



## ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

June 16, 2012

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This latest issue is jam packed with fire service news stories, training opportunities, training and safety information, volunteer opportunities and employment opportunities! Whether you are a future firefighter or a current fire service professional of any rank, you should find valuable information that will help keep you educated and informed, as well as up-to-date with the fire service.

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### **FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION TIP OF THE MONTH:**

It is not uncommon for many fire departments to ask a question in the oral interview or in the chief's oral interview relating to the state (or the future) of the economy, the state (or the future) of the fire service, the problems facing the fire service, the community, the country, etc.

Candidates that actively read the fire service trade publications (Firehouse, Fire Engineering, Fire Rescue Magazine, Fire Chief, etc.), as well as their respective daily emails that provide up-to-date information on the fire service's issues, usually do well at this question. However, many candidates miss the point. When the Fire Chief asks them the question – what's the biggest issue facing the fire service, and all the candidate can say is "the economy" or something along those lines, without any supporting information and without any ability to provide some actual stories or actual incidents that have occurred related to the economy and to a specific fire department, they don't score as high as they could have. Prepared and successful oral interview candidates (entry-level and promotional), take the time to stay on top of what is going on in the fire service across the country as well as what is going outside of the fire service around the country and also in the local community. If something happens at a New York fire station, chances are it could happen in Texas; or California.

In today's world – for a variety of reasons including the economy and the increased desire by the public to hold their elected and appointed officials more accountable, Fire Chiefs and Fire Departments are under the gun, and under the microscope. Why? To ensure that we are properly, ethically and responsibly spending the tax payer's hard earned money to provide the most efficient and effective service to our communities. I've heard many firefighters say we shouldn't have to justify what we do, we're the fire service! Or we're an insurance policy that is needed! Well, we can believe what we want, but most Fire Chiefs are having to justify to their bosses (elected/appointed officials and the citizens) on a daily basis why so many firefighters, or why so many stations, etc. Yes, we are an insurance policy – the key is there is no one-size-fits-all insurance policy for every community

Some people forget that Fire Chiefs are typically "at-will" employees reporting directly to the City Manager, Mayor, County Executive, Board of Directors, etc., and can be fired for not following the direction of their direct supervisors as mentioned above – all of whom report to the public, the tax payers. Firefighters will often say that Battalion Chiefs are stuck in the middle – between administration and the line personnel. Fire Chiefs are also stuck in the middle – between their personnel and between their bosses. Firefighters and some Battalion Chiefs have union protection, Fire Chiefs do not. Many Fire Chiefs are unsuccessful and end up losing their job because they have to choose between either aligning themselves with their bosses – or with their personnel.

If they line themselves up with their personnel, they run the risk of not being loyal to their bosses and may find themselves out of a job. If they line themselves up with their bosses, they may keep their job, but their personnel may feel they have forgotten where they came from or that they don't support them and may even feel the need to give them a vote of no confidence – which doesn't necessarily mean they're out of a job because if their bosses still like the job they are doing, then they're ok. However, a vote of no confidence usually means the ideal desire to have a great labor/management relationship is nowhere in the cards.

Now, the point of this is not to stick up for Fire Chiefs or put down the elected/appointed officials – it's neither. It is to make you aware of the questions that the elected/appointed officials are asking Fire & Police Chiefs and unless those Chiefs can offer some valid, reliable, and accurate answers based on evidence based decision making, they run the risk of losing valuable and needed budget money. Days of past when Chiefs could get what they wanted in regards to staffing and programs are long gone. The money isn't there, people are fed up with paying more taxes, and we need to learn how to do the best we can with what we have – or have left.

Below was an article by the International City/County Management Association – the group that City/County Managers (the Fire Chief's bosses) belong to. Whether you agree or disagree doesn't matter. For those Firefighters that hate the term ICMA (I've heard many say that because I think they realize the threat they pose to the fire service), instead of hating ICMA – try to understand where they're coming from so you can best play offense – not defense as we're finding ourselves doing now. Meaning, actually take the time to read the information they provide not to agree with them, but to actually be able to counter with evidence based decision making of your own. Elected/Appointed officials and the public are sick and tired of hearing that “babies will die” or “people will die” if fire stations close. Will response times increase if stations are closed or companies are shut down? More than likely they will increase – but what is the threshold the community is willing to accept? That's the question that every community is forced to answer. Those emotional based comments that some tend to make are only hurting us – not helping us because most of the time, those threats we make never come true. Yes, they may come true on occasion, but in the grand scheme of things, they are not enough to really support what we want to accomplish – have sufficient and adequate staffing and apparatus.

## **Asking Your Police and Fire Chiefs the Right Questions**

The pressure for cost-cutting, coupled with the need to provide adequate staffing for emergency services, leaves many local government officials struggling to do more with less. Can emergency medical services operate on a reduced budget without sacrificing coverage? The answer can be found by knowing the right questions to ask police and fire chiefs to make informed data-driven decisions about cost-savings in those departments.

In a May 8 ICMA webconference - <http://learning.icma.org/store/seminar/seminar.php?seminar=11152> Leonard Matarese, director of research and project development for ICMA's Center for Public Safety Management, outlined the questions that city and county officials need to ask their police and fire chiefs to better determine how to staff emergency management teams. The webconference began with the question "What is the FBI recommended number of officers per thousand of a jurisdiction of your size?" The answer, by the way, is that there is no such FBI recommendation. From there, Matarese presented research findings that help to dispel many staffing myths and make a compelling case for workforce alignment. For example, survey findings from The Police Foundation Shift Length Experiment indicate that those officers assigned to eight-hour shifts worked an average of 5.75 hours of overtime per two-week period. That's more than five times as much overtime per two-week period as those on 10-hour shifts, which reported working an average of 0.97 hours of overtime. Efficiencies with overtime drop off slightly when moving to a 12-hour shift with average reported overtime at 1.89 hours per two-week period.

Matarese also reported that quality of life issues seem to improve with a 10-hour shift, as officers surveyed claim to get more sleep than those working an eight-hour shift. Officers on 10-hour shifts also reported a higher quality of work life. Adjusting the length of the workday wasn't the only factor explored; varying start times and using research to determine seasonal trends for emergency calls is an important consideration when aligning the work force. Fire departments also benefit from workforce alignment. Matarese explains the findings of the NIST Report on Residential Fireground Field Experiments. The report concluded that four-person crews completed the same number of fireground tasks on average of 5.1 minutes faster (nearly 25 percent) than three-person crews. Another conclusion was that a four-person crew operating on a low-hazard structure fire can complete laddering and ventilation (for life safety and rescue) 30 percent faster than a two-person crew and 25 percent faster than a three-person crew.

Finally, Matarese explored staffing issues with regard to fire and emergency medical services. He offered direct questions to consider, such as:

- How much 'stored capacity' can you afford?
- Why do we send an ambulance and a fire truck to a medical call?
- Are we duplicating efforts?
- What are the survival rates coming out of the hospital?

Here was the original article:

[http://icma.org/en/Article/102166/Asking\\_Your\\_Police\\_and\\_Fire\\_Chiefs\\_the\\_Right\\_Questions?pub=107&issue=6.5.2012&utm\\_source=ICMA+Leadership+Matters+\(Nonmember+Edition\)&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=6.5.2012](http://icma.org/en/Article/102166/Asking_Your_Police_and_Fire_Chiefs_the_Right_Questions?pub=107&issue=6.5.2012&utm_source=ICMA+Leadership+Matters+(Nonmember+Edition)&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=6.5.2012)

- Again, I'm not saying you should support or not support the ICMA – I'm trying to expose all to what is being said about us and what we need to be proactive and successful for the long run – if we want to survive. Many fire departments have been cut so bad in regards to losing positions and/or stations, that they'll probably never get back to the levels they need to be effective. Maybe at least not in our careers given the costs to support public safety. Not being negative, and I of all people hope I'm wrong, but I'm just trying to be realistic.
- I only provide the above information to help give you a bigger picture view of what fire departments across the country are having to go through and will have to go through in the future. As much as some of us hate to admit it, our law enforcement counterparts do a much better job at providing evidence based decision making, statistics, data, etc. Ask the average citizen on the street what are they more concerned with – the crime problem or the fire problem and I bet most will say the crime problem. Most of the public probably doesn't even realize their fire department runs EMS calls as based on the surprise of many when we arrive on scene on the fire engine before the ambulance and they say "I didn't call the fire department, I called for an ambulance or the paramedics," and we then have to say – "we are the paramedics." Oh.

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## **CHABOT COLLEGE 2012 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE.**

Looking for Fire Technology related courses to either become a firefighter or continue your education if you are currently a firefighter so you can prepare for promotion or become the best you can be at your current rank? Why not start at Chabot College in Hayward, California where we offer a variety of courses year-round to allow students to obtain their EMT certification or recertify as an EMT, obtain their Firefighter 1 Academy Certification, or a Certificate of Achievement in Fire Technology, or a two-year degree in Fire Technology, or just take various California State Certified classes.

## FALL 2012 Semester: (August through December 2012)

Registration for the Fall 2012 semester at Chabot College will be as follows:

- EOPS, DSPS, Aspire, Foster Youth and Veterans: April 26th and 27th
- Continuing students by priority: begins Apr 30th
- Early Admission students: May 12th
- New and Former students: begins May 21st
- Summer Concurrent Enrollment: May 29th
- Fall Concurrent Enrollment: July 2<sup>nd</sup>

The following classes are now available!

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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
<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
<b>FT 54</b> (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 56</b> (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 89</b> (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
<b>FT 90A</b> (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
<b>FT 90B</b> (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
<b>FT 90C</b> (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
<b>FT 91A</b> (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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
<b>FT 91B</b> (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
<b>FT 91C</b> (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
<b>FT 91D</b> (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
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>Health 81</b> (EMT) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 83**</b>	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
<b>Health 83</b> (Extrication and Triage) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 81**</b>	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (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
<b>PHED2FSC</b> (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
<b>PHED2FSC</b> (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.

## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**TAKE FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET**

**REGISTER FOR SUMMER 2012 CLASSES, NOW!**

Summer Session Classes are 8 weeks from June 18 - August 3, 2012. Priority Registration begins May 1<sup>st</sup>, Open Registration May 6<sup>th</sup>. **If a new student, enroll NOW! For Enrollment and Registration Information** <http://www.hancockcollege.edu/Default.asp?Page=1646>

**Summer 2012 Fire Technology Classes:** are completely on-line at Hancock College.

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Fire Hydraulics
- *Principles of Fire & Emergency Services Safety & Survival (Available Online Elsewhere)*

If unable to get into these On-line classes, Fire Tech classes may be available elsewhere.

**Fall 2012 Semester (8"20 - 12"5):** The Schedule will be available on-line May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Admission Application period opens June 1<sup>st</sup>, Priority Registration begins June 26<sup>th</sup> and Open Registration July 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition to a full slate of on-line Fire Technology classes, Hancock College will be offering some 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. Other Fire related courses and General Education classes are also offered on-line.

*Whether Summer or Fall classes, Register at your earliest opportunity! Due to budget cuts, classes are limited and fill fast.*

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)

Other Fire related courses and General Education classes are also offered on-line.

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## **RESERVE FIREFIGHTER OPPORTUNITY:**

The **Manteca Fire Department** (CA) will be accepting applications for the position of **Reserve Firefighter** in the near future.....

They are looking at recruitment in the next couple of months the process should consist of the following:

- Application filing
- Written test
- Oral interviews
- CPAT within previous 12 months of appointment date
- Background check
- Medical exam
- 3-4 month part time academy (probably be Tuesday nights and Saturdays)

### **Position Requirements:**

- 18 years of age
- High school diploma or GED
- Obtain EMT within 12 months of employment.
- Live within 20 air miles of Manteca, CA
- Ability to respond to at least 25% of emergency callbacks per calendar year.

- Ability to attend drills on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month
- Perform a MINIMUM of 12 hours of paid ride time per month

**F**or more information, you may contact Engineer Travis Gooch at [tgooch@mantecafire.org](mailto:tgooch@mantecafire.org)

**F**or more information about the **Manteca Fire Department**, visit their website at:  
[www.mantecafire.org](http://www.mantecafire.org)

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

### **2012 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) are pleased to announce that the 2012 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week will be held the week of **June 17-23, 2012**. As in past years, Safety and Health Week 2012 will be a collaborative effort of the fire and emergency service involving the major organizations as part of the grassroots effort to promote the event and have a positive impact on all fire/EMS personnel. We invite you to participate again this year because your involvement is critical to Safety and Health Week's success.

At this time, we are asking each participating organization to:

- Confirm your organization's willingness to take part again this year.
- Provide updated point of contact information (if applicable).
- Commit to promote the event through by linking to the Safety and Health Week from your website and sharing announcements with your members and other interested parties.

***The theme this year is Rules You Can Live By*** - This year's effort will capture the importance of responders taking care of themselves both on and off the emergency incident scene. Fire and EMS personnel can utilize the tools and resources of two nationally acclaimed programs: the SHS Section's Rules of Engagement and the NVFC's Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program.

***A New Look for 2012*** - International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week marks the unification of the IAFC's Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week with the NVFC's National Firefighter Health Week. The most noticeable change for fire and EMS departments is a new, user-friendly website dedicated exclusively to Safety and Health Week: [www.SafetyAndHealthWeek.org](http://www.SafetyAndHealthWeek.org).

**Please let me know of your interest in participating by March 7, 2012.** Once you have committed to taking part, please let us know what vehicles your organization has to distribute program information and how the IAFC and NVFC can support you and the other partners in promoting the event. We will soon be sending out some Safety and Health Week graphics that you can include on your website to link to the event's website.

To learn more see the complete media release: **IAFC and NVFC Join Forces for 2012 Safety and Health Week: Campaign reinforces the Rules You Can Live By on and off the fire ground** – <http://www.iafc.org/Media/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=5762>

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

### **One- and Two-Family and Multifamily Residential Building Fires Topical Reports Released**

Contact: USFA Press Office - (301) 447-1853 - June 12, 2012

EMMITSBURG, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings.

The reports include:

**One- and Two-Family Residential Building Fires (2008-2010)** – <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v13i4.pdf> (PDF, 316 Kb) and

**Multifamily Residential Building Fires (2008-2010)** - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v13i5.pdf> (PDF, 286 Kb)

Both were developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. One- and two-family residential buildings include detached dwellings, manufactured homes, mobile homes not in transit, and duplexes. Multifamily residential buildings consist of structures such as apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, condominiums, and other tenement properties. An estimated 240,500 fires in one- and two-family residential buildings occur each year in the United States.

Annually, these fires are responsible for 2,050 civilian fire deaths, 8,350 civilian fire injuries, and 5.8 billion dollars in property loss. Additionally, there are an estimated 102,300 fires that occur in multifamily buildings each year resulting in 400 deaths, 4,175 injuries, and 1.2 billion dollars in property loss.

The reports are part of the Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2008 to 2010. According to the reports, cooking is the leading cause of both one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings fires, followed by heating. Fire incidence in both types of residential properties peaks during winter months partially as a result of increases in heating and holiday-related fires. In addition, fires peak over the evening dinner hours in one- and two-family and multifamily residences when cooking fires are prevalent.

Topical reports explore facets of the United States fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the USFA, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

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

## **The National Fire Academy Announces Two Pilot Courses to be Held in Arlington Texas.**

The National Fire Academy, in partnership with Texas Fire Training, Texas Fire Marshal's Association and USFA PARADE announces presentation of two pilot courses. Pilot courses are highly participatory among the instructors, course developers and students. Attendees are expected to contribute their ideas and expertise to improve course content and delivery.

### **Fire and Life Safety Plans Review (P132) Pilot Course Scheduled**

The National Fire Academy is recruiting students to attend a pilot class for its six-day off-campus course ***Fire and Life Safety Plans Review***. The pilot will be offered **August 6 to 1, 2012** in Arlington, Texas. The pilot delivery is a partnership with Texas Fire Training, Texas Fire Marshal's Association and USFA PARADE. This course will assist the student in verifying that construction documents comply with applicable building and fire codes for fire protection and life-safety requirements. Subjects addressed in the course include site plan reviews for emergency apparatus access, water supply, and hydrants for fire protection; review of architectural drawings for construction requirements, means of egress for life safety, and fire-resistive compartmentalization.

**Target Audience** - Individuals who are, or expect to be, responsible for verifying code compliance of construction documents from a fire protection standpoint.

### ***Student Selection Criteria***

The course is open for application to individuals who have code enforcement responsibilities for the review and approval of plans his/her jurisdiction. Students will be required to bring to class:

- Local Building, Fire and Mechanical Codes.
- Architect and engineering scale tools

### ***How to Apply***

Students must complete a separate **FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application (formerly FEMA Form 75-5)** – [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff\\_119\\_25\\_1\\_75\\_5.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff_119_25_1_75_5.pdf)

- Completed applications must be postmarked by July 13, 2012 to:  
NETC Admissions Office, Building I, Room 216  
16825 S. Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD21727
- Completed course applications also may be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend the pilot course until notified in writing by the Admissions Office.
- Travel expenses/meals/food, coffee breaks will not be provided.

- Students are responsible for making their own lodging arrangements if needed.
- Minimum Attendees: 16 Maximum Attendees: 22
- Classes run from 8 AM to 4 PM.-Monday through Saturday.
- They will be held at the Arlington Fire Department Training Center.
- For additional information contact Woody Stratton (NFA) at [woody.stratton@dhs.gov](mailto:woody.stratton@dhs.gov)

U.S. Fire Administration, 16825 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
 (301) 447-1000 Fax: (301) 447-1346 Admissions Fax: (301) 447-1441

### **Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Plan Review (P137) Pilot Course Scheduled**

The National Fire Academy is recruiting students to attend a pilot class for its six-day off-campus course ***Water-Based Fire Protection Systems Plan Review***. The pilot will be offered **August 6 to 1, 2012** in Arlington, Texas. The pilot delivery is a partnership with Texas Fire Training, Texas Fire Marshal's Association and USFA PARADE. The course will enable students to perform a plan review to evaluate the suitability of the fire sprinkler, pump and standpipe plans and calculations in accordance with nationally recognized standards for design and installation. Course content covers fire protection standards, plan reading, water supplies, fire protection hydraulics mathematics, fire pumps, sprinkler systems, and standpipe systems. Pilots are highly participatory among the instructors, course developers and students. Attendees are expected to contribute their ideas and expertise to improve course content and delivery.

