



FIRE & EMS NEWS

October 20, 2012

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 2012 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.

FALL 2012 Semester: (August through December 2012)

Registration for the Fall 2012 semester at Chabot College has begun, many classes are already full!

The following classes are now available!

- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 29 through December 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 13, 15, 17, and 18	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - November 6, 8, 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - October 30, November 1 and 3	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - November 27 through December 8	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

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 2012 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

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



California Regional Fire Academy - Basic Firefighter One Academy

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

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

The California Regional Fire Academy is Now Accepting applications for Academy Classes scheduled to begin on Monday, January 7, 2013:

Academy 20 ~ Full-Time Format Academy

Academy 21 ~ Extended Format Academy

Application Deadline: All applications must be received by the Business Office by 4:00pm on Friday, November 9, 2012. Late application submissions will not be considered for this academy process.

All applications will be reviewed after the deadline of November 9, 2012. 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, November 17, 2012. If candidate is accepted to attend Academy 20 or 21, attendance will be required at the MANDATORY Acceptance Orientation on Thursday, November 29, 2012.

Important Dates to Remember:

Application Deadline: Friday, November 9, 2012 at 4:00pm

Mandatory Testing Day: Saturday, November 17, 2012 (time TBA)

~Pending Advancement to Testing Phase~

Mandatory Acceptance Orientation: Thursday, November 29, 2012 (time TBA)

~Pending Acceptance into CRFA~

Mandatory CRFA Orientation: Friday, January 4, 2012 (time TBA)

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Registration for this year's annual Training Officers' Fresno Symposium is now OPEN!!!!!!

To register and see the available classes, go to: <http://register.calchiefs.org>

Some of the classes being offered this year include, but are not limited to:

- Fire Command 2E
- Driver/Operator 1A
- Fire Instructor 2A
- CSFM Firefighter Survival
- S-404 Safety Officer
- Rescue Systems 1
- L-280 Followership to Leadership
- Trench Rescue
- S-270 Basic Air Ops
- Chief Officer Leadership Symposium
- Truck Academy: Commercial Ventilation
- Cutting Edge Command Officer
- Auto Extrication
- Company Officer Development
- Commercial & Strip Mall Fireground Ops
- S-300 Incident Commander Extended Attack
- Fire Control 4A & 4B
- S-339 Division Group Supervisor
- Low Angle Rope Rescue
- RIC Operations
- Fire Control 3B
- Strategy & Tactics Workshop
- Tower Rescue
- CSFM Regional Instructor Orientation
- Thermal Imaging Awareness
- S-290 Refresher
- Firefighter Injury Prevention
- Training Program Management: Boot Camp for TO's
- CSFM Ethical Leadership in the Classroom
- SIZE-up Matters
- Everyone Goes Home
- The Lost Art of Hose Line Operations
- Dynamic Risk Assessment
- CICCIS & IQS Familiarization
- Conflict Resolution, The Discipline Process & FOBR
- Fire Service Report Writing
- Truck Academy: RIC
- Elevator Rescue
- Success With Less
- Ignite Learning with the Fire Behavior Burn Box: Teaching Advanced Fire Behavior Concepts with Small-Scale Live-Fire Models.
- CSFM Instructor Update
- Rising to the Real Leadership Challenge
- Truck Academy: Forcible Entry
- Does your agency use Personal Watercraft?
- Content Covered is not Content Learned
- Evidence Based Training Methods: A guide for 21st Century Training Officers
- DC Fire: Leadership & Accountability Issues & Rube's Rules of Leadership
- Mission Focused Command Operations

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FROM DAN COFFMAN:

Dear Fire Service Professional & Friends;

To those who are used to receiving my periodic e-mail messages announcing on-line Fire related classes, an announcement will be sent in November regarding the Spring 2013 Semester Fire Tech and CFSTES Fire Officer classes.

My message today is sent to provide some ideas for your Christmas and other gift giving that is unique and supports a couple of good causes.

SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' STEAMER TEAM PROJECT:

<http://hubiepictures.com/>

Dave & Barbara Hubert & the "Steamer Team" of retired firefighters donate their time by participating in statewide community and charity events, representing the California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) in the interest of public safety and fire prevention education.

- **Give the Gift of Laughter: HUBIE & the Fire Service Book - Discounted \$49.99** HUBIE and the Fire Service is a humorous cartoon book that looks inside the Fire Service profession by a real insider...Dave "HUBIE" Hubert, a 30 year artist & Firefighter. <http://hubiepictures.com/>
- **Give the Gift of History: The Steamer - An American Icon DVD - Discounted \$19.99** This colorful documentary is about the discovery, resurrection and restoration of a 1902 American Steam Fire Engine. Since it's restoration, the Steamer has traveled throughout California and throughout the United States for parades and other special fire service and community events. <http://hubiepictures.com/>

SUPPORT THE CA FIRE MUSEUM & SAFETY LEARNING CENTER: <http://www.cafiremuseum.org/>

- The California Fire Museum has been established at the Great Park, at the former El Toro Marine Base, in Orange County, to preserve and display the history of the California Fire Service and a Safety Learning Center for providing information and education on fire and life safety and fire prevention measures to the public.
- **Become a Member of the California Fire Museum:** <http://www.cafiremuseum.org/membership.html> Membership to the California **Fire** Museum is open to anyone who wishes to join. Your membership helps fund the museum, exhibits and its construction.
- **Give a Gift to Preserve our Fire Service History:** Make a "Tax Deductable" Donation to the California Fire Museum. Send your checks to: CFM President Don Croucher 34681 Calle Fortuna, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624
- **WHILE THEY LAST! Buy a numbered Tribute Coin:** The California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) and the California FIRE Museum (CFM) have put together a Tribute Coin to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001 tragedy. Only 343 Coins were minted & very few are left. <http://www.cafiremuseum.org/>
- **Donate Your Fire Service Artifacts, Documents & Other Memorabilia:** While the facilities are yet built to house the CFM, our history is fleeting with the passing of many firefighters every year. If you have items to donate, or have a recorded history (documents, recorded audio and video accounts, etc.) contact CFM President Don Croucher at: crowncoach@aol.com

The Fire Education Company and Proprietors Dan Coffman (Los Angeles County FD Retired) & Susan Raja is committed to the professional development of the fire service by providing education and training opportunities principally on the Internet. We support these organizations and causes because they benefit the fire service and the public we serve. While dollars are always needed, these causes are always looking for helpers. If you want to donate time and effort, these are most welcome and appreciated. Our Best; Dan Coffman & Susan Raja - The Fire Education Company, Inc.

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

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA

US Fire Administration Releases Report on Heating Fires in Residential Buildings

09/20/2012 09:08 AM EDT

Fall begins this Saturday, and with it comes cooler temperatures and the resulting seasonal increase in the number of home heating fires. To help Americans understand the nature of the heating fire problem, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) today issued a special report: Heating Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010). Heating is the second leading cause of all residential building fires. Home heating fires are preventable! USFA reminds everyone to maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/092012.shtm>

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

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA

Kitchen Fires No. 1 in New Report

10/10/2012 09:57 AM EDT

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the U.S. Fire Administration are providing new statistics on fires in American homes and urging consumers to install smoke alarms in their homes and check to make sure all smoke alarms are working properly. It is also vitally important to develop and practice a family fire escape plan. The top cause of fires in the home is cooking equipment, accounting for an estimated 147,400 or 40 percent of residential fires each year between 2008 and 2010. Cooking was also associated with the largest percentage of fire-related injuries, an estimated average 27.4 percent or 3,450, in the home.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/100912.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE IAFC:



IAFC

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

4025 Fair Ridge Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033 | www.iafc.org | 703-273-0911 | Forward to a Friend

IAFC Member Alert Contact: IAFC National Programs Department - [703-273-0911](tel:703-273-0911) | www.iafc.org

Update: National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System

Fairfax, Va., Oct. 2, 2012- Thank you to IAFC members and the many individuals and organizations within the fire and emergency service community who have stepped up to demonstrate their support for the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System - <http://www.firefighternearmiss.com> - In an effort to keep everyone up to date on this issue, we are pleased to report the following developments:

- **Emergency IAFC-based funding** has secured the short-term continuation of the program. Server maintenance was completed last Friday with little disruption to service and the program remains operational. For more information, go to:
- **A Near-Miss Sustainability Task Force** has been created and is quickly moving forward. The small group of research, technology, and fire and emergency service subject matter experts will convene this afternoon to manage the short-term action steps and begin discussions surrounding options for long-term solutions.
- **The staff and the task force members have been revisiting work that has been ongoing since the program's early years to seek long-term, non-grant funding.** As federal and private sector resources were reluctant in the past to finance a successful program that already had funding, the IAFC is revisiting these conversations to explore possible interest in the changed environment.
- **Program specifications:** While many well-meaning individuals have stepped forward to offer support or recommend cost-cutting procedures, many have been surprised by the scope of the data-intensive research, technological infrastructure and hands-on support required to manage this national program. We also have had offers that would leverage the program for profit, make substantive changes to the proven and successful model, or otherwise impact the integrity of the system. In order to keep this work focused on positive and productive solutions, the **IAFC will issue a set of program specifications later this week** to help individuals and organizations that want to put forward proposals. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the specifications, please email atippett@iafc.org and a copy will be forwarded to you after the task force approves the final document.
- **The IAFC is meeting with federal grant program staff** this week to discuss the submitted proposal so that the IAFC may consider how it approaches future grant opportunities.

The IAFC will continue to provide updates on this issue as the work continues. Again, we thank each of you for your support, especially those who have come forward to offer help or taken the time to write us in support of the program. Here are just a few comments that captures the spirit of why the IAFC is not only seeking solutions, but doing so in a way that preserves the high quality of service that the community has come to expect.

I just heard that funding for the Fire Fighter Near-Miss Report of the Week is disappearing. I sincerely hope that does not come to fruition. ... The resources like www.firefighternearmiss.com or the Report of the Week, are excellent ways to help others who may or may not have found themselves in a similar situation avoid injury, accident or incident. It raises our awareness and opens our eyes to something outside our normal environment. - Missouri

I have been a volunteer firefighter for 32 years. After hearing and signing up for it, the near misses shared have saved my [!&&] as well as my fellow brothers and sisters...

-Pennsylvania

I read the articles produced by this program quite often. At a time in the Fire Service where funding is scarce for Local Government organizations, the Near Miss program provided myself, my crew, and many of my fellow Department members valuable training. -California

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

US Fire Administration Releases Report on Intentionally Set Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)

10/17/2012 03:12 PM EDT

The U.S. Fire Administration issued a special report today examining the characteristics of intentionally set fires in residential buildings. An estimated 16,800 intentionally set fires in residential buildings occur annually in the U.S. These fires result in an estimated average of 280 deaths, 775 injuries and \$593 million in property loss each year.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/101712.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LAFD:

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

We've got a full slate of events to add to your calendar...

Beyond this weekend, we hope you'll also join us one or more of these events. Please put them on your calendar today!

- October 21, 2012

22nd Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair

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

- October 22, 2012

Arson 'Shoot Out' Golf Tournament

<http://www.lafra.org/events/arson-shoot-out>

- October 26, 2012

Very Special Arts Festival

<http://www.musiccenter.org/education/Students-at-the-Center/Very-Special-Arts-Festival/>

- October 27, 2012

Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes

http://main.diabetes.org/site/TR/StepOut/A6LSA-LosAngelesArea?fr_id=8430&pg=entry

- October 28, 2012

Rock & Roll Half Marathon

<http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/los-angeles>

- November 4, 2012

Walk to End Alzheimer's

http://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=1299&pg=entry

- November 8, 2012

Breakfast at the Four Seasons

<http://supportLAFD.org>

- November 17, 2012

United Way Home Walk 2012 Los Angeles

<http://unitedwayla.org/homewalk/>

- December 8, 2012

Most Wonderful Time of the Year Mixer for the Spark of Love Toy Drive

Save the Date - More Info Coming!

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Thank you for reading this far and for staying a part of our extended LAFD family. We trust you'll put the dates above in your calendar today!

October 20, 2012

www.chabotfire.com

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Attachment: FS64_Grand_Opening_Flyer-English.pdf



Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey
Firefighter/Specialist - Public Service Officer
Emergency Public Information (EPI) Center
Los Angeles Fire Department

"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

Brian Humphrey Status & Location: <http://bit.ly/BrianLAFD>
LAFD Home Page: LAFD.ORG

Do You Follow LAFD on Social Media?

-  [@LAFD](https://twitter.com/LAFD) (breaking news)
-  [@LAFDtalk](https://twitter.com/LAFDtalk) (conversation & casual inquiries)
-  [@LAFDFireChief](https://twitter.com/LAFDFireChief) (the Fire Chief's personal thoughts)
-  <https://www.facebook.com/LosAngelesFireDepartment>

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 Shows Reno – Reno, NV - October 23 through 25, 2012

Go to www.fireshowsreno.com for more information.

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – Fresno, CA - November 12

through 16, 2012 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information

Firehouse World – San Diego, CA - February 17 through 21, 2013

Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

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

Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD – July 2013

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

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

Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

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www.chabotfire.com

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/training_classschedule.php

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:



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

<u>COURSE:</u>	<u>DATES:</u>
Ethical Leadership In The Classroom	November 28, 2012
S-230 (Single Resource/Crew Boss)	December 11, 13 & 15, 2012
S-231 (Engine Boss)	January 7 and 9, 2013
Fire Management 2B	January 14 – 18, 2013
Training Instructor 1A	January 28 – February 1, 2013
S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior)	February 11 – 15, 2013
Training Instructor 1B	February 25 – March 1, 2013
Fire Management 2D	March 18 – 22, 2013
Training Instructor 1C	April 8 – 12, 2013
S-390 (Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations)	April 15 – 18, 2013
Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10, 2013
Fire Management 2E	May 13 – 17, 2013

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.

To Register: Please see below for registration form.

More Info: Contact Stephanie Stuehler at 408-341-4410 or info@cnt.sccgov.org

REGISTRATION FORM

COURSE:	DATES:	COST:	QUANTITY:
Ethical Leadership In The Classroom	November 28, 2012	\$100.00	_____
S-230 (Crew Boss)	December 11, 13 & 15, 2012	\$100.00	_____
S-231 (Engine Boss)	January 7 and 9, 2013	\$80.00	_____
Fire Management 2B	January 14 – 18, 2013	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1A S-290	January 28 – February 1, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Training Instructor 1B	February 11 – 15, 2013	\$225.00	_____
Fire Management 2D	February 25 – March 1, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Training Instructor 1C S-390	March 18 – 22, 2013	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 1	April 8 – 12, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	April 15 – 18, 2013	\$300.00	_____
	May 6 – 10, 2013	\$265.00	_____
	May 13 – 17, 2013	\$295.00	_____
	TOTAL:		_____

=====

Name: _____

Rank: _____

Department: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

For these classes, the only form of payment will be checks.

