview:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0vatSq-fll>

**HERE is the GWINNETT COUNTY FD HOME PAGE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3h8aqwz>

**FLORIDA ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF, ROBBED, CRITICALLY SHOT-THEN TREATS HIMSELF (Off Duty)**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Boca Raton Assistant Fire Chief Dave Woodside, a friend of FFCC & TSL, is recovering in the hospital. Last weekend, Dave was the victim of a home invasion while visiting with a missionary friend in the Dominican Republic. He was awakened by two masked men with a flashlight in his face and a silhouette of a gun in each of their hands. Dave says the suspects took his wallet, yelled at him, then shot him several times before running out of the house. Dave, a veteran FF/Paramedic told his friends what to do. "We got a towel cut it off and made a tourniquet put it on my upper leg and covered the wounds. There were two other people in the house and they came down to prepare me to take me to the hospital," said Dave. It was a two hour drive to the hospital where doctors bandaged him up. "I was able to review the x-rays and look at the extent of my injuries in Santiago and knowing that I needed surgery." he said. Hours later, Dave returned to the U.S. to have a bullet removed from his right leg. He had surgery on the right leg the bullet in the right leg ran into the top of the ankle and lodged itself on the right side of the ankle and broke the tibia..he was also shot in the left leg. Dave has 8 to 12 weeks of physical therapy ahead of him. The suspects were not caught.

We'll keep you up to date on Dave'e progress.

**HERE ARE MORE DETAILS FROM BRFD:** <http://bocanewsnow.com/2013/04/09/boca-asst-fire-chief-shot-multiple-times/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-10-13 / 2111 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Today is the anniversary of the Line of Duty Death of New Jersey Firefighter/Foreman Kevin Apuzzio...who gave his life while attempting to save the life of a trapped civilian. Below are the factual details from the Incident Commander....Chief Danny Krushinski of the East Franklin (NJ) FD :

"....On April 11th, 2006, many of our lives changed in a heartbeat, especially the life of 21 year old Firefighter Kevin Apuzzio. Kevin stood courageous on the front lawn of 36 Whittier Avenue and said "Chief, what do you need my crew and I to do?" I Said " **Kevin, go in and get her.**" While it only seems like yesterday, to me it is still clear as day. With a house full of smoke and an elderly women trapped, Kevin did not hesitate and attempted to rescue her. I knew when the floor collapsed and my Firefighters fell into that basement from that point forward, their lives along with many others would be changed forever. While several were seriously injured and burned, Kevin lost his life with the victim he and his Brothers were valiantly trying to save. Kevin Apuzzio, you will always be by our side and your name is tattooed on my arm to prove it. On that day, you lost your life and became a hero doing something you loved to do, that was helping strangers...." "Today, my family which includes the men and women of Station 27, my wife and children and the Apuzzio Family will again be spending the day together. We will share story's about our hero's life and not mourn Kevin, but celebrate his life and all that he stood for. God bless you Kevin, continue to watch over us each and every day...."

**Chief of Department Dan Krushinski-EFFD**

#### **THE FIRE DETAILS:**

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

## Chabot College Fire & EMS News

the members of the East Franklin FD, along with all area FD's that were impacted by the Line of Duty Death of Kevin. Rest in Peace.

### **HERE is the FIRE / LODD REPORT:**

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

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

### **HERE is a related VIDEO:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w05Y6saNYEw>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-11-13 / 1000 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

Phoenix Fire Department Firefighters are testing some really cool cutting-edge technology this week that could be a game-changer when it comes to our ability to survive when things go bad. Working in partnership with DHS, Honeywell has created a GPS-like system called the GLANSER firefighter locating and tracking system. GLANSER is an acronym for Geo-spatial Location, Accountability and Navigation System for Emergency Responders. It's still in the research-and-development phase, but it's already showing great promise. "The quality of it is so intense. It's like a video game, but it's so specific and precise," Phoenix Fire Battalion Chief Shelly Jamison said. "I've never seen anything like it." Phoenix firefighters tested the system at their Lower Buckeye Training Facility Wednesday and Thursday. Mr. Jalal Mapar, GLANSER program manager at DHS S&T, says fire departments have consistently identified firefighter tracking and locating as a priority need, which led DHS to put the issue on a fast track for development. So how does **GLANSER** work?

### **MORE INFO AND VIDEOS HERE:**

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/New-technology-to-find-firefighters-being-tested-202569411.html>

[http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region\\_phoenix\\_metro/central\\_phoenix/phoenix-fire-fighters-test-life-saving-technology](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/central_phoenix/phoenix-fire-fighters-test-life-saving-technology)

<http://www.azcentral.com/12news/>

<http://urgentcomm.com/personnel-tracking/how-glanser-works>

### **FIREFIGHTER AMBUSH-NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID (VIDEO & AUDIO LINKS)**

Of all the scenarios firefighters train for, confronting a hostage-taker might not seem to be high on the list. Or suddenly dodging a sniper's deadly aim. But training and keeping calm apparently did come into play Wednesday when four Gwinnett County, Georgia, firefighters became hostages while a gunman held off authorities. The situation ended with the firefighters free and the gunman dead at the hands of police.

### **HERE IS THE DETAILED GWINNETT HOSTAGES AUDIO FROM THE INITIAL DISPATCH:**

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

That incident highlighted a fact of life for firefighters -- their life-saving work can sometimes put them in the middle of criminal situations. The Georgia event is akin to last year's New York state incident in which a sniper ambushed and killed two firefighters responding to his burning home, one expert said Thursday. "It's almost impossible to prepare for that situation if there's no indication of any potential threat," said Chief Philip Stittleburg, chairman of the National Volunteer Fire Council and the National Fire Protection Association.

Chief Jim Schwartz, chairman of the terrorism and homeland security committee of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, said fire departments must communicate more with their police partners on

how to handle scenarios such as the ones in Georgia and New York. Schwartz described firefighters' current training on operational security -- measures to protect themselves -- as "less than adequate." "It really does need to go to a new level -- these conversations where I'm asking my police chief (to) help me with what we need to understand going into a situation that could turn as bad as Gwinnett County and New York," said Schwartz, who's also chief of the Arlington County, Virginia, Fire Department. Some fire and police agencies around the country are already sharing such information, Schwartz said. Firefighters around the country are instructed on how to respond to violent scenarios -- wait for police to secure the scene so that the firefighters can do their jobs saving lives and property -- but that instruction presumes the firefighter has already noticed something amiss, Stittleburg said.

But instruction is more difficult in those fire calls where "you step off a truck and someone shoots when there is no likelihood of violence," he said. "I don't know how you deal with that one," added Stittleburg, who's also chief of the La Farge, Wisconsin, Fire Department, an all-volunteer agency. In the last 10 years or so, however, firefighters are increasingly being cross-training to become certified police officers assigned to SWAT teams, Stittleburg said. In an era of high body-count mass shootings since Colorado's Columbine High School massacre in 1999, police departments are demanding their SWAT teams include a firefighter with emergency medical service skills, Stittleburg said. "EMS skills are certainly one of the important skills that you would want on that SWAT team -- primarily for law enforcement, primarily for the SWAT team members," Stittleburg said. "We have people who are EMS folks, whose primary mission is to take care of the wounded, to be almost in a position of military corpsman or medic," he said. "It's kind of sad that things have taken a turn that creates the need for this," he added. **MORE COVERAGE AND VIDEO HERE:**

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/11/us/firefighters-violent-scenarios/>

**CONGRATS TO AWARD WINNERS AT THE METRO CHIEFS CONFERENCE: (Safety, Health and Survival Leaders Recognized)**

The Metro Chiefs (section of the IAFC & NFPA) bestowed the following 2013 Metro Awards at their conference this week:

-Chief Keith Richter, of the Orange County, California, Fire Authority was named Fire Chief of the Year;

-Chief Peter Holland, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, UK Government, received the Lifetime Achievement Award; and,

**...OF SPECIAL NOTE:**

-Ms. Vicki Lee, Program Manager, International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC); Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, Assistant to the General President of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF); and Dr. Denis Onieal, Superintendent of the National Fire Academy (and retired Chief of Dept, Jersey City, NJ) received the President's Award of Distinction.

**IT SHOULD BE NOTED** that Vicki, Lori and Denis are tops amongst some great folks who, "behind the fire scenes" lead and work daily to improve firefighters safety, health and survival. Their successful efforts are well documented and these awards are very well deserved. CONGRATS TO ALL. More details HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/ck6bgyd>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-11-13 / 2153 Hours

**AND:**

**ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-SINGLE VEHICLE RESPONDING CRASH**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

We regret to advise you of the Line of Duty Death of West Union (IL) **FF Lance Stone, 37, who was ejected and killed** in a single vehicle crash while turning out for a call last night around 2012 hours. The vehicle had left the roadway and rolled, ejecting the FF Stone. FF Stone was a member of the West Union Community Fire Protection District for several years. **FF stone leaves behind a loving family, including five kids.** This is the second time the small town has seen a similar tragedy; two years ago they lost a Paramedic in the Line of Duty from a crash. Paramedic Richard Poorman of West Union, Illinois was killed when the ambulance he was working in was hit by a pick up truck. We'll post updates on our home page.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-14-13 / 2030 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

A Berkeley (Calif) Firefighter was shot at by an 88-year-old man early this morning after responding to a medical call. The bullet struck a "Swissphone" pager being worn on the firefighter's belt, which prevented the Firefighter being injured and he did not require hospitalization. Five firefighters - an engine and an ambulance - went to the 1200 block of Dwight Way after a medical alert device was activated at 0141 hours. It was locked-so they called for PD. While making efforts to gain entry into the residence and make contact with the 88-year-old patient, a shot was fired from a handgun and the bullet struck the pager. The fire crew ran from the home. PD arrived and established a perimeter around the home, rapidly established contact with the suspect and took the man into custody and he was taken to a hospital for an emergency psychiatric evaluation.