**Target Audience** - The target audience for this course is the student who is responsible for the review and approval of plans for water-based fire protection systems in his/her jurisdiction.

#### ***Student Selection Criteria***

The course is open for application to individuals who have code enforcement responsibilities for the review and approval of plans for water-based fire protection systems in his/her jurisdiction.

#### ***Material Requirements***

Students will be required to bring to class:

- Scientific calculator or access to the Windows® scientific calculator
- Architect and engineering scale tools

#### ***How to Apply (Students)***

Students must complete a separate **FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application (formerly FEMA Form 75-5)** –[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff\\_119\\_25\\_1\\_75\\_5.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff_119_25_1_75_5.pdf)

- Completed applications must be postmarked by July 13, 2012 to:  
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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **Application Period for Assistance to Firefighters Grants Opens Monday, June 11 at 8 a.m. Eastern Time!**

***Application Deadline: Friday, July 6, 2012, 5 p.m. Eastern Time***

#### **Who is eligible to apply?**

- Fire departments (career, volunteer, and combination)
- Nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) providers

#### **What items are eligible for grant funding?**

- Operations and Safety Projects: Training, equipment, personal protective equipment, modifications to facilities, wellness and safety projects
- Vehicle Acquisition Projects: Firefighting and EMS vehicles
- Regional Projects (benefiting multiple departments): Training, equipment, personal protective equipment

**Funding Priorities:** See the AFG Program Guidance and Application Kit - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/documents.shtm> for a description of the funding priorities for FY 2012.

**Questions?** Call the AFG Help Desk toll-free at 1-866-274-0960 or contact AFG staff members by email at [firegrants@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@fema.dhs.gov).

**Learn More, Apply »** <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/index.shtm>

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

## U.S. Forest Service, National Fire Protection Association and Ad Council launch national PSA campaign encouraging Americans to adapt and prepare for wildland fires

### Nearly 70,000 communities in the United States are at risk of damaging wildfires this season

WASHINGTON, DC / June 6, 2012 - In the midst of wildfire season throughout much of the country, the U.S. Forest Service - <http://www.fs.fed.us/> - the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - <http://www.nfpa.org> and the Ad Council - <http://www.adcouncil.org/> announce the launch of a new public service advertising (PSAs) campaign, Fire Adapted Communities - <http://www.fireadapted.org/> which aims to help individuals prepare their homes and communities for the threat of wildfire. Created *pro bono* by advertising agency Drafftcb, this campaign addresses the issue of proactively mitigating wildfire damage in fire-prone communities.

Nearly 70,000 communities nationwide are at risk from wildfire, according to the National Association of State Foresters. Embers from a wildfire travel great distances, often causing new wildfires more than a mile from their origin. It can take years for communities and local ecosystems to recover from a wildfire. In addition, wildfires cost government, businesses and individuals billions of dollars each year in suppression costs and damage to homes, infrastructure, the economy and resources. "This campaign will help individual homeowners and communities safeguard their homes from wildfire threats," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "As the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. We are pleased to partner with the Ad Council and the National Fire Protection Association to help educate communities - especially those next to wooded areas - on simple steps they can take to help protect their property and families when wildfires strike.

"Wildfire is an inevitable fact of life. This campaign raises awareness that those living in fire-prone communities must prepare in advance to mitigate wildfire damage when it occurs. The more proactive actions a community takes, the more *fire adapted* it becomes." Wildfire threat is a reality to thousands of communities across the United States. We are proud to play an active role in Fire Adapted Communities as we continue our efforts to provide tools and information to encourage the public to prepare for wildfire and reduce their risk," said NFPA President Jim Shannon.

The television, radio, print, outdoor and web PSAs aim to empower residents to proactively take the steps to make their communities *fire adapted* by reinforcing that "you can't control where a wildfire ember will land - but you can control what happens when it does." The ads direct audiences to visit a new comprehensive website, [www.FireAdapted.org](http://www.FireAdapted.org), where they can find a host of resources on how to prepare for wildfires. The new web portal is a one-stop shop for the latest developments in wildfire safety, best practices, toolkits and programs of the nation's leading wildfire organizations.

"We are proud to join with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Fire Protection Association on this important and first-of-its-kind campaign," said Peggy Conlon, president and CEO of the Ad Council. "We hope that our efforts will influence property owners and community leaders in fire-prone areas to take the necessary steps to prepare in advance of a wildfire, improving the safety and resiliency of their communities." "Drafftcb has enjoyed a long history with the Ad Council and U.S. Forest Service, working to empower individuals to prevent wildfires through Smokey Bear's message," said Hilary Hamer, senior vice president and group management director at Drafftcb. "It is an honor to join forces again to encourage communities to be prepared, protect themselves and prevail over the threat of wildfires." For more than 68 years, the Ad Council has worked with the U.S. Forest Service and Drafftcb to address the issue of wildfire prevention with the iconic character Smokey Bear and his

famous tagline "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires." The Ad Council partnered again with the U.S. Forest Service in 2009 to create its **Discover the Forest** campaign encouraging families to unplug and reconnect by getting outdoors and enjoying the wonders of nature.

The **Fire Adapted Communities** PSAs will be distributed to media outlets nationwide this week. Per the Ad Council model, the PSAs will air and run in advertising time and space that is donated by the media.

### **About the U.S. Forest Service**

The U.S. Forest Service ([www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)) manages 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands for the American public. Its mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The U.S. Forest Service is the agency responsible for overseeing the use of Smokey Bear in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and The Advertising Council. The Wildfire Prevention campaign, featuring Smokey Bear, is the longest running PSA campaign in U.S. history. About the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA's website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more information.

### **About The Ad Council**

The Ad Council ([www.adcouncil.org](http://www.adcouncil.org)) is a private, non-profit organization that marshals volunteer talent from the advertising and communications industries, the facilities of the media, and the resources of the business and non-profit communities to deliver critical messages to the American public. The Ad Council has produced, distributed and promoted thousands of public service campaigns on behalf of non-profit organizations and government agencies in issue areas of health & safety, community and education.

### **About Drafftcb**

With an equal focus on creativity and accountability, Drafftcb is the first global, fully integrated marketing communications agency for the digital age to operate against a single P&L without any silos. The agency is driven by a singular focus on consumer behavior, recognizing the importance of producing brilliant creative ideas that really matter to consumers in the brief amount of time they are willing to give marketers in today's media-saturated world. The Drafftcb network spans 153 offices in 90 countries and employs approximately 9,300 people.

### **Press Contacts:**

Joe Walsh - U.S. Forest Service - 202-205-1294

Jennifer Jones - U.S. Forest Service - 208-387-5437

Abigail Quesinberry - The Ad Council - 212-984-1971 - [aquesinberry@adcouncil.org](mailto:aquesinberry@adcouncil.org)

Lorraine Carli - National Fire Protection Association - 617-984-7275 - [publicaffairs@nfpa.org](mailto:publicaffairs@nfpa.org)

Michelle McGowan – Drafftcb - 312-425-6013 - [michelle.mcgowan@drafftcb.com](mailto:michelle.mcgowan@drafftcb.com)

# **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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**Registration Questions?**

800.858.7743

Find a class location close to you and register!

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

**State Fire Training Registered Instructor Update Courses**

**New Information!**

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

For the first phase of courses being offered we have opened up more space in Modesto as well as we have added a course in the San Diego Area and San Luis Obispo. **Register Today!**

For the next phase of courses being offered we will be hosting in the following cities: San Diego, Anaheim, Chico, Fremont, Stockton, Apple Valley, Dixon and Santa Barbara.

**Check back in Mid-July for the new dates, locations and updates!**

**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY AT THE LAFD:**

Information Notice – Emergency Services Bureau  
Battalion 6 Joint Tanker Inspection Program

The LAFD Marine Rescue Firefighting Training Cadre is offering training on the Joint Tanker Inspection Program to Department members, surrounding fire departments and other Port of Los Angeles agencies

The Joint Tanker Inspection Program (JTIP) is a joint United States Coast Guard-LAFD inspection program required for all petroleum tank ships visiting the Port of Los Angeles.

Members from both agencies inspect the vessel's installed transfer equipment and review the vessel and facility transfer procedures prior to pumping operations commencing. These inspections help ensure a safe transfer of petroleum products and increase the maritime awareness of shore-based firefighters. This program is critical to the prevention of ship explosions, similar to the one which occurred on the S.S. Sansinena in 1976.

This training is provided free of charge and will cover the following topics:

- Tanker Ship Familiarization
- Cargo Transferring Procedures
- Oil Vapor Management and Inert Gas Systems
- Tanker Ship Firefighting Systems
- Declaration of Inspection Form (F-306) Procedures

The training will be presented on the below listed dates. Students need only attend one 8-hour session. All training will be conducted at the Fire Station 64 Community Training Room located at 118 W. 118<sup>th</sup> Street, LA, 90061. On duty members shall wear the work uniform. Off duty members shall wear appropriate civilian attire. A working lunch will be made available for a nominal fee.

- "A" - Saturday, June 23 - 0800 to 1600 hrs.
- "B" - Sunday, June 24 - 0800 to 1600 hrs.
- "C" - Wednesday, June 27 - 0800 to 1600 hrs.

For reservations or questions regarding this training, please contact FS 112 at (310) 548-7542.

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

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

**Kindly allow us to share these \*five\* LAFD articles of interest - and ask you to please save the \*two\* dates below:**

- What if You Could Write the Fire Code? - <http://bit.ly/Ja44CJ>
- What is the Brush Clearance Process in Los Angeles? - <http://bit.ly/Jt6vGS>
- LAFD Offers Wind Safety Tips - <http://bit.ly/8ZM1OE>
- Firefighters say: You Always Need to Wear It! - <http://bit.ly/K74Zbc>
- This is National EMS Week - <http://bit.ly/Jt6JO6>

**Please Save These Dates...**

- Monday, June 18, 2012 - 8:00AM - 5:00PM  
LAFD Historical Society - Memorial Golf Tournament in Porter Ranch - <http://bit.ly/MfE247>
- Saturday, June 30, 2012 - 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
American Heroes Airshow in Lake View Terrace - <http://bit.ly/dGuxr7>

We look forward to seeing you at many of the events mentioned above. And since you've read this far... please accept our thanks for your support of the LAFD mission. It means more than words can convey.

###

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

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

*"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"*

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

#### Do You Follow 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:**

### Focus on Fire Safety: Grilling and Campfires

Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor cooking and recreational fires. Annually, there are almost 3,800 Americans injured by gas or charcoal grill fires. (Source: CPSC - <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11228.html>)

Summertime should be a time of fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following safety instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

#### **Safety Tips for Grilling and Campfires**

- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets from the grill area: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- If you own a propane grill, check the cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal escaping propane quickly by releasing bubbles.
- Avoid using soft wood, such as pine or cedar that will likely pop and throw sparks, in a fire pit. Use of seasoned hardwood is suggested.

- Don't build a campfire at a site in hazardous, dry conditions or if the campground, area, or event rules prohibit campfires.

More Fire Safety Action Steps » <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/summer.shtm>

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

### **National Fire Academy Adds New Chemistry Course to NFA Online**

Contact: USFA Press Office - (301) 447-1853 - May 24, 2012

EMMITSBURG, MD – The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) announces the availability of a new NFA Online course: **Foundational Concepts of Chemistry** (Q228). Completion of Q228 is recommended prior to attending all NFA Hazardous Materials curriculum courses and is a precourse assignment for **Chemistry for Emergency Response** (R233) and **Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents** (R247). Beginning in October 2013, **Foundational Concepts of Chemistry** will be a prerequisite for acceptance into those courses. The course is approved for .4 Continuing Education Units (CEU).

**Foundational Concepts of Chemistry** provides students with fundamental knowledge to prepare for the more advanced Hazardous Materials curriculum courses.

There are currently 54 online courses available through NFA Online with topics including Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Response to Terrorism, Fire Prevention, Incident Management, Management Science, Public Education, and Wildland Firefighting. Students can access NFA Online at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov)

For more information about the Hazardous Materials / Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) curriculum or other USFA programs and offerings, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov). You can also follow USFA updates on Twitter at [twitter.com/usfire](https://twitter.com/usfire)

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

### **The Departments of Interior and Agriculture Issue National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Phase II National Report**

**Conducted extensive public outreach to prepare for upcoming wildland fire season**

WASHINGTON - After a mild winter and low precipitation levels in many parts of the nation, the risk of wildland fire this season poses a challenge for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture which, together, respond to more than 20,000 wildfires per year. Wildland fires today are becoming more complex, particularly in areas where urban populations are situated near forested and rangeland areas. To address those challenges, the two departments today issued A National

Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, Phase II National Report, which focuses on restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes, creating fire-adapted communities, and responding to wildfires. The report was crafted by working closely with Federal, state and local governments, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and citizens.

"We have mapped out and established new levels of coordination, transparency and communication between the Federal Government and all of its partners," said Rhea Suh, Interior Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. "Our collaboration has enabled us to focus on specific regional priorities and to develop more focused strategies to address the challenges." "The Cohesive Strategy is an unprecedented collaborative planning and risk analysis document to improve response and resiliency in the event of wildland fire," said Butch Blazer, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment. "Phase II sets a strong foundation for the type of diverse interests and activities involved when wildfire strikes." The Cohesive Strategy builds on successes of the past while incorporating a new collaborative approach to managing a complex national problem - wildfire. This new approach includes all the partners involved in fire management and gives each a voice and a role in developing solutions to the collective problem. The Strategy will be implemented throughout 2012 using a three-phased approach and the involvement of a variety of stakeholders. It will be adaptable to different geographic scales: national, regional, and local, with a goal of promoting meaningful collaboration among stakeholders in an 'all-lands, all-hands' approach.

In Phase I, the national framework and goals were defined. In Phase II, regional assessments were completed to address and scale the national goals to the needs and challenges found at regional and local levels. Regional Strategy Committees representing three regions of the country - the West, Southeast, and Northeast, examined the processes by which wildland fire, or the absence of wildland fire, threatens areas and issues that Americans value, including wildlife habitats, watershed quality and local economies, among others. "Discussing and addressing our wildland fire problems in a national, cohesive approach is a step in the right direction," said Randy Dye, President of the National Association of State Foresters. "We all recognize the importance of the document in framing future dialogue on wildland fire management issues. The states' commitment to participate in the process ensured that a broad range of interests were considered and melded into the report." The third and final phase of the cohesive strategy will build on the work from Phases I and II, as regional and national risk-based analyses and action plans are completed. The risk-based analyses will examine potential consequences, benefits and alternative actions designed by the regions to enhance decision-making across jurisdictional boundaries.

For more information on the National Cohesive Strategy visit [www.forestsandrangelands.gov](http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov)

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:**

**NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION**

Honoring and Remembering



America's Fallen Firefighters

**Foundation E-News Alert**  
May 23, 2012

An inspirational art installation honoring the 343 FDNY firefighters who died on September 11, 2001, is coming to New York City for five days only. Better Angels: The Firefighters of 9/11 will be on public display June 4 to 8 from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm at 2 World Financial Center, 225 Liberty Street. The project is a partnership between artist Dawn Howkinson Siebel and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. Better Angels is comprised of 343 individual oil portraits that span 21 feet. Painted intimately on small burned blocks of wood, the poignant images engage the audience and allow them to connect personally with the paintings and the men they represent.

Siebel, a former New Yorker, began creating Better Angels in 2006 as a tribute to these 343 firefighters. In 2009 she partnered with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to bring the paintings to a broad audience of firefighters and the public. For this past year the paintings have been on a 10-city national tour, now culminating with New York. "Being able to share this work with New York City has been my biggest dream for years," said the artist. "Even thousands of miles away, on tour with these paintings, I have met people who were saved on 9/11 by someone on this wall. To be able to bring it to New York is a huge honor." With support from the Department of Justice, the exhibit was expanded to include the names of all firefighters who have died in the line of duty nationwide since 1981 who are honored on the NFFF memorial in Emmitsburg MD. In New York the exhibit will also pay tribute to all the other first responders who died in rescue efforts on 9/11. On tour, Better Angels has appeared at the World Burn Congress, at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington DC, at the International Association of Fire Chiefs 2011 conference in Atlanta, and at the Military Firefighter Heritage Foundation's annual memorial, among others.

For more information about Better Angels: The Firefighters of 9/11, go to [www.betterangels911.com](http://www.betterangels911.com) or [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

To see video from a recent exhibit, go to <http://firehero.00b.org/ajtk/servlet/JJ?H=13b13x&R=657208540>.

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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:**



### **EveryoneGoesHome.com - E-News Alert**

June 12, 2012

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) in partnership with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) today released a new video that emphasizes the importance of personal safety and accountability to help reduce line-of-duty deaths and injuries. Through interviews with department members, *Still Working...So Everyone Goes Home* examines the changes and advancements the FDNY has implemented since September 11, 2001 and how these accomplishments tie into the NFFF's 16 Life Safety initiatives.

*Still Working...So Everyone Goes Home* is a follow-up to a video produced by the NFFF and FDNY in 2007 to educate members about the importance of proper training and following protocol. That video was well-received within the department and across the nation by the fire service. In 2011, senior

staff and officers of the FDNY met with representatives of NFFF, along with director Rob Maloney of Coolwater Multimedia, to discuss making a second video. The group chose not to make a "part two" but instead decided to tell the story of the FDNY's intentional and focused effort to help improve its mission so that *Everyone Goes Home*®.

