



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

March 17, 2012

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

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

Many people ask me why should they bother taking fire department tests when no departments are hiring due to the economic problems our country is facing? That is a good question, let me offer my opinion:

- When I ask them who said nobody was hiring, they usually say “some guy or some gal.” Well, don’t believe everything you hear....there is actually some departments that are hiring, if for no other reason than to replace recently retired personnel.
- Proactive candidates will always be searching for job leads, by continuously searching the internet, letting others know they want to be a firefighter (so those folks may offer some leads), and by paying for firefighter job notification services who are worth their price because of the legwork they do on your behalf.
- If you want to get hired, you have to test. If you don’t apply for departments by taking tests, you’ll never get hired. And, the more tests you take, the better you should hopefully get. Practice should make perfect. Very few candidates ever get hired in less than 10 total tests. Since tests may be far and few given that many departments may not be hiring, it is very important to take every test you qualify for, just to stay in practice, to keep your “irons in the fire,” and to ensure you have as many opportunities as possible to get hired.
- At some point the economy will turn around. Nobody knows when, and even when it does, the fire service may not be the same as it is today – or as it was yesterday or twenty years ago. Maybe this is the economic reset button? Regardless, at some point departments will have to hire – maybe later than sooner, but at some point. So, if you don’t keep taking tests now, you’re not going to be on top of your game when your dream department starts accepting application.
- On the subject of dream departments, beggars can’t be choosers. Meaning, if you’re holding out for a specific department, you might not ever get the opportunity. If you really want to be a firefighter, you’ll be willing to work almost anywhere and for any salary. If you’re wanting to get in this for the “10 days a month of work, 20 days off, not to mention the decent salary and benefits,” you may be disappointed to a certain degree because things may not be as they are now or as they were – in the future if that makes sense. But, for those that are truly getting into the fire service for more noble reasons than just wages, benefits and working conditions, I truly believe it will still be an excellent career if you

choose to make it be. The fire service of 20 years ago will probably not be the fire service of 20 years from now – that’s ok, as long as there still is a fire service. As long as we continuously attempt to reinvent ourselves and justify our existence (I know, many hate that term – but good, bad or indifferent, it’s reality – whether we agree or disagree), we will hopefully be able to fortunate enough to provide a valuable service to the communities we serve.

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

### SPRING 2012 Semester: (January through May 2012)

Registration for the Spring 2012 semester at Chabot College has begun, classes are filling up and some are already full!

Presently, the following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Spring:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 91A</b> (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - May 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 24, 26, 28 and 29	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 17, 19, 21 and 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>FT 91D</b> (Firefighter Survival) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - April 3, 5, 7	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

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

**M**y suggestion is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

## **ONLINE FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECHNOLOGY CLASSES:**

### **TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET REGISTER FOR TERM # 4, SPRING 2012 CLASSES, NOW!**

The following **Short Term** Fire Technology and Fire Officer classes Start March 19<sup>th</sup> at Allan Hancock College. The 8 week classes run from March 19 - May 15, 2012.

#### **Allan Hancock College, Fire Technology; Spring 2012, Term # 4 (3-19 to 5-18, 2012)**

<b>Class</b>	<b>CRN</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Registration at: <a href="http://www.hancockcollege.edu/">http://www.hancockcollege.edu/</a> E-mail</b>	<b>Date</b>
FT 101 - Fire Protection Organization	43307	Coffman	dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu	03/19-05/18
FT 102 - Fire Prevention Technology	43308	Coffman	dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu	03/19-05/18
FT 103 - Fire Protection Equipment Systems	43309	Wiskus	dwiskus@earthlink.net	03/19-05/18
FT 104 - Build Construction/Fire Protection	43311	Wiskus	dwiskus@earthlink.net	03/19-05/18
FT 105 - Fire Behavior & Combustion	43312	Coffman	dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu	03/19-05/18
FT 106 - Principles of Fire & Emergency Safety & Survival	43313	Wiskus	dwiskus@earthlink.net	03/19-05/18

To Register for classes, go to: <http://www.hancockcollege.edu/> on the right panel under **Spring 2012**, you can apply for admission, if not already a Hancock Student, get registration information and register for classes. Registration ends March 19<sup>th</sup>, you will need an "Add Authorization Code" from the instructor after that date. Late Registration ends March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**WHEN REGISTERING FOR CLASSES, HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD READY. The College requires payment at registration. Students who register without payment will be dropped from the class (es). Students with financial aid must make arraignments for a temporary waiver of fees prior to registration.**

**After you register contact the professor teaching the class by e-mail** (e-mail addresses are listed above). Please include your e-mail address (es), your student ID number, full name, home address, daytime and home telephone numbers, and fire department you are affiliated with, if any. **These e-mails are not answered.** So, if you have questions or need additional information; put **FOLLOW-UP QUESTION** in the subject line.

**BE ADVISED! You MUST either log on to the class (es) in Blackboard or e-mail the professor by March 25th or you will be dropped from the class.**

While I expect this information will get you started, if you have questions or need assistance, please contact Dan Coffman at: [dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu)

**Note: As it stands right now, a full slate of Fire Technology Classes will be offered in the Summer. Be advised, tuition will increase to \$46.00 per unit. Save on tuition, register for late start classes now!**

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## **FIRE HIRE NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2012**



*Where Your Fire Service Career Begins! - January 10, 2012*

### **LATEST NEWS**

The next examination process will be held on April 10th, 2012. You have until March 30th, 2012 to get your application packet and payment submitted. You must also have a valid CPAT card or certificate submitted by the April 11th, 2012 examination date. It must be dated after April 10th, 2011 for it to be accepted.

### **PROACTIVE V. REACTIVE**

I have to ask you candidates if you are proactive or reactive. Unfortunately, I have the opportunity to talk to a lot of candidates that are reactive. This being said, it's very easy to be proactive. My point is the reason that we test every six months is to keep an active list for the agencies. I can't tell you how many times I have had to tell candidates who let themselves drop off of the Registry that they can't just get put back on the Registry when an Agency states that they are going to hire. It is up to you, the candidate to make sure that you are still active on the Registry. We take no joy in telling candidates that they are no longer on the Registry because their CPAT and/or written examination expired and they neglected to renew it in time. I can tell you that fire agencies hire at their will. If you haven't stayed current on the Registry and the agencies elect to hire from the last Registry and you're not on it, you are out of luck. I can tell you that hiring is picking up. The Cities of San Mateo, Piedmont, Mill Valley, the San Ramon Valley Fire District, and the Ross Valley Fire Authority currently hired some candidates from our Registry. The City of Vallejo just hired 5 and they are anticipating hiring more after the October examination. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. If you wish to re-test to improve your scores or you are renewing your annual test, you DO NOT have to submit another application packet. We keep everyone's application packet on file for at least 4 years. If you want to fill out an updated application packet, please feel free to do so. If you are new to the process, applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm). You can also receive an application via USPS mail by contacting our office at (800) 755-5891.

### **CPAT INFORMATION**

We will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate. **When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination.** The CPAT card/certificate must be dated **AFTER APRIL 10TH, 2011** for it to be accepted. You must submit a copy of it for your files. You may bring a copy of your CPAT card or certificate of completion to the written examination. You **MUST** bring a copy, not just show us your Card.

**IF YOUR CPAT CERTIFICATION EXPIRES ANYTIME WITHIN THE YEAR THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THE WRITTEN, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE AN UPDATED COPY ON FILE OTHERWISE YOU WILL NOT BE CURRENT ON THE REGISTRY!**

### **RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS**

RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS Between August 5th, 2011 and January 10th, 2012 the following agencies have hired FIREHIRE candidates:

- Piedmont FD-1 Firefighter/Paramedic
- San Ramon Fire Protection District-3 Firefighter/Paramedics
- San Mateo FD-2 Firefighter/Paramedic and 2 Firefighter/EMT
- Mill Valley FD-1 Firefighter/Paramedic and 1 Firefighter/EMT
- American Canyon FD-1 Firefighter/Paramedic
- Ross Valley FA-1 Firefighter/EMT

We will keep you updated. If you are into Twitter, you can follow my tweets @GBPackerfan1963. I'll try and keep you up to date on the current hiring of our contracted agencies.

**COULD YOU BE NEXT?**

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



## **Smoking Fire Safety**

It may be cold in much of the United States right now, but if you smoke, it's better to smoke outside. A lit cigarette left alone in a room, or accidentally dropped onto a chair or bed, or hot cigarette ashes or matches tossed away before they are completely out - all can cause a large fire in seconds. Putting out a cigarette the right way only takes seconds, too. It is up to you to make sure your cigarette is **put out, all the way, every time**. One-in-four people killed in home fires is not the smoker whose cigarette caused the fire.

- More than one-third were children of the smokers.
- Twenty-five percent were neighbors or friends of the smokers.

Take a moment to learn about Smoking and Home Fire action steps »  
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/smoking/smoker/index.shtm>

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPORTUNITY:**

**T**he **Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety** will be accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Officer – In Training until Wednesday March 21 at 5:00 pm.

**F**or more information about the position and to apply, go to:  
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/sunnyvale/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=430028...>

**F**or more information about the **Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety**, go to:  
<http://sunnyvaledps.com/> and the primary city website at <http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/>

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

### **Welcome to Virtual LAMP Post (VLP)**

*A National Fire Academy Sponsored Activity - February 29, 2012*

#### **Fire & Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) Conference**

Every year, USFA hosts the annual FESHE National Professional Development Conference on its campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Representatives from fire-related degrees programs, State and local fire service training agencies, and national fire service organizations attend the three-day conference. Attendance at the conference is available to only those in the target audiences (see below).

#### **14th Annual Conference**

We are pleased to announce that the 14th Annual FESHE National Professional Development Conference will be held May 31-June 2, 2012 at the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) campus in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Preliminary Agenda attached.

- **Costs and Enrollment Information**
- **Lodging and Meals**

Travel and meals (\$104.95 meal ticket covers dinner May 30 through breakfast June 3) are borne by the attendees; however, USFA will provide lodging at no charge and scheduled bus transportation to and from a regional airport. Do not book your travel plans until confirmation of your acceptance is received from our Admissions Office. Lodging on campus is limited. One other representative from your institution or agency may attend the conference provided he/she submits a separate application; however, depending on room availability, additional representatives from your organization may need to stay off campus at their own expense.

- **Selection Criteria**

Priority No. 1 - Those active in fire and emergency services professional development, including official representatives of regionally accredited academic fire programs, State and local fire service and emergency medical services (EMS) training, national and State fire associations, and those responsible for developing fire and emergency service personnel. Candidates within this audience will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Priority No. 2 - Those with interest in the field of fire and emergency services professional development. Candidates within this audience will be reviewed for acceptance after the application closing date.

- **Application Information for the FESHE Conference**

FESHE applicants should download and complete the General Admissions Application Short Form (FEMA Form 119-25-2).

Application information needs to be completed through block 18b.

When completing the application to attend the FESHE Conference, please enter this information in Blocks 12a-c:

- Block 12a: R178 FESHE Conference
- Block 12b: NETC Emmitsburg, MD
- Block 12c: May 31-June 2, 2012

- **Application Deadline, Submission Information**

The deadline for receiving FESHE applications is April 18, 2012. Applications must be mailed to:

NETC Admissions Office  
Attn: R-178 FESHE Conference  
16825 South Seton Ave., Bldg I  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Applications can also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441. If you have any questions about the FESHE conference, please contact Lori Welch at (301) 447-1013 or [FEMA-FESHE@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FESHE@fema.dhs.gov). Please contact the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1035 with enrollment questions. Do not mail or fax your application to the NFA. It must be sent to the Admissions Office or it will be discarded.

**Application Information for the FESHE Conference and the Emergency Management Higher Education Conference**

Individuals participating in both R-178 FESHE (May 31-June 2, 2012) and the Emergency Management Institute's Higher Education Conference must submit a separate application for each conference. EMI Higher Education applications can be obtained by contacting Barbara Johnson at [Barbara.L.Johnson@fema.gov](mailto:Barbara.L.Johnson@fema.gov).

- [Preliminary FESHE 2012 Conf Agenda 2-29-12.docx](#)

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

### **Change Batteries in Smoke and CO Alarms This Weekend**

*Daylight Saving Time begins March 11*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging consumers to **replace the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms this weekend** for Daylight Saving Time. This year, Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 11. **Fresh batteries** allow smoke and CO alarms to do their jobs **saving lives** by alerting families of a fire or a buildup of deadly carbon monoxide in their homes. CPSC estimates there was a yearly average of **386,300 residential fires** resulting in nearly **2,400 deaths** between 2006 and 2008.

**Two-thirds of fire deaths occur in homes where there are no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.** That is why it is important to **replace batteries at least once every year** and to **test your alarms every month** to make sure they work. CPSC recommends consumers have **smoke alarms on every level of their home, outside bedrooms and inside each bedroom.**

CPSC estimates there was an **annual average of 183 unintentional non-fire CO poisoning deaths** associated with consumer products between 2006 and 2008. CO is called the "invisible killer," because it is a colorless, odorless and poisonous gas. Because of this, people may not know they are being poisoned. Carbon monoxide is produced by the incomplete burning of fuel in various products, including furnaces, portable generators, fireplaces, cars and charcoal grills. That is why it is important to have working **CO alarms in the home, on each level and outside each sleeping area.**

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

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

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

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

- Confirm your organization's willingness to take part again this year.
- Provide updated point of contact information (if applicable).



- Commit to promote the event through by linking to the Safety and Health Week from your website and sharing announcements with your members and other interested parties.

### ***The theme this year is Rules You Can Live By***

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

### ***A New Look for 2012***

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

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

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

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](mailto:vlee@iafc.org)  
Tel: 571-221-2813  
Fax: 541-306-3775  
<http://www.iafc.org>

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

### **National Fire Academy Begins Eighth Year of Coffee Break Training**

The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) recently began its eighth year of providing **timely and useful instructional tips for first responders** through its popular online **Coffee Break Training** series. Launched on November 29, 2005, **Coffee Break Training** consists of **one-topic weekly training vignettes** delivered to USFA website visitors and more than 43,000 email subscribers in the U.S. and around the world. Each training item is **designed to be consumed in just a few minutes** over a "cup of coffee." The NFA has delivered more than 350 of these training segments since the program began. The initial **Coffee Break** series focused on **fire protection** topics such as automatic sprinkler systems, building and fire codes, fire protection water supplies, and safe storage practices. From time to time there are special lessons developed called "Hot Coffee" (**significant emerging issues**) and "Special Blend" (reminders of **historically significant events / lessons learned**). In the last few years, the **Coffee Break** series has expanded to include **fire investigation, fire prevention management, public education, emergency medical services, and research techniques** at the NETC Learning Resource Center. Recently, other parts of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency began adopting the NFA's **Coffee Break** model.

U.S. Fire Administrator Ernie Mitchell said, "The **Coffee Break Training** series is one of our most popular media for sharing up-to-the minute training. Busy first responders can get a **quick and easy-to-read training tip** that they can apply the same day it appears." Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines added, "The purpose of the **Coffee Break Training** program is to deliver **provocative topics with measurable learning objectives**."

They are modeled on Gordon Graham's insightful 'five minutes of short, verifiable training' that over time accumulates into real **performance improvements**." Students who receive the **Coffee Break Training** series can earn free **continuing education units** through quarterly exams posted on NFA Online – <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/nfaonline/> - For more information, or to sign up for the **free Coffee Break Training** series, visit the USFA's website - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/index.shtm>

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



# Electrical Fire Safety

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 280 Americans each year. Many of these fires are caused by incorrectly installed wiring and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

Winter fires can be prevented! The following electrical fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire-safe home this winter season.

- Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Replace any electrical tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out, or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- Buy electrical products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, like UL.
- Keep clothes, curtains, and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons, and hair dryers.
- Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Use electrical extension cords wisely; never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

For more information on electrical fire safety, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website - [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/electrical.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/electrical.shtm)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**



**California Regional Fire Academy  
Basic Firefighter One Academy**

**Dates Just Announced  
For The Upcoming Academy Classes!**

**Academy 18 ~ Full-Time Format Academy  
Academy 19 ~ Extended Format Academy  
Both Starting Monday, July 2, 2012**

Applications will be available on (or around) March 12, 2012  
Once applications are available, you may visit  
[www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov)  
to download an application.  
(located on the "Apply" page)

***\*Please note applications will not be available until (or around) March 12, 2012\****

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

**NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION**

Honoring and Remembering



America's Fallen Firefighters

**Foundation E-News Alert**

February 24, 2012

**NFFF & Hero Rush Announce Partnership**

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which honors the nation's fallen firefighters and works to reduce line-of-duty deaths, and Hero Rush, the firefighter-themed obstacle race and experience debuting in Maryland on April 28, today announce their partnership to support the Foundation's work and mission through greater public awareness. The dynamic new event gives the public a glimpse of the challenges firefighters face every day. Through this partnership, Hero Rush will promote and support the Foundation's work, including resources to support the families and coworkers of fallen firefighters and programs designed to reduce the numbers of those killed and injured on the job.

"The work of the Foundation is so important," said co-founder Dave J. Iannone. "They are not only there when a firefighter dies in the line of duty to help survivors deal with their immeasurable loss. They also create programs, such as Everyone Goes Home®, designed to prevent line-of-duty deaths and injuries. We are proud to support them through Hero Rush events."

The Foundation will receive donations through Hero Rush in several ways. For every runner in each event's "343 Wave" honoring the firefighters killed in the Twin Towers on 9/11, the Foundation will receive \$20. They will receive \$5 for every runner who registers with the code NFFF2012, which gives the runner a \$5 discount as well. And all registrants will be able to make additional voluntary donations to the Foundation during the registration process.

**Read:** The Full Article on FireHero.org - [http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/herorush\\_022412.html](http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/herorush_022412.html)

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

### **USFA Releases Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2008-2010) Report**

***"Other unintentionally set, careless" actions and "smoking" are the leading causes***

**Contact USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - March 14, 2012**

Emmitsburg, MD. – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings. The report, Civilian Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2008-2010) - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v13i1.pdf> (PDF, 916 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:

- **Ninety-two percent** of all civilian fatalities in residential building fires involve **thermal burns and smoke inhalation**.
- The **leading specific location** where civilian fire fatalities occur in residential buildings is the **bedroom (55 percent)**.
- **Fifty percent** of civilian fire fatalities in residential buildings occur **between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.** This period also accounts for **47 percent of fatal fires**.
- **Thirty-six percent** of fire victims in residential buildings were **trying to escape** at the time of their deaths; an additional **35 percent were sleeping**.
- **"Other unintentionally set, careless" actions and "smoking"** (each accounting for 16 percent) are the **leading causes** of fatal residential building fires.
- Approximately **44 percent** of civilian fatalities in residential building fires are **between the ages of 40 and 69**. **Thirteen percent** of the fire fatalities in residential buildings were **less than 10 years old**.

***Civilian Fire Fatalities 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 from the U.S. Fire Administration, visit: [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

## FIRE SERVICE INFO FROM EVERYONE GOES HOME:



Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - March 1, 2012



Our Newest Featured Media  
**Driving Emergency Vehicles -**

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/media/2012/S7-3/player.html>

In this media segment we utilize the Belief, Conception/Misconception, and Consequence discussion theory to talk about why driving and accidents continue to be the second leading cause of firefighter fatalities.

» **Archive: More Learning Media -**

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/media/>



The *Everyone Goes Home*® Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Program is made possible through the efforts of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, with funding provided by the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the generosity of Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.



Homeland Security



Fireman's Fund  
Insurance Company

A company of Allianz

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

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

### Fire Safety for Older Adults

#### *Focus on Fire Safety*

The facts speak for themselves: the **relative risk of Americans over the age of 65 dying in a fire is 2.6 times greater than that of the general population.** The risk worsens as age increases. People age 85 and older die in fires at a rate 4.4 times higher than the rest of the population. The leading cause of fire deaths in older adults is **smoking** and the leading cause of fire injuries in older adults is

**cooking.** There are a number of **precautionary steps** older Americans can take to dramatically **reduce their chances of becoming a fire casualty**, including:

- Don't leave smoking materials unattended and never smoke in bed.
- Never leave cooking unattended. Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heat sources, like portable space heaters, wood burning stoves, and fireplaces.
- Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home, including the basement, and both inside and outside bedrooms.
- Know at least two exits from every room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.

Fire Safety Action Steps for Older Adults » <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/50plus/index.shtm>

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

### **NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION**

Honoring and Remembering



America's Fallen Firefighters

**Foundation E-News Alert**

February 22, 2012

## **New Camp Allows Children of Fallen Firefighters to Have Fun and Find Comfort**

Many adults have fond memories of camp as a place for kids to make new friends, try different activities, and explore new possibilities. Now, a unique camp for the children and step-children of firefighters who died in the line of duty will provide all these opportunities, as well as the special comfort and support that they need to cope with their loss. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), in partnership with Comfort Zone Camps, today introduced the Hal Bruno Camp for Children of Fallen Firefighters. This bereavement camp is for children between the ages of 7 and 17 whose parent or step-parent died in the line of duty. The camp will be held Friday, June 8, through Sunday, June 10, at Camp Hanover in Mechanicsville, VA. The weekend of fun and structured activities provides children from across the country the opportunity to meet others in their age group with similar experiences. They will be able to share their stories, learn skills to cope with their loss, receive one-on-one support from a Big Buddy, and have time to reflect and remember their parents in a positive and nurturing environment.

The new camp also honors the memory of Hal Bruno, the late Chairman Emeritus of the NFFF's Board of Directors. "Hal was wholly dedicated to helping the survivors find the support and comfort they need as they rebuild their lives following the death of their firefighter," said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the NFFF. "For the Foundation to offer a fun and therapeutic camp just for the children of the fallen would make him very proud."

**Read:** The Full Article on FireHero.org - [http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/kidscamp\\_022212.html](http://www.firehero.org/news/2012/kidscamp_022212.html)

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

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

**Success Is No Accident!** - Group Seminar: Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6:00 p.m.

Location:

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

Course Outline:

**Pre-Interview Preparation:**

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

**Success During The Interview:**

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

**Post Interview:**

Put the final touches on your interview.

Don't delay register now!

To Get The Badge You Must Be Prepared.

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

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

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

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

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

Phone: 209.200.3257





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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

**Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC)** – *Indianapolis, IN* – April 16 through 21, 2012 - Go to [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com) for more information.

**Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* - July 17 through 21, 2012  
Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

**Fire Rescue International** – *Denver, CO* - August 1 through 4, 2012  
Go to [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri) for more information.

**Fire Shows Reno** – *Reno, NV* - October 23 through 25, 2012  
Go to [www.freshowsreno.com](http://www.freshowsreno.com) for more information.

**California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium** – *Fresno, CA* - November 12 through 16, 2012 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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**CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:**

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

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

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

**CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

**Southern California:**

626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**

526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

**Sacramento Area:**

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

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**FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name:	Jeremy Tighe
Rank:	Firefighter/EMT
Age:	18
Gender:	Male
Status:	Volunteer
Years of Service:	1
Date of Incident:	02/22/2012
Time of Incident:	2030
Date of Death:	02/22/2012
Fire Department:	McCutchanville Fire Department
Address:	9219 Petersburg RD, Evansville, IN 47725
Fire Department Chief:	Duane Halsema

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Tighe passed away from injuries sustained when the apparatus he was riding in was involved in a single motor vehicle accident. According to initial reports, the apparatus left the roadway onto the shoulder and tipped on its' side, striking a power utility pole causing extensive damage to the crew compartment, before coming to a final resting position in a drainage ditch. Firefighter Tighe was reported to have been wearing seat restraints. The driver of the apparatus, Lieutenant Brandon Cason, was taken to the hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries. The engine had cleared the scene of a residential carbon monoxide check, stopped for fuel, and was returning to the station when the incident occurred.

**Incident Location:** North St. Joe Avenue and Meier RD in Vanderburgh County, IN (USNG: 16S DH 47472 11033)

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

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

To date, 12 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Matt Waller  
Rank: Firefighter/Fire Marshal  
Age: 47  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 29  
Date of Incident: 02/16/2012  
Time of Incident: 1330hrs  
Date of Death: 02/25/2012  
Fire Department: Memphis Fire Department  
Address: 721 W Robertson ST, Memphis, TX 79245  
Fire Department Chief: Wiley Davis

**Incident Description:** Firefighter/Fire Marshal Waller passed away from a stroke he suffered while on-duty at the fire station.

**Incident Location:** 721 W Robertson ST, Memphis, TX 79245

**Funeral Arrangements:** Services will be at 1400hrs, 02/28/2012, at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Daniel Downey officiating. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery. Arrangements are by Hughs Funeral Home of Memphis.

([http://www.hughsfuneralhome.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=1406213&fh\\_id=10265](http://www.hughsfuneralhome.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=1406213&fh_id=10265))

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/Fire Marshal Matt Waller at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 13 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Gerald "Jerry" R. Wetherell  
Rank: Firefighter/EMT

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Age: 74  
Gender: Male  
Status: Paid-on-Call  
Years of Service: 35  
Date of Incident: 02/28/2012  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 02/28/2012  
Fire Department: Denton Township Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 289, Prudenville, MI 48651  
Fire Department Chief: Paul Tiepel

**Incident Description:** Firefighter/EMT Wetherell and another firefighter were responding, towing the fire department's snowmobile, to a motor vehicle accident in which the operator of a snowmobile had hit a tree. While responding, Firefighter/EMT Wetherell became unresponsive. He was transported, via ambulance, to the hospital in West Branch, Michigan, where he succumbed to his injury. The nature of this injury is yet to be reported.

**Incident Location:** Pending

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/EMT Gerald "Jerry" R. Wetherell at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 14 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Mark G. Ratledge  
Rank: Fire Captain  
Age: 35  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 9  
Date of Incident: 02/29/2012  
Time of Incident: 0610hrs  
Date of Death: 02/29/2012  
Fire Department: Cottonwood Fire Protection District  
Address: PO Box 618, 3271 Brush ST, Cottonwood, CA 96022  
Fire Department Chief: Calvin Ciapponi

**Incident Description:** Fire Captain Ratledge was struck and killed by a vehicle while working at the scene of a traffic collision on Interstate 5.

**Incident Location:** Southbound Interstate 5 near the Shasta Livestock Auction Yard.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending. Memorials may be made in honor of Captain Ratledge to the Mark Ratledge Memorial Fund, North Valley Bank, 20635 Gas Point RD, Cottonwood, CA 96022 (<http://novb.com/>).

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Captain Mark G. Ratledge at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

To date, 15 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Mark W. Morrison  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 53  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 25  
Date of Incident: 03/04/2012  
Time of Incident: 1749hrs  
Date of Death: 03/04/2012  
Fire Department: St. Lucie County Fire District  
Address: 5160 NW Milner DR, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34983  
Fire Department Chief: Ron Parrish

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Morrison passed away while in quarters from a cause still to be determined. During his shift, Morrison had responded to several emergency response calls. After fellow firefighters discovered him unconscious in the firehouse and immediately rendered aid, Morrison was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injury.

**Incident Location:** 480 SW Ravenswood LN, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34983

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Mark W. Morrison at

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

To date, 16 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Nolan "Goat" Pittman  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 45  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 25  
Date of Incident: 03/05/2012  
Time of Incident: 0317hrs  
Date of Death: 03/05/2012  
Fire Department: Centreville Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 578, 1 Municipal DR, Centreville, MS 39631  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** Chief Pittman fell ill while at the scene of a residential structure fire. Pittman went to the hospital and was ambulatory as he walked into the emergency room, but his condition worsened and he passed away a short time later from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 144 N Cosby ST, Centreville, MS

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Funeral Arrangements:** 03/10/2012 @ 1000hrs, Newman Funeral Home, 155 S Cosby ST, Centreville, MS.

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Nolan "Goat" Pittman at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 18 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name:	Thomas "Bill" Dillion
Rank:	Senior Captain
Age:	49
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	22
Date of Incident:	03/14/2012
Time of Incident:	0900hrs
Date of Death:	03/14/2012
Fire Department:	Houston Fire Department
Address:	1205 Dart ST, Houston, TX 77007-4223
Fire Department Chief:	Terry A. Garrison

**Incident Description:** Senior Captain Dillion arrived with other firefighters at the scene of a residential cooking fire. As he approached the entrance to the apartment building he experienced a medical emergency and collapsed. Dillion was treated immediately and transported to the West Houston Medical Center Hospital where he passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 7520 Cook Road, Houston, TX

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Senior Captain Thomas "Bill" Dillion at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 19 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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

**FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON GRAHAM – and [www.firefighterclosecalls.com](http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com)**

Hey,

It's still seen everyday. Firefighters operating in smoke conditions without masks. We saw it alot as younger firefighters in the early 70's, because we didn't know what we know today. We carried our SCBA's in boxes "for the bad ones"-only when needed. And we breathed the smoke-because back then, we **DID NOT KNOW** any better.

**And now we read that more than 40 Portsmouth (Virginia) Firefighters have died from cancer** - most after retiring from the department. At least 13 other retirees are survivors or are fighting the disease. Take a look at the below article-and then remember the carcinogen's "back in the day" were far LESS than what we deal with today. Those young Firefighters didn't develop cancers until they got old. How will today's "young" Firefighters do in less time - with all the "much more" nasty crap we work in these days? LOOK at what is burning in today's structures? Almost ALL petro chemical based-off gassing poison-MUCH worse than what the old timers had to breathe back in the day-and many of them now have cancer. **Cancer is often looked upon as not a big deal until you or a loved one gets it-and then it's an experience you wish and pray that you never ever had to deal with.**

**YO:**

-Don't breathe that crap-ever. Wear SCBA with zero tolerance for failure. Look-if the budget cutters and city hall dwellers took SCBA's out of the budget, we'd scream and yell about how our lives (and the public) are in danger-so then wear them - so at least we don't give them the ammunition.

-The "little bit of smoke"during overhaul is nasty-and sometimes nastier than when the fire is active.;

-Clean your gear. Seriously, get that soot and crap off of it.

-Clean your body. Ever notice that after a working fire, and you (hopefully) take a shower, how you can smell the smoke? Decon after every working fire.

Again, it seems like a bunch of over worry safety crap-until you have to deal with it. Avoid that experience as long as possible.