#### **THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A FIREFIGHTERS CHILD\***

We are deeply saddened to advise you of the accidental death of Steven Lawrence Christian, age 7, of Buda, Illinois who choked on a small rubber ball while playing last Tuesday night. His own Dad, a Firefighter worked on him until relieved by EMS. He was unable to survive as he had been without oxygen too long. All day last Wednesday and Thursday, he went through a battery of neurological testing and it was grim news. The family agreed to make Steven an organ donor and after surgery, his organs saved 3 lives. Steven wanted to be a Firefighter like his Dad, his Uncle and Grandfather. Steven has now been made an Honorary Firefighter with the Buda (IL) Fire Dept, the Atkinson Fire Dept, and the Peoria Fire Dept, along with the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and the US Fire Administration. Illinois MABAS Division departments are assisting to insure he is given full honors. Survivors include his parents Dad FF Darin Christian , Mom: Joan, 2 sisters and a large group of family and friends.

**FUNERAL DETAILS:** <http://www.vandemorefuneralhome.com/obits/obituary.php?id=284977>

#### **\*CAN YOU OR YOUR ORGANIZATION ASSIST?**

In lieu of flowers, The Steven Christian Memorial Fund has been established. This will help pay for the funeral services and remaining funds will go to off set medical expenses that the insurance company will not pay. If any FOOLs Chapters, FD's, Fire Companies, Associations, IAFF chapters or vendors can help, please send to: The Steven Christian Memorial Fund, c/o Vandemore Funeral Home, Atkinson-214 S. State St. Atkinson, Illinois 61235 Your help is greatly appreciated.

#### **9/11 DOUBLE CROSS?**

The 9/11 Memorial foundation, funded to the tune of \$830 million, has begun nickel-and-diming visitors for ticket reservations. Even though the nonprofit has long vowed admission to the sacred site would be free, it is now demanding \$2 per ticket for all advance reservations made online or by phone. Officials quietly rolled out the fee on March 1 - but it did not escape the notice of some

outraged families of Sept. 11 victims. "I don't want the American public to have to pay a dime to pay respects to my son," said Sally Regenhard, whose firefighter son, Christian, died in the World Trade Center attacks. HERE IS MORE:

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/death\\_toll\\_F46VkaFcmibFMHQMYgr0qJ](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/death_toll_F46VkaFcmibFMHQMYgr0qJ)

### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CAPTAIN-A TRAGIC LOSS**

We are saddened to advise you of the passing Fire Captain Rick McClung. Rick was assigned to Fire Station 144, A shift, in Westlake Village. Captain McClung very suddenly passed away while off duty. He was assisted by members of the Ventura County Firefighters stations 30 & 31 who provided support, dignity and honor to our brother during their time with him and well after his passing. Rick is survived by his wife Monique, Son Cole and his daughters Madison and Brooke. Today is his funeral. RIP.

### **POLICE OFFICER LODD-WAS ALSO A FIREFIGHTER/EMT**

We sadly advise you of the police Line of Duty Death of Brookfield (WI) Police Officer Donald E. Bishop, 32. He was a volunteer firefighter, a dispatcher and an expert in radio communications. But most of all, he always wanted to be a full-time police officer, a goal he reached in 2011 when he was hired by the Town of Brookfield. He suffered an apparent heart attack while responding to a burglary report Friday night. Officer Bishop, who was alone in his police squad car, drove off the road near Sierra and Jaclyn drives, officials said. Another officer also responded to the burglary call and nothing suspicious was found. Lifesaving efforts were performed by officers at the scene but Bishop was later pronounced dead at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-15-13 / 1315 Hours

### **AND:**

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE OFFICER DIES 12 HOURS AFTER SHIFT-LODD**

It is with deep regret that we report the apparent Line-of-Duty death of Fire Lt. James Clark. Lt. Clark was a 26 year veteran of the Bedford Fire Department. Reports are that Lt. Clark was not feeling well at shift change and had gone home. Sadly, he passed away approx 12 hours later. HERE IS MORE:

<http://bedford-nh.patch.com/articles/bedford-fire-department-loses-26-year-veteran-lieutenant>

**MORE FROM THE PROF. FF's of NEW HAMPSHIRE:** <http://www.pffnh.org/>

**Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.**

### **NEW YORK PARAMEDIC TIED UP, ROBBED, RESPONSE VEHICLE STOLEN**

A robber tied up a Paramedic and his teenage son at gunpoint Friday morning before swiping cash and car keys, then speeding away with the medic's emergency vehicle in Brooklyn. The paramedic, 51, an on-call member of Hatzolah Volunteer Ambulance of Williamsburg: <http://www.hatzolahw.com/> and his son, 17, were working in a factory on Johnson Avenue when the suspect walked onto the factory floor holding a gun and announced a robbery. The thief tied up the paramedic and his son, then stole a stack of money and the keys to the medic's Chevrolet Malibu sedan parked outside. The vehicle had paramedic license plates registered with the state's Department of Health, as well as narcotics inside, emergency lights and a siren. NYPD found the car about noon roughly a mile and a half away beneath the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in Brooklyn. The suspect, described as a man in his 50s, remained at large.

### **RELATED: THE GWINNETT FIREFIGHTERS: COOL UNDER PRESSURE (Update)**

A desperate, heavily armed captor had a handgun trained on him and some of his brethren, but Firefighter Timothy Hollingsworth's voice was surprisingly calm. "Engine 10 to radio: We are in a situation where we have an armed person," Hollingsworth relayed to a Gwinnett County emergency

April 20, 2013

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

31

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

dispatcher. "He is requesting certain, um, certain utilities to be turned back on at his house, and he is armed, and we are in the room with him." Hollingsworth's demeanor and two decades of experience helped Gwinnett County police rescue him and four other captive firefighters - Sydney Gurner, Chip Echols, Joseph Moss and Jason Schoon - after 55-year-old Lauren Brown held them in his Suwanee home for almost four hours Wednesday. The standoff in the quiet subdivision ended with Brown being killed in a shootout with SWAT officers. **HERE IS MORE:** <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/firefighters-cool-under-pressure-of-being-held-hos/nXLGJ/>

**PHILADELPHIA UPDATE: PORTRAIT OF A LEADER-MOMENTS BEFORE HIS LINE OF DUTY DEATH:**

When fire began pouring out of a store in South Philadelphia, Takashi Aoyama, a photojournalism student at the University of the Arts, arrived at the scene and began shooting pictures of firefighters as they prepared to enter the burning building. Looking back at his photos, Aoyama realized he had captured this striking image of Philadelphia Fire Department Capt. Michael Goodwin moments before he led his crew in. Captain Goodwin (posthumously promoted to Battalion Chief) tragically perished when the three-story building collapsed around him. Chief Goodwin was a 29-year veteran of the fire department, and this final image is truly the portrait of a hero. **HERE IS THE PHOTO:** <http://now.msn.com/takashi-aoyama-student-takes-final-photo-of-firefighter-michael-goodwin>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-12-13 / 2100 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

We are getting info from Firefighters in Texas of a major fertilizer plant fire and explosion that occurred in the town of West, which is 20 miles north of Waco, in McLennan County. We have been advised that West Firefighters were initially dispatched to the plant earlier in the evening after an earlier fire rekindled. The explosion was reported at around 1950 hours in an urgent radio call from the scene of the fire at West Fertilizer at 1471 Jerry Mashek Dr. just off Interstate 35. Residents 60+ miles away reported hearing the explosion. **Naturally, the concern is that the Firefighters were operating on the scene at the time of the explosion.** Right now, reports are that several buildings are on fire, destroyed and a nearby nursing home was damaged. There are also reports that people were trapped in the nursing home as well as in an apartment building.

