

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 11, 2011

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 2011 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

FALL 2011 Semester: (August through December, 2011)

Note: not all classes being offered below are listed below – those that are already full or have already started are not listed since students are typically not allowed to add after the first session in many classes.

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day), or Wed & Fri (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Cal Fire wildland basic training) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 29, December 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 15, 17, 19 and 20	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Sat/Sun (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class meets on the following dates: - November 29, December 1, 3, 6, 8 & 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

SPRING 2012 Semester: (January through May 2012)

Registration for the Spring 2012 semester at Chabot College is as follows:

- **November 7th and 8th:** EOPS, DSPS, Aspire, Veterans
- **Beginning November 9th:** Continuing students by priority number
- **Beginning November 28th:** New and Former students
- **Beginning December 14th:** Concurrent Enrollment

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 51 (Fire Operations)	Thursday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule is available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 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
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 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (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

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
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 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1300 – 1650 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – TBA)	0830 – 1620 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
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

NOTE: The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding 2011 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at www.chabotcollege.edu

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

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Denver (CO) Fire Department** will be accepting applications for the position of Entry-Level Firefighter beginning Monday November 28, 2011 at 9:00 am.

- It is unknown when the application filling period will close, so apply a.s.a.p. if interested.
- When you apply online, you will be signing up for a testing session in January or February 2012.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.denvergov.org/civilservice/CivilServiceHomePage/BecomingAFirefighter/tabid/426546/Default.aspx>

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

Fall Back on Sound Advice: Time to Change Your Clock AND Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

Contact: USFA Press Office (301) 447-1853 – October 31, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD. – As our nation moves back to Standard Time beginning this weekend, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to mark the occasion as a time to test your home smoke alarms and replace the batteries if more than one year old.

Every day in the United States, needless home fire deaths occur. Working smoke alarms significantly increase your chance of surviving a deadly home fire. A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert scanning the air for fire and smoke.

In addition to changing your smoke alarm batteries this weekend, the USFA recommends following these simple steps to protect your life, your loved ones, and your home:

- Dust or vacuum smoke alarms when you change the batteries.
- Test alarms once a month using the test button.
- Replace the entire alarm if it's more than 10 years old or doesn't work properly when tested.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, and both inside and outside of sleeping areas.
- For the best protection, equip your home with a combination of ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor alarms.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout your home so that when one sounds, they all sound. Interconnected alarms are available at most stores that sell smoke alarms.
- Make sure everyone in your home understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

Finally, prepare and practice an escape plan so that you and your loved ones can get out of your home safely should there be a fire. Plan to meet in a place a safe distance from the fire and where first responders can easily see you. For more information on smoke alarms, fire escape planning, and fire prevention, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/smokealarms.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

National Fire Academy Open Enrollment

The student application period for National Fire Academy second semester classes (April 1 to September 30, 2012) is now open. The application period closes December 15, 2011.

The National Fire Academy offers several new courses this year:

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- **Hot Topics Research in Emergency Medical Services (R139)**. Students in this six-day course will research emerging issues in EMS to identify, promote, and embrace system or service improvements. The course is structured around how to make persuasive justifications through effective data collection and presentation using a wide variety of research methods. Students will construct a program proposal or progress report for presentation.
- **Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation (R255)**. This six-day course helps investigators properly and effectively electrical systems and related component to determine their role in fires. Topics include a basic explanation of electricity, electrical circuits and distribution systems, electrical faults and failures, and how NFPA 70, National Electrical Code applies to fire investigations. Students will learn the skill of arc mapping to aid in determining fire causes.
- **Hot Topics Research in Fire Protection (R138)**. What's new in fire protection? This course is intended to identify new and emerging issues, products and trends that may apply to local jurisdictions. Students will learn how to conduct research, evaluate technological and human behavior topics, and present the material in a meaningful way to effect change to reduce fire losses or enhance understanding of new technologies.
- **Cultural Competence in Risk Reduction (P394)**. This six-day course seeks to improve cultural and linguistic determinants within the application of risk reduction strategies. The first pilot class is scheduled to be delivered Sunday, December 4 through Friday, December 9, 2011. The second pilot is scheduled to be delivered January 29 through February 3, 2012.

To see the schedule, student selection criteria, and application instructions, please visit <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

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

USFA, Justice Department Initiate Public Safety Emergency Vehicle Safety Study

Contact - USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - October 24, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD. – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)/National Institute of Justice (NIJ), has begun a study of emergent topics in emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety to assist in the development and demonstration of best practices for the emergency services. The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) will conduct the study. "USFA is committed to reducing the incidence of vehicle crashes and emergency responders being struck on the roadway as they are a large cause of on-duty fatalities," said Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. "We are grateful for the U.S. Department of Justice's support of this important initiative which benefits both the fire service and law enforcement."

Each year, approximately 25 percent of on-duty firefighter fatalities occur while responding to or returning from incidents, with the majority of fatalities resulting from vehicle crashes. This represents a leading cause of firefighter fatalities - second only to heart attacks. While this is a critical issue for the fire service, it is also an issue for the law enforcement community. Data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund shows that from 2001-2010, vehicle-related crashes - including motorcycle crashes and struck while operating on the roadway - were the leading cause of on-duty fatalities for U.S. law enforcement officers. These fatalities represented 43 percent of the total number of officers who lost their lives on duty during that time.

“Increasing safety for our law enforcement officers and firefighters is one of our highest priorities,” said John H. Laub, Director of the National Institute of Justice. “We are delighted to work with our partners at the USFA to discover what works best to reduce deaths and injuries from vehicle crashes and being struck by vehicles.” Added IFSTA Executive Director Mike Wieder, “These types of injuries and fatalities are among the most preventable types for all emergency responders. IFSTA is grateful for the opportunity presented to us by the U.S. Fire Administration and the DOJ's National Institute of Justice to perform this study with the goal of reducing these losses.” Further information on USFA's vehicle and roadway operations safety initiatives may be found on the USFA website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/research/safety/vehicle-roadway.shtm>

For more information on NIJ's law enforcement research programs, please visit <http://nij.gov>.

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

USFA and NFPA Join Forces Again to *Put a Freeze on Winter Fires*

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - NFPA Press Office: (617) 984-7275
November 10, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD – As we move closer to winter and home fire deaths begin to increase, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) remind everyone that fire safety and prevention are especially important in the coming months. Because home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season, USFA and NFPA are once again jointly sponsoring a special initiative – ***Put a Freeze on Winter Fires*** – to help raise public awareness about winter fires. “These fires are a painful reminder of what we see every year – the temperatures drop and fires increase,” said NFPA President Jim Shannon. According to NFPA statistics, space heaters account for about one third of home heating fires and approximately 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths.

The USFA's Winter Residential Building Fires - <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/tfrs/v10i5.pdf> PDF, 1Mb) report shows that each winter an estimated 108,400 residential building fires occur in the United States, resulting in 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent. Winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. “The winter season brings the highest number of home fires, more than at any other time of year,” said USFA's Deputy Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Home fires increase in part due to cooking and heating. Winter storms can also interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative heating sources that contribute to the increased risk of fire during the winter months.”

Winter Fire Safety Tips

The USFA and NFPA recommend following these safety tips to prevent winter home fires:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period, turn off the stove.
- Space heaters need space; keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from each heater.

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- Check electrical cords often and replace cracked or damaged electrical or extension cords. Do not try to repair them.
- Never use your oven or stovetop to heat your home. They are not designed for this purpose and can be a fire hazard. In addition, carbon monoxide (CO) gas might kill people and pets.
- Do not put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Avoid using lighted candles. If you must use candles, place them in sturdy candleholders that won't burn.
- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.

"Winter fires are preventable," Gaines emphasized. "Everyone should find out what they need to know to prevent a tragedy and have a safe winter season."

For more information about the causes of winter fires, winter storm fire safety, holiday fire safety, and tips that will help prevent the incidence of fire in the home, visit the USFA website at www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org/winter

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

2012 FDNY Symposium

The FDNY Foundation invites you to join us at the FDNY Training Academy for our Fourth Annual Symposium being held on March 15 & 16, 2012.

To see an overview of the topics being presented, go to:
<http://www.fdnymfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/flyer-symposium-2012.jpg>

We listened to the responses from the past Symposium attendees and have focused on new case studies which provide in-depth examples of how the FDNY operates at multiple alarm fires and emergencies. As past attendees know, the Lecturers who experienced these fires/emergencies are upfront about what worked and what didn't in order to create an educational event with relevant, real world situations that Fire Departments across the country and around the world are confronting on a daily basis. Past attendee's comments attest to this: *"Best Conference ever. Speakers were fabulous."* *"Outstanding. Very very, useful information."* *"My first time and it was a fantastic experience."* *"Totally rewarding, looking forward to another meeting."*

A "Reference Manual" will be given to all Attendees describing the official FDNY procedures for all related subjects presented during the Symposium. This Manual allows the Attendee to share the experience with members of their Fire Department by exploring in detail the strategies and tactics described at this event.

Continental Breakfast, Lunch and Coffee/Refreshment stations will be available during each day of the Symposium. A tour the FDNY Training Academy on Randall's Island is offered at the end of each days lectures. On site there will be a select, limited group of Exhibitors, with the latest products and equipment related to Firefighting and EMS operations.

FDNY Symposiums in the past have sold out early. Please insure your reservations for this event by taking advantage of our early registration, reduced tuition price. View the FDNY Foundations web page for the Symposium schedule and further information on how to register; www.fdnysymposium.com

We look forward once again to sharing our knowledge and meeting with the leaders of the Fire Service and Building Professionals from across the country and around the world.

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



Focus on Fire Safety: Holiday Cooking

Cooking fires continue to be the most common type of fires experienced by U.S. households. This is even more apparent during the holidays. **There is an increased incidence of cooking fires on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.** Cooking fires are also the leading cause of fire injuries in homes. These fires are preventable by simply being more attentive to the use of cooking materials and equipment. Don't become a cooking fire casualty. Learn the facts about cooking fire safety today! Go to: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/focus/cooking.shtm>

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

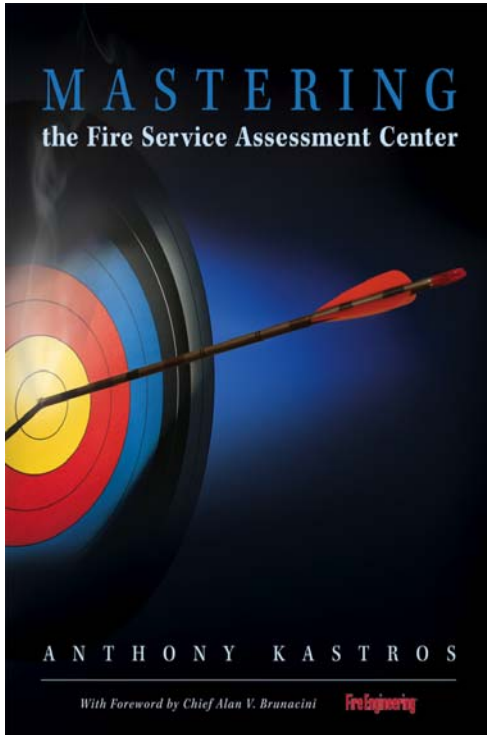
4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, VISUAL RESUMES, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, VIDEO COUNSELING, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.
- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.

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- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- PRACTICE EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND AVOID CANDIDATE PITFALLS.
- * INCLUDES BEST-SELLING BOOK PUBLISHED BY **FIRE ENGINEERING**.



"I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE EXCELLENT SEMINAR THAT YOU GAVE IN PREPARATION FOR LA CITY'S FIRST EVER ASSESSMENT CENTER FOR FIRE CAPTAIN. BETWEEN WHAT I HAD BEEN STUDYING IN YOUR BOOK WITH FRIENDS AND WHAT WENT ON AT THE SEMINAR, WE ATTAINED SCORES OF 93.5% AND 100%. I REALLY LIKED THE FACT THAT YOUR INFORMATION ISN'T BASED ON TECHNIQUES OR GIMMICKS RATHER IT TEACHES HOW TO MOST EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE OUR ALREADY ACQUIRED SKILL SETS."
CHUCK - LA CITY FD

"I JUST WANTED TO DROP YOU A LINE AND LET YOU KNOW THAT I PLACED #1 ON OUR CAPTAINS LIST WITH AN OVERALL SCORE OF 95.36% AND I WAS PROMOTED LAST MONTH. THE PLAN THAT I PUT TOGETHER AFTER YOUR ASSESSMENT CENTER CLASS WORKED. YOUR METHODS ARE PROVEN. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND YOUR INSPIRATION THAT YOU GAVE ME TO PURSUE MY PROMOTION."
BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD

"I AM SO, SO HAPPY THAT I TOOK YOUR COURSE. IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE DIFFERENCE IN ME BEING SUCCESSFUL IN MY PROMOTIONAL PROCESS. I TOOK YOUR COURSE WITH SEVERAL OTHER COLLEAGUES FROM MY DEPARTMENT. I CAME OUT NUMBER 5 OF A LIST OF 47. THERE ARE THREE (3) OF US IN THE TOP 5 FOR CAPTAIN. THERE ARE 5 OF US IN THE TOP 10."
REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD

Anthony Kastros is a 24-year veteran of the fire service. He is a Battalion Chief with the Sacramento (CA) Metro Fire District. He is author of the Fire Engineering DVD series "Mastering Fireground Command - Calm the Chaos!" and author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center", that focuses on strategy, tactics, leadership and management. Chief Kastros is an FDIC instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. He spent 4 seasons on a Type 1 incident management team, and 10 years as a FEMA USAR Task Force Manager, deploying to New York on 9/11. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and is currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

**JANUARY 24 THROUGH 27, 2012 – LAS VEGAS, NV
\$495.00***

**GO TO WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

California Fire & Rescue Training Authority

Fire Management 2B - Fire Service Financial Management

December 5-9, 2011 Monday-Friday

Folsom, CA - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the second of a five-course series. This course is designed to provide insight into the cyclical nature of budgeting and financial management. As a management course, the student will become familiar with essential elements of the financial planning, budget preparation, budget justification, and budget controls. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, and other Fire Service Managers.

Fire Management 2C - Personnel and Labor Relations

January 30-February 3, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the third of a five-course series. This course is designed to provide fire managers with advanced knowledge and insight of fire personnel, human resource, diversity management, legal mandates, labor relations, and related areas. Methodology includes presentations, case study, exercises, and focused discussions. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, & other Fire Service Managers.

Fire Management 2D - Master Planning

March 26-30, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the fourth of a five-course series. This course provides information and discussion centering on program planning, master planning, forecasting, system analysis, system design, policy analysis, and others. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Fire Service Managers, and City/County Administrative Officers and Planners.

Fire Management 2E - Ethics and the Challenge of Leadership

June 4-8, 2012 Monday-Friday

Location TBD - \$360.00 per student

Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD

Prerequisite: Fire Management 1

This is the fifth of a five-course series. In this course, the participant will correlate personal core values and characteristics to ethical decisions and behaviors. In addition, the participant will explore ethical and principle-centered leadership, including ethical systems, ethical dilemmas, and ethical decision-making models. The participant will also examine challenges and develop strategies for leading in public safety organizations serving diverse and dynamic communities. The participant will use a variety of learning modalities including case studies, video analyses, and critical thinking scenarios to explore ethics and the challenges of leadership. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, and other Fire Service Managers.

Contact Information

phone: (916) 475-1660

www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

FIRE COMMAND 2A

Command Tactics at Major Fires

January 23 - 27, 2012

0830 to 1730 hours

Class Location: McCormack Training Center
485 West Sunnyoaks Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008

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Behind the Sunnyoaks Fire Station, please park along the fence towards the training tower.

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

Prerequisites: Fire Command 1A; I-300

Description: This course prepares the officer to use management techniques and the Incident Command System when commanding multiple alarms or large suppression forces.

Registration Deadline: Monday January 9 at 1500 hours.

This class is subject to cancellation in the event of low attendance by the deadline. If the minimum number of students is reached by that deadline, then we will accept additional registrations until we reach our maximum. Maximum class size is 30 students please register early!

More Info: Contact Stephanie Morrison at 408-341-4410 or stephanie.morrison@cnt.sccgov.org

Community College credits will be available.
To register, use the form below:

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Command 2A
January 23 - 27, 2012

Name: _____
Rank: _____
Department: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

For this class, the only form of payment will be checks.

Please make your check payable to: The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

Please mail or deliver your check to:
Santa Clara County Fire Department
Attention: Stephanie Morrison
14700 Winchester Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

Cancellation Policy:

To request a refund, students must contact Stephanie Morrison. Full refunds will be provided if requested by January 9, 2012 at 1500 hours. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future Level 2 course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:



The Santa Clara County Fire Department is proud to offer:

FIRE COMMAND 2C

High-Rise Firefighting Tactics

March 12 - 16, 2012

0830 to 1730 hours

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

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

Prerequisites: Fire Command 2A; I-300

Description: This course prepares the officer to use management techniques and the Incident Command System when commanding multiple alarms or large suppression forces.

Registration Deadline: Monday February 27 at 1500 hours.

This class is subject to cancellation in the event of low attendance by the deadline. If the minimum number of students is reached by that deadline, then we will accept additional

registrations until we reach our maximum. Maximum class size is 30 students please register early!

More Info: Contact Stephanie Morrison at 408-341-4410 or stephanie.morrison@cnt.sccgov.org

Community College credits will be available.
To register, use the form below:

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Command 2C

March 12 -16, 2012

Name: _____
Rank: _____
Department: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

For this class, the only form of payment will be checks.

Please make your check payable to: The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

Please mail or deliver your check to:

Santa Clara County Fire Department
Attention: Stephanie Morrison
14700 Winchester Blvd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032-1818

Cancellation Policy:

To request a refund, students must contact Stephanie Morrison. Full refunds will be provided if requested by February 27, 2012 at 1500 hours. If a refund is requested within 14 calendar days before the first day of the class, the student may be given credit for a future Level 2 course, but not a full refund. No refunds will be provided if the student does not attend the class, or if they begin the class but do not complete the class.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

**ELITE COMMAND TRAINING
PRESENTS
COMMAND & CONTROL SIMULATIONS
"PROMOTIONAL READINESS"**



**HOSTED AT:
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF TRAINING
2310 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110**



INSTRUCTED BY:

**DEPUTY CHIEF · MIKE BRYANT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**FIRE COMMAND 2A · COMMAND TACTICS AT MAJOR FIRES
JANUARY 17 · 20, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2B · MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR HAZ-MAT
INCIDENTS
FEBRUARY 27 · MARCH 1, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2C · HIGH RISE FIRE FIGHTING TACTICS
MAY 21 · 24, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2E · WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING TACTICS
JUNE 25 · 28, 2012**

**FIRE COMMAND 2D · PLANNING FOR LARGE SCALE DISASTERS
SEPTEMBER 4 · 7, 2012**

**DON'T BE THE PERSON IN COMMAND WHO DOES NOT KNOW
WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW, AT THE TIME THEY
NEED TO KNOW IT...**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.ELITECOMMANDTRAINING.COM**

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

R.W. Jones & Associates will be offering a number of State certified courses to assist you with getting promoted and/or with career development to be a better firefighter, better company officer, better chief officer, etc.

