

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

January 21, 2012

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2012 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

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

- The following classes are now available this semester!
- For registration information, go to 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
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1155 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2155 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule is available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 7, 9, and 11 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (CAL FIRE Wildland Basic Training) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - 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
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 24, 26, 28 and 29	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 17, 19, 21 and 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - April 3, 5, 7	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - January 18, February 25, March 29, April 25, May 23	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - 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

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

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Entry Level Firefighter's Workshop!!!

Where: Las Positas College - "Mertes Center For The Arts" (Livermore, CA)
Date: Sunday February 26, 2012
Cost: \$12 (Lunch & Certificate included)

Keynote Speaker:

- **Paul Lepore** – Division Chief, Redondo Beach Fire Department

Topics will include:

- Being the Ideal Candidate
- Chiefs Interviews

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- Applications & Resumes
- Education
- How to Maximize Technology
- Physical Fitness
- Preparation for the Job
- Diversity
- Changing Paradigms
- Discipline & Accountability

Reservations are required by February 12, 2012

Register at: www.pstgonline.com

Contact (if more info is needed): Atlas@pstgonline.com

Selected participants will receive a practice interview given by Certified Oral Board Raters

Bring your resume!!

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:

International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services – *Tampa, FL* - February 8 through 10, 2012 - Go to www.i-women.org for more information.

Firehouse World – *San Diego, CA* - February 19 through 23, 2012
Go to www.firehouseworld.com for more information.

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

Firehouse Expo – *Baltimore, MD* - July 17 through 21, 2012
Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

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

Fire Shows Reno – *Reno, NV* - October 23 through 25, 2012
Go to www.freshowsreno.com for more information.

Firehouse Central – *New Orleans, LA* - October 29 through November 2, 2012
Go to www.firehousecentral.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

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. 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:

U.S. Fire Administration Announces 2011 On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities

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

EMMITSBURG, MD — The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today there were **81 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States** as a result of incidents that occurred in 2011. This represents an almost **seven percent decrease from the 87 fatalities reported for 2010**. The 81 fatalities occurred in 33 states, one U.S. territory, and one overseas U.S. military facility. Texas experienced the highest number of fatalities (seven). North Carolina experienced six firefighter deaths and was the only other state with five or more firefighter fatalities.

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“In 2004 at the initial Life Safety Summit, a number of fire service leaders did not believe we would complete a calendar year with less than 100 firefighter on-duty deaths,” U.S. Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell said. “We broke through that perceived barrier in 2009, 2010, and now in 2011! We salute and congratulate our fire service family and pledge to continue working closely with the entire fire service community and its partners to maintain and even accelerate this downward trend in on-duty firefighter deaths.”

Heart attacks were responsible for the deaths of 48 firefighters (59%) in 2011, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (60%) in 2010. **Ten on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires since 1996.** Fifty-four percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Only three firefighters were killed in vehicle collisions.

2011 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2011. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July 2012.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the **annual fatality reports** - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/report.shtm> from 1986 through 2010 and the

Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990–2000 – <https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/display.cfm?it=9-0437> please visit the **USFA website** - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

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

Folks,

Each of us has heard of some organization – government or private – that experienced the loss or compromise of data due to hacking. Many of us have had our personal email accounts hacked. Unfortunately, hacking has become a ‘sport,’ simply a sign of the times. Aside from the ‘sport’ hackers, criminals have collected personal information from several different unrelated databases in order to assemble personal information to commit fraud. As a government agency, we are not immune to this potential; we’re required to protect personally identifiable information (PII).

This is a 3-month heads-up on a **major change to the admissions process.** In order to protect PII, we can no longer use Social Security numbers (SSAN) in our paper or on-line application process. We do, however, need a unique identifier that will allow us to record class registration, send acceptance and rejection notifications, provide stipend reimbursement (when appropriate), and record course performance and transcripts for “John Jones or Mary Jones.”

That unique identifier will be a FEMA Training Identification Number (FTIN). The explanation and process are provided on the How to Apply page (<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/ftin.shtm>) on the NFA Website; the requirement applies to all FEMA academies / schools. I tried the process and timed myself, it took about 90 seconds. For those applicants without home or work access to the Web, they may use a computer at a library. Of course we realize that this change will cause headaches for students applying for classes ON and OFF Campus – 2 day, 6 day, 10 day and eventually Online classes. It will cause problems for our partners in State and local fire training,

including all our staffs. This will take education, patience and understanding; we're going to do our best, and ask for everyone's cooperation.

I ask that you share this information with your students, subscribers, clients, members, organizations and list-serves. In order to ease the process, we're going to do everything we can to continuously advise and remind everyone of this upcoming change as we implement it beginning April 15th.

Again, the web address for this information is: www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/ftin.shtm

Dr. Denis Onieal
Superintendent
National Fire Academy
United States Fire Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFO:

The **Bakersfield Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter** - two days only – February 1 and 2, 2012.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/administration/citymanager/humanresources/index.htm>

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



Winter Safety Spotlight: Carbon Monoxide

Each year in America, more than 150 people die from accidental non-fire related CO poisoning associated with consumer products. These products include faulty, improperly-used or incorrectly-vented fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fireplaces. The U.S. Fire Administration would like you to know that there are simple steps you can take to protect yourself from deadly carbon monoxide fumes. Please read and follow the safety tips contained in the link below.

- **Carbon Monoxide Safety Action Steps** » <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/co/index.shtm>

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



Heating Fire Safety

Each winter the high cost of home heating fuels and utilities causes many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly. Fireplaces are burning wood and man-made logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are however, a major contributing factor in home fires.

Many of these fires can be prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property resulting from heating fires by being able to identify potential hazards and following a few safety tips:

- All heaters need space. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Make sure all fuel-burning heating equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Only purchase portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off so if they're tipped over they will shut off.
- Allow wood stove and fireplace ashes to cool before disposing of them in a tightly covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from your home.

Heating Fire Safety Action Steps =

http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/heating/

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

Application Procedures Announced for the 2012 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program

Contact - USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - January 9, 2012

EMMITSBURG, MD — Application procedures have been announced for the 2012 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program. The program is once again sponsored through a partnership between the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), /International Fire Service Training

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Association/Fire Protection Publications (IFSTA/FPP), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA).

USFA Administrator Ernie Mitchell in announcing the 2012 program said, "The U.S. Fire Administration and our funding partners, the IAFC, IFSTA/FPP, and the NFPA are excited and remain committed to sponsor a number of fellowships in the **Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program** at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government this summer. Our nation's fire executives need superior professional development experiences to increase their leadership capacity and the State and Local Program is a premier opportunity. As a former Fire Chief, I know that productive relationships among careerists, elected officials, and appointed authorities can lead to innovative solutions to tough problems and policy decisions which result in positive outcomes. This program provides a world class opportunity to explore and expand these relationships in ways that increase innovative leadership within state and local government settings."

Senior fire executives who are selected will be awarded fellowships to attend Harvard's annual **Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program**. The 3-week program is conducted on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Selected Fellows will be assigned one of the two session dates: June 4-22, 2012 or July 9-27, 2012. **Applications seeking a fellowship must be available to attend either session.**

The following criteria and guidelines have been established for the 2012 program:

- Application is open to **senior fire executives** who have demonstrated significant career accomplishments and have the potential to impact and initiate change. **Attainment of a senior position is less important than demonstrated experience in facilitating significant change within a public sector setting.**
- Preference may be given to applicants who are graduates of the National Fire Academy's **Executive Fire Officer Program**, although program completion is not a prerequisite. Preference may also be given to applicants who have completed graduate-level degree programs or course work.
- Individuals whose organizations have been represented in the Harvard Fellowship Program during 2009, 2010, or 2011 will not be considered. The program is available to international participants.
- Finalists for the Harvard Fellowships will be asked to develop and present a five-year plan during their interview session, describing how they will use the opportunity if awarded a fellowship to enhance Fire-EMS services at the local, regional, tribal, state/province/territory, and at a national or international level. If selected as a finalist, more details will be provided. As in the past, selected Fellows can expect to be contacted in the future by any of the sponsors to assist and support ongoing projects to utilize their specialized knowledge and skills.

Application Instructions

Please follow these three steps carefully as the application procedures have changed from prior years.

1. Applicants must complete and submit the Harvard / Kennedy School of Government **Application For Executive Education that can be found by going to: <http://ksgexecprogram.harvard.edu/Programs/sl/admissions.aspx>** - Please read the instructions before completing the application. It is recommended that this form be saved to your computer. For the question **"Who will be the financial sponsor of your participation?"** please enter "IAFC/FPP-IFSTA/NFPA/USFA Fellowship." Make sure that you attach your essay responses (250 words or less for each question response).
2. Enclose a current resume or curriculum vitae.

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3. Enclose a letter of recommendation from your senior official. If the applicant is the Chief, the letter should be written by the jurisdictional head (e.g., Mayor or City Manager). Otherwise, the recommendation should be from the Fire Chief.

Please do not submit your application package directly to the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Mail the application package (traceable mail with receipt is recommended) no later than **February 21, 2012 (postmark)** to the following address:

Harvard Fellowship Program
International Association of Fire Chiefs
c/o Ms. Cynthia Cox
4025 Fair Ridge Drive - Suite 300
Fairfax, Virginia 22033-2868

For questions regarding application procedures only, please contact Ms. Mary Wingert at the U.S. Fire Administration at (301) 447-1085 or mary.wingert@fema.dhs.gov.

If the applicant's organization or position should change (voluntarily or involuntarily) after the application package has been submitted, she/he is obligated to notify Ms. Wingert.

Application packages postmarked **after** February 21, 2012, will not be considered.

For more information regarding the **Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program**, refer to the Harvard University/John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government website at: <http://ksgexecprogram.harvard.edu/Programs/sl/admissions.aspx>
Fellowship applicants are reminded to follow the application instructions within this announcement.

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

Focus on Fire Safety: Fire Escape Plans

In the event of a fire, remember that **every second counts**, so you and your family must always be prepared. **Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly.** In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames. **Prepare and practice your fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities.** It's also a good idea to practice your plan with overnight guests.

Some tips to consider when preparing your escape plan include:

- Draw a map of each level of your home and show all doors and windows. Find two ways to get out of each room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.
- Only purchase collapsible escape ladders evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Use the ladder only in a real emergency.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.
- Practice your fire escape plan at night and during the daytime.

Learn About Fire Escape Planning -

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/campaigns/smokealarms/escapeplans/index.shtm>

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE, (formerly known as **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection or CDF**) is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 31, 2012** for the 2012 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CAL FIRE Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see below for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

- **To view more information about Seasonal Firefighter Hiring process and positions, go to:** http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

There are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

What you can expect working as a firefighter for CAL FIRE:

A firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 72-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

Because CAL FIRE is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment. In addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state. There is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CAL FIRE personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

The hiring process:

After submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid-March you should receive a letter indicating whether you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of your score.

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Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

Typically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid-May you should have received a letter indicating whether or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

The presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CAL FIRE 67 hour Certification. What generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CAL FIRE and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

What CAL FIRE can offer you?

CAL FIRE is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment. You will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents. Just like anything else you can get out of CAL FIRE what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step.

NORTHERN REGION

File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111
- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353
- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418
- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516

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- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

SOUTHERN REGION

Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below.
Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- **Fresno-Kings Unit**, 210 S. Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657, (559) 485-7500
- **Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**, 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-3622
- **Riverside Unit**, 210 W. San Jacinto, Perris, CA 92570, (909) 940-6900
- **San Benito-Monterey Unit**, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940-5385, (831) 647-6208
- **San Bernardino Unit**, 3800 Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92405, (909) 881-6900
- **San Diego Unit**, 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019, (619) 590-3100
- **San Luis Obispo Unit**, 635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 543-4244
- **Tulare Unit**, 1968 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 732-5954
- **Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**, 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-3831

To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CAL FIRE Careers website at:
www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

For more information about CAL FIRE and their extensive operations throughout the State of California, visit their website at: www.fire.ca.gov

Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:

- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position.

NOTE: A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

For additional information, contact:

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801
Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100

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

In an effort to make personal safety a top priority, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) today released a new video, Chicago Fire Department - Everyone Goes Home®. Members of the CFD and families of fallen firefighters share their stories in this compelling and moving testimonial of the importance of adhering to safety standards and accepting personal responsibility for following procedures.

**December 28,
2011
News Alert**

Chicago Fire Commissioner Robert Hoff was impressed by a video that the NFFF and the Fire Department of New York produced several years earlier to educate members about the importance of training and safety standards. The FDNY leadership had noticed behavioral improvement among its members following the release of their video. Hoff felt that the members of the CFD could benefit from hearing first-hand accounts of the lessons learned by their colleagues and invited the NFFF to collaborate on a video for Chicago.

"The culture of firefighting requires us to do everything we can to make sound decisions so we can be in a position to help the people we serve when they most need it," said Ronald J. Siarnicki, executive director of the NFFF. "With this video the firefighters and leadership of the Chicago Fire Department are clearly showing the rest of the fire service you can still be a firefighter and at the same time do your best to make sure everyone goes home®."

More than two dozen survivors of fallen firefighters, including coworkers and family members, participated in the filming of Chicago Fire Department - Everyone Goes Home®. The video took nearly one year to complete and was produced and directed by Rob Maloney of Cool Water Multimedia.

All members of the Chicago Fire Department have had the opportunity to see Chicago Fire Department - Everyone Goes Home® and it is now available for the entire fire service. To see the video, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODww1qwSuE.



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.



» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name:	James "Jim" Rice
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	42
Gender:	Male
Status:	Career
Years of Service:	11
Date of Incident:	12/23/2011
Time of Incident:	1324hrs
January 21, 2012	

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Date of Death: 12/23/2011
Fire Department: Peabody Fire Department
Address: 41 Lowell ST, Peabody, MA 01960-5411
Fire Department Chief: Steve Pasdon
Fire Department Website: <http://www.peabodyfire.org>

Incident Description: While Firefighter Rice was working at the scene of a fire in a multi-family dwelling, he became trapped from a cause still to be determined in heavy smoke and fire conditions between the second and third floors of the structure. Firefighter Rice was rescued by fellow firefighters, treated on-scene, and transported to the Salem Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The fatal incident is being investigated by local, state, and federal authorities.