**AND SPEAKING OF AMMUNITION:**

HOW do we argue in favor of (or saving) CANCER and related presumptions when some of us don't wear the stuff they issue us? Remember this video? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxRJIOJqP3I>

**Remember the Tri-Data / National League Of Cities "report" ?**

<http://tinyurl.com/6q5y5b6>

<http://tinyurl.com/6s8hp93>

**HERE IS MORE ABOUT THE FORTY VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS:** <http://tinyurl.com/7bfb4cx>

**MORE ABOUT THE SMOKE WE WORK IN:**

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

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2010/08/extinguishing-ff-cancer.html>

<http://tinyurl.com/7fd5usq>

**Know a Firefighter or their family dealing with cancer? Contact:**

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

**RESPONDING CRASH IN MARYLAND**

Two people, including the Chief of the District Heights VFD of Prince George's County (MD), were hospitalized after being injured last night in a crash in Forestville that involved a county fire department vehicle. The Volunteer Chief was responding to an emergency around 1900, with the

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

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vehicle's lights and siren on and while crossing through the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Donnell Drive, a civilian vehicle collided with it. Both vehicles were heavily damaged in the crash, and may be totaled. The adult woman driver of the civilian vehicle was transported to a local hospital with injuries to her lower extremities. The volunteer chief, an adult male, also went to the hospital with pain and discomfort in his upper body. The person driving the fire department vehicle will undergo a post-crash screening as part of standard procedure. **Thanks to PGFD PIO Mark Brady for the details:**  
<http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com/>

#### **GOOD SAVE IN NEW YORK:**

**There are numerous lives saved daily by Firefighters at fires and emergencies. With all the negative press and quite often non-facts taking focus away from the good work that is done, we'll pass these on from time to time. Here is another one we wanted to pass along.** On Feb. 16 at 1315 hours, a resident came to East Meadow (Nassau County, Long Island, NY) Fire Station 3 in a desperate need for help. After a few knocks on the door, the person had fallen to the ground, an apparent victim of a heart attack. Seconds later, Ex-Captain John Schreiner Sr. of Ladder Co. 2 found the person and immediately called East Meadow Dispatch for help. With EMFD's tones now announcing the call for Rescues 4, 5, and ALS "fly car" 6199, the EMFD was now in motion and soon to be tested. Check out this story of a good save: <http://tinyurl.com/8ytkthk>  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-21-12 / 1035 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

After participating in a South Carolina remembrance ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of 9-11, a man who claimed to be an FDNY Firefighter, working on 9/11/01, has admitted to being a fraud. After being confronted, Jordan Liflander has admitted that he lied about being an FDNY Firefighter. Liflander wore what appeared to be an FDNY Firefighters "class A" uniform and displayed what appeared to be an FDNY Firefighter's helmet during a ceremony at Spartanburg's Wofford College last September 11 to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the murders. Liflander was the keynote speaker at the event in which thousands of people attended. After being "cornered", Liflander told the media was a member of two VFD's in New York state and claims to have assisted in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center. He claims that someone in NY saw an article about him and told other firefighters and it grew from there. Huh!? Other documents show that Liflander had claimed on several occasions that he is a retired FDNY firefighter. WTF!? When reached last night, one of the organizers of the event, Captain Allen Freeman of the Spartanburg County Detention Center apologized for not knowing about Liflander's lies. "All my intentions were honorable," Freeman said. "I didn't look into (Liflander's) background. I had no reason to doubt him. At the rehearsal he offered his NYC fireman's helmet, had the uniform, claimed to be a retired fireman. I take responsibility for that. I apologize to you and the citizens of Spartanburg County." Freeman said that he remembers Liflander shedding a tear during his speech at the service as he spoke about his 9-11 experiences. A shame. **HERE is more:** <http://tinyurl.com/6nokqh8>

#### **MISSING FIREFIGHTER**

Cops in Maine are looking for a missing Florida firefighter who hasn't been seen in almost a week. Jerry Perdomo, 31, of Orange City, Fla., drove a rental car from Florida to Bangor, where it was found abandoned on Friday morning in a Walmart parking lot. He was last seen wearing a back zip-up hooded sweat shirt, shorts and black sneakers. He is 5' 11", about 200 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. Perdomo is a Firefighter and EMT for Seminole County (Florida) who did not show up for



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

work as scheduled on Sunday. He was going to Maine to visit a friend. Information from the Bangor Daily News, <http://www.bangordailynews.com> More HERE: <http://bit.ly/xxRtqp>  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-22-12 / 1008 Hours

**AND:**

**INDIANA FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-APPARATUS CRASH**

It is with deep regret that we advise of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter Jeremy Tighe, 18, of the McCutchanville VFD near Evansville, Indiana. Along with FF Tighe, another FF was injured last evening after their apparatus was involved in a single vehicle crash. NOTE: FF Tighe was wearing his seat belt. 18-year-old FF Tighe died when the engine company he was a passenger ran off the road, partially overturned, very violently striking a utility pole. Lt. Brandon Cason, the driver, was not injured seriously in the crash. They were returning from a run when for a yet unknown reason their truck went off the side of the pavement around 2030 Hours. It occurred only about a half-mile from the McCutchanville station on North St. Joseph Avenue. The truck had responded to a request for a carbon monoxide check earlier in the evening, and the firefighters had called in available at 2001 hours. The preliminary investigation indicates that the truck left the roadway and onto the shoulder for unknown reasons. **FF Tighe had been on the department for about 18 months, and would have turned 19 years old today.** FF Tighe is the second McCutchanville Firefighter to die in the past 12 months. In April, 27-year-old Nathan Kuehne was found dead in a hot tub at a friend's house on Evansville's East Side. Our condolences to all affected. More details to follow.  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 2-23-12 / 0809 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,  
"Rules You Can Live By" will be the theme for the 2012 International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week, to be held June 17-23. Chiefs should consider suspending all non-emergency activity during Safety and Health Week to focus on safety and health training and education allowing all shifts, volunteer drill nights and all personnel to participate. An entire week is provided to ensure each member can spend at least one day focusing on these critical issues. Safety and Health Week is a collaborative program embraced by more than 20 national and international fire and emergency-service organizations and is coordinated by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section (SHS) and the NVFC's Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program. 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. "Firefighters die as a result of heart attacks and emergency incident operations," observed Battalion Chief Matthew Tobia, Chair of the SHS Section. "This program brings together the collective energies of two outstanding programs with a clear focus on reducing preventable line-of-duty deaths and injuries. I thank the NVFC for their willingness to partner on this most important initiative." The most noticeable change for fire and EMS departments is a new, user-friendly website dedicated exclusively to Safety and Health Week: [www.SafetyAndHealthWeek.org](http://www.SafetyAndHealthWeek.org).

The partnership will also enable both programs to continue to build important discussions and create connections that can save lives, such as: Increased dialogue and sharing of best practices between career, combination and volunteer departments Inclusion of components to address command issues Increased outreach to the fire and emergency service community beyond North America

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Begin your planning today. For more information visit [www.SafetyAndHealthWeek.org](http://www.SafetyAndHealthWeek.org) as well as [www.IAFC.org](http://www.IAFC.org)

**FIREFIGHTER FALL ON ICE-A "legal" Update**

The New Hampshire Supreme Court has reversed a judge's ruling that said a volunteer firefighter couldn't pursue a lawsuit against a homeowner after he fell and hurt himself on her icy driveway. The court, in a unanimous decision today, sent the case back to superior court. Jason Antosz, a volunteer firefighter with the Epping Fire Department, responded to a fire at Doree Allain's home in January 2008. He slipped and fell on her driveway. He and his wife sued Allain, saying it was unsafe. Allain argued that state law regarding firefighters' on-the-job injuries barred him from suing. The judge found in her favor. The court disagreed, noting that the plain language of the law permits Antosz to pursue the claim.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 2-24-12 / 1200 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A piece of fire apparatus was stolen early this evening in Beaufort, South Carolina. The Beaufort-Port Royal (Engine 5) was on a run at 1623 hours and it appears that someone (a citizen) got in the rig and took it for a ride while the crew was away from it. Details now indicate that there is one fatality, a pedestrian who was riding a bike that was struck by the stolen rig and the coroner has been called to the scene. The cops have the bad guy. We'll post updates on our homepage.

**RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS ROLLS IN NORTH CAROLINA**

An engine company flipped on its side while responding to a call in Cabarrus County (NC) this morning. The Georgeville pumper was responding to a call around 0800 when the driver lost control and ran off N.C. Highway 200. The driver lost control of the truck after hitting a bump which forced him to over correct and run off the road. No one was seriously hurt, but the Firefighter driving was taken to a local hospital to be checked. Photos on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-24-12 / 1732 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

At least 7 Firefighters from Prince George's County (Maryland) were injured and seriously burned this evening at a small single family 1 story dwelling fire in the Riverdale area. Initial reports are that the fire involved the basement and first floor, there may have been a flashover - but something went wrong - thankfully all Firefighters were able to escape. An EMS task force was called along with a medical helicopter as Firefighters suffered various injuries including serious burns requiring transport to Washington DC's MedStar burn unit. We'll post updates on our homepage. Keep'm in your prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-24-12 / 2217 hours

**AND:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Hey,

7 Prince George's County (Maryland) Firefighters were injured while operating at that house fire in Riverdale last night. The engine company from Riverdale and the truck company from Bladensburg were the first to arrive and had a 1-story, with a basement, single family dwelling with fire on both levels. Preliminary reports from PGFD PIO Mark Brady indicate that Firefighters had initiated an interior attack on the fire when a sudden rush of air, fanned by high winds, entered from the rear of the house either from a door or window being opened or broken out. The sudden addition of a large amount of fresh air into the fire environment created a "fire ball" inside engulfing the Firefighters. Firefighters did all they could do to escape the untenable conditions that consumed the dwellings interior. Commanders immediately called for additional resources by requesting an EMS Task Force and a Fire Task Force as well as ordering the evacuation of all personnel from the small dwelling.

Firefighters and EMS personnel treated and transported the members to the Burn Unit at the Washington Hospital Center. The injuries included burns, fractures and lacerations. Of the 7 Firefighters transported; 4, 3 from Riverdale and 1 from College Park have already been released. The most seriously injured Firefighters are 2 from Bladensburg Station #809 that were part of the first arriving truck company. Bladensburg Volunteer Firefighter #1 is listed in "Critical" condition suffering from burn injuries to his upper body. Bladensburg Volunteer Firefighter #2 is listed in "Serious" condition with 2nd and 3rd degree burns to 30% of his body. The 3rd firefighter who was admitted is from Riverdale Station #807. Riverdale Volunteer Firefighter #1 is hospitalized with fractured ribs. Dozens of fire service members as well as family and friends are with the injured firefighters at the Washington Hospital Center including Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor, Riverdale Volunteer Fire Chief Chucky Ryan (807) and Bladensburg Volunteer Chief Randy Kuenzli (809).

Note that while this was a vacant dwelling, Firefighters believed the house may have been occupied as there was a car was parked in the driveway. The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department will fully investigate this fire and review all aspects of the operations from a safety perspective. Updates to follow as the Firefighters recover.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-12 / 0309 hours

**AND:**

All,

Updates on the injured PGFD Firefighters are posted on our home page as well as HERE:

<http://pgfdpio.blogspot.com>

**INDIANA FF LODD FUNERAL:**

Funeral Services for McCutchanville Firefighter Jeremy Tigheare who was killed in that apparatus crash are scheduled for Monday morning 11-AM (CST), at the Christian Fellowship Church, 4100 Millersburgh Road, Evansville, IN. Visitation at the church will be from 2 until 7-PM on Sunday, and again Monday from 9-AM until services. All fire departments are welcome to attend and participate in any, or all of the services Plan on arriving at the church at least one hour before the funeral services. There will NOT be a procession of fire trucks due to burial in Ohio. However, fire trucks are more than welcome to be present at the church during the services and visitation hours.

Please email Evansville FireDept. Capt. Mike Kane, [michael.kane218@gmail.com](mailto:michael.kane218@gmail.com) with numbers of fire trucks and firefighters who plan on attending.

Firefighters will also be needed for casket watch honor guard. The detail will begin one half hour before visitation hours begin, and end one half hour after visitation. Again, all firefighters from

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all departments are welcome to participate. Uniform will be full dress, or class A. Again email our department contacts with numbers of firefighters wishing to participate. Sunday evening following visitation, there will be a ceremonial water curtain display outside the church. Again all fire departments and firefighters are invited to attend. For more information contact McCutchanville Fire Dept. Lt. Steve Gibson [stevegibson36@hotmail.com](mailto:stevegibson36@hotmail.com)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-12 / 1730 hours

**AND:**

**CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER STRUCK AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-STRUCK AT CRASH SITE**

We regret to advise you that a Cottonwood (Calif) Firefighter was struck and killed in the Line of Duty this morning. The incident occurred around 0600 on southbound Interstate 5 near the Shasta area. There were 3 separate crashes, originally, there was a solo spin out which both CHP and the Cottonwood Fire Protection District responded to. The weather was nasty, with hail and snow, although some lanes were plowed, the conditions made driving difficult and caused a second vehicle to lose control. After that second spin out, the driver of a black 2003 Chevy S10, Jered Shumaker, 31, tried to avoid running into yet another vehicle that had lost control. Shumaker rotated in a southwest direction and passed between (a parked CHP vehicle and the fire truck, 3 people were standing nearby, a CHP officer, a Firefighter and one of the passengers of an earlier wrecked vehicle, all were struck. All 3 victims were transported to Mercy Hospital where the Cottonwood firefighter was later pronounced dead. More to follow. RIP. Our condolences to all affected.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-29-12 / 1400 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

NIOSH has recently released the following Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Reports:

Lieutenant suffers a stroke following training and dies - New York

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201126.html>

Lieutenant suffers heart attack during physical fitness training and dies seven days later Vermont

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201125.html>

Captain collapses at a structure/grass fire and dies 9 days later Oklahoma

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201124.html>

Firefighter killed by exterior wall collapse during defensive operations at a commercial structure fire Illinois - <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201115.html>

Firefighter dies and 5 are injured during wildland urban interface fire Texas

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201109.html>

Firefighter killed, another seriously injured when struck by a vehicle while working at a grass fire along an interstate highway - South Carolina

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201036.html>

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Firefighter dies during attempted rescue of utility worker from a confined space - New York  
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201031.html>

#### **STAIR CLIMBING & FDNY**

This is an excellent story about how the NFFF STAIR CLIMBS helped, for example, the FDNY...as we get ready for the 2012 Stair Climbs. On December 13 the members of the 9-11 Stair Climb Committee got to meet with Commissioner (and veteran secret list member) Sal Cassano at The Rock, FDNY's Fire Academy. It really hit home for the group of NFFF and related Firefighters that the climbs were are a difference as the Commissioner explained how the money raised last year was saving important programs impacting firefighters and their families - in tight budget times - as the programs were on the chopping block without the Stair Climb money. Check out the article below that retired (and Director of Fire Programs for the NFFF) Chief Victor Stagnaro wrote for FireEngineering.com - CHECK OUT THE ARTICLE: <http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/02/911-memorial-stair-climbs.html>

SIGN UP FOR for the early climbs at FDIC and CFSI, it would be of great help.

FDIC on April 20 sign up <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1049354>

CFSI on April 25 sign up <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1062921>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-29-12 / 1200 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **TEXAS FF DIES FROM A STROKE WHILE IN QUARTERS - The Secret List**

FF/Fire Marshal Matt Waller the Memphis VFD in Memphis, TX. died last Saturday February 25th, after suffering a stroke at the fire station. Matt was 47 y/o and leaves behind a wife and 14 y/o son. The Funeral will be held at 1400 hours today at the 1st Baptist Church in Memphis with burial to follow. RIP.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA FF ON DUTY DEATH**

We regret to advise you that FF Chad Settlemyre, age 25, of the Sawmills Fire Rescue Department, Caldwell County Fire Station 40, died early Monday morning, February 27, 2012 after suffering a medical emergency while on a detail Sunday. He was treated and transported but Firefighter Settlemyre died at Frey Regional Medical Center in Hickory.

