



FIRE & EMS NEWS

September 19, 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 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - October 17, 19 and 21 (Wed/Fri/Sun) - November 6, 8 and 10 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) or Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
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 and 11	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
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 INFORMATION FROM THE LAFD:

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

The Los Angeles Fire Department (www.lafd.org) and City of Los Angeles Personnel Department are pleased to announce a revamped on-line resource to help aspiring Los Angeles Firefighters "Get LAFD Ready!"



With the possibility of a City of Los Angeles examination for the position of Firefighter being held in the Fall of 2012, the Fire and Personnel Departments have jointly unveiled a revamped recruitment and preparedness website at JoinLAFD.org , as well as a new Twitter account @JoinLAFD

Serving as the official gateway to LAFD Firefighter employment, the new website provides all of the information necessary for men and women interested in making the Los Angeles Fire Department their life's work. Learn more now by visiting: www.joinlafd.org

SO YOU WANT TO BE A FIREFIGHTER?

If the answer for you, without any hesitation, is unequivocally "yes" then we have some good news. If, perhaps, you are on the fence and not quite sure...well, then read on.



The good news is, as a result of recent retirees (**a note to all retirees:** "thank you" for your years of service and dedication!!), City Council has granted the Los Angeles Fire Department – <http://lafd.blogspot.com> approval to get the hiring process rolling. That means, as we head into the Fall, our recruiting efforts will soon be in full-swing. The last time your LAFD saw a new class of recruits sworn-in, was back in February of 2009. What that means for you, if you are interested, is that it will be competitive. Very competitive. But that element never seems to change. Again, back in 2009, nearly 17,000 potential candidates expressed interest. This go-around, we are expecting at least that number. Why? Because it's been quite a while since we last hired, the fire service has always been very competitive and a very sought-after career and it's no secret, that many have endured a very tough job market and economy for several years now. That often translates into people looking for a "change. This is not meant to discourage anyone. In fact **all** are welcome! We do want you to be prepared and we want you to know what to expect. And make no mistake, **you will need to be prepared.** Mentally and physically. (CBS/KCAL video) <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/video?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=7560104>

In addition, there are a few other characteristics that a good, solid candidate should possess. Battalion Chief Steve Hissong, who heads-up the LAFD's Recruit Services Unit, summed it up best: "A good candidate for the fire service would be an individual of high character, morals and values; one that has a sense of wanting to serve others. That doesn't necessarily always have to be the individual that's pursued their fire service degree.: With perhaps only 350 firefighter slots available over the next couple of years, however, anything to give you a competitive advantage, will help. So, how do you start this process? What are the minimum requirements (age, education, etc.)? All of these questions and more can be answered at a newly launched website, dedicated solely to our recruiting and hiring efforts: www.joinlafd.org

To all potential candidates, we wish you the very best of luck! Submitted by [Matt Spence](#), Spokesman, Los Angeles Fire Department

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"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

Public Service Officer - Emergency Public Information (EPI) Center

Los Angeles Fire Department

500 East Temple Street


Los Angeles, CA 90012

[213.576.8938](tel:213.576.8938)

Home Page: LAFD.org

News & Info: LAFD.org/blog

Do You Follow the LAFD on Social Media?

 [@LAFD](#) (breaking news)

 [@LAFDtalk](#) (conversation & casual inquiries)

 [@LAFDFireChief](#) (the Fire Chief's personal thoughts)

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

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

The Santa Clara County Fire Department is currently accepting applications for the positions of Firefighter/Engineer and Firefighter/Engineer-Paramedic. Interested candidates must complete their testing by October 8, 2012. For more information, go to www.sccfd.org

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE L.A.F.D.:



NORTH HOLLYWOOD - Earlier today, August 20, 2012, Firefighters rushed to the aid of two young children locked in a vehicle at 12900 Sherman Way in North Hollywood. Both children were transported to a local hospital in serious condition, and the surrounding circumstances are being investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department. Due to this incident, along with other recent similar incidents, the Los Angeles Fire Department asks you again to consider some important safety tips for vehicles and children, **and share them.**

We need your help to make sure that no child dies needlessly by being left alone in a hot vehicle.

- Always put something you'll need - such as your phone, handbag, a sunshade, lunch or briefcase on the floor in the back seat. This will make you open the back door of your vehicle every time you reach a destination. This way, making sure no child is left behind becomes a habit. Safety experts call this the '**Look Before You Lock**' campaign.
- Keep a large teddy bear in the child's car seat when it's not occupied. When the child is placed in the seat, put the teddy bear in the front passenger seat. It's a great visual reminder that anytime the teddy bear is up front, a child is secured in a child safety seat behind you!
- Make arrangements with your child's day care center or babysitter that you will always call them when your child will not be there on a particular day as scheduled. This is not only common courtesy, but makes sure everyone involved in the care of your child is informed of their whereabouts. Ask these caregivers to always phone you if your child doesn't show up when expected.

- If you see a child (dependent adult or pet) alone in a hot vehicle, get involved. If they are hot or seem sick, get them out as quickly and safely as possible. Call **9-1-1** or your local emergency number for assistance as necessary.
- Never leave your car keys where children can access them, and always make sure your car is locked so that children cannot get in without adult supervision.
- Do not underestimate a child's capabilities. Teach your children about the dangers of a car, especially the car trunk. Most children can differentiate between a tool and a toy. Make certain they know that a car is not a toy!

Share Kaitlyn's Law - <http://4rkidssake.org/kaitlynslaw.html> with others, and view the following websites for additional information about child and hot weather vehicle safety:

- [safercar.gov/heatstroke](http://www.safercar.gov/parents/heatstroke.htm) - <http://www.safercar.gov/parents/heatstroke.htm>
- [kidsandcars.org](http://www.kidsandcars.org/) - <http://www.kidsandcars.org/>
- [safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) – <http://www.safekids.org>
- <http://ggweather.com/heat/>
- CDC Hot Weather Safety Information - <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/>

Respectfully,

Submitted by Erik Scott, Spokesman

"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

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

INFO FOR ALL CA REGISTERED STATE FIRE TRAINING INSTRUCTORS:



On behalf of State Fire Training (SFT), we are happy to announce we are offering State Fire Training Registered Instructor Update Courses!

This is a one day course for all current registered State Fire Training Instructors and will be hosted throughout the state.

Registration is Free!

Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration On-Line Today:

www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse

Registration Questions?

800.858.7743

Find a class close to you!

www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse

State Fire Training

Registered Instructor Update Courses

This course will provide current registered State Fire Training Instructors with information on the new course curriculum format and material that will be provided as part of the curriculum update process SFT has undergone. The course is designed to provide current registered State Fire Training Instructors with the tools they need to migrate from the old curriculum formats to the new course plans.

Training Objectives

- Demonstrate how the new curriculum standards creates opportunities for instructors
- Learn about the updates to the "Course Information and Required Materials" manual
- Learn how to use the new "Course Plan" format in the development of your SFT courses
- Define and explain Terminal and Enabling Learning Objectives and how to teach to the course standards
- Learn how to quickly and effectively develop summative tests for your class
- Review how the changes to the training system impacts instructors responsibilities

Who Should Attend

This is a mandatory training for all current registered State Fire Training Instructors. If you do not attend one of the courses, you will no longer be approved to teach curriculum after December 31, 2014.



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**State Fire Training
Registered Instructor Update Courses**

New Training Dates!

On behalf of State Fire Training (SFT) we are happy to announce we are continuing to offer **State Fire Training Registered Instructor Update Courses**. This is a one day course for all **current** registered State Fire Training Instructors and will be hosted throughout the state.

Courses Times: 9:00am - 4:00pm

Register Today! – Go to:

www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse

We will continue to offer the courses until the deadline of December 2014.

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



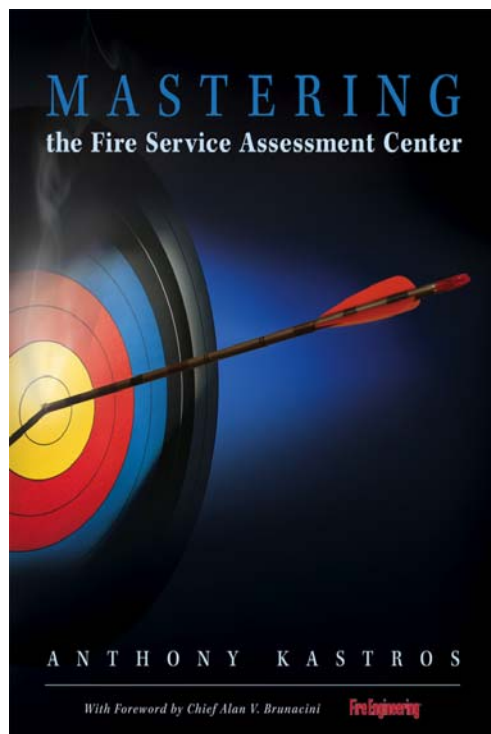
**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE
ASSESSMENT CENTER**

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
By FIRE ENGINEERING

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



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

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

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

Anthony Kastros is a 24-year veteran of the fire service. He is a Battalion Chief with the Sacramento (CA) Metro Fire District. He is author of the Fire Engineering DVD series "Mastering Fireground Command - Calm the Chaos!" and author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center", that focuses on strategy, tactics, leadership and management. Chief Kastros is an FDIC instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. He spent 4 seasons on a Type 1 incident management team, and 10 years as a FEMA USAR Task Force Manager, deploying to New York on 9/11. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and is currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

NOVEMBER 26 THROUGH 29, 2012 – ANAHEIM, CA - \$595.00*

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

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



NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

FY2013 FIRST SEMESTER VACANCIES

VACANCIES exist in the following NFA courses at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

You may refer to the internet at www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa for more information, or contact the Admissions Office via email netc-admissions@dhs.gov or by phone at (301) 447-1035.

FEMA Form 119-25-1 applications may be downloaded from the website at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>. Completed application forms can be faxed to (301) 447-1441.

If interested, apply immediately!

Note: The NFA policy of only 1 stipend-supported trip per fiscal year remains. However, a qualified individual may seek to participate without stipend assistance. PLEASE INDICATE with your application that you are aware of this restriction when you apply for the course.

All vacancies are filled on a first come, first served basis and qualified by using the Student Selection Criteria listed on our Website: www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa

1st Semester FY2013:

- R107 Communications for Emergency Services Success
October 8-19, 2012
February 18-March 1, 2013
- R108 Evaluating Performance Based Designs
October 28 – November 2, 2012
December 2-7, 2012
- R116 Presenting Effective Public Education Programs
January 13-18, 2013
- R129 Fire Service Course Design
October 21-26, 2012
March 24-29, 2013

- R135 Fire Protection for the Built Environment
January 6-11, 2013
- R138 Hot Topics in Fire Protection
February 3-8, 2013
- R147 Emergency Medical Services: Incident Operations
October 28-November 2, 2012
January 6-11, 2013
- R150 Management of Emergency Medical Services
February 18-March 1, 2013
- R151 Advanced Leadership Issues in EMS
October 8-19, 2012
- R154 Safety Program Operations
November 25-30, 2012
- R158 Emergency Medical Services: Quality Management
November 25-30, 2012
March 24-29, 2013
- R200 Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction
March 24-29, 2013
- R204 Practical Applications of Fire Dynamics and Modeling
December 2-7, 2012
February 3-8, 2013
- R208 Interviewing/Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony
December 10-21, 2012
- R214 Forensic Evidence Collection
October 21-26, 2012
January 6-11, 2013
- R220 Fire Inspection Principles
October 8-19, 2012
December 10-21, 2012
January 21-February 1, 2013
February 18-March 1, 2013
- R227 Fire Protection Systems for Emergency Operations
February 3-8, 2013
- R229 Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices
January 21-February 1, 2013
- R233 Chemistry for Emergency Response
November 5-16, 2012
January 21-February 1, 2013

- R243 Hazardous Materials Incident Management
October 21-26, 2012
March 24-29, 2013
- R254 Special Operations Program Management
October 28-November 2, 2012
December 2-7, 2012
- R297 Command & Control Decision Making at Multi Alarm Incidents
October 28-November 2, 2012
November 25-30, 2012
January 6-11, 2013
January 13-18, 2013
February 3-8, 2013
March 24-29, 2013
- R308 Command & Control of Fire Dept Operations at Natural & Manmade Disasters
November 5-16, 2012
February 18-March 1, 2013
- R312 Command & Control of Incident Operations
November 25-30, 2012
December 2-7, 2012
January 6-11, 2013
February 3-8, 2013
March 24-29, 2013
- R331 Strategic Organizational Issues in Fire and EMs
November 5-16, 2012
March 11-22, 2013
- R335 Administration of Public Assistance For Community Recovery
October 28-November 2, 2012
January 13-18, 2013
March 24-29, 2013
- R348 Changing American Family at Risk
November 25-30, 2012
- R506 Executive Planning
December 10-21, 2012
March 11-22, 2013
- R629 Youth Firesetting Prevention & intervention
December 2-7, 2012
- R670 Developing and Implementing Public Policy
January 13-18, 2013
- R811 VIP: Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers
February 10-15, 2013

- R814 VIP: Hazardous Materials Incident Management
February 10-15, 2013
- R822 VIP: Safety Program Operations
February 10-15, 2013
- R825 VIP: Command & Control of Fire Dept Operations at Target Hazards
February 10-15, 2013
- R827 VIP: Fire Protection Systems for Emergency Operations
February 10-15, 2013
- R831 VIP: Command & Control of Incident Operations
February 10-15, 2013
- R833 VIP: Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction
February 10-15, 2013
- R847 VIP: Emergency Medical Services: Incident Operations
February 10-15, 2013

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

USFA, IAFC Initiate Study on Reduction of Fire Service Risk Taking Behaviors

08/29/2012 10:39 AM EDT

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) announce a partnership initiative to 1) identify individual and organizational behaviors that adversely impact firefighter health and safety and 2) develop strategies to mitigate them.