Incident Location: 5 Hancock Street

Funeral Arrangements: Wake/Visitation: Thursday, 12/29/2011 from 1500-2000hrs at Conway, Cahill-Brodeur Funeral Home, 82 Lynn ST, Peabody, MA.

Funeral: Friday, 12/30/2011 at 1000hrs, St. John the Baptist Church, 16 Church ST, Peabody, MA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial donations in honor of Firefighter James Rice can be sent to: IAFF Local 925 c/o James Rice, PO Box 4313, Peabody, MA 01960; or, James Rice Memorial Fund, Northshore Bank, 32 Main ST, Peabody, MA 01960. Deposits can also be made in person at any branch. More details will be posted at www.local925.org

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter James "Jim" Rice at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 86 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 80 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and six from previous years' incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

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

AND:

Name: Crisanto Leo Lionell
Rank: Inmate Firefighter
Age: 54
Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Part-Time
Years of Service: 1
Date of Incident: 01/04/2012
Time of Incident: 1530hrs
Date of Death: 01/04/2012
Fire Department: California Department of Corrections
Address: 1515 S Street, Suite 502, South Sacramento, CA 95814
Fire Department Chief: Secretary Matthew Cate

Incident Description: Inmate Firefighter Lionell was participating in a training exercise at Camp San Luis when he lost consciousness from a cause still to be determined. Emergency crews treated and then transported Lionell to a local hospital where he was passed away.

Incident Location: California National Guard's Camp San Luis

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Inmate Firefighter Crisanto Leo Lionell at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To date, one (1) firefighter fatality has been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: William "Jumbo" Elliott
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 23
Date of Incident: 01/06/2012
Time of Incident: 1620hrs
Date of Death: 01/06/2012
Fire Department: Pompano Beach Fire Rescue
Address: 120 SW 3RD ST, Drawer 1300, Pompano Beach, FL 33060-7900
Fire Department Chief: Harry L. Small

Incident Description: While conducting aerial ladder training at the rear of his fire station, Firefighter Elliott passed away from injuries sustained after falling from near the top of the extended ladder. Investigation into the fatal incident continues by local authorities.

Incident Location: Fire Station 61, 2121 NW Third Ave, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter William "Jumbo" Elliott at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, two (2) 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.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Samuel Butler
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 21
Date of Incident: 01/08/2012
Time of Incident: 2255hrs
Date of Death: 01/08/2012
Fire Department: Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 3440 Elrod Road, Maxton, NC 28364
Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: While responding to a motor vehicle accident in his privately owned vehicle, Fire Chief Butler was struck and killed by a semi-trailer truck as he attempted a U-turn at the end of the eastbound I-74 onramp at Cabinet Shop Road.

Incident Location: Onramp eastbound lanes I-74 & Cabinet Shop Road

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Chief Samuel Butler at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, three (3) 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.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: David Crenshaw
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 63
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 50
Date of Incident: 01/09/2012
Time of Incident: 0630hrs
Date of Death: 01/09/2012
Fire Department: Anderson County Fire Department
Address: 210 McGee RD, Anderson, SC 29625-2104
Fire Department Chief: Bobby Pruitt

Incident Description: Firefighter Crenshaw collapsed from a cause still to be determined while working at the scene of a motor vehicle accident with injuries at Porter Road and Highway 88. Crenshaw was treated at the scene and transported to AnMed Health Medical Center where he succumbed to his injury.

Incident Location: Porter Road and Highway 88

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter David Crenshaw at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, four (4) 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.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Brandon Little
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 19
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 3
Date of Incident: 01/18/2012
Time of Incident: 1740hrs
Date of Death: 01/18/2012
Fire Department: United Hook and Ladder Company 33
Address: 21 N. Bolton St., New Oxford, PA 17350
Fire Department Chief: Steve Rabine

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Incident Description: While responding to a structure fire call, Firefighter Little passed away from injuries he sustained when his privately owned vehicle left the roadway and crashed into a tree. Initial reports indicate that Little was ejected from his car and that speed may have been a factor in the accident. Investigation into the fatal incident continues by local and state authorities.

Incident Location: 206 Kinneman Road, Abbottstown, PA

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, five firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Duane Ibarra
Rank: Firefighter III
Age: 50
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 01/18/2012
Time of Incident: 1822hrs
Date of Death: 01/18/2012
Fire Department: Maui County Department of Fire and Public Safety
Address: 200 Dairy RD, Kahului, HI 96732
Fire Department Chief: Jeffrey Murray

Incident Description: Firefighter Ibarra was found unresponsive in the fire station workout room at 1822hrs. Efforts to revive Ibarra by his co-workers were unsuccessful.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter III Duane Ibarra at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, six firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

AND:

Name: Bruce Turcotte
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 58
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 38
Date of Incident: 01/19/2012
Time of Incident: 1330hrs
Date of Death: 01/19/2012
Fire Department: Hopelawn Engine Company No. 1

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Address: 127 Loretta ST, Hopelawn, NJ 08861
Fire Department Chief: Michael Walsh

Incident Description: Firefighter Turcotte responded to a residential structure fire with his fire company. Shortly after working to reestablish the water supply to firefighters inside of the burning structure, he returned to his rescue truck and fell ill where he was discovered a short time later by other firefighters. Firefighter Turcotte was treated at the scene and transported to the hospital but passed away due to a reported cardiac arrest.

Incident Location: 29 Jefferson ST

Funeral Arrangements: A Wake will be held at the Mitruska Funeral Home, 531 New Brunswick Ave, Fords, NJ, on 01/23/2011 from 1900-2100hrs; and, 01/24/2012 from 1400-1600 and 1900-2100hrs. The Funeral will be at 1000hrs, 01/25/2012, at Our Lady of Peace Church, Fords, NJ. Due to limited parking at the church a staging area for the funeral will be at the Woodbridge Center parking lot (Fortunoff section) with shuttles to the church. From the church after the services, the shuttle buses will travel to the Repass (1300-1700hrs) held at the Forge Banquet Hall. There will be a continuous shuttle service back to the parking area from the banquet hall.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter and former Fire Chief Bruce Turcotte at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, seven firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2012. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm

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

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER &

=MASS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HEART ATTACK

Methuen (MA) Firefighter Robert George yesterday died early Wednesday at his home of suspected cardiac arrest-but due to circumstances, is being treated as a Line of Duty Death as per the Chief of Department, Steven Buote. George was a 16-year veteran of the Methuen FD. He leaves behind a wife and 2 children. His brother-in-law, Bob Scarelli, is also a Methuen Firefighter. Calling hours for FF George are scheduled today from 2 to 8 p.m. at Douglas & Johnson Funeral Home, 214 Main St., in Salem, N.H. A funeral will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Saint Monica's Church, 212 Lawrence St., in Methuen. "The services will be run completely as a line-of-duty funeral," said the Chief of Department Steven Buote.

=MEDICAL HELICOPTER DOWN IN FLORIDA-3 REPORTED LODD

A helicopter that departed Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic with 3 people, crashed early this morning near the Putnam/Clay county line in a heavily wooded area that can not be accessed by regular vehicles.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The Bell 260 was headed to Shands at the University of Florida in Gainesville when it crashed just before 0600. We have been told there were no survivors-the aircraft had a pilot and 2 medical personnel on board. Additional information will be posted. RIP.

100% OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN PONTIAC (MI) TO BE LAYED OFF? ACTION expected tomorrow....future employment is not guaranteed.

The Pontiac city manager sent all Pontiac Firefighters layoff notices on Christmas Eve. Nice. According to the emergency financial manager, sending out the termination letters is "all a part of a process to reach a deal where everyone wins". The Firefighter's mess continues into the holidays. Yesterday morning the PFD FF's received letters of termination in the mail. The letter states "due to the financial emergency that exists within the city of Pontiac, we continue to face the difficult task of restructuring the workforce." Firefighters were told their positions are being eliminated in the beginning of 2012, and that decision comes after intense negotiations Thursday. According to the emergency financial manager, a tentative deal with the fire union was reached.... The deal includes Pontiac's FD being taken over by Waterford Township. The letter also included an application for the Waterford Township Fire Department and Firefighters have until January 3 to apply. **However, the letter states firefighters are encouraged to apply, but employment is not guaranteed.** City leaders say this termination letter is all apart of the process and a vote on the deal is expected on tomorrow-so we shall see.

FALSE LODD's REPORTED IN THE UK

Lancashire's chief fire officer is absolutely appalled since hoaxers were claiming two firefighters had died in the Leyland fire, earlier this week. Hundreds of relatives and friends were left worried their loved ones had been killed in the blaze at the Lancashire Enterprise Business Park on Wednesday where 150 FF's were operating. Many made concerned calls to the fire service, meaning resources were diverted away from dealing with Lancashire's biggest fire in a decade. The false story circulated on social networking sites, as well as on media websites. It was immediately removed following checks with the fire service. Somebody started it as a malicious rumor at some stage-for some reason-and of course, these days, news travels very, very quickly. No one had been injured during the fire fighting operation which began just after 1700 hours on Wednesday. The prevalence of social networking has done alot of good and has also created new problems for fire chiefs.

FIRE SCENE ACCOUNTABILITY

Below is an article about how the Worcester (MA) FD tracks their personnel and assignments on the fireground. It will not be too many years from now where these boards that most of us use will become a thing of the past and it will all be done electronically-including looking on a screen and seeing (in real time) where the troops are-and where they aren't. Actually, one of the most promising systems is being worked on and developed right there in Worcester, at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a/k/a WPI, in cooperation with the WFD and others. Until then, using boards like these along with good FF's and Officers with no nonsense command, control, accountability, communication and discipline is the best solution that we have seen out there today.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20111226/NEWS/112269892>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-26-11 / 1400 Hours

AND:

CANADIAN FF KILLED IN CRASH

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Volunteer Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty while responding to a fire call this morning in Ontario, Canada. The Firefighter was killed when the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

responding apparatus crashed into a ditch on the run this morning. The crash happened at 0930 hours on Highway 534, about west of Powassan, near North Bay. It is not yet known why the Nipissing Township Volunteer Fire Department apparatus left the roadway and went into the ditch-but the area and the ditch is known as hazardous. One other Firefighter was on the rig and we are awaiting word on that members condition. No other vehicles were involved. We will keep you advised. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-27-11 / 1500 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As promised, here is the final version of the Chicago FD video. See that-it showed up, just a little late. Remember---the best gifts are worth waiting for-and besides, certain after Christmas gifts that are "re-gifted" are worth it. On a serious note, enjoy this video - and as we promised you 2 weeks ago, this will be one of the best you have ever seen, one that is very realistically focused on all aspects of Firefighter survival. Our sincere thanks to CFD Commissioner Bob Hoff and the entire crew at the NFFF, especially Rob Maloney, director of this video, for a spectacular job.

HERE is the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vODww1qwSuE> NOTE: Please Pass This Along and RE-GIFT It To All Firefighters and their families. AND send it to your elected officials...ESPECIALLY your elected officials, and related city hall dwellers.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-28-11 / 1009 hours

AND:

Hey,

Below is an article related to another individual claiming to be at the WTC and being a part of FDNY. There have been a few others popping up lately with that same claim. A real shame and very Mutt-like. This one is in PA. A link to the article with a photo is below. We also offer a tip at the closing of this Secret List below.

In June, Steelton (PA) volunteer firefighter Emilio Hall told fellow firefighters and the local media that he was trapped beneath the rubble of the World Trade Center for 32 hours after the 9/11 attacks. Now, FDNY fire officials and a former girlfriend are calling Hall's story a hoax. Hall says it's all true. But now this Steelton firefighter's story of heroism during 9/11 is being questioned

Emilio Hall, a volunteer with the Steelton Fire Company, told the media in June about his "harrowing experience" as a firefighter in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. Hall recalled being being buried in the rubble of the collapsed World Trade Center's twin towers for 32 hours before he was rescued. He said he was hospitalized for three days, and when released, returned to the scene to continue the search for survivors. "I don't consider myself a hero," he told the newspaper. "I will continue to serve until the day I die." Now, Hall's story is being questioned by New York City fire officials, who say they never heard of him, and a former girlfriend who labeled him a "fabricator." "I, as well as others I've spoken with, believe this Mr. Hall is representing himself as something he is not," said Kevin Thomas, firefighter with New York Engine Company 40. "His claim of being buried for 32 hours is of dubious veracity," he said. "There were less than a dozen people recovered alive on 9/11, all of them on the first day, none of them by the name Emilio Hall."

Thomas said his company covers parts of Times Square and the Upper West side of Manhattan. The fire companies work closely together, he said. Nobody remembers Hall. The Fire Department of New York never heard of Hall either. "We do not have anyone past or present by the name of Emilio Hall or anything resembling that name," said Frank Dwyer, of the FDNY press office. **"Further more, you should know that every fire fighter working in Engine 54/Ladder 4 on 9/11 was killed that day."**

Hall told the media he served with Engine 54 for 24 years.

It also appears that Hall's rescue received no press coverage. Internet searches turn up no mention of Hall by name, or anything resembling an account of an FDNY firefighter being buried and later rescued at Ground Zero.

HOWEVER Hall stands by statements

When asked about the challenges being raised against him, Hall stood his ground. His story is true, he said, with one clarification - he didn't join the ill-fated Engine 54/Ladder 4 until 2004. "I worked at the 273 in 2001," he said. Hall offered the names of three firefighters he said he served with in New York saying they could corroborate his account. The Press And Journal provided those names to FDNY officials. The department said it had no records matching the names Hall provided. FDNY firefighter Rich Kane, a 13-year veteran who ran with Ladder 4, said he never heard of Hall. "He never worked for the department," Kane said. "He is lying."

Not what he seems

Latoya Durham has known Hall for more than four years. She is the mother of his 2-year-old child. "We were dating but the relationship ended in 2009, when my daughter was born," she said. Durham said she was stunned when she found the June story about Hall on the Press And Journal's website because it was untrue. Hall never lived in NYC, she said. "He's a fabricator," Durham said. "What he's doing is so wrong. For him to fabricate on something like this is wrong."