- **Please make your check payable to:** Santa Clara County Fire Department.

- **Please mail or deliver your check to:**

Santa Clara County Fire Department - Attention: Stephanie Stuehler
 14700 Winchester Blvd.
 Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

- **Cancellation Policy:**

To request a refund, students must contact Stephanie Morrison. Full refunds will be provided if requested 14 calendar days in advance at 1500 hours. If a class begins on Monday, then the refund deadline is 1500 hours two Mondays prior. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

For 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.

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

The Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) is a must have for any person planning on becoming a firefighter. More and more departments are requiring a candidate to possess a CPAT completion card (no older than one year) just to apply for their department. If you do not possess a current CPAT, you do not pass go, you do not collect two hundred dollars, and you miss out on the opportunity to compete for a firefighter position at many departments. The CPAT does not guarantee that you will be a successful firefighter.

Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

- NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to attempt to complete the CPAT as it is common for people to fail their first attempt and have to go back on another day for a retest. More 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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has received notice of the following firefighter fatalities:

Name: Chris Seelye
Rank: Firefighter
Age: Pending
Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Contract
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 09/17/2012
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 09/17/2012
Fire Department: USDA Forest Service
Address: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Fire Department Chief: Forest Supervisor Rebecca Heath

Incident Description: Firefighter Chris Seelye, under contract with the USDA Forest Service, suffered a medical emergency while battling the Wenatchee Complex Fire. Firefighter Seelye was treated by incident medical personnel and rushed to a nearby hospital where he passed away later that evening.

Incident Location: Wenatchee Complex Fire north of Entiat, WA

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Chris Seelye at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 59 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Justin Townsend
Rank: Junior Firefighter
Age: 17
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 1
Date of Incident: 09/27/2012
Time of Incident: 1712hrs
Date of Death: 09/27/2012
Fire Department: Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 31818 Waples ST, Dagsboro, DE 19939
Fire Department Chief: Shane Furbush

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Incident Description: Dagsboro Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched for an outside fire in a wooded area on East Clogg Drive just outside town limits. While en route to Station 73 in a personal vehicle, Junior Firefighter Townsend was fatally injured in a motor vehicle crash on Pepper Road, in the area of Jay Patch Road. No further details of the accident are available at this time. The Delaware State Police Crash Reconstruction Unit is currently conducting an investigation into the fatal incident.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending. Updates will be posted at <http://www.dagsborovfd.com>.

Tribute is being paid to Junior Firefighter Justin Townsend at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 60 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: John Grabowski
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Part-time (Paid)
Years of Service: 24
Date of Incident: 10/01/2012
Time of Incident: 0803hrs
Date of Death: 10/01/2012
Fire Department: Riverview Fire Department
Address: 14100 Civic Park Drive, Riverview, MI 48193
Fire Department Chief: Chief Mitchell Jensen

Incident Description: On Sunday, September 30, during his shift, Lieutenant John Grabowski participated in fire department training. His shift ended that day at 1800hrs. The following morning, Lieutenant Grabowski traveled to his second job. At approximately 0803hrs, Lieutenant Grabowski was found collapsed in the parking lot of his second employer. The second employer's emergency response team tended to Lieutenant Grabowski and performed CPR. Advanced Life Support also responded to the scene where they treated Lieutenant Grabowski and transported him to Henry Ford Wyandotte Michigan hospital. Efforts to revive Lieutenant Grabowski at the hospital were not successful and he passed away within approximately one hour of being found in his employer's parking lot. The official cause of death has not yet been determined.

Incident Location: Parking lot of BASF Chemical, Wyandotte, MI

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant John Grabowski at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 61 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Larry D. Nielsen
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 60

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Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 41
Date of Incident: 10/09/2012
Time of Incident: 1730hrs
Date of Death: 10/09/2012
Fire Department: Gilmore City Fire Department
Address: 111 SE C AVE, Gilmore City, IA 50541
Fire Department Chief: Assistant Chief Lowell Johnson

Incident Description: Fire Chief Nielsen was responding to a barn fire riding in fire department apparatus when he fell ill. The vehicle operator immediately pulled over to the side of the road and called for help. Chief Nielsen was treated at the scene by EMS responders and transported to the hospital where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: Vicinity of Gilmore City, IA.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be held from 0900-1400hrs on 10/13/2012 at the Gilmore City School with services to follow at 1400hrs.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Larry D. Nielsen at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 62 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/> and distributed via USFA listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (www.firehero.org) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

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

All,

The location has been changed for the LODD services for Atascocita Captain Smith. Funeral Services for Captain Smith will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 10:00am at First Assembly of God in Humble, 1915 FM 1960 Bypass Rd East, Humble, Texas 77338. Fire Departments and Emergency agencies wishing to participate in the services should contact Matt Adelman of the Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department at madelman@avfd.com as soon as possible.

SELF SURVIVAL CHECK FOR FIRE-MEN:

SCBA? Check!

Bunker Gear? Check!

Saw Fueled Up? Check!

Apparatus Ready? Check!

Radio Charged Up? Check!

Have you Checked Your Bal.....? My What?! CHECK!?!

Using the word FIRE-MEN is just the start of this section of this afternoons Secret List-but relax as quite frankly, this only applies to men-and specifically, Firefighters of the men species. We lads who literally have "stuff" down below. You know... **your best friends**. This light hearted, very well done video is about cancer, male firefighters (specifically ages 20-40) and checking for TESTICULAR cancer-one of the more prominent cancers we face as Firefighters. With as much time as some spend "checking" down there-it's best we learn what can be done to perform this life saving check-by putting a lil' time "down there" to good use. **WARNING**-this video **shows all** that is required to do a life saving check....in a firehouse setting. **Read: SHOWS ALL. Don't watch it if you don't wanna see ALL.** Little is left to the imagination-which is good-it's no nonsense life saving information that needs to be talked about, seen-and done: <http://tinyurl.com/d65hegk> & <http://tinyurl.com/d4kqbj8> (backup link)

OEM & EMA: OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICERS TAKE NOTE:

With bucks so tight these days, we want to pass on this outstanding opportunity of 2 days of training (with meals!) and a great line up. Here is the direct public link to EDITS 2012 video on YouTube that explains it all: VIDEO: <http://youtu.be/kwughvT2Tt0> - DETAILS: <http://emema.org/events/2012.aspx> Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-19-12 / 1622 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A dashboard camera shows the moment a police officer in Texas saved a woman from being hit by a police car, which had itself been hit by a van. The footage shows two officers operating at the crash in Lubbock in the early hours of Monday. A woman is seen following one of the officers to the other side of the car, when a van crashes into the parked police car, sending it spinning towards the woman and the two officers. Officer Philip Standefer managed to push the women out of harm's way.

ANOTHER reminder of the risks we, they and us have on roadways. EXPECT THE WORST and prepare for it. WATCH THIS: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-19667432>

MORE DETAILS AND FREE FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FOR ROADWAY OPERATIONS:
www.ResponderSafety.com

A SUDDEN LOSS FOR THE KENTUCKY AND NATIONS FIRE SERVICE

It is with heartfelt sadness and grief that we inform you of the **very sudden** passing of our colleague and good friend of The Secret List and FFCC, Chief Bryant Stiles, who died yesterday, September 19, 2012. Bryant was a committed and dedicated public servant to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for more than 20 years via his volunteer fire service in his home county, McLean County, State Fire/Rescue Training Area 3 Coordinator under the Kentucky Fire Commission and Kentucky Community and Technical College System and most recently as both the **Division Director for the State Fire/Rescue Training and Director of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Exercise Program**. Bryant's achievements are many and far-reaching. He was actively involved in local, state, national and international organizations for the support and advancement of the fire service and fire/rescue training. On August 31, 2012 at the Kentucky Firefighter's Associations annual conference in Lexington, Kentucky, Bryant was inducted into the Kentucky Firefighters Association Hall of Fame, surrounded by his family, friends and colleagues. **Please note Bryant had been in great health, this happened very, very rapidly and may be due to some kind of sudden infection.** Please keep his family, the McLean County FD and friends in your thoughts and prayers in the loss of a loving and devoted Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, Firefighter and friend. **RIP.**

FINAL WORD:

Our sincere condolences to Fire Instructor, Author and Fire Chief Rick Kolomay (Carol Stream, IL) on the recent loss of his father Marion G. Kolomay who was a U.S. Army Veteran of the Korean War and retired Chicago Firefighter of 38 years. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-20-12 / 1426 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In Virginia and Pennsylvania 2 Firefighters have been seriously burned - one at a bonfire and another at a pile of brush being burned ...for training.

In Virginia, FF Chase Hopkins was badly burned Thursday night in a bonfire explosion. He suffered burns to his arms, chest, neck and face when a bonfire pile he was readying for an annual high school homecoming event **unexpectedly** caught fire and exploded ...he is expected to spend the weekend recovering at home. FF Chase Hopkins, 27, was one of 5 FFF's from the Marion VFD helping the Marion HS with its annual homecoming bonfire. He and Lt. Matthew May were **ON** the 8-foot-tall pile of pallets and other burnable material, getting everything ready for the fire, when a road flare held by Dale Dunford, who was standing 5 feet away, **ignited some vapor in the air...and the instant that happened, the pile caught fire and exploded.** May jumped off the pile into a ditch, but Hopkins was surrounded by fire. The other Firefighters, April Shipley and Roger Tilson, immediately began treatment and EMS was called. Hopkins was airlifted to the burn center at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was doing well this afternoon. The Virginia SP arson team was called to investigate the fire, which should not have happened, based upon what was believed to be in the burn pile. Diesel fuel and motor oil had been put on the materials, ready to burn, but neither of those "should" have produced vapors that would have caught fire. Usually, the road flare, which Dunford held, would be thrown on the fire from a safe distance. We wish FF Hopkins a rapid recovery...more to follow.

16 YEAR OLD JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER CRITICALLY BURNED

AND IN Jackson Township, Monroe County, PA, another WTF as a 16 year old Junior Firefighter is in critical condition after a training exercise went wrong. The young man suffered first, second, and third degree burns when "someone" doused a brush pile in gas then lit it on fire. Several agencies are investigating the situation. Sources say they include the State Police Fire Marshall, The PA Department of Labor and Industry, and the Jackson Township Fire Company. **Chief Lester Wolcott said,"We are gonna do a full internal investigation to try to figure out what happened, what went wrong, and try to get to the bottom of it, get it so it never happens again."** The training incident was organized to teach new members how to work nozzles and other equipment. It was supposed to be a controlled burn but things quickly got out of control. Someone used a 2.5 gallon can of gas to start the fire. Chief Wolcott said,"They were gonna use a little bit of gas and it was just a little too much gas." **The chief said there was a big flash and also said the young man apparently did not have his bunker gear closed properly. He suffered burns on his arm, neck, and shoulder. Wolcott added,"Myself and the Assistant Chief were not on the scene. We had a younger junior officer underneath us who was doing the controlled burn with them."**

PA. State Fire Commissioner Ed Mann and long time TSL member said someone with the proper training would have made sure the boy was suited up properly and would not have allowed anyone to

use gasoline. Mann said if he finds that a certified trainer allowed that, he will move to revoke that trainer's certification. His office is investigating. The PA Department of Labor and Industry is also investigating to see if the controlled burn violated any child labor laws. **We wish the young lad a rapid recovery.**

THIS ABSOLUTELY COULD BE YOU...WE...US:

A Missouri highway safety worker was killed in the Line Of Duty yesterday morning as he set up cones to direct drivers away from another crash on I-70 in Independence. Highway Safety Tech Clifton Scott, 50, celebrated 15 years of service with the department in a ceremony last week. Then, as emergency crews arrived, an Independence Cop heard a car coming at high speed and yelled a warning to Scott but the car hit Scott's truck, causing a fire. Scott was outside the truck at the time but was fatally injured when he was struck and thrown. The **drunk driver** of the car that hit the motorist assist truck is in critical condition and has been charged with first-degree involuntary manslaughter. David C. Murdick, 35, was driving while intoxicated when he sped through the cones and ignored other warnings and barriers and struck Scott. Murdick had a .184 blood-alcohol level, more than twice the legal limit, when tested at a hospital following the collision. **Scott is survived by a 14-year-old son, a brother, sister and a fiancé. RIP.**

=====RELATED VIDEO--WATCH THIS:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-19667432>

MORE DETAILS AND FREE FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FOR ROADWAY OPERATIONS:

www.ResponderSafety.com

DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR 6 FDNY FIREFIGHTERS WHO WERE KILLED LODD:

For more than 20 years, Peter Keane ran his auto body shop in Maspeth, Queens, without realizing it was the site of one of New York City's deadliest fires, which claimed the lives of 6 FDNY Firefighters. **The businessman only learned of the five-alarm blaze recently while renovating the building. He came across charred wood and a collapsed elevator shaft -- remnants of the old soap factory destroyed in the Oct. 26, 1962, fire.** "We have to do something for them," he said of the firefighters who died in the line of duty, including two from Long Island. Keane, 50, of Bayside, plans to remind others of the first responders' ultimate sacrifice by putting up a plaque and marking the 50th anniversary of the blaze. When he came across evidence of the fire, he called a friend at the FDNY who helped him with the research. They were both stunned at the results. "There are a few fires . . . that are pretty well-known and spoken about," said FF Michael Sarro, Keane's friend. "It's definitely one of them for sure." **The first firefighters arrived at the Sefu Soap and Fat Co., 44-15 56th Rd., about 9 p.m. Rendered fat and soap inside the two-story building had created huge flames, thick smoke and intense heat.** As crews operated at the fire, part of the 2nd floor and metal roof came crashing down, causing a brick side wall to collapse on top of 20 firefighters. Members were able to dig out 14 of the injured men, but the others were buried under 6 feet of debris and could not be saved. **Killed in the Line of Duty were Capt. William Russell, 43, of Wantagh; and firefighters Richard Andrews, 25, of Jamaica; James Marino, 29, of Corona; Richard Gifford, 24, of Bellerose; George Zahn, 25, of Jackson Heights, and Francis Egan, 29, of Merrick.**

HERE IS MORE ABOUT THE MEN: <http://img225.imageshack.us/img225/5771/scan0002z.jpg>

