



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 20, 2012

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

FIREFIGHTER PREPARATION TIP OF THE MONTH #1:

I'll keep it very simple:

- If you don't apply for firefighter positions, you'll never get hired.
- If you don't pass all phases of the firefighter hiring process, you'll never get hired.
- If you've never taken a firefighter test, what are you waiting for? An invitation? Sorry, the badge won't fall from the sky.
- If you're wondering how to find out what departments are testing, the internet is a great start, as are companies such as www.firerecruit.com and www.firecareers.com
- If you are still confused about how to become a firefighter and what the process (including the testing process) is like to become a firefighter visit our website at www.chabotfire.com – follow the 3 steps at the top of the page to become a firefighter and then go to the section titled FIREFIGHTER HIRING PROCESS COMPONENTS that specifically goes through each hiring step of becoming a firefighter – www.chabotfire.com/Process.htm
- Good luck!

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.

- The following classes are now available!
- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

SUMMER 2012 Semester: (June through August 2012)

Registration for the Summer 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 2nd

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95**	Tuesdays (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (Emergency Response – EMS First Responder)	Mondays & Wednesdays (all day)	0900 – 1450 hours

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 2nd

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: 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
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 51 (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: 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
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - October 17, 19 and 21 (Wed/Fri/Sun) - November 6, 8 and 10 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) or Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 29 through December 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 13, 15, 17, and 18	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - November 6, 8, 10 and 11	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - October 30, November 1 and 3	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95**	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets the following dates: - November 27 through December 8	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2012 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

My suggestion is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your

schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

The **Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District** is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter-Paramedic with a final filing date of June 1, 2012, by 5:00 PM.

Interested applicants can view the job announcement and apply online at www.sacmetrofire.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the position, please call the Human Resources Division at 916-859-4535.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LIVERMORE PLEASANTON FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:

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 1st, Open Registration May 6th. **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 7th, the Admission Application period opens June 1st, Priority Registration begins June 26th and Open Registration July 1st. 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

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

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

The **Lathrop Manteca Fire District** (CA) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter/Paramedic** until May 29, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Intent:

The Lathrop Manteca Fire District is looking for quality individuals to participate in a customer service, employee empowered organization. The Lathrop Manteca Fire District is establishing a current eligibility list.

The Fire District:

The Lathrop Manteca Fire District is located in the spacious San Joaquin Valley about 50 miles east of San Francisco. It was formed in 1936 to provide fire protection for the rural farmland, and the unincorporated communities in the South San Joaquin Valley. The District is a full service organization that operates out of four fire stations. As an extension of county government the fire district has limited rights to impose or levy taxes. Composed of one hundred square miles, the Lathrop Manteca Fire District is charged with protecting the City of Lathrop, surrounding rural areas and unincorporated areas of Manteca.

Definition:

The Probationary Firefighter/Engineer will respond to and participate in fire suppression, hazmat and emergency medical calls, and may drive or operate emergency apparatus.

Firefighter/Engineer Qualifications:

The position of Probationary Firefighter/Engineer within a modern fire department is a complex role that demands a progressive and motivated individual. The ability to maintain cooperative relations with fellow employees, supervisors, and the public is highly demanded and praised among us. The rigors of emergency duties and the ever-present danger require an individual to be in top physical condition.

- 18 years of age by date of application receipt
- Successfully pass a pre-employment physical health examination
- Meet the vision requirements of 20/30 for vision acuity, either corrected or uncorrected. (Note: if corrected, no worse than 20/100 uncorrected in each eye separately.) For laser surgery, one (1) year minimum elapse time between surgery and qualifying exam. Color blindness will be a cause for rejection.
- Hearing must be within normal range – 5/5
- Strength and stamina sufficient to lift and carry equipment and patients weight up to 165 pounds and be able to wear a self-contained breathing apparatus
- Pass a C-PAT physical agility test
- Be legally authorized to work in the United States
- Successful completion of the testing process
- Pass a rigorous background investigation

Required Education:

- High school diploma or equivalent
- California Class C Drivers License
- Must be able to obtain qualifications to drive fire apparatus in the State of California
- Must possess a valid California EMT at time of application
- Fire Science classes desirable

- Must possess a California State Fire Marshal's Firefighter I Certificate or have graduated from an accredited California State Fire Training Firefighter I Academy
- Successful CPAT Physical Abilities Card within 6 months of Employment Offer:
 - CPAT Information: <http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/cpat/schedules/livermore-california/>

Selection Process:

Testing for this position will include the following:

- Application review and screening
- Written Examination
- Reserve Firefighters with the Lathrop Manteca Fire District will receive 5% points added to their written score
- Veterans will receive 5% points added to their written score
- Oral Panel Interview Assessment
- Applicants will be banded according to their Oral Interview and ranked within their band using their written score
- Fire Chief's Interview
- The Fire Chief will issue a Conditional Offer of Employment using the rule of three.
- Background Investigation
- Must pass the County Retirement Physical
- Successful CPAT Physical Abilities Card within 6 months of Employment Offer:
 - CPAT Information: <http://www.cffjac.org/go/jac/cpat/schedules/livermore-california/>
- Offer of Employment

Application Process:

Applications maybe down loaded off the internet at www.lmfd.org or picked up during normal business hours from May 14th, 2012 at 09:00 hours through May 29th, 2012 at 16:00 hours at the Administration Offices at 800 "J" Street Lathrop CA. **Applications must be hand delivered & received in the Administration Office no later than 1600 hours on May 29th, 2012. Please include 2 stamped and self addressed envelopes with the completed application.** Once the Application Packet is received a control number will be given. The control numbers will assist in organizing candidates at the end of the process.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE LIVERMORE PLEASANTON FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:

Hi my name is Matt Thau and I am an Engineer with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and also happen to be the Foundation Director for our non-profit Firefighters Foundation. We are hosting the 4th Annual Hook and Ladder Run on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at Wente Vineyards 5050 Arroyo Rd. Livermore, CA 94550.

The event is going to have a 5K run/walk, a 10K run and a Kids 1 mile fun run. The event benefits the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation which is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 that supports: Injured and Fallen Firefighters, the Burn Foundation and Local Charities in the Tri-Valley. Start time for the 5K and 10K is 8:00 am and the kid's fun run at 9:45am. Both the 5 and 10 K runs take place in Sycamore Grove Park and are very flat with only one hill in the 10K. The cost is \$30.00 Pre-Registered for the 5 and 10K and \$10.00 for the Kids Fun Run, Races day \$35.00 and \$15.00. Fee includes Tee shirts SWAG bag and post race refreshments. Awards will be 3 deep in each age

group. For more information and to register go to: <http://onyourmarkevents.com> and active.com link <http://www.active.com/running/livermore-ca/4th-annual-hook-and-ladder-run-2012>.

If you have any further questions feel free to call or email me. Thank you very much and have a great day!

Matt Thau
Engineer 9B
Foundation Director
(510) 909-5401

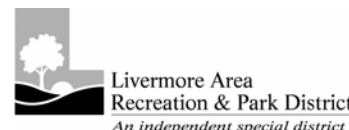
Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation



4th Annual

HOOK AND LADDER RUN

WENTE
VINEYARDS



Sunday, June 3, 2012

5K RUN/WALK, 10K RUN AND KIDS ONE-MILE FUN RUN

Start Time: 8:00 a.m. 10K 8:05 a.m. 5K (Registration/check-in: 6:30 a.m.)

Place: Wente Vineyards - 5050 Arroyo Rd, Livermore, CA 94550

Benefits: The Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 that supports: Injured and Fallen Firefighters, Burn Foundation and Local Charities in the Tri Valley.

Course: The 5K is a run/walk 50% paved and 50% dirt road and is stroller friendly. The 10K is 90% dirt road and 10% paved road. Strollers are not allowed in the 10K. Both runs travel through Sycamore Grove Park and are very flat with only one hill on the 10K. No dogs.

The Kids 1 Mile Fun Run (for ages 12 & under) will take place at Wente Vineyards at about 9:45 a.m. Finisher ribbons, ice cream and fire prevention material for all kids.

Send to: "On Your Mark" P.O. Box 1199 Arnold, CA 95223
Make checks payable to: **Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation (LPFF)**

Bib Pickup: Those who have sent in registration forms that are POSTMARKED no later than May 25, 2012 (or registered online by May 27, 2012) may pick up their race packet and T-shirt at Fleet Feet Sports, 234 Main Street, Suite A, Pleasanton, Friday June 1 till Sat at noon. Final mail-in registration must be postmarked by May 25th, final online registration will close at midnight on May 31. After these dates registration will only be available on race day.

Awards: 3 deep in each age group (M & F) 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+
 (Special prizes for top 3 Male and Female race winners 5K AND 10K RUN)
 Top 20 Male and Female both 5 and 10K receive a "TOP TWENTY" technical tee shirt
 Special top 3 Firefighter overall awards both 5 and 10K
 Great Raffle prizes eligible to all runners and additional tickets available for purchase

Water and refreshments will be provided at the end of the race. Wentve Vineyards will have additional food and wine tasting for purchase. No picnicking. WAIVERS SIGNED AT PACKET PICKUP OR RACE DAY

_____ LAST NAME		_____ FIRST NAME	
_____ STREET		_____ CITY	
_____ STATE	_____ ZIP	(_____)_____ PHONE	_____ AGE
		M F CIRCLE	Y N FIREFIGHTER?
_____ EMAIL ADDRESS		T-Shirt: Youth S – M – L Regular S - M - L - XL – XXL Pre-Registered receive shirt prior to start.	
Select Event			
5K RUN/WALK	\$30 Pre-Registered (\$35 on race day)	_____	
10K RUN	\$30 Pre-Registered (\$35 on race day)	_____	
1-MILE KIDS RUN	\$10 Pre-Registered (\$15 on race day)	_____	
ADDITIONAL TAX DEDUCTABLE DONATION		_____	
TOTAL		_____	

**Additional forms or register
online at
www.onyourmarkevents.com**

FIRE SERVICE PREPARATION TIP OF THE MONTH #2:

Many people always ask me, "What will keep me from becoming a firefighter?" Well that is not an easy question to answer, especially since every fire department may have slightly different reasons to disqualify a candidate during the hiring process. Obviously, the cleaner your background is, the better chance you have at getting hired and staying hired. Below is some information found in the Job Application from the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (see Firefighter/Paramedic announcement above) that outlines what may disqualify a candidate – take this as an example of what not to do to increase your chances of becoming a firefighter:

ADVERSE CONDUCT INFORMATION

Outlined below is a partial listing of criteria that *may* disqualify a candidate from consideration of appointment or employment with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. This is not intended to be a full and complete list.

- Falsification/Omission of any portion of the application and/or resume.

- Current use of any illegal drug, including prescription drugs not prescribed to the applicant.
- Convicted of any domestic violence offense.
- Felony conviction to include felony traffic offenses.
- Convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI), Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID), or Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) within the last three (3) years.
- Dishonorable or Bad Conduct Discharge from the United States Armed Forces.
- Theft, dishonesty, and any other character issues that may bring discredit to you and/or your employment with the District, in the event you were given an appointment or offer of employment.