Good firefighter?

Steelton officials, including fire chief Gene Vance and Mayor Tom Acri, said they were not concerned about the allegations against Hall. "It has no bearing on this department," said Vance. "I could care less if he made it up, [or] if he wasn't a fire fighter in New York. He went through training with us." Acri said he was surprised and saddened by the accusations, but stood by him. "I can tell you that he works and is dedicated [to the fire company]," he said. "If he is a story-teller, there is nothing we can do about that. He is very respectful to everyone and is a good volunteer." But Steelton Fire Company Lt. Andy Mahalchick said last week the fire company's board was investigating Hall's claims. The board was awaiting hard evidence before making any decisions, he said.

It's happened before

If Hall's story is just that, a story, he's not the first to falsely claim a link to 9/11. "Over the years we run into this happening," said the FDNY's Thomas. "Some people latch onto the whole event [of 9/11]." Tom McLaughlin, a 16-year veteran of FDNY who is now retired, said he was bothered when he read about Hall because he had never heard of him, or his story. "I spoke with some of the guys I knew worked at 54 and 4 and they said they had never heard of Hall," McLaughlin said. "The real heroes died that day, and the rest of us were just there digging, doing our jobs," he said. "He [Hall] shouldn't get away with that."

HERE is MORE: <http://www.pressandjournal.com/articleDetail.aspx?id=4690>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL AND here is a "free" tip: When bringing on new members-do BACKGROUND checks. Thorough background checks. Not a new concept.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-28-11 / 2200 Hours

AND:

6 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN ASIA COUNTRY OF MYANMAR

A fire followed by several explosions engulfed state warehouses and neighboring homes in Myanmar's main city of Yangon this morning, killing at least 6 Firefighters along with 17 people and injuring 108. **Myanmar is a country in Southeast Asia and is bordered by China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh and India.** The blasts occurred as Firefighters were hitting the fire that had started in a state-owned warehouse before spreading to other warehouses and nearby homes and buildings before dawn. The fire and blasts destroyed 16 warehouses, a Buddhist monastery and 76 homes in Mingalar Taung Nyunt township in eastern Yangon. Many of the dead were hit by flying debris of broken walls and stone slabs that were flung on to the streets due to the explosions. The explosions rocked the entire city, jolting residents from sleep. A 20-foot (6-meter) -wide and 15-foot (4.5-meter) - deep crater was visible at the site. Black smoke was seen billowing from the rubble Thursday morning. Firefighters are still searching for bodies from among the debris. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire, but a home ministry official said the explosions were due to chemicals, including ammonia and potassium nitrate, stored in one of the warehouses. We'll post more as it becomes available. RIP.

PONTIAC (MI) FIREFIGHTERS UPDATE

An emotional 5 hours for Pontiac firefighters ended yesterday with a majority vote to ratify an agreement that paves the way for the city to contract its fire service with the nearby Waterford Fire Department and **ending the existence of the Pontiac Fire Department.** The City and Pontiac Firefighters Union Local 376 negotiated a tentative agreement last week. "We took action with this tentative agreement to allow the body to have a vote in their fate," said Damon Harney, president of the firefighters union. Harney declined to say if the vote was close or not, "out of respect for the members (of the union)."

With the vote in the books, the township of Waterford and city of Pontiac now must agree on a contract for fire service in Pontiac. Waterford's fire union also must enter into an agreement with the township to provide those same services. Many factors went into the union's decision, Harney said. "On one hand, we knew we were laid off February first and had no other options. On the other hand, in a vote to ratify the agreement, we would have the opportunity to apply at Waterford and possibly continue to service the citizens of Pontiac. "These guys had to take a lot of those factors into consideration - also their families and their futures." In addition to those stressors, Harney said the past eight weeks have been full of arguments, negotiations and picket protests. "It was a gut wrenching decision that was long fought," he said. "We took a long time to discuss it. We gathered all the information that we could, and at the end of the day, the members made the decisions they had to make."

Several of the expected 57 union members sat on benches in the vehicle bays before heading. Others stood speaking quietly to one another. Many more milled around in station's kitchen. "Either way the decision goes, it's going to be bad for our department," said Capt. Matthew Nye, before the meeting began. "We have been fighting for nine weeks with offers to provide better service for bigger savings and they haven't listened to those. We must vote on something no members wants to vote on whatsoever." Nye complained there were so many unknowns involved with the agreement. He pointed out Waterford Township had not yet formally agreed to a contract with Pontiac, and that the Waterford firefighters union hadn't ratified any changes. "I believe the actions are happening backwards," said Nye. Nye said the agreement included monetary opportunities for the Pontiac firefighters but didn't elaborate.

However, following the vote, Nye had a more optimistic outlook. "Let's just say that, now that it's over,

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it's almost one of those situations where, regardless of how bad it was, you're just glad it's finally over because it was so exhausting," he said. "People will be able to move on and understand where we're at in this matter and accept it, move forward and work hard with the Waterford Fire Department to make things work for the betterment of the safety of the people. "In the long run, it could turn out to be a fortunate experience for all parties involved. **No matter what, firemen always make something out of nothing and make it work right.** The agreement comes as the Michigan Department of Treasury granted the city permission to hand out layoff notices. Those were received by many of the firefighters on Christmas Eve. The deal to saves the city \$3 million annually and Waterford Township will be paid \$6.2 million to provide fire services for the city. In return, about \$4 million will be spent in fire services for the city. **HERE is more with VIDEO:** <http://tinyurl.com/cdympd2>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-29-11 / 0700 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The BC Coroners Service has confirmed the identity of the Volunteer Firefighter to who died in the Line of Duty this morning while fighting a fire in Enderby. The deceased is Daniel Botkin, aged 29 who was very recently promoted to Captain. Captain Botkin was one of 24 volunteer members of the Enderby Fire Department. The fire department was called to a fire at the Sperlich Log Construction site on Brickyard Road at about 0400 hours this morning. Shortly after 0500 it appeared the fire was under control when there was an explosion in a shed attached to the main structure. Captain Botkin died in the explosion, and a second firefighter suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The BC Coroners Service and the RCMP continue to work closely with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and WorkSafeBC to determine the cause of the fire and explosion. More to follow

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

12-29-11 / 1618 hours

AND:

Hey,

Here is some more updated information on yesterday's fire in British Columbia (Canada) that killed Fire Captain Dan Botkin in the Line of Duty. As companies were starting to roll up their lines, there was an explosion. Investigators have yet to confirm the cause of the blast, which happened at about 0500 hours in the yard of that Enderby-based business that builds and ships log homes around the world. Captain Botkin's grandfather, Dennis, lives next door to the construction yard and he heard his grandson's screams after the explosion. "It was kind of like a boom that you would hear in the army like when the big bombs go off," said the grandfather. "I heard this God-awful scream. I yelled, 'Jesus Christ, phone the fire department, phone the ambulance, somebody's got killed.' ... Little did I know the screaming was coming from my grandson." Dennis said he last saw Botkin earlier Thursday morning, sitting on the back of a fire truck trying to catch his breath before returning to fight the fire. There are 10,000 volunteer firefighters in British Columbia which is on the West Coast of Canada. Captain Botkin was recently married. More to follow.

FATAL FIRE RADIO AND PHONE TRAFFIC

As you may know, there was a horrific house fire in Stamford (CT) last week that killed 2 grandparents and their 3 grandkids with the Mom and a friend being able to escape. The house was under renovation and smoke detectors were not in service prior to the fire, although the family was staying in it. It has been well documented that the Stamford FD FF's performed beyond heroic measures in their

numerous attempts to save these kids and their grandparents-but the fire conditions were too far advanced. **HERE are the 9-1-1 CALLS AND RADIO TRAFFIC** <http://tinyurl.com/cqst7g2>
HERE is much more about the fire, the building and the renovations. Note that one of the below links, the 2nd one has a "poll" asking people's opinions if this incident was preventable.
<http://tinyurl.com/6t22myq> & <http://tinyurl.com/br6o3yq> (poll)

***NTS STRIKES AGAIN!**

DUMB, DUMBER & MORE DUMB: JR FIREFIGHTER "SHOCKED" AT NORTH CAROLINA FD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Two East Spencer (NC) Chief Fire Officers and an East Spencer cop are being charged after investigators said they shocked a junior firefighter nine times at a department Christmas party. **WTF!?** Fire Chief Shane Cranfield and former fire chief Allen Carlyle "borrowed" a Taser from on-duty police officer James Lambeth about 1800 at the fire department's Dec. 10 Christmas party. The 2 CHIEFS discharged the stun gun several times, scaring 18-year-old John Resino. The junior firefighter ran into a nearby room to get away from the firefighters, but Chief Cranfield and Carlyle broke the door's handle and drive-stunned the teenager as many as 9 times. A drive stun issues the same shock from a Taser but is deployed by holding the stun gun to a person's skin, not with propelled metal barbs. The PD issued Taser X-26 was discharged 18 times in a three-minute span and at least 8 people witnessed the incident. Resino was not taken to the hospital. 40-year-old Lambeth will be charged with misdemeanor failure to discharge duty. He resigned from East Spencer Police on Dec. 15 and Cranfield, 37, and Carlyle, 29, will also be charged with misdemeanor assault. Assault? Civil rights violations? They'll be adding them up. This is the stuff some attorneys live for. Happy Holidays. **NTS-*Non Thinking Syndrome strikes again.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-30-11 / 0900 Hours

AND:

Hey,

This is an update to the earlier posted Tulsa (OK) FF who was brought back to life following an arson house fire last night. James P. O'Neal, 35, is a 14-year TFD veteran and is now, thankfully, recovering. O'Neal was responding to a house fire around 1930 last night and was assigned to fire attack on a dwelling with fire showing. O'Neal was at the back of the house when he went down and a MAYDAY was transmitted. He was pulseless and not breathing when the RIT team got him out and ALS revived him outside and he is now listed as stable. Tulsa Firefighters IAFF Local 176 has added an additional \$1,000 reward to the Arson Hotline effort. We wish him a rapid recovery.

APPARATUS DRIVER?

If you are a fire apparatus driver or know one, watch this clip:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=janfyzt4Qyk>

You're welcome.

MORE FACTS-Less Emotion: (TSL Commentary)

I've always been one to react emotionally to any harm toward a FD or a FF, along with some facts-at least as I see them-but generally emotion reigned. It usually worked pretty well when talking with FF's-it's the non-FF's who never seemed to get it. Took me a while in this career for me to figure that out-inspite of numerous warning signs. The emotion apparently comes from the bad stuff we have experienced as FF's but city hall dwellers and others have not. Incredibly it's 2012 already, and I am not aware of any fire department that's not been hit by the economic problems - we are losing people, training dollars and resources, and we're even losing a lot of senior firefighters who are "getting out"

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when they can as they worry their retirements will be messed with. What we're seeing in the fire service today is an erosion of experience and training, and with it the potential quality of firefighters. Departments need to have resources to get the job done, but on the other side of the cutbacks is the fact that we all know that many of the fires we are responding to today are burning quicker -and- collapsing quicker. We know that construction is shoddier. We know these fires are much more dangerous - or we should.

And that doesn't mean we don't do the job - it means we need to be as best trained and educated as possible. We need to be really good at the basic tasks such as size up, forced entry, search and especially getting water on the fire. That's actually a simple one with what should be a simple response: what does it take to get water on the fire in any building your company may respond to? What's the plan? How much water will be needed? How will it get done and how many FF's are realistically needed to get that done? How long will it take? What is needed to make it take less? On top of all this, we are continuing to be beaten down by politics, politicians and by local and national home builders associations using B\$ to minimize or defeat our opportunities to sprinkle buildings. 2011 should have been a wake up call to us of a perfect storm that is being created - and in 2012, some FD's could be heading right into it. Many have less staffing, less resources, less understanding of the types of buildings we are responding to and less chance of beating the fire earlier through a lack of sprinkler systems.

Do more with less. This is perhaps the perfect storm for some FD's. Doing "more with less" may work for the parks department or sanitation-but how it works for FD's is all dependent upon conditions, existing resources, pre-fire preparedness and training. Actually FD's have ALWAYS done more with less. Those watching us just thought that was our norm. It is and was. Now it's even more - with even less. With relation to cut resources, we (and "they") all need to understand that we can only do so much with the resources we have. And a typical Fire Dept's "so much" is much more than any other local government resource. We know it. They know it. But they need to understand the facts-without emotion. Like you, we all want to crawl down the hall, do the search, knock the fire down etc but we have to keep in mind that if we don't have the political support and or the public support to give us what is minimally needed whether it's funding, training or support for sprinkler systems, there is only so much we can realistically do. We can only do as much as our resources and physical ability allow us to do. And that's us already going "above and beyond."

We simply can't get everything done when they have cut what we need to do "everything." Of course, we need to be able to clearly and factually define what "everything" is when they ask us. For example, a first alarm fire with 10 firefighters will not and cannot have the same end results - with that same fire initially getting 25 firefighters. Simple math - no emotion. But "they" need to understand that well before they start the budget slicing. Be honest and factual. And speaking of heroic stuff, that's often when the Fire Chiefs or Commissioners must show the most courage, by taking the risk of "upsetting" the elected officials by telling them the truth. Respectfully, factually and honestly. There have been too many headlines recently where Chiefs have stated that "the cut in apparatus staffing".....or..."the shutting of that fire station".....or..."the brown outs"....will not impact service levels. Please.

There very well may be a measurable difference in people getting rescued-and not getting rescued in your community based upon proposed cuts. So figure it out and educate them. No emotions-just facts based upon the numbers such as response times, distance and FF's to perform the tasks. Tell'em. Factually. When we face some cuts, we can still get some stuff done. If training budgets are cut that doesn't mean you stop training. Everyone has the Internet now, and there's a lot of information that can be gathered there at no cost for the creation of classroom and hands on training. Also, we all have apparatus - and we can get out and train on all of the equipment we already have. Training to the point of becoming an "expert" on every procedure, tactic, single hand tool or equipment you may

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have to use at the next run. If we MAY have to use it, we need to be experts in every aspect of "it". Basic training can get done when we want to get it done. More than basic training costs more than basic money-they have to decide what they want us to be able to do when their taxpayers and related customers have a really bad day.

