



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**August 11, 2012**

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**T**his 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:**

**L**ooking 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)**

**R**egistration 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](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization) <b>Note:</b> This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1150 hours
<b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 51</b> (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
<b>FT 52</b> (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
<b>FT 52</b> (Firefighter Safety & Survival) <b>Note:</b> This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
<b>FT 53</b> (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - October 17, 19 and 21 (Wed/Fri/Sun) - November 6, 8 and 10 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) <b>or</b> Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours  1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - 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 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - 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) <b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b> - November 6, 8, 10 and 11	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) <b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b> - October 30, November 1 and 3	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 83**</b>	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 81**</b>	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets the following dates:</b> - November 27 through December 8	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 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](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**M**y suggestion is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes

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

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## **FIRE OFFICER & DEGREE COURSES:**

### **TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET**

- ***Drastic Cuts are Expected in Spring 2013***
- ***Register Early, Classes are Expected to Fill Fast.***

**IF YOU CAN, GET CLASSES NOW AND ASAP! THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR FALL SEMESTER CLASSES IS AUGUST 24, 2012.**

**Fire Technology Classes:** These classes are completely on-line

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

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion

#### **Electives**

- Apparatus & Equipment
- Wildland Fire Behavior
- Wild Fire Safety & Survival
- Principles of Emergency Management
- Emergency Response to Terrorism
- Ambulance Strike Team Provider
- EMT 1 Basic Refresher
- Environmental Technology - FRO Refresher
- Fire Hydraulics

**CFSTES Fire Officer Classes:** Except for Fire Prevention 1A & 1B, the CFSTES Fire Officer classes are offered in a Hybrid (On-Line/In-Class) fashion requiring students to attend an in-class session in Santa Maria, CA. **If the class is full, try getting on the "Wait List". As prospective students drop, those on the list will be added to the class.**

- **Full** - Fire Command 1B: Incident Management For Company Officers
- **Full** - Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Firefighting for Company Officers
- **Open** - Fire Management 1: Management" Supervision for Company Officers
- **Full** - Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 1- **Entirely On-line**
- **Full** - Fire Prevention 1B: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 2- **Entirely On-line**

General Education classes are also offered on-line.

For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at [dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu)

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LAFD:**

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

The Los Angeles Fire Department ([www.lafd.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://LAFD.org)

News & Info: [LAFD.org/blog](http://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>

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

### **U.S. Fire Administration Acknowledges the New Fire Service Ethics Statement**

07/30/2012 03:47 PM EDT

To provide guidance to address complex ethical questions, the National Society of Executive Fire Officers and Congressional Fire Services Institute jointly have released a firefighter code of ethics that can be adopted by local fire and emergency medical service organizations. In acknowledgement of the importance of this first of its kind fire service ethics statement, the U.S. Fire Administration has posted the statement throughout the National Fire Academy's (NFA) facilities and will now include the statement in all course materials distributed to NFA students.

Go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/073012.shtm>

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

### **Focus on Fire Safety: Campus Housing**

Each year college and university students, on- and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide. There are several specific **causes for fires on college campuses**, including **cooking, intentionally set fires, and open flame**. Overall, most college-related fires are due to a **general lack of knowledge** about fire safety and prevention. For most students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school, but with new independence comes new responsibilities. It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students **understand fire risks and know the preventative measures** that could save their lives. For more information on campus fire safety, including **safety tips for students, their parents, and colleges and universities**, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at [www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/college](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/college)

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

### **U.S. Fire Administration Releases New Report on Clothes Dryer Fires in Residential Buildings**

*08/07/2012 05:23 PM EDT*

The U.S. Fire Administration issued a special report today examining the characteristics of clothes dryer fires in residential buildings. The report, Clothes Dryer Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010), shows that failure to clean is the leading factor contributing to the ignition of these fires. Go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/080712.shtm>



# 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](http://www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse)

Registration Questions?

800.858.7743

Find a class close to you!

[www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse](http://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](http://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**

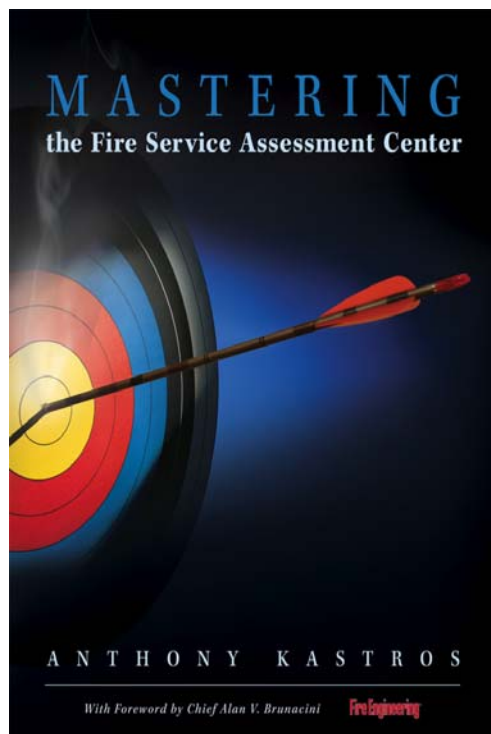
4-DAY WORKSHOP

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.**

**SEPTEMBER 11 - 14, 2012 – MONTEREY, CA - \$595.00\***  
**NOVEMBER 26 THROUGH 29, 2012 – ANAHEIM, CA - \$595.00\***

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

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

### **New Online Educational Program for EMS Medical Directors Announced**

08/02/2012 01:12 PM EDT

The U.S. Fire Administration, in partnership with the DHS Office of Health Affairs and the International Association of Fire Chiefs, announces the availability of a new online educational program for physician medical directors of local fire departments and agencies involved in emergency medical services (EMS) response. This web-based program for current and prospective EMS medical directors provides information in a conveniently accessible format to support key roles in the provision of EMS to communities.

**READ MORE:** <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/media/press/2012releases/080212.shtm>

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

### **USFA Announces 2011 On duty Firefighter Deaths**

**Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - July 17, 2012**

EMMITSBURG, MD –

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announced today the release of the report ***Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2011*** - [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff\\_fat11.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/ff_fat11.pdf) (PDF, 1.9 Mb). There were 83 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2011. This represents a continuing decline in the overall number of firefighter fatality deaths in recent years and an almost five percent decrease from the 87 fatalities reported for 2010. When analyzing the overall trend in the United States going back to 1977, accounting for the Hometown Heroes added to totals since the law changed in 2004, the 2011 total represents the lowest year of record for the second year in a row.

The 83 fatalities occurred in 33 states, one U.S. territory, and one overseas U.S. military facility. Texas experienced the highest number of fatalities (7). North Carolina experienced six firefighter deaths and was the only other state with five or more firefighter fatalities. Heart attacks were responsible for the deaths of 50 firefighters (60 percent) in 2011, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (63 percent) in 2010. Ten on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires since 1996. Fifty-four percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties.

Four of the firefighters who died while responding to incidents in 2011 were killed by trauma caused by motor vehicle collisions, including three in privately-owned vehicles and one in a fire department apparatus. For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the annual fatality reports from 1986 through 2011 - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/report.shtm> and 2012 firefighter deaths, please visit the USFA website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

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

### **USFA Releases Report on Fire Service Operations during the April 2011 Southeastern Tornadoes**

**Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - July 16, 2012**

EMMITSBURG, MD – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has completed a review of fire service operations surrounding the challenges faced in April 2011 as fire departments in the southeastern United States responded to a significant weather event. On April 27, 2011, a devastating series of tornadoes struck Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. The dollar loss has been roughly tallied at \$6 billion in insured losses and a total of over \$10 billion for all losses. An estimated 336 lives were lost in the region's tornadoes and related events, with 239 of those in Alabama. At least 10,000 homes were heavily damaged or destroyed and dozens of public facilities were rendered inoperative. Many areas that were isolated by road closures and power outages extended over two weeks in some rural areas. At least five tornadoes were rated at EF5 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale (EF Scale). A series of meetings was held in the summer of 2011 to look at fire department and emergency medical services (EMS) organization activities in Alabama and Georgia during the tornadoes. Over 50 representatives of impacted departments attended and each had an opportunity to respond to specific questions as well as provide a free range of their own inputs.

The report, [Fire Service Operations for the Southeastern Tornadoes – April 2011](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/southeastern_tornadoes_report.pdf) - [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/southeastern\\_tornadoes\\_report.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/southeastern_tornadoes_report.pdf) (PDF, 1.5 Mb), condenses those meetings and inputs and provides an insight into the routines, challenges and needs of local fire and EMS agencies during preparation for, response to and recovery from, natural disasters. It serves as a benchmark to provide USFA an opportunity for evaluation to ensure we are providing the services that the first responder community requires for success, as well as to guide directions for future activities. A copy of the report is available on the USFA website at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) under the Publications section.

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**The Alameda County Fire Department** is currently recruiting for the position of **FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT** – Until August 31, 2012 at 5:00 pm.

Some information taken from their website is as follows:

### ***Introduction***

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT (ACFD) provides all-risk emergency services to the unincorporated areas of Alameda County (excluding Fairview), the cities of San Leandro, Dublin, Newark, Union City and Emeryville, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. With 30 fire stations and 35 companies serving a population of 394,000, the ACFD serves densely populated urban areas, waterways, industrialized centers, extensive urban interface, agricultural and wildland regions. Over 400 personnel and 100 Reserve Firefighters provide a wide variety of services to an ever expanding, dynamic and diverse community of roughly 508 square miles. These services include:

August 11, 2012

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

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- Advanced Life Support Rescue
- Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Urban Search & Rescue
- Water Rescue
- Community Outreach & Education
- Disaster Preparedness
- Fire Prevention and Code Compliance
- Regional Dispatch

The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) was formed on July 1, 1993 as a dependent special district with the Alameda County Board of Supervisors as its governing body. This consolidation brought together into a single jurisdiction the Castro Valley Fire Department, Eden Fire Department and County Fire Patrol (each a dependent special district under the Board of Supervisors).

Prior to 1993 Unincorporated Fire Protection:

- Castro Valley FPD
- Eden Consolidated FPD
- County Fire Patrol
- July 1, 1993 Alameda County Fire Department

Subsequently, the following communities have consolidated with the ACFD:

- July 1, 1995 City of San Leandro
- July 1, 1997 City of Dublin
- August 1, 2002 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- October 1, 2007 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- January 20, 2008 Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center (ACRECC)
- May 1, 2010 City of Newark
- July 1, 2010 City of Union City
- July 1, 2012 City of Emeryville

The ACFD is also responsible for the administration and operation of the Alameda County Regional Emergency Communications Center (ACRECC). The dispatch center provides dispatch and communication center services for the ACFD, the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency, Camp Parks RFTA, and the cities of Alameda, Fremont, Livermore and Pleasanton.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION:**

We will provide the highest level of service to our communities by valuing our members, promoting positive leadership, and dedicating ourselves to excellence.

For more information about the Alameda County Fire Department, please visit our website: [www.acgov.org/fire](http://www.acgov.org/fire).

*The final application filing deadline (Last Day for Filing) for this recruitment is:*

**Friday, August 31, 2012, 5:00 p.m. PST.**

ON-LINE APPLICATIONS ONLY - [www.jobaps.com\ALAMEDA](http://www.jobaps.com\ALAMEDA)

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE IN THE POSSESSION OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES DEPARTMENT BY THE LAST DAY FOR FILING.**

## ***DESCRIPTION***

Alameda County Fire Department's Firefighter Recruit is the entry-level fire suppression, prevention and emergency response position for Alameda County. This classification exists solely for those who are completing their initial Fire Department Training in the Alameda County Fire Department Training Academy.