**FOLLOW THE LIVE UPDATES FROM ALERTPAGE HERE:** <http://www.alertpage.net/live.htm>

**INITIAL PHOTOS HERE:** <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Explosion-Injuries-Reported-At-West-Fertilizer-Plant-203505331.html?mobile=yes&device=ipad>

**INITIAL RADIO TRAFFIC HERE:** <https://t.co/EaBTjA8YQI>

**MORE MEDIA REPORTS HERE:**

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

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

<http://rt.com/usa/texas-fertilizer-plant-explosion-036/>

More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-17-13 / 2133 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

April 20, 2013

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

32

We've recently written (and have read) about some city hall dwellers wanting to "save money" by having their Police Officers also be Firefighters-Public Safety Officers\*. A department in Ohio has been allowing some of their Firefighters/EMT's to carry guns: <http://tinyurl.com/dy3s8wq>

In a nutshell, if this was a good idea, the Firefighters in some of the most crime tough areas of the United States would be "pack'n heat"...but they are not. Other than PSO's or FIRE MARSHALS, who are normally law enforcement officers, the Firefighters of L.A., FDNY, Chicago, Washington DC, St. Louis, Detroit, Baltimore, etc would already be doing it. But they are not. Unless "sworn" and carrying a gun as a part of the job description, you are looking at serious and predictable problems. We spoke to several law enforcement veterans about this-as well as the nations foremost law enforcement risk manager. The issue **raises more than just a few questions.**

**When a FF/EMT/Medic gets a "personal" concealed carry permit, but carries on duty, in uniform, what will be the impact?**

**Will the gun be visible?**

**Will it be in a holster?**

**Will it be in a pocket?**

**What are the training standards?**

**What are the policies related to use of force?**

**What are the initial and annual qualification requirements?**

**What psychological backgrounds have been conducted?**

**What psychological training have the Fire/EMS personnel been given if confronted vs. use of force?**

**What happens when they have a downed FF in burning building with a gun in their pocket?**

**Is the city, township, village, district law/legal/elected folks fully supportive of this practice?**

**Have they put that in writing PROMISING that they will aggressively defend and protect you from a law suit? From legal action? From arrest?**

**What happens when there is an actual shooting. You have now SHOT someone - perhaps the wrong someone....and those questions are just the start....**

Cops are trained on this and unfortunately, they screw it up - so a Firefighter/EMT/Medic (whose focus is on what?) carrying a weapon is absolutely a problem lying in wait. While some situations

**CANNOT** be avoided, such as the horrible murders and injuring of the Firefighters in West Webster, NY ....and the Firefighters held hostage in Georgia (Have you seen this new interview the those Firefighters? <http://tinyurl.com/c5kkfof> - the law enforcement and legal folks tell us that us carrying weapons compared to the potential to use them- **and hoping that everything turns out well** -is not worth the risk.Of course, you may disagree. Just make 1000% sure your legally defined role as a FF/EMT/Medic and your carrying of a loaded weapon are fully compatible in your state. Make sure your legal folks are fully aware of it as well as those who insure you against liability...personally and professionally. Just make sure-and get it in writing. The issue isn't a persons right to protect their property and home-the issue is the complications of us carrying (and using the gun) while functioning in a legally defined role as a FF/EMT or medic.

**PUBLIC SAFETY?** Maybe if you want to carry, perhaps the answer is that the specific FD's mission gets legislatively and fully legally changed and everyone gets fully certified as a law enforcement officer within that organization. But then of course, we'd start bltch'n about public safety departments again. Here we go. Everything comes full circle.

**AND speaking of PUBLIC SAFETY-have you seen this video?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjF6MZusrf0> While some situations cannot be avoided

**(SEE BELOW)** and have resulted in the murders of some Firefighters, EMT's and Medics, the practice of awaiting law enforcement anytime we even slightly suspect any problem - has proven to be the best way for us to operate overall.

**REMEMBERING FDNY LT. RICH NAPPI:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

FDNY honored an old friend of ours, a Firefighter killed in the line of duty as his family members and colleagues gathered Tuesday to unveil a plaque dedicated to Lieutenant Richard Nappi. The 17-year veteran collapsed and died last April while fighting a fire in a two-story commercial building in Bushwick. Richie was a September 11th hero who operated at the World Trade Center even though he was off duty. "After 9/11, when in one terrible morning, the FDNY lost 343 men and decades and decades of firefighting leadership and experience, new and unexpected heavy burdens fell on the man we honor today, Lieutenant Richard Nappi," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "He and other FDNY veterans like him now had to shoulder the tasks of rebuilding this fire department." Nappi worked with Engine 237 and was also a volunteer Firefighter and Commissioner in Farmingville, Long Island. He is survived by his wife and two children. You are missed...GO RANGERS!. RIP.

**Final Word: REMEMBERING A FIREFIGHTER (CO, IL, WI)**

We regret to pass on to you that Firefighter-Paramedic Robert Pattie, who was a past Air Force Firefighter, a past Army Reserve Firefighter, a past Firefighter/Paramedic with the Town of Salem Fire/Rescue (Salem, WI), and was currently serving as a DoD civilian firefighter/paramedic at Buckley AFB, Denver, CO was involved in an off-duty traffic accident in Littleton, CO and did not survive. Visitation will be held at Strang Funeral Home in Antioch, IL on Sunday April 21, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.. Mass and funeral will be at Holy Cross in Wilmot, Wisconsin on Monday April 22, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.. A memorial service will also be conducted at Buckley AFB, Denver, CO on Friday April 26, 2013 with a time to be determined. Our condolences to his many family and friends who passed this on to us. Robert came from a Firefighting family....and is remembered by his family and friends. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 4-17-13 / 1220 Hours

**RELATED FIREFIGHTER SHOOTING INCIDENTS:**

**KY FIRE LT SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200411.html>

**MO FIREFIGHTER SHOT AND KILLED AT SCENE:**

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

<http://www.cityofmaplewood.com/index.aspx?nid=181>

**BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT:**

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/130523>

**BELLMORE NY FIREFIGHTER SHOT-AUDIO:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKzI0hFAvUA>

**ACTIVE SHOOTER POLICIES AND RELATED INFORMATION:**

**Here are some links worth checking out for Firefighters as well as Dispatchers related to similar incidents:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/article/10755387/dispatch-protocols-for-active-shooter-incidents> (FROM FFCC's Barry Furey in Firehouse)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo43715.pdf>

(FROM Charlotte NC FD)

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active\\_shooter\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf) (FROM DHS)

[http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-163/issue-4/departments/fire-service\\_ems/responding-to-active-shooter-incidents.html](http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-163/issue-4/departments/fire-service_ems/responding-to-active-shooter-incidents.html)

(Active Shooter Response)

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

<http://www.jems.com/article/major-incidents/arlington-county-va-task-force> (FROM Arlington County, VA)

<http://www.nypdshield.org/public/SiteFiles/documents/Activeshooter.pdf>

(FROM NYPD)

<http://my.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/is-the-fire-service-prepared-for-an-active-shooter-incident>

**(FireFighterNation Discussion)**

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE SECRET LIST:**

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/secret.php>

**GET SECRET LIST ALERTS VIA TWITTER:** <http://twitter.com/theseclist>

**FOLLOW THE SECRET LIST ON FACEBOOK:** <http://tinyurl.com/y855vmt>

**AND:**

Hey,

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

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

**WHAT HAPPENED SUMMARY:**

Technician Kyle Robert Wilson was 24-years old when he joined the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue on January 23, 2006. Technician Kyle Wilson died in the line of duty on April 16, 2007 while performing search and rescue operations at a house fire on Marsh Overlook Drive. On that day, Technician Wilson was part of the firefighter staffing on Tower 512 which responded to the house fire that was dispatched at 0603 hours. The Prince William County area was under a high wind advisory as a nor'eastern storm moved through the area. Sustained winds of 25 mph with gusts up to 48 mph were prevalent in the area at the time of the fire dispatch to Marsh Overlook Drive. Initial arriving units reported heavy fire on the exterior of two sides of the single family house and crews suspected that the occupants were still inside the house sleeping because of the early morning hour. A search of the upstairs bedroom commenced for the possible victims. A rapid and catastrophic change of fire and smoke conditions occurred in the interior of the house within minutes of Tower 512's crew entering the structure. Technician Wilson became trapped and was unable to locate an immediate exit out of the hostile environment. Mayday radio transmissions were made by crews and by Technician Kyle Wilson of the life-threatening situation. Valiant and repeated rescue attempts to locate and remove Technician Wilson were made by the firefighting crews during extreme fire, heat and smoke conditions. Firefighters were forced from the structure as the house began to collapse on them and intense fire, heat and smoke conditions developed. Technician Wilson succumbed to the fire and the cause of death was reported by the medical examiner to be thermal and inhalation injuries.

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

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY DOCUMENTS, PRESENTATIONS:**

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

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

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY REPORT:**

[http://www.iaff.org/hs/LODD\\_Manual/LODD%20Reports/Prince%20William%20County,%20VA%20-%20Wilson.pdf](http://www.iaff.org/hs/LODD_Manual/LODD%20Reports/Prince%20William%20County,%20VA%20-%20Wilson.pdf)

April 20, 2013

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

35

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

**MEMORIAL VIDEO:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUo\\_Z-zwZtU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUo_Z-zwZtU)

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

(The 6th Annual Kyle Wilson 10k Walk for Fitness will be held at 9AM on Saturday, April 20, 2013!)

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

**==NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTER DETAILS AT FDIC NEXT WEEK!**

At the moment for Memorial Stair Climb we have 83 slots left for the first 343(well ahead of last year). We will take more, but only the first 343 get the challenge coins.