"Everyone has a role in safety," said FDNY Chief Edward Kilduff. "...and this video will drive home what it means to operate safely." The NFFF and the FDNY viewed this collaborative effort and other partnerships towards firefighter safety as essential to spreading the message of doing the job effectively and aggressively while reducing the risk of preventable injuries and death. "Our duty is to protect the lives of the public. That is what they expect and that is what they deserve from us, but we need to do it safer," explained Chief Stephen Raynis, FDNY's chief of safety who was part of the production team.

To see the video, go to [youtu.be/SqZtOyqJg8s](http://youtu.be/SqZtOyqJg8s).

For more information, go to: [http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/news/2012/stillworking\\_061212.html](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/news/2012/stillworking_061212.html)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

**Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* - July 17 through 21, 2012

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

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE ORAL BOARD PREPARATION:**

# **Fire Dept. Oral Board Preparation Seminar and Individual Coaching**

### **Success Is No Accident!**

Group Seminar: Wednesday August 1 - 6:00 p.m.

Location:

110 Ryan Industrial Ct. #15 - San Ramon CA, 94583 - Cost: \$40

Course Outline:

**Pre-Interview Preparation:**

You will learn how to prepare for success prior to entering your oral board

**Success During The Interview:**

With our proven techniques and obtained skills, you will be prepared and take confidence into your oral board.

**Post Interview:**

Put the final touches on your interview.

Don't delay register now!

To Get The Badge You Must Be Prepared.

For most fire department candidates, the oral board interview is the most challenging. Most oral boards are weighted 100% of the total score. That means in order to get the job you must score at the top of the list. Our proven skills and techniques will provide you with the understanding of what the oral board is looking for and how to separate yourself from the hundreds of other candidates. Attendees of the Group Seminar will be part of a dynamic and interactive presentation focusing on how the candidate can prepare and distinguish themselves with the oral board panel. The seminar will cover all aspects of the oral board process including how to prepare and how to perform. Types of questions that are asked and how to "Know Yourself" are emphasized during the seminar. Following the group seminar, candidates can hone their interview skills by attending a separate individual coaching session with mock oral board, full resume review, and complete feedback to take your interview to the next level.

**About the Presenter:** Captain Sean Burrows is a 17 year veteran of the fire service. He has coached countless candidates improving their performance and providing tried and true techniques to set them apart from the other candidates.

To register for our seminar or inquire for individual coaching please visit:

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

Email: [oralboardsuccess@gmail.com](mailto:oralboardsuccess@gmail.com) - Phone: 209.200.3257

June 16, 2012

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



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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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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

### **FIRE MANAGEMENT 2A**

Organizational Development & Human Relations

**August 20 - 24, 2012**

0830 to 1730 hours

**Class Location:** McCormack Training Center - 485 West Sunnyoaks Ave, Campbell, CA 95008 - Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

**Cost:** \$295.00 (includes State Certification/Course Manual fees)

**Description:** This course provides information on the foundations of 1) individual behavior, personality and emotions, motivational concepts, individual decision making; 2)

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

group behavior, work teams, group dynamics, group communication, conflict and negotiations, power and politics, leadership and creating trust; and 3) organizational structure, human resources policies and practices, organizational culture, and organizational change and development.

**Instructor:** Scott Goodwin, Division Chief (ret), Santa Fe Springs F.D. - [www.scottgoodwinassociates.com](http://www.scottgoodwinassociates.com)

**To Register:** Maximum class size is 32 students please register early! Please complete the registration form below.

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

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Fire Management 2A  
August 20 - 24, 2012**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

*For this class, 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 by August 6, 2012 at 1500 hours. 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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===== **AND** =====



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

## **FIRE MANAGEMENT 2C**

Personnel & Labor Relations

September 10 - 14, 2012

0830 to 1730 hours

**Class Location:** **McCormack Training Center**  
**485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue, Campbell, CA 95008**  
Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

**Cost:** \$295.00 (includes State Certification/Course Manual fees)

**Description:** This course is designed to provide a fire manager with knowledge and insight of personnel, human resource, diversity management, legal mandates, labor relations, and related areas. Topics include areas of organizational development, productivity, recruitment and selection, performance systems, discipline, and collective bargaining. Methodology will include, but not be limited to, presentations, case studies, group exercises, focused discussions, and written assignments.

**Instructor:** Scott Goodwin, Division Chief (ret), Santa Fe Springs F.D. -  
[www.scottgoodwinassociates.com](http://www.scottgoodwinassociates.com)

**To Register:** Please see below for registration form.  
Maximum class size is 32 students please register early!

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

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Fire Management 2C  
September 10 - 14, 2012**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*For this class, 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 by August 27, 2012 at 1500 hours. 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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**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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## **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:	William Richard Danes
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	69
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	<1
Date of Incident:	05/17/2012
Time of Incident:	2053hrs
Date of Death:	05/17/2012
Fire Department:	Brazos County Precinct 3 Volunteer Fire Department
Address:	P.O. Box 5453, Bryan, TX 77805-5453
Fire Department Chief:	Gerald Burnett

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Danes passed away from an apparent heart attack while participating in training at the TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field in College Station.

**Incident Location:** College Station, TX

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter William Richard Danes at

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

To date, 34 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: Todd Tompkins  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 48  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland Contract  
Date of Incident: 06/03/2012  
Time of Incident: 1400hrs  
Date of Death: 06/03/2012

Name: Ronnie Chambless  
Rank: First Officer  
Age: 40  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland Contract  
Date of Incident: 06/03/2012  
Time of Incident: 1400hrs  
Date of Death: 06/03/2012

Fire Department: Neptune Aviation Services, Inc.  
Address: 1 Corporate Way, Missoula, Montana 59808  
Fire Department Chief: Chief Executive Officer Kristen Nicolarsen

**Incident Description:** Captain Todd Tompkins and First Officer Ronnie Chambless passed away while fighting the 5,000-acre White Rock Fire which was sparked by lightning in eastern Nevada. On the second run of the day in their model P2V Lockheed Martin aircraft, Captain Tompkins and First Officer Chambless were nearing the wildfire when they crashed in the Hamlin Valley area of Iron County, Utah, near the Utah-Nevada border. It was estimated that the aircraft held approximately 1,600 gallons of fuel and 2,000 gallons of fire retardant. It was reported that the NTSB, FAA, and U.S. Forest Service officials are responding to the crash for investigation.

**Incident Location:** Hamlin Valley area of Iron County, Utah

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Captain Todd Tompkins and First Officer Ronnie Chambless at

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

To date, 36 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: Anthony Polk  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 31  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 06/08/2012  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 06/08/2012  
Fire Department: Bureau of Indian Affairs - Fort Yuma Agency  
Address: P.O. Box 11000, Yuma, AZ 85366-1000  
Fire Department Chief: Acting Assistant Secretary Donald Laverdure

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Polk died as a result of a single fire apparatus accident that occurred while he and two other firefighters were responding to the scene of the Montezuma Fire south of Tucson, AZ.

**Incident Location:** Route 19 near milepost 22.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

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

To date, 37 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: Donald L. Suggs  
Rank: Assistant Chief  
Age: 55  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 21  
Date of Incident: 06/10/12  
Time of Incident: 2100hrs  
Date of Death: 06/11/12

Fire Department: Summerville Fire and Rescue Department  
Address: 111 East Harnett ST, Lillington, NC 27546  
Fire Department Chief: Melvin R. Yow

**Incident Description:** Sunday, June 10, 2012, at approximately 1100hrs, Assistant Chief Suggs had responded to an emergency call. After returning home, he collapsed at about 2100hrs that evening. He was taken to the hospital where he passed away on Monday, June 11, 2012, at approximately 0100hrs from an apparent heart attack. An autopsy is being performed to determine the exact cause of death.

**Incident Location:** N/A

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation, Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 1800-2000hrs, O'Quinn Peebles Funeral Home, 1310 South Main ST, Lillington, NC. Funeral: Thursday, June 14, 2012, 1100hrs, Lillington Baptist Church, 210 West Lofton ST, Lillington, NC.

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

To date, 38 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 listserv do not represent the final on-duty firefighter fatality determination by USFA for such reports, nor LODD determination made by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation ([www.firehero.org](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)**

**BRAZIL MILITARY FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY--APPARATUS CRASH**

Last Saturday May 19, a military Firefighter died in the line of duty when his apparatus crashed into a house-the one that was on fire-in the city of Osasco, metropolitan region of São Paulo, Brazil. The crash occurred as companies were responding to the dwelling fire. Fire Services Soldier Cláudio César de Souza was rescued, treated and removed by helicopter, but did not survive his injuries. Two other FFs from the crew suffered minor injuries. RIP - **HERE IS MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/84zdadk>

**GERMAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE AT WORKING FIRE**

A 41 year old Firefighter in Chemetz Germany, was killed in the Line of Duty Sunday morning when the roof of a burning furniture warehouse collapsed. The unnamed Firefighter was working along with 45 other members at the fire when it fell in. A second firefighter was hospitalized with smoke poisoning. RIP - **Bill S has More HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/cqksksq>

**PHOTOS/UPDATE-VIOLENT APPARATUS CRASH LEAVES VA FIREFIGHTER WITH SERIOUS HEAD INJURIES**

That Virginia Fire Captain who suffered life-threatening injuries yesterday when the apparatus he was driving overturned has been through one surgery so far. Captain Michael R. Buchanan, 51, was en route to a fire in a Charles City County fire tanker/tender when the vehicle flipped. He was flown by med-flight to VCU Medical Center, according to a WTVR report (<http://bit.ly/JKvxiD> ). A witness said Buchanan lost control on a narrow stretch of road and slammed into a ditch, which caused the vehicle to overturn. **VA Fire News Has More HERE:** <http://www.vafirenews.com/2012/05/update-charles-city-county-volunteer-firefighter-critically-injured/> - **WE Have Posted More Before/After Photos On Our Home Page.**

**And keep an ear out for other "secret" Sirius XM related programs in the future.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-21-12 / 1752 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

On Monday evening of this week, the Humboldt (Iowa) FD was called to a rural address for a piece of farm machinery that was on fire. They were extinguishing the fire and the property owner indicated the piece of machinery was old and there was no fuel in the tank. After the fire was extinguished (or so it appeared) the Sheriff of the county and 3 Firefighters were standing around the equipment. A Firefighter opened the fuel compartment by removing the fuel cap. The tank was full of old gasoline and the vapors found an ignition source close by. All 3 Firefighters and the Sheriff were blown backwards by the fireball and explosion. The Sheriff and 2 of the Firefighters were treated and released with burns to the face that required some ointments. The other firefighter was airlifted to the U of I burn unit and his burns were 1st and 2nd degree to the face and scalp. The airlifted FF was released from the hospital and is doing well with the burns to his face.

**NOTE:** All were wearing proper structural firefighting gear except the Sheriff who was in police uniform. The Firefighters had removed their face masks and airpicks because the fire was thought to be out. We wish all a rapid recovery.

**OHIO FIREFIGHTERS INJURED IN DUST EXPLOSION**

3 Monroe (located along I-75 between Dayton and Cincinnati) Firefighters were injured in a fire at a manufacturing business and hospitalized this afternoon with second degree burns. Fire Chief John Centers said the firefighter suffered burns to his face, head, neck and hands and has been admitted to the burn unit at Miami Valley Hospital. The two other Firefighters, who suffered hearing loss and headaches from the blast were released from Atrium Medical Center Wednesday evening. Centers said he could not release any names yet because not all of the family members have been notified. The cause of the fire was not known Wednesday night, Centers said. A damage estimate was also not known, he said. MFD companies were called at 1351 hours for a fire inside a 5,000-gallon tank that contained dried wood composite material. The company produces windows and door systems, and decking and railings. While attempting to extinguish the fire, Chief Centers said "there was a dust explosion" that caused the three injuries. He said firefighters were attempting to remove the material, which was through a 2-1/2-inch pipe at the bottom of the tank. "Dust that was created while they were pulling the dry material out found an ignition source and ignited," he said. The explosion didn't cause any obvious structural damage, Centers said, but did displace a tank. The fire took about three hours to extinguish and six other fire departments responded with mutual aid. We wish all a rapid recovery.

**SCBA CONCERNS CONTINUE & MFG CHALLENGES CLAIMS**

As you know, a DeKalb County (GA) Firefighter has been speaking out about a close call with his SCBA. Atlanta area Channel 2 Action News has been investigating the German Draeger-brand air packs for two years. County firefighters, along with others across the country, have reported parts malfunctioning midrescue, forcing rescuers to run for their lives. "As soon as I started breathing, I realized I was breathing smoke," said Kevin Cavanaugh, secretary/treasurer of the DeKalb County Firefighters Union. Last month, Cavanaugh had to leave a burning home because his breathing equipment suddenly stopped working. He said he thought, "Am I getting my turn to have a malfunctioning pack?" DeKalb firefighters reported problems with the air packs almost immediately after they began using them in 2009, but Draeger officials insist the problem is firefighters not maintaining the equipment properly. In March, NIOSH opened an investigation into the safety of the air packs. In the meantime, DeKalb is looking elsewhere for new equipment. County leaders voted to use \$2 million in reserve funds to buy new gear. Field testing new equipment made by a different manufacturer will begin in June.

.....**HOWEVER:** Draeger officials this morning issued the following statement from their CEO Ralf Drews: (Excerpts)

"We truly do not appreciate the misleading news report broadcast last night in Atlanta. The report suggests that our SCBA used by Firefighters is faulty and is prone to breakdown and that we have been somehow insensitive to the safety of firefighters...."**Nothing could be further from the truth.**"

**NOTE:** Draeger has posted a rebuttal that includes a video presentation. Check it out **HERE:** [www.draeger.us/sites/enus\\_us/Pages/Fire/Set\\_The\\_Record\\_Straight.aspx](http://www.draeger.us/sites/enus_us/Pages/Fire/Set_The_Record_Straight.aspx)

**APPARATUS & FIRE EQUIPMENT BUDGET CUTS HAVE REACHED THE LEVEL OF INSANITY** ...but true to Firefighters mission-we will protect and serve. **HERE** is an example of how some Firefighters - no matter what - keep doing a BIG job with LITTLE resources: <http://tinyurl.com/6w4dmx9>

**Not to be confused with THIS FD:** <http://tinyurl.com/76hm4hd>

**AND LASTLY-**as "the start of summer, weekend" approaches, please keep in mind that Memorial Day exists to honor all those who have been **KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY** while serving in our armed forces. So maybe in between BBQ's and parties, take a moment to remember and explain why Monday is a holiday-especially to the young folks. And if they can't put their electronic toys down to listen-send them to this address and make them watch. <http://tinyurl.com/pxvh3c>

**Our heartfelt appreciation to those who have been lost while serving, those who have served and those who continue to serve.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-23-12 / 2218 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Going on right now- a tri-axle dump truck carrying blacktop has crashed into the 3 bay Leithsville Fire Company quarters in Lower Saucon Township (PA), igniting the building on fire. EMS has been requested for a burn victim and the fire company building is fully involved. Multiple tanker trucks are reportedly setting up at Route 412 (Leithsville Road) and Hersh Lane, which is near the fire house for water supply. The Leithsville and Se-Wy-Co fire companies recently merged; a process that is expected to be completed next month but both stations were to be used as a part of the plan. **We'll keep you advised regarding any injuries to Firefighters. MORE HERE:**

<http://tinyurl.com/7p68llu> (photos) <http://www.sewyco-fc.org/>

**SMOKE EXPLOSION VIDEO:**

Take a sec to watch this video (ignore the language) - size it up, see any warning signs?

**VIDEO:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqXdaPVR1JE>

**DAVE D's "Reading Smoke" POWERPOINT FOR YOU:**

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/106558>

**RELATED TRAINING MATERIALS:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8CxxwD0lr8>

<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/da3900.shtml>

**NH/MAINE LINE SUB FIRE**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

5 Firefighters were injured last night at a fire aboard the USS Miami nuclear-powered attack submarine dry-docked at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard - but the reactor was not involved. The ship's reactor was not operating at the time and is not affected. Firefighters were initially called to the shipyard just before 1800 for a report of a fire on a ship in dry dock. The fire was located in the forward compartment of the ship and all nonessential personnel were ordered to evacuate. Companies from as north as South Portland (Maine) and Groton (CT) turned out.

**DC FIREFIGHTERS DOWN:** A full shift of firefighters fell ill with symptoms of chemical exposure after working a fire yesterday. Around 2100 Wednesday, all eight firefighters from E-10 & T-13 had to be relieved by other fire crews. Those who fell ill complained of respiratory problems, vomiting, dizziness and burning eyes. They were taken to a clinic for observation as it was declared it a hazmat incident. The firefighters became ill after fighting an apartment fire at about 1100 hours. They did not begin showing symptoms until evening as the Firefighters may have been affected to a home drug lab while fighting the fire. **Dave S has much more HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/8xlq85z>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-24-12 / 1437 hours

**AND:**

**AT LEAST 2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY--(VIDEOS BELOW)--NUMEROUS KIDS KILLED--SHOPPING MALL FIRE IN QATAR.**

**No Adequate Alarms?**

**No Sprinklers?**

**Wealthy Country.**

Getting reports from Doha, Qatar of fire at a very upscale shopping mall, that has killed nineteen, including 13 children today. Reports say at least 2 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty along with more than 17 injured, the injured reported to be mostly Firefighters. The upscale high-dollar Vallaggio Mall has many shops, including many famous brands from the U.S. The fire started late this morning and centered around a children's play area in the Villaggio Mall, a glittering collection of shops and indoor canals in Doha, the capital, frequented by expatriates in the oil-rich emirate. The fire at the mall, known for pricey shops, gondoliers and an indoor ice rink, raised troubling questions about the safety of even the most opulent buildings in the booming city, where shopping centers both provide air-conditioned respite from the desert heat and serve as de facto town squares for expatriates and wealthy Qataris.

