

**CHABOT COLLEGE**  
**Fire Technology Program**



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**August 20, 2011**

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

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## **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](http://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.*

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization) <b>Note:</b> This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule is available on the first day of class.	Monday (am) <b>1<sup>st</sup> day of class is August 22</b>	0800 – 1150 hours
<b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm) <b>1<sup>st</sup> day of class is August 22</b>	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 52</b> (Firefighter Safety & Survival) <b>Note:</b> This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule is available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
<b>FT 53</b> (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (am) <b>1<sup>st</sup> day of class is August 23</b>	0900 – 1150 hours
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - October 18, 20 and 22 (Tue/Thu/Sat) - November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day), <b>or</b> Wed & Fri (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 91A</b> (Cal Fire wildland basic training) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - 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
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 15, 17, 19 and 20	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
<b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 8, 10, 12 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
<b>FT 91D</b> (Firefighter Survival) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 1, 3 and 5	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b> <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - August 17, 31, September 28, November 9 and December 14	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid) <b>1<sup>st</sup> day of class is August 23</b>	1400 – 1750 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm) <b>1<sup>st</sup> day of class is August 23</b>	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> • November 29, December 1, 3, 6, 8 & 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

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

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET**

**Some Classes Already Full, Others Filling Fast**

**REGISTER FOR FALL 2011 CLASSES, NOW!**

**Fire Technology Classes:** These classes are completely on-line. The classes offered below are available at Imperial Valley, Allan Hancock and Los Angeles Harbor Colleges. Some classes are already full or filling fast, if a class you want is already full at one college, another college may have openings in that class.

**Core Classes (Required)**

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Fire & Emergency Services Safety and Survival

**Electives**

- Fire Hydraulics
- Apparatus & Equipment
- Wildland Fire Behavior
- Wild Fire Safety & Survival
- Principles of Emergency Management
- Fire Company Organization & Procedure (Not a CFSTES Class)

**CFSTES Fire Officer Classes:** The following classes are offered at Allan Hancock College ONLY! **Most of these classes are already full, or getting there. Register or get on the Wait List ASAP.**

Except for Fire Prevention 1A & 1B, the CFSTES Fire Officer classes are offered in a Hybrid (On-Line" In-Class) fashion requiring students to attend an in-class session in Santa Maria, CA.

- Fire Command 1A: Command Principles For Company Officers
- Fire Command 1B: Incident Management For Company Officers **Pre-Requisite: Command 1A**
- Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Firefighting for Company Officers-**Pre-Requisites: I-200, Command 1A**
- Fire Management 1: Management" Supervision for Company Officers
- **Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction To The California Fire Code, Part 1- Entirely On-line**
- Training Instructor 1A: Cognitive Lesson Delivery
- Training Instructor 1B: Psychomotor Lesson Delivery-**Pre-Requisite: Training Instructor 1A**

EMS, Emergency Management & Haz Mat classes, as well as General Education classes are also offered on-line. See the Fall Schedule for details. For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at [dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu)

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:**

## **STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR**

### ***Hot Topics Research for Emergency Medical Services***

NEW EMS Course at the National Fire Academy!

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot course at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the newly developed 6-day course *Hot Topics Research for Emergency Medical Services (P-139)*.

The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering two pilot offerings.

- The first will be October 30 – November 4, 2011, with students to arrive Saturday October 29 and depart Saturday November 5.
- The second pilot offering will be January 29 – February 3, 2012 with students to arrive Saturday January 28 and depart Saturday February 4.

**Course Description:** This 6-day course provides the knowledge and skills to identify and research hot topics in Emergency Medical Services to ultimately identify, promote and embrace system or service improvements. This course is structured around how to make a persuasive justification through the effective collection and presentation of data with the use of a wide variety of research resources. Finally, students will construct a program proposal and/or progress report for presentation. This course includes research, writing, and presentation elements for successful completion.

**Student Selection Criteria:** Emergency Medical Services middle management personnel (including Shift Supervisor, Captain, Division/Battalion Chief, Crew Leader, Administrator, etc.) with at least 3 to 5 years experience.