Earlier that day, a factory worker using an acetylene torch to cut up old machinery had accidentally started a couple of small fires. The employee thought he'd put them out but they continued to smolder, igniting the blaze hours later. Tom Russell, who was 10 when his father died, said an annual memorial service was held for the six firefighters for about 20 years. But with fewer firefighters around who had known them, the observances faded. Russell, who has a brother and two sisters, said his father had been with the department for 20 years. "My father . . . wouldn't send his men to do anything he wouldn't do himself, so he went in with them," he said of the tragic fire. Informed of Keane's plan to install a memorial plaque at the site, Russell said, "It's a really nice idea." Keane has ordered the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

plaque with the names of the Firefighters inscribed and plans to mount it at the entrance of his building. He's working with the fire department to organize a dedication ceremony. Firefighter Matt Desjardin said he was gratified to hear about Keane's plan. "That's a stand-up act by Mr. Keane," he said.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-22-12 / 2141 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Conway (Arkansas) Fire Captain Danny Collins reportedly became tangled and suffered an embolism while training in a dive class in Hot Springs yesterday and has been transported to Shreveport (Louisiana) for treatment. Captain Collins was taking part in the dive training class and was in about 20 feet of water performing a search grid task with Firefighter Ty Ledbetter. Ledbetter said he felt a tug on his line and found that Collins had become tangled. Both worked on fixing the line and emerging to the surface when Collins had problems breathing. "It was a blessing that the doctor in Hot Springs had seen this kind of injury before and knew what to do," Fire Chief Bart Castleberry said. "He knew what type of brain injury this is." Captain Collins was able to see his wife, Brandi before being airlifted to Shreveport for treatment. His family and a liaison from the CFD are now in Shreveport. We'll post updates as we hope for a rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-23-12 / 1834 Hours

AND:

EMS LINE OF DUTY DEATH-CRASH - An EMT from a Cheraw (South Carolina)-based ambulance service was killed in the Line of Duty today after a crash near Carolinas Medical Center Union, North Carolina. EMT Belinda Rivers, 43, was killed in the Line of Duty and the driver of the unit was injured in the collision involving their ambulance and a tractor-trailer. The wreck occurred around 1100 near the hospital, which is located at 600 Hospital Drive in Monroe, N.C.. It was not immediately clear what led to the collision, but the ambulance belonging to Sandhills Ambulance Services flipped on its side after impact. The 18-wheeler veered off the road in front of a nearby restaurant. EMT Rivers, who lost her life, was a passenger in the ambulance and second EMT who was driving is listed in good condition at the hospital. No patients were on board at the time of the wreck. The company's executive director said, that the two EMTs were returning to South Carolina after dropping off a patient. Our condolences to all that are affected. RIP.

HERE is the Sandhills Ambulance facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandhills-Ambulance-Service/110118912346701>

NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER COLLAPSES AT SCENE - A 28 year-old Watertown (NY) Firefighter drove his department's rescue truck to an accident scene yesterday, then collapsed to the pavement shortly after exiting the truck. Companies were dispatched at 0747 Hours to a two-vehicle crash. Minutes later, a firefighter radioed his headquarters to summon a battalion chief, reporting "man down," - the ill firefighter was immediately attended to by his colleagues and Guilfoyle Ambulance personnel. The Fire Chief said it was fortunate the collapse did not occur while the firefighter was driving to the scene, and that he was wearing his helmet, sparing him from a head injury when he struck pavement....the firefighter had not complained earlier of feeling ill. He is expected to be released.

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THIS MORNINGS TANKER CRASH UPDATE: The Firefighter injured in this morning's fire tanker crash was stable and improving this afternoon, according to Whitesville Volunteer Fire Department Chief David Hodges. FF David Massey, 54, -who has 35 years of service in the department, was awake and talking early this afternoon and his injuries do not appear to be lift-threatening, Hodges said. **GOOD News.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-25-12 / 1640 Hours

AND:

All,

A Firefighter with the Whitesville VFD (West Virginia) was critically injured while responding this morning. The unidentified FF was driving a tanker truck hauling 2,200 gallons of water to a fire in Orgas in Boone County when he lost control of the vehicle on Route 3 near the community of Sylvester. They were responding to a working structure fire and he was responding (alone on the tanker) as the 'third-due' apparatus in an non-hydranted area when the rig rolled over several times. He was flown to Charleston - his injuries are described as critical. **We'll keep you advised as we pray for his recovery.**

THE DEATH OF THE NATIONAL FIRE FIGHTER NEAR MISS REPORTING SYSTEM....BUT BY WHO AND WHY? The continued funding of the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System has officially been rejected and has not been awarded through the Fire Prevention and Safety Program of DHS. Since the program's inception, DHS/FEMA has provided \$7 million to this program. The Near-Miss program has been an integral part of a system of most national fire service organizations that has reduced firefighter death and injury to the levels we see today-all funded through the AFG process.

NOTE: Due to the rejection, **the Nat'l FF Near-Miss program will end this Friday, September 28, 2012 when the current grant period officially ends. What's weird is that the near-miss program did not score high enough and that the "peer" reviewers did not see the value of the program - as part of a firefighter safety system. Really weird.** OK-I do get it that we-the fire service or any organization-should never expect ANY Federally funded program to last forever. I also get that-perhaps-the program should have found alternative "independent" funding at this point. And I also get that it's one of those programs that as long as "someone else" is funding it-the fire service loves it-but as soon as it loses funding, the fire service focuses on other interests. And more importantly, I definitely get that there are some very poor FD's that can barely exist ...and the grants have made a difference in providing the most basic of services delivered by both career an volunteer firefighters. I totally get all that.

What I don't get is why any "peer" would not support the "near miss" program - a data based program that supports and assists every FF - and they not recommend that it be continued? WHY would any "peer"--who carefully reviewed and understood the history - and who had a clear understanding of the program ...would score it so low as to not have it funded? It's kinda weird.

- Was it how the funding was being spent?
- Was it that the data was producing information we didn't want to know or hear about?
- Was it the organization or the people who ran the Near-Miss program?
- Was it that the peer reviewers were not fully aware of the facts related to the program?
- The Federal Fire GRANT program is run by some top of the line people-many veteran fire service folks who do "get it"...and the peer process consists of fire folks who want to do the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

right thing....and we know the data was being used by numerous organizations both local, state and national.

- **So what was it? What caused it to be scored so low?**

What's also weird is how some of this stuff works...for example----why were the following grants awarded in the recent past?

\$700,000.00 for "recruiting" in a volunteer fire department that protects 10,000 people in ONE SQUARE MILE. \$400,000.00 for "recruiting" in a fire district that protects 26,000 people in SIX SQUARE MILES. \$1,700,000+ for recruitment as well as fire equipment to one single volunteer fire department that has career personnel in their area on duty 24/7 - and in an area that has more fire apparatus available per square mile than perhaps anywhere in the United States.

The tax funded grant awards are not a secret-it's all public information that you and I are all well aware of. But what doesn't make sense is why grants described above ARE awarded and funded---grants that have very little impact to the big picture-but yet the "National" Fire Fighter Near Miss Reporting System wasn't. It's just weird. **RIP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-25-12 / 1400 Hours

AND:

Hey,

About 3 years ago, the IAFC EMS Section executive board sat down with members of the IAFC Safety, Health, and Survival Section Board in Denver and started talking about ambulance safety and design. Quite frankly, we were tired of seeing people who work in ambulances and people they were transporting being injured and killed in ambulances of less than acceptable design. Individually, some FD's and mfg's came up with some great "survival based" designs-but there was no standard. We petitioned the NFPA to form a technical committee to look at ambulance design. The NFPA accepted the proposal and formed a technical committee. Members of the committee came from fire departments, the private ambulance sector, 3rd service EMS, hospital-based EMS, manufacturers, and national fire and EMS organizations. After two years of work, they were able to produce a final document this past summer that was adopted after two different rigorous public comment periods - NFPA 1917; Standard for Automotive Ambulances. This is the first standard specifically written to safeguard people riding in ambulances. Even the federal KKK specification, which many states have adopted and many specifications are based upon, has little to do with safety/survival and is a buying spec written for the purchase of federal ambulances. No other standard currently exists to address ambulance safety. That standard NFPA 1917 is now available for download on the NFPA site: www.NFPA.org - Thanks to all the fire service based EMS leadership who kept this moving in a positive direction.

FIREFIGHTER KIDNEY EMERGENCY REQUEST:

A veteran Pennsylvania Firefighter is in immediate need of a kidney. He had a transplant 8 years ago and his kidney function has now dropped to 8%. Anyone that is Blood Type "O" and is willing to get screened, please contact liaison: Rbouch@ccpa.net asap. The impacted Firefighter has been advised that if he does not receive a kidney, he has a window of about 60 days left to survive. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-25-12 / 1030 hours

AND:

All,

A former Ohio volunteer Firefighter who was responding on a fire call, struck a car and killed one of the occupants, was sentenced today to nine months in jail. The judge also ordered that Timothy Johnson, 43, have his driver's license suspended for three years. Mr. Johnson, who has been free on bond, was handcuffed and taken to jail after the sentencing. Mr. Johnson had been indicted and gone to trial on felony charges stemming from the July 16, 2010, crash that killed Ian Huffman, 24 and seriously injured Mr. Huffman's girlfriend, Olivia Duty, now 22. His trial last year ended in a mistrial after Judge Moon declared that special prosecutor Ken Egbert, Jr., had committed prosecutorial misconduct by introducing testimony without sharing it in advance with the defense. Johnson, a former member of the Portage District (Ohio) FD, was responding to the fire station in Oak Harbor to respond to a mutual aid call for a ladder truck in Clay Center when he struck Ms. Duty's car. In a plea agreement with prosecutors in July, Mr. Johnson pleaded guilty to one count each of negligent vehicular homicide, a first-degree misdemeanor, and attempted negligent homicide, a second-degree misdemeanor.

SOME RELATED TRAINING RESOURCES:

IAFC Driver Safety:

http://www.iafc.org/files/downloads/VEHICLE_SAFETY/VehclSafety_IAFCpolAndProceds.pdf

USFA/IAFF Driver Safety:

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/USFA%20Emergency%20Vehicle%20Safety%20Initiative.pdf>

VFIS/NFFF POV Response: <http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/VFIS/povresponse.pdf>

NVFC Health and Safety: <http://www.fdnntv.com/NVFC-BEST-Practices-Volunteer-Firefighter-Health-Safety-Behavior>

USFA: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-110.pdf>

RESPONDER SAFETY: www.respondersafety.com

RELATED ARTICLES:

http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/research/pages/Initiative_11_Emergency_Vehicle_Response_Safety/more8.html

RELATED TRAINING SERVICES:

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

DRIVE TO SURVIVE: <http://www.drivetosurvive.org/>

RESPOND SMART <http://www.respondsmart.com/>

DOUBLE FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH IN PORTUGAL (PT)

In Portugal, on September, 21st, Volunteer FF Pedro Manuel Santos Brito died in the Line of Duty from burns. He passed away in the University of Coimbra Hospital. A member of the Corpo de Bombeiros Voluntários de Côja, FF Brito suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns while operating in a wildland fire in the woods of Casal Cimeiro, in Arganil, Portugal on Sep. 15th. The same fire also had already claimed the life of 25-year-old Volunteer FF Patrícia Alexandra Rodrigues Abreu. Three other FFs were injured in the blaze, but are recovering well. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

FIREFIGHTERS FOUND:

In Brazil, on September 19th, two military FFs and a Native-Brazilian civilian were rescued after being **missing for 8 hours**. The FFs were in a rescue mission due to the floods in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, with the civilian as a guide, when their boat turned. They had to climb into a tree to spend the night before being rescued uninjured by fellow FFs.

JR FIREFIGHTER WHO WAS BURNED LAST WEEK IS DOING BETTER

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That 16 year old junior firefighter has been discharged from Lehigh Valley Hospital following treatment for injuries suffered when a training exercise went wrong. As you will recall, it happened in Jackson Township, Monroe County a week ago. The lad suffered first, second, and third degree burns when someone doused a brush pile in gas then lit it on fire.....more to follow.

REMINDER:

Every October, the Nat'l Fallen Firefighters Foundation sponsors the national tribute to all Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty during the previous year. Thousands attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Maryland....and you are invited to attend as well. **HERE IS MORE:** <http://weekend.firehero.org/>

Take care-BE CAREFUL. BillyG
The Secret List 9-24-12 / 1817 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Conway (Arkansas) Fire Captain Danny Collins reportedly became tangled and suffered an embolism while training in a dive class in Hot Springs yesterday and has been transported to Shreveport (Louisiana) for treatment. Captain Collins was taking part in the dive training class and was in about 20 feet of water performing a search grid task with Firefighter Ty Ledbetter. Ledbetter said he felt a tug on his line and found that Collins had become tangled. Both worked on fixing the line and emerging to the surface when Collins had problems breathing. "It was a blessing that the doctor in Hot Springs had seen this kind of injury before and knew what to do," Fire Chief Bart Castleberry said. "He knew what type of brain injury this is." Captain Collins was able to see his wife, Brandi before being airlifted to Shreveport for treatment. His family and a liaison from the CFD are now in Shreveport. We'll post updates as we hope for a rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 9-23-12 / 1834 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A North Carolina Firefighter was seriously injured yesterday afternoon when his vehicle overturned as he was heading to another crash. FF Josh Jacobs, 30, of the Rockwood Rural FD was on his way to the crash about 2 miles away when the tire tread of his 1997 Ford Explorer came apart and he lost control of the vehicle. Jacobs, a veteran firefighter, ran off the road, tried to maintain control of the vehicle but overturned. **He was thrown from the vehicle** and came to rest several feet away in a yard. **The Firefighter was not wearing a seat belt.** He was taken to Rowan Regional Medical Center and then flown to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem. We'll keep you advised as we wish him a successful recovery.