#### **ARKANSAS FF SERIOUS AFTER BEING STRUCK BY A TREE**

An injured Firefighter was transported to a Springfield hospital from the scene of a brush fire in Blue Eye, Southern Stone County, Arkansas. The firefighter was hospitalized yesterday after being struck by a falling tree. Crews responded just after 1800 to the reported brush fire and the second unit at the scene found the firefighter unconscious and incoherent on the ground. He was wearing his helmet and was treated and transported in serious but stable condition to a Springfield hospital.

#### **SCBA ISSUE UPDATE FROM GEORGIA**

The company that makes DeKalb County firefighters' air packs has offered to overhaul every device the county has, but officials say the offer can't convince the county to keep using the gear, which has malfunctioned from the first day, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution. Draeger Safety executives met with Fire Chief Edward O'Brien last week to discuss complaints about firefighter safety, including 22 "near misses" where the SCBA's either malfunctioned or failed during their first 18 months of use. In a letter dated Friday, the firm agreed to do the overhaul that O'Brien requested. It also said it would help the county set up a maintenance and training program for the packs. Draeger blames lack of maintenance for DeKalb having so many problems with the gear and expects the  
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county to pay an undetermined amount for the company's labor and travel. "Ultimately, the sustained success of this program is largely in the hands of DeKalb (fire department)," wrote Tim Martin, Draeger's vice president of safety and sales.

But what DeKalb wants in its hands, and on the backs of firefighters, is another brand of air pack. The fire chief and union officials both welcomed Draeger's offers - but only as a temporary fix until new air packs can be bought and put into use. O'Brien called for meetings yesterday with his top staff to figure out how the county will respond to Draeger's offer, but Richard Stogner, the county's chief executive officer, said the county is unlikely to agree to pay for additional maintenance as the firm wants. "This is the re-assurance to personnel that we are taking steps to address these problems, but we know the confidence is just not there to keep using this company." O'Brien told the AJC. On Tuesday, the Board of County Commissioners is expected to approve spending \$2 million in fire department rainy day money to buy 330 new devices. The county will look at several manufacturers, but not Draeger, and could have new gear in use by summer.

The county is also reviewing whether it will take any legal action against Draeger to try to recoup some of the \$2 million; money it feels forced to spend because of ongoing problems with the current devices. DeKalb bought the original Draeger packs in 2008 using a \$1.87 million federal grant but expected the gear to last at least 10 years, not four. It is the only major metro Atlanta department to use that brand. Records released by the fire department show said firefighters began having problems with the SCBA's almost immediately after it was used in the field in 2009. A fire captain wrote of an incident last fall in which his air pack failed during a house fire, which caused him to need treatment for smoke inhalation. Those incidents scared more than just other firefighters, said Nathan Leota, president of DeKalb Professional Firefighters Local 1492. "Even to family members, it's been big on their minds," Leota said. "It's a relief that the right thing is in motion now, so we can get this done and get on with our job." The Pittsburgh company, meanwhile, continues to stand by its product. Martin, who could not be reached Monday, said last week that the 22 malfunctions DeKalb reported their equipment was high. But, he described those problems as an anomaly, noting that Draeger has more than 1 million of the packs in use worldwide without problems. "The problems we're seeing with DeKalb do not appear to be typical," Martin said. "We know they are out there to save people's lives. We feel the same way."

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 2-28-12 / 0136 hours

**AND:**

**MICHIGAN FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH: Unresponsive While Responding**

We regret to advise you that Firefighter/EMT Wetherell, 74, of the Denton Twp (MI) FD died in the Line of Duty on 2-28-12. FF Wetherell and another Firefighter were responding, towing the fire department's snowmobile, to run crash where a snowmobile hit a tree. While responding, Firefighter/EMT Wetherell became unresponsive. He was transported, via ambulance, to the hospital in West Branch, Michigan, where he succumbed to his injury. Our condolences to all those affected. RIP.

**CLOSE CALL IN OKLAHOMA**

3 metro Firefighters are describing the moment a roof collapsed beneath them on Monday after they had put out a fire in Northwest Oklahoma City. OKC FF's Jimmy Poplin, Josh Percy and recruit Bo Woodard were on the second floor of the 10th Street flea market. They had been working the fire for about three hours and most of the fire was knocked. "All of the sudden the floor gave out from in

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under us, and we ended up on the first floor real quick," Percy said. "It all happened pretty quick. You're just along for the ride I guess," said Woodard. "It all goes back to your training and what you're trained to do," said Poplin. They say it is that **training** that kept them safe and left no room for fear. All three went to the hospital, but none have any serious injuries. Now, they are exactly where they want to be: back at work. MORE HERE: <http://www.koco.com/news/30578070/detail.html#ixzz1nu3E0PH0>  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-1-12 1600 Hours

**AND:**

**TWO FIREFIGHTER LODD's-Trauma in Wisconsin & Medical Emergency In Florida**

**WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTER DIES, OTHERS INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WORKING BUILDING FIRE / ROOF COLLAPSE**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter from the Colby (WI) FD was killed in the Line of Duty this afternoon-while on a mutual aid fire call. The fire was in the Abby Theater in Abbotsford and is reportedly a major loss-it started around noon. At some point during the operation, several Firefighters were injured when the roof collapsed. EMS units as well as a medical helicopter transported. The Firefighters were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield and 1 of the Firefighters has now succumbed to the injuries. We'll provide more as it becomes available and have posted video on our home page. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

**FLORIDA FIRE LIEUTENANT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY-FOUND BY CREWS**

A St Lucie County Fire District Fire Lieutenant has died while in quarters. It happened early this evening when Firefighters found Lieutenant Mark Morrison unresponsive. Members at Station 3 immediately began life saving efforts-but they could not save him. The Lieutenant was 53 years old and had 25 years on the job. We'll post more later. Our condolences to all affected. RIP

**COP ATTACKS FIREFIGHTERS WITH A KNIFE AND A GUN-SHOTS FIRED & FF's STABBED.**

A Virginia Beach Police Officer is in custody in Accomack County after he allegedly stabbed and shot at 2 Firefighters operating at a car crash that the man was involved in on Route 13. Fire and rescue companies responded to a 911 call for a car that had ran off the road and struck a tree around 0645 this morning. FF's were treating Bradley Colas, 23, of Virginia Beach, with injuries he sustained in the crash when he became irritated with fire and rescue personnel and he became combative. Colas began to fight with the Firefighters and stabbed 2 of them during the altercation. HOWEVER. the firefighters then fought back, striking Colas in the head, but then Colas pulled out a gun and began shooting at the Firefighters and Medics. Colas attempted to walk away from the scene but was stopped by Virginia State Troopers and was still holding the handgun when he was grabbed. Colas was taken to Eastern Shore Memorial Hospital where he is in custody and under medical observation.

**FRIDAYS TORNADO**

Our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of LSF D Firefighter/Paramedic Bill Adkins, from our own fire department, Loveland-Symmes. Bill lost his 58 year old Father (also named Bill) on Friday when the tornado came thru the southeastern area of Clermont County... and his Dad was tragically killed. The area struck is about 30 minutes just east of Cincinnati.

**MORE INFO ABOUT HIM AND THE TORNADO HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/74kc2qr>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-4-12 / 2032 Hours

**AND:**

All,

As you know, Fire Lieutenant Jamison N. Kampmeyer, 34, Colby, WI, died in the Line of Duty, on Sunday March 4, 2012, while fighting that fire at the Abbotsford Movie Theater. Lt Kampmeyer is survived by his wife, Amy Kampmeyer, Colby; children, Jack, Henry and Miles-and many other family members and friends.

**FUNERAL SERVICES**

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 9, 2012, at St Bernard's Catholic Church, Abbotsford. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery, Colby. Members of the Marathon County Sherriff's Department, Colby Volunteer Fire Department and the Marathon County Honor Guard will serve as pallbearers. Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 8, 2012, at St Bernard's Catholic Church, Abbotsford and on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until service time at the church.

**ABOUT LT. JAMISON KAMPMEYER (1977-2012)**

Jamison was born May 25, 1977, in Superior, the son of John and Patricia (White) Kampmeyer. He graduated from Colby High School and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he was also a member of the Phi-Sigma-Kappa Fraternity. Jamison then attended the Northcentral Technical College Police Recruit Academy. Lt. Jamison was united in marriage Oct. 20, 2001, to Amy E. Suckow at St Mary's Catholic Church in Colby. Jamison was currently a detective with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, where he was a S.W.A.T. team member and field training officer. Jamison represented the Sheriff's Department as a regional member of the Midwest Tactical Officers Association. He was also proud to be a member of the Marathon County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard. Jamison was a Lieutenant on the Colby Volunteer Fire Department where served as an EMT. Additionally, He was an Adjunct Defense & Arrest Tactics Instructor at NTC. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Colby. Hunting and fishing were some of Jamison's favorite pastimes. A memorial will be established in Jamison's memory for an educational fund for the children.

**CHARLESTON (SC) - COMMERCIAL BUILDING FIRE REPORT 2012**

As can happen at any fire, Charleston firefighters may have made a number of mistakes while operating at another large commercial fire just last year, but the Incident Commander's quick thinking (read: training) likely saved lives. That is among the conclusions reached in a final report on the March 1, 2011, Daniel Island fire released yesterday by the Charleston FD. The report was completed by an 8 member team consisting of firefighters from Charleston and area departments.

**The Report Identifies Issues Such As:**

- =The first due officer did not complete a size up.
- =The first crew to arrive went in with undersized hose lines, no backup companies, no thermal imaging camera and insufficient water supply.
- =The incident commander couldn't reach them because the first crew's captain forgot his radio.
- =Backup crews weren't sure where to go or what to do.
- =Confusion reigned as the building's truss roof collapsed in heavy fire.

Speaking to City Council's Public Safety Committee yesterday, Interim Fire Chief Frank Finley acknowledged the 'glaring similarities' between the two fires. And Deputy Fire Chief John Tippett noted the difficulties of 'trying to rewire' fire crews trained on older ways of firefighting. 'It's not out of the ordinary to have them revert to their last, best-known process,' Tippett said. Chiefs Tippett and Finley also stressed that the key difference between the two incidents was the outcome. No lives were lost on Daniel Island, and much credit goes to an incident commander who



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took decisive action to remove a crew that was inside the building just minutes before the roof went down. The report also points out the CFD took action within 48 hours of the fire to come up with a corrective plan to address identified shortcomings. Chiefs and firefighters received a 'lessons learned' briefing; all crews and commanders involved in the blaze underwent remedial training; and a program was created to even further check firefighters' skills on an annual basis. The Captain of the first crew on the scene that night was demoted to an entry-level firefighter's rank as a result of his actions during the fire. He is contesting that punishment. **HERE is more:**

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2012/mar/06/many-mistakes-2011-daniel-fire/>

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/17085047/fire-department-fixing-old-mistakes> (VIDEO)

#### **FIRE SERVICE RELATED WAR DEATH:**

WE REGRET to advise you that Major Robert Marchanti of the US Army National Guard was recently killed in Afghanistan while serving our country. Major Marchanti is the FATHER of BALTIMORE CITY FF Aaron Marchanti of Truck Company 1.

#### **PLEASE READ MORE HERE ABOUT THIS OUTSTANDING HERO:**

<http://dundalk.patch.com/articles/community-remembers-marchanti-as-a-gentle-giant#photo-9236899>

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-marchanti-fire-flag-20120228,0,6751413.story>

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-heroes-van-consolation-20120229,0,2671787.story>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-6-12 / 1053 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **MISSISSIPPI FIRE CHIEF LODD-Heart Attack At Structural Fire**

It is with deep regret that we report the Line of Duty Death of Chief Nolan Pittman of Centreville VFD in Wilkinson County. Chief Pittman died in the Line of Duty earlier this morning of an apparent heart attack while battling a structure fire in Wilkinson County. Chief Pittman, affectionately known as "Goat" by all his friends, will be greatly missed by his community. We will post arrangements as soon as possible.

#### **WISCONSIN FIREFIGHTER LODD UPDATE:**

**HERE are numerous arrival and pre-arrival photos of yesterdays tragic Wisconsin fire courtesy of Julie M. Miklaszewicz via Dave S:** <http://tinyurl.com/7ecsjtl>

Julie was on the scene of the Abby Theater fire in Abbotsford, Wisconsin on Sunday before the first fire companies arrived. She and her daughter were also on scene through the collapse that killed Colby FD Lt. Jamison Kampmeyer and injured the other firefighters. Julie has provided us the OK to use these photos and has many more pictures from the fire on her Facebook page. She will also be posting video that we'll share with you later. **Here is Julies website:** [www.rvingoutpost.com](http://www.rvingoutpost.com)

**UPDATE:** The Lieutenant who died fighting a fire in Abbotsford was also a Marathon County Sheriff's Deputy. Deputy Sheriff Jamison Kampmeyer (functioning as a Colby Volunteer Firefighter) and two other firefighters were trapped inside Abby Theatre yesterday as they were fighting the fire. Kampmeyer died in the Line of Duty; the two others were treated and released. FF Kampmeyer worked for the Marathon County Sheriff's Department since April, 2004. He has three kids, the youngest being 4-months-old. The Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are investigating the fire scene for a cause. The DCI is involved any time there is a fire-related death. There is no fixed timeline for the investigation. More to follow.

#### **RESPONDING FATAL FIRE APPARATUS CRASH TRIAL**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

A Mississauga (Canada) mother was stopped at a red light and properly proceeded into the intersection as she had a green light when her car was struck by a responding fire truck that ultimately killed her, a court heard today. MFD Firefighter Jarrett Johns, 36, of Toronto, who was driving the apparatus that tragically struck Kimberley Schulz's car and that FF is accused of running a red light in the March 6, 2011 fatal crash. FF Johns pleaded not guilty this morning.

Nataliya Dzikh, who was a passenger in another vehicle that was part of the crash, said she and her husband, Bogdan, were stopped at a red light beside Schulz's car on Belgrave Rd. when the light turned green and both cars went through the intersection at Britannia Rd. Dzikh said her husband, who was driving, "started screaming" as the apparatus came into the intersection. The truck hit Schulz's car, which then careened into the Dzikh car. "I heard this giant force," Nataliya said while being questioned by prosecutor Sandra Martins. Neither Nataliya nor her husband heard the truck's sirens. Bogdan said the crash was devastating and impacted their lives. "It was a very tense situation," he testified in the trial before Justice of the Peace Hilda Weiss. "My wife was breaking down crying all the time. It was a shock for us what happened." Earlier today, Firefighters Tom Dejak and Tom Gojak also testified as Crown witnesses. **Ms. Schulz, 42, who comes from a family of firefighters, was returning home after playing hockey at York University when she was killed in the crash, which occurred a few minutes before noon on a Sunday. According to Police, the truck had its lights and sirens activated, as it was responding to a nearby crash.** Schulz, known to her husband and friends as "Blondie," was only steps away from fashion retailer Nygard, where she had worked part-time as a sales associate for about a year, when the crash occurred. She worked full-time for a Vaughan filtration company. **Police said at the time that the traffic light sensor system, which changes lights for oncoming emergency vehicles, was activated. By law, a fire truck en route to a call must come to a complete stop at a red light before proceeding.** Police charged FF Johns under the Highway Traffic Act. If convicted, he faces a fine of up to \$1,000. Schulz's family members, including her husband Rob and 20-year-old son Adam, attended court today. Some broke down crying during testimony. The trial continues this afternoon.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-5-12 / 1400 Hours

**AND:**

**All,**

While not a Line of Duty death, on Tuesday February 28th, Harveyville, Kansas was struck by an EF-2 tornado. The one fatality of that storm was Richard Slade who was a Volunteer Firefighter with Waubunsee County Fire District #3 in Harveyville. Richard was the father of Emporia, Kansas Firefighter Matt Slade as well as brother in law to Harveyville Fire Chief Bob Carrier and Burlingame, Kansas Fire Chief Jim Strohm. Richard was trapped under his house when it was moved off its foundation and pinned him underneath the structure. Topeka Fire Departments Technical Rescue Team removed FF Slade from his home and he was transported to a Topeka Hospital where he later died. Numerous Shawnee, Osage, Lyon, and Waubunsee County fire departments aided in the search of the community as well. In light of the past weeks other tornado's and related weather, we wanted to pass this on. Our condolences to all affected. RIP.