Here is last year's video - <http://youtu.be/MD3mdvQoBoA>

Here's where to register and choose a firefighter to climb for (also something new this year) - <http://9-11stairclimb.com/FDIC/>

**NOT TO MISS SOCIAL DETAIL # 1**

Here is the registration for THE FDIC PARTY.....Stop, Drop, Rock 'n' Roll - <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1192907>

NEVER BEEN TO THE STOP, DROP, ROCK & ROLL PARTY? Seriously? CHECK IT OUT: - [http://youtu.be/b\\_ZMSVWRMds](http://youtu.be/b_ZMSVWRMds)

**==FOOLS:**

**THE "NOT TO MISS" SOCIAL DETAIL # 2- AT FDIC. THE FOOLS BROTHERHOOD BASH ON WEDNESDAY EVENING:**

DETAILS HERE:

<http://community.fireengineering.com/video/video/show?id=1219672%3AVideo%3A579219>

**==WTF STICKERS @ FDIC:**

And lastly, the embarrassingly popular WTF (Well Trained Firefighter) STICKERS from FireFighterCloseCalls.com will be given away for free-no cost-nada-zip-ONCE AGAIN at the "FireCompanies.com" booth # 127 at FDIC. Go to booth 127 at FDIC for your FREE WTF Stickers ...and watch your life take on a wonderfully new meaning. Really.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-16-13 / 2132 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Your ability to save a victim at a fire is all about time. Some can be saved, some can't-but when time is wasted, our chances of "getting those people out" diminishes. Your ability to survive at a fire as also extremely time dependent. You knew that. That's why we try to get there quickly. Not waste time. Stuff like that. You will cringe when you hear this entire audio from Cass County, Bairdstown IL-please listen to the entire audio....and then share the entire audio with those who lead your 9-1-1 as well as your Fire Communications Center. Then determine if this could happen in your community. This fire killed 2 people last year. Call taking and fire communications can often be the weakest-or strongest link in fire response and fire fighting. It's all about the quality of leadership, the resources, the policies and especially the people are are tasked with taking that 9-1-1 call and then making sure the fire department is dispatched as absolutely as quickly as possible. Too many communities blow off training (or rely on flip cards to compensate for inadequacies), pay as low as they possibly can and look at "dispatch" as a lower than low necessary evil. Then again, some don't. Some do take it very seriously. 9-1-1 call takers ARE YOUR Fire Department when the public dials to get help on their bad day. They don't know that is is county dispatch center, the police or whoever-as far as they are

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

concerned, they have called YOUR Fire Department...because you did tell them to call 9-1-1. So how is your 9-1-1 dispatch center representing YOUR fire department when that citizen dials 9-1-1 on their really bad day? Many dispatch centers are top notch and very professional-sharp folks who process calls in lightening speed-with no delay. Others don't. Others waste alot of time. Alot.

Simply put, when someone reports a fire that **MAY** be structure (or may be endangering people)-at the slightest hint, DISPATCH the fire department. And when WE are told there MAY be a fire, we need to act as if it is a FIRE and respond accordingly. After all, we are the **FIRE** department. In most cases, the questions need to be something like this:

**9-1-1: Whats your emergency?**

**Caller: A fire, I'm at 12 main street, its a house on fire**

**9-1-1: Whats the phone number you are calling from?**

**Caller - 867-5309**

**9-1-1: OK, maam, please hold one moment.**

**9-1-1: Beeeeeeeeeep Booooooop-beep beep beep: Attention FD, respond to 12 Main Street for a house fire, repeating, respond to 12 Main street for a house fire. 1230 hours.**

**9-1-1: OK maam, the FD has been dispatched-I have to ask you some additional questions.....**

**JUST 3 simple questions-**

Where is it?

What it it?

What's the phone number?

...then hit the tones or transmit the alarm and THEN then ask more questions if you need to. But hit the tones....and let the fire department start turning out...and then update them as more information is made available. But hit the tones and turn them out.

Think that's too simple?

Years ago people just pulled a box and we came. Quickly. A single pull of a big red street corner pull box-that actually worked and we turned out. Or...set off an automatic fire alarm and fire sprinkler system...and we come. No questions asked. Why does it have to be so complicated in 2013? It doesn't. It's just another example of situations where the tail wags the dog. Police CAD systems trying to be fire CAD systems? Hmmm. CAD systems designed without understanding FIRE related standards such as NFPA 1221? Poorly designed CAD systems and/or the lack of caring, trained and qualified fire dispatchers cannot and should not dictate how long it takes to get calls processed and tones transmitted. But it does. Every day. A few quick questions by a well trained and qualified fire call taker is all that's needed. NFPA recommends no more than 60 seconds of call handling time. How long is it taking your dispatch center - from the time they answer a 9-1-1 call until your departments tones are transmitted? You sure?

**LISTEN TO THIS:** <http://tinyurl.com/cgcfmek>

**HERE IS THE ENTIRE TRANSCRIPT:** <http://tinyurl.com/cced9qp>

**HERE IS WHAT OFFICIALS SAID AFTER:**

"This is a serious situation and it was handled very poorly not only by the dispatcher, but once the fire department was made aware of it, whether he thought that it was serious or not, he should have said, 'There is a fire, we are on our way,'" Walters said.

**Amen Mayor**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

. Cass County 911 officials would not release the tapes of the incident to the media last Thursday. The station made a Freedom of Information Act and requested a copy of the 911 call. And got it. And that's that.

As stated this fire killed two people-and while they may have perished prior to a call, that is really irrelevant when we listen to the handling of this fire call. Maybe the solution is that when some communities decide to start treating call takers and dispatchers, their equipment, dispatch supervision and overall dispatch funding as a critical professional public safety priority that can genuinely make a difference, calls like these will then become history.

When fire departments are called in the "middle of the night" and don't want to turn-out to the *possibility* of a fire ...because it may be the "same old thing"... those old firefighters who used to turnout in the old days when those "big red boxes on the street corner" were pulled.... will keep rolling over in their graves. How about this: Your family has a fire...how do you want it handled?

We'll cover more of this kinda stuff when we seeya at FDIC next week - because it absolutely impacts your ability to operate and survive the fire.

The quicker we get there.,...well, you know.

The often forgotten "fire time line" is all part of it.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-165-13 / 2239 Hours

#### **AND:**

All,

While not official (we consider "official" based upon what is posted by USFA/NFFF) - details from reliable and involved fire service leadership at the scene in West, Texas (20 miles north of Waco) are indicating that, at this time it appears that: 5 West Firefighters, 4 EMS Medics, 1 Off Duty Fire Captain from Dallas (who was in town at the time and was assisting) and 1 unconfirmed (unknown agency at this point) Firefighter have been killed in the Line of Duty. Active search and rescue operations are continuing. The Mayor, Tommy Muska, who is also a Firefighter said the explosion occurred around 2000 hours and could be heard as far away as Waxahachie, a town located 45 miles north. He stated that a four-block area around the explosion was "totally decimated" . One woman said that she noticed a lot of smoke in the area across town near the plant when she finished teaching her religion class Wednesday. She said she drove over to see what was happening, and that when she got there, two boys came running toward her screaming that the Firefighters had ordered everyone out because the plant was going to explode. She drove only about a block when it did.

**Clearly, the West Firefighters, West EMS Medics, area Law Enforcement and other FF's who assisted saved many lives last night, while losing some of their own. RIP.**

**We'll post as it becomes available.**

#### **RELATED VIDEOS:**

**Texas City, Texas Explosion:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TworcINhDhQ>

One of the worst disasters in history occurred on April 16, 1947, when the ship SS Grandcamp exploded at 9:12 A.M. at the docks in Texas City, Texas. It was carrying explosive ammonium nitrate produced during wartime for explosives and later recycled as fertilizer, caught fire early in the morning, and while attempts were being made to extinguish the fire, the ship exploded. The first

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

explosion had killed 26 Texas City Firemen In The Line of Duty and destroyed all of the city's fire-fighting equipment, including four trucks, leaving the city helpless in the wake of the 2nd blast)

**Texas City, Texas Explosion (From Texas DPS)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KM7zRSxt584>

**Texas City, Texas Explosion (additional)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH7t4X9hgBc>

**Texas City, Texas Explosion (Interviews with Survivors)** <http://tinyurl.com/culrnp5>

**Murdock, IL Train Car Explosion:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xf3WKTwHplU>

**Henderson, NV Rocket Fuel Plant**

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

**Henderson (additional w/FD footage)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7pRtgisV9s>

#### **VP JOE BIDEN TO SPEAK AT CFSI**

The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) is honored to announce that Vice President Joe Biden will deliver the keynote address at the 25th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner. The event will take place on May 9th at the Washington Hilton starting at 6:30 p.m.

A former Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus and President Emeritus of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association, Vice President Biden is one of most highly respected and knowledgeable political leaders in the country on first responder issues. While serving in the Senate, he was a leading voice for the fire service on a number of issues, including the AFG/SAFER grant programs. As Vice President, his commitment has remained steadfast, particularly on the issue of building a nationwide interoperable public safety wireless broadband communication network.