For more information, go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/082912.shtm>

**FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES FIRE
ADMINISTRATION:**



September is
National Preparedness Month
ready.gov/pledge



FEMA



Focus on Fire Safety: National Preparedness Month

This September marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "Pledge to Prepare - Awareness to Action". The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is asking the public -- individuals, business, and organizations -- to take specific action steps by doing at least one of the following:

- Learn about emergency hazards - **including home fires** - and their appropriate responses
- Make a communications plan
- Build an emergency kit
- Get involved in preparedness in their community.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including **tips on preparing for a fire emergency**, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LAFD:

Dear Friend of the LAFD,





Your Los Angeles Fire Department and other City Officials would like to share personal thoughts and remembrance with you as they reflect on 9/11: <http://bit.ly/LAFD9-11Reflections>

Respectfully,
Erik Scott
"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

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-  [@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 INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION:

Program Notice - September, 2012

STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR
Hot Topics Research for Emergency Medical Services – P0139

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot course at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the newly developed 6-day course ***Hot Topics Research for Emergency Medical Services (P-0139)***. The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering this pilot offering January 13 – 18, 2013, with students to arrive Saturday January 12 and depart Saturday January 19, 2013.

Course Description: This course provides learners with the knowledge and skills to identify and research hot topics in Emergency Medical Services to ultimately identify, promote and embrace system or service improvements. This course is structured around how to make a persuasive justification through the effective collection and presentation of data with the use of a wide variety of research resources. Students will bring a topic important to their agency/community to base the research on and will construct a program proposal and/or progress report for presentation.

Student Selection Criteria: Emergency Medical Services middle management personnel (including Shift Supervisor, Captain, Division/Battalion Chief, Crew Leader, Administrator, etc.) with at least 3 to 5 years experience.

Class Size: 25

Length: 6 days

Prerequisites: None (other than NIMS Introduction, ICS 100 and ICS 200 as required of all NFA students)

How to Apply:

Students must complete a FEMA General Admissions Application (Form 119-25-1). An electronic application is available on our website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

Completed applications must be submitted not later than **December 3, 2012** to:
NETC Admissions Office
Building I, Room 216
16825 S. Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at [\(301\) 447-1441](tel:3014471441). Applicants should not make plans to attend this pilot course until notified in writing by the Admissions Office. Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance for this pilot course. Attendance at the pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Alameda County Fire Department** has updated their process for those interested in becoming a **Fire Dispatcher** – as found on their website: <http://www.acgov.org/fire/careers/>

“Due to the high volume of calls that we receive regarding open recruitments for Fire Dispatcher Trainee and Fire Dispatcher please click on the appropriate link below for a shortcut to complete an Interest Card for the specific position.”

**** We are not currently hiring for these positions, however when the recruitment process opens, you will be notified based on the information that you submit via the Interest Card. ****

Fire Dispatcher Trainee:

<http://www.jobaps.com/Alameda/auditor/notify.asp?Code='8209'&BulletinTitle=County+of+Alameda+Class+Specification+Fire+Dispatcher+Trainee%2C>

Fire Dispatcher:

<http://www.jobaps.com/Alameda/auditor/notify.asp?Code='8220'&BulletinTitle=County+of+Alameda+Class+Specification+Fire+Dispatcher%2C>

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.

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 Morrison 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	January 28 – February 1, 2013	\$265.00	_____
S-290	February 11 – 15, 2013	\$225.00	_____
Training Instructor 1B	February 25 – March 1, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Fire Management 2D	March 18 – 22, 2013	\$295.00	_____
Training Instructor 1C	April 8 – 12, 2013	\$265.00	_____
S-390	April 15 – 18, 2013	\$300.00	_____
Fire Management 1	May 6 – 10, 2013	\$265.00	_____
Fire Management 2E	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 Morrison
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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- 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: Mike Burgin
Rank: Captain
Age: 46
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 08/10/2012
Time of Incident: 1415hrs
Date of Death: 08/10/2012
Fire Department: Sugarcreek Fire Department
Address: 410 S Broadway, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
Fire Department Chief: James Harrison

Incident Description: Captain Burgin died during an advanced diving instruction class at White Star Quarry. Burgin was into his second dive of the day when he surfaced from about 40 feet of water and indicated he was having some distress. He then lost consciousness and went under water. The diving instructor recovered him from a depth of approximately 60 feet. Captain Burgin was pronounced dead at the scene by a Life Flight medical provider and was transported to the Lucas County coroner's office for an autopsy.

Incident Location: White Star Quarry, OH (USNG: 17T LF 062 826)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Captain Mike Burgin at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 51 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: Anne Veseth
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 20
Gender: Female

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Status: Wildland Part-Time
Years of Service: 2
Date of Incident: 08/12/2012
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 08/12/2012
Fire Department: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
Address: 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, ID 83530
Fire Department Chief: Forest Supervisor Rick Brazell

Incident Description: Firefighter Veseth was struck by a tree while working fire operations on the Steep Corner Fire above Orofino, Idaho.

Incident Location: Vicinity of Orofino, Idaho.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

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

To date, 52 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: Roulos Davis
Rank: Captain
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 25
Date of Incident: 08/20/2012
Time of Incident: 0729hrs
Date of Death: 08/20/2012
Fire Department: Chattanooga Fire Department
Address: 910 Wisdom ST, Chattanooga, TN 37406-1750
Fire Department Chief: Randy Parker

Incident Description: Captain Davis fell ill shortly after reporting to work at Station 14 in St. Elmo. Despite efforts by his fellow firefighters to revive him with CPR, Captain Davis died shortly after arriving at the hospital. The nature and cause of the fatal illness has yet to be determined.

Incident Location: 1009 West 39th ST, Chattanooga, TN 37410

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Captain Roulos Davis at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 53 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: Jimmy Randolph
Rank: Inmate Firefighter
Age: 44
Gender: Male

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Status: Wildland Part-Time
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 08/18/2012
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 08/19/2012
Fire Department: California Department of Corrections
Address: 1515 S Street, Suite 502, South Sacramento, CA 95814
Fire Department Chief: Secretary Matthew Cate

Incident Description: Inmate Firefighter Randolph passed away at Desert Regional Hospital in Palm Springs, California from a cause still to be determined. Within 24 hours prior to becoming ill, Randolph had been assigned to the Buck Fire in Hemet, California.

Incident Location: Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Inmate Firefighter Jimmy Randolph at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 54 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: Timothy J. Lamere
Rank: Assistant Chief
Age: 47
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 6
Date of Incident: 08/20/2012
Time of Incident: 2130hrs
Date of Death: 08/21/2012
Fire Department: Constable Volunteer Firemen, Inc.
Address: 1136 ST RT 122, Constable, NY 12926
Fire Department Chief: Jason Trombley

Incident Description: Assistant Chief Lamere collapsed at home following department training. Firefighters from Constable Fire Department and EMTs from Northern Ambulance transported Assistant Chief Lamere to Alice Hyde Medical Center where he later died from a cause still to be determined.

Incident Location: Constable, NY

Funeral Arrangements: Services will be held Friday, August 24th @ 2 – 4pm & 7 – 9pm at the Constable Fire Station. The funeral will be held on Saturday, August 25th. @ 10am at the Constable Fire Station. Any department wishing to send apparatus for the procession should contact county dispatch.

Tribute is being paid to Assistant Chief Timothy J. Lamere at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 55 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: Richard J. Schaefer
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 33
Date of Incident: 09/02/2012
Time of Incident: 1530hrs
Date of Death: 09/02/2012
Fire Department: Hopkinton Fire Department
Address: 9 Pine ST, Contoocook, NH 03229
Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Fire Chief Schaefer died from an apparent heart attack while working a shift during the Hopkinton State Fair. The Hopkinton ambulance squad transported Schaefer to Concord Hospital but all attempts to revive the Chief were unsuccessful.

Incident Location: 9 Pine ST, Contoocook, NH 03229

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Richard J. Schaefer at

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 56 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: Neal W. Smith
Rank: Captain
Age: 46
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5
Date of Incident: 09/15/2012
Time of Incident: unknown
Date of Death: 09/17/2012
Fire Department: Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 7642 Farmingham Road, Atascocita, TX 77346
Fire Department Chief: William Bivens

Incident Description: On Saturday, September 15, during a smoke diver class designed to train firefighters advanced survival skills in full gear, Captain Neal Smith passed out from a heat-related illness. He was transported to a hospital during which CPR was administered. Captain Smith remained in critical condition until Monday, September 17, when he succumbed to his injuries at approximately 6:30 p.m. Doctors reportedly determined that Captain Smith's body temperature was more than 106 degrees.

Incident Location: Beaumont Emergency Services Training Complex

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Tribute is being paid to Captain Neal Smith at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 58 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 listserv 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

OHIO FF LODD-DIVER TRAINING

We regret to advise you that Captain Mike Burgin of the Sugar Creek Volunteer Fire Department was killed in the Line of Duty on Friday. Captain Burgin was a member of the Tuscarawas County Dive Team and performed dive rescue operations for the Sugar Creek VFD as well. Captain Burgin was in training in an effort to improve his ability to function as a diver for the county team, and his department. We'll post more details as they become available. Our condolences to all affected. RIP. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

Billy G

The Secret List 8-12-12 / 1106 hours

AND:

US FOREST SERVICE FF LODD

We regret to advise you that a U.S. Forest Service Firefighter was killed by a falling snag while working on the Steep Corner Fire Sunday. She was tragically struck and killed in the Line of Duty when one tree fell and crashed into another tree, causing it to fall in a domino effect. We'll post more as it becomes available. RIP.

2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN SPAIN

2 Firefighters have been killed and 2 others were seriously injured yesterday as Firefighter fought numerous wildland fires across Spain. The Firefighters both died in the Line of Duty fighting a fire in the woods near the southeastern City of Alicante. We'll post more as it becomes available. RIP. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-13-12 / 0755 Hours

AND:

Hey,

September 19, 2012

www.chabotfire.com

23

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

By now, hopefully you have heard about the man whose jet ski broke down in NYC's Jamaica Bay last weekend. So he swam three miles to JFK airport, and then was able to climb an eight-foot "security" fence and ran across two runways...and he was not detected until he approached an airline employee for help. Just last year, another man was able to swim through Jamaica Bay and scale that very same fence before making his way - totally undetected - to the airport's jet fuel storage area. As you may know, JFK, LaGuardia and Newark Int'l Airports are run by the very powerful and pretty much self-supervising NY/NJ Port Authority. The system that was supposed to catch those "intruders" is called the "PIDS" project, using motion detectors and cameras, and is supposed to make JFK impregnable to both trespassers and potential terrorists who approach by water. It's long been plagued by delays and cost over-runs. And it apparently doesn't work. One article had one of the current bosses at the PA blaming one of the past bosses for the problem. The buck stops, er, ummmm...over there. **Forget that. So what's this got to do with Firefighters? Another wonderful lesson learned.**

You can spend all the money in the world on whatever, but if it doesn't work, you have essentially pized the taxpayers money away and failed to meet the goal. But forget that-in this case, if the "jet skier" turned out to be a bad guy, he could have killed a bunch of people. And Cops. And Firefighters. Stretching the imagination? Never forget. So now break this down to the most basic level of what Fire Departments do...a FD's mission is to be ready. **Ready.** For whatever. **Just be ready.** When we **are** ready-things usually work out pretty well. When we aren't, the endings often suck.

Ready at what? Whatever. Whatever someone could call 9-1-1 and say they need fixed really fast. Their bedroom is on fire. Their uncle is choking. That green stuff is leaking. People are trapped in a car. They smell gas. Their home is full of smoke-on the 19th floor. Being ready doesn't mean sitting around waiting for the run. Ready means using all the time we possibly can before that run comes in to prepare for the run. Which run? Any run. See above.

Be it a staffed or unstaffed firehouse, being ready takes on numerous levels-but since the above JFK story is about EQUIPMENT being ready, we'll focus on that. **EQUIPMENT being ready.** Checking Equipment. One of the most bs'ed tasks we are responsible for. Thermal imagers, JAWS, nozzles, radios, tools, bunker gear. Whatever you may need when they call you for help. And while some in our business like to just "check off" the box and not check anything-"**because there were no runs since the last time it was checked**" doing that is pure laziness, dangerous and criminal.

There was a dwelling fire a few years ago when the Captain and a FF pulled a handline off their engine to start hitting the fire. The problem was that it was missing the nozzle. They figured that out once they got to the back door to make entry. Now what? The "thumb on the hose" won't work real well like it does on the garden house, Sherlock. Another time a crew was brought in for their thermal imager - and the batteries were dead when they got inside. No, no good. No doubt you have stories of your own. You, us, me - we all do.

In firehouses doing numerous fires-the "good companies" automatically develop the need to INSURE the saw will definitely start. The hoseline absolutely has a nozzle. The TIC is charged up and working. The radios work. It's because the repetitive nature makes it almost second nature. The Firefighters "get it"-and the bosses do as well. Same with busy rescue companies. Busy EMS units etc.

The challenge is when we are not so busy (which is pretty much any firehouse, at various times) or when we use a tool infrequently (as is the case with so many tools we carry) it's easy to "blow off" the need to insure "that" tool will work each time, every time without fail. Imagine you and your crew make a run and whatever is needed to make a difference doesn't work because it wasn't checked. Maybe some members are trapped and you and your tools are expected to get them out. Oops. You transmit a MAYDAY and you forgot to check your radio batteries before having coffee. The boss needs your

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

crew to vent the roof immediately and your saw is out of fuel. You pull up on a car fire and the booster tank wasn't filled from the last run.

Whatever it is, check it. Make sure it works. Make sure it can be counted on. It's not easy. It's easier to watch Family Guy or play Angry Birds. Make sure "whatever" works, so that when it's needed-it does work. Whatever is any piece of equipment on any apparatus you may have to ride on. Every tool. Every battery. Every switch. Whatever.