## **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES**

The Firefighter Recruit classification is characterized by assignment to the Recruit Fire Academy and subsequent training assignments prior to appointment to a line position. Under close supervision during this Academy, the Recruit must gain understanding of lifesaving and firefighting methods through intensive academic instruction and specialized training. This class is distinguished from the classification of Firefighter in that incumbents are in training to effectively function in the position of Firefighter upon promotion. Upon successful completion of the training requirements, it is expected that incumbents promote to the class of Firefighter.

## ***EXAMPLES OF DUTIES***

### **EXAMPLE OF DUTIES:**

NOTE: The following are the duties performed by employees in this classification. However, employees may perform other related duties at an equivalent level. Each individual in the classification does not necessarily perform all duties listed.

1. Attends the assigned Alameda County Fire Recruit Training Program by participating in classroom training and manipulative exercises and drills;
2. Undergoes classroom training and manipulative exercises and drills to develop an awareness of the functions and responsibilities of Firefighter and how they relate to fire fighting operations;
3. Studies and completes homework assignments;
4. Takes periodic quizzes and examinations;
5. Completes other training as assigned by the Fire Department prior to being promoted to a line Firefighter, such as maintaining the fire station and equipment and participating in drills and training classes to assure proper state of emergency readiness.

## ***MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS***

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

#### **EDUCATION:**

Graduation from high school or possession of an acceptable equivalency certificate, such as the General Educational Development Certificate (State of California). Successful completion of a California State Fire Marshal approved Firefighter I course by date application.

#### **AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- Must be a paid Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic in a Fire Department. (Seasonal employment is eligible) or be on the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee Displaced Fire Fighter List (Cal Gov Code §53270)



or

- A current member of the Alameda County Fire Department Reserve program.

or

- A current member of a Reserve Program that is supported by a professional City or County Fire Department or Fire District.

or

- Must be a nationally registered Paramedic or a licensed Paramedic in the State of California.

**AND LICENSE:**

1. Possession of a valid California State Motor Vehicle Operator's License;
2. Possession of a Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) certificate issued ***within the last twelve months from the last day of filing (Qualifying CPATs were issued between 09-01-2011 and 08/31/2012)***; and
3. Possession of a current and valid California Emergency Medical Technician-1 (EMT-1) certificate or Certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Technician – Basic or a California Emergency Medical Technician-P (EMT-P) license or a National Registry EMT-P.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:**

1. Having visual acuity correctable to 20/30 either eye. Must be able to pass physical ability, medical and psychological examinations.
2. Being able to successfully pass a thorough background investigation.
3. Must be eligible to obtain a Department of Energy security clearance.

**AGE:**

Minimum 18 years of age.

**REQUIRED DOUCMENTS:**

IN ADDITION TO COMPLETING AN ON-LINE APPLICATION, APPLICANTS **MUST ALSO SUBMIT** A COPY OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS **TO QUALIFY** FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE EXAMINATION:

- ***HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA or GED CERTIFICATION (OR in place of HSD, High school transcript, college diploma or transcripts - please only send one form of verification)***

- ***CPAT (issued within 12 months from the last day for filing (09/01/2011 through 08/31/2012 - see CFFJAC Website for CPAT testing information: <http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/cpat/>)***

- **DRIVER'S LICENSE**

- **EMT Card (s) (Current and Valid)**

- **NATIONALLY REGISTERED PARAMEDIC License or CA PARAMEDIC License (Current and Valid)**

- **STATE FIRE MARSHALL APPROVED FIREFIGHTER I (or higher) COURSE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE**

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:**

Please submit the following additional documents. These documents, if not submitted by the last day for filing, will not disqualify your application, but may be required by the date of interview and/or prior to appointment.

- Valid CPR Certification

- Valid Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

- Valid Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) or Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS)

- Valid Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) or Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Personnel (PEPP)

NOTE: The Civil Service Commission may modify the above Minimum Qualifications in the announcement of an examination.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

**IDEAL CANDIDATE:**

The "Ideal Firefighter Recruit Candidate" will demonstrate the ability to:

- Comprehend, remember, interpret and apply written materials which may be of a complex and technical nature.
- Follow oral and written instructions.
- Communicate clearly both orally and in writing.
- Work and deal effectively and cooperatively with the public and to work as a member of an organized team.
- Use good judgment in emergency or critical situations.
- Remain calm and work effectively in stressful situations.
- Adapt to changes in work assignments and duties.
- Perform physical tasks that require coordination, strength, dexterity and stamina.
- Work at various heights, confined areas and low visibility conditions.
- Climb ladders and fences.
- Learn the use of specialized tools and equipment

**EXAMINATION COMPONENTS**

**EXAMINATION PROCESS:**

This process will consist of the following steps:

1. A review of candidates' application and documents to verify possession of minimum requirements. Those candidates determined to be qualified will move to the next step in the examination process, a WRITTEN TEST;
2. The written test is weighted as Pass/Fail. Passing candidates will move forward to the next step in the examination process; an ORAL PANEL INTERVIEW;
3. The Oral Panel Interview will be weighted at 100% of the candidates final examination score.

***\*WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE ANNOUNCED SCREENING PROCESS STEPS***

**TENTATIVE RECRUITMENT PLAN:**

\*\*Recruitment Closes (LDF) - 08/31/2012, 5:00 p.m.

\*\*Screening of Applications for Minimum Qualifications - 09/17/2012

\*\*Written Exam - Week of 10/01/2012

\*\*Oral Interviews - Week of 11/05/2012

\*\*Chief's Interviews - Week of 12/10/2012

\*\*Effective Date of Eligible List - 01/01/2013

\*\*Firefighter Recruit Academy - To Be Announced

\*\*Firefighter Recruit Academy Graduation - To Be Announced

**F**or more information about this position – visit the County of Alameda job opportunities website at [www.jobaps.com/alameda/](http://www.jobaps.com/alameda/)

**F**or more information about the **Alameda County Fire Department** – visit their website at [www.acgov.org/fire](http://www.acgov.org/fire)

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**FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**T**he **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>

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

**Fire Rescue International** – *Denver, CO* - August 1 through 4, 2012

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

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

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

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

**Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* – July 2013

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

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

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

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Looking for California State Certified fire training courses? Check out the California State Fire Training CLASS SCHEDULE – it is updated every Friday and contains a statewide listing of state certified classes for personnel of all ranks – even future firefighters.

Go to: [http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training\\_classschedule.php](http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/training/training_classschedule.php)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**



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

<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>DATES:</b>
Fire Management 2A	August 20 – 24, 2012
Fire Management 2C	September 10 – 14, 2012
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 next page for registration form.

**More Info:**                            Contact Stephanie Morrison at 408-341-4410 or [info@cnt.sccgov.org](mailto:info@cnt.sccgov.org)



**REGISTRATION FORM**

<b>COURSE:</b>	<b>DATES:</b>	<b>COST:</b>	<b>QUANTITY:</b>
Fire Management 2A	August 20 – 24, 2012	\$295.00	_____
Fire Management 2C	September 10 – 14, 2012	\$295.00	_____
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	_____
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		_____

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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.

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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## **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](http://www.cpatonline.org)

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

**CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

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

**Northern California**  
526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

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

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**FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: David R. Chew Jr.  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 30  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 11  
Date of Incident: 07/16/2012  
Time of Incident: 1130hrs  
Date of Death: 07/16/2012  
Fire Department: Bloxom Volunteer Fire Company  
Address: PO Box 132, 15312 Bayside DR, Bloxom, VA 23308  
Fire Department Chief: James Bagwell

**Incident Description:** While responding to a motor vehicle accident, Lieutenant Chew was riding in a fire engine that ran off the road while negotiating a curve, striking several trees, and overturning. Lieutenant Chew died from injuries sustained when he was ejected from the fire engine.

**Incident Location:** Approximately 0.5 mile west of U.S. Route 13 on Nelsonia Road

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant David R. Chew Jr. at

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

To date, 47 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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Antonio Rodriques  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 49  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 12  
Date of Incident: 05/09/2012  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 07/31/2012  
Fire Department: Yonkers Fire Department  
Address: 5-7 New School ST, Yonkers, NY 10701  
Fire Department Chief: Acting Fire Commissioner John Flynn

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Rodriques passed away from complications related to a hemorrhagic stroke he suffered during fire department training.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Antonio Rodriques at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 48 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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Jim Reardon  
Rank: Firefighter/Photographer  
Age: 51  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 4  
Date of Incident: 08/04/2012  
Time of Incident: 1630hrs  
Date of Death: 08/04/2012  
Fire Department: Fire Academy of North Dakota  
Address: 104 3<sup>rd</sup> AVE NW, Suite 202, Mandan, ND 58554  
Fire Department Chief: Darrell Graf

**Incident Description:** While participating in an exploratory dive in preparation for an upcoming North Dakota Fire Academy SCUBA exercise, Firefighter Reardon passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** Lake Seven (Scalp Lake), Frazee, MN

**Funeral Arrangements:** Wake, 08/10/2012, 1600-2000hrs at St. Michael Catholic Church, 9251 Highway 25, Buckman, MN; Funeral, 08/11/2012, 1100hrs at St. Michael Catholic Church.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/Photographer Jim Reardon at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 49 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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Jon Tibbetts  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 59  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 35  
Date of Incident: 07/23/2012  
Time of Incident: 0823hrs  
Date of Death: 07/23/2012  
Fire Department: Sandoval County Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 40, 1500 Idalia RD, Building D, Bernalillo, NM 87004  
Fire Department Chief: Interim Fire Chief James Maxon

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Tibbetts was enroute to administer a physical abilities test to a newly hired county employee at a location other than his normal duty station. While traveling on Interstate 25, Tibbetts was struck by another driver causing the fire department vehicle he was operating to roll twice, cross over a retaining wall, and come to a final resting position on the vehicle's roof. Chief Tibbetts died at the scene of the crash from the injuries he sustained.

**Incident Location:** Interstate 25 just south of Bernalillo (MM 239)

**Funeral Arrangements:** 07/27/2012

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Jon Tibbetts at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 50 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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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*Firefighter fatalities in USFA reports are summarized by date/year-of-incident. Initial notices posted online at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/> and distributed via USFA listserve do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation ([www.firehero.org](http://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](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

Hey,

Here is another update regarding today's tragic apparatus crash and related Firefighter Line of Duty death in Virginia. According to Virginia State Police, the driver of the fire apparatus, James Richard Lambirth, lost control of the responding engine while in a curve, ran off the road, striking several trees, overturning and ejected the passenger, Fire Rescue Lt. David R. Chew, Jr.. Unfortunately, according to Virginia State Police, Lt. Chew was not wearing his safety belt at the time of the crash, he was ejected and he died on impact. The Fire Apparatus Driver, FF Lambirth was taken to the Peninsula Regional Center Hospital, where he is being treated for non-life threatening injuries. As posted earlier, Lt. Chew was a very active member of the fire rescue community, had just started leading his church, but most tragically, he leaves behind a wife and 3 year old child. Our sincere condolences.

#### **UPDATE FROM FDNY**

Commissioner Sal Cassano did the right thing today, as expected, and approved the late FDNY Lt Joey DiBernardo's name to be placed on the FDNY Wall of Heroes. RIP Joey D. Take Care-Wear Your Seat Belt. Don't Move The Rig w/o Everyone Belted.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-16-12 / 1754 hours

**AND:**

Hey,



## Chabot College Fire & EMS News

In our continued mission of passing along information, proving that numerous city hall dwellers have gone nuts, the latest layoffs are in New London (CT) - where 25 Firefighters will be laid off today. HERE is more: <http://www.theday.com/article/20120716/NWS01/120719784/25-New-London-firefighters-to-be-laid-off-today>

### **MONTREAL LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:**

The following announcement has been passed along to us from D/C J. Gordon Routley of the Montreal Fire Department: The civic funeral for Montreal Firefighter Thierry Godfrind will be held at Notre Dame Basilica in Old Montreal Friday, July 20 at 11am. There will be a reception following the service. Any out of town delegations, please contact Chief Routley at 514 872-7498 or by e-mail [atgordon.routley@ville.montreal.qc.ca](mailto:atgordon.routley@ville.montreal.qc.ca) - They do have provisions for rooms at nearby hotels. Also it was confirmed that a memorial service will also be held Friday at city hall, where Godfrind's casket will be laid out for the public.