- **Fire Investigation 1A:** November 28 through December 2, 2011 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Training Instructor 1B:** December 12 through 16, 2011 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Command 1B:** January 9 through 13, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Command 2A:** January 30 through February 2, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** January 30 through February 2, 2012 (*Class in Campbell, CA*)
- **Training Instructor 1C:** February 6 through 10, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)
- **Fire Management 1A:** April 16 through 20, 2012 (*Class in San Jose, CA*)

For more information and to register for the classes, go to their website at www.ertnow.com or call (209) 406-2447.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

American Health Education in Dublin, California will be offering a number of State certified courses to assist you with getting promoted and/or with career development to be a better firefighter, better company officer, better chief officer, etc.

- **Training Instructor 1C:** December 5 through 9
- **Prevention 1C:** December 12 through 16

Additionally, they are offering numerous EMS related initial and continuing education courses such as EMT, EMT refresher, Paramedic, CPR, ACLS and PALS. To register for these classes or see the other variety of classes being offered, go to their website at www.americanhealtheducation.com or call (800) 483-3615.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2011 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to www.firenuggets.com

Seminar #1: Thursday December 8, 2011

Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground

- Presented by Captain Mike Gagliano, Seattle Fire Department

The Point of NO Return is a dynamic, cutting edge presentation that is transforming the way the national fire service views Air Management, Tactical safety and Firefighter survival. This fast moving workshop utilizes dramatic audio/video, stimulating discussions, and everyday scenarios to create a synergistic learning experience where the students lead, as well as learn. At the center of the class are The Need, The Mandate, and The Solution. Each area will be covered in detail and gives the

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students practical information, along with drills, to take back to their departments. Among the topics covered are:

The Rule Of Air Management (ROAM) ■ The point of NO return ■ How firefighters are dying in structures ■ The coming changes to NFPA 1404 and how they will affect you ■ Factors that affect the duration of a firefighter's air supply ■ READY checks (A new way to do buddy checks) ■ Review of close calls from Seattle, Phoenix, Ft. Worth and other cities ■ Practical methods to manage your air ■ CARA radio reports ■ Myths of air management

These and other topics will make for a great day of learning and classroom participation. The consistent comment received from firefighters across the spectrum of experience is: "I wish I had this class years ago. I can take this and use it tonight."

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gagliano.pdf

NOTE: All of the above seminars are going to be held at:

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

FIREHOUSE SHIRT CLUB:



Authentic Station Shirt, At Your Doorstep, Every Month

FireHouseShirtClub.com

In the summer of 2011, all the pieces that make a really good idea and a great business came together: passion, philanthropic hopes and a solid business plan. As a Dallas firefighter himself, founder, Jim Scano, knows a little something firsthand about the emotional side of the business he began. Common in the industry, a firehouse will design a t-shirt that best represents that station and its members. In an effort to assist firefighter enthusiast in procuring these authentic firehouse t-shirts, in June, FireHouseShirtClub.com launched on the internet as a monthly t-shirt club that also found a way to give back to the community it celebrates.

When Jim initially had the idea of starting a website where firefighters could "swap" t-shirts with other firefighters regardless of geography, his good friend, Brett Hersley, offered his business knowledge and together, they developed the business model of a t-shirt club that gives back to the firehouses they feature.

Since June, the website has been enthusiastically welcomed and is steadily growing in members and fans. Perhaps success has come so quickly because the idea is a straightforward opportunity to give back while wearing the shirt of the firehouse the member actually supports. Members pay \$20 a month, and in return they get an authentic t-shirt—the named Featured Shirt of the Month—from a participating firehouse across the country. Designs are chosen based on a multitude of factors such

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as the design's uniqueness, the history of the station the shirt represents, as well as the cause or charity the station is working toward. All firehouses are encouraged to submit their shirts.

"I work at Station 10 in Dallas; because we are the furthest north station in Dallas, we call it 'The Last Outpost'. Our logo includes a Polar Bear as a tongue in cheek reference." Jim says, "Enjoying other firehouse shirts rooted the idea."

It's a good deal and even better than that, membership financially supports the charity chosen by the featured firehouse of the month. In an effort to show appreciation and solidarity to the stations for allowing the club to feature their shirt, FireHouseShirtClub.com donates \$2 for every shirt back to the station or to a charity of their choice. In September, when Chicago Engine Company 5's t-shirt was featured, donations went to the Chris Wheatley Memorial Fund for their brother who was killed in the line of duty a little over a year ago.

To find out more about the company celebrating and making a difference in the lives of firefighters and their families across the country, visit www.FirehouseShirtClub.com

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

The **San Francisco Paramedic Association** is looking for **volunteers** for the following upcoming EMS related classes:

- **Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Classes - Volunteers Needed -**

Dates / Locations / Times:	- December 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>) - December 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>)
	**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under Give) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org

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

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nothing else, you will hopefully start to learn your strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to become a firefighter. Don't rely on us to provide you with every fire department that is accepting applications. We only send out a small fraction of the current open firefighter positions across the United States. If you truly want to become a firefighter, put your money where your mouth is and subscribe to a fire testing service that will notify you when fire departments across the United States are accepting applications.

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

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

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

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT) INFORMATION:

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

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

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

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

Northern California
526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Harold Gregory Gibson
Rank: Firefighter III
Age: 53
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 12
Date of Incident: 06/19/1993
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 07/02/2011
Fire Department: Fulton County Fire Rescue
Address: 5440 Fulton Industrial BLVD SW, Atlanta, GA 30336
Fire Department Chief: Larry Few

Incident Description: Firefighter Gibson contracted Hepatitis C after coming in contact with blood while treating a patient injured in a traffic accident in 1993. Due to medical complications related to Hepatitis, Firefighter Gibson left the fire department in 1998 and passed away in July, 2011.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: July, 2011

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter III Harold Gregory Gibson at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 76 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 70 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: Horace C. "Chris" Pendergrass
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 22
Date of Incident: 10/22/2011
Time of Incident: 0830hrs
Date of Death: 10/22/2011
Fire Department: Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department
Address: 4100 Chain Bridge RD, Fairfax, VA 22030
Fire Department Chief: Ronald L. Mastin
Fire Department Website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/>

Incident Description: Firefighter Pendergrass was discovered deceased in bed by fellow firefighters at shift change, having passed away during the night in his sleep from a cause still to be determined.

Incident Location: Station #41, 9610 Hampton Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-2813

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Horace C. "Chris" Pendergrass at

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

To date, 77 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 71 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

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

Hey,

A group of inmates could be changing their prison jumpsuits for bunker gear in Camden County, GA. Think'n WTF!? Yeah-us too. Of course we are well aware it works in some areas-primarily for wildland firefighting. But in this case, a county in Georgia is looking at a magical "inmates-to-firefighters" program as a money-saving options to stop residents' fire insurance costs from more than doubling. The county is also considering whether fire substations or Volunteer Firefighters could improve its Insurance Services Office, or ISO, rating. Now that's just crazy. Sub stations? Volunteer Firefighters? Are you nuts? THAT won't work.

Now, before you get too worried, if the program is approved, it will be open to inmates who:

- Committed only "low-level" crimes, such as drug offenses and thefts;
- Have a "record" of good behavior; (possible oxymoron)
- Pass an interview process;
- Promise to not use cell phones, have visitors, or leave the firehouse unless responding to an emergency.

Well THAT makes it better. So Mrs Smith-please put out your WELCOME mat to thieves, drug dealers and drug users who have a record of "good behavior" and WHO PROMISE to not use their cell phones. Keep in mind that FIREFIGHTERS usually "cannot be" (thieves, druggies etc) or have been any of the above-but this "new" group "should be" be fine-especially to save money.

The inmate firefighter program would save the county more than \$500,000 a year by some estimates.

As we said, the concept of inmate firefighters is hardly new. California inmates fought fires in the 1940s, when World War II caused a firefighter shortage. Today, there are more than 4,000 firefighting

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inmates stationed at 45 wildland specific camps throughout the state. Many others have firefighting inmates, but they typically operate in their own crews out of their own firehouses, supervised by a guard and primarily fighting wildland fires.

This proposed program would put two inmates in each of their 3 existing firehouses, and they would respond to all emergencies - including residential fires and EMS - alongside "traditional" Firefighters. The inmates would have no guard, but would be monitored by a "surveillance system" and by the traditional Firefighters, who would undergo training to guard the inmates. WTF!? That county's Public Safety Director said using the inmates strictly for wildland fires wouldn't be realistic in Camden County - because there are so few wildland fires. Crews of strictly inmates wouldn't work, he said, because they need traditional firefighters to supervise them. One traditional Firefighter with correctional training can supervise up to three inmates.... Hmmm-is that a new NFPA staffing standard?

One county commissioner was told these inmates are very enthusiastic about being a firefighter. Ya think? As he said: "This is not like a chain gang. Life at a fire station could be a whole lot more pleasant than life in jail." Last time we checked, life isn't supposed to be pleasant in the slammer. Well-actually, the firehouse to prison comparison depends on the firehouse, the department, the Firefighters and the officer-but that's for another discussion some other time. In this case, the inmates would not be paid for their work, but upon release they would be able to apply to work as a "traditional" Firefighter 5 years after their conviction dates instead of the normal 10. Sort of a bonus. THE SAVINGS: It costs that county about \$6,000 to train a firefighter; \$2,000+ to outfit them; and about \$40,000+ to pay the salary and benefits. With each of six inmates working all three shifts, the county would save more than \$100,000 a year per inmate. HOWEVER, when using prisoners, it would cost \$10,000 to \$15,000 to feed and outfit each inmate; install security measures such as surveillance systems; and provide correctional training for traditional firefighters....who would now become "FIRE-Fire Officer Correctional Dept/EMT II's " (commonly known as FIRE-Foc'd) if traditional "crazy aunts and uncles in the basement" city hall personnel people get their hands on this.

Sorry-we are probably writing this way too quickly and hitting send just as quick, but you have got to be kidding. Seriously. While we DO appreciate and understand the wildland aspect-and even the prison based programs in some areas with armed guards and trustee inmate firefighters working out of prison firehouses - but this idea is nuts. Want to save money? Get rid of the road department, water department, grass cutting department, tree trimming department, wax the floors at city hall department, most HR departments, wash the mayors car department or some other "award winning" idea to save money-let the "low level" criminals handle those jobs. Those jobs require an entirely different level of trust and responsibility.

But, if you are going to have a fire department, than have a fire department with quality people who leave no question in anyone mind in the firehouse-or especially when Mrs Smith opens her door for the next emergency. When Mrs Smith DOES dial 9-1-1, impeccable and unquestionable trust is the common denominator when we walk in her home, examine her, walk throughout her home or or anything else we are expected to do as firefighters. And that is not to mention during idle time at the firehouse, during pub-ed details, inspections and related community service details. This idea doesn't come close. Heck, if you follow the news lately, some FD's can't accomplish that with Firefighters and Officers that don't have criminal backgrounds. Just say'n. More Here:

<http://tinyurl.com/3b3vfrt>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-10-11 / 1330 Hours

AND:

Hey,

For those of you who will be attending this weeks National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend, we sure look forward to seeing you there. For those who are unable to attend, here are several links that allow you and your Department to participate via the Internet:

-You will be able to follow the weekend events through social media. NFFF has a team of Firefighters on campus in Emmitsburg to provide pictures, video and details from the entire weekend via Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/#!/NationalFallenFirefightersFoundation> and Twitter https://twitter.com/#!/NFFF_News .

-Departments and individuals can still add the NFFF Tribute Widget to their website, blog or Facebook page.

Go to <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget> to copy and embed the widget.

-There is a library of video on FireHero TV, the NFFF's YouTube account <http://www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV>

Here are links to videos about the weekend activities.

-About the 2011 Memorial

Weekend: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCPMpXa91Pc&feature=youtu.be>

-Highlights of the 2010 Memorial Weekend: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JnEvxzTrmA>

-A Tour of the National Fallen Firefighters

Memorial: http://www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV#p/u/28/9_loFMLpTpc

-Returning Survivors: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV#p/u/26/PZA0kR0zogE>

-Behind the scenes at Memorial

Weekend: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV#p/u/27/B9aNZlhXaOA>

-Inside the TV production unit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3xV-RqFdI8>

-Bells Across America for Fallen Firefighters is going strong and more places of worship are signing on every day: <http://bellsacrossamerica.com/creative/blast.html>

-The NFFF crew will be constantly updating the Memorial Weekend website with fresh pictures and information at <http://weekend.firehero.org/> .

TAKING A RISK:

While it's clear that there are many risks we take-one's we don't have to take---there are, on occasion, incidents where we must take great risk in order to save a life. Case in point: Yesterday, 2 Volunteer Firefighters in Levittown (Nassau County, Long Island, NY), arrived on the scene of a working single family dwelling fire before their department, sized the fire up, determined the victims location and pulled her out. The woman was taken to Nassau University Medical Center, where she is in the burn center and in extremely critical condition. The fire was reported at 1400 and companies from the LFD and the neighboring East Meadow FD responded. 2 LFD Firefighters -- Chris Tuohy and Lionel Roseval -- went directly to the scene from their homes and arrived before the companies. The fire started in a second-floor bedroom and right after they got the woman out, the house lit up. **Kudos to LFD FF's Tuohy and Roseval. HERE is the LFD's Facebook Page:** <http://tinyurl.com/6zwsyao>

A VERY POSITIVE "CANCER SUPPORT" EXAMPLE: MAJOR SUPPORT FOR METRO NYC/LONG ISLAND AREA FIREFIGHTERS & EMS PERSONNEL:

CONGRATS to the Greater NYC/Long Island Chapter of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. They will be dedicating a Firefighters bell at a ceremony at the Monter Cancer center at 450 Lakeville Road, New Hyde Park (just outside of NYC in Nassau County) on Tuesday November 22nd at 10 am. The North Shore-LIJ Hospital Corp is a huge supporter of the FCSN. They have built a beautiful cabinet that will prominently display the bell in the Lobby of their Monter Cancer Center. The

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Smithtown FD graciously donated the apparatus bell. Every Firefighter and EMS Paramedic/EMT from anywhere in the region, upon completing treatment, will ceremoniously "ring the bell". Additionally, the North Shore LIJ folks will provide counseling and other items as well as assist the Firefighter mentor who will be assigned to the member, upon their diagnosis-in cooperation with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. Kudos to the North Shore-LIJ folks who have partnered with the Long Island chapter of the FCSN. The NSLIJ Health System clearly recognizes the importance of assisting Firefighters thru the challenges of cancer - and their assisting the FCSN is a wonderful example. **For additional info from North Shore/LIJ-contact: Jim Romagnoli at: jromagno@nshs.edu** - For more information on the FCSN, go to: www.FCSN.net
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-11-11 / 1137 Hours

AND:

(WE FAILED TO ADVISE YOU OF THIS YESTERDAY-You can stream this weekends NFFF memorial ceremony on your FD's website. Also, please encourage your local media to do the same. All of the info you need is at this link- <http://weekend.firehero.org/media/live.html>) Cya This Weekend.

Hey,

The Line of Duty death of EMT/Rescue Tech Michael Kenwood, a Princeton (NJ) First Aid and Rescue Squad (PFARS) member, has been ruled accidental because of acute asphyxia due to drowning, according to details in materials provided to the local media. It is also revealed in the report that fellow EMT Peter Simon was trapped in the waters that killed his fellow member by clinging to a tree for 90 minutes. EMT Kenwood died in the Line of Duty on Aug. 28 after attempting a swift-water rescue at an abandoned car with Simon during the height of Hurricane Irene.

Police and rescuers were unable to ascertain if anyone was in the vehicle and made the decision to have rescuers, Kenwood and Simon, enter the water as far as they are comfortable. Both rescuers were wearing helmets, dry suits, Neoprene boots and a personal floatation device (PFD). The rescuers moved forward toward the car for about two minutes, until they decided to turn back because of the depth of the water being mid-shin, flow and distance they still had to travel to get to the car. Simon took the lead position as the team turned back with Kenwood holding onto his PFD. About five steps into their retreat, Kenwood began to lose his balance and went down into the water, taking Simon with him. The pair was swept about 30 feet downstream and their line caught on an evergreen tree. During that 45-second time period, Simon lost contact and sight of Kenwood, who became separated from him by the tree. After getting no response from Kenwood, Simon cut the rope that bound the team together, which allowed Kenwood to float downstream. These events took place in the two minutes since the pair fell into the water. They were swept into a small stand of trees on the north side of the parking lot of nearby Greenway Meadows Park.

Another PFARS rescue team was able to enter the water and disentangle Kenwood from the tree about 175 feet from where he fell. They then performed CPR/ALS and he was taken to University Medical Center at Princeton. En route, the ambulance became disabled after striking a large piece of debris in the roadway and Kenwood was transferred to another ambulance to get to the hospital. Simon then released his own retrieval line to avoid being pulled downstream and clung to an evergreen tree where the water rose to two inches above his knee until Rocky Hill Fire Department arrived. After several rescue attempts, Simon was in the water about 90 minutes until he was brought to safety. Our condolences. **HERE are more details: <http://tinyurl.com/3m3cz3q>**

FLASHOVER CLOSE CALL IN INDIANA

South Bend (Indiana) Firefighters had a CLOSE CALL early this morning when the 2nd floor of a dwelling fire flashed. Check out the video and watch the smoke just prior to the flashover. **Reminders to, among other priorities, to "read" / watch the smoke and to stay low. HERE is the video:** <http://tinyurl.com/3kho4d6>

--MORE RESOURCES ABOUT FLASHOVER:

<http://www.firetactics.com/FLASHOVER.htm> (Paul Grimwood)

<http://vincentdunn.com/dunn/newsletters/dec/dec.pdf> (Vinny Dunn)

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/106558> (Dave Dodson powerpoint)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvQiBY4F5g> (Video by Dave D)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8CxxwD0lr8&feature=related> (More Video by Dave D)

VERMONT EMS CAPTAIN DIES ON DUTY

Mark Walter Camara, 41, a lifetime resident of Poultney, died unexpectedly Friday, October 7, 2011 while on duty for the Poultney Rescue Squad. He enlisted in the 368 Engineer Battalion Company C Army Reserves in Rutland, where he served for 16 years prior to being honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 2004. Mark had been an employee of the Poultney Rescue Squad for the last 23 years as well as the PFD. Survivors include his wife Samantha and a son Lucas Killian Camara. Our sincere condolences. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-12-11 / 2018 Hours

AND:

A 57-year-old firefighter from the Fire-department in Antwerp, Belgium has passed away due to the injuries he had after a fall in the Fire Station, last September. Paul Van Der Haeghen fell September 27 and was seriously injured from falling off a sliding pole of the barracks on the North Post Noorderlaan while he gave the children of a local primary school a tour. FF Van Der Haeghen worked for the Antwerp fire Department for 32 years. In the Antwerp barracks sliding poles only just were reintroduced. They were all taken away after a fatal fall from a firefighter in 1953 but were reintroduced in 2009. Our sincere condolences to his family and colleagues.