You may undergo an in-depth background investigation as a result of your application for this position. In the event that your background investigation for this position should uncover information that you have, or are suspected of having been, engaged in illegal activities at this time, this information will likely bar you from further consideration for this position. Illegal activities may also be reported to the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction where the activity occurred.

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Remember that many people fail out of a background investigation not because of what they put down – but because of what they don't put down – what they omit or what they do not entirely tell the truth about or the full picture about.

For more information about the Background Investigation and to download a sample background investigation packet that is similar to what many departments require you to complete, go to our website at www.chabotfire.com and click on the link titled **FIREFIGHTER HIRING PROCESS COMPONENTS** – www.chabotfire.com/Process.htm

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

For more information, you may contact Engineer Travis Gooch at tgooch@mantecafire.org

For more information about the **Manteca Fire Department**, visit their website at: www.mantecafire.org

FIRE SERVICE INFO FROM THE NATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:

NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION

Honoring and Remembering



America's Fallen Firefighters

Foundation E-News Alert
April 24, 2012

Help Spread the Word: Bells Will Ring Nationwide to Honor Fallen Firefighters

Bells will ring from coast to coast as a grateful nation pauses on Sunday, October 7, to honor those firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2011. Fire departments and their places of worship will join the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) for the Second Annual Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters, part of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

"As the Memorial Service begins, the bells at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel in Emmitsburg will ring to honor the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2011," said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. "We are encouraging firefighters across the country to invite their place of worship or other community group to join us with their own tribute to our fallen heroes."

The moment of remembrance can occur at any time during Memorial Weekend, October 6 & 7. Fire department representatives are encouraged to work with their clergy and community leaders to develop an appropriate tribute. Some suggestions include: ringing chapel bells, a moment of silence, a brief prayer, a hymn, or tolling a ceremonial bell by members of the fire department.

Nearly 100 fire departments participated in the first Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters in 2011. In addition, the United States Air Force 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, stationed at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, used a fire extinguisher as their bell and a spanner wrench as a clapper to honor those firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice.

For more information about participating in Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters and to download the invitation letter and response form, please visit www.BellsAcrossAmerica.com.

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.

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>

We appreciate your organization's past involvement and hope that you will join with us again in this important event. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you,

Vicki

Victoria Lee - Program Manager - International Association of Fire Chiefs
4025 Fair Ridge Drive, #300 - Fairfax, VA 22033

Email: vlee@iafc.org

Tel: 571-221-2813 - Fax: 541-306-3775

<http://www.iafc.org>

May 20, 2012

www.chabotfire.com

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

USFA, Office of Health Affairs Release EMS Medical Directors Handbook

Provides overview of key roles and responsibilities and issues such as occupational health and safety, liability

Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - April 25, 2012

Emmitsburg, MD. – The Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the DHS Office of Health Affairs (OHA), has released a handbook for **physician medical directors** of local departments and agencies who are involved in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response.

The Handbook for EMS Medical Directors –

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/handbook_for_ems_medical_directors.pdf (PDF, 2.5 Mb) covers topics ranging from **occupational health and safety to liability issues**.

"This handbook provides an **overview of key roles and responsibilities** to assist current and prospective medical directors in performing their important missions," said U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell. The Handbook for EMS Medical Directors was developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) as part of a cooperative agreement with the DHS OHA and USFA. Many national level EMS and fire organizations also contributed to the handbook's development. "EMS medical directors are an essential component in local-level emergency response," said Dr. Alexander G. Garza, DHS Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. "Their critical **oversight and medical direction** ensure that patients receive effective emergency medical care – a vital part of this nation's **homeland security**."

In addition to providing medical oversight and direction, EMS medical directors support EMS personnel and other first responders through **training, protocol development, and resource deployment advice**. "The IAFC and its EMS Section were pleased to work in partnership with the USFA and DHS OHA on this project to support medical directors who are crucial to the effective delivery of EMS throughout this country," said IAFC President and Chief Al H. Gillespie.

Further information on USFA's EMS research initiatives may be found on the USFA website - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/research/ems/index.shtm>

INFO FOR ALL CA REGISTERED STATE FIRE TRAINING INSTRUCTORS:



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

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

Registration is Free!

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

Registration On-Line Today:

www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse

Registration Questions?

800.858.7743

Find a class close to you!

www.cce.csus.edu/SFT/InstructorUpdateCourse

State Fire Training

Registered Instructor Update Courses

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

Training Objectives

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

Who Should Attend

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

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

USFA Releases Residential Building Fires (2008-2010) Topical Report

Report focuses on the causes and characteristics of fires in residential buildings

Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - April 26, 2012

Emmitsburg, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of a special report focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in residential buildings. The report, **Residential Building Fires (2008-2010)** - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/nfirs/index.shtm> (PDF, 321 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. Residential buildings include what are commonly referred to as "homes," whether they are one- or two-family dwellings or multifamily buildings. It also includes manufactured housing, hotels and motels, residential hotels, dormitories, assisted living facilities, and halfway houses.

According to the report:

- An estimated **365,500** residential building fires are reported to U.S. fire departments each year and cause an estimated **2,560 deaths, 13,000 injuries, and \$7.4 billion in property loss.**
- **Cooking is the leading cause** of residential building fires (45 percent). Nearly all residential building cooking fires are small, confined fires (94 percent).
- Residential building fire **incidence is higher in the cooler months**, peaking in January at 11 percent.
- Residential building fires occur most frequently in the **early evening hours**, peaking during the dinner hours from 5 to 8 p.m., when cooking fires are high.
- Forty-seven percent of nonconfined residential building fires extend beyond the room of origin. The leading causes of these larger fires are **electrical malfunctions** (16 percent), **unintentional or careless actions** (16 percent), **intentional** (12 percent), and **open flame** (11 percent).
- **Smoke alarms** were not present in 22 percent of the larger, nonconfined fires in occupied residential buildings.

Residential Building Fires (2008-2010) is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2008 through 2010 **National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)** - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/nfirs/index.shtm> data. 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.

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

U.S. Fire Administration

Prevent Youth Firesetting

National Arson Awareness Week May 6-12, 2012



Focus on Fire Safety: Prevent Youth Firesetting

May 6-12 is **Arson Awareness Week**. This year's theme is *Prevent Youth Firesetting*.

During the month of May, USFA will focus public attention on the importance of a **collaborative effort** with fire and emergency service departments, law enforcement, mental health, social services, schools, and juvenile justice to help **reduce the occurrence** of juveniles engaged with fire.

Did You Know?

- Fires started by **children playing** accounted for an average of **56,300 fires** with associated losses of **110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries, and \$286 million in direct property damage** per year between 2005 and 2009.
- **Younger children** are more likely to set fires in **homes**, while **older children** and teenagers are more likely to set fires **outside**.
- **Lighters** were the heat source in half (50 percent) of child-playing fires in homes.

Prevention Tips

- Never leave **matches or lighters** within reach of children. Keep matches and lighters out of reach in high, locked cabinets.
- Praise your child for practicing **responsible behavior** and showing **respect for fire**.
- **Set a good example**; use matches, lighters, and fire carefully, as children will imitate positive behavior.

For More Information

For information on Arson Awareness Week and youth firesetter prevention, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/aaw/

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

USFA Releases Civilian Fire Injuries in Residential Buildings (2008-2010) Topical Report

Report focuses on the causes and characteristics of fire injuries in residential buildings

Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - May 2, 2012

Emmitsburg, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics of civilian fire injuries in residential buildings. The report, **Civilian Fire Injuries in Residential Buildings (2008-2010)** - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v13i3.pdf> (PDF, 277 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is based on 2008 to 2010 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

According to the report:

- **Seventy-six percent** of all civilian fire injuries occurred as a result of fires in residential buildings.
- **Cooking** (30 percent) was the primary cause for residential building fires that resulted in injuries.
- Thirty-five percent of civilian fire injuries in residential buildings resulted from **trying to control** a fire followed by **attempting to escape** (26 percent).
- Seventy-nine percent of injuries resulting from residential building fires involved **smoke inhalation** and **thermal burns**.
- The leading human factor contributing to injuries in residential building fires was being **asleep** (55 percent).
- **Bedrooms** (35 percent) were the leading location where civilian injuries occurred in residential building fires.

Civilian Fire Injuries in Residential Buildings (2008-2010) is part of the Topical Fire Report Series. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. 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 USFA, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

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

USFA Announces Fire Officials Selected for Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program

Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - May 3, 2012

Emmitsburg, MD – Joined by three other fire service partners, U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell announced today that four senior fire officials will receive fellowships to attend the Harvard University's **Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program** this summer at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The 19-day program includes other state and local government leaders from across the United States and other countries with a focus on exploring the interrelationships between citizens and government, analyzing policy options, and examining the ethical and professional responsibilities of exercising leadership.

In announcing the fellowships, Administrator Mitchell stated, "Our cities and communities are confronted with significant challenges regarding the daily delivery of services and meeting the expectations of the public. The Harvard experience is a very valuable and unique learning opportunity that assists the fellows in further developing and exercising leadership." Fellowships for this program are provided by Fire Protection Publications/International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) administered the competitive selection process and coordinated the final phase which took place at USFA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland on April 30.

U.S. Fire Administrator Mitchell further commented that "USFA, along with FPP/IFSTA, IAFC, and the NFPA believe that these senior fire executives will also represent fire and emergency services with a high degree of professionalism. We encourage participation in the Harvard Program because the experience at the Kennedy School of Government enables fire and emergency services officials to have important conversations with elected officials and appointed executives. Now more than ever we need to think creatively together and enjoy dialogue with others regarding the critical challenges facing our communities and nation. The sponsoring organizations are delighted to award these fellowships and the entire fire service benefits from the quality of leaders produced by the program over the years." The selection panel included representatives of FPP/IFSTA, IAFC, NFPA, USFA, and former Harvard University **Senior Executives in State and Local Government** program participants.

Those selected are:

- Claude Beauchamp, Director of Operations
Quebec National Fire Academy, Laval Quebec CANADA
- Martha Ellis, Division Chief
Salt Lake City Corporation Fire Department, Salt Lake City Utah
- Matthew James Fratus, Fire Chief
City of Rialto Fire Department, Rialto California
- Bertral Washington, Fire Chief
Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Nevada

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

The application period for the first semester of National Fire Academy resident classes opens April 15. The application period closes June 15. The first semester includes those classes scheduled from October 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013. Applications must be postmarked between April 15 and June 15, 2012. June 15th is also the deadline for EFO applications for the Federal fiscal year: October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

THERE IS A BIG CHANGE IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS!! - Beginning April 15, 2012, students applying for FY13 training courses (those starting after September 30, 2012) are required to register for a Student Identification Number (SID). This number will be used in place of the Social Security Number on General Admissions Application forms.

Click here to learn 'How to Register for a SID' - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/ftin.shtm>

All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

Click here for the 2012-2013 Course Schedule - http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/nfa/course_schedule.pdf

Click here to download the FEMA Form 119-21-1, General Admissions Application Form - http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/ff_119_25_1_75_5.pdf

This document may be useful to you as well: Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/nfa/8tips.pdf>

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

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

For more information, please call the Admissions Office at (800) 238-3358, ext. 1035 or (301) 447-1035. Please share this with your organizations, friends and colleagues.