The Port Authority of NY/NJ "stumbled" on the fact that their catrillion dollar taxpayer bought equipment failed miserably. **Twice.** Luckily it wasn't a bad guy that helped them find out. At least not this time. Thanks to the Port Authority of NY/NJ we are reminded of that stuff needs to be checked. Thoroughly checked. Checked as in having an "official someone" walk across the "protected" areas and see if the thing works. Nothing is "self" testing-forget that. USE the equipment in the way it's supposed to be used to make sure it works. Flow the nozzle. Start the saw. Transmit the radio. Whatever. The next to last thing any of us want, is to find out it doesn't work. The last thing you want is to find out is that it won't work when it's you that's counting on it.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-13-12 / 2239 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Early this morning at approximately 0053 hours, fire companies were dispatched to a possible fire in an occupied mobile home near the intersection of Nelson Mill Rd and Valley View, near Nixa, MO. Units from Nixa Fire District were dispatched, along with auto-aid from Ozark, Clever, Highlandville and Battlefield Fire Districts. Companies from Nixa arrived on scene to find a well involved 14'x 66' mobile home extending to mobile homes on the B & D Sides. Crews immediately assumed a defensive position and began extinguishing the fire encroaching on surrounding exposures.

Battlefield Engine-1 arrived and was assigned to perform a primary search on the B1 exposure. While crews were extending lines and preparing to enter the home, a loud "pop" was heard. One firefighter from Engine-1 went down and a "MAYDAY" was called. ALS Personnel from Nixa Fire District immediately began to assess the firefighter and found a large laceration to the upper left thigh, consistent with an avulsion. The firefighter was stabilized and once the ambulance arrived, he was subsequently transported to Cox South Hospital where he was treated and later released. One of the Chief Officers, who is also a certified Crime Scene Investigator, provided us the following information.

"Upon hearing of the injury, I responded to the hospital to check the well being of our firefighter. I discovered his injury, even severe, was survivable with limited long term effects. Once relieved of my duties at the hospital by the on-duty shift commander, I responded to the scene where I began my injury/accident investigation to discover what had happened. The response videos taken by vehicle mounted cameras and helmet cameras were reviewed. The "pop" described by witnesses was consistent with a large caliber weapon or rifle. I was shown by on scene personnel to the location where the firefighter was standing when the incident occurred. I could see damage to the rear wall of the B1 Exposure consistent with a small projectile glancing off the wall. The next building over, a storage building known as B2 Exposure, also had similar markings at approximately the same height and velocity.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

I entered the burned home and discovered two lever action rifles underneath the burned mattress in the master bedroom. Both rifles were 30-30 caliber, one Marlin model 336 and one Winchester model 94. The Marlin was not loaded and did not contain any spent shell casings. The Winchester was loaded and there was a spent shell casing in the chamber. After careful reconstruction, I was able to determine the bullet fired from the Winchester rifle traveled through the exterior wall, traveled 14'-18' and struck the firefighter in the left upper thigh, then traveled to and ricocheted off of the adjacent mobile home and storage building, coming to rest in the ground North of the scene.

There was no one near the rifle when the bullet was discharged. The damage to the room was consistent with full room involvement. The mattress above the rifles was completely consumed. Based upon the evidence available to me, witness statements from on scene personnel, statements from EMS and Emergency Room personnel, I have determined the following: The fire in the room reached temperatures high enough to cause the round to discharge in the weapon. The round then proceeded to the path of least resistance, which so happened to be the rifle barrel. The round then struck the firefighter. There were no signs visible for on scene personnel to determine this was going to happen.

This incident, however tragic, was not avoidable or preventable. The firefighter escaped with injuries that required stitches and loss of work projected to be at least one month. This was a definite close call. Had the bullet traveled another two to three inches deeper, it could have struck the femoral artery causing significant blood loss and maybe even death. A full investigation report will follow, with videos, pictures, diagrams and statements." The occupant was discovered deceased in the home during overhaul operations. An investigator from the Missouri Division of Fire Safety was called to the scene to investigate the cause and origin of the fire. The name of the deceased is being withheld until his identity is confirmed. The cause of the fire has not been released. We are glad that all personnel from Battlefield, Nixa and others are doing well.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 8-18-12 / 1819 hours

AND:

--3 LODD's

--2 REPORTS RELEASED TODAY ON THE ASHVILLE AND BALTIMORE COUNTY FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS

CALIFORNIA INMATE FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING FIRE OPERATIONS

We regret to advise you that an inmate Firefighter who fought the 2,700-acre Buck Fire died Sunday at Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs. The death of Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp Firefighter inmate Jimmy Randolph, 44, is under investigation by Cal Fire and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The fire was 100 percent contained Friday. "Prior to becoming ill on Saturday morning ... Randolph had been assigned to the Buck Fire in Hemet," according to a Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation statement. He died with his family at his bedside. Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp, located in the Angeles National Forest in northeastern Los Angeles County, houses fewer than 150 minimum-security inmates. Operated jointly by Cal Fire and the Department of Corrections, its **"primary mission is to provide inmate fire crews to Cal Fire for fire suppression, pre-fire and hazardous fuel reduction projects in Los Angeles, Kern and San Bernardino counties."** RIP.

CHATTANOOGA (TN) FIRE CAPTAIN DIES IN QUARTERS

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the passing of Captain Roulos Davis. Captain Davis fell ill shortly after reporting to work this morning at Station 14 in St. Elmo, Chattanooga FD. Despite efforts by his fellow Firefighters to revive him with CPR, ALS, Captain Davis died shortly after arriving at the hospital. He was 49. The exact cause of death has yet to be determined, but it appears he died of natural causes. Captain Davis had been with the department for 25 years. Funeral arrangements are pending. RIP.

FIREFIGHTER DIES ON DUTY IN BRAZIL:

We regret to advise you that last Saturday, a 23-year-old Firefighter died due to a cardiac / respiratory arrest, in the city of Palmas, Brazil. Firefighter (Bombero) Rafaela Milhomem da Silva was assigned to the dispatch center, when she started feeling ill for no apparent reason. She was immediately treated and transported by fellow Firefighters but was unable to survive. RIP.

===READ===

REPORTS ARE NOW OUT ON TWO HIGHLY PUBLICIZED FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS:

=REPORT: ASHVILLE, NC FIRE CAPTAIN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

NIOSH has investigated the death of Capt. Jeff Bowen, he 13-year AFD department veteran, who died in the Line of Duty in July of 2011 while operating at that medical building fire at 445 Biltmore Center. Nine other firefighters were hurt.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Arson, Lack of an automatic fire suppression system, Multistory/high-rise standard operating procedures not followed, Air management doctrine not followed, Reverse stack effect in stairwell, Inadequate strategy and tactics and task saturation of the incident commander

HERE IS THE NIOSH REPORT RELEASED TODAY:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201118.html>

HERE ARE DETAILS OF THE FIRE AND A PREVIOUS LOCAL REPORT WITH SIGNIFICANT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE: <http://tinyurl.com/d9n7dw8>

=REPORT: BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

FF (and former Chief) Mark Gray Falkenhan, 43, became the first Baltimore County firefighter to die in the line of duty in more than 25 years when he was trapped in a third-story apartment during a fire on Jan. 19, 2011, in Hillendale. Falkenhan was searching for residents when he was fatally injured in the fire, which was caused by a pot of oil on a stove in a lower-level apartment.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Incident Management System, Personnel Accountability System, Rapid Intervention Crews, Conducting a search without a means of egress protected by a hoseline, Tactical consideration for coordinating advancing hoselines from opposite directions, Building safety features, e.g., no sprinkler systems, modifications limiting automatic door closing, Occupant behavior-leaving sliding glass door open and Ineffective ventilation

HERE IS THE NIOSH REPORT RELEASED TODAY:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201102.html>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, AUDIO & VIDEO ON THE ABOVE FIRE:

In addition to the above NIOSH report, the previously published internal report and recommendations (link below)ATF had published a MUST SEE (if you haven't previously) FIRE MODEL VIDEO with audio and related minute by minute detail.

HERE IS THE LINK TO THE ATF VIDEO/AUDIO OF THE DOWLING CIRCLE FIRE:

<http://www.atf.gov/explosives/programs/research-development/fire-research-lab.html>

===Again-please don't miss the opportunity to use this outstanding above linked video information for use and discussion in your firehouse.

In summary, FF Falkenhan and his partner entered and made their way into the building to search for victims, without a hoseline. The apartment, like ANY dwelling any FF operates in today-is filled with plastics and other petro-chemical based consumer items (carpeting/flooring, furniture, TV's etc) that create a gas filled and subsequent fire environment of explosive potential. Firefighters searching saw fire in the corner of the apartment shortly before coming across a victim-but those conditions were not communicated via radio. At 1841 hours, crews were ordered to evacuate the building and about a minute later Falkenhan called a MAYDAY. At 1850 hours, Firefighters found Falkenhan unconscious and eventually removed him from the building.

HERE IS THE INITIAL "INTERNAL" FD REPORT:

<http://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Fire/report/finalreport120320.pdf>

HERE IS THE EDITED RADIO TRAFFIC:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMsc8nuEvVw>

HERE IS THE ATF LINK TO THE VIDEO OF THE DOWLING CIRCLE FIRE:

<http://www.atf.gov/explosives/programs/research-development/fire-research-lab.html>

HERE IS THE NIOSH REPORT RELEASED TODAY:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201102.html>

Once again-take the NIOSH REPORT along with the above information, the previous reports, radio traffic etc and use them in the firehouse, drills, meetings or whatever it takes as an excellent opportunity to learn, and HONOR the memory of FF Mark Falkenhan.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-20-12 / 2134 Hours

AND:

Hey,

According to reports along with a media report by NPR, managers at that fire in north Idaho last week were warned about hazardous conditions the day before 20-year-old Firefighter Anne Vesteh was killed in the Line of Duty. That's the latest according to an informal report by the head of a federal hotshot crew, **who refused to work on the fire.**

20 year old Firefighter Anne Veseth was killed on Aug. 12 at the Steep Corner Fire southeast of Coeur d'Alene when that tree fell on her. **However, the day before, the Montana based "Flathead Firefighting Hotshot" crew visited and sized up the fire and identified what they called "extremely unsafe" conditions. Their report posted online describes poor communication, no plan for medical emergencies, water being dropped before Firefighters were out of the way ... and the constant thunder of falling snags.** According to the report filed by the Flathead Hotshots, they also identified poor communication among the Idaho-based firefighters and some of them without protective clothing or shelters. Additionally the report **further describes a chaotic scene, with a "hodge-podge" of Firefighters and operations that included Idaho prison inmates forced to dodge trees and rocks hurtling down a steep mountainside.** Federal and state officials are investigating FF Veseth's death. Timothy Ingalsbee calls the report disturbing. He's a former federal firefighter who now runs the Eugene-based group Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology**. "There's a number of violations of just standard safety protocols and procedures documented," Ingalsbee says. A spokesman for the Forest Service says the agency is still trying to

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

determine whether the hotshot crew was in the same location where Veseth was killed. Federal teams are now on the ground investigating her death.

The Steep Corner Fire is mainly on private timber land. And until last Tuesday, the fire suppression was being directed by an employee of an association of timber companies. A Forest Service employee is now in charge of the operation.

MORE DETAILS AND NPR RADIO REPORT HERE:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=159427767>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=159427767&ft=3&f=159427767>

MORE DETAILS HERE:

http://www.nifc.gov/safety/safety_HistFatality_report.html

** <http://www.fusee.org> (Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology)

We'll keep you advised on any updates related to this Firefighters death.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-21-12 / 2038 Hours

AND:

ASSISTANT CHIEF DIES FOLLOWING DEPARTMENT TRAINING-NEW YORK STATE

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of Assistant Chief Timothy J. Lamere, of Constable (Franklin County, NY) Volunteer Fire Department, who died yesterday, August 21, 2012. Assistant Chief Lamere, age 47, collapsed at home following department training on Monday. Firefighters from Constable and EMT's from Northern Ambulance transported Assistant Chief Lamere to Alice Hyde Medical Center where he later died. Assistant Chief Lamere leaves behind his wife Renee and five children. Constable is located 5 miles south of the Canadian border and they turn out both within the USA and into Canada as a part of their response area. Services for the Chief will be held Friday, August 24th @ 2 - 4pm & 7 - 9pm at the Constable Fire Station. The funeral will be held on Saturday, August 25th. @ 10am at the Constable Fire Station. Our condolences to all affected. RIP. **HERE** is CVFD home page: <http://www.constablevfd.com/>

HERE is the the Franklin County Emergency Services home page:

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

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-22-12 / 2116 Hours

AND:

Hey,

With as busy as anyone and everyone is so busy these days, it's easy to forget things that don't directly impact you. I am not sure that it's selfishness, it's just Internet related "information overload" more these days than ever---and as someone recently wrote, these days you don't have to look to read the news, the news now finds you. We try pretty hard to manage what we send out on The Secret List (we post alot more on our home page) so hopefully, when you receive The Secret List, you understand that it's pretty important. **Hopefully**. In this case, another Firefighter has died from duty related cancer. We think its important to pass this information along-as WTC related cancer and the related deaths are not going away anytime soon. And while the WTC cancers may not impact **you** directly, **CANCER remains the # 1 enemy to Firefighters and the # 1 cause of Firefighter disease and death...at EVERY FD for EVERY Firefighter.**

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Firefighter Lawrence J. Sullivan (Larry), age 53, has died from cancer related to responding to and operating at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01. He was an active FDNY Fire Fighter assigned to Rescue Company No. 5 and a 23 year department veteran. He and his wife Ginny were the proud parents of 5 kids. Larry had been battling 9-11 related cancer since early 2011. His courage during this gallant fight was no doubt fueled by the love that filled his home every day. Even during the most trying of times when radiation and chemotherapy would sap him of nearly all his strength and energy he would not give up.