FF STRUCK BY DRUNK IN SC

2 Goose Creek, SC FF were injured while clearing a wreck Tuesday night when a car plowed through the emergency scene hitting two firefighters. EMS took firefighters Christopher Harrison and Captain Michael Althoff to Trident Hospital where they doctors treated and released them. Cpl. Bob Beres with the South Carolina Highway Patrol says, troopers arrested 25-year-old Jessica Lanier and charged her with driving under the influence.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-19-11 / 1520 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As you may recall, on September of 2010, a 26-year-old Ohio Firefighter was killed when a pressurized 120-gallon water tank exploded during operations at a brush fire. The water tank was mounted in the rear of the FD's 1986 surplus military Humvee and was part of the FD's portable November 11, 2011

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pressurized water system for brush fires. The Firefighter was standing near the rear of the Humvee watching other firefighters put the system into operation--when the tank exploded. The force of the explosion caused the base of the tank to separate from the tank and strike a motorized hose reel mounted at the rear of the Humvee's bed. The resultant force dislodged the hose reel which struck the victim, killing him instantly. Another Firefighter was knocked down by the force of the explosion and 2 other FF's were nearby-but uninjured.

WHY did this happen?

- The improper use of a self-made water delivery system without an over-pressurization safety relief or other safety mechanism and inappropriate system components.
- Limited written operating procedures and policies.
- The pressure gauge on the water delivery system was inappropriate for its intended use.
- There was limited training in the use of the equipment.

HERE is the entire NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201032.html>

THE PUBLIC TRUST-Some Outstanding Firefighter 30 second Videos...Doing It Right

Last spring, you may recall we sent you a video from the Redwood City (CA) Firefighters called "We Never Had A Fire".

HERE it is again: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Redwoodcityfire#p/a/u/0/B4zwLnMHmJU>.

That video was an outstanding and positive testimonial from **THEIR** community members (customers) that speak of the importance of the Firefighters in their lives. If the goal of a FD is for the citizens to "feel" that they cannot "live without" their Firefighters, the Redwood City Firefighters got it right.

HERE ARE SOME MORE BRAND NEW VIDEOS FROM THE REDWOOD CITY FIREFIGHTERS:

Since then, they have cut a few other VERY cool videos to help their cause and to share with YOU- other FF's and Departments across North America-and the world. These videos are OUTSTANDING raw testimonials about what it really means to treat Mrs Smith like family...and how it makes them feel to uphold the public trust by checking in on their customers "after the call". It is also a good indicator on how their "customers=taxpayers" will act if "THEIR" Firefighters are facing budget issues from City Hall dwellers. The below 30 second videos are the Redwood City Firefighters PSA's that they are actually running in their local movie theatres and for related use....take some time to check these out.....maybe they can be used as a model for OTHER FD's who have similar trust from their public.

Movie Theatre Cut #1-Firefighter Testimonies

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Redwoodcityfire#p/a/u/1/VdXs9QzvThc>

Movie Theatre Cut#2-Firefighter Family Piece

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Redwoodcityfire#p/a/u/2/iY8TMwQHdOw>

150 Years of Public Trust

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Redwoodcityfire#p/u/4/OwO6-XkNolk>

150 Years of Care Beyond The Call

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Redwoodcityfire#p/u/7/hUoPzvO6OEU>

150 Years of Pride

<http://www.youtube.com/user/Redwoodcityfire#p/u/5/bgg6BZuXPSI>

Our sincere thanks to the Redwood City FF's and especially Brother Justin V. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-20-11 / 0732 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Last night, **the Senate blocked** that \$35 billion bill for states and localities to **hire Firefighters and Cops as well as Teachers**, marking it the 2nd defeat for President Obama's jobs agenda in less than 2 weeks. The bill, which failed in a 50-50 vote, marked the first attempt by Senate Democrats to move pieces of the president's American Jobs Act that was defeated by a Senate filibuster last week.

FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY/JOB RELATED CANCER DEATHS:

Kent (Ohio) Firefighter Don Beckett died from cancer on Wednesday. A 23-year veteran of the KFD, Captain Beckett retired in August after being diagnosed with esophageal cancer on Dec. 15, 2010. RIP.

Des Moines (IA) Firefighter Kirk Pederson, 49 has died from cancer. His death from cancer is being classified as in the line of duty in light of a 2009 state law. After a seven month battle, Kirk died Monday from lung and throat cancer. A fellow Firefighter stated that Pederson was a fitness buff and non-smoker, yet he still developed lung cancer that spread to several other organs. FF Pederson's death was ruled in the line of duty under Iowa's cancer presumption law, which presumes cancer develops in firefighters because of their exposure to toxins on the fireground. RIP

DELAYED REPORT-GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-EXPOSURE

A Georgia firefighter exposed to Hepatitis while assisting at an incident in 1993 died in July. Fulton County Firefighter Harold Gregory Gibson, 53, died on July 2, according to the USFA. The 12-year veteran contracted Hepatitis C after coming in contact with blood while treating a patient injured in a traffic crash in 1993, reports indicated. Due to medical complications from the disease, Gibson retired in 1998, the USFA reported. **Our sincere condolences – RIP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-21-11 / 0700 Hours

AND:

FAIRFAX COUNTY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Firefighter Horace C. ("Chris") Pendergrass has died in the Line of Duty. Firefighter Pendergrass, a 20+ year veteran of the department and a US Army veteran, assigned to Fire Station 41 on B-Shift, apparently died in his sleep and was discovered this morning by his coworkers after shift change. He was 49 years old and he is survived by his father and 3 adult children. Next of kin have been notified and funeral arrangements will be announced as they are formalized. The cause of death is under investigation. Our sincere condolences to all those affected by the loss of Chris.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-11-11 / 1200 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The owner of a former furniture factory that was destroyed by a fire in early December, has now sued the Union City (PA) Fire Department, claiming that "proper efforts" weren't made to save the 210,000-square-foot structure. Hmmmmm. In the suit, which was filed last Friday, Carl Boone claims that firefighters did not "act with a sense of urgency" in fighting the Dec. 2 fire at the former Cherry Hill Division of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc. Boone said that a fire-suppression system in the building, which the Union City VFD was made aware of during a tour in November, was not charged and operated by firefighters who responded to the fire. His lawsuit also claims the fire department's command also directed other responding departments to not provide "adequate fire protection services-despite their willingness to fight the fire".

"There was a pre-determined decision by the Union City FD that if the building ever caught on fire, Union City Firefighters would not attempt to extinguish the fire but would instead operate as a 'controlled burn structure fire,'" the suit claims. That isn't all that unusual - since many FD's are not provided with adequate resources to protect what they are expected to protect...amongst other issues....including FD leadership being able to explain what is needed, well before the building is on fire. 25 fire departments from throughout the area were called in to fight the fire, which is indicative that command DID try to control the fire, which was reported at about 1140 hours on Dec. 2. Union City Fire Chief Robert Wolf said on the day of the fire that it had gotten such a head start by the time the first firefighters arrived that when crews made their first entry into the building, they encountered heavy flames and were pulled out. The massive fire was predictably fueled in part by decades of sawdust that packed itself into walls and between floors.

The fire burned for most of the day, leveling the building and producing heat that damaged some homes on a street along the south exposure of the 1.95-acre property. The suit also alleges that the fire was set off by two people who were cutting metal with a blowtorch on the second floor of the building. The unnamed individuals were "not authorized" to be in the building, and it is believed that they were stealing metal to sell as scrap, according to the suit. However, fire investigators said after the fire that workers using torches accidentally set off the fire. Much more on this latest fire related lawsuit to follow. More now at www.TheRepublic.com

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-25-11 / 0930 hours

AND:

Hey,

An 18-year-old bicyclist was hit and killed last night by fire rescue apparatus in Winter Park, Florida. The apparatus driver was not at fault and was turning into the hospital when the bicyclist lost control and fell under the truck. The apparatus was headed to the hospital, and the bicyclist was travelling alongside the truck, on the inside of the right lane. The fire apparatus driver put on its turn signal to make the right hand turn, the bike didn't have any brakes so the rider sped up and tried to pass the truck to avoid being hit. A witness said that it looked like the man on the bike tried to outrun the apparatus when he lost control and fell to the ground. "The tires slipped out from underneath the bike and he went right underneath the truck." When the bicyclist realized that wasn't going to happen, he made the turn at 20 mph so fast that the the bike just slipped out underneath him-he lost control of the bicycle, went down actually slid under the apparatus which actually ran over him. FHP said the Firefighter won't face any charges because the bicyclist was at fault - but it's still a real tough one for the FF.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

Billy G

The Secret List 10-24-11 / 2330 hours

AND:

Hey,

We take time to remember the Esperanza Fire that burned more than 60 square miles in California destroyed 34 homes and 20 outbuildings, and resulted in the horrific Line of Duty Deaths of 5 U.S. Forest Service Firefighters, five years ago today. The arson-set fire burned and fatally injured the crew of Engine 57, who were set up to protect a dwellings. Fatally injured in the wind-driven firestorm that day were Capt. Mark Loutzenhiser, 43, Pablo Cerda, 24, Daniel Hoover-Najera, 20, Jason Robert McKay, 27, and Jess Edward McLean, 27. **RIP.** Raymond Lee Oyler, a mechanic was convicted in March 2009 of 5 counts of murder and was sentenced to death.

SCBA CLOSE CALL/CONCERN:

During a skills portion of a firefighter 1 training class in upstate NY, a FD is reporting that a Scott nxgyn 2 4500 psi 30 min scba cylinder flew off a trainees back after the cylinder was turned on. The cylinder flew up and hit the ceiling of the training center and bounced around the room before coming to rest. Trainees in the area heard the chirp of the scba unit saying the bottle was in position. It is the second incident in a firefighter 1 training class in a couple of years. Scott has been notified of both incidents, is being very responsive, and their tech's have both of the scba units to investigate. **If your FD has experienced a similar problem, please contact the FD Chief at: bdmack@netzero.net**

HELMET CLOSE CALL/CONCERN:

During fire training earlier this year, a fire department is reporting problems with several Bullard UST helmets - immediately following live fire evolutions. Of their 36 brand new helmets that were issued on 2/14/11, 10 had been in live fire training just after the issuance, and of those 10, 3 have failed the exact same way. The FFs came out of the burn and attempted to remove their helmets and the inner shell remained on the FF's head but outer shell came off - and completely separated from the inner shell. It appears that the adhesive securing the velcro to the shells failed. FF1's helmet failure occurred after the 1st burn of the day and FF2's failure occurred later in the day. FF1 had a black helmet manufactured on 1/12/11. An officer with a red helmet manufactured on a different day with him in the burn box and it did not fail. FF2's failure was also with a black helmet manufactured on 1/12/11. Their previous failures were also black helmets, Bullard has been contacted by the FD. The FD's Health and Safety Officer is asking for information from any other FD's that have experienced similar problems. **If your FD has experienced a similar problem, please contact the FD Health and Safety Officer at celljbloomer@ci.enumclaw.wa.us**

DOES YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO RESPOND TO A HOSPITAL FIRE? THEN LEARN FROM THE FDNY and other industry experts.

If so, then attendance by your FD as well as your hospital safety/security personnel in critical.

The Mount Sinai Medical Center & The FDNY are again hosting the 2nd Annual Hospital Fire Safety Conference on Thursday, December 8 - Friday, December 9, 2011 in New York. Last years conference was phenomenal and highly recommended for this unique fire challenge. **DETAILS HERE: <http://www.fdnymountsinai.org/2011/08/24/2nd-annual-hospital-fire-safety-conference/>**

NEW EMERGENCY SERVICE LEADERSHIP IN NEW YORK

NY Governor Cuomo today announced the nomination of Jerome M. Hauer to Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and the appointment of Steven Kuhr to Executive Deputy Commissioner of DHSES. Mr. Kuhr will also serve as Director of the State Office of Emergency Management. Jerry brings almost three decades of experience in the public and private sectors, the majority of which was focused in the areas of security and emergency management. Steve served with the City of New York for 20 years. He was Deputy Director for Operations and Planning for the Office of Emergency Management, where he managed programs for

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catastrophic disasters, terrorism, severe weather and critical infrastructure failures. He also served FDNY as Chief and Division Captain of EMS Special Operations. Congrats to both Steve and Jerry, both long time Secret List members.

DETROIT BURNS:

As mentioned here before (this is an update) take time to check out this planned documentary of the DETROIT FIRE DEPARTMENT: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/detroitfirefilm/burn>

And LOOK who is helping out: <http://tinyurl.com/3ro5ma4>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-26-11 / 2102 Hours

AND:

OHIO FF/EMT KILLED-STRUCK BY VEHICLE

We regret to advise you that Charlotte Adair, that northern Ohio Firefighter who pulled up on a crash to assist this morning and was struck by a vehicle had now succumbed to her injuries. Originally, a van was westbound on US 20 at Fulton-Lucas County Line Road (near Toledo) when it was rear-ended by a semi truck. Adair, from Richfield Township, came upon the wreck and, doing what most any FF/EMT would do, exited her vehicle to help assist. As she did so, she was struck by a vehicle and thrown to the side of the road. The Firefighter was wearing a reflective vest when she was struck. She was taken to Mercy St.Vincent Medical Center with life threatening injuries where she later died, in the Line of Duty. Please keep the RTFD Officers and members and her family in your thoughts and prayers. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-28-11 1229 Hours

AND:

Hey,

As the **City of Detroit** starts its annual "Angels" (?!) Night campaign to "curb" arson fires over the Halloween holiday, the DFD is using new new efforts. Executive Fire Commissioner Donald Austin said that department vehicles will patrol 3-6 a.m. on Halloween on Monday -- a time period when volunteer patrols typically drop off. Angels' Night efforts begin Sunday. The DFD also will be adding a foam product to its water that helps extinguish fires faster and prevents rekindling. He said the foam could become a regular part of the department's firefighting efforts. The city saw 169 fires during the 3 day Halloween period in 2010, up from 119 in 2009.

CLOSE CALL IN COLUMBUS, OHIO AS FIREFIGHTERS BAIL FROM FLASHOVER CONDITIONS

A Lieutenant and Firefighter from E-17 were forced to bail from the 2nd story window while conducting a primary search on an occupied 2-story frame dwelling last night. Both received 1st and 2nd degree burns. The Lt also has an arm/elbow injury, and the FF has a separated shoulder. Fire Lt. Chris Kirchner and FF Jeff Firman are listed in good condition and are expected to be released soon. 2 other Firefighters dove down a staircase to get out the front door of the house and were treated at the scene. When Firefighters arrived around 2020 last night, there was heavy fire on the first floor. Firefighters went inside, initially thinking the resident was home-but she wasn't. The firefighters who were searching the second floor got caught in a "flashover," BC Smith. HERE is the video: <http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2011/10/27/columbus-firefighters-injured.html>

FIREFIGHTER SUICIDE SURVIVAL-SOME POSITIVE PROGRESS

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After months of brainstorming, researching, and attending national conferences to address suicide prevention, the Phoenix FD has developed a ground breaking new tool to help Firefighters get the mental health support they need in a comfortable, confidential manner. The PFD has joined forces with the Crisis Response Network in Maricopa County to create a unique crisis phone line (and website), exclusively for Valley members of the fire service. The new phone line comes months after four suicides within the span of seven months at the Phoenix Fire Department.

The Phoenix Fire Department has established the special phone line, 602-845-FIRE. Any Valley (Phoenix area) fire service member and their family members can call the support line and expect to receive specialized assistance with their crisis at all hours. The task force was created last year, after four Phoenix firefighters killed themselves in a span of seven months. The special phone line is neither affiliated with department management nor the fire union. It is a safe place for people to call without worrying about any type of stigma being associated with asking for guidance, he said. Any firefighter in the Valley can use the phone line. The new phone line and below website comes at an urgent time, when a suicide crisis is still affecting Valley Firefighters.

Bruce Van Scyoc, a City of Surprise Battalion Chief and Emergency Operations Manager, took his own life in June.

HERE IS THE "FIRESTRONG" WEBSITE: <http://firestrong.org>

MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS NEW PROGRAM ALONG WITH AND VIDEO HERE:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php>

FIREFIGHTER SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/139652>

NEW INFORMATION ON FIREFIGHTER HEALTH = SURVIVAL:

Using data from a random sample of fire departments in the Midwest, researchers are looking at a number of firefighter health issues. A few of their recent findings: Like much of the country, the fire service struggles with overweight/obesity. Researchers compared body mass index (BMI) with measured body fat to find out if the high rates of obesity found in other firefighter health studies was related to misclassification of BMI: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21386691>. They also looked at the relationship between body composition and injury, absenteeism and cost of lost days based on classification: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21633400>. When it comes tobacco use, it looks like firefighters are smoking less than the general population but are using smokeless tobacco a lot more: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21656838>. For more information or copies of the whole articles, you can email Dr. Sara Jahnke, Director, Center for Fire, Rescue & EMS Health Research: (sara@hopehri.com)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-27-11 / 1652 Hours

==SUBSCRIBE TO THE SECRET LIST HERE: <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/secret.php>

==FOLLOW THE SECRET LIST REPORTS ON FACEBOOK:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Firefighter-Close-Calls-Home-of-The-Secret-List/199328763573>

==RECEIVE SECRET LIST REPORTS VIA TWITTER:

@TheSecretList

AND:

Hey,

Investigators have determined that both the Fire Chief and a Fire Instructor yelled to a Firefighter to

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get down off a rope - just before he plunged to his tragic death. FF Chip Imker, 35, a member of Cambridge FD in Minnesota, was killed in the Line of Duty last May 23 after participating in training. NIOSH advises the lack of a safety officer, the lack of proper PPE and the student to instructor were factors in the fatal incident. FF Imker and 2 Firefighters were standing in front of the tower ladder when the FF Imker (without PPE) decided to climb one of two ropes suspended from the bottom of the aerial platform in an attempt to access the other suspended rope. **The instructor and the Fire Chief saw the victim on the rope and both of them called for him to stop and get down.** The victim then lost his grip on the rope and fell head first approximately 6-8 feet to the pavement. The instructor and other Firefighters began EMS procedures and the victim was transported to a local hospital where he died from his injuries. Firefighters also said climbing and rappelling were not part of the class. NIOSH also said had Imker been wearing a helmet, the injuries may have been less severe. Among the recommendations in addition to wearing PPE, they said fire departments should have a safety officer present at all times during the training. **HERE is the entire report:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201112.html>

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER REMAINS IN HOSPITAL WITH BURNS

A Fayette County Firefighter will remain in the hospital several more days as he recovers from burns sustained while fighting that house fire east of Peachtree City Saturday morning. 3 Firefighters were injured when a collapse occurred in the upper level of the single family dwelling and they were able to escape the home under their own power, but two were flown to metro hospitals with burns, but non life-threatening injuries. 2 of the FF's were released from hospitals over the weekend.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-11 / 2121 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Brevard County Firefighter along with a civilian are in the hospital with critical injuries after an unusual incident injured them both this morning. Brevard County Fire Rescue as well as the City of Melbourne Fire Rescue companies were dispatched to an injury crash. While operating on the scene with wires down, cars were driving around and near the scene on the 6 lane roadway. One car driving by actually "grabbed/snagged" downed wires which flung / whipped a downed utility pole around striking a Firefighter and a civilian. The Firefighter suffered numerous injuries including femur and pelvic fractures but is expected to survive. We'll post updates on our homepage.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-1-11 / 1140 hours

AND:

Hey,

At 0425 hours this morning, the **Atlanta (GA) Fire Rescue Department** responded to Honeysuckle Lane on a multi-family dwelling fire with reported entrapment. The first arriving companies reported a working structure fire on a two story wood frame apartment on a basement with heavy smoke and fire visible on two floors and the attic with no entrapment. Arriving companies made an interior fire attack and search of the structure. While working from a ground ladder, a Firefighter fell approximately 25 feet. Sgt. Jordan Jenks is in Grady ICU in serious condition with broken ribs, vertebra and a laceration to the liver. We will provide updates on our homepage as he improves.