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



**National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities
(as of May 17, 2012)**

Vacancies exist in the following NFA courses at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. You may refer to the internet at www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/index.shtm for more information, or contact the Admissions Office via email netc-admissions@fema.dhs.gov or by phone at (301) 447-1035. Completed applications may be faxed to (301) 447-1441.

If interested, apply immediately!

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

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

2nd Semester

- R138 Hot Topics Research in Fire Protection
7/22/2012-7/27/2012 6 vacancies
- R151 Advanced Leadership Issues in Emergency Medical Services
7/9/2012-7/20/2012 6 vacancies
- R152 Emergency Medical Services: Special Operations
8/20/2012-8/31/2012 4 vacancies
- R200 Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reductions
7/22/2012-7/27/2012 11 vacancies
- R214 Forensic Evidence Collection
9/16/2012-9/21/2012 4 vacancies
- R233 Chemistry for Emergency Response
7/9/2012-7/20/2012 15 vacancies
- R308 Command & Control Fire Dept Operations Natural Man Made Disasters
8/20/2012-8/31/2012 6 vacancies
- R335 Administrative Public Assistant Community Recovery
7/29/2012-8/3/2012 2 vacancies
- R362 Developing Fire & Life Safety Strategies
7/29/2012-8/3/2012 11 vacancies
- R378 Demonstrating Fire Prevention Program Worth
8/12/2012-8/17/2012 11 vacancies
- R629 Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention
9/16/2012-9/21/2012 1 vacancy
- R815 VIP: Challenges for Local Training Officers
9/9/2012-9/14/2012 8 vacancies
- R824 VIP: Management Strategies for Success
9/9/2012-9/14/2012 9 vacancies

- R825 VIP: Command & Control of Fire Department Operations Target
9/9/2012-9/14/2012 10 vacancies
- R826 VIP: Presenting Effective Public Education
9/9/2012-9/14/2012 13 vacancies
- R833 VIP: Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction
9/9/2012-9/14/2012 17 vacancies
- R847 VIP: EMS Incident Operations
9/9/2012-9/14/2012 11 vacancies

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



Foundation E-News Alert
May 2, 2012

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Wilbert Funeral Services Inc. Partner to Assist Families of Fallen Firefighters with Funeral Arrangements

http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/wilbert_050212.html

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and Wilbert Funeral Services, Incorporated have introduced a new program that will help ease the burden of making funeral arrangements for the survivors of fallen firefighters while honoring the sacrifices their loved one made for the community. Through the Commemorating First Responders Program, families of firefighters who died in the line of duty can receive a burial vault or cremation urn and urn vault at no cost.

"Wilbert is honored to partner with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to formally offer our services to the families of the fallen," said Terrence P. Whitlock, executive vice president of Wilbert. "We wish to express our grateful appreciation for the sacrifices these brave men and women were willing to make for their communities." Through this program, families who choose a ground burial can receive a Wilbert Stainless Steel Triune Burial Vault and a graveside service, if permitted by the cemetery. For those families interested in cremation, a choice of four urns is available. If the family intends to bury the cremated remains, a Wilbert Stainless Steel Triune Urn Vault will be provided as well as graveside service, if permitted.

"As part of the Foundation's mission we want to ensure that the families of the fallen are being cared for and their needs are the priority," said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. "Through this program we can shoulder one more responsibility for the loved ones of the fallen and help them through their devastating loss." For more information about the Commemorating First Responders Program visit www.wilbert.com or www.firehero.org.

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:



Foundation E-News Alert
May 10, 2012

New Dates: Better Angels: The Firefighters of 9-11 Exhibit to Be at Ground Zero June 4-8, 2012

http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/betterangelsny_050212.html

Better Angels: The Firefighters of 9-11 a tribute by artist Dawn Siebel, is scheduled to be at 2 World Financial Center, 220 Liberty Street, in New York City from Monday, June 4 - Friday, June 8, 2012.

The exhibit will be open to guests daily, and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation is looking for volunteers to staff it and interact with visitors from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily. Two volunteers are needed for each 6-hour shift - 8.am. to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Foundation is not able to reimburse volunteers for any related expenses.

If you will be in New York during that period and can volunteer, please contact Linda Hurley at: lhurley@firehero.org or call: 301-447-7693.

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 for more information.

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

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

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

Go to www.fireshowreno.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

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area:

1329 N. Market Blvd., #100
Sacramento, CA 95834

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: David Wintz
Rank: Fire Police Captain
Age: 65
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 50
Date of Incident: 05/16/2012
Time of Incident: 0330hrs
Date of Death: 05/16/2012
Fire Department: Bristol Fire Compnay
Address: 198 Wood Street, P.O. Box 123, Bristol, PA 19007
Fire Department Chief: Herb Slack

Incident Description: Fire Police Captain responded to a chemical plant fire in Bucks County, PA, which was started by a lightning strike. While directing traffic at the scene, Wintz started to feel ill and was taken home. Wintz went into cardiac arrest at home and was then taken to Aria Health's Torresdale Hospital where he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: 3100 block of State Road in Croydon, PA

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Captain Wintz at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 33 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

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

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

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A civilian motorist was killed yesterday morning when he rear-ended an operating fire apparatus in Hesperia, California. A San Bernardino County Firefighter who was in the truck when it was struck, received NLT injuries and was taken to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center in Colton. The other driver, a man in his 20's, lost control while exiting the northbound 15 Freeway at around 0645 hours and was killed. The fire apparatus was stopped on the shoulder of the off-ramp, operating at a rollover car crash and had its emergency lights turned on. ANOTHER reminder about the roadway and highway dangers faced everyday. ACT as if we ARE going to be struck - and operate in a defensive mode. Need more details? Go to www.ResponderSafety.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 4-23-12 / 0805 hours

AND:

Hey,

2 Los Angeles City Firefighters were hospitalized with serious injuries when their rescue ambulance crashed with a garbage truck in an intersection yesterday. A sanitation worker on the trash truck was also injured in the crash that took place about 1415 hours. Details as to what caused the crash or the nature of the call that the fire personnel were responding to isn't known - but the ambulance was responding with lights and sirens. Another "intersection" response warning for all of us. Red traffic light/stop sign=STOP ---and make sure it's clear before taking it-the alternatives just aren't worth the risk. We wish the members a rapid recovery.

Take Care-Be Careful-looking forward to seeing many of you in DC this week at CFSI.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-24-12 / 0730 hours

AND:

Hey,

A Fire Officer with the well known Kinloch Fire Protection District (St. Louis County) has been hospitalized in grave condition. A few weeks ago KFPD crews responded to a dwelling fire and rescued a teenage boy from the burning house. Hours later, back at quarters Captain Richard Parks, 47, collapsed and he's been hospitalized ever since. Kinloch is well known-but sadly not for necessarily good reasons in past years-as it is not a wealthy community by any stretch of the imagination - and neither is the all-volunteer fire company. Captain Parks was instrumental in getting media attention focused on their fiscal needs and has been known to give his own money to keep the company going. Captain Parks has been a part of the Kinloch FPD since he was 16 years old. We wish him a rapid recovery.

HERE is a link to a graphic video that highlights the challenges of the KFPD.

====Warning-rough language and strong opinion-which should not be surprising if you have spent more than 30 seconds with a Firefighter-but it's 2012 sooo we figured we would warn you:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZUva0cRt1k&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-28-12 / 0333 hours

AND:

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

On August 18, 2007, 2 FDNY Fire Fighters were killed in the Line of Duty at a seven-alarm fire at the Deutsche Bank building, adjacent to Ground Zero in New York City. FDNY members Robert Beddia, 53, and Joseph Graffagnino, 33, were killed after running out of air and suffering severe smoke inhalation and cardiac arrest and succumbed to their inhalation injuries. Marty Steadman, a former reporter for the New York Herald Tribune, former press secretary for New York Governor Mario Cuomo and the public relations consultant for the Uniformed Fire Officers Association Local 854, has been working on an investigative study of this tragedy. While much of the media has not had interest in this effort, Eve's Magazine, a professional online magazine has now published his report, J'accuse! (I Accuse!). **Once you read it, you will understand why others have shied from publishing it. RIP. Please read this article, and distribute it amongst your members and friends. WHY? 2 Firefighters gave their lives, and their families and all fire service Brothers and Sisters deserve the truth.** <http://blog.iaff.org/post/2012/05/01/Je28099ACCUSE-The-Deutshche-Bank-Tragedy.aspx> (From the IAFF) <http://www.evesmag.com/j'accuse.htm> (Direct Link to the Article)

("J'accuse" was a letter from Émile Zola published on January 13, 1898, in the French newspaper L'Aurore. The letter accused the highest levels of the French Army and government of obstruction of justice and anti-Semitism by having wrongfully convicted an army officer. His efforts eventually resulted in complete exoneration of the officer by the French Supreme Court. Since the article appeared, J'accuse! (I Accuse!) has become an expression of outrage and accusation against someone powerful.)

FIREFIGHTER BLOWN UP

Manhole fire. Size up? Sure-but not by looking into and OVER the manhole. The video clip is one we posted a few weeks ago - but we wanted to re-post it with some materials - so this can be used as a TRAINING OPPORTUNITY for all of us. Manhole Fire? Suggestion: Arrive/stage, secure the area well away from the manhole(s), call utilities, keep the public away, keep Firefighters (of all ranks) away. Repeat last step again. **HERE is the incident:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0Fi35emKeE

HERE is "must read" training related information on manhole fires for you and your crew-by the expert:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2004/02/manhole-fires.html> (By Chief Frank Montagna, FDNY BC)

http://laftraining.org/btrm/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/manhole_fires.pdf (Chief Montagna pdf on manhole fires)

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/print/volume-161/issue-1/features/managing-manhole-fires.html> (Manhole fires)

VISIT FDNY Chief Frank Montagna's WEBSITE ON "Routine Emergencies":

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

CONSIDER this book for your FD or yourself: <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/br7250.shtml>

(and check out the workbook too) - **NOW** read the above FD's explanation:

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/orange_county&id=8633259

THINK. It's a manhole fire. Injury or death at a manhole fire? WTF*?!

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER LODD FOLLOWUP

Erratic fire behavior and human nature contributed to the LODD of wildland firefighter Trampus Haskvitz during the Coal Canyon Fire last August. Haskvitz, 23, was a seasonal employee with the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression and lead a 3 FF crew that included Austin Whitney and Kevin Fees. Haskvitz died during the initial attack when fire trapped the engine carrying him and Whitney in a narrow canyon on Aug. 11, 2011. 2 unidentified USFS firefighters tried

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

unsuccessfully to reach the trapped FF's. One was using his fire shelter as a shield when he was overcome by heat and smoke. FF Haskvitz died almost instantly when he took a breath as he was hit with an intense burst of superheated gases and flames. "The burst of heat missed the driver (Whitney) by only seconds, or he may have been holding his breath as he passed through it," the report says. The Coal Canyon Fire was less than an acre in size when it was reported on Aug. 11. A helicopter crew made the first assessment and called for additional units that would ultimately park in another area and hike into the fire. The apparatus carrying Haskvitz, Whitney and Fees and a team of volunteer firefighters were the first on the scene. Within a couple hours, air and forest fuel temperatures warmed, humidity dropped, and the winds increased giving the fire unexpected strength.