**HERE are related links.**

<http://www.emporiagazette.com/news/2012/mar/01/harveyville-victim-dies/>

<http://www.kctv5.com/story/17057532/clean-up-continues-in-harveyville-after-tornado-community-grieves>

<http://m.cjonline.com/news/2012-03-01/widow-tornado-moved-house-trapped-husband#.T1VqLnmYQWo>

## **NURSING HOME METH LAB FIRE KILLS ONE**

We NEVER know what's "in there" when responding on a run...and here is another WTF example from Ohio - where a drug lab in the room of a nursing home resident caused a fire that killed one person and injured 6 others. Ashtabula Fire Chief Ron Pristera says the man died today, following last night's fire at Park Haven Nursing Home. He says the lab was making methamphetamine. Chief Pristera says the man was among three residents and two non-residents hospitalized. Two others were treated at the scene. **A lawyer for the nursing home declined comment.** Say it isn't so. Auditor's records show it was built in 1950 and had 31 rooms. Pristera says 39 names were on its roster. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive illegal stimulant often cooked in homes with flammable components. State officials say more than 300 meth labs were broken up in 2011. **Another example of the IMPORTANCE of WTF: Well Trained Firefighters.**

**HERE are TRAINING LINKS** from the USFA, Fire Engineering and Livonia (MI) FD Training (numerous details and excellent links)

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2010/10/meth-labs.html>

[www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo35465.pdf](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/pdf/efop/efo35465.pdf)

[http://www.livoniafirefighters.com/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/view\\_article.cfm&homeID=159326](http://www.livoniafirefighters.com/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/view_article.cfm&homeID=159326)

## **REMEMBERING JOEY D:**

On Saturday, the Setauket (Long Island, NY) FD unveiled a beautiful plaque on its Rescue 6 truck installed in memory of longtime member Joseph DiBernardo Jr., who died in November. Joey was "instrumental in designing, equipping, and operating" the volunteer FD's Rescue 6 truck, which is a cornerstone of the its technical rescue team. "Joey D" DiBernardo joined the FDNY in 1995 and was a Firefighter with Rescue 3 in the Bronx, which responded to the apartment building fire on Jan. 23, 2005 that would become known as the "Black Sunday" fire. He retired as a Lieutenant from the FDNY in 2006 after being severely injured that day, and continued to be a supporter of the Setauket FD and Fire Instructor. DiBernardo, a longtime Stony Brook resident, died last Nov. 22 at his home. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-5-12 / 2156 Hours

## **AND:**

Hey,

As the saga involving the proper lettering of DCFD clothing (personal or issued) continues, and now it's been discovered that fire-resistant shirts were sitting in storage last year when those 5 DCFD Firefighters were injured during a two-alarm blaze. The reason the shirts were in storage rather than on firefighters? Why naturally because the clothing didn't have the correct DC FEMS lettering and logos, FEMS Chief Kenneth Ellerbe finally admitted at a hearing today. They were held because of the logo and it's a polo shirt [so it's] not a uniform shirt," Ellerbe said at today's D.C. Council Judiciary Committee performance hearing. Photos taken last month and obtained by The Washington Examiner show the uniforms still sitting in storage, and sources say they are from an order placed in October 2010 to be filled by January 2011. In total, 1,750 shirts costing the city \$68,250 have been sitting in boxes for more than a year. Ed Smith, president of the DCFD Firefighters union, told The Examiner that the shirts might have made a difference last year for five men who were sent to the hospital during last April's house fire in the Deanwood neighborhood. 3 of the men were in serious condition and a fourth was in critical condition after a roof collapsed on them, creating a superheated environment. None of the men had the fire-resistant clothes on underneath their PPE, Smith said. "[The polos] certainly could have offered better protection for those men than they did sitting on a shelf because of a logo issue," he said.

At-Large Councilman and Committee Chairman Phil Mendelson, chastised Ellerbe for not telling him about the uniforms. "Every time I've asked -- up to this week -- you've said there were none," he said, adding later, "This has been a big rumor and there's been a lot of complaints about it." All five firefighters are now back on duty, but the department still waits for bidding to close on a new request for fire-resistant shirts. The earliest the shirts could arrive to firehouses would be in mid-June, according to testimony. A spokesman for Ellerbe did not respond to a request for comment. Mayor Vincent C. Gray offered a vote of confidence to FEMS Chief Ellerbe today. Mr. Gray said Chief Ellerbe remains a qualified pick for the top post of DC FEMS based on his extensive knowledge of the agency's duties and operations. I think that Chief Ellerbe has done an exceptional job as fire chief, Mr. Gray said.

HERE is more about today's hearing: <http://tinyurl.com/7kpgexx>  
AND HERE Is More News From Dave S About FEMS: <http://tinyurl.com/84oeaas>

### **WORCESTER FF LODD FOLLOWUP:**

WFC FF Brian Carroll was honored for his bravery in Worcester today after he was seriously injured in a December fire that took the life of his friend and fellow Firefighter Jon Davies. The first five minutes was absolute hell, said Carroll, speaking out for the first time since the deadly fire. Carroll and his partner, the late Jon Davies, were among the Worcester firefighters that arrived on Arlington Street last December. They were trapped after a portion of the burning building collapsed on them while they were searching for a possible victim. Carroll was injured, Davies was killed in the Line of Duty. MORE HERE: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12006885238141/firefighter-honored-as-he-remembers-his-fallen-friend/#ixzz1oU8boGq0>

### **FEMA GRANT CHANGES?**

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security reviewed the FY2013 Budget for the Federal Emergency Management Agency this morning. FEMA Director Craig Fugate testified. The \$13.5 billion request is \$364.2 million below the FY2012 FEMA budget. The request focuses on ensuring resilience to disasters and funds state and local programs at \$2.9 billion, which is about \$500 million more than was appropriated in FY2012. It proposes a new homeland security grants program to support national preparedness and response. President Obama's fiscal 2013 budget request calls for folding 16 grant programs into a single, \$1.5 billion account. The administration has said the plan aims to address long-held congressional concerns about a confusing system of overlapping programs, which can result in duplicate spending. The proposed consolidated system would have tighter deadlines for spending grant money and is aimed at helping to avoid adding to the roughly \$8 billion backlog in grants that have been awarded over the years but not used by their recipients, according to budget documents.

The administration's plan has drawn concerns from both FEMA's appropriations and authorization overseers in Congress. Lawmakers have not focused as much on the funding total the consolidated program would actually provide about \$424 million more than the 16 programs received in fiscal 2012 as the idea that certain programs or localities could be shortchanged if they end up in a larger pool of grant applicants. Fugate told the subcommittee Wednesday that he was aware of the concerns, but he said the traditional system of keeping separate pots of grant money encouraged piecemeal preparedness, rather than the development of a nationwide system. There are serious trust issues among federal, state and local response agencies, Fugate said, and FEMA is looking to use unified grant funding as a way to push them toward better cooperation. I know this isn't going to go over well, he said. But you pay me the public pays me to be honest, not to say what people want. Several subcommittee members seemed to not be hearing what they wanted at the hearing. New York Democrat Nita M. Lowey said FEMA's plan to roll the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), worth

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

\$532 million in fiscal 2012, into the consolidated grant program doesn't make any sense to me at all. Fugate said that for UASI, as with many of the grant programs, FEMA will retain much of the same structure for evaluating and awarding grants. Lot's more at Google.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-12 / 2032 Hours

**AND:**

All,

While the mission of the Secret List is to focus on issues directly related to Firefighter survival, most often sad and tragic, once in a while we pass on related "good stuff". In this case, it's an example of how, especially in these tough times, in some places, the love between a boss and those they lead is possible and very much alive and well. Thanks to the many of you for sending this link of the radio traffic audio of "2-1-3"- Chicago Fire Commissioner Bob Hoff, signing off the air and out of service (telegraph signal 3-3-2-4). Bob has always been a "firefighters firefighter" from beginning to end, and dedicated his life to the safety of every Firefighter and Paramedic in Chicago - and the entire fire service everywhere. If you met him once, you made a friend and Brother forever. God Bless Bob and his family and the best of luck to him in his new career as Deputy Chief of Carol Stream, Illinois-along with HIS new boss, Rick K!

Enjoy this clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wx0NUZLdmeY&feature=share>

AND if you have not had time to watch "Chicago FD-Everyone Goes Home"-check this outstanding NFFF video out now: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODww1qwSuE>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-8-12 / 0824 Hours

**AND:**

**TEXAS FF LODD-Medical At Bldg Fire**

A Houston Fire Officer apparently suffering a fatal heart attack in the Line of Duty this morning while operating at a fire southwest Houston. The fire, which was burning inside a unit at an apartment complex, was quickly knocked down. But at some point, the Senior Fire Captain suffered a heart attack and was transported to West Houston Medical Center where the member was pronounced. Our condolences to all affected. More to follow. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-12 1138 Hours

**AND:**

All,

The Colorado Professional Fire Fighters Association have advised us of the death of one of their own.

**Aurora Fire Department Engineer Jason Murphy** was riding his bicycle to work this morning when he was struck by a vehicle. He was transported to the hospital where he tragically succumbed to his injuries. Our sincere condolences to all affected-RIP. **MORE HERE:** [www.cpf.org](http://www.cpf.org)

**OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTER IS "BACK IN THE SADDLE"**

A working house fire this morning was an injured Tulsa Firefighter's first fire since returning to work. FF James O'Neal, who was injured in that arson Dec. 31 and returned to work in February. Today's 0430 hours fire destroyed a long-vacant house. O'Neal was part of a crew that entered the house this

morning but backed out when fire conditions got worse. Companies operated outside when they learned that the house was vacant and no one was inside. O'Neal, who has been a Tulsa firefighter for nearly 14 years, is part of Engine 19. He was unconscious and not breathing when fellow firefighters rescued him from that burning house Dec. 31. FF O'Neal took in smoke when there was a yet undetermined problem with his SCBA during a similar interior attack in a house.

Glad he's doing well. PREVIOUS: <http://tinyurl.com/72cfnr5>

## **LINE OF DUTY DEATH LAWSUIT**

### **NTSB: "Everyone responsible IS responsible"**

Lawyers offered opposing reasons this week for why a helicopter crashed in August 2008 in California, killing 9 Firefighters. Why? It was either a well-known engine flaw or an overloaded craft.

**The crash, known as the Iron 44 incident, is considered the deadliest air tragedy of working firefighters in U.S. history. In December 2010, the NTSB said the crash was the result of a cascade of failures by virtually everyone involved in assuring a safe flight.** The jury is expected to begin deliberations Thursday in the case in Multnomah County (OR) Circuit Court.

**GE knew for at least 6 years there were problems with a fuel control valve in the commercial engines the company built for Sikorsky N-61 helicopters, said the plaintiffs' attorney Greg Anderson. The valve failed in the Sikorsky that was carrying the firefighters, shutting power to one of its two engines, he said.** Lawyers argued about the helicopter crash in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest that killed nine of the 13 men aboard. "GE knew about the problem and they had a history of knowing," Anderson told jurors. He showed them internal GE emails documenting the company's awareness, including emails to helicopter companies operating the aircraft and to Sikorsky, the helicopter manufacturer. GE told them the problem was a service issue, and not a problem with the engine's design. "They played the issue like a service issue, but it was something much more," Anderson said. "They rolled the dice and people died."

**But GE attorney Kevin Smith said the crash was caused because the helicopter was more than 1,400 pounds overweight at takeoff, and that the pilots were relying on inadequate weight data and inadequate power data of the helicopter's lift capacity provided to them by Grants Pass-based Carson Helicopters, which owned and operated a firefighting helicopter.** The National Transportation Safety Board concluded that the helicopter weighed 19,008 pounds at takeoff, which was actually 3,168 pounds heavier than recommended for safe flight. Smith said investigators found that the helicopter was at full power when it hit the first tree and remained at full power when it hit a second tree based on sound spectrum analysis from cockpit recorders. "It was overweight and it clipped a tree and lost a blade tip" from the main rotor, Smith said. "This crash had nothing to do with the engines."

Killed in the Line of Duty were Schwanenberg, 54, of Lostine; 63-year-old Jim Ramage, a forest service employee from Redding, Calif.; Shawn Blazer, 30, of Medford; Scott Charlson, 25, of Phoenix, Ore.; Matthew Hammer, 23, of Grants Pass; Edrik Gomez, 19, of Ashland; Bryan Rich, 29, of Medford; David Steele, 19, of Ashland; and Steven "Caleb" Renno, 21, of Cave Junction. Injured were Coultas of Cave Junction; Richard Schroeder Jr., of Medford; Jonathan Frohreich of Medford; and Michael Brown of Rogue River. The families of eight men who were killed and three who were injured reached out-of-court settlements with three of five defendants in multiple lawsuits filed after the crash, including Carson Helicopters and Sikorsky. In December 2010, the NTSB said the crash was the result of a cascade of failures by virtually everyone involved in assuring a safe flight. **The problem, the NTSB inquiry found, "was compounded by pilots who failed to account for the helicopter operating at the limit of its performance."** RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-16-12 / 2047 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**Shots were fired at 2 Dallas Firehouses this week.**

In the latest incident, a 37 year old Dallas firefighter was arrested yesterday afternoon for shooting a gun in the firehouse. Apparently last week that FF brought semi-automatic handgun to the station on his day off and was waving the weapon around pointing it at the other Firefighters. Word is he pulled the trigger several times, but only one bullet fired. The other Firefighters took cover and no one was hurt. The cops had been looking for the FF deadly conduct charges. He was arrested just before 1700 outside his home in Irving. He was still wearing a Dallas Fire Rescue t-shirt. He's has been placed on paid administrative leave. A DFR internal affairs investigation will be conducted alongside the criminal investigation. DFR hopes to find out what happened to the 8-year veteran. "If there's something going on in his personal life, we want to use our resources that we have available to us as the city of Dallas and fire department to help make the situation better," said Lt. Joel Lavender, a DFR spokesman...an outstanding response by DFR. **AND there was another shooting** at Dallas Fire Station 1 on Tuesday. That was a drive-by shooting and two bullets pierced the garage doors. No one was hurt. Police are not saying if they believe the two cases are related. DFR said it's unlikely, but it is waiting for ballistics test results.