**The fire has now prompted authorities to announce the creation of a committee to monitor building safety standards. 'Bout time. "There din't seem to have been any loud fire alarms or sprinklers at the mall," a relative of a 2-year-old killed in the fire told the media.** Qatar is a Connecticut-sized sprout of land jutting into the Persian Gulf with a native population of 225,000, is home to more than 1.5 million expatriates from Europe, Asia and the United States. It is estimated that Qatar will invest over \$120 billion in the energy sector in the next ten years.

**VIDEO OF THE WORKING FIRE:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcKRNs23fRA>

**VIDEO SHOWING RESCUES DURING THE FIRE:**

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

**VIDEO OF THE WORKING FIRE:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDFLZtbl0Lg&feature=related>

**VIDEO OF THE WORKING FIRE:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-Ox965B7Co>

**VIDEO OF THE WORKING FIRE:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-c8YsueOd8>

**HERE** is the Mall: <http://villaggiogatar.com/>

Additional details at [www.firenews.net](http://www.firenews.net) RIP.

**NO WINNERS:**

**FIREFIGHTER (APPARATUS DRIVER) BLASTED BY VICTIMS HUSBAND**

APPARATUS CRASH "a preventable error of incredible proportions." Mississauga (Canada) Firefighter Jarrett Johns' acquittal almost 15 months after the fire apparatus he drove killed Kimberley Schulz in a controversial crash is "entirely unacceptable," said her husband. Vowing to lobby Ontario's government for changes and saying "Kim was not one to take things lightly," Rob Schulz called the Highway Traffic Act a "toothless piece of legislation."

**The sad irony is that apparatus crash victim Kimberley Schulz came from a family of firefighters. Her brother, Steve Bayley, is with Toronto Fire Services and her father, Warren Bayley, is a retired Toronto firefighter.** Flanked by his wife's brother, a Toronto Firefighter, Steve Bayley, and mother-in-law Barb Bayley, Schulz, 53, said her death on March 6, 2011, while driving home after playing hockey was a "preventable error of incredible proportions." **After justice of the peace Hilda Weiss dismissed Jarrett Johns' charge of failing to stop for a red light , a woman with the widower called the ruling "bulls---." As Johns, 37, of Toronto, wiped at a tear, she scornfully snapped: "Go live a happy life!"**

The acquitted Firefighter then hurried outside with his wife and friends, brushing past reporters before boarding a waiting car. Weiss earlier said she did not entirely believe his claim to have obeyed traffic regulations before continuing into the intersection while en route to a Hwy. 401 crash site.

**She said the Highway Traffic Act allows emergency vehicles to go through red lights - after a driver stops to make sure "it is safe to do so." But Weiss concluded "conflicting evidence" left her with too much "reasonable doubt" to convict Johns. Some drivers testified they did not hear his pumper's siren. Others testified it was blaring a warning and they saw its flashing lights. Witnesses also differed about whether the temporary signal lights installed during road construction turned green, yellow or red. An expert who tested the automatic signal system that triggers lights to change when activated by an approaching fire truck's emergency signal said it was working that day, but the detector "was not aligned properly," Weiss said.**

During the trial in March, which heard from 19 witnesses including Firefighters and Peel Regional Police officers, she said Johns' defense lawyer recommended the case belongs in a civil court. **No winners here.** The FF will live with this forever-live with something HE NEVER MEANT to happen....he was on his way to HELP, not HARM. But a woman died in the process.

- **TO DO OUR BEST TO AVOID THIS? STOP. TOTALLY. FULLY. STOP AT RED LIGHTS AND STOP SIGNS. STOP.**

**INCIDENT RELATED PHOTOS HERE:**

<http://www.mississauga.com/news/article/1362750--firefighter-acquitted-in-fatal-crash>

**LOCAL EDITORIAL HERE:** <http://www.mississauga.com/article/1313100--did-firefighter-run-a-red>

**UPDATE FROM VIRGINIA: FIRE CAPTAIN REMAINS IN ICU - CRITICAL AFTER APPARATUS CRASH**

Last week, Providence Forge Fire Captain Mike Buchanan was responding, driving his FD's tanker on a call. Initial reports are that speed was not a factor- but the shoulder of the road broke away including about 4-7 inches of asphalt, which dropped the back wheels in a deep culvert/ditch. This caused the 3000 gal of water to reportedly shift -- and the rig rolled. He remains in a coma in ICU listed in critical condition. Currently he is also fighting pneumonia from aspirating while being pinned upside down. He also has a bleed either from an artery in his shoulder or his GI tract that is causing him to lose blood.

He also suffered a rather grave head injury and recovery will be measured in months and years if and when he gains consciousness. Keep him and his family in your thoughts.

**MINNESOTA FLASHOVER - CLOSE CALL AT CHURCH FIRE**

5 Minneapolis Firefighters were injured and taken to a hospital Sunday night after conditions got nasty at an historic church fire. Late Sunday night, the cause of the fire that consumed the Walker Community United Methodist Church was still undetermined, although some people at the scene speculated it might have been caused by a lightning strike while close neighbors thought it possibly might be arson. The injured firefighters were taken to Hennepin County Medical Center. Three firefighters were released from the hospital, but two remain and **at least one firefighter has significant burns, but are not considered life-threatening.** **FIRE SCENE VIDEO:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghBDtLFD3-U>

**FDNY: HIGH EMOTIONS:**

FDNY EMS Medic assaulted by victims son:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/brooklyn-mom-diane-carter-dies-son-punches-ems-worker-chaotic-911-response-article-1.1085432>

**FDNY: PHYSICAL ABILITY**

**Here is a video about the physical abilities required:**

<http://97rockonline.com/can-a-hot-model-handle-fdny-training/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List - Memorial Day 2012 5-28-12 / 1630 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A Nebraska Firefighter wrecked his departments fire apparatus last night while responding to a fire. FF Rodney Lovell was headed to a fire in Valparaiso Sunday night when it crashed. Lovell is a volunteer Firefighter for Ceresco, and he drove the fire truck into a ditch and it got stuck. The vehicle had to be towed out, and it had some damage. FF Lovell was cited for DUI. While the facts of this case are not fully known yet-it is a solid reminder to insure all FF's are sober when on duty, on call, responding on calls or working. Sadly, in many cases, drinking issues are known-but very tough to take on. Tough or not-reach out to those who can intervene in helping your FF, your FD, the public and the FF's family.

**SON OF WELL KNOWN CHIEF FIRE OFFICER GIVES HIS LIFE IN THE LINE OF DUTY-**

**MILITARY** It is with sadness and regret that we advise you that Portland (OR) Fire & Rescue Division Grant Coffey's only son, Keaton, died in the Line of Duty last week. Keaton was serving our country as a U.S. Marine on his last tour in Afghanistan. We do not have many details, however we were advised that he gave his life during combat in a firefight. Keaton and his family, Grant and Inger, along with his fiancé, were eagerly looking forward to him returning home in June, and his upcoming wedding in July. The 22-year-old planned to marry Brittany Dygert, a local hair stylist whom he met through his mother. Having over 37 years with Portland Fire, Grant knows he is in everyone's thoughts and is extremely appreciative of his fire service family, however, understandably, Grant requests no phone calls or visitors at this time. Our heartfelt condolences to all affected. RIP.

**MINNEAPOLIS MAYDAY UPDATE VIDEO - "For Better or Worse"** 5 Firefighters suffered burns while fighting the fire, one of whom remains in the hospital. Captain Joe Mattison was among four firefighters who found themselves trapped by fire in the church attic. The firefighters grabbed their

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

axes and tried unsuccessfully to chop through the wall and the floor, then turned back toward the fire.

**HERE** is an interview with him:

<http://www.9news.com/news/article/269994/188/Firefighter-recounts-escape-from-church-fire>

**AND HERE** is more about the Fire Captain-and his wife, the Fire Captain trapped at that fire.

Ya see...for 2 Minneapolis fire captains, it was a life-threatening moment last night when the fire came shooting through the wall in the attic of Walker United Methodist Church, putting them and their crews in serious danger. The captains are a husband and wife serving at different fire stations who wound up at the same fire. She said she is grateful to be alive. She was trapped by the fire, and her husband helped rescue her. Capt. Kathrynne Baumtrog and Capt. Paul Baumtrog were among five firefighters injured - here is MORE that really underlines "for better or worse" !!

<http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/155206965.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-29-12 / 1529 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The top priority that any fire/rescue/EMS instructor, Officer and Chief should have-and most do-is the safety of their students. There is a significant and documented history of Firefighters being killed in the Line of Duty-during training. Responsibility: of the Chief, Officers, Instructors, Firefighters is always is a **major** factor. There is a trial going on in Canada right now that's well worth reading. Be sure to also click the below links for readers comments as well as related information. As stated: Instructor Terry Harrison appeared to be in a state of disbelief when a Point Edward Firefighter became trapped beneath the ice during a training exercise that resulted in the Firefighter's death, a Sarnia (Ontario, Canada) court heard Tuesday.

**Harrison is charged under the Occupational Health and Safety Act with failing to take reasonable precautions to protect a worker during the Jan. 30, 2010 exercise in the St. Clair River. Firefighter Gary Kendall, 51, was trapped under the ice and died the following day in hospital after being pulled from the river with no vital signs.**

Point Edward Fire Department Capt. David Dobson testified Tuesday that he heard Harrison say, "No, no, this can't be happening." Harrison, who had been in the water with the firefighters, was near Dobson after both men returned to shore. He appeared to be in a state of disbelief, Dobson said during the trial's second day. Dobson saw Kendall slip out of sight as both men battled an ice floe pounding them as they tried to climb ashore. Dobson was one of 18 firefighters who swam out to the moving ice floe in the river, where it meets Lake Huron. They entered at the end of Fort Street, adjacent the Sarnia Yacht Club. Dobson tried to claw himself onto the floe, which firefighters had been told to get on and ride to a point south of the Blue Water Bridge.

But by the time he realized he couldn't do it he was already being pinned by the floe, which had changed direction and was heading into shore instead of downriver, the court heard. The ice was fracturing and upending Dobson, who said he could have been pushed beneath it. Kendall, who was about eight feet away, was having the same difficulty. Dobson said he saw Kendall trying to break the ice that was pushing against him, but his actions were getting slower as he became exhausted. The last Dobson saw of Kendall was his one hand above the ice.

Dobson said he yelled as he saw him go under but didn't know if anyone heard him. "I was in a fright mode," Dobson said. Kendall was pulled from the water further south. Another witness estimated he was under the water three to four minutes.

**The facts of Kendall's death have not been disputed. The key issue has been who was supervising the training session. The charges against Harrison state that as supervisor he failed to take precautions, including having adequate rescuers and rescue equipment available, as well having having an adequate training plan.**

It has been uncontested evidence that at the time Kendall went under only Fire Chief MacKenzie and another firefighter were on the shore, but they had no rescue equipment such as the suits being worn by the firefighters in the water. The rescue equipment was in a Point Edward fire truck in a parking lot. The Ministry of Labour contends Harrison was the supervisor, but Harrison's lawyers have suggested MacKenzie was the supervisor. Dobson said during the training he was directed by Harrison, not the chief.

The case is expected to conclude Wednesday with testimony from two ice rescue trainers from the Ontario Fire College. Eight days were reserved for the trial, which is now ahead of schedule. In March, the Village of Point Edward pled guilty to not taking reasonable precautions to protect a worker and was fined \$75,000. At the same time similar charges against MacKenzie were withdrawn.

**TRIAL INFO & COMMENTARY:** <http://tinyurl.com/6ncy9pa>  
**CHIEFS: WHO IS TRAINING YOUR FF's & WHAT ARE THEY LEARNING:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/cg5wvac>

**PREVIOUS: CHARGES IN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING DEATH -** <http://tinyurl.com/dxutfp6>

**ARRESTS MADE IN THE FIRE THAT KILLED 2 FIREFIGHTERS, 4 ADULTS & 13 LITTLE KIDS**

Firefighters in Qatar are describing how they tried to rescue 13 children trapped by that fire in the shopping mall nursery but found most already dead, huddled in the arms of two other Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty. All 19 people killed in the inferno at Doha's Villagio mall on Monday were foreigners, including the two firefighters as well as 13 children and four teachers. **The authorities have ordered that the mall's owner and four of its senior staff be arrested.**

As smoke and fire engulfed the nursery, two of the four teachers sent farewell text messages and made their final calls to family letting them know they would not be coming home. "I'm dying," one of the three Filipino teachers trapped in the fire told her aunt in a text message before she succumbed. Another teacher, also from the Philippines, called her husband to tell him that she and the children were "trapped, the smoke is too thick."

**Abdel Khaleq al-Huwari, one of dozens of Firefighters who responded to the fire, said that that the rescue teams were not informed of the existence of a nursery in the mall "until half an hour after" they arrived on the scene.** He said that a mall employee eventually told them that there was a nursery on the first floor of the complex. FF Huwari was one of the first in the nursery after the fire had died down and said he found FF Husam Shahboun, lying dead on the floor "holding two children in his arms." "The other Firefighter was barely alive when we found him," said Huwari. "We tried to save him but he died." Several other children lay around the Firefighters, all dead, said Huwari. "The nursery is difficult to find and it has no emergency exits." Another Firefighter, Amran Mohsen stated that some of the fire alarms were not working. Crown Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the tragedy amid mounting allegations of negligence, Al-

Jazeera reported. **Read more:** <http://www.smh.com.au/world/firefighters-tell-of-doha-mall-horror-20120531-1zjmc.html#ixzz1wOrPnx9>

**AND LASTLY, things are a bit different in the fire service these days...just in case you aren't paying attention:**

**Baltimore Considers Advertising On Fire Apparatus:**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/bill-to-place-advertisements-on-city-fire-trucks-moves-forward/2012/05/30/gJQADBhn1U\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/bill-to-place-advertisements-on-city-fire-trucks-moves-forward/2012/05/30/gJQADBhn1U_story.html)

**Detroit's New Fire Headquarters vs Firehouses With No Plumbing:**

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/some-detroit-fire-houses-need-to-be-condemned-20120529-km>

...and **HERE IS** some great advise from Dave S on how to act/not act-in front of a reporter who is definitely trying to get a reaction-which you saw above: <http://tinyurl.com/7w3xhde>

**Chicago's Mayor Starts THE Battle with Firefighters:** <http://tinyurl.com/8yvds5x>

**Depressed Yet? OK, well here is a positive.**

It's a pretty cool corporate type (quick 5 minutes) video that highlights the FIRE service (yesterday, today and tomorrow) in a very fair, honest and positive light....that's especially important (and valuable) these days, when there has never been a time where Firefighters & FD's are being slammed--and most often unjustifiably. Check it out and BE SURE to show your "younger" members--the more they know about our past--the better:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5Mx5o3hdy0>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-30-12 / 2030 Hours

**AND:**

**Hey,**

One Firefighter has been flown to a Trenton area trauma center in critical condition/reported head trauma and at 6 other Firefighters have been ground transported (BLS) following an explosion at a truck fire this afternoon. Initial reports are that companies were dispatched to a well involved truck fire on I-295 in Mansfield Township/Burlington County, when-at some point--there was a violent explosion. Keep them them in your prayers--much more to follow. **HERE** are initial photos from the scene:

<http://tinyurl.com/cmqq72n>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-31-12 / 1512 Hours

**AND:**

**Hey,**

The Florence (Burlington County, NJ) Firefighter who was struck by a tractor trailer door from that explosion while operating at the truck fire on I-295 yesterday remains in critical condition this evening. Brian Richardson was among seven Firefighters injured during yesterdays fire and explosion. The Florence Township Volunteer Fire Company #1 reps said the trailer was found burning on the side of the highway. As Firefighters were attempting to get through the back trailer doors, an explosion occurred. Richardson was flown by medevac helicopter to Capital Health Regional Medical Center in Trenton, where he has remained since shortly after the 1340 hours fire call response. The balance of Firefighters were treated and released last night. The investigation into the entire incident being

### **Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

headed up by the New Jersey State Police with the Burlington County Fire Marshal and the NJ Division of Fire Safety. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-1-12 / 2120 hours

#### **AND:**

#### **PA FD AMB CRASH - EMS LINE OF DUTY DEATH -Updated & Clariified Information:**

The EMT killed in the Line of Duty this morning in Huntington County, Pennsylvania was an employee of Priority Response Ambulance in Mt Union and was assisting Mount Union Fire Company (MUFD) Ambulance with 2 routine transports overnight. The unit was returning without a patient to quarters and both personnel are reported to have been seatbelted. An EMT was driving to quarters and the deceased was the passenger. The unit reportedly hit an embankment and flipped over onto the passenger side shortly after 0630 hours, it rolled and the deceased was partially ejected. The deceased was not in the back as reported on our earlier post.

Related Website (Priority Response Ambulance) <http://www.medic68.com/>

Mt Union Fire Company <http://www.mufrd.org>

Our condolences to all affected,

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-2-12 / 1914 Hours

#### **AND:**

**Hey,**

Search and rescue crews are working their way to a plane crash in southwestern Utah. The firefighting plane crash occurred in Hamblin Valley, which is located about two hours west of Cedar City. The plane was a Cedar City-based heavy air tanker dropping retardant on the 5,000-acre White Rock Fire (under the command of the Utah Bureau of Land Management) that crashed just before 1300 hours. Because of the fire, rescue crews are working to find a safe route to the crash site. There is no word on the cause of the crash or the number and condition of crew members. We'll keep you advised.