MINNESOTA FIREFIGHTERS

On Sunday September 30th at 2 pm central, 3 pm eastern, The Minnesota Fire Service Foundation will dedicate the new Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial located on the grounds of the State Capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Minnesota fire service raised over \$600,000 to complete the project and construct the permanent memorial dedicated to Minnesota's fallen. The dedication and memorial ceremony will mimic the national weekend the following Sunday in Emmitsburg. The Minnesota event has garnered so much attention that they have a number of national players coming in and taking part in the ceremony. The IAFC is sending Chief Clemmensen up to be a flag presenter. IAFF President Schaitberger is also flying in to be part of the program. Also, our National Fallen Firefighter

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Foundation Chairman, Chief Dennis Compton is coming and will be the memorial dedication speaker and a major player in their program. The high point is that they will be honoring and listing the names of 206 Minnesota Fallen Firefighter who have died since 1881 on the Memorial. They have over 800 family members registered to be present alone. They have the Governor, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and several U.S. Congressional Representatives all on board to be part of the program. The new memorial is on the front lawn of the State Capitol and is quite impressive. The center statute is to be set in place next Friday by crane. A separate honor guard ceremony is planned for the statue placement. Great work!! **The program will be broadcast live over the Internet and HERE is the link:** <http://townsquaretv.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish%20id=110>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-27-12 / 0831 Hours

AND:

All,

The following excerpts are from Matthew Gajdos, PIO of the Dagsboro VFD from the news conference this afternoon on the death of Jr Firefighter Justin E. Townsend: The Dagsboro VFD suffered a devastating loss Thursday evening. While responding to the station for an alarm, 17-year-old Junior Firefighter Justin Townsend was involved in a motor vehicle accident and was fatally injured. Justin's death is the first line-of-duty death for the Dagsboro VFD in its 69-year history. Justin had been a member of our department for one year. He was due to be voted into the senior membership next month. Justin completed all of his state training to be an interior firefighter and was a very active member with our department. Justin was a junior at Sussex Tech High School. We miss him very much, and we will remember him always. While we have lost Justin, his passion to help others has not been lost with his passing. Justin was an organ donor. Even in the shadow of death, he will continue to live on by serving others. Many local fire departments are family based; not just in name, but in brotherhood and sisterhood. Our department is no different. Justin's father is a member of this department. Justin and his father are part of our family dynamic. We will support him and grieve with him in this time of need. Funeral arrangements are still pending, but Justin will be laid to rest with full Firefighter honors. **DETAILS WILL BE POSTED HERE:** www.DagboroVFD.com RIP.

MAYDAY IN OREGON

As Firefighters from surrounding communities rushed to the three alarm business complex fire in Seaside Oregon on Sept. 18, the crew from the Gearhart Fire Department was first on the scene of the Avenue A side of the fire. Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy had sent in his crew to size up the Seaside Foods building. The crew emerged saying they could not see any smoke or fire. Two of the Gearhart firefighters grabbed a hose line and other tools and returned inside the building prepared to fight any fire they would find. "They were in there for about ten minutes," said Eddy. "I was standing just outside and could see that the ceiling was falling in. The firefighters inside knew something was going on and they were in the process of exiting. They dropped all their equipment and just took off as the ceiling came down." Eddy said the falling material pushed one firefighter forward and he was able to get out of the building, but the other firefighter was caught by the falling debris. "It knocked him to the ground," said Eddy. "I immediately sounded the May Day alert and radioed dispatch and the other crews that we had a firefighter down inside."

MORE HERE: http://www.seasidesignal.com/news/article_66adc12c-0754-11e2-b375-001a4bcf887a.html

DETROIT: "VISITING FIREFIGHTERS" FALL THRU THE ROOF: ABOUT AS STUPID AS IT GETS...

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.....so will there be a new study? As you will see in the below video, the DFD had some "visiting Firefighters" from Belgium riding along to learn-and they fell thru the roof of a vacant burning building. Lesson learned. This is about as stupid as it gets. The DFD FF's have enough to do and worry about-with fiscal issues, poor or non-existent resources and numerous working fires, albeit many in vacant buildings--but now they are responsible for intentionally placed non-DFD people "observing" on top of and inside of burning buildings...just so the visitors can learn and see what it is like. And the Belgium Firefighters DO find out what it is like... and they fall thru the roof. A true WTF Close Call. So what's next? Use your imagination-and beyond. The next thing you know, someone will apply for a catrillion dollar "fire act grant to study the emotional, psychological and legal impact" of visiting firefighters falling the roof of burning buildings. Phenomenal.

WATCH THE COLLAPSE HERE:

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/Firefighters-fall-through-roof-while-fighting-blaze-in-Detroit/-/1719418/16771988/-/iivn8hz/-/index.html>

RELATED: "BURN" Documetary Premier In Detroit This Weekend:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20120928/ENT01/120928081/burn-movie-detroit-firefighters-premiere?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

"Burn," the 86-minute documentary presented by the Free Press, was shot mostly in 2011 by filmmakers who embedded themselves with on-duty Firefighters to capture the struggles they face in an economically challenged city with a huge arson problem and a fire department coping with budget and salary cutbacks.

UPDATE: NEW DETAILS IN THE 1988 FIRE WHERE 6 FIREFIGHTERS WERE KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Attorneys representing two of the four remaining defendants serving life sentences in the 1988 deaths of six Kansas City Firefighters said today they have developed "compelling new information that casts substantial doubt" on their guilt. Read more here:

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/09/28/3838039/new-information-in-1988-kansas.html#storylink=cpy>

UPDATE: NY FIREFIGHTER RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL:

A volunteer Firefighter from Long Island (NY) was released from the hospital today after being treated for a rare, life-threatening flesh-eating bacteria. Lt. Ralph Lettieri of East Patchogue's Hagerman FD said he was thrilled to be going home after being hospitalized for months at Nassau University Medical Center. We wish him continued positive recovery.

MORE HERE: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2012/09/28/east-patchogue-firefighter-with-flesh-eating-bacteria-set-to-be-released-from-hospital/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-28-12 / 2108 Hours

AND:

Hey,

"Medical control...we have a very weak pulse." Well....in the last 72 hours, the leadership of the IAFC and it's Safety, Health and Survival Section have developed a short-term plan to self-fund and keep government funds expire tomorrow. The move, supported by funding from the IAFC; its Safety, Health and Survival Section; and its EMS Section, will allow the program to remain operational through the end of October 2012. While no other firm funding commitments have been made at this point - and few have the resources to fund the program in its entirety, the IAFC is currently working with a number of stakeholders and interested parties to explore funding options. Chief Hank Clemmenson, IAFC President and Chairman of the Board, announced his intention to develop a task force to immediately assist in the effort and explore options. While IAFC Executive Director Mark Light hopes to see the

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process move quickly, he emphasized the need to also move thoughtfully. "We need to be sure we're making sound decisions that will sustain the integrity-not just the longevity-of the program." The very short term funding will mitigate some of the urgency, buying precious time, so any future funding options can be thoroughly considered by the Task Force with recommendations to Chief Clemmonson and the IAFC Board of Directors. Cautiously optimistic? Sure-as we should be. Much more to follow....

HAVE AN OPINION? Please take time to email the IAFC.

WANT TO HELP? Quite frankly, cash is what's needed-significant funding to sustain the basic program...funding from organizations, corporations and individuals: Contact the IAFC.

NO BIG DEAL? Take no action.

You can reach out to the IAFC at www.IAFC.org and "contact us" so your opinion can count. Or send it to me and I'll forward it to the IAFC asap. The "patient" is in grave condition - but life support efforts have been taken. The Dr's say that the next 30 days will be critical in determining the long term survivability of the patient. The Dr's claim that "family" support both morally and fiscally is critical at this point.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-27-12 / 1719 hours

AND:

All,

As an update, we want to make sure that it is clear that Dagsboro (DE) Junior FF Justin E. Townsend, 17, who died in the Line of Duty in that single-vehicle crash early Thursday evening was not driving the vehicle - but was a passenger in that pick-up truck. John Morton Jr was driving Jr FF Townsend to the Dagsboro Firehouse to answer a call for an outside fire in a wooded area. Reports are that Morton was speeding through a curve in the roadway when the right side tires exited the road. The truck went into a spin and struck a telephone pole before overturning onto its roof and crushing it on the passenger side. Morton was taken by EMS to the hospital where he was treated and released with NLT injuries. FUNERAL DETAILS HERE: <http://dagsborovfd.com/>

FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY- JAPAN: An explosion and fire at a Nippon Shokubai Co. plant in Himeji, western Japan, yesterday left a 28 year old Firefighter killed in the Line of Duty and 33 other people. An acrylic acid storage residue tank exploded and the fire later spread to another acrylic acid tank and a toluene tank at the plant. In total two explosions occurred at the plant, killing the 28-year-old Fire fighter and injuring about 30 people. **Nippon Shokubai is one of the world's biggest makers of acrylic acid, used in baby diapers.** Among those hurt at the chemical maker's plant were 21 Firefighters, 10 workers and two police officers. RIP.

DENVER FLASHOVER:

A Denver Firefighter was injured as he was pushed out by heavy fire on the second floor of a dwelling this morning. Stairs to the second floor had collapsed when Firefighters arrived at the home around 0230 hours with initial reports indicating the homeowner could be trapped. The Firefighter climbed a ladder to the second floor to reach him-but no one was in the building. The fire pushed the Firefighter back down the ladder and fell - he received thermal burns and lacerations but is fine.

FDNY RESCUE 1 VIDEO:

Here is a link to what appears to be a new video compilation sent to us by one of the Secret List readers. The video is a picture history of Rescue 1-**many of the faces you will see are members who have given their lives in the Line of Duty-including those murdered on 9/11.** The

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video is a cool collection of many, many photos over the years. **Check it out HERE:**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-83d0fvwgjM&feature=em-share_video_user

THIS VIDEO is an excellent follow-up to the above:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjdSQtbVf4o&feature=related>

FDNY SPIDERMAN....

Congrats to long time TSL member FDNY's Commissioner Sal Cassano who rappelled approximately 40 stories in the American Cancer Society's Over the Edge challenge last week, raising more than **\$16,500** in honor of all FDNY members who are battling or have battled cancer. Good stuff.

MORE HERE: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/events/2012/092812a.shtml>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-30-12 / 1600 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Here is a clip of a responding Russian fire apparatus-and just like over here in North America, they can get into situations resulting in the rig rolling over-and those awaiting for that apparatus to arrive at their emergency---still awaiting.

WATCH HERE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0dMutgqnT4&feature=player_embedded

SMOKE DIVERS: (An LODD Related Update)

While all departments and agencies grieve over a Line of Duty death-some choose to go forward without considering change. **That is NOT the case in Texas.** We were recently advised that the East Texas District Board of Directors and the "TX Smoke Diver" Instructor Corps have agreed unanimously to place the Texas Smoke Diver Program on hold and postpone the April class, if necessary until the investigation results of the terribly tragic death of Captain Neal Smith can be completed. **With all the improvements made over the years, they were all very shocked at the incidences of over-heating related issues. For a project that uses no live fire, only simulated smoke, no IDLH atmospheres, and they enjoyed some very mild weather and humidity - they were all very surprised by those that were impacted and what some of their internal body temperatures were found to be.** They already researching many of the new technologies and the latest firefighter rehabilitation studies to better detect, monitor, and treat the body temperatures of those affected. They have also already contacted other state Smoke Diver programs to discover and implement any of the "best practices" that we uncover....and are looking at any and all options that will increase the safety of future Smoke Diver students. As stated "Our hearts are heavy with grief and we regret the unfortunate combination of circumstances that resulted in injury and the death of Captain Neal Smith with the Atascocita Fire & EMS. " There are few better ways than to honor the lives of any Firefighter killed in the Line of Duty - than fully investigating and researching the cause ...and then doing everything possible to insure it doesn't happen again. Good stuff.

MICHIGAN TOWN TO LAY NEARLY OFF HALF THEIR FIREFIGHTERS "Battle Lines Drawn"

Nearly half of Hamtramck's Firefighters will be laid off today as the city seeks to cut costs. Twelve firefighters will be laid off, or 44% of the city's fire suppression division, according to a statement released by the Hamtramck Firefighters Local 750. The department employs 27 firefighters, not including the chief and the fire marshal, said William Diamond, president of Local 750.

MEDIA HERE:

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/10/battle_lines_drawn_hamtramck_1.html

HFD FF's WEBSITE HERE: <http://www.hamtramckfirefighters.com/>

FFCC FIREFIGHTER STAFFING PAGES: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/staffing.php>

RESCUE "ROCK" RETIRES:

ONE OF the FDNY's most elite units in Manhattan will be losing its senior Firefighter when he retires this week. Al Benjamin, a 35-year vet, and genuine gentleman, will be walking away from his honored career at Rescue 1 on Thursday - and his Brothers make it clear that the 2 decades serving at the W. 43rd St. firehouse will be remembered. All the best for a well deserved retirement. **HERE IS MORE:** <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/rock-rescue-1-beloved-bravest-al-benjamin-leaving-fdny-35-years-article-1.1171688?localLinksEnabled=false>

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-1-12 / 1928 Hours

AND:

Hey,

For those who are unable to travel to this weekends National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend at the NFA in Maryland, here is every alternative "electronic" opportunity to follow the activities and the memorial service. Please share this, pass it along and forward. For your convenience, all of the links and information you will need for Memorial Weekend coverage, live video, recorded video and social media can be found on this one page: <http://weekend.firehero.org/creative/2012/>.

HERE are some of the specifics:

LIVE STREAMING

We hope you will again be a part of the FireHero Network and embed live streaming of Saturday's Candlelight Service and Sunday's Memorial Service on your website. And please encourage your area general news websites to do the same. Click here for streaming information:

<http://weekend.firehero.org/live/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition, you will be able to follow the weekend events through social media. NFFF has a team of firefighters on campus in Emmitsburg to provide pictures, video and details from the entire event. The hashtag for Memorial Weekend is **#FIREHERO2012**. Please help us keep the fire service and the public informed by sharing and re-tweeting. We are [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation on Facebook](#) and [@NFFF_news](#) on Twitter. We have two new campaigns this year for firefighters and the public to show their support of the fallen on their Facebook pages. On Saturday, October 6 at 6:30 pm, we want as many people as possible to "Light a Virtual Candle for a Fallen Firefighter." And on Sunday, October 7, we want everyone to "Ring a Virtual Bell for a Fallen Firefighter." All the details are available here:

<http://weekend.firehero.org/creative/wallpaper/index.html#lightacandle>

<http://weekend.firehero.org/creative/wallpaper/index.html#ringabell>

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL WEBCAM

We now have a webcam that can provide you a view of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. It can be seen at: <http://firehero.org/camera.html>.

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Our second Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters is going strong and more departments and places of worship are signing on every day. Please continue to spread the word of this important program that encourages the public to pause and remember the firefighters who have died:

<http://bellsacrossamerica.com/>

YOUTUBE

As always, we have a growing library of videos on FireHero TV, our YouTube account:
<http://www.firehero.tv.com>.

MORE ON THE WEB

The Virtual Remembrance Banner is available for anyone to pay tribute to a fallen firefighter or share a special memory of Memorial Weekend. It's a wonderful way for family, friends and others who can't be in Emmitsburg to have a connection to the events:

<http://weekend.firehero.org/remembrance/banner.php>

Departments and individuals can still add the National Fallen Firefighters Tribute Widget to their website, blog or Facebook page. Go to: <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget/> to copy and embed the widget. NFFF webmaster Jenni McClelland will be constantly updating the Memorial Weekend website with fresh pictures and information at:

<http://weekend.firehero.org/>.