**WHO TRAINS YOUR FIREFIGHTERS & EMT'S?**

A training course that Kenner (Louisiana) firefighters took last summer was not state-certified, leaving some without EMS certification. "We're working with the state to resolve the issue," said Michael Guillot, director of EMS for East Jefferson General Hospital. "Kenner firefighters are well-prepared. They're certainly well-trained." Guillot admitted to the council that he "dropped the ball" on the first-responder refresher course given to all Firefighters last May and June. One problem with the course, he said, is that he didn't get a course number from the state for the class. Therefore, he couldn't get the state-issued first-responder cards for each firefighter "because the class never did exist in the eyes of the state." Also, the instructor of the course was not credentialed with the state as a first responder instructor. He said the woman, a critical care nurse and former paramedic is a "well-credentialed instructor, certainly qualified" but that she wasn't listed with the state Bureau of EMS as an instructor.

**While it seems that this issue is easily resolved-it again brings up the issue of KNOWING who is training-and who is responsible to INSURE your firefighters are well trained-and if they are being taught what the department, and the Chief want them to be trained in. RELATED READING:** <http://www.iafc.org/Operations/LegacyArticleDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=4487>

**RESPONDING FIRE TANKER ROLLOVER IN ARKANSAS  
(DOWNLOAD THIS TRAINING MANUAL)**

Arkansas State Police say the fire chief in Pea Ridge rolled a tanker truck while rounding a curve when on the way to a fire. The crash resulted in Fire Chief Frank Rizzio being given a written warning by a state trooper. Chief Rizzio was driving the county-owned, 4,000-gallon tanker on U.S. 62 and rolled it onto its right side when turning. Chief Rizzio was treated and released at a hospital. The warning was for failure to maintain control. **HERE IS THE USFA training document: Safe Operations of Fire Tankers:** <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-248.pdf>

The above manual provides excellent information regarding the safety practices and principles of fire tanker vehicles for fire departments. Safe Operation of Fire Tankers provides information related to human performance (driver training, operations, etc), technology (vehicle design), to enhance the

safety of fire tanker operations. The manual also examines past incidents of crashes involving fire tankers that have **killed Firefighters** with a focus on how these fatalities could have been prevented. Fire departments will find Safe Operation of Fire Tankers a valuable resource providing information related to the current and applicable federal standards and regulations as well as national-level consensus standards and guidelines.

**"MAYDAY COMMAND"**

**A NEW "ONCE A MONTH" FIRE FIGHTER SURVIVAL PODCAST WELL WORTH CHECKING OUT:**

In a 3-way partnership, aimed at raising awareness Firefighter survival, the IAFC's Safety, Health & Survival Section (SHS), the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System and the International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI) have come together to launch a monthly podcast. The After Action podcast series leverages data, discussions and expertise to identify topics that are timely and relevant to the fire service. Driven by a needs assessment of Firefighter survival issues, the podcast topics address issues directly affecting all of us.

**===MAYDAY COMMAND: The first podcast, on the topic of Mayday Command, is now available for download HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/87yl77v>**

In the above program, Deputy Chief Ed Nied, Tucson FD, discusses the command component of the **IAFF's Fire Ground Survival program**. THIS OUTSTANDING COURSE can be taken by any Firefighter, career, volunteer-whatever-at no cost due to the efforts of the IAFF & USFA.

**HERE is more: <http://www.iaff.org/hs/fgs/fgsindex.htm>**

The monthly podcasts will be moderated by IAFC SHS board member and Broward County, Fla., Assistant Chief Todd LeDuc. They will typically be 30-minute dialogues with preselected fire service industry experts and Firefighter survival advocates. The podcasts will be posted HERE:

[www.IAFCSafety.org](http://www.IAFCSafety.org) (the link is on the left side, under the section logo). It is also available for viewing on the National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System ([www.firefighternearmiss.com](http://www.firefighternearmiss.com)) and ISFSI ([www.ISFSI.org](http://www.ISFSI.org)) websites. Links to the podcast will also be available through a number of other national media outlets and organizations, including [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com), FIRE CHIEF magazine ([www.firechief.com](http://www.firechief.com)), [www.FirefighterNation.com](http://www.FirefighterNation.com), and [www.EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://www.EveryoneGoesHome.com).

**Be sure to check the podcast out.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-16-12 / 1143 Hours

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

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

**Budget Related Items:**

There's another round of budget cuts for the newly consolidated Truckee Meadows (NV) Fire Protection District. After lower than expected tax revenue, Washoe County commissions are slashing the number of battalion chiefs for the program from six to three - that saves about half-a-million dollars annually:

<http://www.mynews4.com/mostpopular/story/Fire-Reno/6tklCo67UUuWP-GDCtwkqw.csp>



Santa Ana's (CA) City Council voted Tuesday night to outsource firefighting services to the Orange County Fire Authority, bringing the city's 128-year-old fire department to an end. The move will help the city close a budget deficit estimated at about \$30 million, while keeping all 10 of the city's fire stations open. The OCFA will absorb the city's 192 firefighters and 12 non-sworn personnel when it takes over providing service in Santa Ana on April 20. Chris Roelle, president of the Santa Ana firefighter's union, said his members support the move. While some of them will take a pay cut at OCFA, they avoid the possibility of big layoffs if they had stayed with the city. "The proposed contract with the Orange County Fire Authority keeps our city fire stations open, provides enhanced paramedic services, provides our residents and business community with excellent service, and saves the jobs of firefighters," he said. The city will pay about \$33.7 million to the OCFA in the first year of an eight-year agreement. The city expects to save between \$8.7 million and \$10 million per year. The savings would come partly from reducing the number of firefighters on duty at any one time from a current minimum of 63 to 48: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/city-341363-santa-ocfa.html>

Saying he knows the proposal will be controversial, the president of Charleston (WV) City Council wants to see police officers cross-trained to fight fires. Tom Lane, an at-large Republican, said the measure could help save money in the fire and police departments, both of which are strapped by ballooning pension liabilities. Council already has eliminated 10 vacant positions on the police force, bringing the total number of positions to 163. City leaders expect that move to save about \$380,000 annually. Over the past year, the fire department staff has been reduced by 27 positions, bringing the current number to 171. Because all of the positions were either vacant or eliminated through attrition, no firefighters lost their jobs. The most recent round of cuts to the fire department is expected to save \$505,000 annually. All of the funds saved will be applied to the massive \$258 million unfunded liabilities of the police and fire department pension plans: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/1242259-W-Va-official-Cross-training-cops-to-fight-fires-would-help-save-money/>

Beleaguered Stockton is the first California city to test a new union-backed law aimed at protecting public employee contracts by making it harder for municipalities to file bankruptcy. Stockton is trying to avoid becoming the most populous U.S. city in modern times to seek Chapter 9 protection by moving this week to participate in a 60-day evaluation process with its bond holders, creditors, employee unions and retirees. Stockton, a city of more than 290,000 people 50 miles south of the state capital, was hit hard by the recession and foreclosures, forcing it to make deep cuts to police and other services. It has a combined \$15 million deficit, a little more than 9 percent of the city's \$165 million annual general fund. The deficit could double in the next fiscal year: [http://www.marinij.com/ci\\_20074856](http://www.marinij.com/ci_20074856)

Supporting CalPERS could cost the state an additional \$425 million a year under a plan the pension fund is considering this week. The extra cost would bring the total annual contribution to CalPERS from the state's general fund to more than \$3.9 billion. That would likely intensify the political debate over pension reform at a time when the state is wrestling with a \$9.2 billion deficit. CalPERS is considering lowering its annual investment forecast by a half point, to 7.25 percent. That would increase the state's total contribution to CalPERS by \$772 million, although much of that would come from "special funds." The net impact on the general fund would be \$425 million, according to figures CalPERS released today. School districts, which use CalPERS to cover employees other than teachers, would see their contributions rise by \$339 million. Figures for cities and counties weren't available. CalPERS is wary of increasing the burdens at taxpayers, given budget realities and the calls by Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown and Republican lawmakers to reduce pension costs: <http://www.fresnobee.com/2012/03/12/2757647/deficit-could-grow-if-calpers.html>

Kansas City (MO) Fire Chief Richard “Smokey” Dyer will likely have to cut at least 105 firefighter jobs to slash \$7.6 million from the fire department's budget. He also is considering combining the crews of pumper and ladder trucks, reducing the number of firefighters on technical rescue crews and closing one fire station. But the department will still fall \$6 million short of the goal requested by the city manager: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1246255-Kansas-City-chief-must-cut-100-fire-jobs/>

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**Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:**

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

Pension reform - San Jose police, firefighters' unions sue city over pension disclosure issues. Mayor calls suit 'political trick to distract voters from fact pension costs have tripled in San Jose (CA). In the latest salvo in a battle over San Jose employee pension reform plans, a lawyer for three unions has filed a complaint against Mayor Chuck Reed and the city with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The complaint was filed Monday by Christopher Platten, a lawyer for the San Jose Police Officers' Association, San Jose Firefighters Local 230, and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 21. It alleges that documents for the sales of two city revenue bond series in 2011 failed to disclose that Reed has estimated that pensions could cost San Jose up to \$650 million per year in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The complaint asks the federal agency to investigate the alleged failure to disclose and "take appropriate remedial action." Tom Saggau, a consultant for the unions, said the union members believe the actual cost of funding pensions in 2015-16 will be much lower -- \$308 million: [http://www.pleasantonweekly.com/news/show\\_story.php?id=8794](http://www.pleasantonweekly.com/news/show_story.php?id=8794)

A Brooklyn (NY) federal judge yesterday moved toward appointing a special team of lawyers to help him award as much as \$65 million to minority firefighter applicants who were the victims of departmental discrimination. Judge Nicholas Garaufis issued an order asking all parties involved in the US Justice Department’s civil-rights suit against the FDNY to submit names of lawyers — called “special masters” because they are appointed by the court — who they want to adjudicate the discrimination claims. Thousands of minorities who took the firefighter exam and were not hired “due to the city’s discriminatory practices” could be eligible to collect after proving they suffered economic losses, Justice Department lawyers wrote yesterday to the judge. The potential financial hit to the city is estimated at up to \$65 million. The city has been under court order to boost the hiring, training, and promotions of minorities in the 11,000-person Fire Department, which is overwhelmingly white, since Garaufis last year found a “pattern and practice of discrimination against black firefighter candidates.” [http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/fdny\\_bias\\_tab\\_0170NPRCi5hS2kZ5zpYQ3O](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/brooklyn/fdny_bias_tab_0170NPRCi5hS2kZ5zpYQ3O)

Authorities report they have broken up an illegal gambling operation in Batavia (NY) that was being run by three men, including two city firefighters. The firefighters allegedly involved were possibly accepting bookmaking calls on their mobile phones while on duty at the city fire hall, Maha said. Firefighter Gregory Phillips, 39, of Belvedere Lane, was also charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, 7th, after investigators allegedly found a small amount of cocaine during a search of his residence. The other city firefighter charged was Brian Bordinaro, 43, of Prospect Avenue: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1242289-2-firefighters-arrested-for-running-gambling-operation/>

The headline of one Daily News & Analysis reads "Bangalore (India) fire department commits murder during drill". As you might imagine there is outrage over a drill conducted on Friday at a garment factory. The woman was apparently following fire department instructions when she tried to lower herself from a rope third floor of the building. The Fire department admitted to the lapses on their side after a 22-year-old woman died in the fire mock drill conducted in Bangalore on Friday: <http://statter911.com/2012/02/25/a-most-unusual-story-fire-department-admits-errors-in-fire-drill-where-woman-died-rope-snaps-as-woman-escapes-window-of-factory-in-bangalore/>

The first assistant chief of the Malta Ridge (NY) Volunteer Fire Co. was charged with driving while intoxicated after he struck an oncoming vehicle and fled the scene in a fire department truck he was driving, according to Glenville police. At 7:17 p.m. Feb. 17, Michael F. Minervini, 40, of Ballston Spa, crossed over the center lane of Freemans Bridge Road, sideswiped a vehicle with three occupants and took off from the scene, according to police records: [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10635035/ny-fire-officer-charged-with-dwi-while-in-dept-truck?cmpid=email\\_CPS120223003&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120223003](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10635035/ny-fire-officer-charged-with-dwi-while-in-dept-truck?cmpid=email_CPS120223003&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120223003)

The New York Post has a story about a confrontation at a tutoring workshop in Queens last night put on by the Vulcan Society for those who are interested in taking the FDNY entrance exam. Police had to be called after tempers flared when a group of about 60 people who are white tried to take part in the workshop and were denied entrance. A volunteer told the Post's C.J. Sullivan and Dan Mangan that he wanted everyone to get in but they didn't have enough resources to handle the crowd. The volunteer says the decision was not based on race but on who received a confirmation email from the Vulcan Society. You will recall that the Vulcan Society, backed by the U.S. Justice Department, won a lawsuit recently, when a judge determined the FDNY's hiring practices are discriminatory: <http://statter911.com/2012/03/01/race-or-space-details-on-a-confrontation-at-fdny-candidates-tutoring-workshop-put-on-by-vulcan-society/>

Raw video from Wednesday's confrontation over Vulcan Society FDNY test prep. Thursday night class cancelled after controversy. A chaotic scene unfolded outside Middle School 72 in Jamaica, Queens, on Wednesday night as several men who wanted to attend a tutorial workshop for the upcoming FDNY entrance exam were turned away. These men said it was because they were white. The Workshop was being hosted by the Vulcan Society, a fraternal organization of black firefighters, which apparently only let in people who got a special e-mail: <http://statter911.com/2012/03/02/raw-video-from-wednesdays-confrontation-over-vulcan-society-fdny-test-prep-thursday-night-class-cancelled-after-controversy/>

Lake Havasu (AZ) City Police Sgt. Joe Harrold confirmed Wednesday the department is currently investigating allegations centering on misuse of funds pertaining to Lake Havasu City Professional Firefighters Association: <http://www.havasunews.com/articles/2012/03/02/news/doc4f506897baf15828702535.txt>

Three San Diego (CA) firefighters were arrested on suspicion of robbery and assault in connection with a weekend run-in with two brothers on a Normal Heights roadside, authorities disclosed Tuesday. (Captain) Vadid Cisneros, 36, Andrew Brennan, 29, and Gregory Econie, 26, allegedly attacked the siblings, ages 44 and 46, following an exchange of words near the intersection of Adams Avenue and 34th Street shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday, according to San Diego police. The incident allegedly began when the firefighters, after a night of drinking, got into a scuffle with a man in the Normal Heights neighborhood. Minutes later, the man and his brother — both in their mid-40s — confronted the firefighters and a second fight ensued, according to officials. One of the brothers reported being hit in the head with a rock. The firefighters allegedly took wallets from the two, and Brennan allegedly warned the two not to report the incident to police. Along with assault and robbery, Brennan has been charged with intimidating a witness to a crime: <http://statter911.com/2012/03/01/san-diego-fd-captain-two-firefighters-charged-with-robbery-assault-police-say-they-found-stolen-property-on-firefighters-after-fight/>

The San Francisco (CA) Fire Department's aging ambulances were under fire Wednesday by those who operate them. KTVU has learned new information about the conditions of the city's ambulances and equipment inside, as a fight between the firefighters' union and the department over replacing the equipment begins to ramp up. The San Francisco Fire Department's aging ambulances were under fire Wednesday by those who operate them. KTVU has learned new information about the conditions of the city's ambulances and equipment inside, as a fight between the firefighters' union and the department over replacing the equipment begins to ramp up: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/local-qovt-politics/documents-show-several-sffd-ambulances-need-be-rep/nLS2S/>