When it became apparent in recent weeks that he would succumb to his illness, Larry began hospice care. The family quickly converted the basement into comfortable quarters. Space was made for visitors to be at his bedside along with equipping the room with a large HD-TV and a laptop computer. All this to afford him with a respite from the terrible pain and anguish that never seemed to go away. During his final hours on Monday with Ginny and his kids by his side he seemed to be at peace. They played some Irish music for him to enjoy and in his last moments he prayed the Our Father together with Robert. **Sometime after he gracefully passed on, the men of Rescue-5 carried his flag draped body from the house. Outside a solemn contingent of his brother firemen gave him a tearful salute. Larry Sullivan's family and friends can console knowing that his agonizing days have come to an end and he now rest in peace.** Larry leaves behind his devoted wife of 32 years, Ginny, along with his cherished children, Larry Jr. & his wife Robyn, Robert, Erin, James, and Kathleen. His dear mother, Aileen Sullivan Jones, and loving siblings, Sharon, Tommy, and Danny. Also many adoring nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers the Sullivan Family request donation in Larry Sullivan's name be made to: FDNY Fire Family Transport: <http://www.firefamilytransport.org/> Our sincere thanks to Tony S at REMA (Retired Emergency Man's Association of NYPD ESU) for the heads up on this tragic loss.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER?

ARE YOU OR DO YOU KNOW A FIREFIGHTER (or family member) DEALING WITH CANCER?

Check out the Firefighter Cancer Support Network-by Firefighters - For Firefighters and their families. Information on assistance and prevention in posted by these great folks.

<http://www.firefightercancersupport.org>

LINK TO REPORT: LODD OF 20 YEAR OLD FIREFIGHTER ANNE VESETH

More Details Regarding The Line of Duty Death of FF Anne Veseth

As we posted on The Secret List yesterday, a grim Idaho state Land Board heard a report yesterday from the state Department of Lands on the ongoing destructive wildfires in the state, a day after a report surfaced about hazards on the Steep Corner fire, in which 20-year-old Moscow firefighter Anne Veseth was killed. This was her 2nd season as a Firefighter. **As you know, a specialized Forest Service Hot Shot fire crew refused to work on the fire a day before Veseth's Line of Duty death, due to hazards including burning tree snags and questions about how fire was being commanded and operated. Attorney General Lawrence Wasden noted concerns about communications and coordination by the state Department of Lands on the North Idaho fire, in which Veseth, that U.S. Forest Service Firefighter, was killed by the falling tree.**

NOTE: The Hotshot report (link below), while just one account of the Steep Corner Fire, **suggests tensions** between the federal firefighters and members of the Clearwater-Potlatch Timber Protective Association, a state group under the Idaho Department of Lands formed to fight forest fires in northern Idaho.

HERE IS the SAFENET REPORT: <http://media.spokesman.com/documents/2012/08/Safenet-report-8-14-12.pdf>

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(SAFENET is a Forest Service website that allows fire crews to report safety concerns)

HERE are some more details from the media:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/22/anne-veseth-idaho-firefighter_n_1820390.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-22-12 / 1312 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Firefighter from the Utah-based hotshot fire crew has been hospitalized in Boise for a close call after a large log rolled over him while he worked to build a fire line on that central Idaho wildfire. 2 other Firefighters received minor injuries in the same fire yesterday. The injured Firefighter received chest, elbow and wrist injuries. He was expected to be released from the hospital today but not return to firefighting for three weeks. It was unclear this afternoon if he had left the hospital. Firefighters were sawing in the area where the log broke loose but were not working on the log that caused the injuries. A review of the incident is planned. Nearly 600 firefighters are fighting the fire that started July 27. We have more about this on our home page.

REMEMBERING 2 FIREFIGHTERS IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK

We take time to remember and learn about the late Buffalo NY FD Lt Charles McCarthy, 45, and Jonathan Croom, 34 who died in the Line of Duty while responding to an early morning structure fire on August 24, 2009. Lt. McCarthy was a 22-year veteran is survived by his wife, Terri, three children and a grandchild. FF Croom was a 10-year veteran and is survived by his infant child and his fiancée who was pregnant with their second child. RIP. Key contributing factors identified in this double LODD include working above an uncontrolled, free-burning basement fire; interior condition reports not communicated to command; inadequate risk-versus-gain assessments; and, crew integrity / accountability not maintained. **BUFFALO FD REPORT:** <http://tinyurl.com/8btssyx>

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200923.html>

VIDEO: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Esc14NWhYPk&feature=youtube_qdata_player

MEDIA REPORTS / POST FIRE ACTION:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/148634>

7 UK FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED-WAREHOUSE FIRE

A re-dedicated memorial has been unveiled to mark the anniversary of the Line of Duty deaths of 7 Scottish Firefighters in a warehouse fire 40 years ago. Divisional Officer Andrew Quinn, leading fireman Alastair Crofts, and firemen Iain Bermingham, Allan Finlay, William Hooper, Duncan McMillan and James Rook of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue died in the Line of Duty at the fire in a cash-and-carry warehouse in Kilbirnie Street, Glasgow, 40 years ago today. Six of the men had returned to the building to rescue Rook, who was trapped under fallen stock, when a flashover took place - a burst of flame and intense heat of around 600C - killing them all. Former firefighter James Smith, now historian of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service, (the 2nd largest fire service in the U.K.) was off duty on the day in 1972 but said the deaths were a tragic end to brave efforts to save a colleague. "Just as they were bringing him out, it flashed across the ceiling of the floor below, causing temperatures of 1,000 degrees," Smith said. RIP.

MUCH MORE FROM THE STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ABOUT THE FIRE:

<http://tinyurl.com/8h3cyze>

EXCELLENT VIDEO ABOUT THE SFRS: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-pJMpXqXhU>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 8-26-12 / 2057 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A West Virginia man will spend up to six years in the slammer for setting a fire last December, indirectly causing the Line of Duty Death of a Firefighter who fell from the bridge as he was attempting to locate the fire. Charles Darren Roberts, 37, was sentenced today on two counts of arson and one misdemeanor count of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Davis Creek (W. VA) Volunteer Firefighter Joey King, who fell from the bridge. The six-year term, which included five years for the counts of arson and a year for the involuntary manslaughter, was the maximum sentence Roberts could have received by law. On Dec. 3, Roberts ignited a cardboard box to catch a tire on fire, police said at the time. The fire also ignited 160 railroad ties. Davis was looking for the fire when he fell off the bridge. In April, a grand jury indicted Roberts on charges of first-degree murder in connection to King's death. In return for his guilty plea, prosecutors agreed to reduce the murder charge to involuntary manslaughter. Arietta King, one of FF King's four sisters, said she originally wanted Roberts to spend the rest of his life in prison. Roberts said he had no expectation that someone would get killed the night he set the fire that initiated the chain reaction of tragic events. "I know there's no 'sorry' can make up for what I did," he said, later adding, "It's opened my eyes to a lot of things." Ms. King softened her stance when Roberts pleaded guilty in April, admitting that his actions caused her brother's death, she said.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI: UNION HEAD "WE SHOULD GET A REFUND ON THIS CONSULTANTS STUDY"

A net **decrease** of 59 Grand Rapids FD positions is recommended in a consultant's report circulated this morning to their City Commission. The ICMA (International City/County Management Association) projects that the job cuts could save \$6.7 million per year.

Among the suggested changes:

=a "greater reliance" on quick-response vehicles, to be deployed in place of fire apparatus, could save \$2.2 million per year

=elimination of 3 medical-response units could save \$2.5 million per year

=transition to a "**demand-based**" staffing could save \$1.9 million per year

The report also calls for more prevention, training and analysis staff, stating that "if a small amount of resources can eliminate the need for a huge and expensive fire response and the related risk of loss of property and life, prevention is an investment well made." Fire Chief Laura Knapp said she's disappointed in the "content and thoroughness" of the report, calling it "just another tool that has been given to us in looking at our services and how we transform." Bill Smith, President of the Firefighters' union, was more blunt in his appraisal of the recommendations. "I think the city should be seeking a refund," he said. "I'm not saying all their ideas are bad, but certainly there are others that we're going 'No way. This is not the way to run a fire service.'" "Their approach to it seemed like waving a wand. It appears to me they were trying to hit a budget target" rather than improve service outcomes. Grand Rapids already is planning to debut three quick-response vehicles later this year. The consultant's report recommends adding two more QRVs, and using all of them in place of fire apparatus. The reports also suggests taking 3 medical-response units out of service, limiting the fire department's emergency-medical response to incidents of cardiac arrest and leaving other calls to private ambulance companies.

HERE IS THE ICMA REPORT:

<http://grcity.us/city-manager/Documents/Grand%20Rapids%20Fire%20Ops%20Final%2014AUG12.pdf>

HERE IS MORE FROM THE MEDIA:

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/08/union_president_wants_refund_o.html

DETROIT FIREFIGHTER FILE SUIT ON STAFFING REDUCTIONS

DFD's Firefighter union sued the city today in an attempt to halt its recent decision to reduce the department's staffing levels. They are seeking a permanent injunction against city's "ill-advised decision" to eliminate a number of fire companies on claims it violates city charter as well as fire prevention ordinances and regulations. The lawsuit comes after the city this summer declared it will eliminate and "brown-out" approximately 30 fire companies. The move reduces the number of fire trucks and equipment that can respond to a city fire alarm. The "unexamined" city action will decrease the fire department's response time and the ability of firefighters to "fight fires, protect themselves and rescue people and property endangered by fires," the lawsuit says. "In our job seconds count. This isn't a simple job, it's about life and death," said Dan McNamara, president of the firefighters' union. "If this city is going to ever come back we need residents to feel safe." McNamara said in recent weeks the city has closed or "browened out" half of its 60 fire companies. "We're being decimated," he said. "We don't know where they are going to stop." The 139-square-mile city with an estimated population of more than 700,000 has a current average response time of seven minutes, which is better than the national average of eight minutes, according to the filing. The lawsuit notes as recently as last week a disabled Detroit man perished in a home fire along with his stepfather because a fire engine blocks from his home had been "browened-out." The pleading also lists other incidents where response times have suffered - and in some cases doubled - due to the recent changes. In 2001, there were more than 11,000 fires throughout the city - 5,000 of which were flagged for arson investigations, the filing states. The city estimates firefighters receive 30,000 calls and about 9,500 false alarms annually.

MORE from The Detroit News:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120828/METRO01/208280447#ixzz24tRF7GcE>

UPDATE: EMS LINE OF DUTY DEATH IN NEW YORK

Paramedic David Restuccio, 58, who worked as a Paramedic for Staten Island University Hospital (EMS ambulance assigned to the FDNY 9-1-1 system), died i the Line of Duty yesterday in a horrific crash last night around 1900 hours, when a BMW SUV slammed into his ambulance, flipping it and pinning him inside. The BMW driver, 20-year-old Benjamin Budzaku also perished. PM Restuccio's fiance', EMS Dr. Lorraine Giordano, was the longtime EMS medical director, and had more recently served as an EMS Physician for FDNY. Budzaku's BMW SUV was going north on Hylan when it lost control and jumped the median. The ambulance, which was transporting a patient from the Ocean Breeze campus of Staten Island University Hospital to its Prince's Bay site, was going south. The ambulance swerved out of the way but couldn't avoid the collision, and the impact flipped the emergency vehicle on its side and launched Budzaku from the BMW. Budzaku was pronounced dead on the scene, while Restuccio remained trapped inside the totaled ambulance. He died of massive internal injuries after being taken to the hospital. Police are still investigating why Budzaku lost control, though one law enforcement source said he was "definitely speeding" at the time of the crash. Two others survived the crash -- the ambulance patient, Luis Rodriguez, 34, and a second paramedic, Yusuke Yonehara, also 34. Rodriguez is in SIUH's intensive care unit listed in fair condition, while Yonehara is listed in stable condition. Paramedic Restuccio retired as a Lieutenant for FDNY EMS to spend more time with his children and grandchildren camping and skiing, but wanted to keep active within EMS as well. Working for the North Shore LIJ EMS system, on an FDNY EMS system response ambulance provided him that opportunity.

HERE IS MUCH MORE ABOUT THE CRASH & DAVID RESTUCCIO: <http://tinyurl.com/cturkh2>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

HERE is more about North Shore-LIJ Health System's Center for Emergency Medical Services:
<https://www.northshorelij.com/NSLIJ/CEMS>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 8-28-12 / 2126 Hours

AND:

All,
While not an LODD, a good friend and original member of The Secret List has passed away. Chief Richard "Ricky" Arrington, the former chief and decorated member of the Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton(OWL VFD) passed away early today after years of battling complications with his health. Chief Arrington was a decorated member of the department and was awarded firefighter of the year in 1979. While many will write and reminisce about Ricky, my immediate observation is that Ricky understood what "commanding" a fire meant-well before it became "popular" to have strict command, control, accountability and discipline on the fireground. I had been on some scenes with him in the 80's and that always stuck in my mind. Cool, calm and direct command and control. He "got it". Many of you had met Ricky as he was a long time employee of American Fire Equipment and was at most of the major fire trade shows over the last several decades. His greatest source of professional pride was his belonging to "OWL VFD"---with over 300 active members and three fire stations in operation, OWL runs approximately 14,000 calls a year. "OWL-VFD" is a part of the Prince William County Fire & Rescue Service-a combination service in the Washington, DC area. Funeral arrangements for Chief Arrington have yet to be announced. RIP.

NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER GETS A TICKET FOR BLOCKING TRAFFIC-AND THE BATTLE CONTINUES.....