Take Care-Check Out All The Above,
BillyG

The Secret List 10-2-12 / 1131 hours

AND:

MI FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY_MEDICAL

We regret to advise you that on Sunday, September 30, during his shift, Lieutenant John Grabowski of the Reerview (MI) FD participated in fire department training. His shift ended that day at 1800hrs. The following morning, Lieutenant Grabowski traveled to his second job. At approximately 0803hrs, Lieutenant Grabowski was found collapsed in the parking lot of his second employer. The second employer's emergency response team tended to Lieutenant Grabowski and performed CPR. Advanced life support also responded to the scene where they treated Lieutenant Grabowski and transported him to Henry Ford Wyandotte Michigan hospital. Efforts to revive Lieutenant Grabowski at the hospital were not successful and he passed away within approximately an hour of being found in his employer's parking lot. The official cause of death has not yet been determined. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

CONGRATS TO PETE PIRINGER - Great news and congrats to Pete Piringer who is leaving DCFD and who will now serve as the City of Laurel (MD) Spokesperson, PIO and Director of Marketing and Community Outreach. While this isn't something we would normally post on The Secret List, we are because so many of you know of Pete as in 2007, he served on the Task Force investigating the nine (9) Firefighter Line-of-Duty deaths in Charleston, SC. Pete leaves the District of Columbia's Office of the Secretary of State as Director of Communications, having served Washington, DC since 2009, initially as the Chief Spokesperson and Director of Public Information for DCFD. He has decades of public safety experience and has served as the PIO for several large agencies in the Washington, DC area, including Montgomery County (MD) Fire and Rescue Service, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department and the Maryland State Police. He is president of the College Park (MD) VFD In Prince Georges County where he has been a member for over 40 years. In 2007, he served on the Post Incident Fire Review Task Force investigating the nine (9) firefighter 'line-of-duty' deaths in Charleston, SC. He has served with the College Park VFD for many years and currently serves as its President. In 1986 he was the recipient of the Prince George's County 'Gold Medal of Valor' and was named Firefighter of the Year, as well as 'Volunteer Firefighter of the Year' along with several other honors. **All the best to Pete and while it's a loss to DC, it is certainly Laurels gain.**

FINAL WORD: Our condolences on the passing of Fire Instructor John F. Purnell. John was aretired Pittsburgh (PA) Firefighter/Instructor, and State Instructor Emeritus. He was also a member of the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Veteran Firefighters Association and Fire Chiefs Association of Allegheny County, John was a deeply respected instructor, an invaluable teacher and friend. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-2-12 / 1700 hours

AND:

All,

2 married "to each other" Firefighters were badly injured yesterday afternoon in the crash of a new fire apparatus near Santo in southern Palo Pinto County, Texas. Note that the apparatus was not responding on a run when the crash happened. Volunteer Firefighters Patrick and Kimberly Anne Dorris, both 43 years old, were airlifted from the crash. The 2 Firefighters were among the newest members of the Brazos Volunteer Fire Department, but they were already veterans of the extensive Possum Kingdom Complex grassfires last year. The single-vehicle crash was reported at 1323 hours yesterday on the rural farm road. FF Kimberly Dorris was driving the 2012 Freightliner apparatus to Mineral Wells to get new decals - the apparatus was carrying the full load of 3,500 gallons of water. The truck was eastbound when it came to a curve and drifted right. The right-side tires left the road, and she attempted to correct that, but the truck hit a concrete structure. As the rig went across the roadway, the weight of the water in the tank shifted, causing the truck to overturn. It landed on the passenger side, and finally stopped when it struck a tree and a fence. We wish them a successful recovery and will keep you advised.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG.

The Secret List 10-4-12 / 0425 hours

AND:

4 OVERSEAS LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

CHINA: 3 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY (WATCH THIS VIDEO)

The following was submitted by a Secret List member regarding this LPG tanker crash in China. Stop the video and review the frames to really see this. The tanker has significant damage to the front of the barrel over the fifth wheel (most likely from striking the tunnel entrance). This stressed container opens up in the area of the barrel head and immediately empties the liquid load by vaporization (up to 10,000 gallons) with tremendous ratio. Propane is 275:1. The "white smoke" in the news story is LPG vapor condensing the water molecules in the atmosphere. Judge for yourself the size of this vapor cloud based on time and fire apparatus in the film. No out running this!! There is a car coming the opposite way that is enveloped by the cloud but the end of the footage does not show the vehicle still there. Most likely ignition is the fire apparatus if you look to see where the fire initiates. What can we take away from this tragedy? Assessment of the problem as presented must be immediately commenced. In North America the DOT 331 standard for LPG bulk transport is a tough container designed to take a hit. We have no knowledge on the specifications with the Far East containers but still be aware here that a DOT container with the type of depression shown on the barrel head should be cause for concern. The MAWP can't be trusted. Get a pressure reading if possible and flare or transload. This damage type should prevent thoughts of lifting. Next time your pondering the exclusion zone for a damaged container, use this as a mental reference. As always, say a prayer for the 3 Firefighters that did not go home. RIP.

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5LB5PBBt8>

MORE HERE: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/334388>

FIREFIGHTER LODD A HOMICIDE?

INDIA: A Firefighter died **in what they don't consider the Line of Duty** from a heart attack during a training session at Wadala on yesterday-and now the Union wants the Chief Officer charged with homicide. FF Sarjerao Shenavi (50) was undergoing a promotional training when he fell unconscious. He was immediately rushed to a hospital for treatment, but was declared dead. FF Shenavi was attached to the Chembur fire station and was undergoing the promotional training of 90 days to become "leading fireman". The training, conducted between 0700-1200 everyday, is to be completed on October 13. The FF's are on then duty from 1500 to 2300 after training. The Mumbai Fire Fighters Services Union has alleged that Shenavi died due to tremendous stress caused by the training program and duty. "While fire officials are given on-duty training, the firemen are deprived of this facility. Our pleas of providing on-duty training to firemen have been repeatedly ignored by the civic administration," said union official Rajaram Dhuri. Since FF Shenavi was technically not on duty-this isn't consider an LODD. Fire officials said that the incident occurred when Shenavi was off-duty. "The family is entitled to compensation only if the death takes place while putting off a fire or rescuing someone," said a senior fire official. They are, however, in favor of including training casualties or death in the category. **The union has demanded suspension of the chief fire officer and registration of a case of culpable homicide against him for the death of FF Shenavi.**

NOTE: Could that (similar circumstances declared non LODD) happen here in North Amerca? Absolutely. It's a good time to ask and understand what may be-and what may not be covered locally, state and Federally if this happens to you or one of your members.

TEXAS FIRE OFFICER CLOSE CALL THIS MORNING:

A veteran Fire Captain and experienced FF were injured in an early morning fire in Longview, Texas. The fire occurred at approx 0500 in a single story, brick veneer duplex in the northwest part of the city. First arriving units reported heavy smoke from the front door. As crews began their attack they experienced high heat levels, the Captain's SCBA face piece became dislodged while attempting to access the fire in the attic area and he received burns and scrapes to the ears and forehead, the Firefighter received burns on his back. Both were transported to a local hospital, treated and released. Both men reported their training paid off in this situation. Updates to follow.

TV TOMORROW (Wednesday) NIGHT:

JUST when your DVR is sick and tired of you watching RescueMe over and over and over---there is something new for you to check out! The new TV show "CHICAGO FIRE" starts this tomorrow, Wednesday, October 10th on NBC at 9pm C/T. Click on the link below for a look behind the scenes:

BEHIND THE SCENES: <http://www.nbc.com/chicago-fire/>

More HERE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi3h9z1YUVc&feature=related>

RHODE ISLAND Fire District May File for Receivership

This afternoon, Central Coventry Fire officials called a press conference alerting the media to the fact that the district may soon be forced to file for receivership. WTF!? At the October 1 annual tax meeting, taxpayers voted to table the passing of the 2012-2013 budget, which halted the distribution of tax bills to residents of the district. On October 3, Interim Chief Andrew Baynes requested that Centreville Bank extend the district's tax anticipation borrowing to cover financial obligations until a tax rate and budget is decided and new tax amounts can be billed and collected. **Not only was Baynes turned down for additional borrowing, but the district's existing line of credit was seized - funding that would have been used to pay employees for several more weeks.** CCFD employees received their last paychecks on Friday, Oct. 5 and as of that date, the district is out of

money to continue issuing paychecks. "We are completely out of funds," said Baynes. "My job from here on out is to make sure that I can maintain fuel in the truck, keep them populated somehow and keep the phone lines open. If we have lights, that would be a luxury. Everything else is a toss up." Baynes went on to explain that pay for the staff is out of the question under the current financial conditions. Without being able to collect taxes, the district will not have reliable funding coming in. "This is disastrous news and a very dangerous situation" he continued. "I don't transmit this with any good feelings but I need to keep the trucks on the road." **READ ALL ABOUT IT:**

<http://coventry.patch.com/articles/central-coventry-fire-district-may-file-for-receivership>

AND SPEAKING OF CUTS:

A central Indiana town is out of money for their EMS model and wants Firefighters to make up the difference. Leaders in Lawrence have announced the city can no longer afford 24 "civilian-non-fire" paramedics. The city said the cuts to non-firefighting paramedics will mean the city can start the new year in the black. Firefighters and "civilian" Paramedics had a different take, though, especially after one rescue this past July. That rescue came full circle Friday night at a special ceremony in Lawrence. Two months after he was shot and nearly died, Fortville Police Officer Matt Fox thanked the people who saved his life with handshakes and hugs. "The city of Lawrence medics arrived and they started working on me and then they transferred me to Methodist," said Fox of his experience. But on the same night he was honored for his work saving Fox, Lawrence Paramedic Darren Study found out in 10 days, he'll be out of a job. "It's bittersweet," said Study.

Study's job is just one of 24 civilian paramedic positions being cut. It will be up to Lawrence Firefighters to cover ambulance runs now for the city. "You release that staffing and it is going to effect public safety," said Lawrence Firefighter Kris Kell and President IAFF Local 416. Kell says without civilian Paramedics, there will be fewer Firefighters to go out on fire calls, which could mean crews waiting for more help to get to a scene. "So what was maybe a kitchen fire is now a kitchen and a living room fire," said Kell. The city of Lawrence, though, said the money just wasn't there to keep exclusive paramedics on staff, but they said they didn't believe public safety would suffer without them. "Our fire chief assured Mayor Jessup we can do it. This is how we used to do it. ALS Firefighters can ride out on an ambulance. The city will be safe," said the mayor's deputy chief of staff, Keith Johnson.

The city said their current money problems go back to 2010 when Lawrence took on a fifth fire station that belonged to Lawrence Township. "Along came the cost of 18 firefighter salaries and six EMS salaries, which equal about \$2 million," explained Johnson. "There was no permanent source of revenue to pay that \$2 million." That led to what the city calls a "terrible fiscal nightmare," ultimately giving the mayor no choice - make cuts somewhere or run out of money. Johnson said the city will be able to keep all five of its fire stations operational by staffing them with 4 Firefighters instead of three. Firefighters, all of whom are trained ALS EMTs, will operate the ambulances based in all five fire stations.

THIS WEEK:

It's Fire Prevention Week...so what's your departments plan? **Check this out:**

<http://greenmaltese.com/2012/10/is-your-fire-prevention-message-up-to-date/>

Final Note-sorry for the delay on some of the above-we have been tied up on a wonderful family event over the last several days, and that stuff always comes first.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-9-12 / 2049 Hours

AND:

All,

In Philadelphia today FDNY Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (Ret) and former Philly Fire Commissioner Roger Ulshafer told the council committee that top management made a basic mistake on the morning of the fire; in his view they failed to establish what's called a collapse danger zone at the scene. That's a zone that would be clear of all citizens and firefighters. "Disgraceful." That's how Ulshafer described how the department commanders handled the April Kensington warehouse blaze that claimed two firefighters' lives." **There was the incident commander, his staff, the division commanders, the sector commanders, at least three safety officers," Ulshafer said. "And yet no one, no one had the sense to establish a clearly defined collapse zone around the entire building. If I was to describe the command control and emergency scene management, my definition would be disgraceful."** Philly City Council's Public Safety Committee called the hearing to examine policies and procedures in the department in the wake of the April inferno.

Also testifying was a former New York City Deputy Fire Chief, Vincent Dunn, who shared Ulshafer's concern about the lack of a collapse zone. **"If there is no potential to save lives or property, there is no justification to expose fire department members," he said.** Dunn said the department's way of keeping track of firefighters, a command board, is obsolete. "That's prehistoric. We (in New York) had the same command board before 9-11. Now we have a command board that's like an iPad." Philly FD members Lt. Robert Neary and Firefighter Daniel Sweeney died in the Line of Duty on April 9th, when a wall in a store neighboring the warehouse collapsed. **More to follow.**

NFA, FIRE, EMS AND EMI INSTRUCTOR TIMMY CAMPBELL PASSES SUDDENLY

Years ago, in the 70's, I was real involved with what is now known as the "old" ISFSI (Int'l Society of Fire Service Instructors**) and I jumped in with both feet. One day I was in some sort of a planning meeting that was lead by a guy named Tim Campbell-he was a Firefighter and also the fulltime Chief of Emergency Services for Chester County, PA. What struck me in the meeting is how damn smart this guy was. Now that's coming from someone who is as basic as they come-so I am impressed easily---as I joked with Timmy years later as our friendship grew. Honestly, this was easily one of the smartest but also kindest men I had ever met in our business...he had an uncanny ability to think of or look at issues and challenges unlike few I had ever met.

Several days ago, while at the National Emergency Training Center/National Fire Academy, Tim took a fall near the front inside entrance of the cafeteria. Highly qualified EMS folks from within the NFA and locally from Emmitsburg/Frederick County were on the scene instantly, talking to and treating Tim. They were talking to him, he was talking back and all seemed OK... The wind was knocked out of me when I was told a few days ago that Timmy had passed away. Above are my feelings about Timmy. Susie N from Firehouse has also written about him-with comments from many of his friends-so here is some of her piece:

For nearly 30 years, Timothy R.S. Campbell was a familiar face on the campus of the National Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute. On Thursday, colleagues gathered in the chapel to remember the EMI professor for his tenacity for education and mentoring thousands. Campbell died on Sept. 28, a few weeks after falling in the wet hallway outside the campus cafeteria. He was lauded for his expertise in emergency management and his contributions on a number of task forces including one addressing terrorism.