**Class Size:** 24 - **Length:** 6 days

**Prerequisites:** ICS 100 level and ICS 200 level training. Preferred courses are Q462 and Q463 available through NFA Online at [www.nfaonline.dhs.gov](http://www.nfaonline.dhs.gov). Chief's signature attests that the applicant has completed this required training.

### **How to Apply:**

- Students must complete a FEMA General Admissions Application (FEMA Form 119-25-1). An electronic application is available on our website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Completed applications must be received by August 19, 2011 and should be submitted to:

NETC Admissions Office  
Building I, Room 216  
16825 S. Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the NETC Admissions Office at (301) 447-1441.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend this pilot course until notified in writing by the NETC Admissions Office.
- Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance for this pilot course. Attendance at the pilot course does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **“Size Up Matters” Initial Arrival Simulations**

**September 6 & 7, 2011 or  
September 8 & 9, 2011**



#### **- HIGHLIGHTS -**

*Developing the Following - “First Five Minute” Skills:*

- Initial Scene Size Up
- Positioning Tactics
- Arrival Reporting
- Fire Attack Strategies
- Incident Management
- RIT / MAYDAY Preparedness
- Common Sense NIMS Terms
- Transfer of Command



These two-day simulations workshops are geared for current and aspiring fire officers desiring to improve their scene presence and incident management capabilities. It has been proven that multiple simulations and feedback provide a solid foundation for enhancing intelligence gathering and decision making skills. Good habits are developed through repetition and practice... our tactical simulations are based upon the local construction, department operations, and conditions that you would likely expect to operate under in the field. Scenarios will provide up to six different views of an incident (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Interior, and Roof) and participants will coordinate operations with all units operating on the scene utilizing the incident management processes reviewed in class. Each simulation is followed by instructor and student feedback to maximize learning opportunities. Students will be provided with a workbook to reinforce their experiences after class.

To Learn More Visit [www.stflorianacademy.org](http://www.stflorianacademy.org)

#### **REGISTRATION IS LIMITED**

**Register early to secure spot in the class.  
Guaranteed to improve your command skills.**

Location:  
**University of Phoenix**  
3110 E Guasti Rd, Ste 100,  
Ontario, CA 91761  
Cost: \$550

## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:**

### **National Fire Academy (NFA) Training Opportunities (as of August 15, 2011)**

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

**If interested, apply immediately!**

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

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

The "Frequently Asked Questions about NFA vacancies is below this list of courses.

- R108 Eval Performance Based Designs**  
3/11/2012-3/16/2012 10 vacancies
- R129 Fire Service Course Design-1 week**  
1/8/2012-1/13/2012 4 vacancies
- R135 Fire Protection for the Built Environment**  
1/29/2012-2/3/2012 18 vacancies
- R138 Hot Topics Research In Fire Protection**  
1/8/2012-1/13/2012 12 vacancies
- R147 EMS Incident Operations**  
3/4/2012-3/9/2012 13 vacancies
- R150 Management of EMS**  
2/20/2012-3/2/2012 20 vacancies
- R152 Emergency Medical Services: Special Operations**  
10/17/2011-10/28/2011 4 vacancies  
1/16/2012-1/27/2012 9 vacancies
- R154 Advanced Safety Operations & Management**  
2/5/2012-2/10/2012 1 vacancy
- R200 Leadership Strategies For Community Risk Reductions**  
1/8/2012-1/13/2012 10 vacancies