APPARATUS CRASH-NC FIREFIGHTERS INJURED

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Two people were injured when a car crashed into the side of a fire apparatus as it was turning off of a Gaston County, North Carolina highway. Crowder's Mountain Fire & Rescue Engine 55 was returning to quarters from a fire call when the crash happened on this morning. The rig was attempting to turn around 1140 hours when a vehicle crashed into their side. The driver of the civilian vehicle was driving about 45 miles per hour when the crash happened. 2 of the 3 Firefighters were transported to Gaston Memorial Hospital with injuries, the driver of the vehicle was not injured. Engine 55 sustained an estimated \$150,000 worth of damages; the vehicle sustained an estimated \$10,000 in damages.

UPDATE-HELMET CLOSE CALL/CONCERN:

NOTE-the following message from an issue of The Secret List last week had the wrong e-mail contact information. The correct e-mail is below regarding these helmet concerns.

During fire training earlier this year, a fire department is reporting problems with several Bullard UST helmets - immediately following live fire evolutions. Of their 36 brand new helmets that were issued on 2/14/11, 10 had been in live fire training just after the issuance, and of those 10, 3 have failed the exact same way. The FFs came out of the burn and attempted to remove their helmets and the inner shell remained on the FF's head but outer shell came off - and completely separated from the inner shell. It appears that the adhesive securing the velcro to the shells failed. FF1's helmet failure occurred after the 1st burn of the day and FF2's failure occurred later in the day. FF1 had a black helmet manufactured on 1/12/11. An officer with a red helmet manufactured on a different day with him in the burn box and it did not fail. FF2's failure was also with a black helmet manufactured on 1/12/11. Their previous failures were also black helmets, Bullard has been contacted by the FD.

The above FD's Health and Safety Officer is asking for information from any other FD's that have experienced similar problems. If your FD has experienced a similar problem, please contact them at: JBloomer@ci.enumclaw.wa.us

The Secret List is NOT A Secret?!

The "Fire Critic" did a cool piece on the history of The Secret List ad FireFighterCloseCalls, that we sure appreciate.

HERE it is: <http://tinyurl.com/3h6dquw>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-4-11 / 1642 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A City of Miami (Florida) Firefighter is "okay" after he was robbed at gunpoint while on the job. Around noon yesterday, the Firefighter in uniform, was flushing out a hydrant line and as he was walked back to the fire house about a block away, he was approached from behind by a man in a ski mask - carrying a semi-automatic weapon. The gunman then demanded a chain hanging around the firefighter's neck. The Firefighter took off the chain and threw it at him. The subject then started to reach for it, at that time the Firefighter saw an opportunity to try and get away when the dirt bag yelled at him - and following the yell, he started shooting at him. The armed man fired 3 shots at the Firefighter but missed. Cops set up a perimeter and SWAT teams searched the surrounding area. The bad guy has not yet been found. The same Firefighter also narrowly avoided being shot, while on duty in 2006 after a random shooting broke out in front of the fire house. In that previous incident a bullet came flying through the station door and it just missed that firefighter by inches, lodging itself in

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the door of a fire truck. Despite that first close encounter, the Firefighter chose to remain at Station 12, serving the "**Model City**" neighborhood for the last 12 years.

2nd ALARM-ERS:

Many communities have what started years ago as "canteen" units--volunteers supporting Firefighters at working incidents. These days, those units, where they still continue to exist, do much more---including rehab incidents. Many of these groups also belong to: <http://www.ifba.org/>

Once upon a time, on a cold winter night in Philadelphia back in 1921, their Firefighters were hard at work operating at a large waterfront fire as a group of spectators looked on. As they watched, the group wondered amongst themselves how the Firefighters could do their job in the midst of such cold temperatures. But rather than just wonder, the people decided to take action. The group went to a nearby restaurant and carried cups of coffee to the Firefighters. That one act of kindness soon evolved into repeated acts, as members bought hot food and beverages with their own money and took it to the scenes of fires and accidents. **This eventually turned into a permanent association, giving birth to the Philadelphia Second Alarmers.** Since 1921, the Second Alarmers have responded to fires of two or more alarms in the region. The group provides aid to both crews working at the scene as well as victims. The group is funded by donations from the police and fire department. **Last Friday, the organization celebrated its 90th Anniversary at a banquet Philadelphia.** Former Phillies player and former president of the National League, Bill White, made an appearance at the event. 2nd Alarmers George White and Joseph Farley were both honored for a combined 125 years of service. White was appointed in the group back in 1948 while Farley was appointed in 1949. Both men are still active in the association today.

CONGRATS to the 2nd Alammers on 90 years of volunteer service to Philly and the surrounding areas. HERE is more including a video: <http://tinyurl.com/cndvfg8>
HERE is Second Alarmers FACEBOOK Page: <http://tinyurl.com/7rlpkcg>

EMERGENCY VEHICLE STUDY:

The USFA, along with DOJ, has begun a study of emergency vehicle and roadway operations safety. The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) will conduct the study with the purpose of assisting the development and demonstration of best practices for the emergency services. Within the announcement, the Emergency Management and Response-Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) noted that each year approximately 25 percent of on-duty firefighter fatalities occur while responding to or returning from incidents, with the majority of deaths resulting from vehicle crashes. This is also an issue for the law enforcement community. Data from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund shows that from 2001 to 2010, vehicle-related accidents-including motorcycle crashes and struck while operating on the roadway-were the leading cause of on-duty fatalities for U.S. law enforcement officers. "USFA is committed to reducing the incidence of vehicle crashes and emergency responders being struck on the roadway as they are a large cause of on-duty fatalities," said Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines.

GLUE GETS CIVILIANS - AND ARRIVING FIREFIGHTERS ILL IN FLORIDA

In Palm Beach Couty (Florida) fumes from glue used to install carpet caused several employees at Boca West Country Club to feel sick yesterday. About 50 new employees at the country club had gathered for a meeting yesterday afternoon when some of them began complaining of feeling dizzy. As PB County FR arrived at the scene, a few Firefighters also felt lightheaded and were sent to the hospital to be checked out along with a half dozen civilians. All were treated and released.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-71-11 / 1100 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Monmouth County (New Jersey) court is holding a fire department 60% responsible and the electric power company 40% responsible for injuries suffered when a man stepped on a downed 7200 volt electric line in his home driveway. The damage award was \$20.5M. **THE ISSUE:** The court determined that the fire department departed the scene without taking sufficient action to prevent the accident. The jury awarded the \$20.5 million in damages Friday after the man lost an arm and a leg in 2007 after stepping on those live electrical wires that had fallen on his driveway during a storm. The man was awarded \$18.5 million and his wife, Patricia, was awarded \$2 million. A jury deliberated more than 5 hours last week before they returned the unanimous verdict that found Jersey Central Power & Light Co. 40 percent responsible for the injuries and the Northside Engine Company, a fire company in Tinton Falls, 60 percent responsible. The settlement amount was to cover medical costs, disability, deformity, physical suffering and the cost of prosthetic devices which have to be changed every three to five years.

===NOTE: The court determined that the FD had left the scene of the downed high tension wires knowing that the 7,200-volt wire was still on the ground and in the man's driveway....the FD called electric utility company, but they then left leaving the area unprotected. An important case for your FD attorney to look into and provide you with direction on what to or what not to do.

PTSD CHALLENGE:

Citing mental trauma, PTSD, a veteran Salisbury (MA) Firefighter has been out of work since the July accident that took the life of his colleague, Lt. Timothy Oliveira. Captain Jay Pollard Jr, a 32-year veteran of the SFD, has not returned to the fire station since coming to Oliveira's aid following the July 29 workplace accident that led to his eventual death two days later. Lt. Oliveira, in addition to having fire duties, was in charge of vehicle maintenance for the department and was crushed when a jack slipped while he worked beneath a vehicle that was parked behind the fire station As their Lieutenant lay pinned by the weight of the vehicle, his fellow Firefighters attempted to rescue him and save his life. Yesterday, Fire Chief Richard Souliotis said Captain Pollard has not spoken to him since the accident nor contacted the department to explain his absence. The town manager has, however, received a letter from a doctor at Boston University who examined Captain Pollard. In the letter, the doctor said it is his opinion Pollard is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to Oliveira's death. But the town manager said he does not recognize the letter as valid because it does not meet the requirements of the town's employee union contracts. HERE is much more:

<http://tinyurl.com/c2tgngu>

NEW JERSEY FF GETS A TICKET FOR RECKLESS APPARATUS OPERATION

A Volunteer Firefighter from Somerset County has been cited for careless driving in a crash that wrecked a \$400,000 tanker last weekend. Lewis Moore Jr. told Bernards Township police he was responding to a brush fire when he realized he was going too fast (44mph in a 35 mph zone) and lost control of the Pottersville Volunteer Fire Company's 1985 Chevrolet tanker Sunday. The fire truck overturned. Moore and a 16-year-old riding in the truck sustained minor injuries. We have pictures on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-11 / 0900 Hours

AND:

Hey,

November 11, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

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Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The number of firefighter injuries fell to a twenty year low in 2010, according to the NFPA report released today. We say "well sorta" because there really is no common reporting system nationally that fire departments must submit information to. And while we say "sorta", the NFPA info provides **excellent** data, and it is the best way to determine our injuries currently. **As we noted a few months ago**, USFA/DHS has awarded a grant to Drexel University to develop a consistent national system of tracking all firefighter injuries - and they are making good progress in its development - with some very unique plans for the future.

HERE is the FIREFIGHTER INJURY RESEARCH AND SAFETY TRENDS website, Check It Out: <http://publichealth.drexel.edu/first/>

The new NFPA study shows 71,875 injuries were suffered in the line of duty last year, an 8 percent drop from the previous 12 months. In the report, injuries by type of duty, exposures to infectious diseases and how a community's size affects the number of injuries within a fire department are outlined.

Among the key findings from the NFPA report:

=An estimated 15,000, or 20.8 percent, of all firefighter injuries, resulted in lost time from work in 2010.

=In addition to injuries, there were 11,200 exposures to infectious diseases and 25,700 exposures to hazardous conditions.

=The Northeast reported a higher number of fireground injuries per 100 fires (sustained from structure fires, vehicle fires and brush fires) than other regions of the country.

=Almost half (45 percent) of all firefighter injuries occurred during fireground operations. An estimated 13,355 occurred at non-fire emergencies, 4,380 while responding to or returning from an incident, 7,275 during training activities and 14,190 during other on-duty activities.

=The major types of injuries received during fireground operations were strains, sprains and muscular pain, which were responsible for 52.8 percent of the injuries; wounds, cuts, bleeding and bruises, responsible for 14.2 percent; and burns, responsible for 5.9 percent.

=The leading causes of fireground injuries were overexertion and strain, which were responsible for 25.7 percent of the injuries. Falls, slips and jumps were responsible for 22.5 percent.

=The number of fires to which a fire department responds is directly related to the size of the population it protects.

=The number of fireground injuries a department incurs is directly related to the number of fires the department responds to.

Last year's injury tally was the lowest it has been for the 1981 to 2010 period. In recent years, the number of firefighter injuries have been considerably lower than they were in the 1980s and 1990s, but this is due in part to additional questions on exposures which allows the NFPA reporting folks to place them in their own categories.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-11 / 2127 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

A member of the Rothsville Fire Company (Lancaster County, PA) suffered cardiac arrest this morning while on fire police duty on Main Street in Warwick Township - and has subsequently passed

away. We'll post additional details on our home page as it becomes available. Our sincere condolences.

NEW YORK FIREFIGHTERS SERIOUSLY INJURED-CHIMNEY COLLAPSE

Last night in Panama (Chautauqua County, western New York) a chimney fell on 2 Firefighters while they were operating on the scene. Both Firefighters are in ICU at UPMC in Erie, PA. Initial reports are that this was a barn garage fire, well involved on arrival. Companies were setting up for exterior operations when the home made chimney made of a well casing-collapsed on the Firefighters. The members have significant fractures and are in and recovering from surgery. We'll post more details on our home page, as available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-10-11 / 1442 Hours

AND:

HAL BRUNO PASSES AWAY

It is with deep sadness that we advise you that Hal Bruno has passed away this evening.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In coordination with his family, the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, where Hal served as Chairman for many years, and currently Chairman Emeritus, will be issuing a full release with all details tomorrow.

I had the distinct pleasure to be friends with Hal - and know of just some of all the wonderful things he did for so many, but one of my personal favorite joys (gifts) from Hal was to hear his first hand stories from his days in Chicago-and the fact that he was on the scene at the infamous Our Lady of Angels Fire that killed 92 children and 3 nuns. **For those younger readers of The Secret List, here is Hal's account of that fire:** http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb4760/is_200812/ai_n32311141/

Throughout his distinguished career as a political analyst and journalist, Hal remained very active in the fire service community. He served as an active volunteer Firefighter (receiving numerous awards and recognitions) over a period of 40 years. He has wrote the monthly "Fire Politics" column for Firehouse magazine since the magazine was founded in 1976. A professional journalist for over 50 years, he retired in 1999 as Political Director of ABC News. Before joining ABC, he worked for Newsweek magazine for 18 years in several top editorial positions. A native of Chicago, and a very well known and popular CFD Fan, Hal began his journalism career while a student at the University of Illinois. After graduation in 1950, he worked as a reporter and sports editor.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will have much more official information about the memorial service, and about Hal tomorrow.

Rest in Peace Hal.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-11 / 2355 Hours

AND:

UPDATE ON THE PASSING OF HAL BRUNO

STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION ABOUT DEATH OF HAL BRUNO, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

It is with deep sadness that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation announces that Chairman

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Emeritus, Hal Bruno, died last evening, Tuesday, November 8, 2011. He was 83. For more than 60 years, Hal Bruno served as an active member of the fire service community, giving selflessly as a dedicated volunteer firefighter, advocate, commentator and leader. He is renowned for his commitment to fire safety initiatives and his compassion for the members of the fire service and their families. Bruno was appointed chairman of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 1999, a distinction he held until his retirement in 2008. Under Hal's leadership the NFFF expanded services and resources for the survivors, including workshops, conferences and scholarships. He guided and supported the Foundation in developing safety initiatives for firefighters and advancing safety practices that will help to reduce the number of line of duty deaths and injuries. Here is a video of Hal talking about the NFFF: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM4i85RVUtU>

On Capitol Hill and at the White House, Bruno was admired and respected for his integrity and ability to work with Democrats and Republicans alike to address important issues impacting our nation's firefighters and rescue personnel. He was a staunch advocate for passing the Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefit Act which provides federal death benefits to the families of firefighters who die in the line of duty from heart attack or stroke. A native of Chicago, Bruno enjoyed an illustrious 60-year career in journalism, retiring in 1999 from ABC News where he was Political Director and host of the weekly talk show, Hal Bruno's Washington. He frequently appeared on debate panels and served as moderator of the vice-presidential debate in, among others, the 1992 campaign. He covered every national election since 1960, most recently as the senior political analyst for Politics.com and as a guest commentator on CNN and other television programs. He was one of the first journalists on the scene of the tragic Our Lady of the Angels elementary school fire in Chicago on December 1, 1958 in which 92 students and 3 nuns died. His report that the fire spread so quickly because of the open stairwell lead to significant changes in fire safety and building standards and codes.

HERE IS HIS ACCOUNT OF THAT FIRE:

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_hb4760/is_200812/ai_n32311141/

Mr. Bruno received numerous awards and recognition from the fire service for his dedication and commitment. In October of 2011 he was awarded the National Fire & Emergency Services Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders Award. The Congressional Fire Services Institute's Board of Directors selected him as the recipient of the 2008 CFSI / Motorola Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award and in 1999 he received the "President's Award" from the International Association of Fire Chiefs. He was named "Fire Service Person of the Year" by the Congressional Fire Services Institute in 1995 and in 2009 he received the Fire Buff of the Year Award from the International Fire Buff Associates. He is also a 2008 inductee of the Washington, D.C., Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists Hall of Fame.

Bruno was a reporter, Chicago Bureau Chief, News Editor and Chief Political Correspondent for Newsweek magazine where he covered such matters as the civil rights movement, the 1968 Democratic National Convention and Watergate. He got his start at the DeKalb (Ill.) Daily Chronicle, moved to the City News Bureau of Chicago - where he covered the fire and police beat - and was also with the Chicago American newspaper. Bruno was a war correspondent who covered the 1956 Suez crisis, the Cuban revolution and the Chinese-Indian war. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois, served as an Army intelligence officer during the Korean War and was a Fulbright Scholar to India.

Hal is survived by his loving wife Meg, his sister Barbara and his sons Harold and Daniel, and their wives, Brenda and Susan and four grandchildren.

Rest In Peace Hal.

The Secret List 11-9-11 / 0730 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation has been working with the family of Hal Bruno to coordinate funeral arrangements.

The funeral will take place at 11:00 am on Friday, November 11 at Temple Shalom, 8401 Grubb Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. The event will be open to anyone wishing to attend.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS: For fire service coordination issues please contact Victor Stagnaro at 240-508-7731 or John Proels at 301-712-7201.

Family, friends and fire service members will be received between 1:00 and 5:00 pm in the Anastasi Room at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda, Maryland.

Flowers can be sent directly to Temple Shalom, and will be displayed in the front lobby of the synagogue. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, PO Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727 and marked In Memory of Hal Bruno. A special fund has been established to memorialize his years of service and accomplishments within the American Fire Service Community.

A tribute page for Hal has been established on the Foundation's website, <http://www.firehero.org/> which includes video clips from his years of service with the Foundation. Messages of condolence can be left in the guest book at <http://firehero.org/brunotribute/> .

On behalf of the Bruno Family the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation would like to express their sincere appreciation for all of the outpouring of love, concern and sympathy received. It truly is a fitting tribute for what Hal meant to all of us and a testament to the legacy he leaves.