More details and registration information at CFSI's website [www.cfsi.org](http://www.cfsi.org)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-18-13 / 1400 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **WEST TEXAS EXPLOSION LEADS TO NUMEROUS FIRE & EMS LINE OF DUTY DEATHS**

We are going to do our best to pass on information that comes from fire & EMS personnel in Texas. Right now, based upon reliable sources, the explosion at the fertilizer plant in West killed up to 15 people. We have also been advised that Fire & EMS LODD's may be up to 7-with some unaccounted for-according to local officials. There are over 100 people in area hospitals-with 9 sent to the burn center in Dallas. This morning, various fire service folks are arriving from the Texas Fire Chiefs, the NFFF and others to assist. Mutual aid Firefighters and EMS personnel have been working through the night and as of this morning, according to an area Fire Chief-this is still a rescue operation. The town's volunteer Firefighters responded to a call at the plant around 1800 hours. Mayor Tommy Muska was among them, and he and the other Firefighters were working to evacuate the area around the plant when the blast followed about 50 minutes later. Mayor Muska told the media it knocked off his fire helmet and blew out the doors and windows of his home. The blast shook houses 50 miles away and measured as a 2.1-magnitude seismic event, according to the United States Geological Survey. The West Fertilizer Company said it had 54,000 pounds of the chemical. We will pass on details from Texas and National fire service personnel when it becomes available. Keep'm all in your prayers.

#### **RELATED VIDEO LINKS:**

WEST, TEXAS VFD: <http://www.cityofwest.com/city-services/west-fire-dept>

WEST VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS STORY: <http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/18/us/texas-fire-fighters/index.html>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

SLOW MOTION VIDEO OF THE EXPLOSION (Explosion at around 2:10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqUGkivcvd8>

INITIAL 30 MINUTES OF FIRE/EMS RADIO TRAFFIC FROM ALERT PAGE:

<https://soundcloud.com/#alertpage-1/west-tx-explosion-initial>

FF INTERVIEW: <http://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/west-and-the-bravery-of-small-town-firefighters/>

CNN (Numerous Videos) <http://www.cnn.com/2013/04/18/us/texas-explosion/index.html>

ABC NEWS: <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/04/live-updates-west-texas-fertilizer-plant-explosion-injures-more-than-100/>

**BRYAN FIREFIGHTER RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL**

One of the two Bryan firefighters severely burned nearly two months at that fire at the Knights of Columbus hall ago was released from the University of Texas Medical Branch Burn Unit in Galveston yesterday. FF Mitch Moran finally left the Blocker Burn Unit, and got a ride from the Galveston FD Brothers and Sisters to his condo near the hospital. He and fellow Bryan Firefighter Ricky Mantey, Jr. are recovering from burns at a fire in February at The Knights of Columbus Hall in Bryan. Two Bryan Firefighters, Lt. Eric Wallace and Greg Pickard, were killed in the Line of Duty at that fire-after Lt Wallace became trapped and Lt Pickard and crew tried to save his life.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-18-13 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

All,

While searches continue in West, a Dallas Fire Rescue Captain was confirmed amongst those losing their lives Capt. Kenny Harris, who lives in West, was a Firefighter at Station 30 in Dallas. Captain Harris was not a volunteer Firefighter for West but responded when he heard news of the fire that broke out Wednesday night at the plant. Captain Harris, 52, was a father of 3 grown sons. The State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas have advised that in addition to Capt. Harris, there are five West firefighter deaths, four EMS responder deaths, and one death of a responder from an unknown department. In addition, 11 West volunteer Firefighters are in the hospital with multiple injuries. We'll keep you advised as more comes out of West. "A Bomb Went Off Here" - "Firefighters Down" ! HERE is an excellent compilation of fire and police radio traffic -with video-actually from the initial dispatch-as the fire was reported by a police officer, from [www.AlertPage.net](http://www.AlertPage.net) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuV2E6LRXd0> .

Note the dispatchers professional actions and demeanor in what was clearly her toughest day.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-19-13 / 0800 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

At every point during a career in the fire service, the statement could be made "it's an exciting time" as far as discovering new ideas how to do what we do better. New ideas. New equipment, New tools. New concepts. New training. And really good people working all the time to make things better for us and those who call 9-1-1. The job is always evolving as are the challenges we have in operating. There are a million quotes about change...so I won't bore you.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Recently, there have been some eye opening scientific studies lead by veteran firefighters related to operating at fires-and in particular, single and multi-family dwellings. We sent you a Secret List about the ones being done at FDNY with UL, the South Carolina ones with NIST-and several others. All focused on dwellings. Those fires are generally are the majority of structural fires that all of us respond to-with significant and generally (but not always) personal risk. Risk to those who own the homes and risk to us, attempting to save the people and their stuff.

**Regardless of those who says there are no fires anymore, there are fires, people are still being killed in those fires and firefighters are challenged to do more or less with less.** One of the goals of the many studies are to help us best understand how we can best reduce the bad stuff from happening. Stop the fire. Stop the victims from getting hurt or killed and sometimes, to stop us from getting hurt or killed.

In numerous discussions, e-mails, blog readings and the other katrillion ways we attempt to communicate these days, there are those in our business looking for THE ONE CORRECT WAY to fight the fire. Well, until the care-less big buck homebuilder associations stop their "50 shades of shame" political love life with some state and city hall dwellers, residential fire sprinklers will sit on the side lines as the answer on "why did the house have to burn down" and "why did they have to die in that fire". Fire sprinklers will essentially solve the fire loss and fire death problem, when the elected officials want it to. In other words, "everything" won't be sprinklered anytime soon.

So what is the CORRECT WAY to operate at a single family dwelling? What about a multi family dwelling? Is it direct attack? Is it interior attack? Should I use a PPV fan? Should we vent the roof? Is this a transitional attack? The statement that "**we are going with exterior attack from now on at all fires**" is just as wrong as the statement "**we are always an aggressive interior attack department**".

Oh my goodness. We *need* answers so we always know what to do.

So what's the answer? Show us the fire. Plain and simple. There is no "one way" to operate at a fire if you have the resources to apply options. That means if you have 2 Firefighters responding to all fires, you actually have few choices. You are an exterior attack deck gunning water flowing department. Few options. However if you are like most departments, you probably have several companies responding with staffing which gives you some variable options to operate. And that's the issue. You have to size it up before you know what you are going to do.

Size it up before the fire. Set it up on arrival.

Size it up before the fire. Size up your response area and plan ahead. How many tasks do you want to perform = how many firefighters you will need. What are the buildings and stuff you protect? What turns out on your 1st alarm assignment? Does it match whats being reported on fire? Will you have enough FF's arriving in time so the tasks can be performed simultaneously...or eventually? One important goal would be to not run out of house...before the predictably needed troops arrive. There are few fires we should arrive on where we are surprised on what we are dealing with. To avoid being surprised, get out and look around-plan for the fire before the fire that will eventually come in. Responding to and arriving at a house fire in your first due area should not be like arriving on a blind date. OMG. All the dwellings in your first due area are just sitting there, waiting for you to plan on the fire - well before there is a fire.

When arriving at the fire, you size it up, do a 360, determine whatcha got. Smoke? Fire? Occupants? You know what to do. Then you immediately determine what you want to do about it...and then you

make sure you have the resources (firefighters and equipment) to do what you wanna do. Got the resources? Cool. You don't? Strike more alarms and then you'll probably want to start flowing alotta water. Depending. Pretty standard stuff.

The fact is that with all these great studies and the science that comes from them is the fact that we have more options. More information. More training. More options to stop the fire and do all the other stuff we want to do. Hit the fire before going in? Yep. Enter from the unburned and hit the fire? Yes. Aggressive interior attack? Sure. VES? Si. Blitz attack? Oui. Show us the fire.

The is no "one way" to do much in what we do-its all about knowing what we have, deciding what we want to do or get done and what resources we have in order to do THAT. The one area that we seem to get ourselves in trouble lately is the wanting to do - without the resources to do. So what do you do? That question needs to be answered before the fire. Wayyy before the fire.

**RELATED: HOUSE FIRES:** Want to read a **GREAT** piece on today's house fires? Check this out: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-166/issue-4/features/house-fires-new-threats-new-tactics.html>

**FDIC** starts Monday, it's "the" week for so many of us. My first was 1977 and have never stopped. It's addicting-in a very good way. A good way to open the ears, the eyes and the mind to see WHAT ELSE is going on out there. Different and some BETTER ways to do the job. You will always learn. Always. For those who are going for the first time-attend EVERYTHING. Take every possible class. Get up early. Attend every BIG room or LITTLE room session. Attend ALL of the social stuff too such as NFFF's Stop, Drop, Rock & Roll and the FOOLS Bash. Seriously. Take advantage of EVERY moment. Visit EVERY exhibit. The goal is for you to come home fully exhausted, smarter, pumped up, recharged and thinking. Alot.