As conditions changed, orders were given to abandon firefighting efforts in the small canyon where first 2 engines worked along a narrow, twisting road. The two engines were told to "back out," according to the report. But, Haskvitz and Whitney chose to drive ahead on the predetermined escape route. A wall of fire met them around a sharp bend. The pickup stalled when they attempted to back up, and they were trapped, 50 feet from safety.

Fees, who was on the ground behind the truck, dropped to the ground just before a "burst of heat, fire and smoke curl over the road," according to the report. Haskvitz and Whitney huddled for a few minutes under a fire shelter inside the vehicle's cab, before deciding to make a run for safety, the report says. Whitney made it out of the vehicle, but Haskvitz did not. RIP. **MORE HERE WITH PHOTOS:** <http://tinyurl.com/8x3qth>

**====THIS FIREFIGHTER TRAINING APPLIES TO RUNS YOU MAKE EVERY DAY.
IT'S A MUST and IT IS NO COST.**

Get Your Firefighters & EMT's In This On Line FREE "Surviving On The Roadways" Training Now. ResponderSafety.Com from the Emergency Responder Safety Institute is now releasing **free training modules** on The Responder Safety Learning Network. The network is accessible directly from www.respondersafety.com and it will soon be mobile ready for tablets and smartphones as well. The addition of The Responder Safety Learning Network to the established ResponderSafety.com has created the single largest online hub for roadway emergency responder training and resources.

Do You Respond To Roadways Incidents? Then This Training Is For You.

The Network's learning modules are developed and vetted by interdisciplinary groups of experts from all roadway responder groups - Fire, police, EMS, DOT, and towing and recovery - at the federal, state, local, private sector, nonprofit, and association levels. The development of the Network is the National Unified Goal in action: creating and delivering, often for the first time, training that takes into account the perspectives, needs, and procedures of all responder groups. **GET THE FREE RELEVANT "OPERATING ON ROADWAYS" TRAINING FOR YOUR FIREFIGHTERS & EMT'S NOW: HERE:** <http://learning.respondersafety.com/>

==ARE YOUR FIREFIGHTERS OR YOUR DEPARTMENT "AWARD" WINNING? OR COULD THEY BE?

In this day and age-the more positive information the public gets about us-the better. There seems to be much too much focus on the rare negative fire service issues-when there is good being done every second of every day by Firefighters and Departments...so check this out. **NOTE:** The Deadline Is Approaching Very Quickly-Don't Miss These Opportunities: **Check This Out ASAP:**

http://www.iafc.org/awards?utm_source=Informz&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=IAFC+Homepage

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 5-2-12 / 1647 hours

AND:

Hey,

As you will remember, in January 2011, Firefighter Mark Falkenhan of Baltimore County's Lutherville VFD, a highly respected veteran career and volunteer Firefighter, died in the Line of Duty at a fire in a multi-family dwelling on Dowling Circle.

Now-in addition to the previously published internal report and recommendations (link below) ...the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has published a MUST SEE FIRE MODEL VIDEO with audio and related minute by minute detail.

The Fire Protection Engineers from the ATF Fire Research Laboratory worked with the Baltimore County FD to create a computer model of the fire that resulted in the Line of Duty Death of FF Mark Falkenhan on January 19th, 2011. The following 36 minute video details the entire incident, beginning with the 911 call and ending after the firefighter MAYDAY. The statements of each firefighter were reviewed and their individual actions (breaking windows, opening doors, etc.) and observations (fire size, smoke conditions, etc.) were recorded on floor diagrams. The actions and observations of the firefighters were then associated with specific times in the fireground audio to generate an overall event timeline. All events in the model are based on this master timeline of events. In addition, all photographs were time stamped and synchronized with the model and scene audio.

Several alternative fire modeling scenarios were also including as part of the engineering analysis and are included in the video. The purpose of the alternative fire modeling runs were to explore how the ventilation flows paths through the apartment building would differ if apartment entrance doors were shut during suppression/search efforts. The video is intended to be used as an educational tool that provides insight on potential methods for preventing similar tragedies in the future.

The following three conclusions result from the analysis:

- Unidirectional flow of 600 degree Fahrenheit gases in excess of 6 mph up the stairs resulted in a high rate of convective heat transfer to the firefighters, making initial fire attack down the stairs very difficult.
- The open apartment entry doors allowed the main stairwell to act as an open channel for fire and smoke spread between the 2nd and 3rd levels, resulting in flashover of the 3rd floor approximately 30 seconds after the 2nd level.
- The model supported the scene observations and indicated that shutting the entrance doors blocked the flow of buoyancy driven fire gases, ultimately preventing fire extension to the 3rd level apartment via the stairwell.

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

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

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

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE FIRE AND PREVIOUS REPORT INFORMATION:

As pointed out in the reports, this fire, like many other LODD's, this Line of Duty Death was not the result of one specific issue within the event-but numerous issues that lead up to the tragic loss.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A detailed timeline of the fire, leading up to the loss, from the time the initial call went out until Falkenhan was removed from the third floor of the building, is included in the below report. The timeline also includes transcripts of the radio transmissions between FF Falkenhan and others as he sought assistance in escaping the building. We have also included an edited link to the **RADIO TRAFFIC** below.

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

Some of the main recommendations in the report include:

=STRICT/DISCIPLINED CREW INTEGRITY:

Company officers shall ensure that crew integrity is maintained at all times by all personnel operating in an IDLH environment. Falkenhan and his partner separated while searching the third floor-and his partner was forced to bail due to the conditions.

=A RADIO FOR EVERY FIREFIGHTER:

=No personnel should operate in an "immediately dangerous to life or health" environment without a portable radio. Falkenhan's partner did not have a portable radio.

=PORTABLE RADIO AND RADIO SYSTEM USAGE:

=Develop ways of reducing inadvertent radio interference, including developing a rubberized cover for the push to talk buttons on radios which would reduce the chances of accidentally pushing it.

=COMMUNICATE WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND WHAT YOU SEE:

=While performing operations above the fire, notify command of changing conditions, and immediately request resources to support your function. The Firefighters conducting search and rescue operations saw fire in the corner of the apartment shortly before coming across a victim-but never communicated the fire conditions to command. The room flashed as they were exiting the apartment.

The report concludes that while Falkenhan's death was tragic, there is little need for massive changes to the department's related protocols. **As you and we have all read in previous Line of Duty Death reports, if current policies and procedures were/are adhered to, the opportunity for tragic outcomes may be reduced.**

In a statement from the report: "It would be easy if one particular failure of the system could be identified as the cause of this tragedy. "We could fix it and move on. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. No incident is 'routine.' Mark's death and this report reinforce that fact."

HERE IS THE INITIAL REPORT:

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

HERE IS THE EDITED RADIO TRAFFIC: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMsc8nuEvVw>

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

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

Once again-the above NEW information, the previous report, radio traffic etc is an excellent opportunity to learn, and HONOR the memory of FF Mark Falkenhan.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-3-12 / 1500 Hours

AND:

=====EMS FLIGHT CRASH KILLS 4 IN NEAR ST. MAARTEN=====

A medical emergency flight crashed near St. Maarten yesterday, killing all four aboard, including a cruise ship passenger from Cyprus who suffered heart trouble. The plane was carrying the tourist to the French island of Martinique for specialized cardiac care. A doctor and nurse were also aboard the plane. **Martinique officials said they had originally sent another plane that experienced mechanical problems upon arriving at Princess Juliana airport in St. Maarten and it was replaced by the plane that crashed. RIP.**

NIOSH REPORT ON THE LINE OF DUTY DEATH OF 2 SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTERS

On June 02, 2011, Lt. Vincent A. Perez and Firefighter Paramedic Anthony M. Valerio died in the Line of Duty operating in a multi-level residential structure fire while searching for the seat of the fire. **Note:** The residential structure where the fatalities occurred was built on a significantly sloped hillside common throughout the city (see photos in the report)

NIOSH identifies these contributing factors that we should all compare to our own operations:

- =Construction features of the house built into a steep sloping hillside
- =Natural and operational horizontal ventilation
- =Ineffective size-up
- =Firefighters operating above the fire
- =Ineffective fire command, communications and progress reporting
- =Lack of a personnel accountability system.

NIOSH issued the following key recommendations that we should compare to our own operations:

- Ensure that standard operating guidelines (SOGs) for coordinated operations are developed and implemented for hillside structures.
- Ensure that an adequate size-up of the structure is conducted prior to crews making entry.
- Ensure staffing levels are maintained.
- Ensure that a personnel accountability system is established early and utilized at all incidents.
- Ensure that fireground operations are coordinated with consideration given to the effect horizontal ventilation has on the air flow, smoke, and heat flow through the structure.
- Ensure that the Incident Commander is provided a chief's aide/command support at all structure fires.
- Ensure that an incident safety officer is assigned to all working structure fires.
- Ensure that fire fighters are trained in Mayday procedures and survival techniques.
- Continue research and efforts to improve radio system capabilities.
- Adopt and enforce regulations for automatic fire sprinkler protection in new buildings and renovated structures.

HERE IS THE REPORT: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201113.html>

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SCHOOL BUS STRIKES FIRE APPARATUS IN TEXAS - FF INJURED

In Texas earlier today, a school bus carrying 42 students struck a Centerville VFD fire truck off of I 45 near Leona, TX today. 12 kids were transported as was a Firefighter-all have been released from the hospital at this time. The fire apparatus was parked on the side of the road operating at a large grass fire. The bus was reportedly directed by police to change lanes but struck the parked fire truck. The crash occurred in the Bryan-College Station area.

CAR STRIKES FIRE APPARATUS IN CALIFORNIA - FF's INJURED

A collision between a Pasadena fire truck and a car sent four people, including two firefighters, to the hospital. Pasadena Fire Department, Engine 32 was on an emergency call at about 2300 last night-Saturday - when it was broadsided by a Chevy Malibu in an intersection. The teenage boy driving the Chevy and his passenger were taken to a local hospital with moderate injuries. 2 Firefighters also suffered moderate injuries and were transported to a local hospital. The cause has not been determined as of yet.

FIRE APPARATUS AND AMBULANCE CRASH IN MICHIGAN-FF's & EMT's INJURED

3 Fire & EMS personnel were transported to Sparrow Health System after an Ovid-Middlebury Fire Department truck and an ambulance crashed this morning. The vehicles were responding to a call for a house fire - it ended up being a chimney fire - shortly after 1000 and were traveling south on Shepardsville Road when they collided while attempting to turn onto Taft Road. All injuries were NLT.