#### **FIRE APPARATUS STRUCK IN FLORIDA**

A 26 year old man received only minor injuries after his car slammed into a parked fire apparatus around 11:30 this morning. Sean P. Smith was traveling when he reached down to grab his cell phone, not noticing the fire engine. The truck, which was responding to a medical call, was parked with its emergency lights activated and four cones placed directly to its rear. Smith drove over the cones and the front of his Mazda RX8 struck the rear of the fire engine and rotated clockwise. Smith, who was taken to Naples Community Hospital, was wearing a seat belt. Alcohol was not a factor in the crash but not paying attention was. The apparatus sustained about \$50,000 in damage and Smith will be charged with careless driving-all the jakes were fine.

#### **NJ FF STILL CRITICAL-BUT IMPROVING-DONATIONS SOUGHT**

Florence Township Firefighter Brian Richardson remains listed in critical condition at a Trenton hospital, but reports from his union indicated he has made some improvement. Richardson has been removed from a ventilator and is now conscious and responding to voice commands, according to officials from the Burlington County Professional Fire Fighters IAFF Local 3091. Richardson was one of 7 Firefighters injured Thursday afternoon while trying to extinguish that tractor-trailer fire on Interstate 295. Crews were dispatched about 1345 and found the trailer on fire. FF Richardson and

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

the other injured firefighters were trying to access the rear of the trailer when an explosion caused the rear door to burst open. FF Richardson was struck in the head by the door and was airlifted to the Capital Health Regional Medical Center. The other six firefighters - five from Florence and one from Mansfield - suffered less serious injuries and all six have been released. The New Jersey State Police said the truck was hauling oranges south when it became disabled by a brake problem. Police said the brake problem may have sparked the fire, but the investigation is still ongoing. FF Richardson is a lifelong township resident who has been a career firefighter for 15 years. He also is the township's fire marshal. **Contributions can be sent to the Sean Fund, c/o Burlington County Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 3091, P.O. Box 478, Hainesport, N.J. 08036-0478.**

**NOT TRUE:**

There have been some e-mails stating that the Leithsville Volunteer Fire Company (now the Se-Wy-Co Fire Company due to a merger) is looking for cash donations after the loss of their apparatus and firehouse last week. We reached out to PA Fire Commissioner Ed Mann who spoke with the Chief who claims that's not accurate. They are working with their insurance folks and if there are any needs-they'll get the word out-but right now, hold off. **They also stated that the response to help them has been overwhelming and they are more than appreciative.**

HERE is the website: <http://www.sewyco-fc.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-3-12 / 2019 Hours

**AND:**

**2 WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Plane Crash**

It's with deep regret that we advise you that 2 wildland Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty at that airplane crashed yesterday in Utah. Just after 1400 hours yesterday, dispatchers received information that a firefighting air tanker had crashed near the White Rock fire in the Hamlin Valley area of Iron County, Utah. The P2V Lockheed Martin aircraft was piloted by Capt. Todd Neal Tompkins and co-piloted by First Officer Ronnie Edwin Chambless, both of Boise. The plane and crew were on their second run of the day, and it was estimated that the plane held approximately 1,600 gallons of fuel on board as well as over 2,000 gallons of fire retardant. The plane was nearing the fire when it crashed in the pathway of the oncoming fire. Other local aircraft fought the fire to keep it from encroaching upon the wreckage until members of the Iron County Sheriff's Office were able to assess the scene and determine that both Tompkins and Chambless had perished. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

**SMELL OF GAS: EXPLOSION INJURES FIREFIGHTERS**

Milwaukee Firefighters were on the scene checking on a report of the smell of natural gas when there was an explosion yesterday. Reports are that 2 Firefighters were seriously injured, and another three suffered minor injuries. All were transported to the hospital, along with one person living in the house, who was seriously injured. This morning it was reported that one Firefighter is in serious condition, one in fair condition and one in good condition. Two were treated and released. The civilian is reportedly in critical condition.

**GAS LEAKS/SMELL OF GAS-**

**TRAINING & HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:** Gas leaks resulting in explosions and injured "arriving/operating" Firefighters have a SIGNIFICANT HISTORY in fire operations.

HERE are several examples YOU can use to share with YOUR FF's:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtOOIJCzMSo> (Prince Georges County, MD Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUcSKtBvLt8> (Haverstraw, NY)

## Chabot College Fire & EMS News

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEkZIToM0XY&feature=fvwr> (Haverstraw NY Radio Traffic-LISTEN from arrival to explosion)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFxHQCEF5Ro&feature=related> (Gas Explosion RAW Video/caution-rough language but EXCELLENT video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onK-8ga4Fx0&feature=related> (Philly Gas Explosion video)

### **BUFFALO NY:**

In the original fire transmission call from December 27th, 1983, the night of the North Division Street explosion, you can hear the desperation in firefighters voices as they plea for as many ambulances as possible to be sent to the scene after the explosion. The dispatcher can only offer the reassurance that they would send all that they can. Five Buffalo Firefighters were KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY and two civilians were killed as well when a propane blast leveled a warehouse. The explosion damaged 12 city blocks and remains the department's deadliest fire in modern history.

This archived footage of the explosion shows how the entire city mourned the loss of the firefighters and the massive devastation caused by the powerful explosion.

### **BUFFALO NY RADIO TRAFFIC & MEDIA REPORT:**

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/buffalo/Firefighters-remember-North-Division-Street-explosion>

<http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/buffalo/Firefighters-remember-North-Division-Street-explosion#>

### **REMEMBERING JUNE:**

June has been a particularly **BAD MONTH** in recent years. Additionally, **JUNE (17-23)** is **FIRE/EMS SAFETY WEEK:** <http://safetyandhealthweek.org/>

### **Here are a few of some recent LODD's Well Worth Sharing:**

**SFFD:** Lt. Vincent Perez, 48, and Firefighter-Paramedic Anthony Valerio, 53, who were killed in a house fire at 133 Berkeley Way on June 2, 2011.

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

**CHARLESTON, SC-**9 Charleston Firefighters killed at the infamous Sofa Super Store Fire. They are Captain Louis Mulkey, Captain Mike Benke, FF Melvin Champaign, Captain Billy Hutchingson, Engineer Brad Baity, FF Earl Drayton, Engineer Mark Kelsey, Engineer Michael French, and FF Brandon Thompson.

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200718.html>

**BOSTON, MA** -June 17th-Hotel Vendome Fire that killed 9 of Bostons Bravest in 1972. They were FF Thomas W. Beckwith, FF Joseph E. Boucher, Lt. Thomas J. Carroll, FF Charles E. Dolan, Lt. John E. Hanbury, Jr., FF John E. Jameson, FF Richard B. Magee, FF Paul J. Murphy, and FF Joseph P. Saniuk. Another 8 men were critically injured in the collapse.

BFD INFO: [http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire/memorial/vendome\\_fire.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/fire/memorial/vendome_fire.asp)

**FDNY** - The 2001 Fathers Day Fire in the Queens. 3 Firefighters were killed after and explosion trapped them in a collapse. They were FF Brian Fahey, FF Harry Ford, and FF John Downing.

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200123.html>

**MEMPHIS, TN** - Father's Day Fire June 15th, 2003. Lt. Trent Clark and Private Charles Zachary lost their lives in the Family Dollar Store fire.

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200318.html>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**MUNCIE, IN;** FF Scott Davis of Muncie, IN who was killed last June 15th in collapse during a church fire.

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201114.html>

**DU QUOIN, IL:** FF Corey Shaw of Du Quoin, IL who was killed on June 17th in a collapse of a heavily involved commercial building.

NIOSH REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201115.html>

**ANGELINA COUNTY, TEXAS:** FF David Goins died from burns received in a wildland fire.

PREVIOUS INFO: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/138517>

**REMEMBER-----PLAN NOW:**

**JUNE 17-23 is Int'l FIRE/EMS SAFETY WEEK:**

<http://safetyandhealthweek.org/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-4-12 / 0746 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Hopefully, as you know by now, fire departments across North America and beyond are preparing for the 2012 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week, June 17-23, featuring the **Rules You Can Live By** in both Firefighter health and safety....and hopefully, your FD is planning to participate this year. The IAFC, the NVFC and more than 20 partner national fire service organizations are encouraging fire departments to suspend all non-emergency activity during Safety and Health Week to focus on safety and health training and education allowing all shifts and personnel to participate. An entire week is provided to ensure each shift and duty crew can spend at least one day focusing on these critical issues.

**The International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week website has an ever-growing list of resources and events to support your department or company activities:**

<http://safetyandhealthweek.org/> (Website)

<http://www.iafc.org/Media/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=6022> (Related Links & Media Release)

**FIREHOUSE LOSS IN PA:** There is now a website with details on how you or your organization can help the Se-Wy-Co Leithsville Firefighters. <http://www.sewyco-fc.org/leithsville.html>

**UPDATE & SOME DETAILS ON THAT NJ TRUCK EXPLOSION-FF/FM BRIAN RICHARDSON DOING BETTER**

Fire Marshal Brian Richardson is showing "miraculous improvement" from head injuries he suffered during a truck fire and explosion on I-295 in Mansfield last Thursday. Richardson has been upgraded to stable condition-he is conscious and able to speak with his family and friends. He was among seven firefighters injured after the blaze engulfed a tractor trailer carrying oranges while it was stopped on the side of the highway, and caused an explosion that blew open the back doors. Richardson was flown by medevac helicopter to the hospital for treatment, while five firefighters from Florence and one from Mansfield's Franklin Fire Company were treated at Virtua Medical Center in Mt. Holly and released. Of those firefighters, all but one have returned to normal duty status..."They were behind Brian, so they got, I guess, the back end of the blast," Fire Chief Keith Scully said.

Chief Scully naturally said it was a terrifying moment, during the truck fire, when he was helping direct operations nearby and heard the blast. He turned his head and saw a group of firefighters down on the ground. "I lost my voice yelling to my dispatcher to get more help out there," he said. Richardson was in critical condition on Friday but began improving over the weekend. He tires easily from his injuries but is able to converse with visitors to his hospital bed, Scully said. "He's talking to friends and family, full sentences," he said. The cause of the fire and explosion remains under investigation. The trailer was towed from the fire scene and is being examined, Scully said. Richardson, 33, has been with the fire company for 15 years and a paid career member for the past ten. One of only five paid members, his injury leaves his vital job as the fire marshal temporarily unfilled, Scully said. "Brian had a significant part in the fire prevention bureau, so we're trying to keep it up and running for him," he said.

Richardson's family said that he was able to get out of bed and sit in a chair, and said they are talking about finding a rehabilitation facility for him. "He does have a major headache, which is to be expected," his sister wrote. "Just tough when he can't get a break from it. He is continuing to get rest as well." The family also thanked his supporters in the Florence fire company and other departments. Firefighters from Bordentown volunteered to mow Richardson's parents' lawn and Trenton firefighters have been bringing food and drinks to the hospital, they said. Donations to help Richardson may be sent to The Sean Fund, c/o Burlington County Professional Firefighters Association Local 3091, P.O. Box 478, Hainesport NJ 08036-0478.

**CONDOLENCES: Off Duty Death Fire Chief/Firefighter Death**

23 year old South Carolina Fire Chief Ross Reeves was in a fatal wreck around midnight last night when his truck ran off the road, hit some trees and overturned. He was pronounced dead at the scene. He was Chief of Cattle Creek VFD and was a carer Fire Fighter for the Summerville Fire and Rescue Department. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-5-12 / 2046 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Today is Medal Day in NYC. Like many FD's who recognize their members for bravery, the FDNY will honor its bravest during Medal Day today: June 6, 2012. While the term "risk vs benefit" is used alot these days, clearly there are times where Firefighters at all FD's absolutely must take risks based upon conditions...

.....and below is a **OUTSTANDING** video about **RISK = BENEFIT\***.

7 of the year's top FDNY medals will be presented to members of Engine Company 201 and Ladder Company 114, who saved numerous civilian lives when they responded to a fire in Brooklyn on March 13, 2011. In the following video, the Firefighters from Engine 201 and Ladder 114 describe their incredible actions at the fire that night ...along with clips of the fire and radio traffic.

**WATCH & LISTEN HERE:**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=8JF2Ecu7hI8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=8JF2Ecu7hI8)

**Some past FDNY MEDAL DAY History:**

MEDAL DAY 2011 Video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWR\\_0gfstpQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWR_0gfstpQ)

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

MEDAL DAY BOOK 2011: <http://tinyurl.com/6ykv6qk>

MEDAL DAY 1990 Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwOX7jRzAo>

ALL FDNY MEDAL DAYS WINNERS: [http://nyfd.com/Medals\\_all/Medals-FDNY.html](http://nyfd.com/Medals_all/Medals-FDNY.html)

And....Bill C has some more details from "the backstep" **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/86549yd>

**CONGRATS to all the Medal Day winners in NY today-and to all FD's that recognize their members for taking risks that saved lives.**

\*Perhaps sharing some of the above clips may help those members of any community, elected officials and others understand that if you have ONE fire, or ONE THOUSAND FIRES, there must be an affordable fire response with trained Firefighters to take those risks when required...no matter how rare the incidents may be.... .....and blindly cutting fire budgets that show drastic and measurable reductions in services, are a risk that will eventually prove to not be a benefit at many levels.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-6-12 / 0500 Hours

**AND:**

**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN ON THE INTERNET ETC:**

As most of you know, the Charlotte (NC) Fire Department Pipe and Drums Band is nationally recognized and have played at funerals and memorial services across the USA. Firefighter Joey Cline is one of the bagpipers and he is proud of the distinction. "Out of 1,200 firefighters, only five of us play the bagpipes," Cline said. But now that number is down to four after someone stole Cline's bagpipes in April. He and another band member had stopped for lunch in the Northlake area after playing at the funeral for a retired fireman. Cline remembers it well. "The manager came to the table and asked if either one of us had a blue pickup truck. I said, 'Yes, I got a blue pickup.' She said it was just broken into." The bagpipes and some cash donated to the band had been taken.

Cline and his wife had saved over \$5,000 to buy his bagpipes in 2004 so he could join the elite group. "The first time I ever got to play with it in public was for President George W. Bush at the National Firefighters Memorial," Cline said. The department started putting the word out about the theft on Twitter and other social media and it spread across the city, but no suspect has been identified yet. For Joey Cline, it meant that without his instrument, he could no longer take part in the funerals and memorials that meant so much to him. "If it provides some comfort for the family, which a lot of them say it does, it brings me kind of a little bit closer into their lives," said Cline. The department said if anyone has the bagpipes they can be left at any fire station or police station with no questions asked. "It's just something that if they do have them, just return them. That is really all I ask for," said Cline. Anyone with information about the stolen bagpipes is asked to call 704-334-1600.

Thanks-BillyG

The Secret List 6-7-12/0611 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Fire Captain John Anderson, a 24-year member of the East Orange (NJ) FD was injured while operating at a two-alarm fire this evening around 2000 hours. Captain Anderson was on the top floor of the 2.5 story single family dwelling when he fell from a landing, going through one floor and landing on the bottom floor. He broke his hip, femur and lower left leg, and is being treated at University Hospital in Newark. When it happened, a mayday was declared and the Firefighters were able to get Anderson out of the building safely. We wish him a rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 6-6-12 / 2231 hours

**AND:**

**8 RUSSIAN FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

At least eight Russian firefighters have died during a wild land fire in southern Siberia. The eight were part of a team of firefighting parachutists flown in to tackle the fire. Word is that the "authorities" have opened a criminal negligence investigation. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

**ARIZONA FIREFIGHTERS INJURED DURING HOSE TESTING**

3 Firefighters were rushed to Kingman Regional Medical Center about noon today after they were injured while testing equipment. The crews were pressure testing fire hose when the accident occurred at the main fire station in Kingman. 3 Firefighters were loading a hose back onto an engine when a second 5-inch hose line that was to be pressure tested was charged. The hose reportedly zigzagged across the ground, knocking 2 of the Firefighters to the ground and the third up against the engine. One Firefighter was seizing/was knocked unconscious but all 3 were conscious when they reached the hospital for treatment. We'll post updates.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

Billy G

The Secret List 6-7-12 / 2117 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A federal health official's ruling has cleared the way for 50 different types of cancer to be added to the list of sicknesses covered by a \$4.3 billion fund set up to compensate and treat people exposed to the toxic smoke, dust and fumes in the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack and murders. The decision, released on this afternoon, came as a vindication for hundreds and perhaps thousands of people who have claimed - often in the face of resistance from public health officials - that their cancers were caused by their exposure to the dust cloud and debris thrown up in the aftermath of the attack. About time. **Read More:** <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/09/nyregion/ruling-to-allow-9-11-health-fund-to-cover-cancers.html?emc=na>

**FEDS APPROVE FUNDING PLAN-With Cuts**

FROM CFSI-Yesterday, June 7th, the House approved H.R. 5855, the Fiscal Year 2013 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, by a vote of 234-182. The bill funds the programs and activities of the Department of Homeland Security through September 30, 2013.

**The bill, as originally introduced, made a slight cut to the Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program. Initially the measure allocated \$5 million less than the Fiscal Year 2012 level of \$675 million (split equally between the two programs). An amendment to restore the programs to the FY12 level was offered by Congressman Jon Runyan (NJ-3) and Congressman Larry Kissell (NC-8) and approved by the House by voice vote on Wednesday, June 6th. The Senate version of the FY13 spending bill, S. 3216, also funds FIRE and SAFER at the FY12 level.**

Also on Wednesday, the House approved another amendment by voice vote offered by Congressman Michael Grimm (NY-13) and Congressman Gerald Connolly (VA-11) to restore a portion of the funding cut from the Urban Search and Rescue Response System (US&R). The bill originally allocated \$27,513,000 for this critical program (in FY12, the program was funded at \$41,250,000). The

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Grimm/Connolly amendment increased funding to \$35,180,000, the same amount contained in the Senate bill.