Trenton police versus Trenton Firefighters. Yesterday a Trenton NJ FF ticketed for obstructing traffic outside a fire scene went before a municipal judge...and it's going to trial. During the brief hearing yesterday evening, the judge accepted the fire union lawyer's motion to have the upcoming trial heard before a judge from another town and conducted by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. The public shakes their heads. **The confrontation between the Cops and Firefighters, which is also the subject of a police Internal Affairs investigation, began early in the evening of June 8 outside the Broad Street Bank building, the fire union's lawyer Andrew Bayer said.** Firefighters responded to investigate an alarm in the high-rise apartment complex. With engines and ladders parked on the two-lane downtown street, Battalion Chief Steve Coltre told his driver Firefighter Ken Stout to place the chief's marked SUV across the road."Stout was directed to block the scene for safety," Bayer said.

Police Officer Lawrence "Mike" Davis then came on the scene and told Coltre to move his vehicle. Coltre refused, and a "discussion" occurred, Bayer said. "There's a statute that says a fire chief controls a fire scene as a matter of law, and so police officers can't issue a ticket to a fire chief at a fire scene," Bayer said. "Which is what happened here." "He distracted the chief from supervising the scene while his men were in the building," Ron Ettenger, the firefighters' union's state delegate, said. Stout received summonses for obstructing traffic and failure to display his driver's license. Together the fines for the tickets are \$255 if a guilty plea is made, Bayer said. The night the tickets were issued, Davis said he might reconsider the summonses. Too late. **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/c487apn>

SOUTH FLORIDA TRAINING

A reminder of the 2012 Fort Lauderdale Fire Expo (October 11th-13th, 2012) which provides a great opportunity or those of you in that neck of the woods-or for those of you that want to spend a few days IN that neck of the woods! **MORE HERE:** www.fortlauderdalefireexpo.com

"IF IT'S FREE---IT'S FOR ME"

We laughed the first time we heard that "saying" a trillion years ago, but it's a fact-we love free stuff ...so we wanted to pass this one on to you. Honeywell (Morning Pride, Pro-Warrington Boots, Sperian, Ranger etc) has an opportunity for Firefighters to get some free, top of the line gear.

CLICK HERE: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Honeywell-First-Responder-Products/459103845526>

.....and naturally, if you are ever aware of similar contests with **substantial** winning opportunities for Firefighters, let us know and we'll check it out.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-29-12 / 0920 Hours

AND:

Hey,

3 people, including a CalFire Fire Inspector, suffered burns in Lake Elsinore, (Calif) at a fire that was sparked by an explosion of fireworks being set up at a nearby stadium. Just before 1700 yesterday, the Cal Fire/Riverside County FD received a report of a vehicle on fire the home stadium of the Lake Elsinore Storm baseball team. One person, a civilian, suffered very critical burns and was transported by air ambulance to a burn center -- the other two, including the fire inspector, (on fireworks detail) suffered less serious burns and were taken by ground ambulance for treatment. The vehicle fire spread into nearby brush, scorching a quarter- to half-acre before firefighters contained it. The vehicle was reportedly a part of the company responsible for the fireworks. The fireworks display was canceled. THIS WEEKEND many FD's are doing standbys at fireworks displays..use caution.

UPDATE ON CRITICALLY INJURED SAN JOSE FIREFIGHTER

Members of the San Jose FD continues to keep vigil over their Firefighter Frank Ryan, who suffered a heart attack Thursday while fighting a downtown church fire. A 15-year veteran of the department, he remains in critical but stable condition at Regional Medical Center of San Jose after undergoing emergency surgery. As you know, FF Ryan collapsed after suffering cardiac arrest while operating at that 3 alarm fire at St. Patrick's Cathedral around noon Thursday. FF Ryan is not married, has no kids but has three sisters and six brothers.

Take are-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-1-12 / 2117 Hours

AND:

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

It is with deep regret that the we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Chief of Department Richard Schaefer, 52, of the Hopkinton, NH Fire Department as the result of an on duty medical emergency he suffered late yesterday. Arrangements will be posted when they are complete. Our sincere condolences to the Schaefer family, the Hopkinton Fire Department, and all those who knew Chief Schaefer through his distinguished 33 year fire service career. **HERE is the HFD website:**

http://www.hopkinton-nh.gov/pages/hopkintonnh_fire/index

"WE'RE ROLLING TO THE CAR FIRE, err, umm...uhhhh....THE CAR FIRE IS ROLLING"

Here is a video that you'll certainly find of interest: <http://tinyurl.com/cg2vwm6>

HERE is more from Dave S: <http://tinyurl.com/cjyb7qd>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-3-12 / 0840 Hours

AND:

CANADIAN FIRE CHIEF LODD - MEDICAL EMERGENCY

We regret to inform you of the passing of Wembley, Alberta (Canada) Deputy Fire Chief Ron Clarke. Chief Clarke passed away at home suddenly yesterday afternoon, Sept 3rd, 2012 following a fire on the previous date. Ron first joined the Wembley FD in May 1966, and has been an active member for the past 46 years. He responded to his last fire call on Sunday night (Sept 2nd.) RIP.

HERE is the WFD website: <http://www.wembleyfiredepartment.ca/>

VETERAN FIRE CHIEF BOB "Mac" McCLEOD PASSES

It is with great sadness and regret that we inform you that this evening we lost a wonderful Firefighter. Our old friend Chief Bob "Mac" McLeod passed away at approximately 1800 hours this evening. After a heroic battle with some cancerous tumors and after demonstrating a remarkable will to persevere over the past seven months, he has gone on to be with his Lord. Please pass this on to others who new and respected this remarkable man. We were personally privileged to get to know "Mac" from the "old" ISFSI days of the 70's and 80's...some wonderful times....we never can recall the man without a smile on his face...helping move the fire service forward, kicking and screaming all the way. Following an impressive career, retiring as Assistant Fire Chief of Sarasota, Florida, Mac joined the National Fire Sprinkler Association team in 1984 as a Regional Manager. Over the years Mac tirelessly served the NFSA and later was to become NFSA's first Director of Training and Education. Following this, Mac switched gears and was promoted to the position of Director of Regional Operations and later went on to become a Vice President. Please keep the McLeod family in your thoughts and prayers. RIP.

SOME GOOD NEWS FROM SAN JOSE

San Jose Firefighter Frank Ryan, 41, who suffered a heart attack while battling the cathedral fire is now awake and talking to friends and relatives. While he is still listed in critical condition at Regional Medical Center, around 0830 hours, he began showing "significant improvement. Ryan, a 15-year veteran, suffered a heart attack while helping fight that 3 alarm fire last Thursday at St. Patrick's Cathedral. We wish him a positive continued recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-4-12 / 2100 Hours

AND:

All,

After an 11-year battle, the federal government is now poised to recognize that people who lived near Ground Zero - as well as Firefighters and other rescue and recovery workers who sifted through the toxic rubble there - got cancer as a result, according a report in the NY Post today. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health - which is responsible for deciding whether cancer should be among the illnesses covered by the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act - is expected to announce the findings as early as tomorrow. Michael Barasch and Noah Kushlefsky, two lawyers who represent thousands of first responders and residents, said legislative aides involved in drafting the new regulations and Victim Compensation Fund staffers told them that about 50 cancers would be included. "There's new scientific evidence," Barasch said, "that dust is what is now linked to not only the respiratory illnesses, but all these cancers." The new regulations would at last allow cancer victims to be compensated. "It's a bittersweet thing," said John Walcott, an NYPD detective who was diagnosed with leukemia in 2003 after working months at Ground Zero and the Fresh Kills

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

landfill. "It took 11 years to do what should have been done a long time ago." The Zadroga Act - which was passed into law two years ago and named after NYPD Detective James Zadroga, who perished at age 34 after working on the World Trade Center pile - originally did not cover cancer because of a lack of scientific evidence linking it to Ground Zero toxins, despite outcries from hundreds of sick responders. Under one component of the law, about 40,000 responders and residents already get monitoring, and 20,000 receive medical treatment. The second part - the Victim Compensation Fund - is being held up by the cancer issue. About 400 have died from cancer since 9/11, according to the most recent estimates. With the inclusion of cancer in the program, there will be more victims seeking compensation - and a reduction in individual awards as officials slice up the \$2.77 billion fund. "They're going to add cancers, but are they going to add more money to the fund?" said Thomas "T.J." Gilmartin, a smoker who suffers from lung disease and sleep apnea. "It's crazy. Every time, we gotta fight. It's two years since Obama signed that bill and nobody's got 10 cents." For some - those hanging onto their lives by a thread - the payout will ultimately be too little, too late. "There are other people who are sick and dying. They're not going to last as long as it takes for them to get paid," Kushlefsky said. "Congress should turn around and fund this for as long as it's needed." The Victim Compensation Fund's special master, Sheila Birnbaum, will be permitted to spend only \$875 million of the fund's total in the first five years after the initial payments begin. After those five years pass, people with valid claims will begin to receive their remaining portion of the additional \$1.9 billion. Birnbaum said she doesn't expect more money to flow into the fund, but thinks NIOSH will make an announcement on the cancers this week. "They hinted that it would be before Sept. 11," she said.

FDNY's PADDY BROWN:

As we all prepare for 9/11/12....please take a moment to read this excellent piece about an FDNY hero, who always aggressively downplayed that "label" --

<http://news.investors.com/management-leaders-in-success/090712-624946-paddy-brown-gave-his-life-on-911.htm>

UPDATE FROM TULSA

One of 3 Firefighters who remained in a hospital after being injured in a fire at the Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences has been released. Two other firefighters remain hospitalized but are listed in good condition and their status will be re-evaluated Monday. A total of 8 Firefighters suffered various burn-related injuries caused by explosions during Wednesday's fire. 6 of those firefighters were released from the hospital the same day, but one of them returned to the hospital that night after complications arose.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

10-9-12 / 0909 hour

AND:

All,

Today I asked a young Firefighter who I was talking with, what his departments plans were for 9/11? The response was: "Tomorrow...What?" Even at this late hour, it is never too late to make sure your Department sets the example tomorrow: 9/11/12. As the eleventh anniversary of the cowardice and murderous attacks on our Country of September 11th approaches this evening, our hearts and prayers are with the families and friends of those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001-as well as those survivors who continue to suffer physical or related trauma-----we will always remember. We especially reach out to the families and friends of FDNY, NYPD and PAPD members who gave their lives that day.

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A BRIEF 9/11 COMPILATION: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfSQLMIRld0&feature=related>
AN INTERVIEW WORTH YOUR TIME: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iI5W3V6skaE>
FOR YOUR BUCKET LIST: <http://www.tributewtc.org/>

MARYLAND FIRE APPARATUS(S) STRUCK:

The Prince George's County (MD) Fire Chief is speaking out about two recent incidents that have damaged emergency apparatus causing them to be placed out of service for an extended time and unavailable for emergency responses. "As our highways grow more congested and driver inattentiveness grows due to the advent of handheld communication and information technologies, our concern for responder and worker safety at traffic incidents has never been greater," said Fire Chief Marc Bashoor. "While secondary incidents involving workers can take many forms, they often occur when our emergency personnel and apparatus are struck by inattentive or distracted drivers, while we are working at a roadway scene." While distractions may have played a role in these crashes, the possibility of alcohol being a factor is also being investigated in each of these incidents by police. 2 PGFD engines have been involved in separate incidents recently that involved civilian vehicles slamming into them as they were stationary on a roadway protecting personnel that were operating on a highway. Engines from Branchville and Greenbelt were providing barrier protection for firefighters, medics and related personnel at the scene of crashes when these secondary incidents occurred. The Branchville engine sustained over \$50,000 in damages on August 18 and the Greenbelt engine over \$30,000 in damages on September 8. Each incident occurred on the infamous Washington Capital Beltway early on Saturday morning, 4:15 am and 2:45 am respectively. Fortunately, no one was injured as a result of these secondary incidents.

MORE ON ROADWAY SURVIVAL HERE: <http://www.respondersafety.com>

REMEMBER: Act and operate as if drivers are INTENTIONALLY out to strike us....and prepare for that.