Show'm the facts without the emotion. Of course, when you're going from a three to four person engine down to a one or two person company or shutting companies down, you can't solve those kinds of problems on the Internet. I know people get very emotional about this - our oath is to save lives and save property. Thirty-nine years ago, I took the same oath as everyone else did. But let's not be stupid. The lives and property stuff isn't equal. It's far greater to attempt to save a life and far less critical to save a property and related stuff. Anybody who doesn't understand that is a danger to themselves and others. No boss should be putting a crew inside to save someone's dress when it's obvious that the lightweight truss house is ready to collapse - especially when resources may have been cut - or have not yet arrived. I understand some may claim to be ready to "lay their lives on the line" for a dress - but that's why, these days, most FD's encourage psychological testing prior to hire.

On the other hand, if the wearer of the dress is still inside, and conditions indicate we may have a shot, we will absolutely take extreme risks. Odds are-we are going in and will do whatever it takes. The point is that we may no longer be able to "afford" to do all the things we did before, with the measurable loss of resources some FD's are faced with now. It can get emotional. But those who are quick to shout, "We should go in no matter what" are those who have never had the responsibility for those who are going inside. When you're a company and especially a command level boss, your responsibility is much greater - to those on the fireground and to those in the building-and the stuff in the building. They have to weigh the stupid risk vs. the necessary risk. Sometimes firefighters will die in that process. There are times firefighters die doing the job that must be done and the risk had to be taken. To think "no firefighter should die in the line of duty" is to clearly not understand the aspects of this risky job. However, to think we should do our best so that no firefighter dies unnecessarily in the line of duty is probably more like it. Sometimes firefighters have to die, but in the majority of times when we have, it was preventable. Sadly, that an emotional fact.

Line firefighters who are told to do "this and not that" (whatever "that" may be) need to understand that the people making those decisions have... (hopefully-and I know that isn't always the case-but in most cases it is) have been in their shoes as a line firefighter. They may have grayer hair, or even less of it than you, but their experience matters and they're the ones who have to make the decision. So, as we start the New Year, our focus on the buildings before they are on fire and training before we have to use it can go a long way. Size up before the run comes in (the buildings, the resources, your alarm assignments and whatever else you can understand and learn about BEFORE the run) ...and size up again when the run comes in (Do we have the resources now, or on the way, to do what we must do right now? What is it that we MUST we do right now? It helps us avoid getting all screamy and goofy when we pull up and we are "shocked" that there is a fire - and we "suddenly" don't have the resources needed to, amongst other things, get water on the fire.

Maybe with more facts and less emotion we'll have a better chance to do the job with success in spite of what the city hall dwellers have in mind. And maybe even get them to understand the emotional facts. All the best for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2012 to you and yours from all of us and ours with special THANKS to our soldiers serving in our armed forces. Take some time to "hands on" train in every opportunity, factually educate the public on what we do, pray for those Firefighters who have lost their jobs in 2011 and be thankful for those who still have them.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List - 1-1-12 / 2000 Hours

AND:

AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-BACKED OVER AT FIRE STATION

A recognized heroic Firefighter who helped residents escape last year's flood disaster at Theodore in Central Queensland (Australia) has been killed in the Line of Duty in a tragic accident at the town's fire station. 28-year-old SES (State Emergency Services) Firefighter Matt Stevens, who also served as a mechanic was called to the fire station on Friday night to work on an apparatus that had broken down. Tragically, he was working under the vehicle when a senior officer at the fire station started the truck, reversed out and unknowingly and accidentally crushed him. Yesterday his wife Jessica, also an SES volunteer, was in severe shock at the loss of her husband. His brother Tim, also a member of the fire brigade and reportedly in the truck at the time of the accident, was naturally left devastated as well. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

HERE ARE SAMPLE APPARATUS BACKING SOP's AND PPT's FROM THE IAFC SAFETY, HEALTH AND SURVIVAL SECTION, THE IAFF and USFA:

<http://tinyurl.com/3t2zgxr>

<http://tinyurl.com/6ot27b9>

<http://tinyurl.com/7crbwr4>

<http://tinyurl.com/7bm7mkv>

<http://tinyurl.com/7ohny2e> (Click OPEN)

HERE ARE MORE SOP'S FROM THE FFCC SOP/SOG SECTION PAGES:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>

HERE ARE RELATED NIOSH REPORTS:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201007.html>

<http://tinyurl.com/87x9wyv>

HERE IS MORE INFORMATION AND TRAINING RELATED TO BACKING AND OPERATING APPARATUS:

www.EmergencyVehicleResponse.com

www.drivetosurvive.org

www.respondsmart.com

www.ResponderSafety.org

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY HURT AS HOSELINE BURSTS

La Salle (IL) FF Steve Smith was injured during initial operations at a large industrial building fire in Peru late Saturday and is now listed in fair condition after early morning leg surgery yesterday at Illinois Valley Community Hospital. FF Smith, 26, had right leg was "ripped open" just minutes after he arrived on the fire scene as he attempted to hook a supply line coupling to a hydrant. "(The accident) cut me pretty deep, ripped my tendon and chipped my femur," Smith said from his hospital bed. The firefighter said he was in a lot of pain before and after surgery, but realized it could have been worse. Doctors told him he will have eight to 12 weeks of recovery followed by physical therapy. He expects to make a full recovery. We'll have more details on this soon.

PHOTOS OF THE FIRE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq1xyxQWCOg&feature=related>

VIDEO OF THE FIRE: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9OgygOaWO8>

BRITISH COLUMBIA LODD FIREFIGHTER FUNERAL DETAILS

The funeral for Fire captain Dan Botkin will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Enderby Arena. Captain Botkin, 25, died in the Line of Duty from an explosion at Sperlich Log Construction Dec. 29.

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More details can be found on the **Enderby FD's FACEBOOK PAGE** where you can also leave messages of condolence.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Enderby-Fire-Department/111450318930609>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL - **ESPECIALLY WHEN BACKING APPARATUS MAKING SURE NO ONE IS ON, ABOVE OR UNDER THE RIG.**

BillyG 1-2-12 / 1040 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today there were 81 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2011. This represents an almost seven percent decrease from the 87 fatalities reported for 2010. The 81 fatalities occurred in 33 states, one U.S. territory, and one overseas U.S. military facility. Texas experienced the highest number of fatalities (seven). North Carolina experienced six firefighter deaths and was the only other state with five or more firefighter fatalities.

"In 2004 at the initial Life Safety Summit, a number of fire service leaders did not believe we would complete a calendar year with less than 100 firefighter on-duty deaths," U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Ernie Mitchell said. "We broke through that perceived barrier in 2009, 2010, and now in 2011! We salute and congratulate our fire service family and pledge to continue working closely with the entire fire service community and its partners to maintain and even accelerate this downward trend in on-duty firefighter deaths." Heart attacks were responsible for the deaths of 48 firefighters (59%) in 2011, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (60%) in 2010. Ten on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, the lowest number of annual firefighter deaths associated with wildland fires since 1996. Fifty-four percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Only three firefighters were killed in vehicle collisions. 2011 firefighter fatality statistics are provisional and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on duty during 2011. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July 2012. For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the annual fatality reports from 1986 through 2010 and the Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990-2000, please visit the USFA website

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-3-11 / 1145 hours

AND:

6 CHILEAN FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-OTHERS BURNED, 1 OTHER MISSING

We regret to advise you that shifting winds caused fire to sweep over a group of Firefighters operating at wildfires in Chile today, killing six of them, badly burning two and leaving another missing. A 10th firefighter listed as missing after his brigade was trapped in the flames was later found unhurt. A sudden shift in the high winds left the group of firefighters overwhelmed by the fire. The wind trapped them and the fire ran them over. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

TULSA FIREFIGHTER IS HOME!

Tulsa Firefighter James O'Neal is out of the hospital. He was pulled out of the fire on New Year's Eve by other TFD rescue members and had been in ICU for several days. While he is out of the hospital

and able to talk with his family but he still has a long recovery. TFD safety personnel are investigating exactly what happened, interviewing Firefighters who were operating, examining his PPE including his SCBA to determine what happened and why. There has been no determination as of yet.

EGOS EAT BRAINS-Nothing New Inside The Beltway. RIP "DCFD MEMORIAL SHIRTS"

Here is the latest on DCFD from DC's Fox 5 and we have links to more. Almost exclusively, our focus on The Secret List and www.FireFighterClosecalls.com is Firefighter survival. Once in a while we like to pass on a story that demonstrates just how, in our opinion "out of focus" some places have become-and more importantly, how the focus on taking care of Firefighters-and the community-are seemingly lost. In so many cases they are lost because of egos or an individuals ego. And as Bruno has said: Egos Eat Brains. Once Again. The DC firefighters union is calling on the DC FEMS chief to back down from his threat to discipline members over a uniform change. This after a veteran firefighter spoke exclusively with Fox 5 Wednesday night. Union president Ed Smith says any uniform change is "wasteful" and if the FEMS chief wants the members to comply he should pay for it.

The DC FEMS chief, for reasons still not clear, has changed the departments logo and has ordered everyone to make the switch. The D.C. Fire Department has changed logos four times in the last twenty years. The last time, just three years ago- a decision that would likely go unnoticed if it wasn't so costly to the city and firefighters who are expected to purchase most of their cold weather gear. The firefighters union is now calling for the FEMS chief to unify the department by paying for the change. Four logos have been used by the department since the early nineties. The last change, made in 2009, was designed to unify the department by including EMS or emergency medical services. But after FEMS chief Kenneth Ellerbe took office another change was introduced. The only clear difference- the addition of two flags- one from the District of Columbia. "Any change that's at a cost to the taxpayer and is not done through attrition is a waste," said Firefighters Union President Edward Smith in an interview Thursday. That's the way the last logo change was being handled through attrition. As new firefighters came in, they were required to wear hats, coats, sweatshirts and tee shirts with the newest logo.

However, FEMS chief Kenneth Ellerbe sees things differently and gave the entire department a deadline to make the change. But he declined to pick up the tab, except for some-but not all. "I want it provided to all my members, that's my stance, plain and simple, if you are talking unity and you provide to some and not to the others, that's not unity, its just causing more division," said Union President Smith. Some high ranking officers and EMS personnel, because the department had some extra money, were given clothing with the new logo. The issue has become so emotional, a veteran lieutenant spoke out on FOX 5 Wednesday night, saying the chief had created a hostile work environment. When asked to comment today, Chief Ellerbe sent us this statement, (I) don't think that Ill be commenting any further on this one. The memorandums, which are self-explanatory, are not meant to be divisive. Some members are using this to divide the department, when they had no problem wearing insignia that was not official. And its not just clothing, the logo will be stripped from apparatus as well- a decision that baffles the union. "The whole fleet is in deplorable condition, the shop personnel are understaffed and over worked, and to have them worrying about a cosmetic change to a fire truck when we have little or no reserve fleet to ride on in the event of a major emergency or call back is not logical at all." FEMS chief Ellerbe says he will discipline anyone who is not wearing uniforms with the new logo on it as of this week, a decision that has some Firefighters turning their coats, sweatshirts and hats inside out - showing no logo at all. Much More Here From Dave Statter: <http://tinyurl.com/7wqrf76> **"IN MEMORY OF DCFD" T-SHIRTS: For those interested, www.DCFD.com will have some limited edition shirts with some very special artwork available next week. Additional DCFD related shirts are available at www.fdtees.com as well as here: www.911store.net/dcfdstore/default.aspx**
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-5-11 / 2113 Hours

AND:

FATAL EMS CRASH IN VIRGINIA

It is with regret that we advise you that today at 1220 hours, there was a fatal two-vehicle fatal crash on Route 20 near the intersection of Route 699 in Buckingham County, VA. The EMT driving the ambulance was killed and two others were seriously injured when the ambulance and cement-mixing truck collided. The EMT and patient riding in the back of the ambulance were flown to UVA Hospital in Charlottesville. The driver of the cement mixer was not injured in the crash. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

CALFire Inmate FF LODD UPDATE

The inmate/Firefighter who died after a fire training exercise at Camp San Luis Wednesday has been identified as Crisanto Leo Lionell, 54. Lionell was participating in a training exercise for inmate firefighters when he lost consciousness and was pronounced dead after he was transported to the hospital. Lionell had been serving an 11-year prison sentence at California Men's Colony since February 2010 for transportation and possession of controlled substances. CDCR and CAL FIRE will be conducting a review of the incident. RIP

7th CHILEAN FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Many of the wildfires burning out of control in Patagonia were set intentionally, and the government blamed a Mapuche Indian group that has long struggled to regain its ancestral lands for starting the fire that has now killed 7 Firefighters in the Line of Duty. The body of the seventh firefighter killed while trying to contain a blaze on the property of the Mininco Forestry company was recovered early Friday. Shifting winds caused flames to sweep over a group of Chilean firefighters on Thursday, killing now 7 of them, and badly burning two others. RIP

ODD DETAILS REGARDING THE DEATH OF A MICHIGAN FIREFIGHTER

A Michigan state trooper investigating the death of an Ann Arbor Firefighter on a Detroit-area interstate says it might not have been an accident. FF Dan Armitage was struck in the middle of the right lane, not close to the bad tire even if he had fallen backward. It initially appeared that FF Armitage was trying to remove a tire when he was struck and killed by other cars yesterday on Interstate 696 in Farmington Hills. But Trooper Paul Shunia says the tire had lost air but wasn't flat and the tire jack was still in the vehicle. Initial reports are that he was changing a flat tire-but now that is being discounted. MSP Trooper Shunia says that FF Armitage was struck however witnesses told police that the victim was flat on the ground before he was struck. MUCH MORE HERE: <http://bit.ly/wWEkzY> No matter what the cause, our sincere condolences to all affected by his death.