Cleveland's (OH) fire department is once again under fire, as city leaders on Tuesday released a second audit of the department. The new audit shows widespread abuse of sick time within the department, as well as shift trades by firefighters. Those abuses cost taxpayers millions of dollars and even forced the city to temporarily take fire trucks out of service. The new audit suggests as many as 200 firefighters, a quarter of the department, may have worked the system for years. Among the findings, sick-time records of some fire division employees were never adequately kept and some shift trades were not documented: [http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/cleveland\\_metro/cleveland-fire-department-audit-finds-taxpayer-dollars-wasted-public-safety-possibly-put-at-risk](http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/cleveland_metro/cleveland-fire-department-audit-finds-taxpayer-dollars-wasted-public-safety-possibly-put-at-risk)

**FDNY accused of misleading response times:**

<http://www.firerescue1.com/communications-interoperability/articles/1253183-FDNY-accused-of-misleading-response-times/>

Brittany Rachelle Martinez, a 24-year-old emergency medical technician with two children, allegedly wanted her husband, a Houston (TX) firefighter, dead. According to court records, she gave a friend \$1,000 to hire a hit man, provided her husband's work schedule and made sure the hit man had a photo of him. She gave instructions that the would-be killer should park a block away from her beloved's southwest Houston firehouse. She said the hit man should kill him in the back parking lot to avoid security cameras across the street. Court records charging Martinez with solicitation of capital murder allege that she did not care what kind of weapon was used, "she just wanted the job done."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1249712-emt-accused-of-hiring-hit-man-to-kill-firefighter-husband-in-texas/>

New York City must pay as much as \$128 million in back wages to minority candidates who took the Fire Department's screening test but were never hired, according to a ruling by the federal judge who had deemed the test discriminatory. The ruling came after more than four years of litigation in which the city and the Fire Department stood accused by the Justice Department and, later, the [Vulcan Society](#), a fraternal organization of black firefighters, of using screening exams that had a disparate impact on black and Hispanic candidates for entry-level firefighter positions. The Fire Department has remained almost 97 percent white for decades: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/09/nyregion/city-ordered-to-provide-back-pay-in-fire-dept-bias-case.html?\\_r=2&ref=nyregion](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/09/nyregion/city-ordered-to-provide-back-pay-in-fire-dept-bias-case.html?_r=2&ref=nyregion)

Haverhill's (MA) firefighters and mayor made nice yesterday, as the jakes apologized for calling the mayor a murderer, pushing their union agenda after an elderly woman's horrific death in a house fire. There were handshakes all around. But 84-year-old Phyllis Lamot's family wasn't buying it. "They used her as a bargaining chip and they're out there running their mouth and they need to shut up," said Lamot's anguished niece, Jeri-an Batal of Methuen. "We've had it now. They should be ashamed of themselves and they should step down." Batal said she was appalled to learn that the firefighters union had planned to hold a press conference yesterday outside her aunt's charred home. "That is disgusting," Batal said, adding she doesn't hold the mayor responsible for her aunt's death. Lamot's sister, Dorothy Kalil, said the union has no respect for her family. "They're exploiting my sister's death for their own personal gain, for their own perverted sense of justice to get back at the mayor," Kalil said. "This is really appalling, what they've done. It's unconscionable." [http://www.firehouse.com/news/10653872/family-feels-betrayed-by-massachusetts-firefighters?cmpid=email\\_CPS120303003&utm\\_source=FH+Newsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CPS120303003](http://www.firehouse.com/news/10653872/family-feels-betrayed-by-massachusetts-firefighters?cmpid=email_CPS120303003&utm_source=FH+Newsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CPS120303003)

Haverhill (MA) Firefighter Todd Guertin had to do more than just apologize to Mayor James Fiorentini for calling him a murderer — he must work 72 unpaid hours as punishment for those comments, The Eagle-Tribune has learned. Guertin made the comments Wednesday morning, just hours after 84-year-old Phyllis Lamot died in a house fire on Washington Street. He said the mayor should be "charged with murder for taking the rescue truck out of service over a dispute with the union." He also said the victim's family should file a wrongful death lawsuit against the city. Guertin's punishment duty is part of a deal the mayor and union announced Thursday to fully staff the rescue truck until June 30 at no cost to taxpayers, City Solicitor William Cox said: <http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x1511610680/Firefighter-pays-price-for-calling-mayor-a-murderer>

A Polk County (FL) firefighter is on paid administrative leave after being arrested for allegedly selling hundreds of dollars of fake theme park tickets. After being arrested just weeks ago on the same charges, Anthony Roman turned himself in to authorities on Wednesday. Deputy Chief Tony Crouse says the administration met with Roman on Thursday, but has not made a decision on his future with Polk Fire Rescue. "I think it's incumbent of us to hold a higher standard," he said. "We work for the people." Crouse's biggest concern is the distraction his arrest may cause. "Our folks are in and out of peoples homes so we pay very close attention to that and we're deeply concerned about that," he said: <http://statter911.com/2012/03/03/polk-county-florida-firefighter-arrested-twice-accused-of-selling-fake-tickets-to-disney-world-cops-say-anthony-roman-sold-items-on-craigslist/>

The Los Angeles (CA) City Council made deep cuts to the Fire Department last year after being presented with data that overstated how quickly rescuers arrived at the scene of citizen calls for help. In presentations made by fire officials to council members as they considered

reducing fire engines and ambulances at more than one-fifth of the city's stations, the department said first responders arrived at the scene of a medical emergency within five minutes nearly 80% of the time. Similar statistics were also included in a Fire Commission report to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. But those figures inaccurately portrayed department performance, according to new numbers released by the department last week. The new statistics show that medical rescuers actually arrived on scene within five minutes only 64% of the time in 2008 and hit that mark even less in the following two years. Last week, the Fire Department acknowledged that for years it provided lawmakers with misleading statistics that showed firefighters were on scene in less than five minutes roughly 80% of the time. They said they had used the wrong formula to calculate those reports:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fire-response-times-20120313,0,6216761.story>

Amid growing criticism from political leaders, Los Angeles' (CA) fire chief acknowledged Tuesday that his agency should have acted sooner to disclose that it had changed the way it calculated emergency response times used in public reports. "Potentially, we should have put down that we changed our method," Fire Chief Brian Cummings told reporters at a downtown news conference. "We should have done that." In several reports to lawmakers last year, the department included old data that made it appear that its personnel were getting to medical emergencies faster than they actually were. The old data showed that first responders arrived at the scene of a medical emergency within five minutes nearly 80% of the time. But since 2009, the department had been using an improved formula that showed that rescuers actually arrived on scene within five minutes about 64% of the time:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0314-fire-response-20120314,0,6209789.story>

Lancaster (PA) fire union official's testimony: Volunteers are unreliable & you can't count on them to protect your life:

<http://statter911.com/2012/03/13/lancaster-fire-union-officials-testimony-volunteers-are-unreliable-you-cant-count-on-them-to-protect-your-life/>

Surveillance video: Pittsburgh (PA) deputy chief in bar fight. Public safety director describes pattern of anger management issues & says chief shouldn't have been promoted:

<http://statter911.com/2012/03/14/surveillance-video-pittsburgh-deputy-chief-in-bar-fight-public-safety-commissioner-describes-pattern-of-anger-management-issues-says-chief-shouldnt-have-been-promoted/>

Hours after officers arrested Jesus Ventura, a fireman for Dallas (TX) Fire-Rescue, the Dallas police launched an Internal Affairs investigation to see if its patrolmen staged the capture for a local TV station. Police took Ventura into custody at his Irving home and charged him with Deadly Conduct on Thursday afternoon. But the police department issued a news release later in the afternoon, saying the arrest was made while a separate operation by the Dallas Police Public Integrity Unit was underway to get Ventura to voluntarily surrender:

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Dallas-Police-launch-internal-investigation-after-firemans-arrest-142882555.html>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

For the tenth year running, a team of Snoqualmie (WA) firefighters will climb 1,300 steps up the Columbia Center in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb. On Sunday, March 11, more than 1,500 firefighters from around the world will climb to the top of the 70-floor Columbia Center in downtown Seattle, wearing full firefighting gear and oxygen tanks. For the past two years,

Snoqualmie firefighters, along with firefighters from Fall City, Duvall, and Eastside Fire & Rescue, have led the team competition for fundraising collecting more than \$30,000 in donations each year for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. They are currently in second place for team fundraising in 2012 having raised more than \$9,000. They are determined to move into first place and raise more money than ever before. Although the actual Stairclimb is on March 11, fundraising will continue through March 30:

<http://www.valleyrecord.com/lifestyle/140178243.html>

A new agreement between Palo Alto (CA) and its Fire Chiefs' Association is expected to save the city tens of thousands of dollars through the elimination of perks such as bonuses for hitting performance targets as well as by requiring workers to share medical and pension costs. Approved by the city council in an 8-0 vote Monday, the contract brings the four-member association into line with other labor groups that have made concessions to help the city tame rising costs. Mayor Yiaway Yeh was absent. The agreement is expected to save the city about \$51,000 in fiscal year 2012 and nearly \$84,000 in the subsequent one, according to a report by Elizabeth Egli, an administrative assistant in the human resources department. The savings are achieved partly through the scrapping of a variable management compensation program, under which a member of the association could be paid about 4 percent of base salary for meeting designated performance targets. The program was eliminated for all unrepresented managers in fiscal year 2010. Members of the Fire Chiefs' Association will actually refund bonuses received since 2010 by paying for one year the full employee contribution to their pension plans -- 9 percent for the three sworn battalion chiefs and 8 percent for the non-sworn emergency medical services coordinator. After that, they will be expected to pay 5.1 percent of the contribution. Similarly, association members will have to pay 10 percent of their medical premiums for the first time:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_20110983/new-contract-approved-palo-alto-fire-chiefs-association](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_20110983/new-contract-approved-palo-alto-fire-chiefs-association)

The San Luis Obispo (CA) City Council has narrowly ratified a four-year contract with the city's firefighters union that foregoes raises, calls for employees to pay more toward their pensions and reduces retirement benefits for new hires. It states that firefighters will not receive pay increases for four years, pay their full pension contribution and begin a two-tier pension plan. The two-tier plan changes the pension formula for new hires so that they would have to work five years longer to obtain the same retirement benefits that current employees receive. It would start with San Luis Obispo Fire Department employees who would be hired after July. The firefighters union is the only employee group to have reached a consensus with the city, aside from an agreed \$807,000 cut in annual pay and benefits for the city's top managers and non-union employees in December. The city is negotiating about \$3.1 million in proposed employee compensation cuts, or 6.8 percent per employee, as a way to balance its current two-year budget. The city says the four-year firefighters contract translates into a savings of \$433,700 starting in July and increasing to \$520,000 annually in July 2013:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2012/03/07/1979177/no-raises-for-san-luis-obispo.html>

The city of Santa Rosa (CA) has reached a tentative agreement on pension plans with police and fire department employees. Both agreements provide a second tier, lower cost pension plan for new employees. If approved, police and firefighters will be the first Santa Rosa labor organizations to implement a second tier pension plan for new employees, City Manager Kathy Millison said. The proposed reforms included a new, reduced benefit/second tier pension for new hires, increasing employee contributions to pension costs and implementing a three-year average salary versus a single, highest-year salary to calculate the final retirement compensation, Millison said. Firefighters have a contract with the city to July 1. They paid 3

percent toward the city's cost of their pensions in 2011 and will pay an additional 2 percent in 2012 for a total payment of 5 percent on July 1, 2012, Millison said. That saved the city an estimated \$944,000 in fiscal year 2011-2012 and will save an estimated \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2012-2013, and \$700,000 each year thereafter, Millison said. Firefighters agreed to an addendum to the agreement that creates long term savings through a second tier, lower cost pension plan for new employees, Millison said. It also includes the 3 percent formula at age 55 based on a three-year average salary compensation formula for all firefighters hired after the new tier is implemented, Millison said: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/03/08/santa-rosa-reaches-pension-reform-agreement-with-police-firefighters/>

At the 21st annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb on Sunday, March 11, 2102 in Seattle, Wash., firefighters donned about 50 pounds worth of gear, including boots, breathing apparatus and masks, and climbed 1,311 stairs from the fifth floor lobby to the 73rd floor observation deck in Seattle's Columbia Tower. The fundraiser raised over \$950,000 to battle blood cancers through the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This year, Andrew Drobeck, from Missoula, Montana, broke the world firefighter stair climbing record, climbing the 69 stories in 10 minutes, 38.2 seconds. This climb is the world's largest of its kind with 1,550 firefighters participating from 191 departments in 24 U.S. states, Canada, and Germany:  
[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/picturethis/2017727316\\_pt\\_firefighterclimb.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/picturethis/2017727316_pt_firefighterclimb.html)

Nine firefighters are a little less hairy after the pre-shaving event at the Sparks (NV) Fire Department Headquarters. "It's a change, it's cold, but you get over it. It grows back, it's not a big deal," says Sparks firefighter Jarrod Stewart. Undergoing the "Mr. Clean treatment" isn't a big deal considering the cause. They're raising money for the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. "Hair grows back. Hopefully the cancer reduction and the ceasing of cancer in various different people. Hopefully the cancer doesn't grow back," says Sparks Fire Captain of Training Division Eric Millette. All of that money goes to help children like Courtney, a Sparks 6th grader who attended the event despite suffering from a brain tumor. Life has been very tough for Courtney and her family since the diagnosis:  
[http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/A\\_Close\\_Shave\\_For\\_Cancer\\_Funding\\_142229665.html](http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/A_Close_Shave_For_Cancer_Funding_142229665.html)

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

Sex in firehouses, thefts from stations, ambulances and citizens' homes, overtime scandals, fights between firefighters, downloading child porn on company computers, and cover-ups. These are just a few things going on these days in the nation's firehouses. Many heads were shaking and chuckles were heard as Curt Varone discussed various incidents during a session at Firehouse World aptly entitled "You Can't Make This Stuff Up." Varone, an attorney and retired firefighter, said the examples of bad behavior he displayed were not intended to poke fun or embarrass departments but to draw entice discussion about problems with leadership. As headlines about firefighter scandals, arrests and misbehavior flashed on the screen, Varone questioned why the officers didn't do their jobs, and in some instances, headed the elaborate cover-ups. "People are noticing," Varone said, adding that that may be the reason that some cities have chosen to put police chiefs in charge of fire departments. That's a move he added he hopes doesn't catch on. The attorney said there are a number of lawsuits involving firefighters pending:  
<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10632678/fire-service-law-expert-need-for-culture-change>

Investigators pointed to a lack of situational awareness, a common radio frequency, communication of a safety zone, and an escape route as contributing factors in the death of a



Texas wildland firefighter. While fighting a wildfire in Eastland County, Texas, on April 15, 2011, Firefighter Gregory Mack Simmons was either struck or run over by a brush truck. Visibility at the time of the incident was low. The firefighters on the other trucks were unable to make progress on the brush fire but did escape, although five were burned, according to the February 21 **NIOSH report**. NIOSH recommended that an incident management system be used to manage wildland urban interface incidents. This would include a proper personnel accountability system, so that command knows the names and locations of all firefighters at all times throughout the fire. "One of the necessary components of accountability during wildland fire-fighting operations is to ensure for unity of command and effective span of control," the report said: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1245248-NIOSH-Situational-awareness-factored-into-Texas-wildfire-LODD/>