### **VIRGINIA FF FUNERAL DETAILS:**

Follow these pages for updates:

Bloxom VFC Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/BLOXOM-VOL-FIRE-CO/251239854204>

Eastern Shore Fire: <http://www.easternshorefire.com/>

**DO YOU KNOW VAP?** If Not-You Will Very Soon:

<http://m.firechief.com/blog/fri-preview-fire-service-line-duty-death-and-injury-vulnerability-assessment-project>

### **CONGRATS TO RON SIARNICKI:**

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the training of our nation's Firefighters, IFSTA presented the 2012 Everett E. Hudiburg award to Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation last week.

READ more HERE: [http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/siarnicki\\_071612.html](http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/siarnicki_071612.html)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

SAFE TRAVELS To Baltimore For Firehouse Expo.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-17-12 / 1136 Hours

### **AND:**

### **PORTUGUESE FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND FIRE RESPONSE CRASH**

A Portuguese Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty and seven were injured yesterday as more than 1,000 personnel battled to contain fires that have raged across the country for three days. The female Firefighter died and one colleague was injured in an apparatus responding crash as they travelled to the forest fire in the central Abrantes region. In a separate incident in the popular Algarve tourist region in southern Portugal, 6 Firefighters were injured and taken to hospital but discharged after treatment. Firefighters using helicopters and air tankers have been fighting fires across the country that have been fanned by hot and strong winds. Forest fires have also been raging on the tourist island of Madeira, as well as elsewhere in the region, in Spain and the Canary Islands. RIP.

### **WASHINGTON FIREFIGHTER LODD: CANCER**

A South King firefighter lost his battle with cancer last night, and his death was ruled as a line of duty death, according to the South King Fire and Rescue. FF John Moncrief died from a cancer known to be caused from long-term exposure to toxic products of combustion. Moncrief's family was at his

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

home and at his side when he died. In 2011, Moncrief retired from South King Fire and Rescue after 22 years. He retired to spend time with his family. A few months after retiring, Moncrief was diagnosed with cancer. According to the South King Fire and Rescue, the cancer was in an advanced stage by the time it was recognized, but Moncrief decided to fight it. South King firefighters held a blood drive in early July for Moncrief, and several people attended from fire agencies throughout King and Pierce counties. The fire department said Moncrief was known throughout his career as a thorough and diligent firefighter, and this made him an excellent teacher to the firefighters assigned to his crew. Moncrief is survived by his wife, Bev, daughter, Tesa, and son, Trevor. RIP.

**DETAILS HERE:** <http://www.southkingfire.org/>

### **TANKER CRASHES NEAR BRANSON MISSOURI-BUT ALL FIREFIGHTERS WERE SEAT BELTED IN-MINOR INJURIES**

Western Taney County Firefighters were called yesterday to a fire had spread from a trash fire and into the woods. As Firefighters were responding to the call, one of the water tankers crashed when the driver attempted to make a left hand turn from Highway 65. As the driver attempted the turn, the fire apparatus overturned onto the Southbound Lanes of Highway 65. 3 Firefighters were on board when it crashed. 2 Firefighters only received cuts and bruises and 1 Firefighter was transported to the hospital for evaluation. That Firefighter since been treated for minor injuries and has been released from the hospital. Fortunately all three firefighters were relatively unharmed because everyone in the truck was wearing their seatbelts.

### **OHIO FIREFIGHTERS PROTEST DISPATCH CHANGE**

Cleveland's EMS dispatchers answer more than 100,000 calls a year for medical and fire emergencies --during shifts that routinely stretch to 16 hours or longer to meet operational needs. Meanwhile, Firefighter dispatchers are in the same room at the communications center, waiting for their EMS counterparts to triage their calls and alert them when fire apparatus must be deployed. The workload disparity is a relic of a failed attempt at integrating ambulance and fire services during the administration of Mayor Jane Campbell, who served from 2002 through 2005. But EMS union officials complain that the department's team of civilian dispatchers are now so overworked and exhausted that it has triggered a domino effect of dispatchers calling in sick to recover from a week of multiple double-shifts answering trauma calls. That, combined with the typically elevated call volume of the summer months, requires subsequent shifts of EMS dispatchers to work longer hours than scheduled. In response, the city began training a half dozen Firefighter dispatchers this week to pitch in and manage incoming 9-1-1 calls. The measure is considered a stopgap en route to building an entirely civilian dispatch team to handle all police, fire and EMS calls and eliminating the need to transfer callers from one department to another. Fire union officials, however, have filed a grievance against the dispatch training, arguing that once the Firefighters begin answering emergency medical calls, they will work for EMS, outside their civil service classifications. **HERE IS MORE:**

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/07/cleveland\\_firefighters\\_union\\_d.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/07/cleveland_firefighters_union_d.html)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-22-12 / 1456 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

2 civilians were killed and a Firefighter was injured in a crash on Oklahoma State Highway 16 near Shamrock, (Creek County) Oklahoma this afternoon. Initial details are that a civilian vehicle collided with an Olive FD apparatus that was operating at the fire. The Olive Fire Department is one of several departments and companies operating at a wildland fire that has been burning for 3 days. There is no

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

word yet regarding the condition of the injured Firefighter. We'll post additional as it becomes available. Another reminder of the dangers to us while operating on or near roadways.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-22-12 / 1927 hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

A Firefighter from Modesto (California) suffered **major injuries** when he was hit by a car while working a wildfire in Calaveras County. Nathan Fyock, 39, was flown to Memorial Medical Center in Modesto after the accident, which happened on Wednesday. Fyock has been a seasonal firefighter with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for five years. The accident happened in nearly zero visibility caused by smoke from the fire. Fyock was standing next to a fire engine with its emergency lights flashing when he was hit by a car heading west driven by Kirsten Vader, 34, of Murphys, the report said. The driver was not injured.

#### **INITIAL REPORT ON WI LODD:**

**Command, Control, Communication & Accountability Issues.** A state report is related to the investigation of the Line of Duty death of a Firefighter during the Abbotsford Theater fire last March. **The NIOSH report is not yet complete.** The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services investigated the death of Marathon County sheriffs deputy Jamison Kampmeyer who leaves little kids and a wife behind. He responded to the fire as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Colby Fire Department. He died when part of the theater roof collapsed on top of him and 3 others were injured. The report says there were command/operational communications problems while the fire was being fought; that neither the Colby nor Abbotsford FD's had overall command, control, accountability of the fire scene. The 2 FD commanders didn't have direct communication with each other -- and couldn't pass along information about hazards they encountered. **For example, while Abbotsford FF's were flowing a telesquirt aerial master stream on the outside roof area, which was already heavy with snow, while Colby FF's were interior, trying to fight the fire. As the crew was heading out, the roof collapsed, killing FF Kampmeyer who was trapped inside. HERE IS VIDEO:** <http://tinyurl.com/cy8pmpk> - More to follow.

#### **HEADS UP FROM FDNY:**

Some of you have seen (or hosted) the former FDNY rescue truck and related vehicles travelling across the USA. Guess what? **The FDNY does not support/endorse the Remembrance Rescue Project. Below is their website but it sounds like it would be best to avoid them and KEEP BACK 200 FEET...and are urged to not host them, not buy their shirts etc as their marketed intent does not appear to be genuine.** <http://remembrance.co/> - NATURALLY many FD's and FF's who hosted this group did not realize that FDNY does not support what they are doing. **More details will follow soon.**

**SPEAKING OF FDNY: (FIRE VIDEO)** Here are the radio transmissions and aerial video of one of last weeks 7th alarm fires... for those who may have missed it:

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

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1c-1DrR5Jk&feature=share>

#### **FINAL WORD-A DEATH IN THE FAMILY:**

Our heartfelt condolences to our Brother Ex-Chief Pat McGrath of the Manhasset-Lakeville FD (Long Island, New York) and the entire family on the loss of his wife and our dear friend, Susan...without question, she was easily one of the kindest, gentlest and sweetest people that God ever blessed us

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

with. **We love you.** RIP. Due to this loss, we won't see you at IAFC/FRI this week....but enjoy the conference!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-12 / 1632 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A Mill Creek Borough Volunteer Fire Department apparatus went through a commercial building this morning. Mill Creek is located in Huntingdon County, PA. The crash of Mill Creek Engine 20 caused collapse of the structure located at the intersection of State Route 655 and State Route 22 in Mill Creek Borough, PA. Five Mill Creek Volunteer Firefighters were transported to the hospital. The fire apparatus was returning from an emergency call at the time of the incident. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-12 / 0657 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Two New Jersey ex-cons who traveled the country in a red truck emblazoned with the names of fallen 9/11 first responders pocketed tens of thousands of dollars in donations they said would go to a Ground Zero charity, authorities said yesterday. **Some of you may remember seeing this truck in downtown Indy at FDIC previously. Naturally, FDIC never supported or endorsed this project....they just parked downtown and sold their shirts as a scam.** Several news sources (links below) are reporting that Mark Anthony Niemczyk, 66, and Thomas Scalgione, 40, were so brazen that they posed for photos with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, other politicians and real first responders while fleecing good-hearted donors, New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa charged in a lawsuit. "It is beyond comprehension that anyone would try to profit themselves under the guise of collecting donations to help the surviving family members, Chiesa said, adding that criminal charges were pending. In late 2010, Niemczyk and Scalgione started showing up with the truck at various memorial programs for 9/11 or first responders, according to retired FDNY Lt. Joe Torrillo, who survived the collapse of the Twin Towers and now gives talks nationwide. "This joker, Mark Anthony, showed up at my event. He comes in a red pickup truck with flashing lights and all the firefighter names on it. Claims he is a Navy SEAL, Torillo said. He was too cocky. I knew it wasn't right." The Ford F-150s license plate, which is registered to Niemczyk, even read: N-Seal. **He wrote inflammatory slogans on the truck, such as "Everything I learned about Islam I learned on 9/11, and even befriended wacky, Koran-burning Pastor Terry Jones. Niemczyk, who has a 1989 welfare-fraud conviction, later admitted to investigators he was never a SEAL. But for more than a year, the two collected donations in a water jug and sold FDNY, NYPD and Port Authority Police T-shirts. They claimed the proceeds went to the Cain Foundation, in honor of firefighter George Cain, who died on 9/11 but no such charity exists.** "We didn't run no fake charity, said Niemczyk. One guy said we did, and now they are investigating it. It's just getting so blown out of proportion. Scalgione, who has fraud, theft and forgery convictions, insisted, it is not a scam and claims it is actually real. **WTF.**

**MORE HERE** (with video)

[http://blogs.villagevoice.com/runninscared/2012/07/911\\_scammerfake.php](http://blogs.villagevoice.com/runninscared/2012/07/911_scammerfake.php)

[http://m.nypost.com/p/news/local/pickup\\_artist\\_cons\\_RVQSudTGvnu56HXB5EW9K](http://m.nypost.com/p/news/local/pickup_artist_cons_RVQSudTGvnu56HXB5EW9K)

<http://www.examiner.com/article/9-11-scammers-pocket-tens-of-thousands-fool-christie-others>

**SUGGESTION:**

There are numerous genuine and 100% honest groups that have raised money for the surviving families of 9/11 ...Line of Duty deaths and related projects. Their efforts to support those families as well as educate the unknowing about 9/11 and related tragic events are beyond commendable. **However-it's hard to keep track of all the groups ...as there have been so many.** Our thoughts are that while so many are very genuine and honest, some are not-as you have read above-as we have all seen many times over the last few years-there is no limit to the disgusting (and criminal) tactics some have taken. Since we are not aware of any national "registry" to confirm any groups legitimacy, the best seems to do your homework and even reach out to those they claim they are helping and supporting. Have your D.A., your local Prosecutor, P.D. or Sheriff look into them well before you commit to any event or activity. Ask for all of the "paperwork" (including 501c3 accounting related paperwork) and whatever else needs to be done to insure you, your FD and community time and money is being spent 100% in the manner that is being represented. Check with the FD or organization they claim to be helping. Check with the Union(s) and Associations and ask for documentation that proves the support and endorsement. Any legit group will never have any problem rapidly providing all that is needed-and there is nothing wrong or insulting about you asking.