**SEE YOU AT FDIC...or is it FDLC?? Check this out:** <http://tinyurl.com/ckbvaz9>

**Heading to FDIC from the East?** Be sure to stop in at Company 7 BBQ, 500' off I-70 in the Dayton, Ohio area. FF Owned/Operated. TRUST us on the chow and the place: [www.company7bbq.com](http://www.company7bbq.com)  
We are certainly looking forward to seeing many of you at FDIC in just a few days. Safe travels. Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-19-13 / 1647 Hours

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

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

### **Budget Related Items:**

**Salinas (CA) could cut 12 firefighters this year, a significant loss for an already understaffed fire department. A two-year federal grant that secured those dozen firefighters is set to expire in October, and competition to renew that grant will be fierce. "The pot's getting smaller, and there are more cities grabbing at it," Councilwoman Kimbley Craig says. Salinas now has 87 firefighters, which is about a dozen short of what a city of comparable size should have, according to Salinas Fire Chief Ed Rodriguez:**

<http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/2013/mar/28/emergency-call/>

Two weeks ago, the city of Reno (NV) started to temporarily shut down the fire stations on Skyline Boulevard and in the Somerset housing development in order to keep its fire department budget in the black. The temporary closures, known as brownouts, were a regular consequence of the city's budget cuts throughout the recession. They lasted up until last summer when Reno got a nearly \$14 million federal grant to pay for 64 firefighter positions, [which was announced last May by a jubilant Reno City Council](#). At the time, the news meant the city's fire stations would no longer need to hang a sign on its doors telling people to call 911 for help. Today, city officials said the return of the brownouts is not surprising. While the city is relying on federal money, the Reno Fire Department is not replacing firefighters when they retire from the department (Reno loses about eight to 15 positions each year to attrition). As a result, the fire station was forced to use more and more overtime to ensure the stations stayed filled if too many firefighters were out sick or on vacation on any given day. It's those overtime calls that ended two weeks ago that has led to the brownouts, said City Manager Andrew Clinger. "Given that we're getting close to exhausting our overtime budget I told (Fire Chief Michael Hernandez) a couple weeks ago that I didn't want anymore non-emergency overtimes," Clinger said Monday afternoon. "Unless it's an emergency don't call somebody back to cover another shift." <http://renomemo.rgj.com/fire-station-brownouts-have-returned-to-reno/>

A plan to avert four firefighters' layoffs by dipping into city reserves to cover overtime costs within Milpitas (CA) Fire Department was rejected on Monday by the Milpitas International Association of Firefighters Local 1699. In response, Milpitas City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to jettison a \$2.1-million federal grant meant to hire six additional fire personnel, and abandon plans to transfer \$600,000 from city reserves to the fire department's overtime budget. The council's actions directed Milpitas Fire Chief Brian Sturdivant to carry out a prior recommendation to take a fire truck out of service at Fire Station No. 1 at 777 S. Main St., and give notice of firefighter layoffs, effective Wednesday, March 20. Before the vote, Sturdivant told the council the \$2.1-million Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (Safer) grant administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency had been secured by the city. He said the grant - intended to pay the cost of six firefighters for two years and increase departmental staffing from 53 firefighters to 59 - could still be a point of discussion between the city and fire union toward possible staffing. Conversely, Milpitas City Manager Tom Williams asserted rules governing the Safer grant's utility were "inflexible," saying it could not be used for anything other than hiring those 59 firefighters. In the end, the council agreed the fire union let the opportunity to save jobs slip away. Vice Mayor Althea Polanski, who chaired the council's ad hoc fire department budget task force that helped craft the anti-layoff plan, said she was "shocked" at the union's vote. "I think that the firefighters' union lost it," she said. During public comment, Steve King, the fire union's president, said he was "sorry" the union disappointed the council: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_22842589/milpitas-firefighters-lose-jobs-after-union-rejects-staff](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_22842589/milpitas-firefighters-lose-jobs-after-union-rejects-staff)

Last May, the Reno (NV) Fire Department learned it would get a federal grant to pay for 64 firefighter positions. At the time the federal money was considered a lifesaver, preventing massive fire department layoffs in the wake of Washoe County and ending its 12-year consolidated fire department with Reno. The nearly \$14 million, so-called SAFER grant also meant Reno could stop temporarily closing about a third of its fire stations on any given day — that piece of news announced by a jubilant Reno City Council in front of television cameras. But less than a year later, the brownouts have returned and so have the politics behind firefighter labor negotiations, despite the city's current contract with Local 731 expiring more than a year from now: [http://www.rgj.com/article/20130403/NEWS/304030015/As-firefighting-grant-funds-dry-up-Reno-seeks-solutions?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.rgj.com/article/20130403/NEWS/304030015/As-firefighting-grant-funds-dry-up-Reno-seeks-solutions?nclick_check=1)

As the city of Reno (NV) struggled with budget cutbacks, brownouts--scheduled closures of some fire stations-- were a necessary, but worrisome feature of the fire department's schedule in recent years. Fourteen million dollars in federal money allowed the Reno Fire Department to fill 64 firefighter positions and that seemed to solve the manpower issue that led to the brownouts. It did, says Chief Michael Hernandez, but it didn't cover all the costs of those hirings nor did it solve all the city's budget problems. "It does not provide for overtime," says Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez. "It just provides for the straight salary of the employees." And as the city approaches the final quarter of the fiscal year, overtime is an issue. Most of the time, the chief says, the city has enough staff to man all the stations, but in recent weeks, the flu bug hit the department hard and holding to a no overtime policy meant some brief closures, typically a shift or two during a day at Station 7 on Skyline Boulevard and 19 in Somerset, the two stations with the least calls for service: <http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/Fire-Station-Brownouts-Return-But-On-An-As-Needed-Occasional-Basis-200348891.html>

The current Cincinnati (OH) budget proposal would close about half the city's fire stations through staff cuts. The current budget plan that calls for more than 120 fire positions to be cut to help the city fix a \$35 million budget deficit, according to WCPO (<http://bit.ly/ZDGF3y>). The city is legally obliged to close the deficit by July 1. Cincinnati employs about 800 **firefighters** and the layoffs would include the 40 members of the city's 2013 recruiting class. **Staffing** levels under the current **firefighting** contract demand four firefighters per **apparatus**, so half of the stations in the city would have to be closed to make the numbers work: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2013/04/cincinnati-budget-plan-would-close-around-half-of-its-fire-stati.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyApril52013>

Growing wary of the city's financial health, Richmond (CA) City Council members this week put the brakes on some spending projects ahead of 2013-14 budget negotiations scheduled for next month. "We've been kicking the can down the road," City Councilman Nat Bates said. "We have an expenditure problem, and we are going to have to come to terms with that." Bates raised the specter of a fiscal crunch during Tuesday's council meeting. He said he had recently spoken with Finance Director James Goins and that Goins anticipated a nearly \$20 million General Fund deficit based on department budget requests and projected revenues. After Bates' remarks, Councilman Jim Rogers rescinded an agenda item that called for restoring \$2.3 million to the city's street repair budget pending the sale of a city-owned apartment complex. The council deferred action on several other spending measures as well. Richmond faces budget deficits widening through 2016, according to a five-year projection released by the Finance Department in September: [http://www.sgytribune.com/california/ci\\_23047171/richmond-council-grows-skittish-amid-ominous-signs-budget](http://www.sgytribune.com/california/ci_23047171/richmond-council-grows-skittish-amid-ominous-signs-budget)

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

Five years after retiring from the Henderson (NV) Fire Department, Dwight Jackson is going to prison for tax evasion and filing fictitious tax returns. Jackson was sentenced Monday to 21 months in prison and ordered to pay \$177,310 to the IRS in restitution after a jury found him guilty on five counts of willful tax evasion and one count of filing a false and fictitious tax return, said Daniel Bogden, U.S. attorney for the district of Nevada. From 2004 to 2008, the 53-year-old Henderson resident worked as a Henderson firefighter earning more than \$113,000 a year. During that time, he attempted to evade the federal taxes he owed by understating his salary, falsely claiming his earned tax credit and other fraudulent measures, Bogden said: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/mar/19/retired-henderson-firefighter-gets-prison-time-dod/>

The Fire Department New York (FDNY) fire commissioner's son quit the Emergency Medical Service Monday after he was accused of sending racist and offensive tweets. Joseph Cassano, 23, son of FDNY head Salvatore Cassano, stepped down after less than three months on the job as an emergency medical technician. His high-ranking father — who spent the morning at a funeral for a retired EMS worker — issued a stern but loving statement as his son's dream of rising through the EMS ranks to become a firefighter went up in smoke. "I am extremely disappointed in the comments posted online by my son Joseph, which do not reflect the values — including a respect for all people — that are held by me, my family and the FDNY," said Commissioner Cassano, a Vietnam vet who joined the FDNY in the 1970s. Cassano said he had "no tolerance" for divisive behavior in the FDNY — and his son was no exception. "As a parent, this is very painful for me, but I believe my son has made the right decision," Cassano added. "I love him very much and, with the support and love of our entire family, we will get through this together." His EMT son, who had tweeted that he hated working for the EMS and made offensive comments about Jews and African-Americans, turned off his Twitter account when the remarks went public and issued an apology for his comments via the FDNY press office. But the damage control came too late to save his job. At a news conference Monday morning, Mayor Bloomberg said, "I find the messages offensive. My understanding is he has chosen to resign from the Fire Department. That's the appropriate thing, and I'll leave it at that." <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ire-commish-son-joseph-cassaono-quits-ems-wake-racist-tweets-firestorm-article-1.1291906>