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- R203 Fire Dynamics-Fire Modeling**  
3/19/2012-3/30/2012 9 vacancies
- R210 Fire Arson Investigation & Courtroom Techniques**  
3/5/2012-3/16/2012 9 vacancies
- R214 Forensic Evidence Collection**  
12/4/2011-12/9/2011 1 vacancy  
1/29/2012-2/3/2012 16 vacancies
- R220 Fire Inspection Principles**  
11/7/2011-11/18/2011 12 vacancies  
12/12/2011-12/23/2011 8 vacancies  
2/20/2012-3/2/2012 10 vacancies  
3/19/2012-3/30/2012 5 vacancies
- R229 Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices**  
3/19/2012-3/30/2012 3 vacancies
- R233 Chemistry for Emergency Response**  
12/12/2011-12/23/2011 14 vacancies  
2/20/2012-3/2/2012 9 vacancies
- R243 Hazardous Materials Incident Management**  
3/4/2012-3/9/2012 17 vacancies
- R247 Advanced Life Support Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents**  
10/3/2011-10/14/2011 11 vacancies  
1/16/2012-1/27/2012 12 vacancies
- R254 Haz Mat Special Ops Team Management**  
1/8/2012-1/13/2012 4 vacancies
- R331 Organizational Theory in Practice**  
12/12/2011-12/23/2011 16 vacancies
- R335 Administrative Public Assistant Community Recovery**  
12/4/2011-12/9/2011 16 vacancies  
1/8/2012-1/13/2012 17 vacancies  
3/4/2012-3/9/2012 18 vacancies
- P492 Emergency Research Deployment Plan**  
1/8/2012-1/13/2012 20 vacancies
- R491 NFIRS: Program Manager**  
10/30/2011-11/4/2011 15 vacancies
- R506 Executive Planning**  
11/7/2011-11/8/2011 1 vacancy  
3/19/2012-3/30/2012 10 vacancies
- R629 Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention**  
3/11/2012-3/16/2012 11 vacancies

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- P670 Overview of Life Safety and Public Policy**  
11/27/2011-12/2/2011 20 vacancies  
1/29/2012-2/3/2012 19 vacancies
- R810 VIP: Leadership & Administration**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 7 vacancies
- R811 VIP: Fire Cause Determination for Company Officers**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 7 vacancies
- R815 VIP: Challenges for Local Training Officers**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 15 vacancies
- R822 VIP: Advanced Safety Operations & Management**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 10 vacancies
- R824 VIP: Management Strategies for Success**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 18 vacancies
- R825: VIP: Command & Control of Fire Department Operations Target**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 7 vacancies
- R831 VIP: CMD & CNTRL of Incidents Operations**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 6 vacancies
- R847 VIP: EMS Incident Operations**  
2/12/2012-2/17/2012 14 vacancies

### **FAQ – NFA Vacancy Lists**

#### **Why are there vacancies at the National Fire Academy? Are enrollments down?**

Enrollments in the National Fire Academy (NFA) are actually up. Last year, in cooperation with our State training partners, our on-line training at NFAOnline, and in our resident and off-campus delivery program, the NFA reached 115,000 fire service professionals. In 1995 we trained just 15,000. Like every college, we plan our academic year based on last year's enrollments, the number of new courses on the schedule, waiting lists for current courses and the calendar and our best estimate of the demand for courses the following year. It's not an exact science. Vacancies occur for any number of reasons – some classes have low demand because the number of fire department members doing that job is low (e.g. public educators, data analysts, training, plans review, budget), but these courses are in many ways critical to the success of fire and life safety and the administration of the fire department. Other times we may overestimate the demand. When that happens, we cancel a low-demand course, move the enrolled students into another delivery of that course and use the funds to run an additional high-demand course.

#### **It seems that I'm hearing more about vacancies than I ever have in the past. Why is that?**

Well, you are. Before widespread communication using web sites and email, the NFA relied on last minute telephone calls to fill seats. We couldn't announce the vacancies in sufficient time to get the students here to campus. Now, with improved communications, the increased membership and support of the Alumni Association and the participation of many of the fire service organizations, we distribute vacancy announcements in a matter of minutes. It is working very well. What you are seeing, though, is only the vacancies. We never send out the list of classes that are already filled and have a waiting list. The lists show only the few vacancies we have.