**When people are tragically killed-especially Firefighters-emotions run understandably high ...and our hearts (and wallets) open up-all with the thought and intention of helping those folks do good. It is our nature to help.** Unfortunately some mutts take advantage of that-for whatever reasons. We simply suggest that you keep your eyes wide open, have your local authorities do a thorough "background check" to insure those "coming to town" are legit as individuals - and as an organization-and if they are and they are fully supported by those they claim to help and all is clean-welcome them with open arms. Just make sure all of the questions are asked and the answers are verified. There have been many scams like the above where so many later ended up regretting their support-in thinking they were simply doing good.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-31-12 / 1000 hours

**AND:**

**NY FIREFIGHTER LODD-STROKE AT TRAINING-ORGANS DONATED**

We regret to advise you that Yonkers (just outside NYC, in Westchester County, NY) Firefighter Antonio Rodrigues, died in the Line of Duty Tuesday following medical struggles from injuries sustained during fire department training in May. He was hospitalized on July 18 and died late Tuesday at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla due to complications from a hemorrhagic stroke. Rodrigues, 49, a Yonkers resident, was a 12-year veteran of the city's fire department and was assigned to Ladder 74. He had been honored six times with departmental commendations during his career. FF Rodrigues donated his organs to several recipients through the New York Organ Donation Network. **MEMORIAL SERVICES:** Calling hours are set at Flynn Funeral Home, 1652 Central Ave., Yonkers, on Friday, Aug. 3, from 2-9 p.m. A mass of Christian burial is scheduled at Immaculate Conception/St. Mary's Church at 103 South Broadway on Saturday, Aug. 4 at 10 a.m., followed by burial at St. Mary's Cemetery at 114 Sprain Road in Yonkers. RIP. Our condolences to all affected.

**ABOUT ORGAN DONATIONS:**

In light of FF Rodrigues' life saving actions during his life-and the saving of lives following his LODD, we wanted to pass along information related to DONATING YOUR ORGANS for consideration: <http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html>

**FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN RESPONDING CRASH: KUWAIT**



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A Firefighter was killed this morning and 3 others seriously injured after a vehicle crash. They were responding to an elevator job when the crash occurred. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

#### **FIREFIGHTER IN NEW YORK FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE - FLESH EATING DISEASE**

A Firefighter on Long Island (Suffolk County, outside of NYC) is in the fight of his life as doctors race against the clock to save Lt. Ralph Lettieri's leg from flesh-eating bacteria. The family is desperately looking for help from anybody who may be able to stop the bacteria from spreading. "It's a nightmare, so if the doctors are out there, don't be afraid to pick up the phone if you have an idea," said his father, Ralph Sr. The rare and dangerous bacteria began eating away at Ralph Jr., a Volunteer Firefighter and construction worker, in mid-July. "He has a flesh-eating disease. We are just trying to get him more help. Brookhaven has done everything to save his life. We just need more," said his fiancée, Vickie Vasquez. Overcome with emotion, Lettieri's family has watched him undergo six surgeries in three days as more and more of his flesh and skin was removed. Lettieri has been placed into a medically induced coma and was transferred from Brookhaven to Nassau University Medical Center, where the staff has put him in a hyperbaric chamber to try to control his double pneumonia. In the meantime, Patchogue firefighters are praying for the stricken Lieutenant. "It was kinda shocking to all of us. One day here, the next day in the hospital," Chief Anthony Citarella said. Lettieri's family said that they believe he acquired the disease after diving into a lake with an exposed wound. Antibiotics did nothing, and an infection known as Necrotizing Fasciitis set in. "It destroys and kills tissue. The bacteria consumes the tissues that are present," explained Dr. Louis Riina of Nassau University Medical Center. Lettieri's hyperbaric chamber is being flooded with oxygen, which works to kill the flesh-eating disease. His family remains at his bedside as his colleagues organize prayer vigils and fundraisers. We will keep you advised as we all hope and pray for Patchogue FD Lt Ralph Lettieri.

**MORE ABOUT THE DISEASE:** [http://www.sepsisalliance.org/sepsis\\_and/necrotizing\\_fasciitis/](http://www.sepsisalliance.org/sepsis_and/necrotizing_fasciitis/)

**PATCHOGUE FIRE DEPARTMENT:** <http://www.patchoguefd.com/>

#### **DETROIT FIRE VIDEO-FROM THE FIREFIGHTERS:**

Take a moment to check out this clip, produced by DFD Firefighters themselves:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgShNVwALw8>

#### **REMEMBERING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN, FDNY WALDBAUMS FIRE OF 1978: (VIDEO)**

August 2, 1978: 6 FDNY Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty, and more than 35 injured, some seriously. Killed were covering Lt. James Cutillo 39, 33rd Battalion, Fr Charles Bouton 38, Ladder Co 156, Fr William O'Conner 29, Ladder Co 156, Fr James P McManus, 48, Ladder Co 153, Fr George Rice, 38, Ladder Co 153, Fr Harold F. Hastings, 40, Ladder Co 153. Story and **VIDEO** below.

Just prior to the collapse, Louise O'Conner, Wife of FF William O'Conner was at the scene of the fire with her 3 small children. While FF O'Conner was operating on the roof, he waved to his family, and then they waved back, then shortly thereafter the roof collapsed, taking her husbands, and the father of her children's life.

#### **HERE ARE REPORTS FROM THE FIRE:**

<http://www.fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire97/art141.html>

<http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire97/PDF/f97141.pdf>

**HERE** is the story with photos from **STEVE SPAK:** <http://stevespak.com/waldbaums.html>

**NOTE: HERE** is an excellent related video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTzBg1YIZml>

**RIP.**

Take Care-**BE CAREFUL,**

BillyG

The Secret List 8-2-12 / 1035 Hours



**AND:**

**IDAHO FIREFIGHTER/VOLUNTEER EMT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY - WHILE RESPONDING**

We regret to advise you that Vance Baldwin, 52, died in the line of Duty when his 4-wheel ATV missed a curve and plunged down a 30-foot embankment as he responded to an EMS run. He was a 19-year veteran of the Boise FD but also served as a Volunteer when off duty. He died in Elmore County as he was on his way to an ambulance station in response to an EMS run last Friday. Baldwin's family found his body a day later after they heard he never reached the ambulance station. When Baldwin wasn't on duty at Boise Fire Station No. 14, he served as a volunteer for the Pine-Featherville Volunteer Ambulance District. During his career, Baldwin also served at the Boise Airport Rescue Fire Station. He leaves behind his wife and daughter. Our condolences to all affected.

**FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY**

The United States Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology division has 3 current projects that will improve our ability to operate and reduce unnecessary risk while potentially improving the safety/survival of Firefighters. **Check It Out Here:**

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2012/08/02/3-new-technologies-to-save-firefighter-lives/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-2-12 / 2146 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Under the "you never know" subject of what you'll run into on a fire or any run, a "combative" knife wielding man was subdued yesterday by Boston Firefighters. The man has been accused of intentionally setting fire to an elderly woman's apartment, where FF's found her dead and burned inside. Cops have charged Huan Yuan Li, 55, with arson, assault with a dangerous weapon and hindering Firefighters. They responded to the 0854 hours fire call and found the woman dead in her fourth-floor apartment's kitchen. As they put out the fire, the man was in the living room being combative when he tried to stab a Firefighter, lunging at him -- and then he threatened to jump from a window. However when he turned his back on the Firefighter, the Firefighter grabbed him, disarmed him and held him for the cops. Size up is an on going process-never knowing what or who we'll find.

**VEHICLE FIRE VIDEO:**

Here is a helmet cam video from the Hudson VFD in Texas. Like many FD's, the Hudson VFD is posting videos of some emergency calls to their Facebook page and to YouTube. This clip shows a stubborn pickup truck fire that could be good as a training clip:

<http://www.ktre.com/story/19161111/hudson-firefighters-helmet-cam-captures-up-close-view-of-truck-fire>

**GEORGIA SCBA UPDATE:**

DeKalb County's fire chief said a recent decision to ask for new breathing gear put his career on the line. A 2 year Atlanta Channel 2 Action News Investigation highlighted firefighter concerns about their air packs. Chief Edward O'Brien said that securing the new gear for his firefighters was a huge relief. "Anytime there is an issue with a product, one is too many," O'Brien said. In 2010, a Channel 2 Action News Investigation broke the story about firefighter complaints that their air packs could quit on them inside burning buildings. DeKalb County used grant money to buy the Draeger gear in 2009. **Since then, Chief O'Brien said firefighters had 29 near misses or close calls. "I just can't take that as the chief." Since the very beginning however, Draeger said the problem was with the maintenance of the product, not with the equipment itself. Recently, an independent federal**

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**investigation agreed with Draeger.** Chief O'Brien said Draeger told DeKalb County they were the only department having problems with the air packs. But after Channel 2 Action News got involved, O'Brien said he learned at least 10 other fire departments were reporting issues. "To me that is the difficult part. It's almost like they tried to keep us all separated with the issues," O'Brien said.

**HERE IS MUCH MORE FROM THE MEDIA:**

<http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/dekalb-fire-chief-says-air-pack-issue-put-his-care/nP7ns/>

**HERE IS THE NIOSH REPORT:**

[http://media.cygnus.com/files/cygnus/document/FHC/2012/JUL/nioshdraegerreport\\_10739272.pdf](http://media.cygnus.com/files/cygnus/document/FHC/2012/JUL/nioshdraegerreport_10739272.pdf)

**RUBBER FIRE BOOTS:**

If you have subscribed to The Secret List for any length of time, you know we rarely share this kinda stuff. However, with the economy and so many FD's dealing with ridiculously low funds, budget cuts, layoffs etc--we do want to pass this opportunity on - especially for FD's where FF's may have to buy their own stuff, do fund raising to exist or for FD's where funds are beyond tight.

<http://www.hfrthetone.com/HFRPBootPromo2012/HFRPBootPromo.html>

If you are ever aware of stuff like this, where a mfg is offering ridiculously low close out type pricing, pass it on so we can check it out and potentially pass it on.

**CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT LINE OF DUTY**

Please take a moment to check out this excellent site, dedicated to the Chicago FD and it's Fallen Firefighters, all done by a Chicago Firefighter...and maybe even purchase a shirt or sticker to support the cause: <http://www.loddchicago.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-1-12 / 1033 Hours

**AND:**

**NORTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER DIES WHILE PREPARING FOR WATER RESCUE TRAINING  
DETAIL**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Jim Reardon of North Dakota. We received the following information from the Fire Academy of North Dakota ,Chief Darrell Graf: "It is with deepest sorrow I inform you of the loss of one of our team members at approximately 4:30 Saturday afternoon. Firefighter/Photographer Jim Reardon and I were on an exploratory dive starting at about 3:45 pm to pre-plan diving for interested team members on the weekend of August 18th. After a short time of diving, Jim and I somehow got separated, and I started looking for his bubbles on the surface of the lake, and after finding none, returned to the dock. While en route, I found one of Jim's fins (flippers) and tried for about 15 minutes to find his location. With ripples on the water, it was extremely difficult to find bubbles, and began to look with binoculars and continued to search the lake - presuming Jim was probably videoing underwater, but becoming highly concerned. A few minutes later, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Enslin showed up with a boat, and I explained the situation, and they offered to have me come aboard and search. After 10-15 minutes, I asked to go back to the dock, and while approaching the dock, in about 8' of water about 30' from the dock, Jim lied face up in the lake. This was "Lake 7", a premier western Minnesota diving spot located near the city of Frazee, MN. Jim had been to that lake on dives probably 25 times, as well as several other places. We were checking that renowned dive lake to conduct the pre-drill survey for a team dive, and had one lake other we were going to check on this morning. I (along with his wife and responding rescuer's) presume Jim had a heart attack or some other medical issue arise, as ALL equipment was in proper working order, and he had about 2/3 of his air left. The mask was in place, the buoyancy compensator worked excellent, as I used that to raise him from the bottom of the lake, and dragged him the short distance to shore. Although some efforts were made to revive him, it was clear to me upon first sight

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of Jim there was not chance. An investigation continues by the Ottertail County Sheriffs Department and Ottertail County Coroner on this matter.

I have been in contact with the family this morning, and we can expect to know probably Monday what the funeral arrangements are. I will then pass the funeral arrangements on to all members as soon as I know them. Jim has been a lifelong friend of mine and joined up with us in April, 2010. Many of you met Jim on the April 2010 Superior Wisconsin Marine Fire Training program. Jim leaves behind his wife, Michelle and four children, Cole, Taylor, Paige and Clare. I will have follow - up information sent to you as soon as I receive it. Darrell Graf 0358 AM August 5, 2012."

**HERE** is a link to their HOME page: <http://www.ndfire.com/fireacademy/home.html>

As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-5-12 / 1054 Hours

**AND:**

**FIREFIGHTER IN SPAIN KILLED IN APPARATUS CRASH**

A military Firefighter was killed and 3 other Firefighters injured in the Line of Duty in a crash today as hundreds of Firefighters backed by aircraft struggled to gain control of a wildfire in western Spain. The apparatus, belonging to the army's emergency services unit operating at the fire, overturned and crashed about 300 yards down a hillside. One of the Firefighters injured is listed in a serious condition. The fire started last night near the Portuguese border and took off so fast that FF's quickly cleared 300 people from a nearby camping site. As of earlier today they had deployed 13 helicopters and 7 firefighting aircraft to back the approximately 450 firefighters -- both military and civilian -- on the ground operating the fire on two fronts. RIP.

**FLORIDA DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF PASSES**

While we had this posted on our home page, we also want to offer our condolences regarding the death of the Cocoa (FL) Fire Department Deputy Fire Chief Michael Corby who passed away last week. Chief Corby died at home from a heart attack. Chief Corby, 51, Corby is survived by his wife, former Melbourne City Council member Joanne Corby, and three sons, Dustin, 24, Derek, 22, and David, 16. RIP.

**FIREFIGHTERS HONORED AS HEROES AT F.R.I. - HUSBAND BEATS WIFE/TRIES TO KILL KIDS**

It was a cold February morning when Firefighters arrived at a home to help a woman whose estranged husband had beaten her. Her children were still inside, and her husband had just set the house on fire. The North Metro (near Denver, CO) FF's quick thinking and coordinated teamwork helped remove everyone from the fire, including the family dog. The members were honored yesterday for its bravery with the Benjamin Franklin Fire Service Award for Valor, the highest honor given by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, sponsored by Motorola. Crew 63 received the award at a conference in Denver. Battalion Chief Timothy Hanlon, Lt. John Maes, Firefighter Engineer Josh Deuto and Firefighters Josh Hamilton, John Brereton and Mark Maxwell were recognized. The award came as a surprise to the group, in part because the IAFC assesses rescues from across the globe when choosing the deserving winner. The men in the crew insist they were just following protocols and using their training as they worked to rescue everyone inside. Yet Joe Bruce, chief of the district that includes Broomfield, Northglenn and incorporated parts of Boulder, Adams and Jefferson counties, insisted they went above and beyond to save the family from a situation that was getting rapidly more dangerous with each minute.

The situation "was literally seconds between life and death," Bruce said. "Good decision-making took this to the next level. Each individual's actions came together." Maes said the crew arrived at the scene around 4:30 a.m. Feb. 23 to give medical treatment to Rosie Jungst-Johnson. The crew was not prepared for a full-out fire, which her husband, William Johnson, started as the crew arrived. "When we saw that flash of fire, we knew at that point that this was different," he said. Johnson was armed with a gun as he barricaded himself inside and set the house on fire by soaking the floor with flammable liquid and igniting a gas grill. His two young children were trapped in the house.

When a typical fire call comes in, more than one unit responds and brings full protective gear. Yet Hanlon said the crew did not even have breathing apparatuses ready, because crew members thought they were responding to a medical call. The crew and police worked together to unblock the barricade, then firefighters ran upstairs to save Johnson and his two young children. Cody, who was 18 months old, was unconscious and not breathing, and 5-year-old Kaitlyn was badly burned. Now, months after the fire, both children are out of the hospital. Cody has fully recovered, and Kaitlyn is healing well. OUTSTANDING-Congrats to all.

VIDEO HERE: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article/281075/222/Firefighters-honored-for-rescuing-2-children>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-4-12 / 2200 hours

**AND:**

All,

While we do our best to post details related Firefighters who serve as soldiers, or Firefighters in our armed forces who lose their lives while serving, this one blew us away. This is about Corporal Clarence "Bud" H. Huff Jr of Hinckley (Ohio) who proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps Item Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Cpl Huff was also a member of the Hinckley Volunteer Fire Department at the time he went into the service. While most of the military related information we post is tragically involving recent wars in the middle east or Afghanistan, this one is very different - from a timing standpoint. **In this case, Cpl. Huff was reported killed in action on December 2, 1950 in the Battle at Chosin Reservoir, Korea. His body was never recovered. Keep reading.**

In 1954 the UN and Communist Forces exchanged the remains of war dead (Operation Glory) to Kokura, Japan for analysis. Cpl Huff's remains returned to Hawaii from Japan in 1956 as an unidentified Marine. He was laid to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Hawaii with fellow unidentified servicemen. **Now fast forward to 2012...after Missing in Action for 62 years, the remains of Cpl. Clarence Huff, Jr. were actually identified on May 18th, 2012 from chest x-rays and dental records by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Identification Lab in Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.** There are so many organizations out there that so many are unaware of-but consider the needs of family members whose soldiers are POW/MIA to understand just how important the work of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Identification Lab. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) is a joint task force within DOD whose mission is to account for Americans who are listed as Prisoners Of War (POW), or Missing In Action (MIA), from all past wars and conflicts. "The mission of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts." **The motto of JPAC is "Until they are home". HERE is their website:**

<http://www.jpac.pacom.mil/>

Bud Huff enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves upon graduation from high school in 1948. October 1950 he was sent to Camp Pendleton in California for deployment to Korea. Clarence "Bud" Huff was born on November 22, 1930 to the late Clarence Huff, Sr. and Betty (nee Zenk) in Parma, Ohio and grew up in Hinckley, Ohio with eight brothers and sisters. Bud graduated from Hinckley High School in 1948 and was a member of the Hinckley Volunteer Fire Department. The Hinckley FD covers a rural area of Medina county, 25 miles south of Cleveland. Cpl Huff's mom lived to be 93 years old with the hopes that some day his remains would come home. Unfortunately, she passed away in 2002. In his honor, Betty was a "gold star mother" and led the parade in Hinckley on Memorial Day. He is survived by his many relatives and extended family. Cpl. Huff was followed in death by his parents and other siblings. **Burial with full military honors will be held on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at 11 a.m. at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, Ohio.** Rest In Peace.

Take Care-Salute Our Troops.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-5-12 / 2238 Hours

**AND:**

**CHIEF KILLED IN CRASH-WHILE ON DUTY**

This is an update to our previous posting. Fire Chief Jon Tibbetts of Sandoval County NM was on his way to run a physical abilities test to a newly hired county employee 2 weeks ago. Chief Tibbetts, 59, was on duty and driving his county-issued Ford SUV north on I-25 at about 0800 hours when, three miles south of Bernalillo, he collided with a northbound 2004 Cadillac that had struck the concrete median barrier and rebounded into traffic. Chief Tibbetts' vehicle flipped, flew over the median and landed in the southbound passing lane. He was wearing a seat belt and was not ejected but died at the scene. One his his own Sandoval County Fire Department ambulances was the first to respond to the scene and later transported their chief's body to the Office of the Medical Investigator in Albuquerque. The driver of the Cadillac, Armando Saenz, 22 suffered only minor injuries. There was no indication alcohol was involved. The beloved Chief Tibbetts basically built the emergency system from scratch in Sandoval County. The county hired Tibbetts in September 2004 to head the county's fire and emergency medical services system. He also was charged with coordinating fire and emergency response services to the county and pueblos. Previously, he was operations director for Albuquerque Ambulance for 18 years. He began his career as a paramedic in San Juan County. He undertook firefighting training for the Sandoval County job. Known as a real "Renaissance man," his interests included playing the violin and biking across the country. Chief Tibbetts was married with two grown children. RIP.

**FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT DOWN IN ATLANTA**

Yesterday, several Atlanta Fire-Rescue recruits went "down" due to heat emergencies. The most critical, has his body temperature back to normal, down from 107.5 degrees. He is still in serious condition, but breathing on his own, which initially he was not. He was actually one of three that experienced heat illness. The other two are doing fine. Prayers.

**NORTH DAKOTA FIREFIGHTER LODD UPDATE:**

The wife of Deceased Volunteer Firefighter Jim Reardon has made contact with the Fire Academy of North Dakota and indicated his death was caused by a sudden cardiac event/heart attack that's reported to have been irreversible at the time that he was preparing the water rescue training event. FF Reardons lungs were reportedly dry, indicating this was not a drowning. Wake - St Michaels Church Buckman, MN Friday, Aug 10 from 4 - 8 PM Funeral - St. Michaels Church, Buckman MN Saturday, Aug 11 at 11:00 AM RIP.



Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 8-7-12 / 1302 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

2 weeks ago we sent a posting out on The Secret List forwarding a message sent out from FDNY. Their message was stating that they do not support/endorse the Remembrance Rescue Project and we added our own TSL thoughts to that as well. With as many scams as there have been related to "support" of 9/11, Fallen Firefighters etc-a warning is always appropriate. Our initial impression based upon statements from those who have visited their display in past months was that collected/donated funds were being raised for "firefighters lost on duty" and to educate people on 9/11. It appears that the great majority of the donated funds are actually used to support running and maintaining their trucks. If that is a fact, then that's what ought to be clearly stated. There is nothing wrong with that, in my opinion, just make the mission and use of funds crystal clear so there can never be any question on intent...to trigger emotions. I don't think there will ever be "too many" groups out there honoring Firefighters (and supporting related families and causes) who gave their lives - but I feel the message can be confusing. Perhaps they should much more clearly state that they have purchased old FDNY rescue trucks and in order to fulfill their mission to bring the truck(s) to a community, they need to sell shirts or accept donations to primarily support the maintenance and upkeep of these trucks. If that's the case and it's very clear, then there is no reason why anyone should be concerned about supporting them.