"HAL" VIDEOS:

Here is a really neat piece Dave Statter did on Hal-and their friendship...be sure to watch the VIDEO of Hal:

<http://statter911.com/2011/11/09/hal-bruno/>

Here are additional Hal Bruno videos-his view of the fire service:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gerdjFUPNLw> (9/11)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qLhMORbfNw> (Buildings and Risk)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj9rNGSKygg> (When a Firefighter Dies In The Line of Duty)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uy5g_RlbZDE (Staying From The Basics)

Rest in Peace.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-9-11 / 1600 Hours

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

NOTE:

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

Budget Related Items:

The federal government gave \$9.8 million to the Atlanta (GA) Fire Rescue Department this year to hire 75 new firefighters, restoring some job losses forced by budget cuts. And in seeking that money the department painted a dire picture of its ability to protect Atlantans, according to a September 2010 grant application newly obtained by Channel 2 Action News in a public records request. The department describes itself as understaffed to the point that without federal aid "the potential of injuries and deaths of firefighters and civilians are greatly increased." Cuts in the city's fiscal 2009 budget forced the fire department to eliminate 122 positions, which, according to the grant application, left it too short-handed to meet response time standards. That year the city faced a budget shortfall in the tens of millions and many programs were cut. The application stated that injuries to firefighters rose from 146 in 2008 to 182 in 2009 while over the same span civilian injuries rose from 14 to 24 and residential property losses jumped 25 percent. "The occurrences of injuries and property losses directly and indirectly tie to our staffing challenges," the application stated. The two-year grant was announced in February, and the department has returned to its pre-cuts level of authorized positions as the city has also funded staff increases. But a department spokesman said that because many firefighters are near retirement, the department might need to seek more federal aid to replenish its ranks: www.aic.com/news/atlanta/atlanta-fire-department-issued-1198922.html

Budget woes are forcing the Willows (CA) Fire Department to count on trainees for day-to-day help. Operating with a bare bones staff, they have one paid firefighter on shift each day, along with the captain and chief. But they've started an internship program, where those aspiring to be firefighters can get training at the fire department. Chief Wayne Peabody says the department has six interns which helps bring the daily work shift from one full time firefighter to a staff of three. He says it's been a great boost to the Willows Fire Department. "Anytime you can show up with three firefighters on an engine you're in much better shape than showing up with one so we've been able to have quicker response times to fires, quicker response times to medical aid." <http://www.krcrtv.com/news/29456393/detail.html>

Cutting budgets is never easy and the City of Yakima (WA) is dealing with a \$1 million dollar shortfall. One firefighter and seven police jobs are at risk. Those are just some of the vacant positions the city manager proposed to eliminate for the 2012 budget. But now the city council needs to make some decisions. Monday we explained that they were asked to set levels of service. For example, how long it should take to get a building permit? How many police officers should there be per resident? How many failing streets are acceptable? Today the council struggled to answer these questions. Some including the mayor called on the city manager for more decision-making. But Don Cooper says he wants to avoid the impression that he's running city hall. "This is really a decision of the city council. The city council is the representative of the people they should be telling the staff", says Cooper: <http://www.kndo.com/story/15671218/fire-and-police-jobs-in-dager-under-proposed-budget>

The San Miguel (CA) Fire Board approved a plan to switch out a fire engine company for a medic rescue unit starting next week despite criticism from firefighters and some residents at a meeting Wednesday night. To save more than \$220,000, the board will transition Engine 23 on Dehesa Road from a three-person fire engine company to a two-person medic rescue squad. The majority of calls in the area, 70 percent, are medical aid calls according to the district. The board is trying to balance providing the same service with receiving less revenue from property taxes and higher personnel costs said Chief Auggie Ghio: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/San-Miguel-Fire-District-Approves-Cuts-132694683.html>

Nine East Naples (FL) firefighters will be laid off at the end of the month and the rest will be receiving pay cuts after union negotiations with the fire district failed and impasse was declared. The East Naples Fire Commission voted unanimously Tuesday night to make dramatic budget cuts to personnel expenses to deal with a \$3.2 million budget shortfall. Nine people will be laid off to save \$1 million on Oct. 30, unless the district can come up with another solution. "We are going to do everything we can to avoid layoffs," Chris Tobin, president of the Collier Professional Firefighters and Paramedics union, said after the vote. In addition, the fire board voted for firefighters to take pay cuts of 14 percent to 17 percent, depending on their positions. Furloughs will be lifted. The pay cuts and end to the furloughs also will take effect Oct. 30. Firefighters also will start contributing to their health insurance costs for the first time. The health insurance contribution, which the union agreed to recently, will save the district about \$500,000. Combined, the measures will save \$2.5 million. That leaves tapping \$720,000 from reserves:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nine-florida-firefighters-set-be-laid>

For the first time in eight years, firefighters plan to break ground on a new fire station in Colorado Springs (CO). How they will staff it remains in question. Public safety agencies in Colorado Springs face budget cuts in Mayor Steve Bach's proposed 2012 budget, leaving staffing reductions, health care insurance increases and a continued pay freeze on the table, according to preliminary budget documents. The Colorado Springs Police Department would lose the equivalent of nine-and-a-half full-time positions in 2012 under Bach's plan, while the Fire Department would drop six-and-a-half positions, documents show. Police and firefighters are being asked to shoulder more of their health-plan costs — a move that's proven unpopular in the fourth year of frozen salaries. They would pay 20 percent of their health insurance premiums, up from 14 percent this year — a move that would save the city \$539,000, according to budget documents. The proposed budget cuts come amid a projected 0.5-percent drop in sales and use tax collections that could cost the city 37.5 positions, documents say:

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/budget-126855-colorado-cuts.html>

The 2012 budget is due in a month, and commissioners for Island County Fire District 3 (WA) have difficult choices to make. Revenues are down and expenses are up, leaving the fire district's leaders to choose between the fire and the frying pan by the next board meeting Nov. 17. "With the current economy and the fact our revenues are decreasing over time, we have to have a tough discussion about it," said Fire Chief Rusty Palmer:

<http://www.southwhidbeyrecord.com/news/132104958.html>

One of Lancaster's (OH) three city firehouses bears a large "closed" sign after the mayor laid off 13 firefighters to help balance the budget. A lack of manpower forced the indefinite closure on Monday of Engine House 3 at 1596 E. Main St., Assistant Chief Dave Ward said yesterday. Ward predicted that response times would increase in the city of about 37,000 people, but he could not say by how much. Engine House 1 at 254 E. Chestnut St. and Engine House 2 at 601 Harrison Ave. remain open. Mayor David S. Smith laid off the firefighters to help balance the city's general-fund budget as required by state law. Lower-than-expected income-tax collection and reduced local-government funding from the state blew a hole in this year's \$23.6 million budget, Smith said. City officials are asking voters on Nov. 8 to approve a 0.25-percentage-point increase in the city income tax for five years, raising it to 2 percent. The increase would generate \$2.5 million annually to help balance next year's budget, Smith has said. "It's critical," Ward said. "If this doesn't pass, I anticipate city hall having to lay off more firefighters." The layoffs and jobs left vacant through attrition leave the department at 68 firefighters, including the chief and assistant chief, down from 92, Ward said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ohio-city-lays-13-firefighters-station-closes>

California Governor Jerry Brown will propose sweeping rollbacks to public employee pension benefits, including raising the retirement age to 67 for new employees who are not public safety workers and requiring state and local employees to pay more toward their retirement and health care, according to a draft proposal of the plan obtained late Wednesday by The Associated Press. The governor will also propose Thursday a mandatory "hybrid" system in which future retirees would get their retirement from a guaranteed benefit as well as a 401(k)-style plan subject to market whims. For employees with at least 30 years of service, retirement benefits would aim to replace about 75 percent of an employee's salary through retirement funds and Social Security, according to the draft. The plan also would end so-called pension "spiking" that lets employees boost their payouts by including overtime and other benefits, and end the practice of buying additional service credits. The administration estimates its proposal would save about \$900 million annually. Brown's plan would require approval from the state Legislature:

www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/10/26/2097468/calif-begins-new-talks-on-public.html

The slowed economy continues to challenge a key emergency service that saves lives and property in communities up and down the Oregon Coast and it is the driver behind changes ahead for fire departments in small communities like Seaside, Gearhart and Warrenton. "We are fighting for little dollars that are left," said Dale Kamrath, Chief of the Seaside Fire and Rescue Department. "Our insurance costs are going up, our fuel costs and maintenance costs are also increasing," Kamrath said. "Our budget is tighter so every dollar that is pinched makes it tougher for us to provide services." "Our trucks and equipment are getting older and need to be replaced," said David Jones, Oregon Fire District Directors Association president. "We are still handling the calls for service, but it is challenging. It forces us to maintain what we have better than before because it will have to last a while." Bill Eddy, Chief of the Gearhart Fire and Rescue Department, and Kamrath believe consolidation is the solution to the economic dilemma facing the fire districts and fire departments along the North Coast and across the state. "Merging of our services is something that will be inevitable because of the money and manpower issues," Eddy said. "Ultimately, the economics will force everyone to look harder at merging services," Kamrath said. With consolidation, the response times for the fire departments could actually become quicker because of the increased manpower and equipment. "Consolidation would give us a bigger financial base and a bigger manpower base," Eddy said. Kamrath believes communities like Seaside and Gearhart would benefit because stations and manpower could be strategically located in each city. "So not having to duplicate services, do the same paperwork and keep the same records would allow us to be more effective with the people and the finances we do have," he said:

http://www.seasidesignal.com/news/local_news/article_f403a466-098e-11e1-869b-001cc4c002e0.html

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.

Upland (CA) City officials are reviewing a complaint of fire personnel misconduct that was emailed to them by a mysterious accuser. An Upland resident sent out the complaint last week accusing Upland Fire Chief Michael Antonucci of knowingly employing a fire inspector who did not have necessary certifications:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_19081632

In the midst of multiple city investigations, three more from the Augusta-Richmond County (GA) Fire Department's top ranks agreed to retire Tuesday, a day after Fire Chief Howard Willis did the same. Tuesday saw the retirement, effective Nov. 1, of Willis' two chief deputies, Mike Rogers and Carl Scott, and the chief's brother, Battalion Chief Tommy Willis, according to City Administrator Fred Russell. All four came under fire in recent weeks, with Tommy Willis' involvement with a board-up company in apparent violation of city policy, prompting Rogers to place him on paid leave Thursday while he and Deputy City Administrator Bill Shanahan investigate the allegations: http://www.dailynews.com/breakingnews/ci_19093499

For the first time since ABC 15.com broke the story of a Phoenix (AZ) firefighter charged in connection to a hit-and-run involving a 14-year-old, the Phoenix Fire Department is speaking out about how veteran firefighter Mark Nehrenz was able to keep his job with the department. Nehrenz's personnel file shows a long history of substance abuse—including testing positive for cocaine and marijuana and getting cited for DUI. Phoenix Fire Assistant Chief Mark Angle told ABC15 it's part of the department's mission and commitment to their employees to make every effort to help them with anything they might be struggling with. But in the case of Nehrenz, they've reached a crossroads:

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/central_phoenix/phoenix-fire-department-trying-to-help-employee-with-substance-abuse

A college degree is a key job requirement to lead Hillsborough County (FL) Fire & Rescue, Tampa Bay's largest fire department. A master's degree is preferred, but a bachelor's with work experience will suffice. The department's new chief has neither. Chief Ron Rogers, 49, has a high school diploma and 29 years of experience with the agency. But Hillsborough County Administrator Michael Merrill waived the education requirement and, in August, named Rogers chief, overseeing 1,075 employees and a \$115 million budget at a salary of \$116,000. It has some firefighters fuming. Though he appointed Rogers interim chief before he left, retired Hillsborough fire Chief William "Bill" Nesmith said he was surprised Rogers was even considered for the permanent job. "If a person came to any other major department with no degree, his application would be filed in the 'round can' by a secretary," Nesmith said. "Wouldn't even get an interview."

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/fire/hillsborough-fire-chief-got-job-without-meeting-higher-education/1196484>

Firehouse video: It's good to know U.S. firefighters don't have a monopoly on poor judgment when it comes to YouTube:

<http://statter911.com/2011/10/20/firehouse-video-its-good-to-know-u-s-firefighters-dont-have-a-monopoly-on-using-poor-judgment-when-it-comes-to-youtube/>

Memphis (TN) firefighters have been missing a lot of work lately. The number of fire department employees calling in sick has skyrocketed since the employees were forced to take a 4.6 percent pay cut. Sources tell abc24.com the employees are calling in sick to get back at the Wharton administration for pushing for the cuts in order to solve the city's budget woes. "Morale is terrible," says Larry Anthony, president of the Memphis Firefighter's Association. Anthony is aware of the large number of firefighters calling in sick, but says he is not aware of any formal action being taken by the group to protest their reduced wages. "If they're sick, they're sick," says Anthony. "I don't believe people are taking days off. I think if they call in sick, they are sick." According to records, since the pay cut went into effect in July, more fire employees are staying home. From July 1st to September 30th, records show 4,344 sick days were taken in the fire department. During the same time frame in 2010, Memphis firefighters logged a total of 3,656 days. That's an increase of 688 days in the three month period. Because employees are calling in sick, other employees are being called in to work overtime to cover the shifts. The result is a rise in overtime costs for the city:

<http://www.abc24.com/news/local/story/Memphis-Fire-Department-Sickout-May-Be-Related-To/SXMIj078kKAkefdx lbVg.csp>

Four years ago, Philadelphia (PA) City Controller Alan Butkovitz released a report revealing a Philadelphia EMS system in crisis: Sick people waiting too long for ambulances; paramedics dangerously overworked; and non-emergency calls overwhelming the system. The report echoed the pleas of paramedics who had long called for change, and recommended steps to relieve pressure on the stressed 911 system. Four years later, little has changed, Butkovitz said Wednesday as he released a follow-up audit that analyzed Fire Department data from 2009. People are still waiting too long for ambulances. Paramedics are still running ragged. And routine calls are clogging up resources. Only one of the 19 recommendations from 2007 has been fully implemented, Butkovitz said:

<http://www.pointslocal.com/story/richmond/562652/butkovitz-finds-ems-responses-still-badly-inadequate>

Add misuse of city vehicles and the dissemination of pornography on city computers to the growing list of issues under investigation at the Augusta-Richmond County Fire Department. Augusta Commissioner Joe Jackson confirmed Thursday that Deputy City Administrator Bill Shanahan was looking into allegations involving the viewing of pornography by firefighters and improper use of city vehicles among the fire department's upper ranks, four members of which announced plans to retire earlier this week. "The allegations are out there, and Mr. Shanahan is looking into them," Jackson said. Both Jackson and City Administrator Fred Russell said allegations of wrongdoing had been pouring in in recent days. "It's like you opened a big box, and there are a lot of individual presents there," Jackson said. The Augusta Chronicle last week unearthed evidence that Fire Chief Howard Willis' brother, Battalion Chief Tommy Willis, may have been using his position to steer business to a franchise called 1-800-BoardUp, which he manages for owner Bowles Construction. Tommy Willis was placed on leave Oct. 6 while the city investigates the BoardUp allegations. On Monday, the chief, who'd been out on medical leave, announced he would retire when his leave ended. A day later, Willis' two deputy chiefs, Mike Rogers and Carl Scott, and his brother, submitted letters of retirement effective Nov. 1:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ga-dept-investigated-porn-and-vehicle-misuse>

Taking hold of a department fraught with problems, acting Augusta-Richmond (GA) County Fire Chief Chris James says the department has issues that must be addressed but believes none will affect the city's fire protection. "There are some changes that need to be made," he said, "but citizens will still get fire trucks when the alarm goes off. None of that will stop."

Changes include implementing a policy against firefighters recommending or even contacting 1-800 Board Up, a franchise owned by Bowles Construction but run by former Battalion Chief Tommy Willis. Instead, they'll provide fire victims with a flier listing phone numbers of board-up companies. Willis turned in a letter of retirement last week after being placed on leave while the city investigates claims that he used his position and city resources to steer board-up business exclusively to the company. His brother, Fire Chief Howard Willis, and Deputy Chiefs Carl Scott and Mike Rogers also agreed to retire last week. James acknowledged the department has had leadership issues. He didn't deny allegations that the department of 300 recently held its first staff meeting in at least two years:

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/government/2011-10-16/acting-augusta-fire-chief-takes-department-fraught-issues?v=1318779581>

A former Mt. San Antonio College (CA) fire program director accused of stealing nearly \$1 million from students and the college has been charged with 12 counts of theft and embezzlement - increasing the total felony counts against him to 16. Los Angeles County prosecutors charged Jerry Dewayne Austin, 57, of Norco with one count of grand theft by embezzlement and 11 counts of grand theft of personal property at a Thursday hearing at Pomona Superior Court. Austin was charged earlier this year with two counts of felony forgery and two counts of felony identity theft. But prosecutors on Thursday refiled the case to add the 12 new grand theft counts, according to Shiara D vila-Morales, spokeswoman for the District Attorney's Office: http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_19118460

The son of former Los Angeles (CA) Fire Chief Millage Peaks was arrested for allegedly bribing a federal security worker so he could smuggle 10 to 15 pounds of marijuana on a flight from Los Angeles International Airport to Boston, where he planned to resell the drugs, the FBI said Monday. Millage Jonathan Peaks IV, 23, of Ladera Heights was escorted off the plane and arrested shortly after an American Airlines employee smelled marijuana stashed inside a checked bag early Sunday morning, FBI Special Agent David Gates wrote in an affidavit. TSA officers searched Peaks' luggage and uncovered 14 plastic bags filled with marijuana, Gates said: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_19132202

Newly appointed Woodinville (WA) Fire & Rescue Commissioner Gerry Vucci was the only nay vote Monday night when the board voted 4-1 to offer former Fire Chief I. David Daniels a settlement that extended his severance pay from six months to nine months. "The general sentiment of the Board was that we need to move on with the Daniels' situation and maintain the respect, integrity and dignity of those involved," board president Tim Osgood wrote in an email to Patch Tuesday night. "Additionally, it's always best if you settle early in a dispute and outside of the courtroom." Daniels has been on administrative leave since Aug. 9 when the board of commissioners announced he agreed to enter into negotiations on a separation agreement. The former chief filed a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), claiming he believed he was going to be fired or pushed out of his position because he is African American. In the statement, filed with the EEOC on Sept. 9 and received by the fire district on Sept. 19, Daniels states, "I am employed as fire chief. The last two chiefs were treated more favorable than I am being treated. The previous two chiefs were white. I am African American. I believe that the fire district is planning to end my contract, or to force me to quit, due to my race in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended." <http://woodinville.patch.com/articles/fire-commissioners-add-to-daniels-severance-pay-in-an-attempt-at-a-settlement>

An on-duty firefighter took a hazardous materials truck — and its crew — to his child's Pop Warner football game when he was supposed to be working. The firefighters, assigned to Irvine, attended the game in Costa Mesa. The presence of their lumbering rig gave pause to some other parents, who complained that it was, er, parked in a fire lane. "On Saturday, October 1st, we hosted teams from Rancho Santa Margarita at Jim Scott Stadium," wrote Chris Cox, president of Costa Mesa Pop Warner, in a letter that made its way to the chief of the Orange County Fire Authority (CA). "From approximately 3pm to 7pm, an Orange County Fire Authority Truck was parked in a fire lane at the stadium, causing players and fans to have to go around it to get to the stadium. Needless to say, it was annoying, and I received several complaints. I am hoping you could make sure this doesn't happen again. "One of the coaches from the Rancho Santa Margarita Pee Wee team," Cox continued, "was an on-duty Orange County Fire Authority firefighter. He brought with him two other firefighters. All of them were in uniform. As a taxpayer, I also question the wisdom of having three on-duty firefighters spend four hours away from their station and at a Pop Warner football game. I wasn't the only person to notice this either." <http://taxdollars.ocregister.com/2011/10/20/on-duty-firefighter-takes-rig-crew-to-ball-game/113593/>

Macon-Bibb County (GA) Fire Chief Marvin Riggins' initial punishment for a supervisor in a firehouse hazing prank was minimal, even though an investigator's report in the case noted that she was fully involved in the caper. That supervisor, Stephanie Burke, had told Riggins she was not directly involved in the prank, according to a copy of the statement she gave during the ensuing investigation. Fire Capt. Tom Musselwhite wrote in his investigative report, dated Sept. 20, that in his opinion, all the firefighters involved in the prank were knowing participants except for the rookies. Riggins admitted Wednesday that he didn't believe Burke was a knowing participant in the hoax when he ordered her to be punished with two days of suspension while other firefighters involved in the video received punishments ranging from longer unpaid suspensions to demotion and termination. "I trusted my firefighters and my officers to tell me the truth," he said. For someone to be an officer means that they carry not only rank, but also responsibility and accountability, he said. "It means a lot, and you don't take that lightly," Riggins said. It wasn't until after other firefighters presented new evidence in appealing their punishments that Riggins became convinced that Burke was a willing participant in the hoax, and her punishment was increased to include a demotion to the rank of lieutenant and two-month suspension, he said. New evidence included a longer version of the video and text messages that implicated Burke in planning the stunt: <http://www.macon.com/2011/10/20/1751641/riggins-i-trusted-my-fire-officers.html>