YO! LET "VINNIE JONES" TEACH YOU A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET:

Check out THIS very cool CPR training video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILxjxB4zNk> MORE about the program HERE: <http://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/life-saving-skills/hands-only-cpr.aspx> Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-6-12 / 1716 Hours

AND:

FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FALL FROM AERIAL LADDER

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

We regret to advise you that a Pompano Beach Fire-Rescue Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty this afternoon. The veteran Firefighter, along with other members were doing aerial ladder training at the fire station. While the Firefighter was on the extended ladder itself, he fell a significant distance - and in spite of members attempts to save his life, he has died. We'll have more details as they become available. Our sincere condolences to our many friends at PBFR and especially the family members affected. RIP. HERE is their local website: <http://www.iaff1549.org/index.cfm?section=1>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-6-12 / 1809 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Earlier this morning, the aerial ladder of the **Aliquippa FD** (Beaver County, PA near Pittsburgh) collapsed while operating at the scene of a commercial fire. 1 Firefighter was injured but the injuries are reported to be non-life threatening. The fire was reported at Januks Auto Repair business in Aliquippa and first in companies reported fire through the roof. While unconfirmed, it appears the apparatus is a 1976 American-LaFrance 100' aerial that was very recently inspected (2011) and that the AFD was expecting delivery of their new truck this month. We'll post more on the FF's condition and the collapsed rig on our home page as it becomes available.

ANOTHER VERSION OF THE "Stay'n Alive" CPR VIDEO

Here is another excellent, very entertaining and educational version, this one from the American Heart Association. Thanks to Greg J for this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXcsHoQMgqc>

MINNESOTA MAYOR SAYS NO TO FIRE SPRINKLERS IN ORDER TO BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Though Fire Chief Doug Hartman had testified at numerous council meetings about sprinklers' effectiveness in saving lives and reducing the cost of damages in fires, Prior Lake City Council (MN) members on Tuesday repealed state Chapter 1306, an option for cities to require fire sprinkler systems. Once again, we see anti-public safety decisions being made by city hall dwellers who ignore the opportunity to be educated and protect their constituents, their economy and their Firefighters..

ONE VOICE OF REASON, Councilman Richard Keeney, who cast the only "no" vote, said he thinks the city went too far in promoting economic development in this case. "I agree with the fire chief that sprinkler systems are very effective fire-prevention technology," Keeney said. "They are the experts, and they are the ones who are going to have to deal with unsprinkled buildings. You can pay now, or eventually someone's going to pay if they have a big fire." Keeney also cautioned about the fallout that could occur if an animal-boarding business had a fire. "That can be an emotional loss beyond just monetary loss," he said. **However**, as stated: "Mayor Mike Myser said he "didn't hear evidence" to convince him of the ordinance's public benefit." **HERE is much more:** <http://tinyurl.com/8a7dduj>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-8-12 / 0930 Hours

AND:

NORTH CAROLINA FIRE CHIEF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CRASH WHILE RESPONDING

We regret to advise you that the Fire Chief of Robeson County's Evans Crossroads VFD (NC) died in the Line of Duty late last night. The crash occurred on Interstate 74 while while the Chief trying to respond to another accident in the westbound lanes, from the eastbound lanes. Chief Sam Butler, 52,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

was trying to make a U-turn at the end of a ramp on I-74 when his vehicle was T-boned by a tractor trailer traveling east around 1100 hours. The Chief, who according to investigators, was not wearing a seat belt, was killed on impact. The 37 year old driver of the tractor-trailer was not hurt and will not face charges in the crash. Chief Butler was the Chief of the Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department in Maxton and served as the President of the Robeson County Firemen's Association.

HERE is their homepage: <http://www.rcfireassoc.org/> - Our sincere condolences to all those affected by Chief Butlers death-he was one of those folks who never met a stranger. A tragic loss. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. Use Extreme Caution On The Highways And Belt In.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-9-11 / 0755 Hours

AND:

SC FF COLLAPSES AT CRASH SCENE - LINE OF DUTY DEATH

It is with deep regret we advise you that an Anderson County Volunteer Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty this morning. Ex Fire Chief & Active Firefighter David Crenshaw responded to a wreck on Porter Road and Highway 88 around 0630 hours and collapsed at the scene. He was treated and taken to a medical facility in cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead. Chief Crenshaw had been a member of the Pendleton Fire Department for 50+ years. He served as chief of department for 21 years. Crenshaw is a current member of the Pendleton City Council. Our sincere condolences. RIP

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-9-12 /0845 hours

AND:

All,

We are passing this along on behalf of Harry Small, Chief of Department in Pompano Beach, FL. Pompano Beach Fire Rescue mourns its first on-duty death. William J. Elliott served 22 years as a firefighter with our department. Bill was previously with the Lighthouse Point Fire Department for 7 years making him a 29 year veteran of the fire service. Bill's brother, John, works for Boca Raton Fire Rescue. Bill died in the Line of Duty during a training exercise on Friday, January 6, 2012, when he fell from the top of a 100' aerial unit. The cause of the accident is currently under investigation. Bill was one of the most competent and capable firefighters on the job and was known and loved by everyone who served with him. We welcome all fire service members that may wish to attend the funeral services described below:

VISITATION:

Thursday, January 12, 2012 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM

First Baptist Church of Pompano Beach-138 NE 1st Street

Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

SERVICE:

Formal Funeral Services will be held on Friday, January 13, 2012-12:30 PM

Calvary Chapel-2401 West Cypress Creek Road-Fort Lauderdale FL., 33309

PROCESSION:

There will be an official fire service procession. Due to the expected number of apparatus and marked vehicles, all departments are asked to limit their procession units to two (2) per agency. All agencies wishing to participate are asked to please RSVP to the Process/Staging Officer listed in the contacts section of this announcement. All inbound participating fire apparatus and marked vehicles are asked

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to stage at Pompano Citi Centre's southwest parking lot no later than 9:00 AM. Citi Centre is a shopping mall located at the corner of U.S. #1 and Copans Road. The funeral procession is expected to be sizeable. Fire service agencies are asked to coordinate with the Procession/Staging Officer to insure control and safety. Contact information is listed below. The procession will begin at Citi Center in Pompano Beach and arrive at Calvary Chapel in Ft. Lauderdale. This route is approximately 7.5 miles. The Broward Sheriff's Office will provide traffic control and escort services.

BURIAL: As the family has chosen cremation, there will no procession to a cemetery.

RECEPTION:

All attendees are invited to attend a reception back at 1st Baptist Church of Pompano Beach immediately following the formal funeral service. Firefighters' Local Union 3080 will also host a reception at their hall next door to the church for fire service members at approximately the same time.

DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS:

In lieu of flowers, Bill's family is requesting donations be made to:
Greater Broward Firefighter Charities
C/o Firefighters Local #1549, P.O. Box 2263, Pompano Beach, FL, 33061

CONTACT POINTS:

- Procession/Staging Officer- Asst. Chief Harris Bouchillion, (954) 734-3357
harris_bouchillion@sheriff.org
- Honor Guard Officer- Raul Travieso, (561) 239-6965
- Hospitality & Lodging Coordination Officer- Lt. Rich Sandell, Local 1549, (954) 270-4750
- Clergy Coordinator- Paul Walker (954) 600-6572
- Public Information Officer- Sandra King (954) 786-4527

Pompano Beach Fire Rescue welcomes and thanks all fire service members for your participation. Your presence and show of support is gratefully acknowledged.

AERIAL LADDER OPERATIONAL FIRE FIGHTER SURVIVAL REMINDERS:

With two very significant aerial ladder events this week, the above tragic LODD in Florida and the collapse of the aerial ladder injuring a Firefighter in PA, here are some generally related links that may be of value:

- USFA TECHNICAL REPORT:** Aerial Ladder Collapse Incidents (April 1996) may be of interest to FD's using aerial devices: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-081.pdf>.
- NIOSH REPORT** re: Waterway Use: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/SafetyAdvisory06242008.html>
- NIOSH REPORT** re: Falls (2 LODD events from aerial devices) <http://tinyurl.com/7I3rjbc>
- FIRE ENGINEERING:** Safe/Effective Aerial Ops: <http://tinyurl.com/6jhwzro>
- AERIAL LADDER OPERATIONS (EVR)**
: <http://www.emergencyvehicleresponse.com/news/index/layoutfile/article>
- MFRI/FIREHOUSE AERIAL OPS ON THE FIREGROUND:** <http://tinyurl.com/7gsd56p>
- DRILLS** (including some aerial ladder related drills)
<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/weeklydrills.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 1-9-11 / 2100 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Clearwater (Florida) Fire Rescue SUV responding to a reported house fire, struck and tragically killed a pedestrian last night. The Chief was responding last night with emergency lights and sirens activated at the time of the crash as confirmed by several independent witnesses at the scene. For unknown reasons, the pedestrian walked into traffic and was struck by the FD vehicle. The pedestrian was not using a crosswalk and it was dusk at the time of the crash and alcohol is believed to be a factor on the part of the pedestrian. The chief, who was driving the FD vehicle, did not see the pedestrian until right before impact and was unable to avoid the collision. The 41 year old pedestrian died at the scene. Assistant Chief Marvin Pettingill of Clearwater Fire & Rescue was driving to a house fire call when his vehicle struck the pedestrian. Chief Pettingill, a 16-year veteran of the department, was not injured in the crash. Our thoughts go out to all affected.

FIREFIGHTER DEATH IN MICHIGAN RULED A SUICIDE

The death of Ann Arbor firefighter Daniel Armitage on I-696 in Farmington Hills last Thursday has been ruled a suicide. He died at around 0630 hours after being struck multiple times. Witnesses said FF Armitage was lying in the lane of traffic before he was struck by as many as three vehicles. Initial reports in local media indicated FF Armitage was changing a tire on his SUV, as lug nuts were loosened on the tire and the spare was out. But police raised questions when their investigation showed the tire was not flat and had no leaks or damage. Our condolences to all affected.

===Fire Fighter Suicide: A very real issue in our business....

PLEASE CHECK OUT THESE LINKS AND PASS'em ON.

HERE: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php> (FFCC Personal Survival Section)

HERE: <http://blog.iaff.org/post/2010/11/05/No-Fire-Fighter-Stands-Alone.aspx> (IAFF-No Firefighter Stands Alone)

HERE: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/MindMoodNews/firefighter-ptsd-suicide/story?id=14466320> (ABC News Article on Firefighter Suicide)

HERE: http://firechief.com/health-safety/ar/firefighting_not_without_warning/ (Fire Chief Magazine Article)

HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/7bbz8ev> (The Company Officers Role-article)

HERE: <http://sweeney-alliance.org/grievingbehindthebadge/?tag=national-fallen-firefighters-foundation> (Grieving Behind The Badge)

HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/7kxzf9> (Nat'l Fire Service Summit On FF Suicide-NFFF)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-10-12 / 0630 Hours

AND:

All,

Twenty years ago today, on January 12th 1992, Prince George's County (Maryland) Engine Company 27 (Morningside VFD) was dispatched to 3807 Walls Lane in their first due area for a fire. Firefighter Kenneth Michael Hedrick was riding the Engine that day and responded on the run. Kenny entered the house and rescued a 7 year old boy who was trapped inside. Kenny went back inside to search for other reported trapped occupants. While searching the basement Kenny became trapped under debris and died in the Line of Duty. **MORE INFO:** <http://www.morningsidevfd27.com>

Kenny's Mom & Dad (Former Fire Chief Les, and Cathy) were and are still active members at Company 27. They are also both active members of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and MANY of you know the wonderful Cathy Hedrick, Kenny's Mom and active staffer with the NFFF. Members of Co.27 along with Prince George's County **will be honoring the memory of Kenny today. HERE is an interview with Cathy from Firehouse.com: <http://tinyurl.com/4f63ndw>** - If you would like to make a donation to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Kenny's name please visit www.firehero.org . RIP Kenny.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-12-12 / 0001 hours

AND:

GERMAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN CRASH-STRUCK BY APPARATUS WHILE BOTH WERE RESPONDING

We regret to advise you that a 27 year old Firefighter died in the Line of Duty this morning while responding to the Uphal (Germany) fire station on a run. The run came in around 0230 for an automatic fire alarm and the Volunteer "call" Firefighter was turning out to his fire station when he crashed head on with the fire apparatus that was responding to the run. The crash killed the firefighter and 2 Firefighters in the apparatus were injured and were transported. **MORE DETAILS HERE:**

http://www.feuerwehr.de/news/2012/01/14/Ein_Toter_bei_Einsatzfahrt_in_Upahl.php and

HERE: www.firegeezzer.com

I AM ON FIRE!

"I'm on fire"!...that thought or shout is amongst the worst realizations anyone (including a Firefighter) can ever understand. Below is a link related to that well worth you checking out. "TRIAL BY FIRE: Lives Re-Forged," is a NEW documentary film about burn survivors and highlights life-saving fire prevention awareness. It features American War Hero and "Dancing With the Stars" Champion, J.R. Martinez and others who survive personal fire tragedy as well as focusing on what FIRE FIGHTERS do. **HERE IS THE VIDEO TRAILER-PLS CHECK IT OUT:** <http://trialbyfiredoc.org>

More Burn Info HERE: www.phoenix-society.org and www.burnawareness.org

FIREFIGHTERS: Not Gonna Do It. (Have Some FF's Gone Too Far?)

Without a doubt, many Firefighters across North America are unjustifiably under fire by politicians and citizens - who are attacking without all the facts. In some areas, those folks do have the facts and communities just don't have the money. Not an easy time in this business. However, HOW Firefighters and fire service leaders RESPOND to the issues can make a difference between long term winning-or long term losing - - and one of the most critical needs we have: support by the public.