LAST WORDS:

We take a moment to offer our condolences to the friends and family of Midlothian (IL) FD **Retired Deputy Chief Robert Denison** in his passing. Additionally, our condolences to the family and friends of **Douglas Jansen, Little Ferry NJ FD**. A former Chief Officer, he was an active Firefighter/EMT, who lost his life very suddenly last weekend, doing the sort of thing he was well known for - helping people - as he assisting a neighbor doing tree work. **HERE** is more from **Fire Engineering:** <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/09/off-duty-nj-firefighter-dies-while-helping-neighbor.html>

RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret 9-10-12 / 2125 Hours

AND:

PA FIRE POLICE CAPTAIN LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY We regret to advise you that Capt. Steven Henry Sr. 52, of the Columbia Borough Special Fire Police, Lancaster County, PA died in the Line of Duty on September 5, 2012. Captain Henry got sick while on a run with the Columbia Consolidated FD and went to his primary care physician. The following day, Captain Henry suffered cardiac arrest. Captain Henry started out his volunteer career with the Maytown - East Donegal FD in 1978 and later joined the Shawnee Fire Company. During his years of service, he served in the capacity of Chief Engineer, Captain, 2nd and 1st Assistant Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Chief and President. The Shawnee Fire Company was one of several formally dissolved in 2000, when the newly established Columbia Consolidated FD was created with the merger of Columbia's Vigilant Fire Company, Shawnee Fire Company, and Keystone Fire Company. At that time, Captain Henry had September 19, 2012

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served as the chief for over 7 years. Since 2000, he had also served as chief engineer, assistant fire chief and chief of CCFD. After serving Columbia as a Firefighter for more than twenty-five years, he became active with the Columbia Borough Special Fire Police and has served as their Captain for the past two years. Services will be at 1000 hours on Saturday, Sept. 15 at Station 807 in Columbia. A gathering to celebrate Captain Henry's decades of fire service will then take place back at the CCFD firehouse for family and friends. MORE DETAILS AT: www.LancasterFire.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL
BillyG
The Secret List 9-11-12 / 1659 hours

AND:

All,

As you may recall, on February 13, 2012, 21-year-old Gore (VA) **Volunteer Firefighter Zachary Whitacre** died in the Line of Duty after falling from the tailboard of a fire department tanker (14). He had, acting as a spotter and using the driver's side mirror, successfully guided the driver (**his own Father, FF Don Whitacre**) in backing the tanker to position on its tailboard near the dump tank. The driver stayed in the driver's seat and watched the water gauge indicator lights on the pump panel through his side mirror. FF Zach Whitacre, located on the tailboard, operated the dump valve to fill the folding tank. When the driver saw the tank-empty light flash, he left the fire scene to go to the water source to refill the tanker. **FF Zach Whitacre was not seen by anyone at that point but had likely climbed up on the tailboard to access the manual dump valve and opened the valve to fill the folding tank. The driver of Tanker 14 watched the tank level indicator lights through the side mirror, and when the lights indicated that the tank was empty, the driver checked both of his mirrors, engaged the transmission and pulled away from the drop tank and responded to the fill site. FF Don Whitacre reported that he did not know his son was on the tailboard when he pulled away. One Firefighter did see the victim on the tailboard but reported that he thought the driver of Tanker 14 was going to pull away from the tank and then stop and let the victim get off the tailboard.**

Unknown to the FF Don Whitacre, another tanker (9) had inadvertently dropped approximately 1,500 gallons of water on the roadway while also responding to the incident. Tanker 9 had reported the inadvertent drop to their dispatcher, but Tanker 14 had not heard this communication. As Tanker 14 traveled this same roadway en route to the water source, it hit a patch of black ice that had resulted from the inadvertent water drop. The Tanker 14 driver lost control and the tanker spun around a number of times before impacting a berm on the shoulder of the roadway. The Tanker 14 driver was injured but was able to radio for help and crawl out of the passenger side door. The driver, FF D. Whitacre then saw the his son lying unresponsive in the roadway. A rescue unit from the fire scene responded to the crash along with other units and emergency medical aid was performed. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he sadly died from his injuries.

Contributing Factors

- =Failure to check the apparatus before leaving the scene (driver walk-around)
- =Inadequate communications between the driver and victim
- =Unintentional discharge of water onto roadway in freezing conditions
- =Ice on roadway
- =Fire department communication interoperability.

HERE is the entire report with applicable photos and details:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201206.html>

FIRST IN-LAST OUT: The Unbreakable Links in THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

September 19, 2012

www.chabotfire.com

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Word for Word....An FDNY Fire Captain's Eulogy....

As we all continue to honor the memory of those murdered on 9/11/01, here is a piece a good friend sent us this morning worth checking out:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/12/23/weekinreview/word-for-word-fire-captain-s-eulogy-first-last-unbreakable-links-chain-command.html?pagewanted=all>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. The above NIOSH Report serve as a **GRIM REMINDER** that "360" applies in size up ...and apparatus movement.

BillyG

The Secret List **9-11-12** / 1245 Hours

AND:

Hey,

If you haven't looked at our home page in a while, check it out. AlertPage has "as it happens" live streaming posts of all significant working fires from across the USA, for your viewing... and as always at no cost and commercial free. Last night, JasonK who partnered with us on that venture, and who runs AlertPage sent us and DaveS some "worth listening to" audio from a working fire in Lebanon, PA, It seems that Palmyra (PA) Tower 1 was on the air returning from a detail yesterday, they were nine (9) miles away and offered their services and were "heading that way" in non-emergency mode. Certainly well intentioned. However....that is not **AT ALL** what Lebanon's Fire Commissioner Duane Trautman (the Incident Commander) wanted, who aggressively and very clearly advised the dispatcher, "**Tower 1 can cancel. They have no business inviting themselves to the City of Lebanon. They may return without our thanks. I would like a rundown of who's responding on the second-alarm---properly.**"

BUT all they wanted to do is HELP.

BUT-it's 2012 and HE is in command. Command means HE decides what to do, how to do it, when to do it and who does it-and he owns all those decisions. Pretty simple. There are few Firefighters who DON'T want to respond in and assist on a working fire-it is natural (or should be)-but the days of "bidding" to go on a fire-are pretty much over. **We should have learned that from numerous lessons, but none more "teaching" than on 9/11/01. It's ironic that the fire in Lebanon happened yesterday-9/11/12.** And 9 miles away? That's a pretty good run-much different than a mile way-which then probably would have automatically put them on that fire through pre-planned box alarms. The offering clearly PO'ed Commissioner Duane Trautman as you will hear. Did Commissioner T get "annoyed" on the radio? Sure-but he was BUSY running a fire and that was a distraction from what he needed.

Some might respond (not necessarily specific to this fire) that "command" doesn't know "we are available"...or command "isn't doing what needs to be done"...or command "needs US". It is COMMANDS fire-good or bad-that's why he or she is IN COMMAND. I can assure you that I have bid to go on fires, it used to be the way business was done years ago-but those days are over. This is a classic example of **COMMAND** reminding people who is **IN COMMAND** and why. Let **COMMAND** run the incident. As a close friend of mine (and veteran chief) says related to commanding fires as well as general firehouse stuff: "Focus on professionally doing your job great and I'll focus on doing the same." SO should we EVER offer help? **Absolutely.** The time to offer help is when box alarms, run cards and mutual aid is being planned-before the fire. The time to develop a POLICY on offering help on a regional level or even on bidding runs is before the run...such as your apparatus is out of position but very close to immediately assist in an emergency...or you have a "different than normal offering of immediate resources"and that info is something that command **would normally not know.** A defining policy could be developed where command is made aware of that and on those rare or unusual circumstances with clear parameters. But in this day and age, it should be a rare situation

that would allow a company (under normal, daily circumstances) to bid on a run without it being policy driven-no matter how well intentioned it may be....and no matter how badly we wanna go to that fire. Been there-done that.

HERE is the radio transmission (From AlertPage):

<http://alertpage1.posterous.com/lebanon-pa-2-alarm-fire-brotherhood-is-not-sh>

HERE is Lebanon Fire Commisisoners response to why he was "animated" on the radio (from DaveS):

<http://statter911.com/2012/09/12/must-hear-radio-transmissions-mutual-aid-gone-bad-at-two-alarm-fire-in-lebanon-pa/>

DYING FIREFIGHTER FIGHTING FOR BENEFITS

Could this be you? Though this FF risked his life operating at hundreds of fires and Haz-Mat spills during his 24 years as a firefighter with the Springdale (Arkansas) FD, Capt. Harold "Bud" Planchon is in the biggest fight of his life right now, battling terminal colorectal cancer that has spread to his liver. Just as bad, say he and his wife, has been the fight with the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) for their family's economic stability. For more than a year now, the Planchons say LOPFI's executive director has let the veteran firefighter's disability retirement claim hang in limbo.

Planchon and his doctors say on-the-job exposures - including smoke and vapors from Haz-Mat runs, and diesel fumes from the unventilated firehouse where he worked for over 20 years - caused his cancer. More than 40 states, including every state that borders Arkansas, are legally required to take it as a given that when a firefighter is diagnosed with certain forms of cancer - including colon cancer - it is due to on-the-job exposure to diesel fumes and other carcinogens. **A 2007 study by the University of Cincinnati found that firefighters are twice as likely as the general population to develop testicular cancer, and have markedly higher rates of several other cancers, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and prostate cancer.** Arkansas doesn't have such a law. The pension system has been requesting large amounts of documentation to prove Planchon's employment caused his cancer. LOPFI executive director David Clark said the case has dragged out because, he claims, Planchon's doctors have not provided medical documentation in a timely manner. **But Jane Planchon says without hesitation that LOPFI is waiting on her husband to die so the system doesn't set a precedent that would require LOPFI to pay future Arkansas firefighters who contract cancer down the road. HERE IS THE STORY:**

<http://m.arktimes.com/arkansas/dying-arkansas-firefighter-fights-to-collect-stalled-pension/Content?oid=2435707>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-12-12 / 0830 Hours

AND:

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE CREW "TIMBER FALLER" DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

A Timber Faller working on the Klone Fire in Washington State became ill on the fire line Monday afternoon, and died last night. **A TIMBER FALLER** use axes or chainsaws to bring down trees using knowledge of tree characteristics and cutting techniques to control direction of fall. On fires, they are used to control the speed of the fire. The Timber Faller, working the fire, was treated by incident medical personnel and transported to a nearby hospital. There is no word yet on what caused him to go down. Timber Fallers normally work in extremely dangerous and risky conditions, when not working fires. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

TEXAS "SMOKE DIVER" TRAINING LODD UPDATE

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Texas State Officials and NIOSH have launched investigations into the training incident Sunday that took the life of a Fire Captain and injured another. As you know, Capt. Neal Smith, 46, with the Atascocita VFD, <http://www.avfd.com/> died in the Line of Duty as a result of heat exhaustion during a weekend "smoke diver" training session. A second firefighter who was overcome with heat, Otis Alford, 34, of Georgia, was taken to a Beaumont hospital in critical condition but has since been released. The Texas Fire Marshal's Office and NIOSH have both confirmed they are investigating. **The "Texas Smoke Diver"** is a 2 day advanced training exercise taught in a six-story tower structure in a fire facility in Beaumont. During the \$200 course, firefighters are taught how to function and survive in a smoke-filled interior while wearing full protective equipment and self-contained breathing equipment.

"This course takes you to the edge mentally and physically and then teaches you how to SURVIVE," states part of the course announcement on the website of the **East Texas Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association, which sponsors the event.** Although course registration information states it is taught by the Texas Engineering Extension Service, part of the Texas A&M University System, an employee of that agency said it only handles the issuing of certificates for completing the course. "That's a standard wording on a flyer. We're not there doing the training," said Scott Matthews, an extension service official. "At that school, we were there to facilitate the certificate." Matthews, who was at the Beaumont facility when the incident occurred, said the training exercise did not involve an actual fire. "He was not burned. There was no live fire in that structure," Matthews said. Instead, firefighters were training to negotiate smoke-filled rooms, including crawl spaces and pipes. "This was a very well-supervised exercise. The instructor ratio is awesome," Matthews said, adding he could not comment on specifics of fireman's death. "I can only speak to my experience as a firefighter that anytime you put on all that gear, you will get warmer." Funeral services for Capt. Smith will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Second Baptist Church in Kingwood, according to an announcement on the Atascocita fire department website: <http://www.avfd.com/> RIP. More to follow.

CHESTER PA: FIREFIGHTER ELECTRICAL SHOCK WORKING A "TREE" CALL

Firefighters in the City of Chester responded to a reported tree into a dwelling this evening. It turned out to be a large branch on the house and the OIC felt that it should be removed as more storms were on the way-and they wanted minimize further damage. While they were doing that, the winds brought down the original tree which grabbed electrical wires and hit a FF who was actually located several houses down. The FF was reportedly electrically shocked-he was immediately treated is in the hospital now (Crozer) in significant pain, being evaluated. We wish him a rapid recovery.

AMBULANCE CRASH LEAVES POLICE OFFICER DEAD IN OHIO

We regret to advise you that a Columbus (Ohio) Police Officer was killed when she crashed into an ambulance in Madison County this afternoon. The crash occurred on state Route 142 just north of U.S. 40 at about 1430 Hours, 53-year-old Marcid "Jodi" Frederick was driving when she veered left of center and crashed into a Jefferson Township FD ambulance. Frederick is a Columbus police officer who is currently on medical leave for treatment of cancer....they believe Frederick had a seizure while driving. Five people from the ambulance were injured and taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. RIP.

CYBER HARASSMENT? BUT....BUT WHAT ABOUT "BROTHERHOOD" ??

Cyberbullying is when often nameless people use information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual, that is intended to harm another or others. It includes use of communication technologies for the intention of harming another person.

WHAT? Firefighters writing, texting and saying nasty stuff about each other? But what about Brotherhood? BMA (Brotherhood My A\$\$). Sadly, it's not always as solid as it should be.

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Cyber nasty-stuff can include the use of the internet such as web pages and discussion groups as well as instant messaging or text messaging with the intention of harming another person. Common tactics used by cybernastys performed in public forums, social media or online information sites and are intended to threaten a victim's earnings, employment, reputation, or safety. **CHECK OUT** this latest piece from **Fire Engineering** all about those firefighting CYBER-NASTY's:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/09/fire-chief-lessons-when-the-cyberbully-attacks-firefighter.html>

CONGRESS RAIDS 9/11 TREATMENT FUNDS TO CUT THE DEFICIT

Lawmakers vowed to "never forget" 9/11 again last week, but it appears many already had -- in the budget sequester legislation Congress passed last summer to try and cut the deficit. **The sequester set up automatic budget cuts of some \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, and legislators were careful to spare veterans from most of those, recognizing their sacrifices in the war on terror. But apparently no one remembered to also exempt 9/11 responders and others who first answered the call after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks that started that war.** And now the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act that President Barack Obama signed on Jan. 2, 2011, faces \$38-million worth of cuts in 2013 alone if the sequester is not avoided, and could lose something approaching \$300 million over the current planned life of the program. The news is definitely not going over well with advocates in the 9/11 community, who had thought that the 9/11 programs were safe because they were passed as mandatory spending programs outside of the annual discretionary budget process. **WTF. MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/96y75bu>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 9-18-12 / 2100 Hours

AND:

All,

A smoke diver training class held at the Beaumont (Texas) Emergency Services Training Complex has resulted in a Firefighter now being in very critical condition. Captain Neal Smith, 46, of the Atascocita FD, is in critical condition at a Beaumont area hospital after he was struck by heat-related illness. Captain Smith has been a volunteer fire fighter for the department for five years and had been looking forward to the smoke divers training class and planned on participating in a triathlon in Galveston next week. **According to reports, the Captains core temperature of his body got to 108 degrees.** Captain Smith's hospitalization is not only a hardship on his family, but on his fellow firefighters and the department as well. This evening, a chaplain is scheduled to offer counseling for the firefighters. "Right now all we can do is give our support to the family, and our prayers to Neal," said AVFD Chief Bill Bivens. A firefighter from Georgia was also hospitalized with heat-related illness during the same exercise. According to www.smokedivers.com, the website for the course Captain Smith participated in, the annual smoke diver class is a "training course is designed to take an experienced firefighter and teach him/her practical advanced survival skills in full gear. The course is extremely challenging, intensely physical, and will take the student to his/her limit. Because of the difficulties some may experience, paramedics are on hand to monitor students before, during, and after each exercise." We'll keep you advised on Captain Smith's status as we all hope and pray for his recovery.