The time that passes between an Atlanta (GA) 911 operator taking a fire or medical emergency call and relaying that information to dispatchers is more than 10 times the recommended national average, according to a report from the city's auditor. Auditor Leslie Ward said Tuesday the damage done by that delay is only compounded by delays further in the process of dispatching fire fighters, who are usually the first responders in emergencies, or paramedics. "Quicker responses reduce property damage and the chance of injury or loss of life," Ward wrote in the report that will be presented to the City Council's Public Safety Committee on Tuesday. The national standard is that information should be transferred from a 911 operator to a dispatcher within 30 seconds at least 95 percent of the time. In Atlanta, however, that first transfer of information takes as long as 337 seconds -- more than 5 1/2 minutes -- in 95 percent of the cases. The national standard is also that it should take less than a minute to dispatch emergency medical responders but in Atlanta, that took more than three minutes in 90 percent of the calls last year: <http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/audit-atlanta-fire-medical-1209970.html>

The owner of a massive former furniture plant that was leveled by fire in Pennsylvania in early December has filed suit against the borough and its volunteer fire department over what he calls inadequate attempts to save the 210,000-square-foot structure. In the suit, which was filed Friday, Carl Boone claims that the Dec. 2 fire at the former Cherry Hill Division of Ethan Allen Interiors Inc., 77 S. Main St., was set off by two people who were cutting metal with a blowtorch on the second floor of the building. The unnamed individuals were not permitted to be in the building, and it is believed that they were stealing metal to sell as scrap, according to the suit. Fire investigators said after the fire that workers using torches accidentally set off the fire. Union City Police Chief Kevin Jones said this morning that the suspected metal theft was never reported to police. Boone, of Hackettstown, N.J., also claims in the suit that firefighters did not attempt to operate the building's fire suppression system and did not "act with a sense of urgency" in extinguishing the fire. "There was a predetermined decision by the Union City Fire Department that if the building ever caught on fire, Union City Fire Department would not attempt to extinguish the fire but would instead operate as a 'controlled burn structure fire,'" the suit states:

<http://www.goerie.com/article/20111024/NEWS02/310249921/Owner-of-former-Ethan-Allen-plant-in-Union-City-sues-borough-fire-department>

A Portland (OR) fire captain and firefighter are suspended without pay after a preventable accident Saturday during which a fireboat struck an obstacle in Casco Bay. Twelve civilians, including family members, were onboard the boat when the accident occurred about 6 p.m., according to a press release from Nicole Clegg, spokeswoman for the city. The impact of the collision, just north of Fort Gorges, caused damage to a propeller shaft, propeller and rudder. The accident caused an estimated \$38,000 in damage. The accident resulted in an investigation by Fire Chief Fred LaMontagne, which led to the suspension of Firefighter Joseph Murphy and Capt. Christopher Goodall who "failed to comply with common practices and U.S. Coast Guard navigation rules to ensure the safe operation of the vessel," the release said. According to the release, Goodall allowed civilians to accompany the crew on a training exercise. Civilians are allowed on the boat under certain circumstances. Because of the incident, the fire department is reviewing its practices and policies regarding transportation of civilians and will make changes as necessary:

<http://www.kjonline.com/news/Two-fire-officials-suspended-after-fireboat-accident.html>

In 2009, Milton (MA) Fire Department Senior Deputy Fire Chief John P. Foley Jr. was the odd man out when selectmen chose Deputy Chief John Grant Jr. to head the department. An 18-month investigation by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination has found probable cause that his age played a role in Foley being rejected for the chief's job. He was 59 at the time. "It was a painful blow (to Foley) to be passed over for the position of fire chief in Milton because of his age," Foley's attorney, John Hitt, said in a prepared statement Tuesday. "In this case, the selectmen made statements in public and elsewhere emphasizing that having a chief for the long term was a determinative factor for them. "Unfortunately, the selectmen made Mr. Foley's age an unlawful barrier to his promotion by indicating that they were looking for a candidate who would be in the position for at least 10 years and whose age would not require them to go through the selection process again in several years." Hitt, former head of the civil rights division for the state Attorney General's Office, said he hoped the town would settle the matter expeditiously rather than engage in lengthy litigation that would be costly and add to the damages Foley is likely to receive for age discrimination:

<http://www.patriotledger.com/homepage/breaking/x742507569/State-cites-age-bias-in-pick-for-Milton-fire-chief>

A firehouse fight resulted in the arrest of one firefighter and hospitalization of another in Pennsylvania on Tuesday. According to WKBN, Dale McCloskey, 54, faces charges of aggravated and simple assault in the fight at the Hermitage (PA) Volunteer Fire Department, where both parties are members. The 26-year-old victim and McCloskey were having an argument, which allegedly escalated to McCloskey hitting the victim, the other firefighter, in the back of the head with a piece of plastic pipe: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1172174-Firefighter-arrested-another-injured-in-Pa-firehouse-fight/>

Police are working to figure out what started a fight that led to a physical altercation between two Hermitage firefighters Tuesday night. Investigators said they only know that one firefighter attacked another as they were about to head out on a call. "One of them assaulted the other with a plastic pipe and at the end of the pipe was a drain. I'm not sure what they used it for," said Hermitage Deputy Police Chief Brian Blair. Investigators said the assault sent the 26-year-old man to the hospital with a serious head wound. Police said longtime firefighter Dale McCloskey was arrested. "He hit him in the back of the head three times. There was an open wound and there was some blood," said Blair. Blair said the assault is a sad situation. "Our fire department is incredible. They are all volunteers, except two paid, and in my book they're No. 1," Blair said. McCloskey has been banned from all fire departments in town: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/29595750/detail.html>

A local group that advocates for black firefighters wants the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate what it describes as "systemic discrimination in hiring, discipline and recruitment" in the Baltimore (MD) Fire Department. The Vulcan Blazers wrote a letter Tuesday to Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin outlining the allegations and requesting that his office ask for a Justice Department probe. "I want them to look at all areas of the fire department and find out the reason why African-Americans are not being treated fairly," said Henry C. Burris, president of the Vulcan Blazers. Neither Fire Chief James S. Clack Jr. nor a spokesman for Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake responded to a request for comment Tuesday evening. Burris claimed that black recruits are subject to more stringent tests and that black firefighters are punished more severely for infractions than white counterparts. He also said the percentage of black firefighters and recruits is low, and black firefighters are promoted less frequently. "The low percentage of African-Americans in the fire department, I believe, is done deliberately," Burris said. "It's systemic and institutionalized. There's the desire to exclude minorities." <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/black-firefighters-md-alleges-discrimination>

The Austin (TX) Fire Department has spent close to \$1 million since last year on a process to hire 80 firefighters that resulted in similar or fewer qualified minority applicants and hires when compared with previous years, according to records obtained and analyzed by the American-Statesman. Overall, the City of Austin spent more than \$948,000 on consultants and testing procedures to hire two classes of 40 firefighters each, according to documents obtained through a Texas Public Information Act request. The process resulted in about the same percentage of minority candidates - or less, in some cases - as previous years, the records show. The hiring process, which had several high-profile setbacks, was the first led by Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr since she took the reins of the department in early 2009. Kerr was given a mandate by city leaders to diversify the ranks of the Fire Department. "It's hard to really say, 'Did our recruitment process work?'" Kerr said Monday. "It worked to the extent that we had higher minority applicants, but at the end, it probably didn't have as significant an impact as we would like it to have had." Kerr said that the city had a record number of people - about 5,000 - apply to become members of the department, something she attributed to the economy and people losing jobs elsewhere, as well as the department's recruiting efforts: <http://www.statesman.com/news/local/almost-1-million-to-hire-firefighters-little-change-1944041.html>

The captain of a rural Sonoma County (CA) fire department accused of embezzling more than \$63,000 from the firefighters' union and using some of the money to take a trip to Disneyland was arraigned Friday in a Santa Rosa courtroom. Michael Bechtold, 39, of the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District, is charged with six counts of felony grand theft carrying a maximum sentence of six years, four months in prison, prosecutor Bill Brockley said:

<http://www.petaluma360.com/article/20111029/COMMUNITY/111029446?Title=Fire-captain-said-he-believes-he-ll-lose-his-job>

Steep gaming losses, suspicion of embezzlement, led to probe. Former fire company president details how Halfway lost money and how it created new checks and balances to restore bingo. Over the decades, the bingo games at the Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway, Md., had become a rich source of revenue for the emergency service. But from summer 2008 through summer 2009, things went wrong in the company's gaming operation, costing it up to \$500,000 in profit, The Herald-Mail has determined. Federal records show the company lost \$520,000 on its bingo operation when it paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars more in prizes than players paid to play. In essence, the records suggest that for every \$1.36 that bingo players paid, the company was giving \$1.72 in cash prizes. And so, the \$500,000 profit that the fire company made on tip jar sales that year had to be used to offset the bingo loss. As a result, a combined gaming operation that normally nets hundreds of thousands of dollars, instead went more than \$19,000 in the hole, federal records show:

<http://www.herald-mail.com/news/local/hm-steep-gaming-losses-suspicion-of-embezzlement-led-to-probe-20111029,0,6855037.story>

A former Eau Claire (WI) firefighter who alleged she was fired because she is a woman received a \$10,000 settlement designated for payment to the law firm that represented her. As part of the agreement, the city does not admit to any wrongdoing related to Christina Henke, who is prohibited from seeking employment with the city again. Settlement money is designated for her attorney. Henke began working for the Fire Department as a full-time firefighter/emergency medical technician on July 9, 2007. Once hired, firefighters are required to satisfactorily complete an 18-month probationary period. Henke, terminated on Jan. 7, 2009, didn't complete her probation. Three months after her firing, Henke contacted the Equal Rights Division of the state Department of Workforce Development, alleging employment discrimination because of her gender. A state investigator found probable cause that the Fire Department might have discriminated against Henke. She claimed the Fire Department refused to extend her probationary period despite a back injury and death of a family member. Henke also alleged she endured abusive treatment by her male co-workers because of her gender, including name-calling and vulgar insults, throughout her probationary period:

www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/discrimination-case-against-wis-city-settled

An Atlantic City (NJ) fire captain is suing the city government because the alleged mishandling of a sex scandal investigation damaged his reputation and violated his civil rights, according to a lawsuit obtained today by The Press of Atlantic City. Atlantic City Fire Department Capt. Kevin Munn and his wife, Susan, jointly filed the lawsuit Sept. 14 against the city, Mayor Lorenzo Langford, Fire Chief Dennis Brooks and multiple city attorneys. Munn was on duty along with Capt. Elwood Faunce III and firefighter Andrew Lubaczewski May 16, 2009, when an alleged incident involving four teenaged girls unfolded at Station No. 2, Indiana and Baltic avenues. Their former coworker Richard C. Williams Jr. ultimately lost his job over the scandal, but continues to fight to get it back. Munn, Faunce and Lubaczewski kept their jobs. They weren't accused of wrongdoing by the young women, but targeted by the city's administrative investigation for what was described as their failure to intervene:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topic/politics-and-law/nj-capt-files-suit-over-handling-sex-scandal>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A summons was issued to Milltown (NJ) Fire Department officials after police discovered alcohol at the borough firehouse, police said. Acting on a tip, police visited the Milltown firehouse on South Main Street early Thursday afternoon and found a partially filled keg hooked up to a tap, Police Chief Raymond Geipel said. A summons was issued on Friday by mail to Fire Chief Brian Harto, Deputy Chief Jack Bicsko and Assistant Chief Scott Janssens, the chief said:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20111101/NJNEWS/311010035/?odyssey=obinsite>

A jury awarded \$20.5 million in damages Friday case in which a Tinton Falls man lost an arm and a leg in 2007 after stepping on live electrical wires that had fallen on his driveway during a storm. William Hagerman Jr., 52, of Pear Street was awarded \$18.5 million and his wife, Patricia, was awarded \$2 million, according to attorney Norman Hobbie of Eatontown who represented William Hagerman. A jury deliberated more than five hours before they returned the unanimous verdict that found Jersey Central Power & Light Co. 40 percent responsible for the injuries and the Northside Engine Company, a fire company in Tinton Falls (NJ), 60 percent responsible, according to Hobbie:

<http://www.app.com/article/20111104/NJNEWS/311040149/Tinton-Falls-couple-wins-20-5-million-award-downed-wire-case>

Black firefighter claims discrimination after failing to get promotion he previously turned down. Berea, Ohio's William Phelps says original offer was race & not merit based. This is truly a fascinating and different story out of Berea, Ohio. It is a bit complicated and required two readings of James McCarty's article for The Plain Dealer before I understood it. Let me try to explain it chronologically. In 2010, Williams Phelps, a 17-year veteran of the Berea Fire Department who is black, was offered and turned down a promotion to lieutenant. The reason Phelps gave in a lawsuit recently filed in federal court, is that the promotion, at the time, was based on race and not merit: <http://statter911.com/2011/11/07/black-firefighter-claims-discrimination-after-failing-to-get-promotion-he-previously-turned-down-berea-ohios-william-phelps-says-original-offer-was-race-not-merit-based/>

A Los Angeles (CA) city fire captain has been placed on leave for allegedly falsifying timecards after auditors found he was paid \$50,000 in vacation time last year, the equivalent of nearly 23 weeks of pay, city documents show. Vacation, overtime and bonus pay boosted Capt. Eric Vasquez's wages by about \$77,000 more than his base salary of \$108,000, according to payroll information obtained by the Los Angeles Daily News, a sister paper of the Daily Breeze, under the California Public Records Act. The alleged discrepancies by Vasquez - a 17-year LAFD veteran whose duties involved supervising timesheet data entry, including his own - were discovered last month by the City Controller's Office when the department submitted payroll data electronically for the first time. Until October, the LAFD was the only city agency still handling time sheets manually - a risk that the Controller's Office had flagged in an audit in February. Vasquez was placed on administrative leave and his computer and other documentation were confiscated. City officials could not immediately say if he was continuing to receive his salary while on leave: http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_19293269

Positive Public Relations Items:

As they have done for the past three years, Somerton/Cocopah (AZ) firefighters are trading in their usual blue work shirts for pink ones in support of a good cause. As a way to promote Breast Cancer Awareness, the Somerton/Cocopah Fire Department will wear pink T-shirts for the entire month of October in a show of support for breast cancer patients, survivors and

those who have died from the disease, as well as for their families. "We want every fire department in Yuma County to wear pink shirts also, not just for a day, or for a week, but for the entire month," said Robby Rodriguez, SCFD spokesman:

<http://www.yumasun.com/news/shirts-73594-pink-cancer.html>

For the last four months, Boise (ID) Firefighters have been preparing for the Pumpkin Patch fundraiser. To help raise money for the Idaho Fallen Firefighters Foundation, firefighters from Boise Fire Station 10 grew a pumpkin patch in between fire calls. Saturday, families were invited to come pick pumpkins for a donation to the Idaho Fallen Firefighters Foundation:

<http://www.ktvb.com/home/Pumpkin-patch-helps-raise-money-for-fallen-firefighters-131392263.html>

LAFD Chief Brian Cummings, who is investigating a 2008 film shoot involving several firefighters and a porn star, said Friday he is sentencing himself to 120 hours of unpaid community service for being photographed with a bikini-clad woman while on duty 13 years ago. Cummings, who was promoted to fire chief only last month, said he was disciplining himself to demonstrate that all members of the Los Angeles Fire Department are subject to the same rules. "I was the captain at the Venice fire station when a woman in a bikini walked by and we asked her if she wanted to take a picture," Cummings said in an interview. "She was not a model and no money was exchanged. But it was wrong and an improper use of fire equipment," Cummings said. "To be honest, I had forgot about it until this investigation came up." Cummings is investigating whether firefighters cooperated in a 2008 video shot by actress Charley Chase, who appeared topless as she posed on a fire engine parked at Venice Beach. Chase has blogged that her actions were spontaneous and that the firefighters filmed watching her were not actually involved in the shoot:

http://www.dailynews.com/columnists/ci_19068177

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County (CA) IAFF Local 1230 have joined with Susan G. Komen to raise money for breast cancer research. This will be the first year your local firefighters have decided to join in the fundraising efforts: <http://blog.sfgate.com/incontracosta/2011/10/10/contra-costa-firefighters-to-wear-pink-in-support-of-breast-cancer-research/>

Stockton (CA) City firefighters on Saturday approved a difficult contract, putting their hopes in the future, to a time when the city gets back on its financial feet. The passing vote drew praise from city leaders, who credited the fire union with continuing the dialogue and putting the city's best interests first. Capt. Dave Macedo, president of Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456, said he and his executive board first endorsed the contract and then encouraged the members to approve it. Obviously, not everybody voted for it, he said. "There's no gold at the end of the rainbow," Macedo said. "The city's still in this financial situation." Macedo didn't have the exact numbers immediately available, but he said of approximately 155 firefighters voting, they passed it by a 2-1 ratio. The new contract makes firefighters pay more toward their retirement and ups their out-of-pocket health care coverage for themselves and their families. It also reduces the "add-ons," or income they received on top of their base pay. "We'll just wait for the city to get back on its feet," Macedo said. "Hopefully, next year we won't have to experience this." City Manager Bob Deis, who personally sat at the negotiating table in the final two meetings, praised firefighters for their maturity and professionalism in unprecedented times. "The city did not like asking for the concessions," Deis said of the contract. "I respect the membership not being wild about the impacts it has on their paychecks."