FIREHOUSE FIRE IN ILLINOIS-POSSIBLY CAUSED BY APPARATUS

Mt Zion VFD suffered a major loss early Saturday morning. Firefighters from nearby departments arrived quickly and put out the fire, but the department lost two expensive firefighting vehicles and its entire new addition, built in 2007, which housed its training center, kitchen, dining area and bunkhouse. Their Chief estimates the loss at \$3 million, including the 2000 American LaFrance ladder truck, which was purchased for \$285,000 six months ago, and an engine valued at \$500,000. **It is believed that the fire started in the cab of the ladder truck, "where there's a lot of wiring," Wright said, adding that he believes it was caused by a short circuit. The interior of the cab caught fire, the aluminum cab started melting and "that opened it up to starting the rest of the building on fire."** Within hours of losing two essential pieces of equipment, Mount Zion firefighters were back at full strength, as a result of the generosity of their neighbors. The Decatur Fire Department lent them a 75-foot tall ladder truck, and Warrensburg Fire Protection District lent them an engine. "This goes to show that you can be as safe as you can and things still happen," Chief Wright said. "There was nothing wrong with the ladder truck. Nothing was malfunctioning."

WAKE UP CALLS: Here are several media articles (factual or not-the public is reading it) related to the future of the fire service-articles that should be considered "wake up" calls from a public and political perspective. If there has ever been a time for the public to fairly understand what we deliver for their tax dollar-it would be now. In some areas educating the public on the facts is done well-and others it may be too late. We are not saying we should EVER give up-we are saying that it's never too late to turn it around - be it fact or fiction that's being reported. And it is NOT JUST career fire departments taking the hits. READ what the public is reading:

-----**The Illinois Municipal League's "Save Our Cities" agenda** calls for legislative reforms in insurance benefits for police and firefighters, firefighter staffing levels and arbitrator salary and benefit awards for police and firefighters. League officials are working to get legislation introduced in each area. **HERE IS THE ARTICLE:** <http://tinyurl.com/6wlq9dr>

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-----In the past few years, Clark County (Nevada) Firefighters have seen their reputations tarnished for abusing sick time, and they've responded by using 57,000 fewer hours. The average Clark County Firefighter's salary and benefits in 2010 was \$189,000. With oversight in 2011, it dropped to \$175,000.

Now county officials are considering taking a look at the 24-hour shift. Firefighters are one of the last occupations to still work a full day without guaranteed rest, even as health care workers and truck drivers have seen restrictions on work hours. As cities become strapped for cash, some are wondering whether it still makes fiscal sense. The FEMS Chief in Washington, D.C., said in January his department could save tens of millions by having firefighters work more, and shorter, shifts. In Clark County, officials are conducting an extensive study of how and where it distributes firefighter resources. Let's hope folks who genuinely understand fire operations is a part of that

HERE IS MUCH MORE: <http://tinyurl.com/6voggqky>

-----In Connecticut-there's a power struggle going on at the highest level of the Blue Hills Fire District - over who gets to use flashing blue lights to respond to fire calls. SERIOUSLY. Should it be Fire Commissioner Jimmy Davis, a retired truck driver who has a disability and whose personal car is tricked out like a state police car, with flashing blue lights installed? Or should it be Assistant Fire Chief Roy Rickis, who supervises the department's 40 or so firefighters using a FD issued vehicle? For the moment, it's neither, because the two have managed to block each other.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"My dumb-ass assistant chief took it upon himself to discontinue my (blue light) permit," Commissioner Davis said. "So I took his FD vehicle away because he had no authorization to do what he did." **HERE IS MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/88bx75v>

PHILLY DOUBLE LODD LAW SUIT LODD PFD Firefighter Daniel Sweeney's family filed court papers Friday putting the owners of the abandoned warehouse where Sweeney died on notice that they intend to sue. Sweeney, 25, died along with Lt. Robert P. Neary, 60, in the five-alarm fire that broke out in that abandoned warehouse in Kensington last month. Attorney Joel Rosen, who is also representing firefighters Pat Nalley and Francis Cheney, who were injured in the blaze, filed a legal document in Common Pleas Court putting the owners on notice that he intends to sue, although no complaint has yet been filed. Rosen has previously represented firefighters and other first-responders injured in the line of duty. Sweeney and Neary were killed when that wall collapsed in an adjoining furniture store. An investigation into the cause of the fire is pending. A grand jury is also investigating the fire to determine if criminal charges are warranted. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-6-12 / 2134 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Pennsylvania State Police have charged a man with causing a crash that killed Franklin Township's Fire Chief - while returning to quarters - on Feb. 2. Joshua Nickerson, 29, was arraigned yesterday (Tuesday) afternoon on charges including homicide by vehicle, aggravated assault by vehicle and driving under the influence. Nickerson's Jeep crossed the center line and struck the car driven by 49-year-old Fire Chief David Flint, of Edinboro. Chief Flint died and Asst Chief Sharon C. Petri, was seriously injured.

Neither Chiefs were wearing seat belts.

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Nickerson also crashed into a parked car shortly before the accident. Nickerson was wearing a seat belt. RIP Chief Flint.

NIOSH LODD REPORTS:

Here are some recent NIOSH reports you may not have seen yet:

FIREFIGHTER STRUCK and killed while directing traffic at an interstate highway incident - Iowa

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201123.html>

FIREFIGHTER DIES IN COLLAPSE AT CHURCH FIRE - Indiana

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

FIREFIGHTER DIES AT WILDLAND FIRE-and three fire fighters are injured - Texas

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201110.html>

FIREFIGHTERS CRITICAL INJURY REPORT:

CRITICAL INJURIES/BURNS AT LARGE SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING FIRE REPORT (Non-NIOSH)

Several Firefighters were critically burned at "maga mansion" fire in Maryland:

<http://www.hvfd6.org/content/front/3380%20Soper%20Road%20Final%20Report.pdf>

**WASHINGTON DC AREA FIREFIGHTER SEMINAR-NO CHARGE (aka FREE)----
BUT NOTE THE SIGN UP DEADLINE!**

This Fire Service Lifesaving Leadership Seminar Registration Deadline IS TODAY. Those interested in attending the Prince Georges County Fire & EMS Department Lifesaving Leadership Seminar, there are still 6 spaces left to take advantage of this valuable training opportunity, **FREE of charge**. Registration will be accepted until close of business tomorrow, Wednesday, May 9, 2012. To register complete the attached group registration form (link below), and email it back to pgfdos@co.pg.md.us . Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, until spaces run out.

<http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/2012/05/lifesaving-leadership-seminar.html?sref=tw>

YOUR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT & THE EXPIRATION DATE:

When is the **LAST TIME** you checked the expiration dates of ALL the equipment you rely on...from firefighting equipment to PPE to EMS equipment? IF THE EQUIPMENT IS EXPIRED, it cannot be ignored. Well-it can be-but that's the problem. **CHECK THIS VIDEO OUT FROM GG:**

<http://www.lexipol.com/check-equipment-exipration-date-t-13.html>

AND SPEAKING OF THE DC AREA...

Former DCFD Chief Dennis Rubin has a new book out - and wanted to pass the word along-check it out HERE: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/dennis-l-rubin/id515779648?mt=11>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-8-12 / 2254 Hours

AND:

All,

The Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team has advised that the previously reported Line of Duty Death of Kinloch Fire Protection District Captain / Engineer Richard Parks will now be re-classified to an active duty firefighter death. Based on documentation initially provided to their organization, the initial determination of Line of Duty Death was made. Further information that has been made available no longer supports the initial determination. In our opinion, the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team always done a very professional job in providing honors appropriate to the circumstances regarding the manner of death, and justifiably prides itself in maintaining the integrity of those honors. Naturally, they can only respond to the details as provided to them.

May 20, 2012

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Firefighter honors, appropriate to the new classification, will be provided in recognition of the 31 years of service Captain/Engineer Richard Parks has provided to the Kinloch Fire Protection District. Funeral arrangements will be announced on completion.

Take Care-Be Careful

BillyG

The Secret List 5-11-12 / 2342 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER LODD-Medical

A Fire-Police Officer from a Bucks County fire company died in the Line of Duty after feeling ill at the scene of a large chemical facility fire this morning. Lightning apparently ignited the massive tank at Dow Chemical in Croydon early this morning, touching off that multiple alarm fire. Bucks Firefighters responded to the large plant at Routes 413 and State Road in Bucks County, less than a mile from the Burlington-Bristol bridge. The county's HazMat team was also called to the scene along with mutual aid HazMat. The fire started at about 0400 and a large black column of smoke extended high above the fire. We'll post more details later. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-16-12 / 0739 hours

AND:

Hey,

According to local media, jurors in Longview (Texas) found the maker of a ladder truck from which two firefighters fatally fell - and the Kilgore Fire Department - equally at fault for the 2009 training exercise deaths.

Wrapping up an eight-day wrongful death suit, the panel reviewed the case brought by the family of Kilgore firefighter Kyle Perkins four hours Monday before awarding more than \$800,000 in damages. The finding that Perkins' department was half to blame for the fatal accident, which also took the life of fireman Cory Galloway, means all but \$192,500 awarded as punitive damages will be cut in half. And that \$192,000 in punitive damages might not stand as 124th District Judge Alfonso Charles told the jury the question leading to that verdict must have a unanimous answer. The eight-woman, four-man jury voted 10-2 that fire truck maker E-One was grossly negligent. E-One attorney Randy Aiken said it was unlikely the company would appeal the verdict. "We wish they didn't find liability (on E-One's part)," Aiken said. "But this keeps the damages way down, so we're satisfied with that." During the trial, which began May 3, jurors heard from both E-One employees and fire department staff that safety harnesses had not been worn or encouraged by company representatives in either sales or post-sale demonstrations.

Jurors also heard competing opinions on whether the latches on the aerial platform doors used on the 2000 model ladder truck were sufficient. Galloway and Perkins burst forward through those inward-only doors and fell eight stories during the January 2009 training exercise. Neither man was wearing a safety harness/ladder belt. During closing statements Monday morning, defense attorney Keith Slade recalled for jurors the 2008 delivery invoice indicating the department was aware safety belts had not come with the ladder truck but were needed.

"Before the truck was even delivered, the city of Kilgore Fire Department was aware and cognizant they were going to have to get safety belts and put them in this truck," Slade said, later adding: "You don't go to the worst-possible, highest risk scenario knowing you don't have safety belts."

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Slade also noted that, when the four men went up in the platform, the overriding, base controls on the truck chassis were at the hands of a 6-month firefighter under supervision. "If you hit the kill switch in the base control the power is lost on the platform," he said. "If someone is doing their job, if someone is being instructed to do their job - whenever the platform sits on the (building's) wall, and you hear the scraping and the boom, you know something's not right. You hit the switch, you take power from it." Perkins' attorney Jack Walker reminded jurors of a string of E-One employees who admitted breaking company policy by not using safety harnesses or telling potential customers to use them. "Why are the E-One personnel allowed to disregard their own policy, disregard their own instructions?" Walker asked.