Obviously there is historical value to these trucks that they bought at auction...**but also priceless emotional value.** Like anything that was a part of the most tragic event on American soil, the sensitivities and emotions justifiably run extremely high---especially to those whose family and friends were murdered on 9/11. **The trucks themselves (to so many) represent where their "loved ones" died-it's a big deal and equal to what many consider extremely "sacred ground."** These are not just trucks bought at auction, and I'm surprised they were even auctioned off. None of us can minimize the extreme sensitivity that exists related to "anything 9/11" because the sensitivity very personally belongs exclusively to **those most impacted-the members of FDNY and their families and friends.** It's very, very personal to that very exclusive group of survivors - and I think at times, anyone outside of them, anyone, as well intentioned as they may be, can lose focus, have trouble or are incapable of fully understanding just how deep the survivors emotions run.

**There are some very successful and visibly supported and embraced groups that have helped the FDNY and related survivors with funds as well as educating the public on 9/11.**

**Groups such as:**

The September 11th Families Association: <http://www.911families.org/>

The Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund: <http://www.terryfund.org/>

The Chief Ray Downey Scholarship Charity Fund: <http://www.chiefraydowney.com/>

The Fire Engineering/FDIC Courage and Valor Award: <http://www.courageandvalor.com/>

The 9//11 Tribute Center: <http://www.tributewtc.org/>

---just to name a few who set the example. Each of their missions and how their funding is used is very clear and up front following all laws and regulations without question or "gray" area.

To be very clear, the Rescue Remembrance project is not anything at all like the New Jersey felons we wrote about last week. Those felons are being charged, for driving around the USA in a red pickup collecting thousands of dollars in donations for family members - that they kept for themselves. These



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

N.J. jerks drove around in their "National 9/11 Memorial Truck" with the names of the more than 400 first responders who were murdered. But because of clowns like that-and others who have also been making money off those murdered, there are many reasons for anyone to be cautious.

Understand the fact is that FDNY sent this message out on social media 2 weeks ago: **"A group called the "Remembrance Rescue Project" is touring the country with old FDNY Rescue apparatus. We have asked them repeatedly to remove all references to the FDNY from the apparatus, website, videos, etc. They have not and they continue to collect donations using our name. We do not endorse or support this project. Please share this information with your friends and family".**

**And we did.**

Emotions run high when it comes to 9/11 and-as they do when any Firefighter is killed in the Line of Duty. **And emotions should run absolutely high.** The positive news is that the folks who run the Rescue Remembrance Project are removing the FDNY logos, affiliated emblems to make clear their mission. I and others have personally committed to help them get connected with each of the above listed organizations so they can gain the understanding and knowledge that is needed to make the Rescue Remembrance Project the success they envision. "Gray" areas, unclear communication and even the slightest questions on representation (as unintentional as it may be) related to tragic losses leads to high emotions, just as clear and improved communication clarifies a mission of trying to do the right thing.

Since we are not aware of any national "registry" to confirm any groups legitimacy, the best seems to do your homework and even reach out to those they claim they are helping and supporting. Have your D.A., your local Prosecutor, P.D. or Sheriff look into them well before you commit to any event or activity. Ask for all of the "paperwork" (including current 501c3 accounting related paperwork) and whatever else needs to be done to insure you, your FD and community time and money is being spent 100% in the manner that is being represented. Check with the FD or organization they claim to be helping. Check with the Union(s) and Associations and ask for documentation that proves the support and endorsement. Any legit group will never have any problem rapidly providing all that is needed-and there is nothing wrong or insulting about you asking. We simply suggest that you keep your eyes wide open, have your local authorities do a thorough "background check" to insure those "coming to town" are legit as individuals - and as an organization-and if they are and they are fully supported by those they claim to help and all is clean-welcome them with open arms. Just make sure all of the questions are asked and the answers are verified. There have been many scams like the above where so many later ended up regretting their support-in thinking they were simply doing good.

MORE On This Issue From Firehouse.com: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10756553/fdny-group-respond-following-trademark-flap>

HERE is The Rescue Remembrance Website: <http://remembrance.co/>

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-8-12 /1406 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A Corpus Christi Firefighter was one of 4 Firefighters injured this morning during a fire in Robstown. Corpus Christi Firefighters were part of several mutual aid departments to help the Robstown FD with a building fire on Main Street about 0315 Hours. Initial reports are that a partial wall collapse led

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

to intense fire conditions that left the Firefighter with 2nd and 3rd degree burns to his face and arms. The Firefighter was taken to Christus Spohn Hospital Memorial and then moved by medical helicopter to the burn unit at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. 2 other Firefighters from Robstown and Annville were also injured but they are doing fine. More details to follow.

**HERE is video from the fire:** <http://www.kristv.com/news/fire-fighter-hurt-in-early-morning-robstown-blaze/#!prettyPhoto/0/>

We wish him a quick recovery.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-9-12 / 0913 Hours

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

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

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**Budget Related Items:**

Four firefighters were laid off in the Higgins (CA) Fire Protection District Wednesday and other Auburn-area departments say cutbacks may be on the horizon for them. The cuts come in the wake of the failure of three June ballot measures, which would have added additional taxes for fire districts. The Placer Hills Fire Protection District, North Auburn-Ophir Fire and the Higgins Fire Protection District each warned residents that additional revenue was needed to make up for major budget shortfalls caused by lower property tax revenues. Without the tax-infusion, each district is looking at ways to balance its budget, from layoffs to station closures. Jerry Good, battalion chief of the Higgins Fire District, which covers 90 square miles from Lake of the Pines to Grass Valley, said two firefighters and two engineers were displaced from their jobs at 8 a.m. "We are going from six people on duty a day to four to cover 90 square miles," Good said. "It is probably one of the worst months of my life. We only missed it (the measure passing) by 5 percent."

[http://auburnjournal.com/detail/213439.html?content\\_source=&category\\_id=2&search\\_filter=&user\\_id=&event\\_mode=&event\\_ts\\_from=&event\\_ts\\_to=&list\\_type=&order\\_by=&order\\_sort=&content\\_class=1&sub\\_type=&town\\_id=](http://auburnjournal.com/detail/213439.html?content_source=&category_id=2&search_filter=&user_id=&event_mode=&event_ts_from=&event_ts_to=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=1&sub_type=&town_id=)

Excessive overtime costs played havoc with the first year of the Modesto (CA) Regional Fire Authority, and agency leaders are trying to get those costs under control. The Modesto City Council's auditor found that the fire authority through May spent \$1.76 million paying fire personnel to work overtime, which was \$616,000 over budget, and the costs were expected to be \$776,000 over budget by the end of the fiscal year last month:

<http://www.modbee.com/2012/07/30/2305231/modesto-area-fire-agencys-budget.html>

The Downey (CA) Fire Department is nine employees short and has had to take one fire engine out of operation because of that and since the department cannot afford to hire the personnel necessary to fill the vacancies, according to Fire Chief Lonnie Croom:

[http://wavenewspapers.com/news/local/herald\\_american/article\\_dd098102-d1db-11e1-863b-001a4bcf6878.html](http://wavenewspapers.com/news/local/herald_american/article_dd098102-d1db-11e1-863b-001a4bcf6878.html)

The city of San Bernardino's (CA) decision to file for bankruptcy protection has reignited the debate about whether the city, as a potential cost-cutting measure, should dissolve its police and fire departments and contract with the county for those services. Last week, the City Council declared a state of fiscal emergency and directed staff to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection. It came a week after city officials said a \$45 million budget deficit and cash-flow quagmire could leave the city unable to meet its Aug. 15 payroll. Officials at the San Bernardino County sheriff's and fire departments said San Bernardino city officials have not approached them on the subject of contracting with their agencies for police and fire services. But some say the time has come for the city to seriously consider such a move, or at least rethink how it can slash its public safety budget to get its financial house in order. In a budget report presented to the City Council earlier this month, Finance Director Jason Simpson and interim City Manager Andrea Miller suggested that the city initiate discussions with Cal Fire and other cities about establishing a fire district, with San Bernardino serving as the lead agency: [http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/breakingnews/ci\\_21142274/san-bernardino-bankruptcy-reignites-debate-over-outsourcing-city](http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/breakingnews/ci_21142274/san-bernardino-bankruptcy-reignites-debate-over-outsourcing-city)

Monterey Park (CA) City officials said Monday they they have removed Fire Engine 61 from service until there is an agreement with the union that represents firefighters. The City Council approved the engine "brown out" in June, and Fire Station 61 has been without its engine for a week. The move could save the city \$67,000 a month in overtime pay. City Manager Paul Talbot said removing the engine was necessary for the city to balance its 2012-2013 budget, which took effect July 1. He said because the Firefighter's Association has not yet agreed to pay its 9 percent CalPERS employee contribution, the city had to cut somewhere else within the department. "We had to balance our budget, and we're not going to go broke trying to do something that we just can't afford to do at this time," Talbot said. "This is the financially prudent option." [http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci\\_21194052/monterey-park-removes-fire-engine-face-ongoing-labor](http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_21194052/monterey-park-removes-fire-engine-face-ongoing-labor)

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**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 Lowell (MA) firefighter drove a firetruck for six months without a driver's license, never telling the city he had lost his right to drive for 180 days because he refused to take a Breathalyzer test after a traffic stop. Donald Goyette, 42, was placed on unpaid administrative leave late Wednesday, the same day City Manager Bernie Lynch was scheduled to hold a disciplinary hearing. The hearing was postponed indefinitely due to scheduling conflicts. Lynch is exploring whether Goyette should be fired:

[http://www.lowellsun.com/todaysheadlines/ci\\_21118618/no-license-behind-wheel-lowell-firetruck](http://www.lowellsun.com/todaysheadlines/ci_21118618/no-license-behind-wheel-lowell-firetruck)

A volunteer firefighter from Cazadero (CA) is facing arson charges for allegedly setting four small wildland fires in the Timber Cove area, a Cal Fire official said Friday. Nathaniel Ridgway Schmidt, 19, was arrested Wednesday, according to Cal Fire Capt. Ben Nicholls of the Sonoma-Lake-Napa unit. Schmidt is listed as a cadet on the roster of the Timber Cove Volunteer Fire Department based in Cazadero, said Suzie Blankenship of Cal Fire. Mike Singer, Timber Cove fire chief, could not be reached for comment Friday night. Schmidt was charged with four felony counts of arson in connection with fires set in the Timber Cove area between July 3, 2011, and June 9, 2012, Nicholls said. An additional arson fire was set in San Mateo County in July, 2011: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120713/ARTICLES/120719770>

Peabody's (MA) recently retired deputy fire chief has filed an age-discrimination complaint against the city and his successor in the position, saying he was subjected to harassment, insubordination and even "personal cruelty." Paul Lynch, 65, retired at the end of May, after what he said was a "campaign of harassment" by Eric Harrison, who, Lynch charges, wanted him to retire sooner. Harrison was sworn in last month as deputy chief. "While I was scheduled to retire at the end of May 2012," Lynch and his lawyer wrote in the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination complaint, "I was living every day in constant distress about what Harrison was going to do next. Harrison's harassment of me had escalated such that I could no longer fully enjoy and participate in my workplace." Lynch believes the campaign was an effort to force him to retire earlier than scheduled because Harrison, at the time a captain and a close friend of Chief Steve Pasdon, was expected to replace him: <http://www.salemnews.com/local/x1301512371/Ex-deputy-chief-cites-cruelty>

Additional charges were filed this morning against a Timber Cove (CA) Fire Protection District volunteer suspected of setting five forestland fires in Sonoma and San Mateo counties. The Sonoma County District Attorney's Office filed five new misdemeanor charges of making a false report of an emergency against 19-year-old Nathaniel Schmidt, of Cazadero. Defense attorney Steve Gallenson said the charges are not related to the alleged arson cases. "They are related to something out on the highway," Gallenson said, but did not give specifics. Schmidt was charged last week with four felony counts of arson of forestland in Sonoma County. Cal Fire Capt. Ben Nicholls in the Sonoma-Lake-Napa unit said Schmidt was arrested July 11 on suspicion of starting the Sonoma County fires and another fire in San Mateo County: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_21103188/more-charges-filed-against-volunteer-firefighter-accused-setting](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_21103188/more-charges-filed-against-volunteer-firefighter-accused-setting)