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111009/A_NEWS/110090308/-1/a_news

A deal putting four firefighters on all engines and reforming the pension agreement with Long Beach's (CA) firefighters was announced Friday afternoon. Rich Brandt, president of the Firefighters Association said in a statement that 63% of his membership had approved the new contract in a vote Friday. The deal still must be ratified by the City Council. Brandt had argued steadfastly that his membership was ready to meet a pension reform deal signed earlier this fall by the Police Officers Association, but only if city management found a way to restore a fourth firefighter to nine engines - a cut made in the Fiscal 2012 budget to save \$3.1 million. "Your Long Beach Firefighters understood and have committed to the long term sustainability and reform of employee pensions," Brandt said in a statement. "Along with the financial savings, this agreement commits to adequate staffing on our fire engines and fire trucks, providing the citizens of Long Beach with the high level of service they deserve." The agreement has firefighters taking over all of the employee pension costs, an additional 7% of salaries, immediately. It replaces already contracted increases over the next three years with a 6% raise this year and a 1% raise in Fiscal 2014. The contract would run through Fiscal 2016 with no additional raises scheduled: http://www.gazettes.com/news/firefighters-pension-reform-means-four-on-engines/article_6060bc74-f1bc-11e0-a4e5-001cc4c03286.html

This morning, a Reno (NV) firefighter named Rosa walked in with a basket full of goodies for the girls. Emma pulled out a soft little teddy bear. "Aww, did you say thank you?" asked her mother. "Thank you," she replied. This small gift just might be the highlight of Emma's day. She says this bear, along with another she received at Oakland Children's Hospital, will help her during treatment. "The bear helps me to hold still and keep me quiet." Andrea took no time making her selection. "An art set... because I like to draw," she explained. The hope is these gifts will help treatment go by much more quickly. That is the goal of these toys, according to the firefighters who work tirelessly to collect them. "It's tough to explain to a four-year-old to lie still for six hours after they get an injection." Sparks Firefighter, Jarrod Stewart is part of the Northern Nevada Firefighters Random Acts of Kindness program. They created a mobile toy store, not only for kids fighting cancer, but for any child in need. They often have them ready for kids who lose everything to house fires or disasters, as well: <http://www.ktvn.com/story/15670522/someone-2-know>

Smoke alarms are always a hot topic when Fire Prevention Week comes around each year, but with dwindling budgets and cuts in manpower, departments must get creative when it comes to how to acquire them. Ten years ago, Brendan Shanahan -- then one of the stars for the NHL's Detroit Red Wings -- approached the team's front office wanting to do something to remember his father, who was a firefighter, after he passed away. The team's smoke alarm initiative began, and since then it has helped distribute close to 20,000 of the devices to departments throughout southeastern Michigan. This year, 5,065 alarms were collected -- the most ever during the program's history and almost double the amount collected last year. In all, eight departments were on hand at an event at Joe Louis Arena on Wednesday to receive the smoke alarms. The largest department -- the City of Detroit -- was given 1,000 devices, while Flint and Saginaw were given 750 each. The rest of the smoke alarms were distributed to the other departments in attendance and will be further distributed to more, and then installed in households in high-risk and low-income communities: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/fire-prevention-and-investigation/red-wings-detroit-area-departments-team-effort-decrease-residential-fires>

The Colorado Springs (CO) Fire Department save the city \$209,229 by refurbishing an older engine (pumper) instead of buying a new one. CSFD has refurbished seven apparatuses over the past five years, saving the community over \$1.2 million dollars: <http://www.koaa.com/news/springs-fire-department-saves-city-around-200-000/>

A \$10,000 donation was made today to the Arizona Cancer Center by The Retired Professional Fire Fighters Cancer Fund, a group dedicated to funding research for cancers that have a higher than normal incidence among firefighters. Green Valley Fire District Members Chuck Wunder and Harry Smith, along with other representatives from the Tucson Fire Department, presented the check to the Cancer center's lymphoma research program, marking the first donation from the organization to a cancer research facility in a western state, according to a news release from the group:

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/retired-firefighters-donate-10k-to-ua-cancer-research/>

Firefighters are known for giving aid in many types of dire situations, ranging from rescue efforts to emergency medical care. But if two high-ranking Alameda County officials have their way, some firefighters soon may be providing another important service: health care for the uninsured. The proposal, still in the planning stages, is called the Fire Station Health Care Portal pilot program, and it would offer free primary and preventive care to the public at five fire stations. The groundbreaking program is the brainchild of Alameda County (CA) Fire Chief Sheldon Gilbert and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director Alex Briscoe, who presented their plan Thursday to the Newark City Council. They aim to provide local remedies to a broken national health care system that they said is plagued by spiraling costs and delays for basic services because of an inadequate supply of health care, Briscoe said:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_19127439

Four hundred cadets from the Public Safety Academy marched Wednesday from the Third Street Fire Station to City Hall as part of a worldwide reminder of the importance of character. National Character Counts Week is honored by 54 countries this week, teaching the importance of following the "six pillars of character" - trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, according to the Josephson Institute's Center for Youth Ethics. The cadets - middle and high school students participating in a school experience that also emphasizes training for police or fire academies - already demonstrated character and should keep building it, said San Bernardino (CA) Fire Chief Michael Conrad:

http://www.sbsun.com/ci_19148876

Firefighters in Whatcom County (WA) are putting a twist on a moustache-growing tradition, turning their annual "Stachetober" challenge into a fundraiser for burn victims. For years, firefighters in districts around the county have had a voluntary ban on shaving their upper lips throughout the month of October. As South Whatcom Fire District organizers put it, it was a sign that, "I love the fire service so much, I'm willing to look like an idiot to prove it." But this time, a few firefighters tossed around idea of using the event to benefit and raise awareness for the Northwest Burn Foundation. Mostly with donations from family and close friends, District 8 has already surpassed the original goal of raising \$3,000 for the burn center:

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/10/20/2236896/whatcom-county-firefighters-grow.html>

One Phoenix (AZ) boy had a wish come true Monday when local firefighters built him his own personal firehouse. Five-year-old Ori Wright had his wish granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Ori has been battling leukemia since the age of two and was referred for a wish by a social worker from Phoenix Children's Hospital. Ori's wish was to have a playhouse that resembled a real firehouse and on Monday morning firefighters began construction, donating their time and tools. The 5-year-old also got to take a ride on a real fire truck to Station 27, just around the corner from his house:

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_phoenix_metro/north_phoenix/firefighters-make-wish-come-true-for-phoenix-boy

A Redlands (CA) firefighter and a department volunteer won awards this weekend for their dedication and abilities, department officials say. William Dye II was named Firefighter of the Year. Philip Kent Sedgwick is the Volunteer of the Year. Dye developed and administers a money-saving program for verifying the safety of department ladders, and he trains and mentors aspiring engineers, officials said in a written statement. Sedgwick is a former Redlands firefighter who is leader of the Redlands Fire Corps, a group of volunteers who help with fire department administrative and logistical efforts, fire prevention, video production and other functions. And as long ago as 1956, Sedgwick joined the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services. His abilities in that group resulted in his appointment as Chief Radio Officer of the Redlands Emergency Communications Group that conducts weekly exercises to reinforce the community's emergency response efforts: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/san-bernardino-county/san-bernardino-county-headlines-index/20111026-redlands-firefighter-volunteer-praised-for-abilities-dedication.ece>

The Long Beach (CA) City Council voted 8-0 Tuesday for a firefighter pension reform agreement that saves \$35.9 million over the next 10 years and reinstates four-responder engine staffing. Though the deal restores four-person engine staffing, which had been cut to three on some engines, it also gives Long Beach's fire chief latitude to alter the department's deployment model during "emergency circumstances." Contract language defines those emergency circumstances as "a regional disaster, catastrophe or declaration of fiscal emergency." The measure passed with no public comment. Councilman James Johnson thanked firefighters who he said made "serious sacrifices." "I think this is a great accomplishment, to have pension reform," said Johnson. The fire union also accepted reduced benefits for new hires, who will receive 2 percent of salary as pension for every year of service while being able to retire at age 50. By law, current fighters can't cut their own benefits and will continue to get 3 percent annually and will be eligible to retire at 50: http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_19244078

Training & Safety Related Items:

NIOSH: Lack of training factored in water tank explosion LODD. Insufficient funding awareness, inappropriate or missing parts in self-made water-delivery system also contributed to Ryan Seitz's death. A lack of training and written operating policies and procedures also contributed to the accident last year investigators found. Volunteer Firefighter Ryan Seitz, of the McArthur, Ohio, Fire Department, was fighting a brush fire on Sept. 26 when the force of the explosion dislodged the hose reel, which struck and killed him: <http://www.firerescue1.com/Firefighter-Training/articles/1168954-NIOSH-Lack-of-training-factored-in-water-tank-explosion-LODD/>

A complaint has been filed against the Yuba City (CA) Fire Department, alleging MRSA outbreaks and other health violations have not been addressed at a fire station. The Department of Occupational Safety and Health notified the Fire Department on Oct. 13 that it has until Thursday to provide a response. The complaint alleged: --Four outbreaks of MRSA -- an antibiotic resistant staph infection -- at the Butte House Road Station in the last 16 months. --A toilet drain in the living area plugged with fabric. --Insulation exposed in the living room. --The septic system backed up three to six months ago with no official cleanup: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/osha-cites-calif-department-mrsa-outbreaks-other-violations-firehouse>

The national fire official who created the National Seat Belt pledge isn't willing to sit idly by and be satisfied with signatures of emergency personnel. Dr. Burt Clark is currently conducting research on the issue through Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He went on to point out that buckling up is one thing that can and should be done to protect firefighters. "Injuries from vehicle crashes are the second leading causes of firefighter deaths." NFPA statistics showed in 2009, the 15,100 emergency vehicle crashes resulted in 14 deaths and 820 injuries. Clark went on say that longtime Phoenix Fire Chief Alan Brunacini hit the nail on the head when he said: "Every LODD gets the same terminal ritual regardless if the firefighter was taking an appropriate risk to protect a savable life or was recreationally freelancing in a clearly defensive place. A fire chief would commit instant occupational suicide by saying that the reason everyone is here today in their dress blues is because the dearly departed failed to follow the department safety plan. Genuine bravery and terminal stupidity both get the same eulogy." He noted that Brunacini, a highly-respected instructor, pulls no punches, and his comments are supported by many. Clark said it's inconceivable that some states have exempted emergency responders from wearing seat belts. Peer pressure also is a major factor when it comes to buckling up. He noted how a three-year West Point cadet on a ride along with the D.C. fire department didn't always wear his seat belt despite Clark's orders to do so: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/national-fire-official-continues-seat-belt-push>

A volunteer firefighter in Minnesota died after falling from a climbing rope during a class, according to a NIOSH report. The ropes skills class had no safety officer and a poor student-to-instructor ratio, and the firefighter, Chip Imker, 35, was not wearing personal protective equipment, all of which contributed to the man's death in May. Firefighter Imker had been in the Cambridge, Minn., volunteer fire department for one year and five months. On May 23, the class had ended and students were putting away equipment when Firefighter Imker decided to climb one of two suspended ropes to try to reach the other rope. When the instructor and fire chief saw him, they asked him to stop and get down. Imker lost his grip, investigators say, and fell headfirst six to eight feet to the asphalt. Although fellow firefighters performed emergency medical aid and he was taken to a local hospital, Firefighter Imker died from blunt force head trauma. No safety officer was present at the scene, and Firefighter Imker was wearing civilian clothes without any personal protective equipment. These factors in combination with a 19:1 student-to-instructor ratio, according to the report published Oct. 5, contributed to his death: <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1174240-NIOSH-No-PPE-safety-officer-in-rope-rescue-training-LODD/>

Every working fire scene is now a site for mock mayday training. Additional incident safety officers are available for night, weekend and holiday fires. Better record keeping and more attention is being paid to ensure the city's 270 firefighters undergo their annual medical evaluations. But annual physical ability evaluations and introducing a wellness program? "That's something that has to be negotiated" with the union, said Fire Chief Brian Rooney. "It's a change in working conditions." Nearly 15 months after a July 24, 2010, fire claimed the lives of Lt. Steven Velasquez and Firefighter Michel Baik, department and city officials say they have implemented 13 safety initiatives while the Emergency Operations Center has added four new safety procedures. All of these come from recommendations made by state and federal agencies investigating the fire and which were highly critical of the department and communications center for procedural and training failures. The city paid a \$3,000 penalty to the state Department of Labor Office of Safety and Health for four violations: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/local/article/After-city-firefighters-deaths-changes-come-2254199.php>

The New Jersey firefighter who was the driver of a \$400,000 tanker totaled during a single-vehicle accident over the weekend has been cited for careless driving, according to a police report filed Monday. Both Lewis Moore Jr., 47, of Califon and an unidentified 16-year-old juvenile passenger in the vehicle were hospitalized following the wreck, but neither suffered life-threatening injuries, authorities said. Township police responded to the area of Allen and Somerville roads a little after 11 a.m. Sunday to find the Pottersville Volunteer Fire Company's 1985 Chevrolet tanker overturned a few hundred feet west of the intersection, with water leaking from an external tank, according to the police report. No one was trapped inside, but the driver, Moore, and the juvenile were walking near the side of the road and "appeared to be in a daze," the report indicated:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20111107/NJNEWS/311070029/Somerset-Hills-volunteer-fireman-cited-careless-driving-wreck-totaled-400-000-tanker?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

A Miami (FL) firefighter is okay after he was robbed at gunpoint while on the job. Miami Fire Rescue spokesman Lt. Ignatius Carroll said around noon on Sunday the firefighter, who was in uniform, was flushing out a hydrant line at 15th Avenue and NW 46th Street. As he was walked back to the station about a block away, he was approached from behind by a man in a ski mask and carrying a semi-automatic weapon. The gunman then demanded a chain hanging around the firefighter's neck. The firefighter took off the chain and threw it at him. "The subject started to reach for it, at that time the firefighters saw an opportunity to try and get away, that's all he wanted," said Carroll. "This person yelled at him and followed by the yell he started shooting at him." The armed man fired three shots at the firefighter but missed:

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/219340/19/Miami-firefighter-robbed-at-gunpoint>

Dallas (TX) Fire-Rescue is investigating how a \$600,000 ladder truck rolled into White Rock Lake. The front end of the truck was submerged in the water at 8 a.m. Monday when a News 8 viewer jogging by snapped pictures of the rescue vehicle. The call involved firefighters from Station 34, who were at the lake for a water rescue:

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Dallas-Fire-and-Rescue-investigating-how-truck-rolled-into-lake-133498583.html>

General Fire Service Related Items:

A must see example of leadership & handling the bad news. Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department Chief Brian Cummings uncovers dirt & then punishes himself. By now I am sure you are all aware of the recent to do involving the Los Angeles Fire Department and female porn star Charley Chase. It was sort of old news when a Los Angeles TV station uncovered the video of Chase posing naked on an LAFD rig. The video had been made in 2008 and the fact that it was that long ago put it beyond the statute of limitations for disciplining the firefighters involved. Now, comes word of an even older incident. One that occurred 13 years ago. And it involves the current LAFD chief, Brian Cummings. Cummings was the captain of the Venice fire station when the firefighters asked a bikini clad woman walking by to pose with them. According to KTTV-TV, at least one photo was taken of the woman appearing topless while on the fire truck. So, who broke this news? Who was dredging up this dirt on a fire chief who took office just a month ago? The best we can tell from the articles we've read so far, the answer is Brian Cummings. Yes, it appears the chief blew the whistle on himself. In addition, despite the incident being well beyond that two year statute of limitations, the chief has also punished himself. He will be doing 120 hours of community service at a women's shelter and a youth mentoring program: <http://statter911.com/2011/10/08/a-must-see-example-of-leadership-handling-the-bad-news-los-angeles-fire-department-chief-brian-cummings-uncovers-dirt-then-punishes-himself/>

Does overtime use equal abuse? Dave Statter takes on a reporter's claim about the Washington DC Fire & EMS Department. Plus, Fire Chief Ellerbe pushes forward with his shift change plan: <http://statter911.com/2011/10/07/does-overtime-use-equal-abuse-dave-takes-on-a-reporters-claim-about-the-dc-fire-ems-department-plus-chief-ellerbe-pushes-forward-with-his-shift-change-plan/>

A female firefighter who said she was in charge of an engine company when a fire rig was used in a 2008 porn shoot defended the Los Angeles (CA) Fire Department on Tuesday, saying firefighters did nothing wrong and she was tired of hearing the agency's reputation attacked. Engineer Julie Wolfe said she was in charge of Fire Engine 263, assigned to Station 63 in Venice, when porn actress Charley Chase was filmed topless on the truck. Wolfe, a 24-year-veteran of the Fire Department, said she was told by her supervisors not to discuss specifics of the incident, but felt she needed to defend the agency. "I am here to tell you and the public that the members of the department did nothing wrong and had nothing to do with the photo shoot," she said during the City Council's public comment period. "I can't stand by one more day to hear my Fire Department's name thrown in the mud." Council members did not publicly respond to her statement. Afterward, however, Councilman Dennis Zine said there are other issues beyond whether the firefighters were actually involved in the adult-movie shoot. "What concerns me is if the engine was left unattended and the fact it was parking in handicapped spaces," Zine said. Zine said he wants to talk with Wolfe to find out what she knows about the incident: http://www.dailynews.com/breakingnews/ci_19093499

Riverside (CA) does not need a second ambulance company and will continue to allow only one provider as it has for at least 50 years, the City Council voted Tuesday. In a 6-1 vote, with Councilman Paul Davis dissenting, the council rejected Corona-based Mission Ambulance's application to offer nonemergency ambulance service in the city. That means American Medical Response, or AMR, will remain the sole medical transportation provider in Riverside. Councilman William "Rusty" Bailey suggested that a council subcommittee review the ambulance policy, but it's not yet clear if that will happen. Riverside County has authority over emergency or 911 ambulance services, which AMR provides nearly countywide through an exclusive contract. Everywhere but the city of Riverside, nonemergency or "retail" ambulance service is considered an open market in which companies need only a permit from the county and business licenses in the communities where they want to operate: <http://www.pe.com/local-news/riverside-county/riverside/riverside-headlines-index/20111011-riverside-council-says-no-to-second-ambulance-service.ece>

As the City of Detroit (MI) rolls out its annual Angels' Night campaign to curb arson fires over the Halloween holiday, the city's Fire Department says it plans to employ new efforts. Executive Fire Commissioner Donald Austin told the news media Tuesday that department vehicles will patrol 3-6 a.m. on Halloween on Monday -- a time period when volunteer patrols typically drop off. Angels' Night efforts begin Sunday. The department also will be adding a foam product to its water that helps extinguish fires faster and prevents rekindling, Austin said. He said the foam, which costs about \$662 per 55-gallon drum, could become a regular part of the department's firefighting efforts: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011110260338>

It's not the most high-tech tool firefighters have on the job, but can sometimes end up being the most important; simple cutters they can use to free themselves from entanglement while fighting fires. With the help of generous donors firefighters in the region are now safer. Most

people can imagine the peril heat, smoke and flames can pose to firefighters, but one of the biggest dangers might not come to mind. It's a common problem with modern construction. "A firefighter becoming entangled in wires and suffocating because they run out of air," said Captain Trish Tracy from the Tucson Fire Department. The solution is to equip each firefighter with a pair of cutters. But with the budget problems fire departments are facing, the money just isn't there. So the Greater Tucson Fire Foundation went to the community to ask for help. Several local congregations, businesses and civic groups such as Tucson Meadows Mobile Home Cert Group, have stepped up. The fire foundation has only received half the funding but say the issue of firefighter entanglement is so serious, they wanted to hand out the cutters they've purchased so far, right now. The fire foundation is halfway to its goal of providing 900 cutters to firefighters from 13 different local departments:

<http://www.fox11az.com/news/local/Donations-helping-make-Tucson-area-firefighters-safer-thanks-to-simple-tool-131800663.html>

A just released FY2012-FY2015 strategic plan for Atlanta (GA) Fire Rescue shows that, despite the flailing economy, the department plans to ramp up to full staff for the first time in nearly a decade. "By this time next year, we should have four firefighters staffed on all of our engines and four on all of our trucks," Chief Kelvin Cochran said. The move comes after some lean years that included downsizing, brownouts and outrage over closing some community fire stations:

<http://www.11alive.com/rss/article/211077/3/Atlanta-Fire-Rescue-Making-Strides-to-Fully-Staff>

Former Woodinville (WA) Fire & Rescue chief I. David Daniels agreed to withdraw his formal discrimination charge against the fire district after the WF&R board of commissioners agreed to add an additional three months to his severance package — tantamount to about \$40,000. Daniels signed off on the revised separation agreement October 19 and has officially "resigned" from his post after 18 turbulent months culminating in a vote of no confidence by the firefighters' union, IAFF Local 2950. According to board chair Tim Osgood, the district found itself between a rock and a hard place with the exorbitant cost of litigation necessary to repel the charges. In fact, the board seems to consider the revised settlement a sound business decision. "It would be purely speculative to try to predetermine the total cost of defending our actions in the Daniels matter," Osgood said in an email when asked if it would have cost the district at least \$40,000 to defend the discrimination claim filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by Daniels on Sept. 19. "What helped guide our decision was our experience defending the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by our previous chief and other recent personnel matters." He added: "Any matters of litigation involve investigations, the need for outside legal counsel, increases in personnel costs and the very real cost of lost productivity within the organization. We believe the increase in the settlement offer was fair and equitable for both sides and allows us to continue our rebuilding process."