HERE is a piece by Bill C that you should probably check out as SOME FF's have gone overboard with lost perspective that will do nothing to help the cause...resulting in long term damage locally and even far, far away: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/153793>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-14-12 / 1600 Hours

AND:

FEDERAL FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL

Its with deep regret that we advise you that United States Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples (Italy) Firefighter Luigi Rullo, 42 years old died early Friday morning at Capodichino Station 1. After

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Firefighter Rullo had collapsed other on-duty US Naval F& ES personnel attempted to render care , unfortunately their efforts were not successful. No information yet as to the cause of the medical event. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY: INDIA - STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE AFTER FIRE KNOCK DOWN

A fire in a commercial building in Chennai, India around 0030 hours today killing a Firefighter in the Line of Duty and injuring others. The fire was in the offices of Director of Industries and Commerce and Director of Social Welfare. Firefighters initially responded and brought the fire under control in an hour. **Believing that the fire was fully knocked,** a team led by Divisional Fire Officer, Central Chennai, Priya Ravichandran, entered the building around 0130 hours and suddenly the roof caved in. K.Anbazhagan (55), leading fireman at Teynampet station, died at the scene. Firefighters Ravichandran, Murugan (37), SSO, Ashok Nagar, and Prabhakaran (22) suffered injuries. The injured have been taken to different hospitals for treatment. Anbazhagan's body was sent to Government General Hospital. 150 FF's, 15 engine companies and 30 water tankers were used at the fire. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

FIREFIGHTERS BURNED: GAS LEAK RESPONSE EXPLODES-FF's BURNED/INJURED-Rockland County, New York

Leaking gas from a ruptured line blew a townhouse up into a pile of rubble today, causing a gas fed fire and leading to the evacuation of more than 100 homes and the transport at least two seriously injured West Haverstraw firefighters to the Westchester County Medical Center. **INITIAL REPORT:** A Verizon work crew ruptured the gas main around 1210 hours but how much had leaked and where was unknown. West Haverstraw Firefighters responded and were at the door of the townhouse on Zarriello Lane off Route 9W when the explosion occurred at 1237 hours, injuring at least 2 Firefighters seriously and two workers for Orange and Rockland Utilities. EMS took the firefighters to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, rather than wait for the medical helicopter as both Firefighters suffered burns, and one was thrown about 25 feet by the force of the explosion. We'll post more later either or and/or on our home page.

GAS LEAK RESPONSE & REMINDERS:

While the cause, actions and operations of what happened this morning are certainly **not** yet known, this is yet another reminder of how GAS LEAKS-runs that we all respond to daily, can turn ugly.

NIOSH REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Gas Leak

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200913.html>

GAS LEAK EMERGENCIES:

<http://tinyurl.com/86qby4c>

<http://phoenix.gov/FIRE/20405.pdf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-16-12 / 1538 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Both Firefighters are doing better today (with one home and the other soon to be discharged) after that gas leak turned explosion in Rockland County's West Haverstraw. The gas main was broken by a contracting crew doing work on the street for Verizon. **Workers were using a pneumatic tool that shoots a metal device known as a bullet through the earth under the street.** However, "the bullet" slammed into a gas main and the leaking gas filled the area, buildings and storm drains. Injuries to the FF's include concussion, broken bones and some second degree burns... and in

January 21, 2012

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communicating one of the FF's involved: **THEIR PPE PROTECTED THEM FROM MUCH WORSE. As stated by the Chief: "IT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE IF WE HADN'T STARTED EVACUATION IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL"**. The FF's were at the front door of the dwelling when it blew and "a pressure" hit them, described like a football "tackle" that lifted them up and tossed them 30 feet away....and then realizing what happened, they looked up and saw the debris and situation.

SAME TOWN-SAME FD-SAME FF: PREVIOUS CLOSE CALL:

It was almost exactly a year ago, and you may recognize the name Captain Kenny Patterson, who had a very serious **CLOSE CALL** at a fire not far from the scene of yesterday's gas explosion that we posted on FFCC. His department responded to a dwelling fire on Jan. 14, 2011. What he and the crews didn't know when they entered the structure was that the house had been illegally converted into a mess of subdivided rooms. Patterson, 48, became disoriented in the smoke-filled house and ran out of air. His **TRAINING KICKED IN** and he issued a mayday call as he collapsed in the building. Andrew Kolesar, another Firefighter, found Patterson in the building, swung him over his shoulder and carried him out. Patterson was treated at Westchester Medical Center for smoke inhalation. Now a year and a few days later, Patterson is one of the 2 Firefighters being treated after being injured in the gas explosion. We'll have more details as they become available as Chief George Zayas and his crew along with both FF/Instructor Jerry Knapp (many of you have probably attended Jerry's outstanding training sessions at FDIC, if the name sounds familiar) and Captain Kenny Patterson recover from yesterdays incident.

VIDEO & PHOTOS OF YESTERDAYS EXPLOSION:

<http://tinyurl.com/78behw>

<http://www.nybuff.org/2012/01/gas-leak-blows-up-house.html?m=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUcSKtBvLt8>

<http://yorktown.patch.com/articles/firefighters-battle-apparent-gas-explosion-in-west-haverstraw>

ABOUT The West Haverstraw FD (Volunteer Hose No.2) - <http://www.volhose23.com/index.html>

=ARTICLE: Poland Ohio Firefighters Injured As House Explodes After Arrival At Gas Leak Run:

VIDEO & INTERVIEW WITH Chief Chip Comstock: <http://www.vindy.com/videos/2010/feb/13/1154/>

Articles:

<http://tinyurl.com/7lp2msb> - <http://tinyurl.com/7kbxl2n> - <http://tinyurl.com/764mz8j>

=ARTICLE: BUFFALO NY FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN GAS EXPLOSION

On the evening of December 27,1983 a warehouse was the scene of the worst disaster and Firefighter LODD loss of life in the history of the Buffalo NYFD. The warehouse had contained an illegal 500 gallon propane tank whose valve was broken off while it was moved and the building was in the process of being evacuated. The propane gas started to leak, eventually reaching an open flame. The tank exploded, killing all 5 firefighters assigned to Ladder 5 and 2 civilians; it also damaged a dozen city blocks and caused millions of dollars of damage in fire equipment. BFD members Mike Austin, Mickey Catanzaro, Red Lickfeld, Tony Waszkielewicz, and Matty Colpoys were killed in the line of Duty instantly. The 3 engines, 2 trucks, rescue and 3rd Battalion were responding to that report of the large propane tank leaking in the building. Engine 32 arrived and reported nothing showing, but they were talking to some workmen from the four-story, heavy-timber warehouse (approx. 50' x 100'). Truck 5, Engine 1 and BC Harvey Supple (who was critically injured) arrived right behind E-32. 37 seconds after the chief announced his arrival, there was a tremendous explosion. It completely leveled the 4 story building and it demolished many buildings on four different blocks. It seriously damaged buildings that were over a half a mile away. The ensuing fireball started buildings burning on

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a number of streets. A large gothic church on the next block had a huge section ripped out of it. For an excellent article on this tragic fire by then new firefighter-and now former BFD Fire Commissioner, Chief Mike Lombardo, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/7xtlw8j>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 1-17-12 / 0928 Hours

AND:

PA LODD - POV RESPONDING CRASH

We regret to inform you that a firefighter from United Hook and Ladder Fire Company in Adams Co. PA was killed in a single vehicle accident in Berwick Township. The Firefighter was responding in his POV to a fire call at the time of the crash. Our sincere condolences to the United Hook and Ladder Fire Company and the firefighters family.

Take Care - Be Safe

1/18/12 1915hrs

BillyG

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN-The Secret List

It is with deep sadness and regret that we advise of the military Line of Duty Death of Bryan Bell. Bryan was an active member of the Fairfield Hose Co. (Harborcreek Township, PA) before joining the Air Force in 2007. Since 2007, he has been on military leave status with the FD. On January 5, he was one of three Airmen killed in the Line of Duty in Afghanistan when an IED went off near their vehicle. (For the record, the below newspaper article has the wrong year of his enlistment, 2007 is correct.) Bryan was, and other family Firefighters are members of The Secret List-our sincere condolences to his family, firefighters and friends. RIP.

MORE HERE:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012301069904>

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012301179953>

Take Care-Please Remember All Those Who Are Serving In Our Military.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-18-12/1400 hours

AND:

Hey,

Dozens of city hall dwellers (and related elected officials) in Florida are looking at major changes in Firefighter cancer presumption-**and don't think for a second that's only being looked at in Florida.** Jacksonville Beach is just the latest city in Florida to show their support for major fire pension reform, specifically measures that would take away presumptive benefits for heart and lung issues. That City Council voted unanimously last night to pass a resolution saying they support pension reform. The Florida League of Cities is pushing major changes, asking cities across the state to pass similar resolutions, to show state legislators they have widespread support. The group would like to change the Heart and Lung Bill to require firefighters and police to have proof that their illnesses are job related. Jacksonville Association of Firefighters Pres. Randy Wyse said this is an issue that does not just impact Jacksonville Beach, but firefighters across the state. "Obviously we have very dangerous jobs and for a league or a group to to say, 'Well, no. It's not really what your job entails that causes these things.' I think is really short-sighted," shared Wyse. "I can't imagine that anybody would think that what we do doesn't bring certain health risks." Jacksonville Beach City Manager George

Forbes said he was not willing to do an interview about the resolution, because it is a state issue. However, the city had the document posted on its website, saying: "The City of Jacksonville Beach hereby requests the Florida Legislature to amend current statutory disability presumptions for firefighters, law enforcement officers and correctional officers relating to tuberculosis, heart disease or hypertension to require the employee to meet age and employment requirements, allow the presumption to be overcome by a preponderance of evidence and allow certain individual risk factors to be considered when applying the presumption."

Jacksonville Beach is only one of dozens of Florida cities supporting the above actions. HERE is more along with a list of those cities:

<http://beaches.firstcoastnews.com/news/news/70349-firefighters-fight-over-presumptive-benefits>

NEW YORK EXPLOSION UPDATE: "Believe In Angels" (along with good training and PPE)

Shortly before Monday's house explosion, West Haverstraw (Rockland County, NY) Firefighter Jerry Knapp was at the doorstep of the 52 Zarriello Lane townhouse along with fellow Firefighter, Captain Kenny Patterson to force open its front door. They were trying to get to the bottom of a natural gas leak at the Village Fairgrounds II condominium development that the West Haverstraw Fire Department, Haverstraw police and Orange and Rockland Utilities responded to at 12:13 p.m. "When we got there, there was gas coming out of the ground, and we smelled it," Knapp recalled. About a dozen West Haverstraw Firefighters knocked on doors in the development to get gas readings in each house and to evacuate residents as a precaution. Nearly 15 homes were evacuated as a result, Knapp said.

Then Knapp heard from an Orange and Rockland Utilities worker that the gas reading near the outside electric meter at 52 Zarriello Lane was high, although no one could get into the house to check because the door was locked. "We had to get in there. ... So we were prepared to force the door when it blew up," Knapp said.

"When it blew, for some reason, I looked up. The concussion made me look up. I saw the front of the house going that way," said Knapp, pointing to the ceiling as he sat in his kitchen Tuesday afternoon. "I felt like I was being tackled. ... I remember leaving the ground. I got hit with something, not really really hard, but I was hit with something." The next thing he remembered was he was on all fours in the street, and his nose was bleeding like crazy, he said, adding that he was about 40 feet away from where he was before the blast. His helmet appeared to be blown off and was later found, completely destroyed. "I wish I knew how I landed. ... I was dazed for a minute, then I heard people yelling, 'Where's the other guy? Where's the other guy?' - which was Kenny," Knapp said of Patterson.

Knapp, 57, an accomplished firefighter with a degree in fire protection and well known fire service instructor, suffered a concussion, a fractured cheekbone, first- and second-degree burns to his head, and bad bruises to his leg. He was taken to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla but was released Monday night. Captain Kenny Patterson, 48, was still in the intensive care unit at Westchester Medical Center, recovering from several broken ribs and burns to his face and head, said West Haverstraw Fire Chief George Zayas, adding Patterson may be released from the hospital on Thursday or Friday. Knapp, a 37-year veteran firefighter, recently retired as the plans officer for the Directorate of Emergency Services at the U.S. Military Police in West Point. He is an assistant chief with the Rockland County Hazmat Task Force and a training officer at the Rockland County Fire Training Center in Ramapo.

Last June, Knapp and Zayas published an article about the dangers of fighting fire in illegally converted private dwellings. The article appeared on FireEngineering.com, **HERE IS THAT ARTICLE:** <http://tinyurl.com/7ab7hww> -where Knapp writes the Suburban Firefighter column and

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has been a longtime contributor. In addition, Knapp is publishing a Fire Engineering book on house fires. Even with his credentials, Knapp said he would be reluctant to say he's a pro in fighting fires because he believes that there's no way to know everything.

"We try to take a manageable risk, and we thought what we were doing was a manageable risk," Knapp said of Monday's incident. "We weren't trading firefighters' lives for civilians lives. ... We are going into an uncontrolled environment and try to get it under control." How he and Patterson survived the explosion was something miraculous, considering the extent of the explosion, Knapp said. "I can't believe it. If you don't believe in angels, you haven't worked long enough for the firehouse," Knapp said. "Somebody is looking out for us." As he thanked his fire angels, Knapp also thanked medics from Medic One and Dr. Sharla Bryan with Westchester Medical Center and her staff, who treated them. "She and her staff did a great job. We are grateful for those people," Knapp said. (Courtesy of Lower Hudson news)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-18-12 / 1100 hours

AND:

All,

The Firefighter who Died in the Line of Duty last night was 19-year-old Brandon Little of Adam's County's United Hook and Ladder Fire Company # 33. Adams County is just north of Emmitsburg, MD. Firefighter Little was killed after crashing his personal vehicle while responding on a fire call. Around 1740 hours, the 19-year-old Volunteer Firefighter turned of for that fire call when he lost control of his Jeep Grand Cherokee outside of Abbottstown. His Jeep went through a post and a rail fence, and slammed into a tree. Speed is believed to be a factor and he was ejected.

STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED HOOK & LADDER COMPANY # 33

It is with deep regret that the membership of the United Hook & Ladder Company #33 announce the death of Brandon Little this evening while operating in the line of duty. All apparatus assigned to the department is Out of Service until Noon on Thursday January 19, 2012. Funeral arrangements will be forthcoming and the officers will announce preparations to the membership as they become available. We would like to thank our fellow firefighters, departments, public officials, and general public for their thoughts, prayers, and support during this difficult time.