"Tim was perfect for this assignment. He was a great asset," NFA Deputy Superintendent Kirby Kiefer said. Kiefer added that Campbell was held in very high regard throughout the country. Albert Fluman, chief, integrated emergency management branch, told the crowd: "Mere words are not

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

going to do justice for Tim Campbell..." Fluman remembered how his colleague adopted Emmitsburg as his second home, and became an expert on local information including the daily specials in town restaurants. Campbell was responsible not only for instructing but developing the curriculum for many, many train the trainer courses at EMI. "He had a large impact on emergency management across our nation," Fluman said.

Retired Beloit, WI Fire Chief Jim Reseburg remembered: "When you asked Tim a question, he would never answer. Instead, he would take you on a journey...and you would figure it out." Reseburg recalled the last moments with Campbell. Taking a break from a meeting in the same building as the cafeteria, the group was trying to decide on lunch plans. The former chief said his friend told him to step out in the rain, and depending how wet he was they would make the decision to drive to a restaurant or eat in. As he obeyed, he felt a tug, and realized Campbell was holding onto him laughing. "He was very happy to be here..." he said, adding that it was the last time he had with his friend.

Retired Kissimmee Chief John Chapman said Campbell embraced educating people about concept and theory of emergency management. If the powerpoint went out, it was OK, he said, because he knew his subject inside and out. "He asked tough questions," Chapman said because he wanted his students to think and realize that's what they'd be facing as emergency managers. Burt Clark reminisced about the times he spent with Campbell at conferences and working on course curriculum. Clark as a NFA instructor, and his friend, the emergency management expert spent a great deal of time collaborating. Clark said the two shared a bond, one that he will cherish. "Tim was part of my dash," he said, referring to the symbol on a tombstone between the date of birth and date of death.

HERE is MORE about Timmy, take a look, if you have ever attended EMI or NFI, odd's are, you will recognize him. <http://tinyurl.com/8z4p77q> **Rest in Peace Timmy.**

****ISFSI** today is very much alive and well today and lead by some of the best folks in our business-doing some great stuff-please check them out and consider membership if you have ANYTHING to do with firefighter training-it is not expensive and is an excellent investment in yourself and your crew.

www.ISFSI.org

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-11-12 / 2035 Hours

AND:

IOWA FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE RESPONDING

It's with regret that we advise you that Gilmore City (Iowa) Fire Chief Larry Nielsen was responding to a barn fire riding in fire department apparatus on Tuesday when he fell ill. The Firefighter driving immediately pulled over to the side of the road and called for help. Chief Nielsen was treated at the scene by EMS responders and transported to the hospital where he passed away from an apparent heart attack. This happened on 10-9-12 around 1730 hours. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER DEATH-POSSIBLY ON DUTY RELATED

We regret to advise you that an 18-year-old firefighter with Bethlehem Community Fire Rescue died last night after suffering injuries in a collision in Alexander County, southwest of Taylorsville. Bethlehem Community Fire Rescue is Alexander County Station 32. Firefighter Caleb Benfield died from injuries sustained in a motorcycle collision. The crash happened within view of the fire

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station. Firefighter Benfield had been working during the morning performing fire prevention activities with his department and was returning to the station to participate in additional fire prevention demonstrations for the local elementary school. He went home for lunch, but never made it back to the station. Investigators say Benfield was driving on Highway 127 just after 13:00 hours when he wrecked his motorcycle. Some of his fellow firefighters responded to the wreck. Benfield died Wednesday night following surgery at Carolinas Medical Center. Caleb joined the department in 2001 as a Junior Member.

MAJOR MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING FIREDUE TO A MAN BURNING A SQUIRREL....IN MICHIGAN

This fire yesterday, was started by a resident, who was apparently trying to burn the fur off of a squirrel to prepare it for eating. Seriously. **FIRE VIDEO:** <http://tinyurl.com/8pnytic>

MORE INFO ABOUT THE FIRE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/9audn4s>

SAFE COOKING LESSON FROM BUBBA: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxUIQv4gg-s>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-11-12 / 1442 Hours

AND:

Hey,

3 Baltimore City firefighters were injured as maydays were called as they attempted to save numerous lives in 2 separate dwelling fires about an hour apart early this morning. **One of those fires left 1 adult and 4 children dead.** In the first fire around 0100, a Lieutenant is in serious condition with second and third degree burns to the hands, face and neck and a Firefighter has third degree burns to the hand and is in stable condition. Both are at Johns Hopkins Bayview Burn Center. The fire occurred on Bonsal Street. The deadly fire was around 0200 hours on Denwood Avenue in northeast Baltimore. As Firefighters established water and went in, crews witnessed one of the occupants jumping from a second floor window to escape the heavy fire conditions. Firefighters then went to the second floor to look for people reported to be trapped. Once crews made it to the upper level of the home one of the firefighters fell through the flooring all the way to the basement. A mayday was sounded and the fallen firefighter was immediately located and rescued. We wish the members a rapid recovery.

HERE is the audio from ALERTPage: <http://alertpage1.posterous.com/>

HERE is more about the fire with video from Dave S: <http://tinyurl.com/9upowqd>

You can follow ALERTPage national fire activity updates on our home page at www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com or HERE: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/alert.php>

A FIREFIGHTING FATHERS LOVE FOR HIS LOST FIREFIGHTER SON-AND HIS PUSH FOR "THE RIGHT THING"

A 'Line of duty' death was finally honored to fallen Firefighter Lt. Joseph DiBernardo Jr. yesterday. As you may recall, Joey's D's Dad, Joseph DiBernardo's tenacious actions finally paid off. His son died from injuries suffered in Black Sunday fire 6 years ago - and yesterday his memory was honored by the FDNY.....as his Dad kept pushing until he got what was deserved. Retired FDNY Assistant Deputy Chief Joseph DiBernardo Sr. was at long last able to honor his firefighter son, whose death was finally categorized as "line of duty." Joining him were 7,000 other FDNY Firefighters, FDNY Commissioner Sal Cassano, FDNY Chief of Department Edward Kilduff and Uniformed Firefighters Officers Association President Al Hagan. They were all here to honor Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Jr., who died last year from injuries suffered in the infamous Black Sunday fire six years ago in the Bronx. **RIP Joey D. MORE HERE** about yesterdays ceremony honoring other FDNY members as well:

<http://tinyurl.com/8mmn9cl>

HERE is the BLACK SUNDAY Fire Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html>

FAMILY TIES: Are in a relationship, married etc? Since our focus on FFCC and The Secret List is "FF Survival"...we thought you would enjoy these cool pieces written by Anne Gagliano for Fire Engineering to help "survive" your relationship. You may recognize that last name from her husband Mike, who is a Captain in Seattle and one of the "air management guys" from Seattle.

<http://tinyurl.com/8vodg7z>

Can you relate: Being married to a Firefighter means ... navy blue, lots of navy blue.....

<http://tinyurl.com/8I7k8ot>

Also check this out: <http://tinyurl.com/9jyyd55>

<http://www.fireengineering.com/firelife/family.html>

If you are in a relationship, some of Annes "survival tips" may be of help in your continuous "personal size up"...enjoy.

CONN. MAYOR BACKS DOWN ON THE NO PINK T-SHIRT ISSUE:

For weeks, the mayor of Bristol has been wasting time fighting with his Firefighters' union over allowing firefighters to wear pink shirts for breast cancer awareness. Now the battle is over. Mayor Art Ward will allow the firefighters to wear pink T-shirts and said reflecting on his mother's battle with cancer helped him make the decision to reverse his decision. **Bout' time Mayor.**

<http://tinyurl.com/8jakz37>

AND LASTLY....

Without question, like myself, I am sure each of you have mastered doing the "Gangnam Style" dance.....why wouldn't you? Anyway...here are the members of the South Baldwin Volunteer Fire Company doing their "Firefighter Style" video which ends with a very positive message to their community for Fire Prevention Week, 2012.

<http://youtu.be/uYNkip68dig>

AND JUST IN CASE you need further help learning, never let it be said that we don't always have your back: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZmkU5Pq1sw>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-11-12 / 0954 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Last night, an engine was struck by a civilian vehicle on I-275 in the greater Cincinnati area. The crew of Miami Township Fire & EMS (Clermont County) Engine 27 was transported from the scene after their engine was struck in the left rear on I-275 at Wards Corner Road. They were operating at a previous crash (car vs deer) when the 2nd crash occurred. As of midnight, 2 Firefighters have been discharged while the 3rd is undergoing additional evaluation. The driver of the vehicle that struck the engine has NLT moderate injuries. The damaged engine will be out of service for some time. The left rear of E-27, a 1996 Pierce Saber is damaged the heaviest, but there is additional damage all along the left side, stem to stern. We'll post more as it becomes available.

HERE is their home page: <http://tinyurl.com/9bnh44h>

HIGHWAY SAFETY/SURVIVAL FOR FF's: www.Respondersafety.com

FF STRUCK-LAWSUIT:

A volunteer Firefighter injured at an crash scene when he was struck by a Jefferson County (NY) Sheriff's Department vehicle has filed suit against the county and the deputy driving the vehicle.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Lansing G. Willix filed NY state Supreme Court action this week at the county clerk's office against the county, Deputy Shaun D. Cuddeback and Sheriff John P. Burns. It is claimed that on May 18, Mr. Willix, a member of the Theresa VFD for more than 40 years, was directing traffic near routes 37 and 411 when he was hit by a vehicle driven by Deputy Cuddeback, who was responding to a nearby car crash. According to the suit, Mr. Willix suffered "multiple" injuries, including a broken leg, and, as a result, he experienced pain and suffering and lost wages and incurred medical expenses. **He maintains that Deputy Cuddeback was negligent in his operation of his vehicle and that the county and Sheriff Burns are liable because, among other things, they failed to properly train and supervise the deputy and failed to implement and enforce appropriate safety procedures and protocols.** Deputy Cuddeback was not charged as a result of the accident, which was attributed to congestion at the scene. **FF Willix had walked out from behind a parked vehicle into the deputy's path.** Mr. Willix's wife, Beverly, also is named as a plaintiff in the action. The suit does not specify an amount being sought in damages. The couple is represented by Syracuse attorney Donald S. DiBenedetto.

2 AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTERS CRITICALLY BURNED

2 Firefighters who suffered life threatening burns last night remain in a critical condition in Royal Perth Hospital. Both had been badly burnt, with one in a critical condition and the other in a critical but stable condition. Western Australia Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) state duty director Bruce Jones said the firefighters were from the Department of Environment and Conservation and the local bushfire brigade who were responding to a fire in a pine plantation. The firefighters were caught when strong winds caused the fire to suddenly change direction on a slope. **The Royal Flying Doctor Service dispatched two aircraft to Albany to transport the two women to Perth.** One female Firefighter aged 45 suffered burns to 60 per cent of her body and other aged 24 suffered burns to 40 per cent of her body. Keep'm in your prayers.

HERE is their home page: <http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

HERE is The Royal Flying Doctor Service home page: <http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/>

PAID FIREFIGHTERS NOT GETTING PAID---WORKING FOR FREE

Firefighters in the Central Coventry Fire District (Rhode Island) are working without pay while the financially strapped district seeks ways to meet its payroll. The district has raised the possibility of going into receivership. Yesterday, Chief Andrew Baynes said the district is investigating that option but has not filed for receivership. Meanwhile, Captain David Gorman, president of the Coventry Professional Firefighters Union, said the district's 52 firefighters have worked without pay for one week and are entering the second. "We're here, and if an alarm comes in, we'll be responding," Gorman said. "How long this can go on, that's the million-dollar question. At some point, we will have to make a decision whether to come to work or not."

HERE is their home page: <http://www.centralcoventryfd.com/home.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-13-12 / 0846 Hours

AND:

FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-2nd FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter from Achelade, Germany was killed in the Line of Duty last night and a second Firefighter was seriously injured when the mini-pumper they were riding in was struck head-on by an auto coming in the opposite direction. The mini-pumper was occupied by the 2 Volunteer Firefighters and was driving non-emergency to a training session when a BMW sedan approaching them drifted across the center line and smashed into the firetruck causing it to go off the road. The crash demolished the apparatus. The first-due VFD in Peine responded with 5 of their

apparatus and 27 Firefighters to attempt to rescue the victims. The driver of the BMW also perished in the crash and a passenger in his car was injured but survived. Our sincere condolences. RIP. **PHOTOS HERE:** <http://www.nonstopnews.de/galerie/15924> - Thanks to Bills at www.FireGeezer.com as well as Christian Lewalter and Feuerwehr Weblog for the details.

=UPDATE ON NC FF WHO WAS CRITICALLY INJURY-From His Fathers Perspective:

September 28 was a day William "Bill" Jacobs recalls with vivid accuracy. It was the day his only son, Josh Jacobs, a Rockwell Rural Firefighter, could've died in the Line of Duty. Josh, 30, was seriously injured in a wreck on his way to a vehicle collision. The young firefighter was responding to a call when the tread on his tire came apart. He lost control of his Ford Explorer and it overturned. He was not wearing a seatbelt and was thrown from the vehicle. Josh was flown to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. He was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit, where he has been since that time. He had facial fractures, including a broken nose, and minor bleeding on the brain. He was sedated. Josh was taken off sedation and he woke up Friday, his father said. **READ MORE:** <http://www.salisburypost.com/News/101612-Josh-Jacobs-update>

"AVOIDABLE" - NEVADA TRAINING ACCIDENT FOLLOWUP: (Video, Reports, Training Materials Below)

This is an update to the January training accident that injured four Firefighters-that was entirely avoidable. Four Firefighters received minor injuries in the "Positive Pressure Attack Training Academy" back in January. As you may have previously read, North Las Vegas Assistant Fire Chief Tim Sendelbach, who said he failed to speak up about unsafe conditions, and he wrote about it (below). Nevada State Fire Marshal Peter Mulvihill said yesterday the investigation of the training accident remains open. There is plenty here for any of us to learn from this. North Las Vegas hosted that January 24 training exercise that was attended by 25 firefighters from Clark County, Las Vegas and Henderson. It involved setting a fire in a makeshift building to measure the potential effects on a victim trapped between a fire and a window or other exhaust port. Chief Sendelbach admitted oversights in the below July 29 article penned for FireRescue Magazine, for which he serves as editor-in-chief.