A class of 14 firefighter recruits won't be allowed to graduate after suspicions of cheating on a written test surfaced last month, a Las Vegas (NV) city official said Tuesday. City spokesman David Riggelman said the findings of an internal investigation, which prompted scrapping the entire recruiting class, will not be made public because investigators are still looking into whether employees were involved. Riggelman called it a "personnel matter" and would not elaborate. The investigation involving the 14 recruits has concluded, he said. Riggelman wouldn't say directly whether the recruits cheated, only that, "The circumstances surrounding the written test process prompted us to not move forward with their graduation." How much it cost the city to put the 14 recruits through the 18-week academy was not known, Riggelman said. Officials canceled the Feb. 14 graduation and launched the investigation. Riggelman said the decision not to certify the recruits had everything to do with reputation and establishing trust with the community. "Integrity is one of the core values of the organization as a whole. It is also one of the core values of the Fire Department," Riggelman said. "We took this thing very seriously." <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/crime-courts/firefighter-recruits-barred-graduation-wake-internal-investigation>

Three Washington D.C. Fire Department (DCFD) ambulance crews and a supervisory officer are facing possible discipline for failing to follow department protocols the night a police officer was struck by a car and no city ambulances were available to transport him to a hospital, according to an investigative report released Thursday. Each of the three two-person crews were within 4 miles of the location of the injured officer but were improperly out of service or not properly monitoring radio channels while out of service. "Each unit was either at a fire station in Southeast or en route to a fire station and could have rendered service if the proper protocol was followed," the report states: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/mar/21/7-face-discipline-after-failed-response-injured-dc/print/>

**Social Media Assisted Career Suicide Syndrome (SMACSS) seems to be a big problem these days. A week after exposing the tweets that resulted in the resignation from FDNY EMS of the son of Fire Commissioner Sal Cassano, The New York Post is at it again. This time they confronted EMS Lt. Timothy Dluhos about a series of "racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and anti-Asian comments" on his Twitter feed. Lt. Dluhos broke down and cried. Susan Edelman and Candace M. Giove wrote they met up with Dluhos on Friday in front of his home. Dluhos is 34-years-old and assigned to the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn. He told the reporters he was sorry and his life is ruined. In his tweets, Dluhos referred to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as "King Jew" and "King Heeb" <http://statter911.com/2013/03/24/smacss-hits-again-fdny-ems-lieutenant-breaks-down-when-confronted-by-reporters-about-racist-tweets-anti-semitic-comments-target-mayor-michael-bloomberg/>**

**A cheating scandal involving Las Vegas (NV) firefighter recruits will cost taxpayers nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, a city official said Wednesday. City spokesman David Riggelman said the city will foot a bill of \$718,984, or \$51,356 per recruit, for the 14 members of the latest academy class who have been barred from graduating. That is how much the city invested in putting them through the 18-week academy. The recruits, who were suspected of cheating on a written test, were slated to graduate on Feb. 14. Instead, graduation was postponed, and an internal investigation was launched. Riggelman said the decision announced Tuesday to scrap the entire recruiting class was meant to preserve the integrity of both the city and its Fire Department. "It's been a very disappointing episode," Riggelman said. "It's something we want to make sure never happens again." He said the recruits were treated as employees and paid for their time in the academy. The majority of the cost per recruit was for pay and benefits, which amounted to about \$30,000 each:**

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/fire-rescue/cost-firefighter-recruits-now-barred-graduation-718984>

**Cheating scandal spurs twin inquiries. There's two of 'em. That's the punch line to an old joke, but in this case, it's not so laughable. There are actually two parallel investigations into the 14 Las Vegas (NV) Fire Department recruits blocked from graduating after state Fire Marshal Pete Mulvihill found signs of cheating on their written tests because so many answers were alike. The city of Las Vegas is investigating the employment side. The state fire marshal is investigating whether any certificates need to be revoked. The 14 can't be prohibited from applying under federal law, but realistically they would be wasting their time. Take my word for it. None of the 14 will end up working as Las Vegas firefighters. They have cost the city too much money, nearly \$719,000, and left the city short-staffed at a time when Las Vegas needs firefighters:**

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/columns-blogs/jane-ann-morrison/cheating-scandal-spurs-twin-inquiries>

**Nevada's state fire marshal is scrutinizing the way local fire department officials conduct written exams for trainees in the wake of cheating allegations that derailed the careers of 14 Las Vegas firefighter trainees. In a letter to every fire agency in the state, Fire Marshal Peter Mulvihill laid out four new oversight measures for trainee testing, along with a harsh warning. "Obtaining a certificate from the State Fire Marshal through fraud or misrepresentation, such as by cheating, is illegal, unprofessional and unacceptable conduct no matter who you are, where you are or why you may attempt to justify it," Mulvihill wrote. While Mulvihill said the investigation into what happened in Las Vegas is continuing, he defended the state-issued certification tests and seemed to blame the cheating allegations on the way the examination was conducted:**

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/fire-rescue/fire-marshals-rule-changes-target-trainee-test-cheating>

Orange County (CA) Fire officials skipped about 200 annual inspections over three years, and some hazardous-material inspections that were made had notable mistakes, according to records and interviews. Internal audits and a review by the District Attorney's Office are under way for the troubled hazmat-inspection program, after the Orange County Fire Authority found that more than 1,400 businesses were billed for inspections not done last year. Now a new audit by the county Health Care Agency – and obtained by the Orange County Register – found that some of the inspections were skipped in earlier years as well, when Fire Authority administrators decided to halt inspections for about 200 cellphone towers. The missed inspections date back three years, and could put the fire agency in violation of the state's health and safety code. The results of the audit were sent to OCFA just as the fire agency is getting ready to hand the troubled inspection program to the Health Care Agency. Before that transition takes place in July, however, the Fire Authority has been instructed to correct the mistakes and complete inspections of all businesses in the program. The agency has also been tasked with a review of more than 3,000 files that have been collected, said Battalion Chief Kris Concepcion. In February, Fire Marshal Laura Blaul, who oversees the fire agency's fire-prevention unit, was suspended for one week as a result of the mistakes. Officials are still trying to determine how many inspections were missed. Fire officials blame the problem on lack of communication, lax administrators, fire-prevention personnel and firefighters in the field. Though about half of the hazmat inspections required were not done in 2011-12, all of the businesses were billed nonetheless: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/inspections-501283-ocfa-fire.html>

It is getting a lot uglier in New York over social media use by those in public safety. Today's article by Candace M. Giove and Brad Hamilton in the New York Post takes the problem of Social Media Assisted Career Suicide Syndrome (SMACSS) in FDNY EMS beyond the fire commissioner's son and the lieutenant with the racist tweets. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING from Dave Statter ([www.statter911.com](http://www.statter911.com) – a great resource for fire service news items): My prediction is this article will be national news by tomorrow and will have reverberations across the country on the use of social media by fire, EMS and police. If you have a similar problem in your own department, my suggestion is to take care of it now before it becomes news. There will soon be reporters everywhere looking for this. Here's how the article begins: The Bad Lieutenant is part of a sick clique. In addition to uploading racist rants and Nazi nonsense, EMS Lt. Timothy Dluhos also posted pictures of patients, including one of a heavy-set woman with a snarky caption Photoshopped over her wheelchair: "Wide Load." Publicizing photos of the ill, injured or dead without permission is a violation of city rules and federal privacy laws, but some first responders can't resist snapping shots of people they're supposed to be helping: <http://statter911.com/2013/03/31/pay-attention-to-this-smacss-epidemic-in-new-york-post-uncovers-cache-of-patient-pictures-online-this-will-be-more-than-a-local-story/>

Clark County (NV) fire inspector vehicles are in the field for only about four hours each day during a 10-hour shift, according to a county report obtained by the Review-Journal. For county building inspectors, the average time in the field is a little more than six hours during an 8½-hour shift, according to county data. The data comparing inspectors' field time is based on a month's worth of GPS tracking information in county vehicles from February. The difference outlined between the Fire Prevention Bureau and the Building Department will come before county commissioners today. Commissioners are expected to vote on a proposal to merge the Fire Prevention Bureau with the Building Department, putting it under building official Ron Lynn instead of Fire Chief Bertral Washington. "The GPS numbers are troubling in terms of being efficient," Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak said in an interview: <http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/fire-rescue/clark-county-fire-inspectors-time-field-comes-under-scrutiny>

A former Santa Barbara County (CA) fire captain is under investigation for allegedly embezzling funds from a local union chapter to which he belonged. The former fire captain, was approached with the allegations before submitting his retirement papers recently, which prevented him from being investigated internally. Adam Estabrook, president of Local 2046, issued a statement Wednesday that said the group had discovered the discrepancies while conducting an audit of its insurance programs. Inconsistencies were found in the account managed by the union's insurance director, and he was removed from the position, Estabrook said. The group also notified law enforcement:

[http://www.noozhawk.com/article/fire\\_captain\\_under\\_investigation\\_for\\_embezzling\\_funds/](http://www.noozhawk.com/article/fire_captain_under_investigation_for_embezzling_funds/)

Rowley (MA) Fire Chief James Broderick has been suspended from duty after being charged with simple assault and battery for allegedly pushing a probationary firefighter at the station Wednesday. Broderick is expected to be summonsed to Newburyport District Court for his alleged action, according to police Chief Robert Barker. "We're expecting to file charges this afternoon," Barker said yesterday. Barker said the charge stems from an argument between Broderick and another firefighter that began at the station after they had returned from extinguishing a shed fire on Wethersfield Street that morning. Barker declined to disclose what prompted Broderick to allegedly push the man, but said it appeared to be a misunderstanding over a job assignment at the fire:

<http://www.newburyportnews.com/local/x1862032563/chief-on-leave-after-assault>

Following allegations of Las Vegas (NV) Fire & Rescue trainees cheating on state fire marshal professional qualification certification exams, the Clark County Fire Department is investigating its own testing processes. Las Vegas Fire & Rescue training academy's 2013 class was stripped of its graduation after the 14 trainees were accused of cheated on the written exams regarding the handling of hazardous materials. The Clark County Fire Department, which, like Las Vegas Fire & Rescue, proctors its own exams, is taking measures to ensure that proper testing procedures are practiced and that test proctors can prevent such problems in the future, according to Erik Pappa, a spokesman for Clark County. In an open letter sent recently to Nevada's fire departments, Fire Marshal Peter Mulvihill wrote that effective immediately, all test proctors involved in an examination suspected of cheating will be relieved of their duties until an investigation has been completed; those who have acted improperly will no longer be allowed to proctor exams in the state; agencies will be financially responsible for replacing a proctor found to have acted improperly; and test results of trainees suspected of cheating will be withheld until an investigation is completed. "We support the state fire marshal in his re-evaluation of the testing processes," Pappa said in an email. "At the same time, we're taking this opportunity to evaluate our own testing processes."