FD, FUNERAL AND RELATED DETAILS WILL BE POSTED HERE: <http://www.33fire.com>

Our condolences to all affected, RIP. LOCAL MEDIA UPDATES AND COVERAGE HERE: www.gettysburgtimes.com

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-BELT IN-SLOW DOWN.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-17-12 / 0017 Hours

AND:

NEW JERSEY FF LINE OF DUTY DEATH-Medical Emergency at Fire

It's with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter with the Hopelawn (Woodbridge Twp, NJ) Fire Department has died in the Line of Duty. Initial reports are that companies were operating at what became a fatal civilian dwelling fire, when the Firefighter went down. He was treated and transported but later succumbed to the event. Our sincere condolences to all affected. More to follow. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 1-19-12 / 1545 hours

AND:

MAUI COUNTY FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter III Duane Ibarra, 50, of the Maui County Fire Department, died in the Line of Duty last night (Wednesday 1/18/2012) at the Makawao Fire Station while on duty. Firefighter Ibarra was found unresponsive and later pronounced dead. Our sincere condolences to the members of the MFD and family of FF Duane Ibarra. FF Ibarra was a 20 year veteran of the Department. RIP.

UPDATE: NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER DIES OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHILE OPERATING AT A FATAL HOUSE FIRE

A veteran Hopelawn Firefighter was among 2 people who died as a result of a house fire. FF Bruce Turcotte, 58, of the Hopelawn section of Woodbridge was pronounced dead shortly after 3 p.m. at JFK Medical Center in Edison. Turcotte, a member of the Hopelawn Volunteer Fire Department, apparently suffered a heart attack. He was laying hoses when he collapsed at the scene. A longtime Firefighter, Turcotte is from a family of firefighters in Hopelawn-including his son. RIP.

PA FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-RESPONDING CRASH-Funeral Details

The funeral for Fallen firefighter Brandon Little of United Hook & Ladder Company 33 in Adams County (PA) will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Abbottstown. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG
The Secret List 1-19--12 / 2230 Hours

AND:

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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:

Pontiac (MI) firefighters aren't feeling so merry this holiday season because they have all just been given pink slips. The entire Pontiac Fire Department received notices from the Human Resources Department Christmas Eve informing them, due to the city's continuing financial emergency, their positions are being eliminated at 7:00 a.m. on February 1, 2012:

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/pontiac-firefighters-get-christmas-eve-pink-slips-20111225-rs>

There are several changes happening at the Winston-Dillard (OR) Fire Department, and officials say more layoffs are coming. Chief Robert Nicholls announced his retirement after discovering that he had a medical illness. Division Chief Ken McGinnis will take over for Nicholls, but says losing the him has been tough. "He has been a wonderful mentor, he is a great wealth of knowledge," McGinnis said. "Losing him at this point is difficult to process, but I'm processing it as best as I can and moving forward." Even though the move will save around \$100,000, the department is still facing a short fall in revenue and will have to lay people off. With the the hard economy and property values dropping, the department brought in much less money. "Because of the figures we are anticipating seeing in the audit and the difference in the collected taxes, it appears layoffs will be imminent," said McGinnis:

<http://www.kpic.com/news/local/Winston-Dillard-Fire-Department-looking-at-more-layoffs-136809478.html>

Four Winston-Dillard (OR) firefighters are being laid off as the fire district deals with a budget shortfall. The layoffs come after an outside audit found the Winston-Dillard District was in a financial crisis. New Chief Ken McGinnis says the layoffs leave the fire district with nine employees, which is half the number it had in 2010. "We are trying to do everything we can to lessen the impact for the employees, making sure everything that can be put in place before the layoff is done," McGinnis said. The chief says he hopes volunteers will make up the difference: <http://kdrv.com/news/local/235719>

The merger of the Ross (CA) Fire Department with the larger Ross Valley Fire Department would save the town of San Anselmo an estimated \$20,000 to \$100,000 a year, according to preliminary estimates. Ross Valley fire Chief Roger Meagor told the San Anselmo Town Council this week that the exact savings would depend on how the resulting four members of the joint powers agreement — San Anselmo, Fairfax, Sleepy Hollow and Ross — divvied up the costs. Meagor said that while there would be some cost savings, "The real reason to do this is to improve service." San Anselmo Councilman Ford Greene noted that Ross Valley Fire union representatives have complained to him about the department's policy of staffing firetrucks with just two firefighters, while the national standard is four per truck. Meagor said ideally he would like to see the trucks staffed with at least three firefighters. But he added, "I also know that at this point it isn't fiscally feasible." http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_19722984

As of 8 a.m. Saturday morning, the city of Hesperia (CA) will have one less fire station. "Taking down the pictures on the walls, that's when it really hit a lot of us," said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department and part of the Station 301 crew. "There's a reason why the station's been open for more than 50 years. It's needed." The closure of Fire Station 301 on 11th Avenue was decided back in November, after the abject failure of Measure F at the ballot box. The measure would have imposed a new \$85 parcel tax for five years to help fund the Hesperia Fire District, which pays for the city's fire district and is primarily funded by property tax revenue. Property tax revenue has dropped 24 percent over the past three years, forcing the city to drain its reserves to keep fire service at the previous level. Some 80 percent of voters resoundingly rejected Measure F. City officials insisted there was no way Hesperia could keep funding fire services as they were, and so Hesperia City Manager Mike Podegracz met with county Fire Department officials to find a way of cutting the equivalent of nine firefighters from the city's contracted service. Nine firefighter positions have been cut from the city's contract: three fire captains, three engineers and three firefighter/paramedics, all of whom have found positions elsewhere in the county's fire stations, according to Sherwin:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10615324/calif-station-set-to-close-after-50-years-of-service>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

A former firefighter was arrested on suspicion of arson after allegedly tossing a Molotov cocktail at a North San Juan residence. Tabitha Bauer called Nevada County Sheriff's deputies at about 9:20 a.m. Saturday to report that Keenan Mann Browning, 40, was trespassing at her residence in the 10000 block of School Street. She said he was driving his Harley Davidson motorcycle in circles, and then left:

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20120110/NEWS/120109765/1007&parentprofile=1>

A fire chief in Rowan County (NC) was fired after accusations that he and another firefighter shocked a teenager with a Taser at their Christmas party. The alleged incident happened last month, when East Spencer firefighters and their families gathered for their annual Christmas party. Fire Chief Shane Cranfield and former Chief Allen Carlyle are accused of using a Taser to shock an 18-year-old firefighter. On Monday, Cranfield was fired and Carlyle was banned from the property. Macon Sammons Jr., the East Spencer town administrator, said the incident should never have happened. "It was totally and entirely inappropriate and uncalled for," Sammons said. "It should never have happened. And it forced our hand. We had to act." Sammons said the 18-year-old was shocked multiple times with the Taser:

<http://www.wsocvtv.com/news/30169935/detail.html>

Two high-ranking firefighters in East Spencer (NC) and a police officer are facing charges after a teenager was reportedly shocked nine times at the fire department's Christmas party. According to Chief David Ramsey, East Spencer Fire Chief Shane Cranfield and former fire chief Allen Carlyle used a police officer's Taser on a volunteer firefighter at the fire department's Christmas party on December 10. The officer, 40-year-old James Lambeth, was on-duty at the time of the incident, Ramsey told WBTV. The drive stun, which is held to a person's skin, was used at least nine times on 18-year-old John Resino, a student at North Rowan High School in Salisbury. Resino is a East Spencer volunteer fireman, according to the Sheriff's report. Lambeth reportedly resigned from the East Spencer Police Department on December 15. He is facing charges of failure to discharge duty for not stopping the assault, Ramsey told WBTV. Cranfield and Carlyle are facing assault charges. Chief Ramsey told WBTV that warrants have been issued for all three men and they are expected to be arrested Thursday night and Friday: <http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/228916/58/Firemen-shock-teen-with-Taser-9-times-during-Christmas-party>

A Clark County (NV) firefighter has lost his job and is facing numerous charges after he admitted calling in fake emergencies and stealing from his co-workers. John Brush told fire investigators he would make up fake emergencies to get his firefighters called out and then he would use his badge to enter the fire station and steal the chow money. Firefighters donate money to the chow fund which is used to buy groceries. Officials say Brush stole \$800: <http://www.8newsnow.com/story/16447485/clark-county-firefighter-facing-several-charges>

A Macon-Bibb (GA) County firefighter maintained Thursday that his suspension after a firehouse hazing prank was unfair because a colleague who took a more active role in the prank received the same punishment. An appeals hearing was held Thursday morning for Jessie White, one of eight firefighters disciplined following the Sept. 18 video prank, which showed a gunman threatening firefighters with a BB gun inside a Peake Road fire station. White, a firefighter of three years, represented himself at the one-hour hearing and said he'd never participated in a prank before. He only participated in the Sept. 18 prank, he said, because it was planned in part by his commanding officer, then-Capt. Stephanie Burke, who was working as a battalion chief that day. "I felt it would be OK to follow her role," he said. Burke is scheduled to have a hearing later this month to appeal her demotion from the rank of captain to lieutenant, as well as a 20-day suspension. Fire Chief Marvin Riggins, who also testified during the hearing, said White had an opportunity not to participate in the prank. White violated city performance and conduct regulations and fire department guidelines concerning hazing and weapons at work, Riggins said: <http://www.macon.com/2012/01/13/1861583/firefighter-punishment-for-video.html>

Moscow (ID) Fire Chief Ed Button is calling the citation of two underage resident volunteer firefighters caught drinking at a city fire station early Sunday morning an isolated incident that should not affect the public's vision of the agency. University of Idaho students Nicholas Turco, 20, and John Westberg, 18, were found drinking alcohol in a vehicle in the parking lot of the Moscow Volunteer Fire Department's Station No. 3 on North Main Street around 2:45 a.m. Sunday and cited for minor in possession, according to Moscow Police Chief David Duke, who said no other firefighters were contacted during the incident. Button said EMS Division Chief David Reynolds, who manages the student resident program with the department, terminated Westberg's involvement over the issue and prior disciplinary matters and Turco is on an indeterminate suspension to likely be followed by a probationary period. No further investigation into drinking at the station is expected to occur, said Button. Under the student program, volunteers sign a contract stipulating they not consume alcohol on station premises: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article.cfm?articleID=103501>

Emilio Hall is no longer a member of Pennsylvania's Steelton Fire Department. Steelton Mayor Tom Acri confirmed Hall was voted out of the department in a letter to the Press and Journal. Debra Schell is the reporter who interviewed Hall last June when he made the claim that he was a former FDNY firefighter who was trapped in the rubble of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Schell revisited that story on December 28 after being contacted in November by a former girlfriend of Hall's who said his claim is bogus. Schell confirmed with FDNY that no one by the name of Emilio Hall had been a member of the department. Hall stood by his story for the December 28 article, but according to Schell's latest report, Hall can't currently be reached because he is in Dauphin County Prison on a criminal contempt charge (no details provided in the report). Mayor Acri and Steelton Fire Chief Eugene Vance received a lot of criticism within the fire service for comments made to reporter Schell for the December article. Chief Vance, who according to Schell retired as planned at the end of 2011, was quoted as saying, "It has no bearing on this department." Mayor Acri described Hall at the time as dedicated to the company and said, "If he is a story-teller, there is nothing we can do about that." Mayor Acri has portrayed things somewhat differently for the latest article: Mayor Acri said he, the Steelton community, including the Steelton Volunteer Fire Department and former Fire Chief Eugene Vance, "were sincerely shocked and appalled by these accusations and hold Mr. Hall's actions with great gravity and sadness." Acri was clarifying to comments he and Vance made in support of Hall in December. Those comments brought criticism from many in the firefighting community. "We [Acri and Vance] were both certainly caught off guard by the accusations but do not find this matter trivial and have worked swiftly and decisively to address it," Acri said: <http://statter911.com/2012/01/10/update-steelton-pa-fire-department-bounces-emilio-hall-firefighter-who-claimed-he-was-fdny-member-trapped-on-9-11-hall-is-currently-in-jail/>

The Rancho Adobe (CA) fire captain who embezzled more than \$63,000 from his union to cover personal expenses including a trip to Disneyland and San Jose Sharks season tickets was sentenced Tuesday to a year in county jail. Michael Scott Bechtold, 39, of Rohnert Park, sobbed as Judge Kenneth Gness meted out the punishment for the theft, which occurred over a five-year period while Bechtold was treasurer of the firefighters association. Gness ordered Bechtold, who was on misdemeanor probation for a domestic violence conviction at the time of his arrest, to also repay the money and serve five years' probation. "You certainly have punished yourself in the public eye," Gness told Bechtold, who was dressed in a blue jail uniform. "You can't go back to the fire department. That must be sort of painful." Bechtold, a firefighter for 20 years, did not speak. But his lawyer, Kathleen Pozzi, said he was embarrassed and remorseful. In a letter to the judge, Bechtold said he stole the money to pay off "never-ending debt" that followed his divorce and orders to make child-support payments: <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120117/ARTICLES/120119518/1033/news?Title=Fire-captain-gets-1-year-jail-term-for-embezzlement>

Neighbors & chiefs say they were misled by engine crew. Albuquerque (NM) FD rig in neighboring jurisdiction for two hours to fix firefighter's broken water pipe. On Saturday, Albuquerque Fire Department Engine 27 was seven miles from its station, parked in a Rio Rancho neighborhood for two hours. It's hard to hide a fire truck, so neighbors were quite curious why a rig from a neighboring department was spending so much time on their street. Their curiosity has brought the scrutiny of a TV reporter and AFD's chief. According to KRQE-TV, the neighbors say they were told the firefighters were checking out a smoke complaint. It turns out the lieutenant and three firefighters had been authorized to go to the home of one of the firefighters to repair a broken water pipe. It appears they had permission from their battalion chief, sort of - AFD Fire Chief Jim Breen said the firefighter lied about the location of

his house, saying it was in Albuquerque and within Station 27's district on the far west side. The chief said if the bosses had known, it never would have been approved:

<http://statter911.com/2012/01/19/neighbors-chiefs-say-they-were-mislead-by-engine-crew-albuquerque-fd-rig-in-neighboring-jurisdiction-for-two-hours-to-fix-firefighters-broken-water-pipe/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Firefighters are heroes to many for fighting fires day in and day out. But this holiday season, a special group of Boise (ID) firefighters got together to do even more than fight flames. They made a homemade meal for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for sick kids and their families, and these firemen wanted to bring a little Christmas cheer to the people staying there. This week, Boise firefighter Matt Lutz and his buddies from Fire Station #7 made dinner for the third time this year. "It seemed like it would be a lot of fun to organize coming down, have groups of guys coming down to cook dinner for folks, and a good way to reach out to the community and give back a bit," said Matt Lutz, Boise Fire Department. "To support kids and families that are here staying at the Ronald McDonald House because of unfortunate illness in their family."