READ HERE, the information, in Tim's words:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/article/management-and-leadership/company-and-chief-officers-must-set-standard-safety>

HERE IS VIDEO OF THE LIVE FIRE TRAINING INCIDENT:

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/19059125/video-details-nlv-fire-training-exercise-gone-wrong>

HERE IS A MEDIA REPORT OF THE INCIDENT:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/07/video-shows-nv-firefighter-training-exercise-gone-wrong.html>

No firefighters received medical treatment on the day of the incident, but two days later, a Las Vegas Firefighter and a Henderson Firefighter sought treatment and missed work. Two others suffered injuries that were not considered serious, according to a report summarizing the incident by retired Clark County Fire Chief Steve Smith. That report, commissioned by the city of Las Vegas, cited a lack of communication and planning issues as possible causes of the incident.

MORE HERE: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/north-las-vegas-assistant-fire-chief-january-training-accident-100-percent-preventable-174291611.html>

TRAINING FOLLOW-UP/REVIEW/DISCUSSION:

HERE are 2 REPORTS worth reading and discussing with your crew where Firefighters were killed in the Line Of Duty during Live Fire Training:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200709.html> (Maryland)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200531.html> (Pennsylvania)

REPORT: Preventing Deaths and Injuries to Fire Fighters during Live-Fire Training in Acquired Structures

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2005-102/>

=UPDATE ON THE 2 AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTERS WHO WERE CRITICALLY BURNED (SEE PHOTO OF APPARATUS)

The Emergency Services Minister is promising a thorough investigation into the handling of a fire near Albany in which two firefighters were critically injured. Two female Firefighters suffered severe burns after their apparatus was engulfed in flames at Two Peoples Bay on Friday. **There are reports authorities knew of an impending wind change and should not have allowed the women to enter the area.**

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-10-16/opposition-calls-for-fire-inquiry-haste/4315664?section=wa>

COUNTERFEIT AIR BAG WARNING:

On October 10, 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a safety advisory to alert the Firefighters, EMS responders and the public about the possibility of counterfeit air bags being installed in passenger vehicles that required a replacement due to vehicle crash. **HERE is the ADVISORY FROM DOT:**

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/2012/Safety+Advisory:+NHTSA+Alerting+Consumers+to+Dangers+of+Counterfeit+Air+Bags>

Experts believe this issue affects less than 0.1 percent of the U.S. vehicle fleet. Only vehicles which have had an air bag replaced within the past three years by a repair shop that is not part of a new car dealership may be at risk. **They are urging first responders to review the NHTSA safety advisory and take additional safety measures and precautions when responding to motor vehicle crashes involving the vehicles identified by NHTSA. PHMSA also requests that first responders notify them if they believe that a counterfeit airbag may have been involved in an accident.**

The counterfeit air bags look nearly identical to original manufacturers' equipment parts-including bearing the insignia and branding of major automakers. NHTSA tests have shown consistent malfunctioning of these devices ranging from non-deployment of the air bag to the expulsion of metal shrapnel during deployment. NHTSA is not aware of any deaths or injuries connected to counterfeit air bags. **However, it is important to remember that air bags are considered explosive devices because of the actuators, and they must be handled and transported in accordance with the hazardous materials safety regulations.** For questions about transporting these devices, please call PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Information Center at 1-800-467-4922. For more information and updates, please visit www.safercar.gov.

WHO CALLED? WHAT ARE THOSE SIRENS? WHAT IS GOING ON???

The nature of every 911 call answered by San Diego fire-rescue and the address where the emergency is taking place can be seen by the public on a new website, the department announced Monday. The website: www.sdfiredispatch.org -- was created to cut down on the number of calls to 911 by people who hear sirens and want to know what's going on, according to Susan Infantino, communications manager of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. "Fire dispatchers are on the front line of emergency response," she said in a statement. "Answering questions from curious callers not only delays them from doing the important job of emergency dispatch. It clogs the phone lines and could delay a legitimate 911 call from getting through." The website is updated every five minutes, 24 hours a day.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-16-12 / 0901 Hours

AND:

All,

Today is the anniversary of the 23rd Street Fire that took place on October 17, 1966. Firefighters from the FDNY responded to a fire at 7 East 22nd Street entered a building at 6 East 23rd Street as part of an effort to fight the fire. Twelve members of every rank, from a probationary Firefighter to a Deputy Chief, made the Supreme Sacrifice when the ground floor of the store collapsed. The fire originated in a basement storage area, which was concealed by a four-inch thick cinderblock wall illegally constructed by the building's previous owner. It was the largest loss of life in the department's history until the collapse and murders at the World Trade Center in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

R.I.P. **MORE HERE:** http://www.nyfd.com/history/23rd_street/23rd_street.html

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-17-12/0909 hours

AND:

All,

A horrible day for the police departments of Nassau County, NY and Prince Georges County, MD in incidents that are all too familiar to the fire and EMS service as well,,,and that is why we are passing this on:

NEW YORK:

A Nassau County (Long Island) Police officer was struck and killed by a car on the Long Island Expressway (I-495) early this morning. According to various sources, Officer Joseph P. Olivieri, 43 years old, was operating at an auto accident in the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire District area when a 2002 Cadillac Escalade struck him as he was standing outside a vehicle. An arrest has been made in the crash, but further information was not immediately released. Officer Olivieri, a 5-year member of the Nassau County PD's Highway Patrol Unit, was on duty around 0445 Hours when a 2008 BMW 750 and a 2010 Toyota Camry were involved in an accident near Exit 34. The BMW pulled over, but the Camry kept going. The Camry then struck a Honda Civic near Exit 35, propelling the Civic into the right lane and leaving the Camry in the middle of the road. Officer Olivieri parked his patrol car and went to the Camry to assist the driver. The black Escalade traveling eastbound in the high-occupancy vehicle lane then struck the Camry and Officer Olivieri, who was standing outside the vehicle. Officer Olivieri has been with the Nassau County Police for 14 years and with the New York City Police for five years before that. Olivieri is survived by his children, Amanda, 21, and Daniel, 18, his parents and two brothers. It's also the second time a Nassau officer has been killed in the Line of Duty on the Long Island Expressway in recent years. On February 5, 2011, Officer Michael J. Califano, 44, died after a flatbed truck crashed into his patrol car while he was writing a traffic summons. RIP.

MORE HERE: <http://www.police.co.nassau.ny.us/>

MARYLAND:

A Prince George's County police officer died Thursday after his cruiser collided with another vehicle and hit a utility pole, marking the second time in two months that a county police officer has been killed in a car crash. Today's crash occurred around 1505 hours at the intersection of Branch Avenue and Surratts Road in Clinton. The officer and a female occupant of a white minivan were both taken to a hospital. Tragically, Officer Kevin Bowden, died from his injuries. Officer Bowden, 28, was the father of a 10-year-old son and a 4-year-old daughter, was a six-year-veteran, and had gotten off his shift at 1300 hours. Images from the scene showed the cruiser sheared nearly in half by the utility pole, its airbags deployed. The white minivan nearby was missing its hood, the front-end crumpled and engine exposed. RIP. The crash comes roughly two months after another Prince George's

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

County police officer died after he lost control of his police cruiser during a car chase. Officer Adrian Morris, 23, was chasing two men in a stolen Acura TL down Interstate 95 when he lost control of his car and drove it into a ditch. Officer Morris was not wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from the cruiser. He died from severe head trauma. Officer Michael Risher, who was also in the car at the time and was wearing a seatbelt, survived. Our condolences to both the Nassau and Prince George's County PD's and all those affected by these incidents.

MORE HERE: <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/government/publicsafety/police/>

FATAL FIRE APPARATUS CRASH DOWN UNDER

A woman found dead following a multi-vehicle crash north of Sydney (Australia) had been flung from a car before being run over as she lay on the road. The female was a passenger in one of two cars involved in a collision with a Rural Fire Service (RFS) truck about 2230 hours (AEDT) today. Cops had initially thought the victim was a pedestrian. She was ejected from one of the cars involved in the crash with the Rural Fire Service truck and then run over by another one of the vehicles. The RFS truck had been responding to an earlier incident involving a semi-trailer and 18 cars. They said the Firefighter driving the RFS truck, aged in his 30s, was taken to the hospital.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-18-12 / 1900 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:

Six Hemet (CA) firefighters will not be laid off at the end of this month under a preliminary agreement between the city and the fire union. The Hemet Firefighters Association approved the city's last, best and final offer in a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 19, 12 days before the layoffs were set to go into effect. The City Council still has to approve the agreement. "The firefighters, we're happy nobody got laid off," union President Steve Sandefer said. "That was a huge win for us. On the other hand, we're not celebrating. It was at the expense of reaching into our pocket again to make that happen."

<http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20120919-hemet-tentative-deal-would-save-firefighter-jobs.ece>

The budget ax is coming down in Tacoma (WA), and 217 city workers could soon be out of a job. Those cuts include some police officers and members of the fire department. Civic leaders knew the cuts were coming, but they say it's still a shock to see so many people losing their jobs. Philipp and Amy Kagelmacher moved to Tacoma from Southern California last year so he could join the Tacoma Fire Department, and now his job is on the line. "At the end of the day, you're scared to lose your job and start all over again," he said. Kagelmacher's job was on the chopping block before, but a \$7 million federal grand saved him and 36 other firefighters. Some of those jobs are safe this time around, but not Kagelmacher's. He's one of 17 firefighters who could soon be out of a job:

<http://tacoma.komonews.com/news/788375-tacoma-lay-police-firefighters-fill-budget-gap>

Rising pension costs and other expenses coupled with stagnant revenue has helped push the Moraga-Orinda (CA) Fire District's yearly budget deeper into the red. Trustees last week approved the district's final 2012-13 general fund budget, which includes a shortfall of more than \$800,000 despite a tiny spike in property tax revenue and a rebate of more than \$200,000 from the county. They also greenlighted the district's capital projects fund, which includes expenses of more than \$2.3 million to rebuild Station 43 in Orinda and remodel Station 41 in Moraga. Fire chief Randy Bradley told directors at the Sept. 19 board meeting that administrators are doing their best to maintain service despite a less-than-ideal financial picture. "We continue to struggle to balance the budget without reducing service levels," he said. The district started the year's budgeting process with a \$258,313 deficit carried over from the previous year after the board voted to balance the 2011-12 budget by dipping into reserves. This year, they've budgeted a \$549,916 increase in pension contributions to the Contra Costa County Employee Retirement Association, which manages the fire district's post-employment benefits, and a \$115,000 payment toward pension obligation bonds. But the district's biggest expenses remain salaries and benefits, projected to cost nearly \$14.3 million for 2012-13 -- up almost 2 percent from last year:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_21627129/moraga-orinda-fire-district-budget-hit-again-by

Nearly half of Hamtramck's (MI) firefighters will be laid off Monday as the city seeks to cut costs, the union said today. Twelve firefighters will be laid off, or 44% of the city's fire suppression division, according to a statement released by the Hamtramck Firefighters Local 750. The department employs 27 firefighters, not including the chief and the fire marshal, said William Diamond, president of Local 750:

http://www.firehouse.com/news/10796619/half-of-michigan-departments-firefighters-laid-off?utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120926004

The city of Lawrence (IN) is eliminating 20 EMT positions on Oct. 15 to make up for a \$2 million budget shortfall. Mayor Dean Jessup's office announced the cuts today, and says that another five positions will be cut from other administrative departments. Six jobs vacated earlier this year will be left unfilled. Earlier this year, Lawrence staffed 24 EMT jobs. Four of those people had already left their positions after the mayor announced that he was looking at cuts in the fire safety department. The cuts, Lawrence spokesman Keith Johnson said, mean firefighters will ride out on ambulances instead of EMTs. Fire engines will be staffed by three firefighters each instead of four: http://www.indystar.com/article/20121005/NEWS/210050361/Lawrence-eliminates-20-fire-safety-positions-make-up-2M-shortfall?odyssey=nav%7Chead&nclick_check=1

Olympia (WA) City Manager Steve Hall proposed eliminating 16 positions Tuesday night to cut about \$2.5 million to balance the 2013 city budget. Five of those positions would be cut from the city's police department – those of four officers and one volunteer coordinator. The school resource officer program and a traffic-safety program that focuses on speeders would be eliminated, and the west side police substation would be shuttered. Two fire positions would be cut – those of a fire inspector and a firefighter. An additional 2.87 full-time-equivalent positions would be cut from parks, 3.25 from public works and two from the planning department. An additional 1.7 FTE positions would be cut from the city administration, including an employee who helps victims of domestic violence in the city prosecutor's office:

<http://www.theolympian.com/2012/10/16/2287755/olympia-budget-proposal-would.html>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

- ***Someone asked why I run these stories that tend to make the fire service look not-so-professional at times. Well, besides the fact they are public knowledge, I think it is critical for all of us in the fire service – current and future personnel – to learn from not only the good, but the not-so-good of others. Good, bad or indifferent, fire service personnel are in the public eye since we are paid by the taxpayers and they have a right to hold us accountable for our actions since they are paying for us to be here. In today's world, the key to success is building and maintaining positive working relationships with the public, not to mention the elected/appointed officials, since all of them are the ones that ensure we still have jobs and that we get what the community we work for feels is appropriate, reasonable, cost-effective and efficient, in regards to staffing and the number of fire stations and resources.***

A 26-year-old volunteer with Read Mountain Fire and Rescue (VA) will spend a year in jail for having sexual contact last year with another volunteer, a teenager. Matthew Thomas Jones of Roanoke pleaded guilty in Botetourt Circuit Court on Monday to two misdemeanor counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor in the case. Judge Malfourd "Bo" Trumbo sentenced him to 12 months in prison on each count, with each suspended after he serves six months. According to Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Lethia Hammond, the incidents occurred Nov.1 at the fire company's headquarters on Eastpark Drive, which has a Roanoke address. Jones was initially charged in early June with one count of rape and one count of sodomy: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1344698-Firefighter-sentenced-to-year-in-jail-for-firehouse-sex-case/>

A debate between local residents and the Moraga-Orinda (CA) Fire District over emergency services has reignited following claims of less-than-optimal response times, shaky finances, massive unfunded liabilities and other problems detailed in a 90-page audit blasting the district. The report -- authored by nine Orinda residents who call themselves the Orinda Emergency Services Task Force -- says the district has significant financial problems. They include a nearly 40 percent failure rate in meeting standard response times for critical emergencies in Orinda; an overpayment of about \$1 million for the city's share of service; and the accrual of more than \$700 million in future unfunded liabilities, including pension obligation bonds and medical insurance for retired employees in the 15 years since the district was formed. According to the group's calculations, the district currently has \$120 million in assets to pay for those liabilities and under current assumptions could only cover about \$300 million of future employee benefits: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_21584474/orinda-residents-moraga-orinda-fire-district-clash-over