<http://www.nwnnews.com/index.php?view=article&catid=34:news&id=5272:former-chief-drops-discrimination-claim-after-wfar-board-sweetens-his-pot&tmpl=component&print=1&layout=default&page=>

Former Stockton (CA) Fire Chief Ron Hittle has no plan to sue the city for being fired, his attorney told a judge today, noting it would be a long and costly battle for both sides. Rather, attorney Randy Thomas urged the judge to give his reading of the city's charter to determine if Hittle, 48, has a right to return to work as a battalion chief, or should he go find a new job? The city fired Hittle Sept. 30, saying he had an "incompatibility of management styles." Chief among criticisms, the city said he attended a Christian leadership conference on the city's time: http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111019/A_NEWS/111019871

The city of Stockton (CA) paid a firefighter \$30,203 for settling a lawsuit that claimed the former chief didn't promote him because of racial discrimination. Ed Rodriguez, who was recently promoted to deputy chief in the Stockton Fire Department, received \$5,000 for lost wages, and the remaining \$25,302 was for attorney's fees Rodriguez incurred. Attorney Albert Ellis said the sum for the legal fees amounted to the actual cost of representing Rodriguez in the lawsuit filed in 2009. Ellis said it was not a lump sum awarded to him. "These are not fees that are owed to my office," Ellis said. "They're owed to Mr. Rodriguez." The suit was settled last month with Rodriguez's promotion. About the same time, the city fired former Fire Chief Ron Hittle, saying his management style was incompatible with the city's goals and mission. In the original suit, Rodriguez, a Mexican-American, cited a "racially hostile" workplace, where Hittle told Rodriguez that "people like me do not have a place in his senior management positions." Hittle is now fighting in court for a job back with the Fire Department:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111029/A_NEWS/110290323/-1/A_NEWS

The family of a man who drowned off Crown Beach in Alameda (CA) on Memorial Day as police and firefighters watched from the shore have filed claims against the city and county of Alameda, saying first responders were negligent because they should have done more to help him. The claims, which were filed Thursday, come just two days after the Alameda City Council reviewed the death of the 52-year-old Raymond Zack and steps that police and firefighters are taking to address public criticism for how they responded to the emergency, Bernice Jolliff, Zack's sister, and Robert Zack, his brother, are seeking unspecified damages against both the city and county of Alameda, according to the claims. Zack, who reportedly suffered from mental illness, waded into San Francisco Bay before dozens of onlookers and slowly walked farther and farther from shore until he eventually succumbed in the chilly waters. After his death, firefighters said they did not enter the water to help him because they were not certified in land-water rescue and did not have a boat that could maneuver in the shallow waters. Police said they did not go in because Zack was suicidal and possibly violent. Officers and firefighters at the scene, however, did attempt to secure rescue boats, including from the U.S. Coast Guard. A passer-by eventually pulled Zack back into shore after he began floating face down: http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/localnews/ci_19108108

Shortly after Moline (IL) aldermen voted down a motion to raise property taxes to pay for a full year of Emergency Medical Services, Fire Chief Ron Miller announced he would retire. Ald. John Knaack, 1st Ward, said he had listened to both sides of the issue. He noted that 59 of Moline's 68 firefighters live outside of the city. Forty live in communities with only volunteer fire departments and no EMS, he said, where they feel safe and secure. "Keep in mind we we're told they cannot work for a city that offers anything less," he said. "But they can live and pay taxes in a city that offers less?" <http://qconline.com/archives/qco/display.php?id=565898>

The Dixon (CA) and Winters fire departments are poised to embark on a journey that may forever change the face of regional fire service. At least, both sides say, they hope so, as the opportunities that could arise are endless. "I think this is where fire service in Solano County is heading and should head and this is a good way to get a look at it," explained Dixon Fire Chief Aaron McAlister. "There's some efficiencies that can be generated and in the end, I think it provides a better service." Today McAlister and his captains, Ron Karlen and Greg Lewis, will begin a three-year contract stint providing the Winters department with administrative fire service. McAlister will head both agencies and Karlen and Lewis will be the command staff. They will split their time between the agencies with a focus on Dixon but offering Winters 24 hours of service a week. "I think it's a real win-win for both Dixon and Winters," said Winters City Manager John Donlevy Jr. "Both our fire agencies know each other really well. We share a border." http://www.dailydemocrat.com/news/ci_19237802

Fire Prevention Week may be in the rearview mirror for 2011, but departments ought not to wait for it to come full circle 360 days from now to promote its message again, according to two firefighters specializing in public education and fire prevention education. "One of our biggest challenges is keeping in touch with people year round," said Daniel Byrne, a firefighter/paramedic with the Burton (S.C.) Fire Department. "Fire prevention can't be only one time a year, it has to be year-round." This year, the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) theme centered on protecting families, but Lee Levesque, a firefighter and public affairs officer for the Lady's Island St. Helena (S.C.) Fire District, said there's no reason for it to be just a one-day or one-week long event. "When we look at our compadres, the teachers in the schools, they have recognized that year-round education helps with retention," Levesque said, adding that the same principle holds with fire safety education. "I am doing the same this week as I did last week and the week before that," he said. Byrne said departments are "missing the boat" if they don't make the time and expend the energy to get the word out as often as possible, irrespective of the date on the calendar:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/feature/experts-say-push-fire-prevention-year-round>

The tolling of the bell atop the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Chapel marked the opening Sunday of the annual service to honor America's heroes. Stationed on a foreign base, the lack of a bell didn't hamper soldiers from participating in Bells Across America. They banged on a fire extinguisher with a spanner wrench. About 5,000 gathered under a brilliant sky for the 30th annual memorial service to honor 89 fallen heroes. They include 72 who died in 2010, and 17 who perished in other years:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/thousands-honor-89-fallen-firefighters-memorial>

Fire departments in Loma Linda (CA) and Colton soon may share a battalion chief, a move toward consolidation that department heads say would be unprecedented in the region. The agreement, worked out between fire chiefs in the two cities, was ratified by Loma Linda's City Council on Tuesday. Colton Fire Chief Tom Hendrix said he will bring the proposal to the Colton City Council on Nov. 1 and hopes it will go into effect as soon as possible after that. "All local jurisdictions have been affected by the downturn of the economy, and we're going to look at everywhere we can to increase efficiencies while maintaining service," Hendrix said. "We - Colton and Loma Linda - have a long history of working together, actually going back 35 or more years. Our organizational cultures are very similar." If the plan is approved, Colton's battalion chief will supervise station crews in both cities for one shift, and Loma Linda's battalion chief will supervise both cities for the next shift. That would free up a battalion chief at each department to work a 40-hour work on administrative tasks, including disaster planning and grant applications, and be roughly cost-neutral for Colton, Hendrix said. Jeff Bender, Loma Linda's chief, said the plan would save Loma Linda about \$8,500 per year, but the biggest difference would be improved service: www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_19116210

Contract amendments for the PHX Sky Train worth \$45 million and \$111.7 million were up for consideration before the Phoenix City Council last week, but reclining chairs and polo shirts got the most attention. Phoenix's (AZ) newest Councilman, Jim Waring from District 2, again stole the show, worried over a potential \$15,138 payment for 22 La-Z-Boy recliners for fire stations. That comes out to almost \$700 a chair. "It sort of jumped off the page that we were spending \$15,000 on 22 chairs," said Waring, who found an ally in Councilman Sal DiCiccio. DiCiccio asked the fire department to find public donations to cover the cost of the chairs or ask the firefighters union to pay for them. "How many kids can we put in after-school programs for the cost of these chairs?" DiCiccio asked:

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2011/10/24/20111024phoenix-council-debate-firefighter-recliners-cost.html>

As the New Haven (CT) fire department prepares for its first large recruitment effort in four years, Rob Smuts has a new solution to help more New Haveners land a job: Limit the competition. Smuts, the city's chief administrative officer, pitched his solution at a briefing before 20 alders and alders-elect Thursday night in City Hall. The briefing came as the city prepares to recruit a new class of 45 entry-level firefighters. Smuts proposed capping the number of job applicants at 400 residents and 400 non-residents. "That should significantly decrease the competition from out-of-town," he said. The city's firefighter recruitment drive in 2007 yielded 1,049 applications from out-of-towners and only 257 from New Haveners, Smuts said. That was the city's last major recruitment effort; the city also fielded a small class of four paramedic firefighters earlier this year:

<http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/50-50-plan-to-bring-in-more-firefighters-from-the-city/>

Palo Alto's (CA) tortuous struggle with its firefighters union over a new labor contract came to an official conclusion Monday night when the City Council voted unanimously to ratify a three-year deal with the union. The new contract, which the union ratified last month, followed 16 months of negotiations that concluded in an impasse and binding-arbitration proceedings. It imposes a second pension tier for new workers, requires employees to chip in for their pension and medical costs and, most crucially, scraps the controversial minimum-staffing provision, which required at least 29 firefighters to be on duty at all times. "This has been a difficult path for both sides," Mayor Sid Espinosa said just before the votes were cast. "It's been a long process and this is very much needed for the long-term health of our city." Councilman Larry Klein, who made the motion to ratify the contract, cited the Beatles song "Long and Winding Road" to describe his feelings about the new agreement. He said he was "delighted that after all the time and trouble we had in negotiations, that we're finally here." "It certainly helps our budget and helps us not only achieve savings and have our personnel be more efficient, but it sets the right tone," Klein said:

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=22904

Stockton (CA) firefighters will each take home about 15 percent less pay under a new contract that goes for approval before city leaders tonight. But firefighters are earning high praise for enduring financial pain. Under the deal, firefighters will now have to pay 9 percent toward their retirement; they've lost extra pay for things like higher education; and, like all city employees, firefighters will now shoulder a greater part of their health care costs. These are just some of the hits firefighters agreed to recently in hard bargaining. In the end, the new contract saves the city \$9 million a year. Staffing cuts that closed down some operations and reduced from four to three the number of firefighters on each engine are expected to save the city an additional \$9.5 million. "Its certainly not ideal, but no situation is ideal right now," Councilwoman Susan Eggman said. She has faith that firefighters will adapt to the changes and deliver the high quality service they always have. "They're professionals, and they will rise to this occasion," she said:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111018/A_NEWS/110180311/-1/a_news

After more than two years, a documentary focusing on Detroit (MI) firefighters is nearing completion and now has a famous fire service advocate who could help speed up the process. The Detroit Free Press reported Tuesday that Denis Leary -- star of the hit FX show "Rescue Me" that recently completed its seven-season run -- will serve as an executive producer for the film "Burn." Leary is planning on spending his time and energy toward raising the close to \$80,000 needed to complete the film.

<http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/michigan/denis-leary-joins-effort-make-film-about-detroits-bravest>

Tight budgetary times have inspired the Colton (CA) and Loma Linda fire departments to create a plan to share battalion chiefs to supervise crews from both departments. This would be the second resource the cities have in common. Both already employ Debra Kreske, emergency services coordinator. The battalion chief arrangement is "really to take advantage of some efficiencies and redeploy battalion chief resources, people who are dedicated to platoon shift schedules and move them to a 40-hour schedule," said Loma Linda Fire Chief Jeffrey Bender. If implemented, the system would allow the Loma Linda and Colton chiefs to move a battalion chief onto a 40-hour week schedule. A Colton chief would be in charge of early week day shift A while a Loma Linda chief would supervise the mid-week B shift. The third shift will not be affected. Each will respond to calls in both cities and will also be in charge of handling administrative duties such as scheduling training, said Colton Fire Chief Tom Hendrix: <http://lomalinda.patch.com/articles/shared-chief-cost-effective-for-loma-linda-colton>

Good PT or bad PR? Key Biscayne, Florida firefighters make quick exit after TV crew finds out of town tennis match. If the firefighters were doing what they were supposed to as part of PT, they probably shouldn't have run from the cameras the way they did. The reporter says they gave the indication they were responding to a call on the radio, but Village officials say that was not the case. There was no specific policy the crew violated, except possibly using common sense. It looks like there soon will be policy. The report indicates the firehouse has a gym and basketball court. This is another good reminder that cameras are everywhere. Make sure you can justify your actions and don't have to run from them. Whether you like it or not, little things that everyone used to get away with will likely come back to bite you on the local newscast or YouTube: <http://statter911.com/2011/10/28/good-pt-or-bad-pr-key-biscayne-florida-firefighters-make-quick-exit-after-tv-crew-finds-out-of-town-tennis-match/>

Black firefighter hopefuls who sued 16 years ago turn out for physical testing with the Chicago (IL) Fire Department. "For years, I would see the new candidates running down Canal Street, and I'd be wondering when it would be my turn," said Tomlinson, 38. "But I never got the call." The call finally came Tuesday morning for Tomlinson and other hopefuls who, nearly two decades after suing the city for bias, have another shot at becoming firefighters. About 6,000 African-Americans in 1995 filed a class-action lawsuit that alleged racial bias in the city's firefighter testing process. Test-takers were divided into qualified and highly qualified candidates, based on their scores, but the African-American applicants argued that the city's cutoff score was arbitrarily set, leaving out thousands of qualified black applicants. The case eventually made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the city was ordered to give those applicants the opportunity to take the test again. Members of the class who are not hired are eligible for a share of \$30 million in monetary relief, said Josh Civin, an assistant counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund who helped argue the case on behalf of the applicants: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-chicago-firefighter-testing-2011102,0,7463192.story>

As calls for emergency health services increase and tax bases decrease in a down economy, four fire departments in central Lewis County (WA) are currently studying the feasibility of consolidating. To make it work, the single large fire authority would have to be more efficient with fewer costs. "The tax resources aren't there, so you have got to be innovative," Riverside Fire Authority Chief Jim Walkowski said Wednesday. The Chehalis Fire Department, RFA and Lewis County Fire districts Nos. 5 and 6 -- of south Chehalis and Napavine -- began a collective feasibility study last March to look at ways of consolidating much the same way the Centralia Fire Department and Fire District 12 had consolidated in 2008: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/four-washington-departments-consider-consolidation>

Trenton (NJ) firehouse broken into – the third crime targeting firefighters in about two weeks:
<http://statter911.com/2011/11/02/trenton-firehouse-broken-into-third-crime-targeting-firefighters-in-about-two-weeks/>

The headline reads "City of Miami (FL) Fire Department having fun with Hooter girls". And here's the description with it: "Our city of Miami fire department wasting their time with Hooter girls while the buildings fire alarm was going Off!" Is that really what is going on here? I am far from convinced that's exactly the case, based on what I saw in the clip. Watch it and tell me what you think? Whatever the facts are of this situation, the bigger lesson for everyone is in this person's perception of the event. It is a concept to think about as you go about your everyday business on the job and on your rigs. With cameras popping up everywhere, even innocent actions where you are actually doing some good, can be misunderstood or distorted and used for someone else's agenda. What I see in this video (and this is just MY perception) is the pump operator using some moments while the rest of the crew is handling a building's fire alarm is some positive public relations for the fire department. I am not being sarcastic. I mean this sincerely. Like the woman taking the video, I have no knowledge of the facts and I'm making a few assumptions to reach my conclusions (just like a reporter, huh?). Fire chiefs, other officers and union officials are often reminding firefighters to present a good image to the citizens and teach them about the fire service. They want the troops to be good ambassadors: <http://statter911.com/2011/11/01/the-spies-among-us-youtube-video-takes-what-may-be-a-positive-pr-moment-presents-it-as-something-very-different/>

In the terrifying moments after Olinda Woodruff realized she had accidentally backed over her 4-year-old daughter in the family's Kingwood driveway, she repeatedly asked a Houston (TX) 911 dispatcher to send an ambulance to her home. She waited with Rebecca, her youngest child, as a firetruck pulled up, followed by police cruisers. But she said "it seemed like forever" until an ambulance finally arrived and called for an emergency medical helicopter. She said a full hour passed before Rebecca arrived at Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Olinda Woodruff said in a statement that too many decisions in response to the Oct. 21 accident were made based on the city's new emergency response protocol, and that "too much precious time was lost." "My wish is that the system is changed in time to save the next child who needs it," she said. The case highlights what critics call a serious problem with the city's new emergency dispatch system, which they say endangers public safety by dispatching the nearest fire department vehicle instead of automatically sending an ambulance. The new system is designed to triage ambulance calls by dispatching the closest fire engines, ladder trucks and other Houston Fire Department vehicles to "non-life threatening" EMS calls. If an ambulance is needed, one is then dispatched:
<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/In-wake-of-tragedy-family-questions-HFD-s-2247686.php>

In late August, a team of Long Island volunteer firefighters sped down a paved track during a training drill, hanging onto the back of a modified racecar. The vehicle veered into a guardrail, according to Nassau County police, ejecting all four firefighters. Two months later, one of the injured volunteers is still fighting to regain his mobility, and taxpayers are beginning to question why their money is being used to fund a dangerous and costly kind of racing. "I don't know where those race cars come from and what money they use to buy it," said Elmont resident Carmina Rivera. "But if they're using the taxpayers' money for such things, I don't think it's the right thing to do." The practice session that ended in disaster was part of a decades-old tradition called drill team racing. "These are very poor times economically for fire departments across the nation and if this, in fact, is more of a hobby than a firefighting

exercise, well, they should be looking for other ways to raise the money than taking it from the taxpayers,” Harry Carter said. NBC New York has also learned the Elmont Fire District has agreed to pay workers compensation for the firefighter who was injured during drill team practice in August. “Workers compensation is paying for it at this time,” said Elmont Fire Commissioner Andrew Bohnet. “If the state comes around and says, ‘You can’t do this anymore,’ then we’ll stop it.” In 2012, taxpayers in the Elmont Fire District are set to pay workers compensation premiums that are 9 percent higher than in 2011. The fire commissioners insist the higher costs have nothing to do with drill team racing:

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/Long-Island-Firefighter-Drill-Team-Racing-Elmont-Taxpayer-Dollars-133130328.html>

The Sacramento City (CA) and Sac Metro Fire departments are looking to combine forces, forming one huge fire department. They've talked about this over the years. But the constant threat of layoffs and continues brownouts of fire stations, has fire officials taking a closer look. “We've been having these talks more frequently and it's a matter of being responsible managers, try to decide what makes economic sense, combining resources” Assistant Sac City Fire Chief Niko King said. “It would be irresponsible of us not to look at opportunities that are out there.” The city of Sacramento has three brownouts in place - temporarily closing fire stations on designated days to save money. Combining departments would put a stop to the brownouts. Sac Metro already comprises 17 fire departments, the most recent in 2000, with American River and Sacramento County fire districts. “It's realistic. There's fire departments that are merging to save money,” King added. Each department has about 465 firefighters:

<http://www.fox40.com/news/headlines/ktxl-sac-city-and-sac-metro-fire-departments-merge-20111102.0.845899.story>

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

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

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

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