IAFF REHAB RESOURCES: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/eirp/sop.html>

IAFF REHAB WEBSITE: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/eirp/index.html>

USFA REHAB: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_314.pdf

SAMPLE REHAB SOP'S: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/eirp/sop.html>

General FIREFIGHTER REHAB INFO: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_department_rehab

RETIRED FIREFIGHTER MISSING:

Amtrak police are searching for a retired San Francisco firefighter who went missing while traveling to visit family in Montreal...**so maybe you can help?** Charlie Dowd, 69, left the Bay Area on Wednesday. He last spoke to his son by cell phone Thursday night, saying he was just outside of Denver, Colorado, his family said. When Dowd's train arrived in Chicago on Friday, he was not on it. His luggage, cell phone and medication were found in his sleeping car, the family said on a Facebook page they set up to find him. His daughter said Dowd is under a doctor's care and may need medical attention.

HERE ARE THE DETAILS: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/17/us/missing-amtrak-passenger/index.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 9-17-12 / 1731 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:

A Santa Fe Springs (CA) 41-year-old fire station - station 2 in the north part of the city - closed at 7:30 a.m. today. The closure is part of the city's plan to save about \$13 million needed as the result of the elimination of redevelopment funding, said City Manager Thaddeus McCormick. The city is saving \$1.5 million by eliminating six firefighter positions and reducing the number of people on shift from 17 to 15. The city has three shifts. No layoffs were needed because the Fire Department already was eight people short, said Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez. The department was relying on overtime to man some of the engines. The cutbacks will result in the mothballing of two of the fire engines once stationed at Station 2, 8634 Dice Road, said Rodriguez. A third engine is moving to station 4, 11736 E. Telegraph Road:

http://www.sgytribune.com/ci_21302429/santa-fe-springs-closes-down-fire-station?IADID=Search-www.sgytribune.com-www.sgytribune.com

Six Hemet (CA) firefighters were issued layoff notices late Thursday, Sept. 13, as the city and the fire union face a looming deadline that may result in the first layoffs in the 103-year history of the department. That figure is down from the original nine layoff notices issued in June. Interim City Manager Mark Orme said the onus is now on the Hemet Firefighters Association to find a way to make enough concessions to bring a reasonable counter-offer back to the table. "One of the most devastating things we have to go through is layoffs," Orme said. "It's not an easy thing to do at all." He said while he hopes another solution can be found, the city had to proceed with layoff notices to keep a balanced budget. Union President Steve Sandefer said Friday that firefighters would vote next week, but he too hoped a last-minute effort could save jobs: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20120914-hemet-city-issues-firefighter-layoff-notices.ece>

The Hemet (CA) firefighters union has proposed a new contract that would cut about \$750,000 from its budget this year, in the hopes of averting nine layoffs looming next month. The nearly 20 percent of the Hemet Fire Department staff facing layoffs next month will get a reprieve, and could have their jobs saved if the city approves the firefighters union's proposal to cut the

budget in other ways: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/hemet/hemet-headlines-index/20120823-hemet-fire-union-waiting-on-layoff-decision.ece>

California Governor Jerry Brown on Wednesday signed into law sweeping pension changes that will save California taxpayers billions of dollars in the future and aims to reform a system that is woefully underfunded. Brown praised lawmakers on both sides of the aisle for reaching a deal that will increase the retirement age for new employees depending on their job, cap the annual payout at \$132,120, eliminate numerous abuses of the system and require workers who are not contributing half of their retirement costs to pay more. "These are hard fought. These aren't that easy," Brown said holding up the bills after he signed them at his office in Los Angeles. California legislators have had trouble repairing the state's two main pension funds - the California Public Employees' Retirement System and the California State Teachers' Retirement System - that are at least \$165 billion underfunded:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/09/12/4811486/gov-brown-to-sign-california-pension.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 Jacksonville (FL) fire department captain has been cited with unbecoming conduct and misuse of a computer after "Welcome to the Plantation" signs were found posted around an administrative office. The signs were discovered Sept. 3 in the fire prevention office on the second floor of the department's downtown headquarters, said Fire and Rescue Department spokesman Tom Francis. Francis said the investigation was shortened when Capt. Alvin Floyd, who is black and has more than 20 years on the job, said he was responsible for the signs. "He decided to vent his frustrations," Francis said. "He apologized." The case comes at a time when the department and city are embroiled with the U.S. Justice Department over allegations of there being a pattern of employment discrimination against blacks. A lawsuit was filed in April by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. The fire department has a history of legal fights over promotions of blacks dating back more than four decades: <http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2012-09-11/story/jacksonville-fire-captain-cited-after-plantation-signs-found-posted-hq>

The city of Dayton (OH) has fired a veteran fire department lieutenant for sexual harassment and then lying to officials investigating the allegation. Brian Monaghan, 46, was fired effective Aug. 9. He had been on paid administrative leave since April 23, when the investigation began. Monaghan was accused of "unprofessional conduct towards a subordinate" April 4 and "making a false statement on May 1 during the course of the follow-up investigation," according to the findings of a city administrative hearing July 9. The unprofessional conduct was sexual harassment, according to records obtained Tuesday by the Dayton Daily News

under the state Open Records Act: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1330077-Decorated-22-year-firefighter-loses-job-over-sexual-harassment-lying/>

Three firefighters unions, worried that budget-strapped municipalities want private ambulance companies instead of firefighters to answer less-critical medical calls, are mounting an Internet campaign suggesting the private ambulances are slow to respond. But the effort to discredit the private firms might have backfired because in detailing specific medical calls handled by private ambulances, the website seemed to be violating patient privacy laws. The website, latefor911.com, includes a taped phone call with dispatchers appearing to show that private ambulances didn't make it to an emergency call in September 2011. It also includes a list of calls in which, according to the unions, the private ambulances took longer than the 12 minutes allowed by contract for them to respond. That list, however, contains such detailed information about some emergency calls, one Las Vegas lawyer said, that their dissemination might violate patient privacy laws contained in the federal [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act](#), widely known as HIPAA:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/aug/13/trying-prevent-takeover-firefighters-unions-may-ha/>

Several Jacksonville (FL) firefighters have been told they broke department rules while taking part in a benefit where a woman posed nearly topless and others faked sexual positions during a strip tease while wearing firefighters' gear. Fire and Rescue Department spokesman Tom Francis said Tuesday the firefighters were reprimanded Monday:

<http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2012-08-14/story/official-jacksonville-firefighters-reprimanded-behavior-benefit>

A federal jury ruled in favor of a former Las Vegas (NV) deputy fire chief Friday in his racial discrimination lawsuit against the city and his former supervisor. According to the amended complaint filed in U.S. District Court, former fire deputy chief Ken Riddle had worked for the city of Las Vegas since 1978 and was fired in August 2006. His race was a "determinative factor" in his termination, according to the complaint. Riddle is a white man. He sued for damages, including lost income, employee benefits, emotional distress and mental anguish. David Washington, a black man, was fire chief and Riddle's supervisor. The response filed by Washington and the city denied the charges. Riddle's attorney Mary Chapman said the jury ruled in favor of Riddle and awarded him \$365,000 in compensatory damages:

<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/19251879/former-deputy-fire-chief-wins-racial-discrimination-suit>

Five people, including a firefighter, were injured Wednesday when a ladder "suddenly and rapidly" retracted, sliding 40 feet during a fund-raising event at a Green Valley (AZ) fire station. The victims, who were in a bucket on the ladder, suffered fractures and bruises to heels, legs and an arm, and were transported to University Medical Center-Main Campus in Tucson. Two, including the firefighter, were released Thursday. At least two of the three who remained still hospitalized underwent surgery Thursday morning: http://www.gvnews.com/news/local/five-injured-when-fire-department-ladder-truck-fails/article_7753de60-e7b2-11e1-a974-001a4bcf887a.html

Berlin, MD cuts all funds to volunteer fire company. Cites hostile work conditions including homosexual slurs against career medics. VFC says it's a control issue. Today the town of Berlin, in Worcester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore, announced it was cutting ties and stopping all financial aid to the Berlin Fire Company. The monetary loss is about \$600,000 or a third of the fire company's budget. The issue, according to news reports, is a long brewing battle over continued charges of a hostile work environment, discrimination and sexual harassment against career EMS employees assigned to the firehouse:

<http://statter911.com/2012/08/21/berlin-md-cuts-all-funds-to-volunteer-fire-company-cites-hostile-work-conditions-including-homosexual-slurs-against-career-medics-vfc-it-is-a-control-issue/>

A Bethel (SC) firefighter was arrested early Thursday morning for impersonating an officer when he pulled a woman over for passing him on the road. David Charles Williams, 29, of Clover, is charged with impersonating an officer, according to the report from the York County Sheriff's Office. Williams had a fire department radio strapped around his chest and said he turned onto Ridge Road from Highway 321 when he saw a car drive up behind him, pass him on a double yellow line and then speed up, the report states. Williams said he caught up with the car, turned on the lights on his car and pulled over the driver, a 17-year-old girl. He spoke with the girl and took her driver's license, which he later gave to the responding deputy, the report states: <http://statter911.com/2012/08/17/sc-volunteer-firefighter-accused-of-impersonating-police-pulls-teen-driver-over-for-speeding/>

TV news report says Washington DC Fire Department ambulance crew drove past house to nearby fire station to get crew there to take call. Report of 15 minute delay:
<http://statter911.com/2012/08/17/tv-news-report-says-dc-ambulance-crew-drove-past-house-to-nearby-fire-station-to-get-crew-there-to-take-call-report-of-15-minute-delay/>

Public safety disability system 'ripe for abuse' - Disability retirement is intended for public safety workers with dangerous jobs who become permanently incapacitated by illness or injury. But over the years, it has also become an escape hatch for unwanted police officers and firefighters and a way to pad the pensions of those at the end of their careers, an Orange County Register investigation has found. Medical retirements come with hefty tax breaks at a time when government is struggling with falling revenues and huge pension liabilities. Under the [California Public Employees Retirement System](#), which covers most city police and firefighters, a disabled retiree gets at least half of his or her pension tax-free – sometimes more. Critics of the system – including some frustrated city officials – say that many police officers and firefighters spend their careers claiming every injury or illness, so they can later make a case for a disability pension. No one disagrees that police and firefighters do dangerous jobs and deserve to be compensated when they are injured at work or become ill because of their jobs. But critics say that numerous expansions of the state law, advanced with the support of public safety unions, have made it easier to abuse the system. For instance, California Labor Code 4850 allows injured or ill police officers and firefighters to take up to a year off from work, with full pay, tax free:
<http://www.ocregister.com/news/disability-368870-police-retirement.html>

A Medford (MA) fire alarm operator has been suspended for two weeks without pay, and three firefighters have received written reprimands, after the Fire Department did not respond to a 911 call for a medical emergency on July 13 that resulted in a fatality, the city announced late Friday afternoon. An inquiry launched by Mayor Michael J. McGlynn and Fire Chief Frank A. Giliberti Jr. determined that the fire alarm operator, who was not identified, failed to send the proper alert, which would have triggered a loud alarm and lights to go off in a neighborhood fire station. He also recorded in a log that the Fire Department was on the scene, when it was not, the statement from the city said. The fire alarm operator did use the radio system to announce the call, but the three firefighters' radios were turned down too low, and they did not hear the transmission, the city stated:
http://www.boston.com/yourtown/news/medford/2012/08/four_medford_fire_department_e.html

Tensions between volunteer firefighters and its department trustees have resulted in life suspensions of six members. The six firefighters, including the chief from Blaine Hill (PA) Volunteer Fire Co., say bickering with the trustees stems from a fundraiser:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1333475-6-Pa-firefighters-suspended-for-life/>

Lodi, New Jersey firefighters are criticizing plans to limit alcohol in firehouses. The Lodi Borough Council has introduced an ordinance that would require approval for any function in which alcohol is consumed in the town's three firehouses. Chief Yuhas said all alcohol is stored in a locked space, so the danger of underage drinking is unnecessary and that the drinking that happens in the firehouse is controlled and safe:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/bylaws/articles/1333929-NJ-firefighters-criticize-plans-that-limits-alcohol-in-firehouses/>

The affects felt from the actions and subsequent resignation of Steve Straily don't stop with Astoria, Oregon state officials have warned Clatsop County's fire leaders. Now any firefighter – including chiefs – who were trained in any way by the former deputy fire chief and training officer will have some make-up work to do. "There are people who have been sent to Astoria or people who have had classes taught by Steve, that we have no documentation of. We cannot find a roster. This is fruit from the poisoned tree," said Department of Public Safety and Standards Training Director Eriks Gabliks said. It's been nearly a month since Astoria Police discovered the forged documents Deputy Fire Chief Straily had hidden from the fire department. The documents were certifications that contained the Astoria Police Chief Pete Curzon's signature, allegedly scrawled by Straily. Straily was presented with the discovery and given the choice to resign, which he opted for, signing over all of his certifications in the process which essentially results in him giving up his ability to work in firefighting again. But, as the dust settles and the files are sorted, the state DPSST is realizing how wide this scandal will

be: http://www.dailyastorian.com/free/deceit-clouds-clatsop-county-firefighters-credentials/article_9484cb78-ee1c-11e1-8dd2-0019bb2963f4.html