A Titusville (FL) fire battalion chief was fired after the department said he hadn't kept inventory of drugs for years. A customer complaint at a restaurant snowballed into a full-on internal investigation into Allard at the Titusville Fire Department. A citizen at DogRUs complained Allard left his car running while he ate lunch inside. "It was running with the A/C on. The citizen was concerned about misuse of taxpayer dollars," said Scott Gaenicke, the administrative chief of Titusville Fire and EMS. When officials looked a little deeper into the situation, they discovered Allard had medications like morphine in his truck from a training exercise, but there was a discrepancy as to how much. Investigators said more digging led to 50 books of inaccurate medication records at the bottom of Allard's desk drawers, including expired drugs in baggies: <http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/titusville-fire-chief-fired-after-investigation-dr/nP3R3/>

An upper East Tennessee volunteer firefighter has been charged with felony filing a false report for allegedly calling in a phony fire call and then responding to the call with his department: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1317926-Volunteer-firefighter-phones-in-fake-fire-call-for-fun/>

Kathy Petty, a former Topeka (KS) deputy fire chief, is seeking more than \$1.3 million in a federal discrimination lawsuit filed last month against the city and Local 83 of the International Association of Fire Fighters. The suit alleges the city committed gender discrimination and retaliation, while Local 83 supported actions the city took to terminate Petty and hire less qualified men for vacant fire department jobs she subsequently sought. The suit seeks damages for lost wages, lost benefits, future lost wages and benefits, mental anguish, costs and legal fees: <http://cjonline.com/news/2012-07-23/ex-deputy-chief-sues-city-firefighters-union>

A Toledo/Siletz (OR) police officer arrested a Siletz volunteer firefighter early Saturday morning on suspicion of being drunk behind the wheel of a fire truck. Exact quote from the TPD News Release: "On 07/28/2012 at approximately 303AM Officer Aaron Pitcher was on patrol in the City of Siletz when he encountered a City of Siletz Fire Truck driving very slowly on Emerald Street." The officer said he was on patrol at 3am Saturday when he encountered a Siletz fire truck in the middle of Emerald Street near Siletz River Drive. The officer said the fire truck stopped and then its lights were turned off. The officer had not heard any 9-1-1 dispatch radio calls for emergency vehicles to respond to an incident, so he wondered what was going on. The officer said he parked near the fire truck, got out, and upon contact the driver, Robert Learn, 38, determined that Learn had likely been consuming alcoholic beverages prior to driving. The officer said he tried to get Learn to perform a sobriety test but was met with verbal abuse and that Learn became combative. Learn was transported to the Lincoln County Jail where he was booked for Drunk Driving and Resisting Arrest and given a citation for Refusing a Breath Test. Jail officials did manage to obtain a blood draw:  
<http://www.newslincolncounty.com/?p=57437>

A firefighter is contesting discipline handed down by the Spokane (WA) Valley Fire Department for sending emails with religious content to other firefighters using the department's email system. Capt. Jon Sprague was suspended without pay for two 24-hour shifts for conduct unbecoming an officer and violation of an order given by a superior officer. Fire commissioners, however, said the discipline should be suspended until mediation is complete. Sprague said he is fighting the disciplinary action because it is a violation of his First Amendment rights. "It's a use of public funds," said Fire Chief Mike Thompson. "It's the department's email system. We have certain controls and obligations."  
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2012/jul/28/faith-emails-cause-conflict/>

What's a tiny volunteer fire company in Bensalem (PA) doing with a \$1 million taxpayer-funded fireboat tricked out to troll the Delaware River for blazes, bodies, terrorists, and IEDs? Nothing, besides preening for festival crowds and crashing into objects seen and unseen. The tale of how the dysfunctional Union Fire Company won a wad of Homeland Security money to buy a state-of-the-art terror-taming boat screams post-9/11 planning at its nuttiest. The volunteers' bold play to dabble in regional law enforcement has soured relations with Bensalem's paid police department. Two Union chiefs have resigned as a result of boat acrimony and embarrassing accidents. And just maintaining the vessel is draining the fire company's meager resources:  
[http://articles.philly.com/2012-07-29/news/32924329\\_1\\_dream-boat-armored-car-union-chiefs](http://articles.philly.com/2012-07-29/news/32924329_1_dream-boat-armored-car-union-chiefs)

A Fort Lauderdale (FL) firefighter was arrested after police said he threatened another member of the fire department to disclose information about a criminal case. Steve Loleski, 35, was arrested by Fort Lauderdale Police Wednesday and faces one count of extortion/threats and one count of criminal attempt to solicit or conspire, according to online records. He remains in the main jail on \$51,000 bond: <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Fort-Lauderdale-Firefighter-Arrested-For-Extortion-Cops-164796346.html>



A veteran **Passaic** (NJ) firefighter suspended eight months ago after he was charged with making crank phone calls during a working fire has switched lawyers and delayed his disciplinary hearing — and is still collecting his \$142,000 annual salary and earning pension credits, city records show. Capt. Stephen Geosits has been suspended with pay since early December, when he was charged with official misconduct on charges of impersonating another **Passaic** firefighter and making the crank calls. Geosits, who once stood trial for pulling a false alarm in the firehouse but was acquitted, was suspended under Mayor Alex D. Blanco's "zero tolerance" policy on misconduct and was subject to termination. But in eight months, Geosits has never had a disciplinary hearing, and one isn't scheduled. From the beginning of the year to July 20, the last available pay date, Geosits had been paid \$68,122, payroll records show. And because he's still employed, Geosits continues to earn pension credits and is covered by health insurance:

[http://www.northjersey.com/passaic/Suspended\\_Passaic\\_fireman\\_still\\_collecting\\_pay\\_hasnt\\_worked\\_in\\_8\\_months.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/passaic/Suspended_Passaic_fireman_still_collecting_pay_hasnt_worked_in_8_months.html?page=all)

A **Woodruff** (SC) volunteer firefighter has been suspended after he was charged early Sunday with driving under the influence. According to online jail records, Rhett Outz was booked into the Spartanburg County Detention Facility about 6:30 a.m., and released on a \$3,000 bond about four hours later. He has been charged by the S.C. Highway Patrol with DUI and child endangerment. Highway Patrol Lance Cpl. Billy Elder said the Woodruff Police Department was conducting a driver's license checkpoint at Highway 221 and Church Street when Outz drove up to the checkpoint about 4:30 a.m. Outz was driving a 1997 Ford sport utility vehicle belonging to the city of Woodruff at the time, and had a 16-year-old passenger with him, Elder said. Godfrey said Outz was driving a non-emergency fire department staff vehicle without authorization at the time of his arrest:

<http://www.goupstate.com/article/20120805/ARTICLES/120809844/1083/ARTICLES?Title=Woodruff-volunteer-firefighter-suspended-after-being-charged-with-DUI>

The head of the **Boston** (MA) firefighters union is under fire after he hooked up a department-owned hose to a hydrant outside his Hyde Park home to fill his neighbor's pool, the Herald has learned. "I was just trying to help out a neighbor that was putting a pool up," Richard Paris, president of the Boston Firefighters Union Local 718, told the Herald yesterday. "Now that I look at it, it was wrong. I messed up and I apologize."

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20220809fire\\_union\\_head\\_in\\_hot\\_water\\_for\\_filling\\_pool\\_from\\_hydrant/](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20220809fire_union_head_in_hot_water_for_filling_pool_from_hydrant/)

The **Baltimore Sun** describes in detail the prostitution related charges against **Baltimore** (MD) Firefighter Jamar Simmons of the Baltimore City Fire Department. A month ago Simmons was arrested with another man, Franklin Coit, on charges similar to those they were arrested for in Baltimore County in 2010. In that case the men received probation before judgment. Today's article cites court records that accuse the men of operating a prostitution ring out of an apartment in Southwest Baltimore. The charges indicate that Simmons and Coit pocketed a percentage of the money taken in by a group of women selling sex out of the apartment. Inside the raided apartment, according to court records, city police found a stage with two floor-to-ceiling poles, a large bar with a DJ booth, two bedrooms and a kitchen with six lockers labeled with women's nicknames. In one room, court records say, police found a chalkboard with written reminders to the women. Among them: do not mention sex for money on the phone, always search clients for police wires and tout the location of the third-story, loft-style apartment in the 200 block of S. Pulaski Street as being just 10 minutes from downtown:

<http://statter911.com/2012/08/10/details-of-prostitution-ring-involving-baltimore-firefighter-outlined-by-prosecutors-jamar-simmons-described-as-a-pimp/>



The Seattle (WA) Fire Department is looking into an embarrassing picture that was posted on Facebook. Is it conduct unbecoming a firefighter? KING 5's Linda Brill takes a look. The photo was sent by a KING 5 viewer, who called the image unprofessional. It appears to be a Seattle Fire Department lieutenant on the station house floor, tagged with paint. The tags said "Ladder 10," "E 25" (for Engine 25) and "B 2" (for Battalion 2):

<http://www.krem.com/news/northwest-news/165223366.html>

Baltimore (MD) union confirms two firefighters behind toilet based artwork of mayor & fire chief. Dispute within IAFF local over handling of the incident:

<http://statter911.com/2012/08/07/baltimore-union-confirms-two-firefighters-behind-toilet-based-artwork-of-mayor-fire-chief-dispute-within-iaff-local-over-handling-of-the-incident/>

A Jacksonville (FL) Fire and Rescue spokesman says the department learned about some firefighters' questionable behavior at a fundraiser last week from other firefighters. A JFRD district chief and a lieutenant are also being questioned for their part in the event held at the Whiskey River nightclub that raised \$75,000 for the family of a firefighter who died earlier this year doing an off-duty job. Photos of the event show a woman Channel 4 was told was a JFRD lieutenant with only the straps of her bunker gear covering her breasts. The images that surfaced on 904HappyHour.com are now the focus of an internal investigation in which JFRD policies may have been violated. In one photo, a firefighter wearing bunker gear and a helmet gets what appears to be a tip from a girl in the crowd. In another photo, two firefighters engage in what some consider lewd behavior:

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/Investigation-launched-into-firefighters-behavior/-/475880/15989592/-/nlhnvznz/-/index.html>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Glendale (CA) firefighters have agreed to cut a 4.5% promised cost-of-living raise to 2.5% in 2013 as the city continues to ask for employee concessions to save money. In 2015, firefighters are set to get a second 3.5% increase, bringing the total increase to 6% increase over the life of the four year contract. Foregoing the full raise at the beginning will save the city \$900,000. In addition, the union has agreed to increase employee pension contributions on a graduated scale from 11% to 12.5% of their salary by 2015. That change puts them on par with the police union and will save the city about \$365,000 throughout the life of the contract, which expires in June 2016. On Tuesday, City Council members applauded the union for amending and extending their 2014 contract before unanimously approving the agreement at a City Hall meeting. Councilwoman Laura Friedman said she attended a multi-city conference recently and officials from other cities were stunned that Glendale's firefighters were willing to delay their promised raise. "They said, "What did you did you do? Did you have to force them to do it?' No they just volunteered to do it because they knew that we had a revenue problem in the city as all the cities do and we have our issues with pensions and salaries," Friedman said:

<http://www.lacanadaonline.com/news/tn-gnp-glendale-firefighters-agree-to-delay-raises-20120719,0,1944147.story>

Oceanside (CA) and its firefighters have tentatively agreed to a new two-year contract which City Manager Peter Weiss said contains major concessions, including adoption of a two-tier pension plan and elimination of mandatory staffing levels. "This goes a long way in helping with the city's long-term budget process," Weiss said. "It recognizes the pension issues and some other concerns." Weiss said the concessions from firefighters in the contract produced by negotiators for the city and the Oceanside Firefighters Association would save the city an

estimated \$245,000 in the first year and \$430,000 in the second year. The deal also eliminates a provision that requires at least 32 firefighters be on duty at all times. No minimum staffing requirement is contained in the new package:

[http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/oceanside-new-contract-tentatively-reached-with-firefighters/article\\_0bc3601f-716c-5516-94b7-1d2e989367eb.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/oceanside-new-contract-tentatively-reached-with-firefighters/article_0bc3601f-716c-5516-94b7-1d2e989367eb.html)

Twenty of Mesilla's (NM) 22 volunteer firefighters don't live in the town. Fire department officials said the two who do are in the process of moving because they can't afford to live there. But there is still a strong attachment, a strong affinity they have for the town, even though the majority of voters there didn't show the same sentiments. Earlier this year, a \$1.5 million bond election that could have provided money to pay for badly needed renovations for the Mesilla Public Safety Building and to purchase a new fire truck was soundly defeated. "That really hit hard to the association," said Chad Zecha, president of the Mesilla Firefighters Association, of the bond's defeat. "Knowing that the firefighters volunteer here and put their lives on the line, it was a bit of a blow. For a lot of the members it was like a hit in the gut." After getting over their disappointment, the volunteer firefighters decided to do something about improving the situation themselves. The firefighters proposed to the Mesilla board of trustees that they would give up the \$40,000 a year in stipends the town pays them, for 10 years, if the money could instead be used to purchase a new fire truck. "When they made that proposal I thought "you've got to be kidding," Mayor Nora Barraza said. "It's amazing that if it takes 10 years to buy a new fire truck that will provide the entire town with better public safety, they are willing to give up their stipends. Personally, it was so touching that these men and women think so much of Mesilla. that they would sacrifice their own ways of helping to provide for their families to help the community as a whole."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/apparatus/articles/1321814-Vol-firefighters-surrender-stipend-for-10-years-to-buy-new-fire-truck/>

After a year of negotiations, Upland (CA) firefighters and city officials have reached a contract agreement. The Upland Professional Fire Fighters Association's new two-year contract, which is already set to expire in June 2013, does not include increases in salaries and benefits, but does give firefighters options for using their vacation time. "I want to thank both groups for coming together and realizing we're under extreme economic times," Councilman Brendan Brandt said: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_21192239/upland-fire-fighters-reach-labor-agreement-city](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_21192239/upland-fire-fighters-reach-labor-agreement-city)

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

Video shows a botched live-fire training drill that injured four firefighters and led to the suspension of the North Las Vegas fire chief. Footage from three different cameras recorded radio calls and expletives from witnesses as two veteran firefighters bailed out. As flames intensify in the video, two fuel sources spontaneously ignite and blow the plywood windows off the training building: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1316618-Video-Live-burn-injures-4-firefighters-chief-placed-on-leave/>

NIOSH is stressing the need for clearly developed SOPs on the operation of aerial apparatus after a Florida firefighter fell to his death during training in January. William "Jumbo" Elliott, 49, of Pompano Beach Fire Rescue, had already ascended and descended the ladder before returning for a second time: <http://www.firerescue1.com/apparatus/articles/1318709-SOP-warning-after-firefighter-falls-to-death-from-aerial-ladder/>

5 most common fireground mistakes - Fire service instructor Rich Gasaway outlined at Fire Rescue International, 5 mistakes that lead to injury and death and their solutions:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1323940-5-most-common-fireground-mistakes/>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

The nation's largest public pension fund collected a dismal 1 percent annual return on its investments, a figure far short of projections that will likely bring pressure on California's state and local governments to contribute more money, officials said Monday. The return reported by the California Public Employees' Retirement System was well below its projected return of 7.5 percent for the fiscal year that ended June 30 and is prompting administrators to consider changes to investment strategies. The investment returns are critical because taxpayers are on the hook for the difference if the pension funds fail to meet their performance targets: The nation's largest public pension fund collected a dismal 1 percent annual return on its investments, a figure far short of projections that will likely bring pressure on California's state and local governments to contribute more money, officials said Monday. The return reported by the California Public Employees' Retirement System was well below its projected return of 7.5 percent for the fiscal year that ended June 30 and is prompting administrators to consider changes to investment strategies. The investment returns are critical because taxpayers are on the hook for the difference if the pension funds fail to meet their performance targets:

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2012/jul/16/bc-us--california-pensions-5th-ld-writethru825-1/?partner=popular>

Cleveland's (OH) push to punish firefighters who abused shift swap privileges by paying others to do their work is an unprecedented move in a time when elected officials are often cautious about waging war against beloved rescuers — and the politically powerful unions that represent them. In cities across the country, firefighters have been lambasted after audits and investigations revealed they ran businesses on city time, gained benefits for years of shifts they never worked or set up schemes to receive unnecessary overtime:

[http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/07/cleveland\\_mayor\\_frank\\_jacksons.html](http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/07/cleveland_mayor_frank_jacksons.html)

Washington state's Pension Funding Council voted Wednesday to raise contribution rates for several state pension plans. The moves affect state and local government employers as well as workers, and the changes had mostly been assumed, according to Matt Smith, state actuary. Smith had outlined options in an earlier report. Option B was selected, which means rates go up for most plans but remain the same for the Washington State Patrol Retirement System and Public Safety Employees Retirement System (which had faced a possible two-year rate cut). What all this means to the state budget is a \$390 million increase in the state contribution to numerous pension plans in 2013-15, state budget director Marty Brown said. That is about \$51 million more than the Office of Financial Management had been assuming. Local governments are hit for another \$460 million, he said. But as Smith said, the rate adjustments have long been anticipated. Smith has cast the rate adjustments as a choice of paying some now or paying even more later:

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2012/07/25/state-pension-costs-going-up-by-390-million>

Despite a 2003 reform effort, Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System is an expensive mess. The program's investment shortfalls are driving up taxpayer contributions even as schools, cities and other government entities cut back on service. PERS rules, meanwhile, allow older employees, and to a limited extent newer ones, to puff up their salaries in the final years before retirement in order to fatten their monthly pension checks. Employees who game

the system in this way point out that they're simply working within the rules others have created. The fact that they're right, however, won't placate taxpayers fed up by public pension costs and by the inability, or unwillingness, of public officials to take measures necessary to control them. As a measure of how powerfully public sentiment has turned against the retirement program, consider its introduction into the secretary of state's race. Challenger Knute Buehler wants to use the office's audit function to track PERS costs and – by the way – he'd like voters to know that incumbent Kate Brown voted against a significant piece of the 2003 reforms during her time as a legislator. It would be a mistake for legislators and the governor to ignore frustration of such intensity, as voters are apt to act on their own when elected officials fail to lead:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/07/pers\\_repair\\_should\\_be\\_a\\_priori.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2012/07/pers_repair_should_be_a_priori.html)

The East Contra Costa (CA) Fire Protection District (ECCFPD) is putting out a call for volunteers to help offset the loss of 15 full-time firefighters laid off in the wake of the failure of Measure S earlier this month. Fire Chief Hugh Henderson told the district board Monday that between 40 and 50 active volunteers would be needed district-wide to handle non-emergency calls and provide backup in emergencies. The need for first-responders would be even greater, said Henderson, who estimated that a volunteer program would need to provide 40 first-responders per station, or about 120 in all. The district currently utilizes about 15 reserve firefighters, some of whom could help form the core of a volunteer pool, Henderson said. The existing reserve program was eliminated effective July 1 as part of the preliminary budget approved Monday: [http://www.thepress.net/view/full\\_story/19125764/article-District-to-consider-volunteer-firefighters?instance=lead\\_story\\_bullets\\_left\\_column](http://www.thepress.net/view/full_story/19125764/article-District-to-consider-volunteer-firefighters?instance=lead_story_bullets_left_column)

A Cal Fire captain based in Jurupa Valley has been allowed to retroactively resign after he appealed his dismissal for submitting incorrect time sheets. Arthur Gonzalez, who worked at Station 18 on Mission Boulevard, was fired Feb. 11, 2011, after a battalion chief found inaccuracies with the amount of time Gonzalez claimed to have worked, according to Ginevra K. Chandler, chief counsel for Cal Fire. Gonzalez appealed the action, and his attorney and Cal Fire reached a settlement before the scheduled hearing this summer. The terms of the settlement prohibit Gonzalez from ever seeking employment with Cal Fire again. Also, Cal Fire agreed to remove all documents related to this case from Gonzalez's personnel file, and Gonzalez dropped his appeal. John Hawkins, chief of the Riverside unit, said the Gonzalez case prompted him to order a review of 13 months of time sheets of about 1,200 employees in the Riverside unit. As a result, a firefighter based in El Cerrito south of Corona received a letter of warning, and a firefighter in Desert Center was demoted, Cal Fire said:

<http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/riverside/riverside-headlines-index/20120724-jurupa-valley-fire-cal-fire-captain-allowed-to-resign.ece>

A proposal to hire laid-off Detroit (MI) firefighters in Hamtramck is under fire by union officials in both cities, with some calling the pitch a political "sideshow." Hamtramck Firefighters Local 750 president Bill Diamond sent a letter to Dan McNamara, president of Detroit Fire Fighters Association Local 344, expressing concerns about a possible shared services agreement between the two cities. The letter said Hamtramck's elected officials failed to consult the union before going to Detroit City Council this week for its blessing. "They obviously do not understand the UNION side of this proposal and how unbeneficial it would be and the turmoil it would cause," the letter reads. The proposal would include hiring as many as 30 laid-off Detroit firefighters, the equivalent of Hamtramck's entire department, said Nevrus Nazarko, Hamtramck's acting city manager:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120804/METRO01/208040345/1409/metro/Union-slams-Hamtramck-plan-hire-laid-off-firefighters>

The Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department will begin a hiring campaign this fall for the first time since the city's budget crunch forced a three-year hiatus from recruitment. Anywhere from 6,000 to 17,000 applicants are expected to line up for only 300 firefighter slots available over the next two years. The LAFD's last class of new firefighters was inducted in February 2009:  
[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_21187684/l-fire-department-seeks-recruits-hiring-campaign-is](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_21187684/l-fire-department-seeks-recruits-hiring-campaign-is)

Contra Costa's (CA) largest fire district will debate Tuesday whether to ask voters in November for a \$75-a-year parcel tax intended to keep open a third of the financially struggling agency's stations. Declining property tax receipts coupled with rising firefighter pension and health benefit costs have left the Contra Costa Fire Protection District in the red. Without more money to tide the district over until the economic climate improves, fire Chief Daryl Louder has said he will have to close seven to 10 of the district's 28 stations and lay off firefighters:  
[http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci\\_21175403/contracosta-looks-at-fire-parcel-tax-november?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com](http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_21175403/contracosta-looks-at-fire-parcel-tax-november?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com)

U.S. loves cops and firefighters - but not their pensions. In some cases, unions have preferred layoffs to reduced retirement benefits. Two troubled cities in New Jersey are cases in point. Camden, one of the state's poorest and most crime-plagued cities, recently cut its police force by about half, and Newark cut its force by a third after unions declined concessions demanded by their city governments. In New York, former Nassau County Executive Thomas Suozzi, a Long Island Democrat who has clashed with police unions, gave a stark assessment. "We're facing a problem that will be faced by every town in America. "You can't raise property taxes anymore - people won't go for it. There's no more money. So, do you cut services, which will result in the death of the suburbs, I think, or do you make these salaries and pensions more rational than they've been?" <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/29/us-usa-pensions-policeandfire-idUSBRE86S02120120729>

Charleston's (SC) new fire chief seeks balance of aggressive firefighting, safety:  
<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20120808/PC16/120809283/1165/charleston-s-new-fire-chief-seeks-balance-of-aggressive-firefighting-safety>

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

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

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



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