**NOTE: Unfortunately, H.R. 5855 funds the United States Fire Administration (USFA) at \$42,460,000, a reduction of \$1.578 million below the FY12 level of \$44,038,000. The Senate bill funds USFA at \$44,020,000, nearly the same level as the current fiscal year. The Senate is expected to address the spending bill later this summer. CFSI will continue to provide updates throughout the Fiscal Year 2013 appropriations process.**

**COURTS SAY NO TO FIREFIGHTER BOOT DRIVES:**

The Nebraska Supreme Court upheld a state accountability commission's finding that Omaha Firefighters can't legally participate in roadside collections for charities on city time using city-owned uniforms and equipment. Today's ruling targets so-called "boot drives," in which uniformed Firefighters ask for donations at traffic intersections, malls and supermarkets. The money goes to organizations like the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In 2010, the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission issued an opinion that the practice violated a state law that bans public employees from using their positions or public resources to benefit businesses with which they may be associated. The ruling means Firefighters must collect donations on their own time and without using city equipment, such as work boots and uniforms. **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/7yxqmbb>

**FDNY MEDAL DAY BOOK DOWNLOAD, VIDEO ETC**

Here are links to the book, videos and more:

**DOWNLOAD THE BOOK:**

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/pdf/publications/medal\\_day/2012/Medal\\_Day\\_Book\\_2012\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/pdf/publications/medal_day/2012/Medal_Day_Book_2012_FINAL.pdf)

**PHOTO GALLERY:**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fdnyhome/sets/72157630006258917/>

**VIDEO & STORY:**

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/events/2012/060612a.shtml>

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/events/2012/060612a.shtml#vid>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-8-12 / 1626 Hours

**AND:**

**AZ FIREFIGHTER KILLED-APP CRASH WHILE RESPONDING**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty and two were injured in single-vehicle crash this morning while fighting the Montezuma Fire burning in the Baboquivari Mountain Range southwest of Tucson. The 3 United States Bureau of Indian Affairs assigned Firefighters were responding to the fire in a brush fire truck on Federal Route 19, near mile post 22, when the vehicle rolled over. Two of the Firefighters were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, and the other died at the scene. We'll post more on our home page as it becomes available. Our condolences to all affected. RIP. Take Care-Be Careful

BillyG.

The Secret List

6-8-12 / 2243 hours

**AND:**

**FIRE CHIEF DIES FOLLOWING A RUN-MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

We regret to advise you that 55 year-old Asst. Fire Chief Donald Suggs has died in the Line of Duty. Chief Suggs worked for the Summerville Fire Rescue Department in Harnett County, N.C. Chief Suggs collapsed after returning from a call. Funeral & memorial details HERE: <http://www.ncfff.org/>  
Summerville FD Website: <http://summervillefire.org/>  
Our condolences to all affected, RIP. Thanks to [www.firenews.net](http://www.firenews.net) for the details.

#### **HONDURAS FIRE CHIEF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HAZ MAT**

A Fire Chief in Honduras died in the Line of Duty and two FFs along with three civilians were hospitalized with critical injuries on Saturday, 6/9, due to the leakage of chlorine gas from a cylinder that was abandoned in a metal recycling facility. This incident happened in the city of Puerto San Lorenzo, Honduras. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

#### **ARIZONA APPARATUS CRASH UPDATE:**

As you know, 31- year old Bureau of Indian Affairs FF Anthony Polk, was killed in the Line of Duty when the type 6 off road fire apparatus he was in rolled over while responding to the Montezuma fire. Polk was pronounced dead on scene and there were 2 other Firefighters, Andy Rosales, 29, and John Villicana, 25 who were transported to the hospital where they were treated and released. They say the weight of the water and the angle of the turn is what could have caused the vehicle to roll. An accident investigation is being conducted by the Tohono O' Odam Tribal Police Department and it's ongoing. They publicly claim speed was not a factor-we'll post more on that as the facts are released. FF Polk was part of a Bureau of Indian Affairs engine crew and lived in Yuma. A viewing for Polk will be held on Friday and he will be cremated on Saturday. FF Polk is survived by a 5 year-old daughter, his mother, grandmother, and numerous relatives and friends. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-11-12 / 1000 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) in partnership with the FDNY has released an outstanding new video that hits on Firefighter personal safety and accountability to help reduce Firefighter LODD's and injuries. Through interviews with department members who have "been there"... "Still Working... So Everyone Goes Home" looks at the changes and advancements the FDNY has implemented since September 11, 2001 and how these accomplishments tie into the NFFF's 16 Life Safety initiatives.

**Still Working... So Everyone Goes Home** is a follow-up to a video produced by the NFFF and FDNY in 2007 to educate members about the importance of proper training and following protocol. That video was well-received within the department and across the nation by the fire service. In 2011, senior staff and officers of the FDNY met with representatives of NFFF, along with director Rob Maloney of Coolwater Multimedia, to discuss making a second video. Rob also produced the outstanding Chicago FD EGH video\* as well. The NY group chose not to make a "part two" but instead decided to tell the story of the FDNY's intentional and focused effort to help improve its mission so that everyone goes home. "Everyone has a role in safety," said FDNY Chief Edward Kilduff. "...and this video will drive home what it means to operate safely." The NFFF and the FDNY viewed this collaborative effort and other partnerships towards Firefighter safety as essential to spreading the message of doing the job effectively and aggressively while reducing the risk of preventable injuries and death. "Our duty is to protect the lives of the public. That is what they expect and that is what they deserve from us, but we need to do it safer," explained Chief Stephen Raynis, FDNY's chief of safety who was part of the production team.

**CHECK OUT the new FDNY "Still Working-Everyone Goes Home" video:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqZtOyqJg8s&feature=youtu.be>

\*HERE is the Chicago video mentioned above:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODww1qwSuE>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-12-12 / 1126 Hours

**AND:**

### **RUSSIAN FIREFIGHTER LODD-Building Fire/Collapse**

One Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty and another was seriously injured this evening as they were operating at a building fire in the northeast of Moscow, Russia. The fire at an old administrative type three-story building broke out late this evening (Friday) and as Firefighters managed to contain the fire, the building collapsed burying two Firefighters. They were both found, rescued and rushed to the hospital in critical condition. One of them has died in the Line of Duty and another Firefighter remains in intensive care . In all, approx 60 fire companies were involved in operating at the fire - the cause is unknown. Our condolences-RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

Billy G.

The Secret List

6-15-12 / 2323 hours.

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## **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:**

Union leaders for the Wenatchee (WA) Fire Department are meeting with Mayor Frank Kuntz today for the first time since he announced plans to lay off 16 city employees, including eight firefighters, by Aug. 1. They plan to propose alternative spending cuts to save jobs and help the city's budget. The city's police union plans to meet with Kuntz in the coming weeks, after its financial expert reviews city finances. The union would then offer recommendations on other ways to cut spending without laying off three police officers and a records clerk. The mayor announced the layoffs last week in a plan to fill a \$1.5 million-a-year deficit. Both unions offered a range of alternatives that include foregoing scheduled wage increases, cutting salaries, furloughs and paying into a buyout plan for employees nearing retirement age. But Kuntz said it's too little and not fast enough. Before announcing the layoffs, he asked the unions to agree to cuts in health-care benefits to save the city an estimated \$500,000 to \$850,000 a year: <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2012/may/23/unions-working-with-mayor-to-prevent-police-fire/>

The Memphis (TN) City Council will consider a funding request from Memphis City Schools, a reduction of Fire Department vehicles and library closings when its budget discussions resume today. A \$47 million deficit is projected this year. The council also will discuss a

Memphis Fire Department proposal to reduce the number of vehicles in service. Fire Director Alvin Benson has proposed that the department take four ladder trucks and a rescue vehicle out of service: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-apparatus/articles/1291463-Memphis-budget-to-pull-5-fire-apparatus-out-of-service/>

With only a few days before the state deadline to submit a balanced budget, North Las Vegas (NV) City Manager Tim Hacker said that he will ask the City Council to suspend portions of those union contracts to save jobs and maintain service levels. Hacker plans to present a resolution for council consideration during a special meeting set for 5 p.m. June 1 at City Hall, 2250 Las Vegas Blvd. North. "We have sought reasonable concessions, but the unions have refused to come to terms. Now, we must take action," Hacker said in a statement today. "Public safety is our No. 1 objective. Without taking this action, we would be forced to lay off large numbers of police and fire fighters. We don't want to take them off the streets, where we already are stretched thin, and could risk compromising the health, safety and welfare of the City's residents and businesses." <http://www.mynews3.com/content/news/story/City-of-North-Las-Vegas-moves-to-suspend-parts-of/2WBbVyRmH0ynLnrlCpMW-g.csp>

Cathedral City's (CA) \$8 million budget deficit could mean cuts across the board, including fire and police personnel. Both departments are facing layoffs for the next fiscal year that begins July 1. The police department is bracing to take the brunt of it. The city is looking at laying off nearly a quarter of of its police department employees, 34 in all, including 15 of its sworn officers. The move would save the city about \$3.5 million dollars. The fire department is facing 16 layoffs, 14 being sworn firefighters. 18 people who work at city hall could also lose their jobs. The total number of city wide layoffs could change, for better or worse, by the time the city council votes on the budget late next month: <http://www.kesq.com/news/Cathedral-City-Considering-Police-And-Fire-Department-Layoffs/-/233092/14084014/-/5lq8rp/-/index.html>

Detroit (MI) human services department will be eliminated, the transportation and lighting departments will be privatized, and 2,600 jobs will be cut -- including EMS and firefighters -- under a \$1.12-billion budget sent Thursday to Mayor Dave Bing by the City Council. Frustrations boiled during more than two hours of council discussion about the 2012-13 budget, which includes many of the nearly \$250 million in spending reductions proposed by Bing: [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10721547/detroit-budget-cuts-would-include-firefighter-jobs?cmpid=email\\_CPS120519004&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120519004](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10721547/detroit-budget-cuts-would-include-firefighter-jobs?cmpid=email_CPS120519004&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120519004)

The city of Dunedin (FL) has laid off one employee this week — the city's fire marshal — and five more staffers could lose their jobs if budget cuts in City Manager Rob DiSpirito's budget proposal are approved DiSpirito says the layoffs — most of them administrative positions made obsolete by technological advances — are being recommended as part of a larger plan to ward off a projected \$1.2 million shortfall next year. The City Commission, which will get its first glimpse of the proposed budget today, will have final say over whether to retain four of the employees through financial maneuvering during summer budget talks. However, the most visible layoff — of Dunedin Fire Marshal Bill McElligott — was effective immediately upon being handed down Tuesday. DiSpirito and Fire Chief Bud Meyer said that's because one of McElligott's former job duties, fire inspection, will be absorbed by a civilian, and Meyer wanted at least six months to hire and train the new fire inspector before he retires in January. The layoff will save an estimated \$50,000, plus eliminate pension contributions: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1295562-Cost-cutting-city-lays-off-fire-marshal/>

The unexpected closure of the Best Buy store in West Dundee (IL) has caused a \$200,000 budget shortfall in the village, forcing officials to consider a series of cuts. Earlier this month, a corporate decision shuttered Best Buy, which was the largest generator of sales tax revenue in the village, Village Manager Joe Cavallaro said. The most dramatic change would involve cutting part-time firefighters' hours at Station 2, leaving that station with two firefighter/paramedics instead of three:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20120529/news/705299965/>

To save the St. Paul (MN) Fire Department's Rescue Squad 2, the city will "brown out" a fire engine. Mayor Chris Coleman recently adopted that recommendation from a city task force. During budgeting last year, the specialty rescue squad had been in danger of being dissolved. "We had to take the lesser of two evils," said Mike Smith, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 21 president and a member of the committee, of the recommendation to keep Rescue Squad 2 going and brown out Engine 13 for the rest of the year. Engine 13 operates out of Station 23 at 1929 Como Ave. and serves the Como, St. Anthony and Hamline-Midway neighborhoods. The station is home to two other rigs -- Engine 23 and Medic 23 -- that will remain in service. No firefighters will be laid off, and Butler said he plans to relocate a rig and firefighters to Ward 4, where Station 23 is. Engine 13 was browned out for half of 2011 because of staffing shortages, Butler said. The department selected the engine because it had the fewest average daily calls for any fire rig, he said. "From a citizen's perspective, it probably isn't much of a change," Butler said of browning out Engine 13:

[http://www.twincities.com/stpaul/ci\\_20736019/st-paul-fire-department-bench-fire-truck-save](http://www.twincities.com/stpaul/ci_20736019/st-paul-fire-department-bench-fire-truck-save)

Chicago (IL) firefighters "do a great job," but they're not "immune from the change and reform" needed to solve the city's financial crisis and deliver "greater value" to taxpayers, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said Wednesday: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/12866639-418/rahm-emanuel-firefighters-not-immune-from-change-and-reform.html>

This week, it looks again like the city of St. Louis (MO) will lose 26 firefighters over the next fiscal year. Last week, aldermen had forwarded a plan to save the positions. That plan, worth \$4.235 million in total, spent money the city wasn't certain it would have -- savings from Mayor Francis Slay's fire pension overhaul bills, which have not passed the Board of Aldermen, and face a near-certain lawsuit if they do:

[http://www.firehouse.com/news/10725765/st-louis-firefighter-jobs-appear-to-be-in-danger-again?cmpid=email\\_CPS120531004&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120531004](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10725765/st-louis-firefighter-jobs-appear-to-be-in-danger-again?cmpid=email_CPS120531004&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120531004)

The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council has granted the city manager special authority to suspend parts of union contracts in an effort to deal with a budget shortfall. With little public comment and no debate, council members voted unanimously Friday night in favor of a resolution allowing City Manager Tim Hacker to mandate the concessions the city has been seeking from the police and fire unions, including an end to pay raises. The city is using an obscure state law to suspend the union agreements. The law allows municipal governments to do away with collective bargaining agreements in cases of emergencies, including riots and civil disorder. Hacker said the alternative — 217 layoffs mostly within the already strapped police and fire departments — would constitute an emergency itself. Such layoffs are the only other option to deal with the budget crunch, he said, and would leave the city's 200,000-plus residents at risk. Mayor Shari Buck called the action necessary to "rescue our city from financial ruin" after nearly six months of failed negotiations:

<http://www.foxreno.com/ap/ap/social-issues/nv-city-to-suspend-parts-of-union-contracts/nPK2w/>

The Pacific Grove (CA) City Council wants to see if there are ways to significantly cut costs for fire services. For several years, the city has contracted with Monterey for fire services, but Councilmen Dan Miller and Ken Cuneo say the savings are too small for a city facing \$300,000 annual deficits over the next five years. "It just no longer makes sense," Miller said Thursday. "They can name the number and unfailingly this City Council, when the city manager gets the bill, pays it." On Wednesday, the council voted 6-1, with Councilman Robert Huitt dissenting, to ask for other fire service proposals — public and private. There are several possible models that should be explored, the councilmen said in a report. They include:

- Contract with the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.
- Create a new city department with a new, less expensive labor agreement.
- Form a hybrid department with full-time employees and volunteers.
- Contract with a private fire-services firm.
- Work out a new staffing model that would cut costs.

"It is not a question of the quality currently being provided, which is very good," the councilmen's report said. "Rather it is question of affordability for the city."

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_20807923/pacific-grove-explores-fire-service-options](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_20807923/pacific-grove-explores-fire-service-options)

Starting next month, the East Contra Costa (CA) Fire District will scale back to three stations but have three firefighters on each engine. Half of the district's six stations will close -- one on Bethel Island and one each in Knightsen and Brentwood -- and 15 of its 43 firefighters will lose their jobs. The board's hand was forced by the failure of Measure S at the polls last week, a parcel tax measure that would have propped up the financially distressed agency for the next 10 years. Hard-hit by a drop in property tax revenue over the past four years, the fire district has been deficit-spending and expects that it will finish the fiscal year June 30 with a scant \$500,000 in reserves. But voters roundly rejected the idea of a parcel tax that would have started at \$197 per year and increased by up to \$257, which means that the district, with its savings almost exhausted, now has no choice but to live within its means:

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_20837032/fire-district-slashes-half-its-fire-stations-cuts](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_20837032/fire-district-slashes-half-its-fire-stations-cuts)

After the blow of having lost millions of dollars in redevelopment funds, Rancho Cucamonga (CA) city leaders expressed further disgust Thursday over news that state lawmakers are considering taking even more money away. The Rancho Cucamonga Fire District could stand to lose about a third of its budget - roughly \$8 million - after city officials received notice from state finance officials on Wednesday that property tax revenue, normally set aside for special districts, could be taken to shore up the state budget:

[http://www.presstelegram.com/california/ci\\_20862281/state-could-take-millions-from-rancho-cucamonga-fire](http://www.presstelegram.com/california/ci_20862281/state-could-take-millions-from-rancho-cucamonga-fire)

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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 former Mokena (IL) firefighter who was arrested and charged with public intoxication while celebrating his marriage engagement is suing a Frankfort police officer and the village for allegedly costing him his job:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-lawsuit-intoxication-arrest-by-frankfort-cop-cost-mokena-firefighter-his-job-20120518,0,3207019.story>

A Greeley (CO) fire lieutenant pleaded guilty Thursday to official misconduct for providing previous test copies to people taking a statewide firefighter examination, authorities said. A judge sentenced Moore to serve 12 months of probation, perform 80 hours of community service and pay \$184 in court costs. Moore was the proctor overseeing a state firefighter certification exam in April 2011 when he distributed copies of a previous test for his students to study from in violation of state testing policies, Montgomery said. He was a firefighter for the Greeley Fire Department at the time:

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/31136099/detail.html>

The Boston (MA) Police Department (BPD) are probing allegations concerning kickbacks and misuse of taxpayer funds at the city's firefighter training academy, including claims that recruits were asked to pay for gear and other equipment that was already bought with Boston Fire Department (BFD) cash. Sources confirmed that the BPD's anticorruption unit investigators have been questioning BFD employees about payments made by recruits allegedly for job-related materials that are regularly funded in the city budget. Investigators also are looking into allegations that a private vendor paid off a BFD employee's personal credit card: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/06/boston-fire-department-academy-funds-in-question.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyJune12012>