He also said the doors, which were redesigned to be stronger in 2006, remain a menace throughout the country. "The city of Kilgore drew the black bean in this instance," Walker said. "If the doors stay closed, (Perkins) lives. They had one job to do, and they failed miserably. But, what we know will not do it is 8 inches of aluminum and a slap-latch. And that's all they gave these firefighters. ... We know there's 30 more of them out there. You have the opportunity to protect the fire industry. (E-One) has a responsibility to those firefighters, and they completely blew it." This information provided from the News Journal.

Take Care-THINK. Be Careful.
BillyG
The Secret List 5-15-12 / 1155 hours

AND:

TEXAS FF LODD AT TRAINING

A Brazos County Precinct Three Firefighter died in the Line of Duty last night while training at the TEEX Brayton Fire Training Field in College Station. FF William Richard "Dick" Danes, 69-years-old, died during a ladder training evolution. The exact cause of death isn't known yet. According to an email sent by Precinct Three, FF Danes came to the firefighting profession late in life. He was in his 60s when he started. Prior to that, he served in the Air Force. You can read the entire email sent from Precinct Three EMS Administrator David Dibello below: *It is with great sorrow that I pass along that Brazos County Precinct 3 VFD has experienced a line of duty death of one of our own. FF William Richard "Dick" Danes, 69 years of age, passed away Thursday evening while participating in a ladder training evolution at the TEEX Fire Training Field. Although we do not know the exact cause of death, it would appear to be cardiac in nature. Arrangements are pending through Hillier Funeral Home in Bryan. RIP.*

Take Care-Be Careful,
BillyG
The Secret List 5-18-12 / 1317 hours

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

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

Budget Related Items:

The Oceanside (CA) City Council is set Wednesday to publicly review a study it commissioned to find ways to save money on the Fire Department. The study, conducted by Virginia-based TriData Division, System Planning Corp, lists 25 recommendations to make the Oceanside Fire Department more efficient, though it notes that the organization is effective as is. "It is clear from this study that the OFD is a quality organization that provides excellent service to the City," the report said. "If the City were not facing the current budget situation the OFD could make some needed improvements but continue mostly as is, and its citizens would be well protected." Among the recommendations were reducing overtime worked and changing a component of the agreement between the Oceanside Firefighters Association and the city requiring at least 32 responders be on duty at any given time, not including the shift battalion chief. The study suggests, if the Firefighters Association would agree to it, reducing staffing during hours when the department receives fewer calls, typically between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. The study also recommends boosting regional cooperation with other North County fire agencies, but it cites Oceanside's politics as a likely sticking point for potential partners: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/apr/24/oceanside-looking-possible-cuts-fire-department/>

Lyon County (NV) Comptroller Josh Foli announced via speaker phone at the North Lyon County Fire Protection District's board meeting last Friday morning that he met with North Lyon County Firefighters Association Local 4547 and they agreed to \$230,000 worth of concessions. The board ultimately voted to accept the concessions, which also include the elimination of one vacant position. The fire district's revenue is projected to be \$1,296,983 and expenditures are estimated to be \$1,030,237. The revenue for the ambulance service is estimated to be \$2,104,500 and the expenditures at \$2,214,929. Foli reported the concessions are not only on the side of the association, but the administrative staff as well. Concessions include a step decrease in pay for personnel, with the exception of the three lowest paid association staff members, who will keep their current pay. Additionally, the association agreed to eliminate four hours per person of holiday pay and one vacant position. Foli reported those concessions amount to about \$230,000, and put the district in a "break even position." <http://www.rgj.com/article/20120425/FERNLEY01/304250046/Fire-District-Board-accepts-concessions-from-Local-4547?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFernley%20Leader%7Cs>

Sacramento's (CA) police officers and firefighters have been presented with a stark choice: They can contribute more toward their pensions, or watch nearly 100 of their comrades lose their jobs. In a budget proposal considered among the most draconian the city has faced, City Manager John Shirey on Thursday recommended laying off 62 firefighters and 34 police officers to address a \$15.7 million deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1. Another 10 Police Department employees also would lose their jobs under the proposal. Those layoffs could be avoided, Shirey said, if public safety workers agree to pick up the entirety of the employee share of their CalPERS contributions. Under contracts the City Council approved in recent years, the city picks up both the employer and employee shares of police and firefighter contributions to the California Public Employees' Retirement System. In the coming fiscal year, that arrangement would cost the city \$37 million, according to budget officials: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/04/27/4446776/deficit-spurs-difficult-choice.html>

The city of Turlock (CA) stands to lose four police officer positions and two firefighters under budget proposals discussed Tuesday night. But the respective chiefs hope to avoid layoffs by eliminating the jobs through attrition: <http://www.modbee.com/2012/05/08/2192459/turlock-stands-to-lose-4-police.html>

Two fire stations in Salem (OR) will close in less than two weeks. The city of Salem on Thursday announced Station 11 in West Salem and Station 8 at Chemeketa Community College will be closed as of May 7 because of an inability to reach an agreement with the firefighters union for reduced hours. The city had proposed cutting back hours at the stations from a 24/7 service model to 40 hours per week. The city and the union were not able to reach an agreement, and the union filed a grievance with Fire Chief Mike Niblock in protest. "I'm disappointed," city manager Linda Norris said. "I think the 40 hours per week option was the best for the community."

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20120427/NEWS/304270025/City-will-close-West-Salem-Chemeketa-fire-stations-by-May-7?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|News>

Nearly a quarter of the city of Detroit (MI) work force would be eliminated, services would be slashed and departments would disappear under the detailed version of Mayor Dave Bing's proposed budget delivered Monday to the City Council. The plan, which includes \$250 million in cuts to all departments, expands on an initial proposal presented April 12. Council members will begin deliberations next week over the fiscal plan, the first to be hammered out under a consent deal with the state to overhaul Detroit's finances. The \$1.1 billion budget would ax 2,566 positions from the city's 11,000-member work force. It also would reform operations and consolidate some departments, including health and wellness, work force development, human services and the Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport. It calls for 10 percent pay cuts for all employees, including police and firefighters, when union contracts are renegotiated this summer. The fire department's budget would decrease about 13 percent to about \$160 million, while its work force would fall to 1,250 from 1,400. It would take a \$23.4 million cut, but would retain 100 positions through a federal grant. Detroit still has 8 to 10 fire companies browned out per day, meaning they're closed: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/human-resources/articles/1276864-Detroit-FD-facing-more-cuts/>

Surprise (AZ) laid off employees and restructured some jobs into a lower pay range Monday as the city works to recover from multimillion-dollar accounting missteps. A total of 33 positions were cut across a range of departments, including public works, parks and recreation, police and fire. Of the jobs lost, 14 had been vacant. A total of 33 positions were cut across a range of departments, including public works, parks and recreation, police and fire. Of the jobs lost, 14 had been vacant. The layoffs follow buyouts taken by several employees. Surprise has a workforce of more than 700 full- and part-time employees. City officials said the layoffs and other personnel cuts would save about \$2.9 million, money the city needs to help fix its finances: <http://tucsoncitizen.com/arizona-news/2012/05/07/surprise-lays-off-19-workers-cuts-14-vacant-positions/>

How firefighters in far East Contra Costa (CA) County respond to calls could change significantly if a proposed parcel tax fails in next month's election. Directors of the East Contra Costa Fire District on Monday pondered two ways of reducing the number of stations and staffing levels to keep the cash-strapped agency afloat assuming Measure S does not receive the requisite two-thirds approval. One option -- and the one Chief Hugh Henderson recommended -- is to close half the district's six stations and lay off 16 firefighters, leaving 27 to staff the remaining sites at three per shift. Bethel Island, Knightsen and Brentwood each would lose a station. The second scenario involves shutting down the Bethel Island and Knightsen stations and staffing the remaining four with 24 firefighters, or two per shift. This configuration would mean laying off 19 firefighters: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_20571484/east-county-fire-district-ponders-future-without-parcel

More than 200 police, firefighters and Teamsters union members could lose their jobs in a budget approved by the North Las Vegas (NV) City Council. City officials approved a budget Tuesday that will mean pink slips for about 100 police employees, 57 firefighters and 60 other workers if the city can't get concessions from unions. A final budget is due June 1. North Las Vegas saw property tax and other revenue streams dry up during the recession. The city now has a \$33 million budget gap for the fiscal year that starts July 1:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlzRFtRaiJw&feature=relmfu>

The Sacramento (CA) City Council gets its first chance today to dive into a proposed budget that would cut nearly 100 police officers and firefighters, the most severe cutbacks ever to the city's public safety ranks. As part of a plan to fill a \$15.7 million deficit for the fiscal year beginning July 1, City Manager John Shirey has proposed laying off 62 firefighters and 34 police officers. Another 10 employees in the Police Department would also lose their jobs. The cuts to public safety could be avoided if the unions representing those workers agreed to pick up the entirety of the employee share of their California Public Employees' Retirement System pension contributions:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/05/15/4489875/sacramento-city-council-to-take.html>

Within 19 days, North Las Vegas (NV) must bridge a \$33.3 million budget deficit - with or without help from its public safety unions and Teamsters. With their help, the city will maintain current service levels for citizens and current wages and benefits for public employees. Without it, service levels may change and, unfortunately, employees will face massive layoffs. For months, North Las Vegas has tried feverishly to work with the four unions that represent our firefighters, police officers and other essential employees to avoid the situation we are in today - facing a hole in the budget and the prospect of losing workers and services. Within 19 days, North Las Vegas must bridge a \$33.3 million budget deficit - with or without help from its public safety unions and Teamsters. With their help, the city will maintain current service levels for citizens and current wages and benefits for public employees. Without it, service levels may change and, unfortunately, employees will face massive layoffs. For months, North Las Vegas has tried feverishly to work with the four unions that represent our firefighters, police officers and other essential employees to avoid the situation we are in today - facing a hole in the budget and the prospect of losing workers and services: <http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/north-las-vegas-sitting-on-the-brink-151286705.html>

Sycamore Township (OH) trustees voted Wednesday night to lay off 70 part-time and 14 full-time firefighters. The move leaves the department with 13 full-time firefighters, trustees said. Trustees said they had no choice because they're facing funding cuts from the state. They said every other department has already seen cuts. Trustees said the move is expected to save more than \$1 million. Trustee President Tom Weidman said it was not a decision they have taken lightly. "We are all troubled," Weidman said. "We've all struggled with the decision, but I believe the residents have told us they don't want any more levies. They don't want to pay any more taxes." <http://www.wlwt.com/r/31075027/detail.html>

Wenatchee (WA) Mayor Frank Kuntz unveiled a budget-cutting plan tonight that will lay off eight firefighters, three police officers and a clerk and nearly all of the museum staff by mid summer. Kuntz said the cuts were necessary to fix a projected \$1.5 million shortfall in the city's budget caused by shrinking tax revenues, rising employee costs and the Town Toyota Center. He partially blamed the need for the cuts on the unwillingness of employee unions to allow reductions in costly employee benefits:

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2012/may/17/firefightes-police-officers-and-museum-staff-lose-/>

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.***

The U.S. Justice Department sued Jacksonville (FL) on Monday over promotion tests that federal lawyers said discriminated against black firefighters. "This complaint should send a clear message ... that employment practices that have the effect of excluding qualified candidates on account of race will not be tolerated," said a statement from Thomas Perez, an assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division:

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2012-04-23/story/justice-department-sues-jacksonville-over-discrimination-firefighter>

A Cal Fire (CA) employee based in Riverside County is challenging a demotion for taking his hands off the steering wheel and flashing two thumbs up to a traffic-enforcement camera as his fire engine, with its emergency lights and siren on, sped through a red light at a Corona intersection. O'Donoghue's attorney, David J. Givot, said O'Donoghue acknowledges using poor judgment with his gesture and going through the red light around 60 mph when Cal Fire policy states he should have been driving at 5 mph. An excerpt from its driver's policy provided by Cal Fire states: "The safety of the general public must take precedence in all cases over the response speed of the emergency vehicle. The law requires that the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle which is responding to an emergency use good judgment. It does not relieve the driver from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor does it protect the driver from the consequences of an arbitrary and careless exercise of exemption privileges..." <http://www.pe.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20120425-corona-firefighter-challenges-demotion-over-gesture-with-hands.ece>

Lookingglass (OR) residents question fire district. Bob Russell, a Lookingglass resident talked about what they see as a problem in their district. "They've taken an oath to protect and serve. and right now, these fire districts have forgotten that," Russell said. The Lookingglass support group is urging residents to vote No on two ballot measures that they say will triple the permanent tax levy. Bob Russell says the Lookingglass Rural Fire District has not justified the increase:

<http://www.kpic.com/news/local/Lookingglass-residents-question-fire-district-149092035.html>

A former Pasadena (CA) firefighter faces up to 12 years in state prison guilty in the slaying of his wife with a samurai sword in their Rancho Cucamonga home. After five hours of deliberation, jurors recently found Michael Burton, now 51, guilty of voluntary manslaughter. Prosecutors had been seeking a murder conviction:

http://www.sbsun.com/ci_20514975/firefighter-convicted-killing-wife-rc-2006#ixzz1tcvmXAoa

The man once chosen to lead and reform Clearwater's (FL) Fire Department was convicted Friday of sexually abusing a teenager for nearly half of her 19 years. Former fire chief Jamie Geer, 58, dressed in a business suit for perhaps the last time, was found guilty of sexual battery, lewd or lascivious battery and unlawful sexual activity with a minor. Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Philip Federico immediately sentenced Geer to life in prison. There was no need to delay because the sexual battery charge carried a mandatory life term:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1279339-Former-Fla-fire-chief-convicted-of-sexual-abuse/>

An off-duty police officer in a Corvette. A volunteer firefighter on his way home from hazmat training in what apparently is his POV with lights & radios. What happened between the two around 10:00 Friday night on a Bauxite, Arkansas road appears to be a he said – he said. The only other witness may be a female the firefighters says was in the cop's car. The confrontation ended with Rockport Firefighter Westley Steinert arrested. While the officer told KATV-TV he couldn't comment, his boss Police Chief Ron Parsons did. Parsons believes Steinert could have killed someone, claiming the firefighter was driving 90 miles-per-hour:

<http://statter911.com/2012/05/01/firefighter-vs-police-arkansas-volunteer-arrested-after-meeting-off-duty-cop-on-the-road-flashing-lights-speed-are-at-issue/>

A Collierville (TN) Fire Department lieutenant has received a written reprimand for his decision to cut a swath in an overgrown field behind the fire station to practice his golf swing. Officials said Lt. Andy Rice made a "bad choice" by choosing to use a town-owned mower to cut the area and a town-owned four-wheeler to spread chemicals brought from another firefighter's home. "There was nothing illegal (with the mini-driving range)," Fire Chief Jerry Crawford said. "It was just a bad choice. The main issue is that he didn't ask for permission because he probably knew what the answer would be. No." Also, Battalion Chief Todd Frazier received a verbal reprimand after admitting that he stopped by the station and chipped a golf ball. Collierville leaders are sensitive to such issues since three Parks and Recreation Department employees were fired last year for theft and using town equipment at their homes. A supervisor was also fired for violating town policies and procedures:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/may/02/firefighters-bad-choice-reprimanded/?CID=happeningnow>

A coroner and fire chief charged with illegally taking human remains -- a small amount of body tissue -- at a crash site April 13 pleaded guilty Tuesday afternoon in Town Court. Niagara County Fourth District Coroner Russell Jackman, 45, and Cambria Fire Chief E. Vincent Salerno, 50, pleaded guilty to obstruction of governmental administration before Town Justice Amel S. Jowdy Jr. The charge could have carried a sentence of up to one year in jail, but by accepting a plea bargain, both men were granted a conditional discharge. Both were ordered to resign their positions as of Tuesday night. Each must serve 100 hours of community service with the SPCA, pay fines and surcharges of \$1,000, and write a letter of apology to the family of Richard Dunn, who died in the April 13 crash:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article837119.ece>

Moscow (ID) Fire Chief Ed Button denies a cover-up alleged by two volunteer firefighters in a complaint filed with the city. The complaint states that he and Fire Capt. Dan Carscallen overlooked suspected drugs and paraphernalia in Fire Station No. 1 and ordered them disposed of without contacting law enforcement. Button says he only ordered them removed from the building. Bonnie Shambaugh and Emily Kimberling state in complaints filed with city Human Resources Director Leslie Moss that suspected drugs and paraphernalia were found in

a resident firefighter's desk Feb. 14. The drugs were allegedly found in a ring box that also contained vials, an empty pill capsule, razors and straws:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-mct-moscow-fire-chief-denies-drug-cover-up-20120507.0,1463586.story>

How many firefighters out there have second jobs that pay almost \$500 per hour or can make more than \$2000 in a day or night off? The British tabloid, The Sun, says it has found one. The paper's exclusive story by James Mills, published today, says by night she is Jade, a call girl who rakes in £300-an-hour making house or hotel calls. And by day she is Emma Carr a 38-year-old London Fire Brigade crew manager. The paper claims a Sun investigator contracted for her services in a London hotel: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/07/british-tabloid-goes-undercover-to-find-firefighters-second-job-reporter-says-shes-a-high-priced-call-girl/>

A side business run by a high-ranking Chicago (IL) firefighter received hundreds of thousands of dollars in municipal snow-plowing contracts even though city rules prohibit such deals. An investigation by the Better Government Association found that Battalion Chief Tim Gibbons, who runs Tim's Snowplowing, has received at least \$250,000 in contracts with so-called Special Service Areas on the North Side. Gibbons has been doing business with the service areas — neighborhoods where property owners pay extra taxes for enhanced city services — for at least five years, even though the contracts explicitly say city employees should not get such work: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/cityhall/12326725-418/chicago-fire-battalion-chiefs-snowplow-contract-investigated.html>

Truly a great moment in public safety: 'My dumb-ass assistant chief took it upon himself to discontinue my permit'. Fire commissioner holds his breath until his lights turn blue again. Someone needs to get a dose of reality at the Blue Hills Fire Department in Bloomfield, Connecticut very quickly. That is an actual on the record quote given to the Hartford Courant's Steven Goode by Fire Commissioner Jimmy Davis. Lovely, isn't it? <http://statter911.com/2012/05/07/truly-a-great-moment-in-public-safety-my-dumb-ass-assistant-chief-took-it-upon-himself-to-discontinue-my-permit-fire-commissioner-holds-his-breath-until-his-lights-turn-blue-again/>

The city placed a Keller (TX) fire captain on paid administrative leave Monday after a City Council candidate filed a complaint that the firefighter had confronted and harassed him while he was campaigning. Place 4 Candidate Marcus McCrary said he filed the complaint with the city because of escalating events during the campaign, the last of which he said occurred Saturday at the Keller Farmer's Market.. McCrary said the firefighter, a supporter of opposing candidate Bill Dodge, "verbally accosted" him. "He got right in my face and started berating me about breaking the law with my signs being on city property. He kept asking, 'How do you like breaking the law?'" McCrary said in the e-mail. "I had to physically back up several times to get my space back and for a second or so, thought he was actually going to physically assault me." "As a result of [his] unprovoked, aggressive personal attack in front of several other people, I filed a complaint with the city manager and the Keller Police Department because I don't believe this type of behavior should be tolerated from anyone in our community," McCrary said. McCrary said previous incidents include the firefighter driving by his house, yelling, honking and holding a thumbs-down sign, and the firefighter blocking McCrary's booth at a public event while passing out flyers in support of Dodge: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/05/09/3949380/keller-fire-captain-put-on-leave.html>

A volunteer firefighter in Roane County (TN) was accused of starting nine fires over a year's span near Kingston. Keith L. Hephner Jr. worked as a firefighter for the South Roane County Volunteer Fire Department for seven years. According to the Roane County Sheriff's Office, he confessed to setting his own house on fire at 611 Laurel Bluff Road on April 20:

<http://www.wbir.com/news/article/219489/2/Roane-Co-volunteer-firefighter-accused-of-starting-fires?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Cbc%7Clarge>

Town Council of the Borough of Chambersburg (PA) authorized the filing of a lawsuit against the International Association of Fire Fighters 1813 (the union representing paid fire fighters in the Borough), Fire Captain Patrick Martin, who works as a paid fire fighter in the borough, and Scott McNew, another paid firefighter who works for the borough. According to a news release from the borough, the action was approved by council "to protect life and property within the borough." Borough Solicitor G. Bryan Salzman filed a complaint and requested the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to immediately issue an injunction requiring the defendants to stop requesting and/or directing various volunteer firefighters from responding to fires within the Borough. According to the borough's attorney, "Council reacted to letters sent by Mr. Martin and Mr. McNew that urged volunteer firefighters who also belonged to the fire union not to respond to fire calls and charged those volunteer members that have responded over the past year to fire and/or emergency calls with violations of the union bylaws."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10714845/pa-town-sues-union-for-meddling-in-vol-response>

A Miami-Dade (FL) fire captain has been demoted down to firefighter as punishment for a rant, posted on his personal Facebook page, about the Trayvon Martin case, county officials said Monday. Capt. Brian Beckmann's post lambasted the prosecutor, Angela Corey, who charged George Zimmerman with second-degree murder in Martin's death. In the post, Beckmann suggested "urban youth" are the products of "failed, sh--bag, ignorant, pathetic, welfare dependent excuses for parents." He also brought his fellow firefighters into the post, saying: "I and my co-workers could rewrite the book on whether our urban youths are victims of racist profiling or products of their failed, sh--bag, ignorant, pathetic, welfare dependent excuses for parents, but like Mrs. Corey, we speak only the truth." It ended with, "They're just misunderstood little church-going angels and the ghetto hoodie look doesn't have anything to do with why people wonder if they're about to get jacked by a thug."