The Spokane (WA) Valley Fire Department on Monday fired a captain who continued to send religious emails from his department email account despite numerous orders to stop. Capt. Jon Sprague, who runs the Spokane County Christian Firefighter Fellowship, has been disciplined several times for sending the emails. This year, he received a letter of counseling, a letter of reprimand and a second letter of reprimand with a suspension of two 24-hour shifts without pay before the Spokane Valley Board of Fire Commissioners voted unanimously to fire him. Department attorney Mike McMahon emphasized the department's position that sending the email is an unlawful use of department resources. "This is a private purpose," he said. "While this is about religion, it really isn't about religion. It's about following orders." <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2012/oct/09/valley-fire-captain-fired-over-religious-emails/>

Former Prince George's County Fire Department (MD) Lt. Col. Karl Granzow Jr. gets 18 months in prison. He was part of corruption scheme that brought down County Executive Jack Johnson: <http://statter911.com/2012/10/03/former-pgfd-lt-col-karl-granzow-jr-gets-18-months-in-prison-he-was-part-of-corruption-scheme-that-brought-down-county-executive-jack-johnson/>

Judge rules psych eval ordered for former Washington DC fire captain legitimate. Throws out Vanessa Coleman's lawsuit. Another DC fire whistleblower suit in court: <http://statter911.com/2012/09/28/judge-rules-psych-eval-ordered-for-former-dc-fire-captain-legitimate-throws-out-vanessa-colemans-lawsuit-another-dc-fire-whistleblower-suit-in-court/>

Two Massachusetts fire chiefs have been hit with ethics fines for taking Boston Bruins tickets from an ambulance company that does business with their departments, officials said today. Former Melrose Fire Chief John O'Brien and Revere Fire Chief Eugene Doherty each admitted to violating ethics laws for accepting Bruins tickets in 2010 from Cataldo Ambulance Services, according to state officials. O'Brien paid a \$1,500 fine for accepting two tickets to one game while Doherty paid a \$3,000 fine for accepting two tickets to two games, officials announced: <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1061165295&src=rss>

A former Clark County (NV) firefighter accused of ripping off his fellow firefighters was in court on Monday. John Brush confessed that he called in bogus emergencies to lure firefighters out of their fire stations. He would then go in and take their food money. A judge sentenced him to 5 years of probation and ordered him to pay restitution for the amount that he stole: <http://www.ktnv.com/news/local/173259331.html>

Early signs of mistakes in a hazmat-inspection program were missed, so staffers with the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority have begun a records audit to learn exactly what happened, according to an internal memo from the chief. The audit comes after Chief Keith Richter and the Fire Authority's attorneys met with the District Attorney's Office on Sept. 28 to turn over documents of the department's Hazardous Materials Disclosure Program – more than 1,400 businesses were billed about \$360,000 collectively for inspections that were not conducted: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/inspections-374044-fire-memo.html>

Las Vegas (NV) Metro police announced Wednesday afternoon they have a suspect in custody in connection with the slaying of a woman in Summerlin. Police have arrested George Tiaffay, a firefighter with Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, and charged him with murder with a deadly weapon, robbery with a deadly weapon and conspiracy. George Tiaffay is victim Shauna Tiaffay's estranged husband: <http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/19787388/firefighter-charged-in-estranged-wifes-slaying>

Three Nashville (TN) firefighters accused of paying for sex and having women strip at a local firehouse resigned Thursday as the fire department and Metro police continue their investigation of the allegations. Quincy Corbitt, Kerry Sales and Jason Copeland resigned, while Capt. James Overton remains under investigation. Another firefighter, Darrin Bell, was cleared of any wrongdoing. "Evidence showed that most likely these allegations did occur on multiple occasions, at least three times that we know of, at (Fire Station 24 on Clarksville Highway)," said Deputy Fire Chief Kim Lawson. "Obviously, it's awful: http://www.tennessean.com/article/20121012/NEWS01/310120091/Three-Nashville-firefighters-resign-during-fire-hall-sex-inquiry?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&gcheck=1&nclick_check=1

Veteran Colorado Springs firefighter and former Battalion Chief R.C. Smith Jr. has retired from the fire department after a seven-month-long internal affairs investigation during which he was on administrative leave, both on and off the payroll. Smith was placed on leave in late February when an investigation was launched. Fire and city officials have since declined to elaborate on the subject of the investigation, saying only that it was regarding a “personnel issue.” <http://www.gazette.com/articles/smith-145797-battalion-investigation.html>

Princeton (MA) Fire Chief David F. Cobb — the town’s first full-time fire chief and its fire department’s only full-time employee — was arraigned this morning on two drug charges in Worcester District Court for allegedly stealing narcotics from the town’s ambulance: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20121015/NEWS/121019627/1116>

Four Fort Lauderdale (FL) firefighters and one former firefighter face a slew of charges, including conspiracy to commit perjury, forgery, grand theft, and official misconduct. Firefighters Freddie Batista, Greg Jones, Joseph Perri and Steve Loleski were arrested Tuesday night and Wednesday morning by members of a multi-agency public corruption task force operating in Broward County. The men, authorities said, are accused in a fake training and certification scheme for allegedly obtaining counterfeit training certificates without completing the mandatory courses. The investigation began when a routine audit by the Florida Department of Health discovered the fraudulent documents, according to Fort Lauderdale police. The documents in question were American Heart Association ACLS cards: <http://statter911.com/2012/10/17/four-fort-lauderdale-firefighters-indicted-on-fake-certification-scheme-former-firefighter-who-is-president-of-safety-firm-also-charged/>

The privately operated Martinez-Columbia (GA) Fire Rescue is expected to turn over operations to the Columbia County government soon. The department’s board of directors voted on the change Wednesday night after preliminary discussions with county officials, said board Chairman Wayne Kent. “We look at it as a very positive step forward for the fire department,” Kent said, adding that nothing is expected to change in terms of salaries and staffing. The change is driven by an expected increase in workers compensation insurance for 2013 from \$300,000 to \$965,000, Columbia County Administrator Scott Johnson said: <http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/government/2012-10-18/government-takeover-planned-martinez-columbia-fire-rescue?v=1350595759>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Redlands (CA) officials estimate a savings of more than \$1 million would be realized annually from a tentative agreement between the city and Fire Department employees, the city announced Saturday. The agreements between the city and The Redlands Professional Firefighters Association and the Redlands Association of Fire Management Employees is pending approval by the City Council, which is expected to make a final judgment at its Oct. 16 meeting. Among other provisions, the new agreements require employees in both labor units to increase their contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System, or PERS. The agreements also lower the percentage of service retirement benefits available for new hires in accordance with a state legislative formula for public safety employees of 2.7 percent of an employee's salary for each year worked, based on the final 36 months of salary prior to retirement. Employees would be eligible to retire with the full benefit at age 57. Current employees would pay half of the 9 percent employee contribution to PERS for the first year and the full 9 percent after the second year: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_21716405/major-deal-struck-between-redlands-firefighters

The rivalry between Sedona (AZ) and Verde Valley police officers and firefighters is heating up once more, but it's all for charity. The annual Police vs. Firefighter Charity Basketball Game is Saturday, Oct. 20, at Mingus Union High School in Cottonwood starting at 2 p.m. The Sedona Verde Valley Firefighter Charities is hosting the event for its fourth year:

<http://www.journalaz.com/Sports/hoops-raise-funds-for-those-in-need-verde-valley-firefighters-a-cops-go-head-to-head-for-charity.html>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department commanders' handling of the Kensington blaze that killed two firefighters in April was "disgraceful," a former city fire commissioner told City Council members Thursday. Roger Ulshafer, who spent 33 years with the Philadelphia Fire Department, said commanders had risked lives unnecessarily in the April 9 fire at the former Thomas Buck Hosiery Co. building. The commanding officers on the scene didn't follow basic procedures, such as establishing a "collapse zone" around the building that would have prohibited firefighters from entering the adjoining furniture store, Ulshafer said. Two firefighters, Lt. Robert Neary and Daniel Sweeney, died when a wall of the burning factory collapsed onto the furniture store. "If I were to describe the command and control and emergency-scene management, my definition would be disgraceful," Ulshafer said during an informational hearing before Council's Committee on Labor and Civil Service:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1354490-Former-Philly-fire-commissioner-says-handling-of-fatal-fire-disgraceful/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Two more Florida volunteer fire companies are closing up shop and turning over operations to Hillsborough County Fire Rescue amid questions over county funding. The North Brandon Volunteer Fire Association and Dover-Turkey Creek Volunteer Fire Department informed county officials Monday that they would cease operations. The Cork-Knights volunteer department told the county last week it could no longer staff the fire station at 5302 W Thonotosassa Road. The change comes on the heels of an audit that asked Hillsborough County to reassess using six volunteer firefighter associations because of costs and questions over the qualifications and experience levels of volunteer firefighters. The audit also found financial breeches by two organizations, Cork-Knights and Dover-Turkey Creek, which could not produce the tax records required of nonprofits:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/two-more-volunteer-fire-companies-in-hillsborough-close/1254345>

When a former Las Vegas (NV) fire official was accused of taking illicit cigarette breaks on city property, it looked like a smoking gun to justify his ouster. But it wound up sparking an ugly discrimination lawsuit that could burn city taxpayers for \$500,000. On Wednesday the City Council is scheduled to consider authorizing a settlement with Ken Riddle, a former deputy fire chief. The settlement is the result of an Aug. 10 verdict in which a jury in federal court ordered the city to pay Riddle \$365,000 in lost wages and pension benefits and \$25,000 in punitive damages:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/ex-fire-chief-ready-to-collect-from-las-vegas-172245171.html>

Yes – this is from the year 2012: Lodi, NJ moving forward with fire department alcohol ban. Now working with fire officials to modify ordinance covering firehouse bar & related issues: <http://statter911.com/2012/09/20/lo-di-nj-moving-forward-with-fire-department-alcohol-ban-now-working-with-fire-officials-to-modify-ordinance-covering-firehouse-bar-related-issues/>

Police said a “chance encounter” between Cheswick Borough’s (PA) council president and the borough’s fire department president ended Wednesday morning with at least one punch thrown. Fire department President Joseph Ferraro was coming out of a store in the 500 block of Pittsburgh Street at the same time that Cheswick Council President Jonathan Skedel was walking his dog, Springdale Borough police Chief Joseph Naviglia said. The men exchanged words and Skedel allegedly punched Ferraro, according to Naviglia: <http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/2631928-74/fire-skedel-borough-council-cheswick-president-police-naviglia-springdale-truck#axzz26hROpHNx>

Nearly 1,460 Orange County (CA) businesses have been billed \$360,000 for required hazardous materials inspections that county firefighters never performed, fire officials said Wednesday. The missed inspections represent about half the 2,600 that Orange County Fire Authority is required to conduct each year. Asked about the mistake, fire officials said it was an error involving firefighters who did not perform assigned inspections and supervisors who failed to follow through. The issue has also highlighted for the department a lack of communication among its operations, finance and fire-prevention departments that allowed the issue to fall through the cracks: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/inspections-372865-ocfa-fire.html>

The Cocoa Beach (FL) deputy fire chief has been fired over a \$100 gift from a resident. News 13 first reported that GC Wine was on paid administrative leave Tuesday for unknown reasons. Wednesday the city of Cocoa Beach released Wine's termination letter. It says Wine received \$100 from a resident on Sept. 1 for a "thank you" dinner for the fire crew. The money was supposed to be turned in, but according to the letter Wine failed to turn it in for three weeks. The resident even followed up, and two fire captains asked about it. The letter says Wine only turned in the money after the fire chief confronted him. "Your actions have upset the resident, and shaken the trust and confidence of fire department staff," wrote Cocoa Beach city manager Charles Billias in the termination letter; http://www.cfnews13.com/content/news/cfnews13/news/article.html/content/news/articles/cfn/2012/9/26/cocoa_beach_deputy_f.html

Hemet (CA) City Council members confirmed Thursday, Sept. 27 that they want to explore the possibility of contracting fire service with Riverside County. The decision could throw a monkey wrench into negotiations with the union representing the city's 45 firefighters, who had offered to give up a 5 percent pay raise scheduled to take effect in November to save the jobs of nine firefighters facing layoffs. “We actually accepted their offer,” Mayor Robert Youssef said by phone Thursday, “and we are gong to look at other options for fire.” Youssef and three other council members said that one of those options is to seek a contract offer from Cal Fire, which provides fire protection in San Jacinto and much of Riverside County’s unincorporated territory. “We are not saying we are going to contract with Cal Fire,” emphasized Councilman Robert Epps. “I feel it is our fiduciary responsibility (to Hemet taxpayers) for us to look at other options.” <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20120927-hemet-council-to-consider-contracting-fire-service.ece>

Founder of Colorado charity selling firefighter calendars pleads guilty to stealing \$250,000 meant for child burn victims. Caught red-handed using charity for herself, Kirsten Hamling, 48, a Denver woman who produced beefcake firefighter calendars to ostensibly raise cash for young burn victims, pleaded guilty to felony theft Thursday and faces up to two years in jail:
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/founder-colorado-charity-selling-firefighter-calendars-pleads-guilty-stealing-250-000-meant-child-burn-victims-article-1.1164571>

Voters in the Contra Costa County (CA) Fire Protection District are weighing a seven-year parcel tax that fire officials say is needed to prevent station closures. Measure Q would establish a \$75 annual parcel tax for each single-family home and per quarter-acre of business space within the district. The measure needs two-thirds approval to pass. The district spans 304 square miles in Antioch, Clayton, Concord, Lafayette, Martinez, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and a handful of unincorporated communities. Revenues from the tax would pay for fire protection, prevention and emergency services including equipment, personnel costs and capital improvements. The tax would take effect on July 1, 2013. Contra Costa fire officials say Measure Q's passage is critical in preventing station closures in the financially strapped district. Voters in the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District rejected a similar measure in June, leading that district to shutter three stations and lay off 15 firefighters. The district plans to reopen the stations and re-hire staff later this year after receiving a \$7.8 million federal grant. Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Marshal Lewis Broschard said his district is struggling to stay afloat:
<http://concord-ca.patch.com/articles/contra-costa-fire-district-banks-on-measure-q>

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

Bob Buell <u>Fire Technology Coordinator</u> – Chabot College (510) 786-7565 - cellular phone bbuell@chabotcollege.edu	Steve Prziborowski <u>Fire Technology Instructor</u> - Chabot College <u>Editor / Publisher</u> - Chabot College Fire & EMS News (408) 205-9006 - cellular phone sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu
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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
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