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/7s-Hero-136230338.html>

A one-year contract between the city of Washougal (WA) and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2444 will save the city thousands of dollars in the coming year. During its Dec. 19 meeting the City Council approved the new labor agreement, which takes effect Jan. 1 and does not include any cost of living adjustment for 2012. Bringing the most significant amount of savings to the city is the stipulation that the number of hours worked per "Kelly Day" schedule cycle would be reduced from 49 to 48, which would bring Washougal in line with Camas firefighters' contracts. Camas and Washougal paid firefighters have been part of the same union since 2009. This move alone is expected to save the city at least \$30,000, according to City Administrator David Scott. A "Kelly Day" is a day off given to firefighters to comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act and bring the work week down to the negotiated number of hours. Without the Kelly Days, overtime would have to be paid to firefighters because of their unusually long shifts. Councilman Paul Greenlee described the Kelly Day cycle as "complicated," but said he is pleased with the end result of the contract negotiations:

<http://www.camaspstrecord.com/news/2011/dec/27/new-iaff-contract-will-save-washougal-more-30000/>

Seven members of the Scottsdale (AZ) Fire Department, along with volunteers and one group, were recognized this month for outstanding service. The department held its annual awards ceremony Dec. 14 at Granite Reef Senior Center. About 60 people gathered to honor seven Scottsdale fire employees, a community association and two volunteers for their acts of heroism, lifesaving and community service. The Scottsdale Fire Department has been highly regarded for its customer service since being formed six years ago, according to fire Chief Garret Olson. "The Scottsdale Fire Department has a 97 percent approval rating from our community. That is no accident," Olson said. "It is due to employees and volunteers going above and beyond, providing exemplary service to ensure Scottsdale is healthy and safe for residents, businesses and guests." Olson stressed the importance of customer service:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/2011/12/20/20111220scottsdale-firefighters-volunteers-honored.html>

After a fundraiser Tuesday, San Francisco (CA) firefighters and community members have nearly raised the funeral and burial costs for a Modesto family that lost their son to leukemia

only two days before Christmas. Through community outreach, a fundraiser at Don Ramon's Mexican restaurant in San Francisco, and collecting donations at the San Francisco Fire Fighters Toy Program headquarters, program chair Sally Casazza estimates that they have raised nearly \$7,000. But funeral costs may exceed the \$7,000 initially estimated, and the firefighters have extended their goal to \$10,000. The fundraiser at Don Ramon's raised nearly \$2,000 for the family, and Casazza said that one good friend of the program took to the streets to tell the young man's story and raised more than \$5,000 himself:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_19635513

The city of Tacoma (WA) may avoid proposed layoffs of about 100 Tacoma police officers and firefighters under concessions proposed by bargaining teams for public safety unions, police and fire labor representatives said Friday. It's now up to the memberships of each union to approve the concessions. The police union has planned a vote for Monday evening. The fire union has scheduled votes for Jan. 26-27. "We came up with a package that answered the layoffs that we were asked to address," Terry Krause, president of Tacoma Police Union Local 6, said Friday afternoon. "We found the savings elsewhere to do that, it's concessions. So, that's what we'll be bringing to our body to vote on." Matt Frank, vice president of Tacoma's fire union, separately added his bargaining team believes "we've identified savings to spare the 44 (fire) jobs that the city has targeted for layoffs." "I feel like we've accomplished the task given to us," Frank said, "pending approval of our membership, obviously."

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/01/13/1982220/concessions-may-avert-layoffs.html#storylink=misearch>

Training & Safety Related Items:

A 29-year-old Hawaii man arrested following a confrontation at a fire station has been charged with second-degree assault and first-degree terroristic threatening. Police say at 9:15 a.m. patrol officers responded to a call from the Hawi fire station. When they arrived, they saw a man struggling with a male firefighter on the floor of the firehouse driveway. Police say the 49-year-old firefighter was bleeding profusely from the head. Police say Dylan Trumpy of Hawi, was arrested on suspicion of assault and taken to the North Kohala police station for processing. He was then transferred to the Kona police cellblock pending further investigation. Police say it appears Trumpy had driven to the station and become disorderly and aggressive while demanding information and names of Fire Department personnel. He reportedly attacked the firefighter and stabbed him in the head multiple times with a ball point pen after being asked to leave the station due to his behavior:

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/16406992/firefighter-attacked-at-fire-house-on-big-island>

Two paramedics sit in their broken down ambulance as shots ring out all around them. The video they recorded while waiting to be rescued is raising questions about the City of Detroit's (MI) promise to fix problems with its emergency service. Play the video in the player to see the video taken by paramedic Wisam Zeineh and to hear the sounds of almost constant gunfire as he and his partner sit in their broken down rig:

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/detroit-ems-rig-stranded-as-gunfire-rings-in-the-new-year-20120103-ms>

Prepare for every call: Size-up tips for responses - There should be a general knowledge of the area that you cover, and sound decision-making comes from that knowledge:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1222260-Prepare-for-every-call-Size-up-tips-for-responses/>

A study released Monday shows firefighters have higher rates of obesity than the general public. Authors of "Addressing the Epidemic of Obesity in the United States Fire Service" wrote: "the number of individuals who are overweight, obese, and unfit has risen to alarming levels in fire departments, both volunteer and career, across our nation." Heart attacks have been the top killer of fire and rescue personnel across the nation for many years. Among the key findings of the study include:

- Rates of overweight and obese individuals in the fire service are higher than those found in the general public, ranging from 73 percent to 88 percent of firefighters.
- The high rates of obesity in the fire service do not appear to be due to inaccuracy in measurement.
- Research demonstrates that a large percentage of firefighters do not meet minimal standards of physical fitness.
- Occupational factors may place firefighters at high risk for weight gain, including shift work, sleep disruption, unhealthy eating patterns in the firehouse, and the absence of fitness standards for firefighters.
- Overweight and obese firefighters have been shown to suffer from a large number of problems compared to their colleagues, including hypertension, higher risks for cardiovascular disease, low fitness, reduced muscular strength, and more frequent cardiac events.
- Overweight and obese firefighters are less fit to perform their jobs and cost fire departments significantly more than firefighters with a healthy weight.

More here - <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10614536/study-finds-firefighters-have-higher-rates-of-obesity-than-public>

General Fire Service Related Items:

The Washington Post published an editorial on its web site titled, "A shift for the better: New hours for D.C. firefighters". In it, the Post generally supports Washington DC Fire & EMS Department Chief Kenneth Ellerbe's plan to do away with the 24-hours on, 72-hours off, four platoon shift currently in place. Besides echoing Chief Ellerbe's money will be saved, the Post editorial board says for the department to be fully unified, as recommended by the task force that looked into the 2006 death of New York Times reporter David Rosenbaum, firefighters should work the same 12-hour shifts as the civilian EMS force. The editorial also makes the point, with EMS being bulk of the work load for firefighters, the department needs to move away from 24-hour shifts to reduce errors, similar to the trend of hospitals shortening shifts for interns: <http://statter911.com/2011/12/26/washington-post-supports-dc-fire-ems-department-shift-change-editorial-board-calls-it-a-shift-for-the-better/>

A suburban (NY) firefighter who claims he's the victim of reverse discrimination saw his civil-rights suit snuffed out by a Manhattan appeals court this morning. The ruling said Mount Vernon Firefighter Joseph Carroll, who is white, "offered no evidence" that officials rushed to draw up a new promotion list after black firefighters threatened to sue if he made lieutenant. Carroll had moved up to second from ninth on an old promotion list when two lieutenant slots opened up in July 2007, before the results of recent civil-service tests were compiled. Carroll claims that during an interview, the chief of staff to then-Mayor Ernie Davis told him that while "everything looked good" for his promotion, "it was not going to happen" due to objections from the Vulcan Society of Westchester County, which represents black firefighters: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/appeals_court_douses_firefighter_01xtApiRXdntl31cKHGhOI

The front office at the Big Bear (CA) City Fire Station is now closed. Firefighters are still on duty at the station, but all administration has moved west, or at least most of it. With the approvals of the Big Bear City Community Services District board and the Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District board, the Big Bear City Fire Department administration office closed up shop and moved to Big Bear Lake. The move is part of the consolidation efforts among the two departments. The administration consolidation is Phase I of a merger plan for the two departments. The plan was born out of necessity to combat declining revenues. Property tax revenue has steadily decreased, and both fire agencies are funded by property taxes. Big Bear Lake Fire Protection District's budget is 90 percent property taxes. Big Bear City is funded through property taxes, a parcel tax and ambulance transport fees. In addition to shuttering the Big Bear City administration office, the two governing boards approved Willis' proposal for administrative staffing and a cross-hiring plan. No personnel were laid off in the move. Administrative secretary and public information officer Deanne Johanson retired from the Big Bear City Fire Department Dec. 22. The safety officer resigned several months ago and another secretary was transferred to the CSD office:

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/article_43caa2d2-30ff-11e1-a84d-001871e3ce6c.html

A must read for fire service personnel (current and future) of ALL ranks - Who moved the fire service's cheese in 2011? The cheese we have enjoyed in the fire service has changed and doesn't taste too good:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1210254-Who-moved-the-fire-services-cheese-in-2011/>

The Soledad (CA) Fire Department has merged with CAL FIRE as part of a cost-cutting plan to save money for the city of Soledad. CAL FIRE will provide the administrative and operational oversight of the Soledad Fire Department. Rather than having to provide their own chief and infrastructure, the fire department will join CAL FIRE to share costs. The 3 1/2-year agreement between Soledad and CAL FIRE, which can be renewed after that, is expected to save the city of Soledad about \$650,000:

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20120103/NEWS01/201030315/Soledad-Fire-merges-CAL-FIRE?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CEI%20Sol%7Cs>

Former Palm Beach (FL) Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief Jason Weeks will face the Town Council's Administrative and Personnel Committee this week as he fights a demotion, pay cut and suspension. Public Safety Director Kirk Blouin stripped Weeks of his duties as a battalion chief in October after learning of his involvement on developing and maintaining a private, union-backed website — PalmBeachPensions.com — while on town time, using town equipment. The website criticized the town's position of cutting pension benefits, an issue during contract negotiations with Local 2928 of the International Association of Firefighters. The Town Council approved the pension reductions for Palm Beach Fire-Rescue, although the town has not yet implemented those changes. Weeks, 39, admitted his involvement with the site, which cost former Fire Chief Bill Amador his job. Town Manager Peter Elwell fired Amador in January for working on the site as a member of the town's management team. Amador has a pending lawsuit against the town seeking reinstatement. With a demotion to firefighter/paramedic, Weeks' salary dropped from \$104,093 to \$82,043. Blouin also imposed a 240-hour suspension, which is on hold pending the outcome of his appeal, Deputy Fire-Rescue Chief Darrel Donatto confirmed Saturday:

<http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/jason-weeks-appealing-demotion-more-to-town-council-2089524.html>

When the state agency that oversees the city's finances commissioned a report on the Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department two years ago, it was with the hope that a rational examination of the department's political hot-button issues could be done. That study, released Wednesday, did not shy away from some of the most controversial problems -- referencing in the first few pages the distrust between labor and management, and the history of racial and gender tensions in the ranks. The report also described a Fire Department culture "resistant to change," and was critical of a management structure that "tends to reinforce the status quo." "The gap between the current reality and the department's aspirations for itself is wide," the study said. "Bold action is needed to communicate that the department is shifting to a new organizational and operational paradigm." To that end, the study envisions a department that is leaner: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/10615942/report-critical-of-culture-of-philadelphia-fire-department>

Grocery-cam: Citizen thinks he's uncovered a scandal as FDNY's Engine 255 goes shopping in Brooklyn. Still, the video is a good lesson for everyone. The author Dave Statter brought this up three weeks ago when he spoke at the graduation of Arlington County Fire Department Recruit Class 68. While talking about social media ethics, he pointed out that it isn't just what firefighters do while on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter that can cause problems. They will also be under the watchful eye of citizens with cameras on every response and everywhere they go who will be uploading what they find. This is something previous generations of firefighters just didn't have to deal with. Yes, there were always people in the community complaining that firefighters used the fire truck to go to the grocery store. But now these folks have the visual proof and can't wait to share it with the rest of the world. It is important to be prepared for this by making sure firefighters don't confront the fire paparazzi and, in turn, make things much worse. Also, my suggestion is fire chiefs should be proactive and confront this head on before the video vigilantes arrive. If you allow your firefighters, EMTs and paramedics to shop with the rigs, provide an explanation on your website and in community meetings. Let the people you serve know up front what your policy is and why it is that way. It will take the wind out of the sails for a lot of these people:

<http://statter911.com/2012/01/08/grocery-cam-citizen-thinks-hes-uncovered-a-scandal-as-fdnys-engine-255-goes-shopping-in-brooklyn/>

Los Angeles (CA) Fire Chief Brian Cummings replaced three members of his command staff this week, becoming the first chief to use the new power granted by a ballot measure passed last year. The three who were replaced - Chief Deputy Donald Frazeur, Chief Deputy Emile Mack and Deputy Chief Andy Fox - will be demoted to the rank of assistant chiefs and reassigned other duties effective Feb. 12, according to officials. "I thank the current members of the command staff for their years of service to this department, and look forward to working with them in different roles as we move this organization forward," Cummings said in a statement: http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_19724206

And, last but not least...4 challenges firefighters face in 2012. From Adam Thiel - I think there are several issues that will substantively change our response environment in 2012 and beyond:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1210775-4-challenges-firefighters-face-in-2012/>

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!

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