Facebook comment takes down another one. Columbus, MS firefighter resigns after controversial post:

<http://statter911.com/2012/09/04/facebook-comment-takes-down-another-one-columbus-ms-firefighter-resigns-after-controversial-post/>

Hit 'Like' on Facebook & be suspended for 30 days. If you don't believe me just ask two firefighters & a cop in Columbus, Mississippi: <http://statter911.com/2012/09/05/hit-like-on-facebook-be-suspended-for-30-days-if-you-dont-believe-me-just-ask-two-cops-a-firefighter-in-columbus-mississippi/>

Tennessee EMS worker/fire chief charged in theft from dead woman's home. Ashley Choate told police she was having financial difficulties: <http://statter911.com/2012/09/01/tennessee-ems-workerfire-chief-charged-in-theft-from-dead-womans-home-ashley-choate-told-police-she-was-having-finacial-difficulties/>

Gilroy's interim fire chief resigned this morning after being caught selling alcohol to an underage decoy in Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz police and county sheriff's deputies were conducting a sting operation at Pleasure Point Liquors on Friday when he was cited for a misdemeanor offense after he agreed to buy a 20-year-old law enforcement decoy alcohol, according to Santa Cruz County sheriff's Deputy April Skalland. Gilroy's Human Resources Director, Leeann McPhillips, said that she believes Bloom's decision to resign was the right one and that she had been shocked by the news. "It was the correct decision for him to make,

it is just not consistent with the city of Gilroy's core values or what we expect from a chief," McPhillips said: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1340924-Calif-fire-chief-resigns-after-alcohol-bust/>

A former Stockton (CA) firefighter has been charged with grand theft for embezzling money as the financial secretary of the Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456 union. The San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office filed a complaint against Edward Charles Nevill with one felony count of grand theft of personal property more than \$950. Nevill stole from the organization from February 2004 through January 2012, according to the complaint. The exact amount has not yet been disclosed. Nevill, who worked for the fire department for 16 years, was arraigned Tuesday on the charge, but he remains out of custody on his own recognizance:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120912/A_NEWS/209120314/-1/A_NEWS

A trophy nicknamed "Brass Balls" was ruled offensive by Harrison (PA) Fire Commissioners Thursday after a firefighter made a complaint. Firefighter Brent Fox was the intended recipient of the male anatomy-shaped trophy given by Harrison Township Fire Commissioner Mike Koestler at a dinner in March:

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Brass-Balls-Violation-of-Harrison-Fire-District-168930916.html>

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.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/314211>

Former firefighter hailed as hero, does TV interview, then arrested hours later charged with arson. Jacob Rumley was maintenance man at Madison, NC apartment complex:

<http://statter911.com/2012/09/13/former-firefighter-hailed-as-hero-does-tv-interview-then-arrested-hours-later-charged-with-arson-jacob-rumley-was-maintenance-man-at-madison-nc-apartment-complex/>

Fire safety visit for kids at Houston County, GA church brings drunk driving arrest. Fire truck struck mailbox; Firefighter Bouley is on "administrative leave without pay, pending termination, with is a standard procedure" stated Williams. According to jail records, Bouley is charged with violation of probation, failure to maintain lane, DUI and hit and run:

<http://statter911.com/2012/09/14/fire-safety-visit-for-kids-at-houston-county-ga-church-brings-drunk-driving-arrest-fire-truck-struck-mailbox/>

It has taken more than a month, but police now have some answers after 80 cases of Monster energy drink and Monster's 40-foot high inflatable display vanished from the Quick Chek Festival of Ballooning in Readington Township, New Jersey. Readington Police say five volunteer firefighters walked away with the energy drink. The Readington Fire Company is employed by the Balloon Festival to provide fire protection services at the event, police reported. Of the suspects charged, three are members of Readington Fire Company. They are Jordan Kaplan, 24, of Branchburg, Nicholas Magos, 25, of Branchburg and Lawrence Fogg, 69,

of Flemington, police said. The remaining two firefighters are charged from the East Whitehouse Fire Company, police said: Shawn Brownlow, 22, and Casey Brownlow, 21, both of Whitehouse Station. The two Brownlows, along with Kaplan, Magos and Fogg were each charged with disorderly persons theft, and released on their own recognizance pending a court action: <http://statter911.com/2012/09/14/the-bad-news-police-say-five-nj-firefighters-stole-80-cases-of-monster-energy-drink-the-good-news-someone-else-stole-the-40-foot-high-balloon/>

A Virginia volunteer fire department is changing it's policy and is no longer even going to try to determine who is hooking up with who as part of its very famous annual auction, a key department fundraiser. This very personal information about sex lives was something once thought vital to this event but it turns out the men involved are having sex with so many women it's just impossible to keep good records (and the women are no angels either). Fire department officials admit they can't tell who's having sex with who. Both sexes so promiscuous it could impact fundraising: <http://statter911.com/2012/09/18/fire-department-officials-admit-they-cant-tell-whos-having-sex-with-who-both-sexes-so-promiscuous-it-could-impact-fundraising/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Two Stockton (CA) firefighter unions have agreed to concessions regarding the city's budget. The union voted for the new contracts Monday that require firefighters to contribute more to their pensions. The unions have been in negotiations with the city of Stockton amid its financial restructuring and Chapter 9 bankruptcy. "This is very good news. I'm very pleased and grateful that our fire department chose to make additional concessions for the good of our community," Vice Mayor Kathy Miller said. Bryan Carr, executive secretary of the Stockton Professional Firefighters Union, said he could not get into detail about the concessions until the city council votes on the contracts: <http://www.kcra.com/news/local-news/news-stockton/Fire-unions-make-concessions-for-Stockton-city-budget/-/12969936/16098342/-/u65ke/-/index.html>

Costa Mesa (CA) and its firefighters have agreed to a deal that restructures the department, eliminates a minimum staffing requirement and will save the city millions of dollars, officials said. Though the city and the association already have a contract in place through 2014, both sides have agreed to proposed changes that have been discussed since October. "It's a great agreement for both sides," said Councilman Gary Monahan. "It guarantees we're going to have a Costa Mesa Fire Department which is not going to be privatized and they're going to save us a bunch of money." The agreement will save the city \$600,000 to \$800,000 in the first year and \$2 million to \$3 million in the long run, said Councilman Steve Mensinger. The biggest savings come from changes to pension plan contributions and the elimination of minimum staffing, he said. "It's been at times a long grind to get to this point but we're looking forward to continuing to serve the community and exceed the expectations for delivering services that we've always done," said Fire Capt. Tim Vasin, president of the Costa Mesa Firefighters Association. Members of the Costa Mesa Firefighters Association have agreed not to extend the contract that is set to expire in 2014. The firefighters will go without raises until 2017, pay 10.5 percent of their pension costs, increase the pension contributions for new hires to 19 percent from 10.5 percent, and reduce retirement benefits for new hires to 2 percent at age 50, with 60 percent of the salary after 30 years of service at age 50 or older, the city stated: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/firefighters-370750-city-fire.html>

Yakima (WA) firefighters help raise money for women's health fund:
<http://www.kndo.com/story/19507595/yakima-firefighters-help-raise-money-for-womens-health-fund>

Training & Safety Related Items:

The need for properly wearing seatbelts whenever a vehicle is in motion remains a central topic of discussion for fire-safety advocates. But until we can figure out the secret to increase seatbelt-use compliance to 100 percent, this mundane and well-worn topic will continue to be a focal point. Seatbelt-use statistics are depressing, about six to 10 U.S. firefighters are killed in the line of duty each year simply because they did not take the time to click their seatbelt buckle. Not wearing this required safety device causes a significant number of firefighter injuries each year as well:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/apparatus/articles/1329111-Life-saving-secret-Seatbelts/>

Over five years, two Cleveland (OH) firefighters worked thousands of extra hours -- including stretches of up to 120 hours in a row -- **while filling in for colleagues who paid them to cover their shifts**. The firefighters who collected their salaries and rarely worked were the focus of recent City Hall investigations. But those who worked in their stead during demanding, back-to-back shifts put themselves at heightened risk of injury by operating on little sleep, experts say. Soon after the investigations' findings were made public, the firefighters union and city administrators have agreed to a new policy capping the number of hours a firefighter can trade to colleagues before they must reciprocate and prohibiting any trade that would keep a firefighter on the clock for longer than 48 consecutive hours. Union President Frank Szabo said in an interview this week that union leaders acknowledged the problem and collaborated with city officials to craft a policy that aligns with industry accepted standards for firefighter and public safety:

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/09/cleveland_firefighters_worked.html

A NIOSH report on the death of Virginia firefighter Zachary Whitacre finds several factors contributed to his death, including failure to check the apparatus before leaving the scene and inadequate communications between the driver (Whitacre's father) and Whitacre. To avoid such a tragedy in the future, the report lists several recommendations including ensuring that firefighters and driver/operators are trained for using apparatus and equipment, that fire fighters from different departments can communicate with each other via radio and that fire departments should consider installing rear view cameras with monitors inside the cab:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/virginia/article/220853/188/Report-On-Va-Firefighters-Death-Cites-Failures-Icy-Road-Conditions>

It is no longer your father's structure fire. Floors and roofs are no longer safe places to be. Even gusset plates are no longer new. Many of the rules that used to apply to firefighting no longer apply. That means fireground strategies and tactics must change. And that was the underlying message from the Chicago Fire Department's James Dolton and Peter Van Dorpe during an FRI seminar on basement fires. Their presentation was about more than basement fires; it was about how modern houses burn, the science that bears that out and how to attack those fires:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/1335621-Fire-attack-new-methods-for-new-threats/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Prince George's County (MD) career firefighter claims gear was tampered with at Riverdale firehouse by volunteer firefighters. Union president cites hostile work environment behind transfer of firefighters:

<http://statter911.com/2012/08/14/pgfd-career-firefighter-claims-gear-was-tampered-with-at-riverdale-firehouse-union-president-cites-hostile-work-environment-behind-transfer-of-firefighters/>

After just three days on the job, Toronto's (Canada) new fire chief took the stage Thursday to announce his mission to find "a better way" for the city's beleaguered fire service, focussing on cost-effective service improvements and perhaps even a merger with EMS. "We understand the financial issues (faced by the City of Toronto). We have to respect that and say: Is there a better way?" newly minted Fire Chief Jim Sales said during a media conference at the Canadian National Exhibition on Thursday morning. "The status quo ... is not an option. It just isn't." The comments come after a difficult few years for Toronto Fire, which has faced criticism from several quarters over its management style and slow response times. Critics included KPMG, the consulting firm that produced a core services review for the city in 2011. Last year, budgetary issues forced Toronto Fire to defer hiring two recruiting classes (typically about 40 recruits each) and increase the number of vacant positions in the fire department from 64 to 132 as a way to save money: <http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/article/1246329--fire-chief-ready-to-explore-better-way-for-service>

Police officers will soon be fighting fires and firefighters will soon be carrying guns in Whitestown (IN). The town is set to graduate its first class of cross trained first responders Tuesday. Whitestown's police chief says the cross training program is a result of a public safety budget that could not keep up with the town's growth. Both police officers and firefighters will be trained to assist the other in supportive roles. "It's just a matter of changing roles if they pull up in the middle of the night and there is a residence and there is smoke showing. They are going to be popping their police gear gun belts off, stepping into their fire gear and taking on that role," said Whitestown Police Chief Dennis Anderson:

http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/north_central/town-merges-police-officer-firefighter-duties

Is it time for an Honor Code for the Fire Service? There is an increase of dishonorable and disruptive behavior occurring in our fire service community that brings shame and embarrassment to our institution. Look to the recent events of what starts out as a "good idea" to raise money for an injured firefighter turns out as half naked firefighters in compromising poses are posted on the internet; firefighters driving without a license due to an unreported DUI; firefighters selling drugs in the fire stations and running prostitution rings or having sex with underage minors. I don't want wash our dirty skivvies here in this column but you get the idea. Can policy fix a lot of these issues? Certainly they can. However what really monitors and regulate the firefighter behaviors are mostly the firefighters themselves and each other:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/blogs/feblognetwork/john-k-murphy.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyAugust292012>

The hotly debated pension contract for Livermore-Pleasanton (CA) Firefighters — which now calls for them to kick in more from their paychecks toward retirement — was partially finalized this week, but the debate is not over as critics warn that Pleasanton and Livermore still face looming debt and financial fallout. "It was a step in the right direction," said community activist David Miller of the latest firefighters' contract signed this week. "But will this avert a fiscal crisis?" He doesn't think so: <http://dublin.patch.com/articles/pleasanton-livermore-fire-police-pension-reform-critics-still-fretting-over-calpers-costs-to-cities>

Bensalem Township's (PA) volunteer Union Fire Company returned to service Friday after a two-month suspension, with new leaders and an agreement to give up its \$940,000 firefighting and rescue boat. The company, based on State Road, was suspended July 10 by township Public Safety Director Fred Harran for "a total lack of leadership." Harran cited the company's purchase of a jet-powered, 37-foot fireboat "it has no need for." A federal port security grant supplied \$750,000 of the purchase price, but covering the balance and operating and mooring costs were a serious drain on the small company's finances, township officials said. It was the second suspension in 13 months for Union - the latest chapter in a long-standing clash of personalities and politics: http://articles.philly.com/2012-09-09/news/33697391_1_chief-vince-troisi-federal-port-security-grant-boat

Fireground Commentary - Live up to the expectation. Chief Wylie gives us his perspective to living up to the expectations your community demands of the fire service:

<http://flashovertv.firerescue1.com/Media/4171-Fireground-Commentary-Live-up-to-the-expectation/>

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

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

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

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