Maryland fire company investigates firefighters over Facebook posts. Bel Air VFC members upset over lack of discount by fast food place. According to ExploreHarford.com's Bryna Zumer, these were some of the Facebook posts that prompted an internal investigation of members of the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company in Harford County, Maryland: Even when myself and a full engine crew are in turnout gear at Sonic for lunch, the manager still says only police and military get discounts. Cool, thanks we appreciate the support. Let's make sure they don't get a response. Go set the Dumpster on fire. Wait till its on fire, then see what he says. Those posting said that the local Sonic gives discounts to police and those in the military but not firefighters: <http://statter911.com/2012/06/05/maryland-fire-company-investigates-firefighters-over-facebook-posts-bel-air-vfc-members-upset-over-lack-of-discount-by-fast-food-place/>

WRC-TV in Washington DC aired a story last night about a 911 call for trouble breathing in Montgomery County, Maryland where the call taker fell asleep. The News4 I-Team story by Tisha Thompson and Rick Yarborough says the dispatcher is a veteran uniformed firefighter who was in the 17th hour of a 24-hour shift on overtime and can be heard snoring on the recording of that 911 call. "The employee was immediately removed from the floor by his supervisor that night and placed on administrative leave with pay pending the inquiry," Montgomery County Assistant Fire Chief Scott Graham said. The News4 I-Team found Montgomery County dispatchers work twice as long as other dispatchers in the D.C. area. In Fairfax County, dispatchers work 12.5-hour shifts. In Prince George's County they work a 12-hour shift. The District has a 10-hour shift:

<http://statter911.com/2012/05/22/firefighterdispatcher-falls-asleep-during-911-call-tv-station-has-audio-from-montgomery-county-maryland/>

San Jose (CA) will pay \$395,000 to settle a gender-bias lawsuit by two female fire captains claiming that Chief William McDonald passed them over for promotions that went to less-qualified men. The settlement in the lawsuit filed last June by Debra Ward and Patricia Tapia suggests that gender bias concerns continue to plague the department even under the new leadership of McDonald, an outsider who took over two years ago. The city in 2009 paid fire engineer Julie LaBlanc \$200,000 to settle her lawsuit over pornographic magazines in her fire station. "I think it's a very good settlement," said Angela Alioto, the former San Francisco supervisor who, as an attorney, handled all three women's cases. "My clients are keeping their job. The goal is not to have women leave the fire department." Tapia has since been promoted to a battalion chief. San Jose admits no wrongdoing in the settlement, which the City Council is expected to approve Tuesday. City Attorney Rick Doyle said in a memorandum to the council that the settlement is reasonable "in light of the risks and costs inherent in litigation." McDonald did not respond to a request for comment. According to the complaint, in the department of about 628 firefighters, only five of 156 captains and two of 21 battalion chiefs were women. Tapia had worked in the department since 1986 and Ward since 1988:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci\\_20850257/san-jose-pay-395-000-settle-bias-suit](http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_20850257/san-jose-pay-395-000-settle-bias-suit)

Washington DC (DCFD) Battalion Chief Kevin Sloan told The Washington Times' Andrea Noble that Chief Kenneth Ellerbe's actions are "a classic example of workplace bullying". Chief Sloan says that he was transferred from operations to the logistics division a week ago, less than four hours after finding Lt. Henry Dent not guilty on charges related to the beer Chief Ellerbe found in a refrigerator at the quarters of Engine 9 last year. Kevin Sloan said in an article posted this evening on the paper's website, "It's not ethical, it's not moral. It's retaliatory action." Chief Sloan's case has similarities to the demotion of Battalion Chief Richard Sterne in April after Sterne reduced the penalties against two other firefighters connected to the beer incident. According to Noble, while Chief Sterne was notified his demotion was directly related to his handling of the disciplinary, Chief Sloan was not given an explanation for his sudden transfer: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/21/dc-battalion-chief-describes-fire-chief-kenneth-ellerbe-as-workplace-bully-washington-times-reports-kevin-sloans-transfer-is-latest-casualty-of-last-years-beer-incident/>

Tempe (AZ) has fired a firefighter who is awaiting trial on charges he accidentally set his own house on fire and attacked an assistant fire chief while intoxicated. Michael Keene, 25, has pleaded not guilty to aggravated assault and criminal damage counts stemming from the Aug. 11, 2011, house fire and alleged physical assault of Tempe Assistant Fire Chief Marc Scott. The city on Thursday terminated Keene, who had been on unpaid administrative leave:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/tempe/20120520tempe-firefighter-fired-while-waiting-trial>

A former firefighter has settled with Fairfax County (VA) over a high-profile sexual harassment case that included charges that the woman's recruitment officer asked during her interview if she "enjoyed being watched while she had sex." The settlement came nearly a year after a jury awarded Mary Getts Bland \$250,000. The county appealed the award, and a Judge reduced it to \$50,000. The case continued because Ms. Bland was awarded \$307,000 in attorney's fees and other costs, but the county appealed those as well. She settled the fees for "modestly less," according to her attorney, David Shapiro. "Compromise is part of the process," Mr. Shapiro said. "If we weren't happy with the result, we wouldn't have done the result. We got a lot of money as a result of the judge's award." According to sworn testimony, Ms. Bland said that during her recruitment interview a decade ago, Lt. Timothy D. Young "asked me if I like to be watched while I masturbate." [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10719680/former-va-firefighter-settles-sexual-harassment-suit?cmpid=email\\_CPS120516004&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120516004](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10719680/former-va-firefighter-settles-sexual-harassment-suit?cmpid=email_CPS120516004&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120516004)

Washington D.C. police and firefighters union officials are asking for an investigation into what they say was a giant blaze involving three dumpsters and an abandoned car's worth of personnel records, including medical files containing private information. In a letter sent to the Office of the Inspector General today, the heads of the two unions say that last Friday around 5 p.m., a D.C. fire engine company was dispatched to the city's fire department training academy to put out three dumpster fires. After the firefighters started putting out the fires, they realized that some of the documents were personnel files of cops and firefighters, the letter says. The letter continues: "In addition to the burning documents, there were unburned documents scattered on the ground throughout the training facility and unburned documents in an abandoned car. Members of FEMS were able to identify their own training and medical records in the documents in the abandoned car."

<http://statter911.com/2012/05/23/a-most-bizarre-story-from-the-nations-capital-dc-fire-police-unions-want-investigation-into-personnel-records-dump-burn-at-fd-training-academy/>

A Murfreesboro (TN) firefighter was suspended in April for a practical joke that ended up placing one of his co-workers under scrutiny at the department and in the press. Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department Firefighter Lance Sutton was suspended without pay for 24 hours April 15, almost a month after he acknowledged in a letter to fire administrators that a "brown substance" recovered from Station 3 Capt. Ted Pertiller's locker during a search there was nothing more than beeswax shaped into "dog feces." He also acknowledged that he was the person who had placed it there, according to documents recently obtained from the city's human resources department by The Daily News Journal. The wax fell out of Pertiller's locker during a March 13 search, which was prompted by the discovery of two marijuana cigarettes on the grounds of the Mercury Boulevard fire station two days prior:

<http://www.dnj.com/article/20120529/NEWS/305290011>

The battle between St. Louis (MO) firefighters and city leaders has burned for six months. Now it's taking to the airwaves. Both the firefighters union and the campaign of Mayor Francis Slay have mounted television advertisements in the last week, each attacking the other over fire pension reform. The firefighters' 30-second ad calls Slay's proposal, which would deeply cut fire retirement benefits and save millions in city funds every year, a "raid" on their futures. Slay calls the firefighter spot an "unfortunate attack ad" and, speaking to the camera, says "you deserve the truth." [http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/st-louis-firefighters-mayor-exchange-attack-ads/article\\_b9934f58-ac2b-11e1-b55e-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix/st-louis-firefighters-mayor-exchange-attack-ads/article_b9934f58-ac2b-11e1-b55e-0019bb30f31a.html)

The stories, all told in court records, paint a damning portrait of a fire department with a boy's club atmosphere, where women are groped, demeaned and ignored at promotion time while the "golden children," a small group of privileged male firefighters, are given preferential treatment. The complaints, spanning a four-year period, have led to an investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice into the fire department's employment policies and practices. One former Davie (FL) firefighter says he was constantly called "Jew Boy" by fellow firefighters, court records show. A female firefighter says she's been called "ho" and "heifer." Another says she was not allowed to go on light duty until the second trimester of her pregnancy, despite a doctor's note. She helped fight a fire on Nov. 16, 2009, and had a miscarriage eight days later — just 17 days before she was to start light duty. Davie officials, through town spokesman Phillip Holste, deny the claims. Fire Chief Joe Montopoli said "no comment" when queried about the allegations. The number and severity of the allegations point to a "culture of discrimination" within the fire department, said Bob Jarvis, a constitutional law professor at Nova Southeastern University in Davie:

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/davie/fl-davie-fire-doj-20120525.0.6317938.story>

When Fred Wheeler was acting commissioner, and again when Donald Austin was named commissioner of the Detroit (MI) Fire Department, I outlined some suggestions on how to handle their Charlie Leduff problem. I sensed then, and it has been confirmed by the video above, that no one in charge reads STATter911.com, or, if they do, they don't believe I know a thing after 38 years covering the fire service as a radio and TV reporter. Deputy Commissioner Wheeler, who has been chased after by WJBK-TV's Leduff for quite some time, has looked foolish after many of these ambush interviews. None more so than what you will witness above when he slaps the microphone out of Leduff's hands and apparently lets loose with a couple of expletives (unless Leduff is just taking after Jimmy Kimmel and doing some unnecessary censorship). Fred Wheeler then opens up his tablet and appears to start taking video of Charlie Leduff: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/30/trust-me-this-is-must-see-tv-detroit-deputy-commissioner-fred-wheeler-has-to-be-bleeped-knocks-microphone-out-of-charlie-leduffs-hand-after-reporter-tours-city-firehouses/>

Update on above story from Detroit - Detroit (MI) Deputy Fire Commissioner Fred Wheeler gone. Mayor Dave Bing swings axe after confrontation with reporter Charlie LeDuff. Commissioner Austin answers the questions Wheeler wouldn't: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/31/detroit-deputy-fire-commissioner-fred-wheeler-gone-mayor-dave-bing-swings-axe-after-confrontation-with-reporter-charlie-leduff/>

Three Garland (TX) firefighters and their captain were recently handed suspensions after a rookie firefighter was the victim of hazing. On Feb. 25, Firefighter Dalton Harris was sprayed with hoses, chased down, duct taped, buckled to a backboard and laid on the floor under a water pipe discharging a strong stream of water, according to The Dallas Morning News. Firefighters Scott Hunt, Oscar Lozano and Jeremy Sanford took part in the initiation and were suspended for three days. Capt. Randy Baker didn't participate, but witnessed a part of it and was suspended for five days since he was responsible for their behavior: [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10727617/texas-fire-chief-suspends-four-in-hazing-incident?cmpid=email\\_CPS120611002&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120611002](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10727617/texas-fire-chief-suspends-four-in-hazing-incident?cmpid=email_CPS120611002&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120611002)

Chicago's (IL) inspector general fired back on Monday against an independent arbitrator who overturned firings and suspensions in a Fire Prevention Bureau where padding mileage expenses was so entrenched and condoned, it was "almost a work rule." "The idea that stealing, fraudulent falsification of official records and lying is acceptable because everyone else is doing it is patent nonsense. Any child knows better," Inspector General Joe Ferguson wrote in a statement released Monday. Ferguson said the rampant mileage padding that prompted him to recommend that all 54 firefighters be fired did not arise out of some "technical violation of some obscure and misunderstood" city rule. Those accused "admitted to routinely and systematically lying in order to steal money" from the Chicago taxpayers, the inspector general said. "That conduct is also criminal. ... It cannot be excused just because supervisors as equally 'culturally challenged' as their charges found it acceptable," Ferguson wrote. "The Chicago Fire Department has a long and proud history. ... However, bravery in service to the public does not put them above the law, or excuse them from their moral and fiduciary obligation to the people of this city. ... When government allows those who steal taxpayers' money to keep their taxpayer-funded jobs, we do grievous damage to the public trust." Arbitrator Edwin H. Benn ruled last week that padding mileage expenses was so entrenched and condoned in Chicago's Fire Prevention Bureau, it was "almost a work rule." <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1297112-Chicago-investigator-defends-recommendation-to-fire-54-firefighters/>

The back and forth between the North Las Vegas (NV) Firefighter's Union and the city of North Las Vegas continues in the wake of the suspension of union contracts last week. On Tuesday, union president Jeff Hurley called North Las Vegas City Manager Tim Hacker out specifically, claiming he refused to sign an agreement for firefighters to forgo cost of living increases, clothing allowances and the option to sell back vacation time. "We gave exactly what they city asked for and simply asked that they not make further cuts to an already bare bones department. Timothy Hacker declined," Hurley said in a statement. Hurley, in a roundabout way, seemed to call for Hacker's ouster. "The city in desperate need of change at the top," Hurley continued. "Hacker was fired from the tiny town of Mesquite, and now he has already proven he is in over his head with the way he has destroyed the spirit of cooperation necessary for good faith bargaining. Hacker told state officials that North Las Vegas would end the year with a multimillion dollar surplus and then announced that there was a fiscal emergency that required breaking the city's labor contracts." In response, Hacker sent a statement of his own, reaffirming the city's decision to suspend union contracts as a means of filling the \$33 million budget gap, saving jobs and maintaining public safety:

<http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/18711049/war-of-words-betwen-nlv-union-continues>

A veteran Houston (TX) firefighter who has won two bias lawsuits against the city struck again last week, filing a complaint that alleges age discrimination, race discrimination and unlawful retaliation. Charles Julian, 69, claims he intentionally was given low performance evaluations to foil his goal of becoming Houston's first black fire chief. He was hired by the Houston Fire Department in 1968 and worked up the ranks to become a district chief in 1984. Since 1989, he's been unsuccessfully applying for higher-level positions:

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Longtime-Houston-firefighter-sues-department-for-3623605.php>

According to KGBT-TV, Art Rodriquez, the assistant city manager in San Benito, Texas, says a city fire captain showed up to work intoxicated on Saturday. You will note in the story below and above, the captain's "work issued gun" was retrieved when he was sent home and suspended. I could find no explanation on the town's website about why fire captains carry guns (such as they do the job of both police officers and firefighters):

<http://statter911.com/2012/06/14/san-benito-texas-fire-captain-accused-of-showing-up-to-work-drunk-sent-home-pending-investigation/>

A federal lawsuit by battalion chiefs of the Clark County (NV) Fire Department against the county disappeared Tuesday with little fanfare. Fearful that county officials might decertify their union, the "batt-chiefs" sued the county after the county refused to guarantee it would not make a decertification attempt. The matter was quickly ended in court, though, when the county agreed not to seek decertification — for now. But given the ongoing disputes between firefighter unions and local government — which includes Clark County, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas — political observers say the lawsuit is the last thing that either Clark County or its Fire Department needed. Both sides face a monumental money issue in less than two years when the county has to prepare its budget by looking through a crystal ball to determine whether voters will decide in late 2014 to renew a 20-year-old tax that raises about \$15 million per year for Fire Department operations and capital expenses. Once again, the observers say, the lawsuit highlighted stark differences between unionized public employees and those who work in the private sector. Those differences have had devastating effects on public employee unions around the country, perhaps exemplified by the landslide victory Wisconsin voters gave in a recall election last week to Gov. Scott Walker, who has eviscerated public employee unions through laws attacking collective bargaining:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/jun/14/firefighters-county-face-pr-battle-win-renewal-tax/>

**Positive Public Relations Items:**

In a sea of thousands of runners, many of them in elaborate and wacky costumes, Jake Dickes managed to stand out. The 27-year-old from Lyons ran Monday's 34th Bolder Boulder in full firefighter gear -- mask, helmet and all. "Yeah," he said when asked if he was exhausted, "I'm done for a while." No, Dickes isn't insane. Quite the opposite, in fact. "I'm doing a fundraiser for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation," said Dickes, a member of the Boulder Rural (CO) Fire Department. "I raised about \$800 to give to them this week." The NFFF helps families of fallen firefighters around the country. Dickes ran the Bolder Boulder once before, when he was about 7 years old. For the purpose of his fundraiser, it was logical that he'd tackle the Bolder Boulder once again: [www.timescall.com/ci\\_20730205/dickes-races-raise-money-firefighters](http://www.timescall.com/ci_20730205/dickes-races-raise-money-firefighters)

UPDATE: Bel Air, MD chief suspends, demotes & recommends dismissal in Facebook burger shakedown. *So far, a textbook example on how to handle bad news.* Read department statement - "This is unacceptable behavior of our membership," Chief Hopkins said. "I am extremely disappointed and ashamed that any of our members would make these statements. This type of activity has been dealt with swiftly. I cannot express my disappointment to these members enough. They have brought great disrespect to the company, their fellow firefighters and those they serve, you the public, and for that I apologize. I hope that those who are reading this continue to believe in the mission of the Bel Air VFC and continue to trust us with your medical and fire emergencies." In the coming weeks the Bel Air VFC will be conducting training for all members on the aspects of social media through varied legal experts. It is unfortunate that, within the same week that volunteer fire organizations in Harford County came together to perform flawlessly during the tornado event and their good names have been tarnished by this childish behavior. It is important for all to know that we as firefighters do this job because we want to and not because we get something material out of it. Firefighters shouldn't expect something for the job they do nor should they ask for it. Those firefighters that do ask are in it for all the wrong reasons:

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

In the event of payless paydays for Scranton (PA) city government, the police, firefighters and public work employees would still work, their union presidents said Tuesday. "Our guys will absolutely be there," said John Judge, president of International Association of Firefighters Local 60. Bob Martin, president of Fraternal Order of Police E.B. Jermyn Lodge 2, said, "Police are going to show up. They're not going to leave the city unprotected. I can assure you, whatever the outcome is, the city will not go unprotected." And Sam Vitris, president of International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 2305 that represents DPW workers, added, "We'll still be working. There will be no cut in services. We're there until as long as it takes. Our members would be instructed to continue to show up for work until the problem passes."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10726194/pennsylvania-firefighters-say-theyll-work-without-pay>

Union blows whistle on rookie hazing in Garland, Texas. Chief praised for suspensions of three firefighters & a captain. In Garland, Texas four firefighters received suspensions over the hazing of a rookie. According to news reports, the February incident was brought to the attention of management by the Garland Firefighters Association. The union issued a statement saying, "We're pleased with the way the fire administration handled the investigation and the punishment". Chief Raymond Knight, who called the incident embarrassing, says the suspensions of the firefighters were staggered to avoid incurring

overtime: <http://statter911.com/2012/06/09/union-blows-whistle-on-rookie-hazing-in-garland-texas-chief-praised-for-suspensions-of-three-firefighters-a-captain/>

Pensions have suddenly become a cure to much of Sacramento's (CA) budget woes. With a tentative agreement reached Tuesday between city officials and the firefighters union, most of the city's \$15.7 million deficit for the fiscal year beginning July 1 has been addressed through increased employee pension contributions. If ratified by the union's members in the coming days, the deal with Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 would save 44 firefighter jobs: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/06/13/4557868/sacramento-council-approves-city.html>

Under the threat of layoffs, Wenatchee (WA) police and firefighters have agreed to early retirements, unpaid furloughs and increased medical insurance premiums. The buyouts and insurance concessions, announced Thursday, move Wenatchee and its unions closer to Mayor Frank Kuntz's goal of trimming \$1.5 million from the city's budget. But it's not clear if the moves are enough to prevent all the layoffs — 16 — the mayor has said he would impose Aug. 1. Kuntz announced plans about a month ago to cut the city's annual budget, largely due to shrinking revenues, increasing employee costs and Town Toyota Center. He initially asked the city's three unions, which represent about 140 of the city's 180 employees, to voluntarily agree to pay more for medical insurance premiums. But when they did not collectively agree to do it, he decided on a plan that would lay off three police officers, one police records clerk, eight firefighters, and four of the five employees at the Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center. At the same time, he invited the unions to offer alternatives to the layoffs that would achieve lasting cuts to city expenses: <http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2012/jun/15/early-retirement-plan-will-save-some-from-layoffs/>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

John Mittendorf Questions and Answers on Ventilating Lightweight Roofs – Must read for all fire service personnel: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/05/john-mittendorf-questions-and-answers-on-ventilating-lightweight-roofs.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyMay42012>

Gratuities While on Duty - Bad Idea? In this FireGround commentary, Chief Wylie takes a look at an incident that cost several firefighters some time off and a demotion for another over their Facebook posts about not getting a discount at a local restaurant: <http://flashovertv.firerescue1.com/Media/3980-Gratuities-While-on-Duty-Bad-Idea/>

An Iowa firefighter, who was driving an ambulance involved in a collision, has been charged by police. Mason City Firefighter Schuyler Townsend, 26, was charged with failure of caution of an emergency vehicle, according to The Globe Gazette. The wreck on Sunday that occurred as the ambulance was headed to a hospital with a patient left five people with minor injuries. Townsend approached the intersection while the light was red, slowed, then continued on through the red light, police told the paper. The driver of a Chevrolet Tahoe, Steven Bombella, 42, said he didn't see the ambulance until it was too late. His SUV broadsided the ambulance. Ambulances are required to slow down and not enter the intersection until it is safe to do so, said Lt. Ron VandeWeerd told reporters: [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10725276/iowa-firefighter-charged-following-ambulance-crash?cmpid=email\\_CPS120530004&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120530004](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10725276/iowa-firefighter-charged-following-ambulance-crash?cmpid=email_CPS120530004&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120530004)

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department this week ended its contract with SCBA provider Draeger over problems the department has had with its air pack regulators. The move comes after the two sides spent two years trying to solve the reliability problems; the contract, signed in 2008, was worth \$3.3 million. According to the Arizona Republic, the fire department documented that 120 of the 808 regulators broke in the field. Many of the problems involved the regulator separating from the facepiece. The department established a subcommittee to examine the problem and began closely monitoring reports of SCBA failures. Draeger says that it supplies more than 1,500 fire departments in the United States. Yet, two other departments have come forward with complaints about the SCBA's reliability. Dekalb County, Ga., reported problems with its Draeger facepieces and there are news reports that Anchorage, Alaska was having problems with its Draeger SCBA. These problems have raised enough concern to involve the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, which is investigating the claims to determine if the problems are errors in design or operation. Phoenix will solicit bids from SCBA manufacturers to replace the Draeger units: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/fire-breathing-apparatus/fire-scba/articles/1302069-Phoenix-Fire-Dept-drops-Draeger-over-SCBA-failure/>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

From Curt Varone - it is almost beyond belief, even for someone who lectures regularly on the subject of "You Can't Make This Stuff Up". A fire chief, Kenneth Ellerbe, disciplining two chief officers who serve as hearing officers – administrative fact finders – because the fire chief feels they did not properly issue the correct "recommendation" to him in two disciplinary cases arising out of the same incident... Really? While the facts are complicated and convoluted – one battalion chief, Richard Sterne, was demoted to captain because he "recommended" issuing reprimands to two firefighters instead of the 24 hour suspensions the chief sought, and another battalion chief, Kevin Sloan, was transferred from a line position to a desk job in supply because he recommended a finding of not guilty for a lieutenant. Here is the bottom line: In DC the fire chief is the final decision maker on matters of discipline. If the fire chief does not like recommendations that his subordinate chiefs give him, he should IGNORE THEM. He is the fire chief and that is his prerogative to overrule their decisions by issuing whatever punishment he believes is warranted:

<http://firelawblog.com/2012/05/the-discipline-debacle-in-dc/>

With enhancements in certification and training, the Pittsburgh (PA) Fire Bureau is evolving into an "all hazards" department that's crossing into areas traditionally handled by paramedics and fueling questions about the future role of the paramedic corps. In recent years, the fire bureau has taken steps to provide firefighters with training in vehicle extrication, swift water rescue and emergency medical care -- all the traditional province of paramedics. Since the 2010 blizzard, the city has increased the use of fire trucks on medical calls. Fire Chief Darryl Jones said the bureau's 560 or so members all are certified at the "Firefighter II" level, something unusual for a metropolitan department. A Firefighter II has more skills, and may work on the fire ground with more independence, than someone with Firefighter I certification. All newly hired firefighters are certified as emergency medical technicians, who can perform CPR and provide other medical care but aren't able to perform as many functions as paramedics. The department also has offered veteran firefighters a course to let them achieve EMT certification: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/firefighters-new-medical-duties-could-change-role-of-paramedics-638003/>

A Baltimore (MD) City Council committee approved a measure Tuesday that would allow advertisements to be placed on fire trucks to help support the department — and potentially

prevent the closure of some fire companies. Firefighters and community leaders backed the bill, sponsored by West Baltimore Councilman William "Pete" Welch, expressing hope that the ad revenue could prevent three of the city's 55 fire companies from being shuttered due to budget cuts: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-fire-truck-ads-20120529.0.3457232.story>

A federal judge with widespread oversight of the Buffalo (NY) Fire Department has dismissed a 14-year-old lawsuit alleging racial discrimination in the department. The suit, filed by 17 current and former African-American firefighters, accused the city of using promotional and disciplinary policies that intentionally discriminated against black employees. In ruling against the firefighters, U.S. District Judge John T. Curtin said they failed to make their case against the department. "The court agreed there was no merit to any of the claims," said Adam W. Perry, the Buffalo attorney representing the city. "This litigation has now been concluded, and all to the city's favor."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/1296044-Judge-throws-out-discrimination-case-against-Buffalo-Fire-Dept/>

A 10-year parcel tax to save fire services in East Contra Costa County (CA) was soundly defeated according to Wednesday morning results. Measure S required two-thirds approval to pass, but it garnered just 43.6 percent of the 14,216 votes cast with all precincts reporting. The tax would have generated up to \$101 million over the next decade, money that would have enabled the fire district to save two or three stations that are on the brink of closure and the jobs of as many as 19 firefighters. The money was also going to be used to reopen a station and hire 20 firefighters with paramedic training so that it can have one of them on each shift. East Contra Costa Fire has been operating with three firefighters per engine at four stations and two men on engines at the other two. Property tax revenue, which accounts for about 90 of the district's budget, has dropped by more than 30 percent over the past four years, and in summer 2010 the agency was forced to close two of its eight stations:

[http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci\\_20791650/east-county-fire-tax-measure-losing-early-returns](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_20791650/east-county-fire-tax-measure-losing-early-returns)

San Jose (CA) Firefighter Brian Endicott got an early taste of the pension battle brewing here when a man at the grocery store angrily pointed to the steaks in his cart. "Who do you think you are, wasting taxpayers' money on a meal like this?" the man yelled at 46-year-old Mr. Endicott, who was shopping for dinner with three other firefighters from San Jose Fire Station No. 1. After the 2001 terrorist attacks, sympathetic residents of this affluent city gathered at the firehouse to offer flowers, cakes and pies. Today, public sentiment toward the men and women in uniform has widely shifted, as many locals are up in arms over escalating pension costs for public-safety workers:

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304821304577438452821346064.html>

East Contra Costa (CA) Fire District officials are preparing for station closures and layoffs in the next several weeks following a failed parcel tax. The resounding defeat of Measure S at the polls Tuesday -- the proposal fell 23 percentage points short of the two-thirds vote needed -- will force the agency to shut down more stations and slash its payroll. The tax, which was slated to take effect July 1, would have started at \$197 and increased by up to 3 percent annually until it reached \$257 in 2021-22, when it was scheduled to sunset. Over the next decade, Measure S would have generated up to \$101 million that not only would have preserved the status quo but enabled the district to reopen one of the two stations it closed in summer 2010 and hire enough firefighters with paramedic training to have one of them on each shift. The district's nine-member board of directors will meet Monday to decide which of

two options to adopt. One would involve giving 16 of its 43 firefighters pink slips and closing the Bethel Island and Knightsen stations as well as one of the two in Brentwood; the other would be to eliminate 19 jobs and shutter the first two stations only:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\\_20800358/fire-district-prepares-layoffs-station-closures-following-parcel?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_20800358/fire-district-prepares-layoffs-station-closures-following-parcel?source=most_viewed)

Las Vegas (NV) city officials seeking to keep a lid on firefighter wages and benefits are pushing for a novel pay system that lets employees share the proceeds of cost savings, as opposed to basing salary increases on guaranteed raises. The proposal, called gainsharing, was part of a presentation Wednesday for the Las Vegas City Council and was one of the issues behind an impasse between city management and the firefighters union. In addition to talk about gainsharing, which has gone nowhere with the union, city officials are trying to keep labor expenses flat in the upcoming two-year contract because they say costs of the new city hall and a potential increase for Las Vegas police will stretch city finances:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/las-vegas-officials-push-gainsharing-to-keep-lid-on-firefighters-wages-157650735.html>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department canceled its contract with the manufacturer of air tanks firefighters breathe through while battling blazes, citing its inability to get the company to address dangerous equipment failures during fires. The problems were rooted in a valve that works like the regulator on a scuba tank, supplying oxygen in the masks that firefighters wear while fighting fires. The valve fastened into the mask with a metal clasp, but failed more than 100 times, according to firefighters, depriving the wearers of oxygen or pushing so much air into the mask that the firefighters had trouble breathing. Draeger, the German-based manufacturer, said its products are safe and that much of the blame for the failures was due to a lack of proper training and user error at the Phoenix Fire Department:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2012/06/08/20120608phoenix-fire-department-cancels-air-tank-contract.html>

Decisive victories for ballot proposals cutting retirement benefits for government workers in two of the largest cities in the U.S. emboldened advocates seeking to curb pensions in state capitols and city halls across the nation. The voter responses in San Jose and San Diego were stinging setbacks for public employee unions, which also came up short on Republican Gov. Scott Walker's recall victory in Wisconsin. "The message is that if elected officials and public employee unions do not responsibly deal with this issue, voters will take things into their own hands," said Thom Reilly, former chief executive of Clark County, Nev., now a professor of social work at San Diego State University. "We could see more draconian measures from citizens." San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders, a chief backer, said he was surprised by the margin of victory and considered it a statement that voters won't tolerate benefits that are more generous than those they receive working at private companies. "It just shows the frustration people have with pension benefits that are out of control and taking away from city services," he said in an interview Wednesday:

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/06/06/california-pension-cuts-may-have-ripple-effect/>

The voter call for public-employee pension reform in San Jose (CA) and San Diego -- cities with labor-friendly Democratic Party registration majorities -- is reverberating up to the state Capitol and across the nation. In San Diego, pension costs consume 27% of the city's general fund. In San Jose, 1 in 5 general-fund dollars goes to retired employees. In Fresno County, the proposed \$1.8 billion budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year includes \$200 million in retirement expenses. A study by a nonpartisan Stanford University think tank estimates the unfunded liability of the state's three largest pension systems at \$485 billion. Bottom line: Millions of

Californians -- many of whom who have 401(k)-style retirement plans -- wonder why an increasing share of their tax dollars goes to lucrative, defined-benefit pensions for public employees. Those voting in San Diego and San Jose spoke loudly and clearly: Make pension reform a reality:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/06/06/2864430/voters-decisive-on-pension-reform.html>

The image of the gallant firefighter rushing into a blazing building to rescue its terrified occupants is an endearing and enduring one — based more on lore than on current workloads, asserts a new report by the Orange County (CA) grand jury. Once upon a time, fire departments were mainly in the business of putting out fires. But that was many decades ago: Less than 2 percent of the Orange County Fire Authority's calls were to fire emergencies last year, the grand jury found. Instead, the vast majority of calls — at least 70 percent — are for medical emergencies. In other O.C. fire departments, medical calls comprised 80 percent of the total. "This transition from fire emergencies to medical emergencies has not generated major changes in the operation model for responding to these emergencies," the grand jury wrote. "Each emergency call generally results in both fire trucks and ambulances being dispatched to the site of the emergency regardless of the type of emergency. The emergency response communities have discussed developing new models, but little change has been accomplished." Fire departments that once primarily responded to calls for fire emergencies now have become emergency medical response departments primarily responding to medical emergencies:

<http://taxdollars.ocregister.com/2012/06/06/grand-jury-times-changed-fire-departments-did-not/156265/>

A proposal to study everything from overtime costs to staffing levels in the Las Vegas (NV) Fire Department has city firefighters red hot. On Thursday Dean Fletcher, president of the firefighters' union, called the proposed study a waste of money and accused City Manager Betsy Fretwell of using it as a threat to force pay and benefit concessions in an upcoming labor contract. "I can take it no other way than a threat," Fletcher said. "They want to know how to cut staff and cut resources and save money." The proposal, which the City Council is scheduled to consider Wednesday, is for a study to scrutinize response times, time spent on scenes and the significance of maintaining insurance accreditation ratings:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/call-for-las-vegas-fire-department-study-rankles-firefighters-union-159129435.html>

The California State Personnel Board has upheld the demotion of a Cal Fire engineer who took his hands off the steering wheel to flash a "two-thumbs-up" sign to a red-light camera as the fire engine sped through the intersection with its emergency lights and siren on. The board issued its written decision Tuesday, June 5. The panel agreed with an administrative law judge that Patrick O'Donoghue was guilty of "inexcusable neglect of duty" for taking his hands off the wheel and for driving too fast through two red lights, both violations of policies:

<http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/corona/corona-headlines-index/20120607-corona-firefighters-demotion-for-thumbs-up-upheld.ece>

Claiming he was a victim of religious discrimination, former Stockton (CA) Fire Chief Ron Hittle has filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against Stockton, City Manager Bob Deis and Deputy City Manager Laurie Montes. But with Stockton's bankruptcy looming, an outcome to the case could be years away, and a scheduled July 2 hearing in federal court in Sacramento might never take place: [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10730117/fired-calif-chief-claims-religious-discrimination?cmpid=email\\_CPS120609002&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120609002](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10730117/fired-calif-chief-claims-religious-discrimination?cmpid=email_CPS120609002&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120609002)

In Garland, Texas four firefighters received suspensions over the hazing of a rookie. According to news reports, the February incident was brought to the attention of management by the Garland Firefighters Association. The union issued a statement saying, "We're pleased with the way the fire administration handled the investigation and the punishment". Chief Raymond Knight, who called the incident embarrassing, says the suspensions of the firefighters were staggered to avoid incurring overtime:

<http://statter911.com/2012/06/09/union-blows-whistle-on-rookie-hazing-in-garland-texas-chief-praised-for-suspensions-of-three-firefighters-a-captain/>

The Supreme Court has decided not to get involved again in fire departments' hiring and promotion disputes. The high court on Monday turned away appeals involving departments in New Haven, Conn. and New Jersey's Hudson County. Justices ruled in 2010 that New Haven violated white firefighters' civil rights by throwing out an exam in which no African-Americans scored high enough to be promoted to lieutenant or captain. The court on Monday refused to stop a lawsuit against the city from African American firefighters who say that exam was unfair. The case now goes back to trial court:

[http://www.firehouse.com/news/10727691/high-court-wont-get-back-into-firefighter-disputes?cmpid=email\\_CPS120611002&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120611002](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10727691/high-court-wont-get-back-into-firefighter-disputes?cmpid=email_CPS120611002&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120611002)

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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

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