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/05/14/2799190/miami-dade-fire-captain-who-posted.html>

Top administrators approved a Cleveland (OH) firefighter's request earlier this year to work a second job at his family-owned window and remodeling business even though Bernard Frohnapple owed thousands of work hours to his fellow firefighters. Frohnapple is among a handful of firefighters whom the city allowed to work additional jobs in the past two years despite the fact they were trading away many of their regular shifts to colleagues and rarely repaying them. A Plain Dealer examination of fire department records also found that others appear to have worked second jobs or run their own companies without getting the city's permission, as required by department policy. The newspaper launched its investigation after a series of city audits documented widespread abuse by firefighters of sick leave and shift-trading. Timothy DeBarr, the only firefighter prosecuted so far as a result of the city's investigation, worked a second job selling communications equipment as part of a franchise he ran with his wife. DeBarr retired earlier this year right before he struck a deal to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge admitting that he improperly paid other firefighters to work his shifts while he collected his full salary and benefits:

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/05/some_cleveland_firefighters_wit.html

A judicial official says four firefighters in the French capital have been preliminarily charged with gang raping a colleague. Eight other firefighters received preliminary charges of aggravated violence. The incident purportedly happened on a bus ride back from an athletic competition on May 6. A second firefighter has also alleged he was attacked. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity citing fire department policy, said Saturday that one of those charged remains in custody. The official says the accused have claimed they were carrying out an initiation ritual common with new recruits and deny there was any sexual aggression: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/14/four-firefighters-accused-of-gang-rape-in-what-has-been-called-a-common-initiation-ritual-eight-other-paris-fire-brigade-members-also-face-charges/>

Public pressure forces removal of beer at a Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department (CO) firehouse. Former firefighter tells reporter 'people have showed up visibly impaired' at fires: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/16/public-pressure-forces-removal-of-beer-at-colorado-firehouse-former-firefighter-tells-reporter-people-have-showed-up-visibly-impaired-at-fires/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

A retired Palm Springs (CA) fire chief was arrested Tuesday, suspected of battering his wife. Blake Gilbert Goetz, 54, was arrested Tuesday afternoon at the Palm Springs Police Department, 200 S. Civic Drive, on suspicion of misdemeanor spousal battery. His 49-year-old wife called police the night before and said he battered her. Goetz was gone by the time police arrived at the home in the 200 block of North Luring Drive, and a police news release said his wife had no visible wounds. Goetz, who was Palm Springs' fire chief from 2004 to 2010, declined to discuss the allegations Wednesday: <http://www.mydesert.com/article/20120425/NEWS0801/120425002/Blake-Goetz-arrested-former-fire-chief-Palm-Springs-suspected-battery-wife?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage>

Kansas City's (MO) firefighters union on Thursday ratified a three-year agreement with the city that factors in a \$7.6 million cut to the Fire Department but strives to avoid layoffs. Union officials could not be reached for comment, but city officials confirmed the agreement had been overwhelmingly ratified by members of Local 42 of the International Association of Fire Fighters. City Manager Troy Schulte had suggested in January that the city could realize those savings by laying off 105 firefighters and reducing the crew on each pumper from four to three people. It calls for the retirement or attrition of about 33 of the most senior firefighters, and taking two of the most underused fire companies out of service. It also calls for firefighters to work 53 hours per week before they accrue overtime, instead of 49½ hours per week. That change in overtime rules alone saves \$3.5 million a year. Additional savings would come from the retirement or voluntary departure of about 17 department employees from the ranks of battalion chiefs, deputy chiefs and civilians. Mayor Sly James said negotiations with the union, which began about eight weeks ago, had been quite contentious because they involved such significant cuts to the fire department. He said the council resolution was intended to improve that relationship and would send an important signal to firefighters that the council will work with them in a trustworthy way. When told of the union vote, James said, "They had things they needed and wanted to protect, but they were willing to work with us to get the job done. I'm proud of them for ratifying it." <http://www.kansascity.com/2012/04/26/3578668/kc-fire-union-approves-labor-pact.html>

Stayton (OR) Fire District firefighters reported that its Fill the Boot drive April 21 was a success. More than 30 members of the fire district joined forces on First Avenue and Washington Street to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, said Matt Aalto, recruitment and retention officer for the fire district. Firefighters raised \$3,869.74 at this year's event, Aalto said:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20120502/COMMUNITIES/305020066/Firefighters-raise-3-869-charity?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CStayton>

Training & Safety Related Items:

6 tips to avoid fireground violence - Firefighters and medics need to know how to identify potentially violent scenes and how to react:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1283167-On-scene-How-firefighters-and-EMS-can-guard-against-violence/>

A federal investigation into the deaths last year of two San Francisco (CA) firefighters blamed a lethal mix of hillside architecture, tactical blunders and heat so intense it rendered the engulfed crew's radios useless. The June 2 fire at 133 Berkeley Way in the Diamond Heights neighborhood claimed the lives of Lt. Vincent Perez, 48, and firefighter-paramedic Anthony Valerio, 53, when they became trapped and overwhelmed by intense heat that rose from the floor below them. Not knowing the radios had failed, fire commanders assumed they were safe with another crew when they did not respond. The fatal events of that day have now been investigated by the San Francisco Fire Department, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, which cited the department for serious violations, and now the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/05/05/BAAC1ODQCC.DTL>

This story is a great reminder that we can be doing everything right — driving defensively with due regard for other drivers — and still face a high degree of risk during emergency responses. I know we're all glad the firefighters onboard were treated and released from the hospital with only minor injuries. It also reinforces the importance of stopping at stop signs and red lights: <http://www.firerescue1.com/apparatus/articles/1283254-Safety-behind-the-wheel/>

Matt Paiss of the San Jose (CA) Fire Department provided a link to this video, which occurred on the 280-S exit near San Jose City College on May 13, 2012. The video shows firefighters responding to a van fire on the side of the freeway. As crews arrive, the vehicle begins to roll toward their apparatus and onto the highway. There were no injuries at this incident. "Whenever possible, all vehicles should be chocked, regardless of the incident," Matt wrote:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/05/video-flaming-van-runs-into-ca-firefighters-freeway-traffic.html>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Know yourself to land the FF job - Be prepared for all interview questions, like knowing your KSAs (knowledge, skills and abilities) and how to explain why you're an ideal candidate for the department. These questions are batting-practice fastballs, and here's what you need to know to take them deep:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/Firefighter-Training/articles/1269795-How-well-do-you-know-yourself/>

Remember the Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department report that came out earlier this year, the one recommending that labor and management play nice if they want to solve their problems with the city? Bill Gault, president of Local 22 of the International Association of Fire Firefighters, may now be trying to take that advice to heart. But only after he nearly got into another public dustup with City Hall: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1275617-Philly-union-president-apologizes-for-dustup-after-firefighter-deaths/>

The defeat of Measure H, which would have taxed water district property owners \$100 over 11 years to maintain the City of Twenty Nine Palms' (CA) two fire stations, could force the district to relinquish control over the fire department. At the regular meeting of the Twentynine Palms Water District and Fire Department on Wednesday, April 25, district financial consultant Wayne Jones laid out two bleak visions for the existing fire department structure. At the current cost structure and staffing levels, and without extra revenue from Measure H, the consultant said the annual \$220,000 shortfall would snuff out the fire fund balance in two years. Cutting staffing in half would keep one station open, Jones continued, but with no other funding increases, "we would be out of money" in five years: http://www.hidesertstar.com/the_desert_trail/news/article_4d17ee4c-8fde-11e1-a928-0019bb2963f4.html

Buffalo (NY) Mayor Byron Brown (D- Buffalo) is now firing back at claims from a Buffalo firefighter's union official that attendance at political fundraisers were tied to promotions. Union Vice President Thomas Barrett says in recent years firefighters were passed over for promotions, despite their higher scores on civil service exams. Barrett says he heard from union members that firefighters on a promotion list were told it would be a good idea to attend so-called "Mayor's Club" fundraising events: <http://www.wgrz.com/news/article/167088/37/Brown-Responds-to-Pay-to-Play-Allegations>

Partnering with other North County (San Diego, County, CA) cities to provide fire services and having fewer firefighters on duty at night and early morning should be a top priority for the Oceanside Fire Department, consultants told the Oceanside City Council Wednesday. Consultants from Virginia-based TriData Division, System Planning Corp. presented the findings of a study on possible cost savings in the Oceanside Fire Department to the council at a meeting Wednesday. The study listed 25 recommendations to increase efficiency at the fire department, but noted it was already an efficient and lean agency. The consultants recommended the department reduce the amount of overtime worked and adjust part of the agreement with the Oceanside Firefighters Association that requires 32 responders to be on duty at any given time, if the union would agree to it. Eliminating the minimum staffing requirement could allow the fire department to have fewer firefighters on duty during hours when fewer calls are received, typically between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., the study said: <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/apr/25/oceanside-examines-fire-department-efficiency/>

San Miguel (CA) Fire Moves Ahead With Possible Outsourcing to Cal Fire as the San Miguel Consolidated Fire Protection District Facing \$2.4 Million Budget Deficit: <http://www.10news.com/news/30958187/detail.html>

A must read for both current and future company officers and chief officers.....Future Officers? Be Able to Answer These Questions: <http://www.fireengineering.com/blogs/blognetwork/hoevermann/2012/05/future-officers-be-able-to-answer-these-questions.html>

After years of study and discussion, the Ross (CA) Town Council voted Thursday to merge its little fire department with the larger Ross Valley Fire Department, a move that is expected to cut costs and improve fire safety in the woody community. "Consolidation of services is one of the few ways available to government to provide constituents with better quality service and at the same time save money," said Councilman Scot Hunter, head of the town public safety committee. "It's win-win any way you look at it." With the merger, effective July 1, Ross will share fire services with San Anselmo, Sleepy Hollow and Fairfax. Those communities each have their own fire stations, and Ross will keep its station and maintain its three-person staff. The town's apprentice firefighter program will not be affected and the Ross Valley Paramedics will remain based in Ross: http://www.marinij.com/rosskentfieldgreenbrae/ci_20551203/ross-fire-department-merges-ross-valley-fire-department?IADID=Search-www.marinij.com-www.marinij.com

In the past few years, Clark County (NV) firefighters have seen their reputations tarnished amid accusations of abusing sick time, and they've responded by using 57,000 fewer hours. Now county officials are considering taking a look at a firefighter tradition: the 24-hour shift. Firefighters are one of the last occupations to still work a full day without guaranteed rest, even as health care workers and truck drivers have seen restrictions on work hours. As cities become strapped for cash, some are wondering whether it still makes fiscal sense. The fire chief in Washington, D.C., said in January his department could save tens of millions by having firefighters work more, and shorter, shifts. In Clark County, officials are conducting an extensive study of how and where it distributes firefighter resources: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-24-hour-shifts-get-close-look-150334745.html>

It has taken at least five news articles over two weeks but finally someone is providing key information and asking important questions in connection with the comments about firefighters drinking made by a now former councilmember in the Borough of Hillsdale, New Jersey. Late yesterday two articles confirmed what many of us were reading between the lines, but couldn't say for sure: the Hillsdale VFD has a bar (something the department says is not a secret); there is a policy for the bar's use; the councilmember had a reason for making his remarks: <http://statter911.com/2012/05/10/now-the-rest-of-the-story-articles-make-clear-hillsdale-nj-firehouse-bar-policy-councilman-who-quit-claims-he-observed-drinking-at-fire-department-meetings/>

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

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

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

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
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***** PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS*****

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