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/view/county-takes-cue-citys-episode-revisit-exam-practices>

By the end of 2009, three veteran managers at Lakewood (WA) Fire District 2 earned salaries that topped \$175,000 annually – more than Seattle's fire chief, who was overseeing a department roughly 10 times as large. Their salaries would soon grow even bigger, if only temporarily. Just four days before Michael McGovern and Greg Hull were set to retire, a late contract addendum helped boost their pay by \$20,000 each. Bob Bronoske got a similar increase just 13 weeks before he departed, pushing his compensation to more than \$200,000. The last-minute pay raises cost taxpayers in the Tacoma suburb for only a brief time. In the long run, however, they may end up draining a state-run pension plan of \$1 million or more since the adjustments boosted each of the men's lifetime retirement payments by more than \$1,000 per month. Bronoske and McGovern retired in their mid-50s, and they are now drawing more than \$150,000 pensions every year:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2013/apr/07/state-burned-by-spiked-fire-pensions/>

With a scathing resignation letter, Interim San Bernardino County (CA) Fire Chief Paul Drasil has quit a job he says was made impossible by cuts to management and by resistance from both the City Council and the firefighters union. Drasil, 53, said he's taking earned time off until his official retirement April 15, less than a year into the job. He was hired as a firefighter in 1986, then took over the department just before the City Council cut several administrative positions in July 2012 to save an estimated \$50,000 a year. A week later - on the same day the council first said it intended to file for bankruptcy protection - he wrote a memo warning that the changes would harm the department. They did, he said in the letter to Mayor Pat Morris that ended nearly 35 years of firefighting. "I am now held accountable to manage the department, yet the resources I need to do the job have been eliminated by the City Council against my advice and that of the City Manager," Drasil wrote. "Given the complexity of managing an urban fire department of our size, it is impossible for any fire chief to do so safely and effectively given these cuts to management." Opposition from a majority of the City Council members and from leaders of the San Bernardino City Professional Firefighters further hamstrung him, Drasil said: [http://www.sbsun.com/ci\\_22979638/san-bernardino-fire-chief-retires-scathing-letter?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.sbsun.com/ci_22979638/san-bernardino-fire-chief-retires-scathing-letter?source=most_viewed)

Los Angeles (CA) pays more for workers on disability and has poorer tracking of overpayments to workers than most other government agencies in California, City Controller Wendy Greuel said Wednesday. In an audit of a portion of the city's workers' compensation program, Greuel said the city spends \$5.2 million more in payments for the first year of a worker's injury than most other cities, and has experienced a 52 percent increase in the number of claims, particularly from police officers and firefighters. Greuel, a candidate for mayor, said the city needs to negotiate with the employee unions to reduce the payments to match what other jurisdictions are paying as well as develop better training to avoid injuries. "In light of the city's budget situation, now is the time to begin discussions, as part of future labor agreements, regarding changes to workers' compensation payments and incentivizing employees to return to work," Greuel said. The city pays workers their full salary for the first year they are injured; the state provides its workers payments of 70 percent of salary up to a maximum of \$1,067 per week. And, because disability payments are exempt from taxation, the workers could end up earning more while off-duty than they would by working, Greuel said: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_23048384/workers-comp-audit-finds-overpayments-los-angeles-program](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23048384/workers-comp-audit-finds-overpayments-los-angeles-program)

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

South Kitsap (WA) firefighters help raise more than \$1.2 million to support Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: <http://www.portorchardindependent.com/news/197150261.html>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

The Boise (ID) Fire Department has begun taking steps to correct the problem, including a software update for the system that keeps track of training hours and retraining firefighters on how to record their hours. "We are a well-trained, well-equipped fire department," Fire Chief Dennis Doan said. "We could improve our record-keeping and we're going to take every step to do that." The Boise Office of Internal Audit released a report March 21 that found questionable entries in the training records for 25 firefighters in a random sample of 45. The fire department has a staff of between 250 and 265 firefighters who need to reach certain

training benchmarks to meet national standards. Auditors gave the fire department's training division a "needs improvement" grade, the second lowest on its scale. That's a serious problem, Chief Doan said. The good news, he said, is that it's record-keeping, not training itself, that needs improvement. In many cases between Oct. 1, 2009 and July 16, 2012 - the period the audit covers - Boise's firefighters logged more than 24 hours of training in a single day. The reason is that they routinely attended multiple-day training sessions and later recorded all of the training hours on one day, Doan said:

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2013/04/04/2519753/audit-fire-training-record-keeping.html>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

Citizen who lost son praises EMS response but blasts DC firefighters. Tells hearing they are 'terrorists' trying to make Chief Ellerbe look bad: <http://statter911.com/2013/04/01/video-citizen-who-lost-son-praises-ems-response-but-blasts-dc-firefighters-tells-hearing-they-are-terrorists-trying-to-make-chief-ellerbe-look-bad/>

A federal judge ruled Monday that Stockton (CA) is eligible for bankruptcy protection, but left the door open for CalPERS obligations to be part of negotiations in the coming phases of the bankruptcy. Over the objection of creditors who argued the city could come up with more money, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Klein said Stockton can move forward with a plan to reorganize debt. He twice stated that the creditors had acted in bad faith and had refused to pay their share of the costs for negotiations. "The creditors got a big black eye today," said Karol Denniston, an attorney who helped draft the legislation that guided Stockton's mandated mediation before filing for bankruptcy protection. "Now the stage is set for the real dogfight." In late June, Stockton became the nation's largest city to fail financially. At that time, all eyes were on the port city of 300,000 as experts warned the action could set off a string of similar filings among cash-strapped municipalities. Since then, a half-dozen cities have filed for Chapter 9 protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, including the city of San Bernardino: <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-stockton-bankruptcy-pension-20130401,0,7699982.story>

Fire departments around the Country face sad reality: 'We can't save everyone'. Fire department executives throughout the country are saddled with the same dilemma – balancing resources and the need to respond quickly. "We're looking for answers all the time, not just after there's been a civilian casualty," said Covington (KY) Fire Chief Dan Matthew. "It's a sad thing to say, sitting here, but we can't save everyone. That's our job, our goal. It's what we hope for, but we can't control the circumstances." Matthew, when he became chief last August, inherited a budget down \$600,000 from the previous year and needing to be cut by another \$500,000. Daily staffing levels were cut to 27 firefighters per 24-hour shift, down from 30, and one of the city's five fire engines – the engine that would have responded to the Garrard Street fire – was held in reserve. "It's a reality of the financial restrictions we live with," the chief said: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20130405/NEWS/304050066/>

Most of the Half Moon Bay (CA) City Council threw its weight behind three Coastside Fire Protection District board members who were targeted in a recall election Tuesday. It didn't do much good. The three directors were ousted in a landslide over their push to get rid of Cal Fire. The state firefighting agency had taken over fire services for 30,000 people in Half Moon Bay and several nearby communities in 2008 after a local department became mired in financial and personnel problems. But the three Coastside board members pushed to oust Cal Fire despite indications it was delivering better service, prompting the recall effort: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_23022152/internal-affairs-half-moon-bay-council-members-strike](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_23022152/internal-affairs-half-moon-bay-council-members-strike)

With the overwhelming share of his agency's 911 calls now requesting emergency medical care, LAFD (CA) Chief Brian Cummings is moving forward with a controversial plan to shift more firefighters from engines to ambulances. The LAFD plans to add 11 new ambulances to its fleet of medical rescuers by transferring in firefighters from other posts, [according to a draft plan](#) circulated at Tuesday's meeting of the city Fire Commission. Cummings, who has been under pressure to improve response times, said the department must reconfigure its deployment practices to handle current workload demands. But the city's firefighter union and the association representing chief officers [oppose the change](#), saying it will put firefighters at risk. Medical calls now account for more than 80% of the agency's 911 responses, according to department officials and an independent data analysis by The Times. Fire officials say the proportion of medical emergency calls is expected to increase. "This is an EMS provider agency," Cummings told the commission. "That is our core business."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-lafd-ems-response-20130416,0,196805,full.story>

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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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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:** [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)  
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