Charleston (SC) firefighters made a number of mistakes in battling a large commercial blaze on Daniel Island last year, but one commander's quick thinking likely saved lives. That is among the conclusions reached in a final report on the March 1, 2011, fire released Monday by the Charleston Fire Department. The report was completed by an eight-member review team consisting of firefighters from Charleston and surrounding departments. Among other things, the committee found that the first crew to arrive that morning rushed into the burning two-story commercial building with undersized hoses, no backup, no thermal imaging camera and insufficient water. The incident commander couldn't reach them because the first crew's captain forgot his radio. Backup crews weren't sure where to go or what to do. Confusion reigned as the building's truss roof collapsed in an explosion of flames: <http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2012/mar/06/many-mistakes-2011-daniel-fire/>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

For the internship program the Olivehurst (CA) Fire Department began this month, there's a benefit for not only the firefighters in training, but for the department itself. Having an extra body available for medical calls and the occasional fire is a boon for a department shrunken because of declining revenues and other reasons, said Olivehurst Fire Chief Wade Harrison. "It gives us a level of security," Harrison said. "Also, in some situations you need someone to watch your back." Under the program, three firefighting academy graduates are working at least four daytime shifts a month to assist the on-duty captain, doubling the size of crews available for a call. Academy graduates must spend a year getting experience at a fire station in order to earn a firefighter certificate. Harrison said he expects the department will take on more interns in the coming months:

<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/department-113969-fire-olivehurst.html>

An emergency state mandate to charge 800,000 rural homeowners up to \$150 a year for Cal Fire's wildlands fire prevention services is drawing opposition in rural counties. In one area of Wilton, in southern Sacramento County, owners of 230 homes will pay \$115 starting this year to support the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. That's a \$35 discount because the Wilton residents, like 90 percent of all affected homeowners statewide, already pay for fire protection from their local fire district. Critics complain that the charge, which will generate about \$85 million annually for the state starting in fiscal 2012-13, will make it harder for local fire districts to raise money. And, they say, there is no new service in exchange for the fee to be imposed across more than 30 million acres of California wildland and watershed areas: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/03/11/4328100/rural-homeowners-irate-over-californias.html>

Following revelations last year that firefighters allowed a porn star to be filmed on a firetruck, the Los Angeles (CA) City Fire Commission on Tuesday proposed extending the statute of limitations on firefighter discipline. The City Charter amendment would give the city the power to discipline firefighters within one year after misconduct is discovered - rather than two years after it occurred. The change grew out of an incident in which actress Charley Chase was filmed climbing on a city firetruck parked at Venice beach and exposing herself. The filming happened in 2008, but only came to light last year - too late for discipline under city rules: [http://www.dailynews.com/ci\\_20118314/change-proposed-disciplining-firefighters?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_20118314/change-proposed-disciplining-firefighters?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-www.dailynews.com)

A federal judge has overturned a verdict against Pasco County for allegedly retaliating against two firefighters who filed civil rights complaints. Judge James Moody cleared the county of all charges, but he upheld the verdict against the International Association of Firefighters Local 4420 and ordered the union to pay each firefighter \$83,000 in damages. Firefighters Anthony Booth and Jerry Brown originally filed discrimination complaints in 2007 against their captain. Even though the judge dismissed their original complaints, the trial centered on whether county and union officials retaliated against Booth and Brown for engaging in protected activity. The case hinged on a memo posted on a union bulletin board. The "legal update" memo named Booth and Brown and warned members that union dues likely would increase as a result of the "frivolous" lawsuit. Moody agreed with the jury's finding that the memo was not protected free speech, but rather served as "an implicit call for reprisal, and thus a retaliatory act." <http://www2.tbo.com/news/pasco/2012/feb/21/1/judge-overturns-verdict-against-pasco-county-in-fi-ar-361308/>

It's commonly known the City of San Diego (CA) doesn't have enough fire stations. While building new stations would bring emergency response times down, it would also cost millions of dollars. A report from the city auditor found that response times can be lowered by up to a minute by simply dispatching an ambulance and a fire truck to a medical emergency at the same time. Right now an ambulance is sent out first and a fire truck is only sent after additional information is gathered. But the auditor's report shows a fire truck is needed more than 80 percent of the time: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2012/mar/05/audit-finds-cheaper-way-lower-fire-response-times/>

An investigation into possible staffing irregularities within the City of Canton (OH) Fire Department has been forwarded to the Massillon prosecutor's office for review. At issue is the trading of partial shifts between firefighters. The long-established practice occurs when a firefighter agrees to work part of a shift for a colleague — usually a few hours — for free. The firefighter requests the favor from a coworker and agrees to work part of their shift at a later date. Work hours are supposed to even out eventually, and payroll is not affected. The firefighter who agrees to work the additional hours does not receive extra pay. The investigation involves a "limited" number of the department's roughly 150 firefighters, said Division Chief John Whitlatch. It's unclear why criminal charges might result: <http://www.cantonrep.com/newsnow/x570345689/Canton-fire-officials-probe-shift-swaps>

Corte Madera (CA) has approved a joint powers agreement with the Southern Marin Fire Protection District that would enable the two agencies to share a fire battalion chief and potentially other personnel. Under the newest agreement, Southern Marin would share the total compensation costs for a battalion chief already on the Corte Madera Fire Department's staff. The arrangement would save Corte Madera about \$135,000 a year and Southern Marin approximately \$60,000, he noted: [http://www.marinij.com/sausalito/ci\\_20021375](http://www.marinij.com/sausalito/ci_20021375)

Washington DC Fire and EMS Chief Kenneth B. Ellerbe's record has come under the microscope. At issue, a sexual harassment complaint from when Kenneth Ellerbe was chief in Sarasota, Florida. There are also questions about the city's vetting process when they hired Ellerbe to lead the department:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/mornings/dc-fire-chief-ellerbe-responds-to-allegations-030812>

Central Contra Costa (CA) residents could lose six fire stations if they fail to pass a yearly \$90 per parcel tax in November, Contra Costa Fire Chief Daryl Louder told shocked county supervisors Tuesday. No tax has been put on the ballot yet. But the rate the chief quoted is more than double what supervisors were told last year in preliminary talks, and they publicly rebuked Louder over the unpleasant surprise. "We do need a measure," said Supervisor John Gioia, of Richmond. "But we have to be sensitive to what the public is willing to pay and balance that with the needs of the fire district. Before we put an amount out there, it needs to come to us. I don't want to be kept in the dark." What people will pay is a question for pollsters and, ultimately, the voters. But Louder said the money would avert a "catastrophic" shutdown of six of the district's 28 fire stations and the loss of 63 firefighters from the existing staff of 261: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_20166759/contra-costa-fire-district-needs-90-parcel-tax](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_20166759/contra-costa-fire-district-needs-90-parcel-tax)

Possible major changes to Mesa's (WA) wage-and-hour rules ran into early resistance this week from the city's firefighters union. Mesa presently pays overtime even if an employee has been on paid leave -- say, for vacation -- all or part of the week. Mayor Scott Smith said, however, that in his long private-sector business career he had never seen a company awarding overtime the way Mesa does:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/2012/02/16/20120216mesa-wage-hour-rules.html>

The city of Anaheim's (CA) Fire Department is envisioning a staff of firefighters more reflective of the cultures and ethnicities found in the city. That means recruiting more women, Latinos, Asian Americans and Arab Americans, among others, to mirror Anaheim's changing demographics, fire Chief Randy Bruegman said. Anaheim's fire force overall is 73 percent white, 18 percent Latino and 6 percent Asian, while the city's population is 52 percent Latino, 30 percent white and 14 percent Asian. Among sworn firefighters, 75 percent are white, 17 percent are Latino and 6 percent are Asian. And while the Arab American community grows in the west part of town, the Fire Department doesn't mirror that. Anaheim's department is one of six in California that participated this month in a workshop aimed at better meeting the needs of a diverse community: <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/fire-340802-anaheim-department.html>

Since Clark County (NV) officials began questioning firefighters' use of sick leave two years ago, sick-leave requests in the Clark County Fire Department have fallen by 57,000 hours. A county report obtained in response to a Sun request found that within those 57,000 hours, battalion chiefs' sick leave fell from an average of 164 hours a year two years ago to about 16 hours last year, a 90 percent decline. For rank-and-file firefighters, the average hours of sick leave taken fell from 227 hours two years ago to 136 hours last year, a 40 percent drop. The staggering decline has saved Clark County millions of dollars. Although firefighters are still paid while out sick, the department saved on the cost of an additional firefighter to fill in at overtime rates, which sometimes includes payments into the employees' retirement account. Commissioner Steve Sisolak, who had accused firefighters of gaming the system, often taking sick leave in order to help colleagues obtain higher overtime pay, said Thursday: "This just goes to show that the abuse was even greater than I anticipated, especially with battalion chiefs. Though not as many were disciplined as I thought could have been, the fact is the county is now saving millions and millions of dollars. We achieved what we wanted to do."

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/mar/01/county-firefighters-use-sick-leave-falls-57000-hou/>

The grey-blue house on a quiet street in Burton looks like a classic family home — with a two-car garage, a crimson-red front door and a peek-a-boo view of Quartermaster Harbor. But instead of housing a family, the 2,200-square-foot residence stands as a new effort on the part of Vashon Island (WA) Fire & Rescue (VIFR) to reduce emergency-response times to the outer reaches of the Island. These days, two young men — volunteer emergency medical technicians or EMTs — live in the four-bedroom home, situated a block away from the Burton fire station. When a call comes in, they don their gear and hustle to the station, where they climb into an aid car and rush to the scene. It's a scenario that routinely shaves two or three minutes off the response time to the southern end of the Island and a minute or two to parts of Maury, VIFR officials said. And while that might not seem like much, fire officials say, those few minutes could mean life or death to someone who's having a heart attack or is in need of oxygen. "Two minutes can make a huge difference," said Candy McCullough, who chairs the fire commission. "I think it's definitely worth it." The residency program, as it's called, is part of a larger effort on VIFR's part to reduce response time by strengthening volunteer participation in the department, one of the few in King County that still draws heavily on the support of volunteer firefighters and EMTs:

<http://www.vashonbeachcomber.com/news/140777003.html>

The Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department could save as much as \$1.4 million by handing several duties to civilian staff members, according to a newly released efficiency study. That is one recommendation from a Fire Department innovation and efficiency study, which was presented to the City Council Public Safety and Veterans Subcommittee last week. If the department implements all 50 recommendations, it is projected to reduce costs by \$5.1 million. Consulting firm Management Partners spent almost a year interviewing fire officials and analyzing budget, organization, management and staffing within the department. About 40 percent of fire employees also completed a survey:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2012/02/28/20120228phoenix-fire-efficiency-tips.html>

The Woodinville (WA) firefighters union and the district's board agree that the future of Woodinville Fire & Rescue may be in regionalizing with one of its neighboring fire departments, and the union prefers Bothell. In a letter to Woodinville Patch, union president Tony Woods wrote, "Woodinville Firefighters support BOFC Chairman Osgood's suggestion that now is the time to consider regionalization of the fire district. Public agencies' budgets have been reduced over the years but the needs of the community have not diminished. Regionalization offers an opportunity to meet this challenge through economies of scale and improved efficiencies in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services."

<http://kirkland.patch.com/articles/woodinville-firefighters-union-favors-merging-with-bothell-3dd7cfd3>

Recent pension concessions have led the way for a lateral Fire Department academy, the first since 2008, officials announced Monday. The academy, which is expected to commence in the next few months, will seek to fill 24 budgeted vacancies and reduce forced call-backs and expensive overtime for the Long Beach Fire Department, according to city and Fire Department officials. "The union's agreement to pension reform is what enabled us to have this academy, because without it I don't know if we would have been able to move forward," Assistant Fire Chief Mike DuRee said Monday afternoon. That reform agreement, which required firefighters to contribute more to their pensions, has since been met, paving the way for an academy this year, he said. Because the academy will train lateral recruits, or those who have already been put through the paces of a fire academy with another agency, it will take only eight weeks, or about half the time to complete, as a full academy, DuRee said. The cost to put 20 firefighters through a lateral academy is about \$725,000, he said:

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_20107034/long-beach-fire-officials-will-re-establish-lateral](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_20107034/long-beach-fire-officials-will-re-establish-lateral)

The city of Las Vegas (NV) could have more money to hire employees and increase programs if it could reduce liabilities in the form of unused worker sick pay, city officials said Wednesday. During a presentation to the City Council, Mark Vincent, the city's chief financial officer, said the city should phase out the practice of paying workers cash for unused sick leave they are allowed to bank. Vincent said it could save the city big bucks over the long haul, but a firefighters union leader said the presentation was hot air aimed at manipulating public opinion just as the city and the firefighters are entering contract talks. "We want to make sure that our fringe benefits are economically sustainable," Vincent said during the presentation. "Sick leave was never intended to be a retirement tool. Vacation was never intended to be a retirement tool either."

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/city-urged-to-phase-out-paying-for-unused-sick-leave-141846793.html>

In a move that officials called courageous, bittersweet and historic, representatives from the city of Santa Ana and the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority on Monday night signed a contract that will merge the Santa Ana Fire Department and the OCFA. The City Council voted Feb. 21 to outsource firefighting services to the Orange County Fire Authority, bringing the city's 128-year-old fire department to an end. The move will help the city close a budget deficit estimated at \$30 million, while keeping all 10 of the city's fire stations open. The OCFA will absorb the city's 192 firefighters and has made offers to 11 non-sworn personnel, officials said. The agency will take over providing service in Santa Ana on April 20. The city will pay about \$33.7 million to the OCFA in the first year of an eight-year agreement. The city expects to save between \$8.7 million and \$10 million per year. The savings would come partly from reducing the number of firefighters on duty at any one time from a current minimum of 63 to 48: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/city-343148-santa-fire.html>

Boston (MA) Fire Commissioner Roderick Fraser yesterday lashed out at union "pop shots" in defending his top chief's plans to spend as much as \$1 million outfitting the department's 1,400 jakes with spiffy polo shirts and state-of-the-art helmets as a way to look more professional and battle fires more safely. "We are buying new NFPA-compliant helmets. That's not a fancy uniform issue, that's a protecting-people issue," Fraser said, adding the new composite helmets would replace traditional, less rigid all-leather helmets that do not meet National Fire Protection Association standards. As for the polo shirts, Fraser said he wants his firefighters "looking professional when on the street," especially the 800 EMTs who respond to medical emergencies — half of the department's calls — and are required to have to name tags. "We want our people to be proud to be in uniform," Fraser said, "instead of (wearing) some crappy old T-shirt."

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20220303fire\\_commish\\_union\\_complaints\\_are\\_wearing\\_thin/srvc=home&position=also](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20220303fire_commish_union_complaints_are_wearing_thin/srvc=home&position=also)

**Tactical Safety for Firefighters: Raising Fire Service Executives.** Some of you didn't even know we had such a thing as fire service executives did you? Well, they are around. Finding out more about them and what their ideas are is important to all future fire service executives and the rest of us stakeholders. The fire service executive is part-business class, part-firefighter, a hybrid, a unique combination of selective academic achievement mixed with a smattering of business intellect, a type-A personality with a whole lot of ideas on how to correct and change all our collective shortcomings:

<http://www.fireengineering.com/articles/2012/03/tactical-safety-for-firefighters-raising-fire-service-executives.html?sponsored=firedynamics&cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyMarch82012>

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

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

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

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