**I don't apply during the application period, I like to wait to see what classes have vacancies before I apply, is that a good idea?**

NO! The first requirement for a student's eligibility to attend the NFA is their current job responsibility (Box #16). If you wait, it is likely that the courses you qualify for will be filled by others in the normal application process. When that happens, you lose the best chance you had to attend the NFA. Worse, if applications are low, the class you seek may be cancelled. The most useful and valuable course for you may never show up on a vacancy list. The better strategy is to apply during the normal application periods (April 15- June 15 and Oct 15 to Dec 15). Remember, if you qualify, you may apply for two different courses in the same semester (using a separate application for each); however, you will only receive a stipend for one trip per fiscal year (Oct 1 through Sept 30)

**Why are there waiting lists and vacancy lists at the same time?**

Our courses are academically rigorous, and every class is considered mid- to upper-level college course work. It is important to ensure that each student is capable of success in the course before being admitted. Students are accepted to the NFA based on the 'target audience' criteria listed in the catalog. We want to make sure that the course is a benefit to both the fire department and the students when they return; and is of sufficient complexity to advance the student's knowledge to improve local service delivery. Students who do not meet the 'target' criteria would slow the class down, and expose the student to possible failure. It is more important to fill a seat with a qualified student than it is to simply fill a vacancy. This ensures success for the department, the student and the rest of the class.

**What is the most frequent cause of application rejection?**

1. Used the wrong application. For resident courses, applicants should submit the long form application which requires the chief's signature
2. Didn't fill out the application completely
3. Didn't sign the application, or have the Fire Chief sign the application
4. Failure to describe your activities/responsibilities as they relate to the course for which you are applying and identify how you will use the information obtained from the course. (Box 16).

**Any suggestions to increase my chances of success?**

On our website, there is a document that provides eight "tips" for completing a successful application. It only takes a minute – but will dramatically improve your chances for success:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

***SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAINING OFFICERS***

***Presents:***

**[Santa Fe Springs Fire Rescue to host "Training Mandates"](#)**

**[October 4, 2011](#)**

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Santa Fe Springs Fire Rescue will host the So-Cal Training Officers general membership meeting on October 4, 2011 starting at 9 a.m. @ The Santa Fe Springs Rio Hondo Regional Training Center.

The topic will be "**Training Mandates.**" Mike Despain and Christine Boozer from Fresno Fire are the guest speakers along with Herman Jett of Cal-OSHA Consultation. SFS Division Chief Stan Klopfenstein will also give an update on the L.A. Area Fire Chiefs Regional Training Group. This event will conclude with a walking tour of the training facility. The board meeting will follow the general meeting. Santa Fe Springs Fire Captain Bill Noble will be the point of contact for questions regarding this event (see below).

**Date:** Tuesday, October 4, 2011  
**Location:** Santa Fe Springs Rio Hondo Regional Training Ctr.  
11400 Greenstone Avenue  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
**Time:** 0900 – 1200  
**Cost:** FREE!  
**Contact:** SFS Fire Captain Bill Noble  
[billnoble@santafesprings.org](mailto:billnoble@santafesprings.org) or (949) 280-2146

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **Mastering Fireground Command** **Calm the Chaos!**



Today's fireground should be a calm and orchestrated event, but often it is not! Fewer fires, mass attrition, and little or no command training have created an era in today's fire service where the simple "bread and butter" house fire is a sentinel event.

**The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death causal factors on the fireground surround size up, command, communications, accountability and SOP's.**

Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, commercial, wildland, MCI, hazardous materials incidents and review actual incident video and audio to get answers to the following questions...

- How do I set clear tactical objectives, have clear communications and establish command presence on my fires?
- How do I create a personal system that blends all of my classes, certifications, SOP's, ICS, and tactical fundamentals into a simple, street smart and effective way?
- What's the difference between size ups and arrival reports and how do I become great at both?
- What are the trigger points and safety issues of Offensive, Defensive and Combination strategies?
- What are the key points to Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage?
- How do I really use ICS day-to-day and get beyond "checking the boxes"?
- How do we get SOP's/SOG's working in my department?
- When do we call an audible on the SOP's?
- What could hurt me or my crew tonight?

This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will simplify the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these 3 key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! **Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test and the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the fire service did!**

**Who should attend?**

- ✓ **Current officers who desire to dramatically improve their fireground command abilities**
- ✓ **Aspiring officers who desire to develop a system for outstanding performance for the assessment center test and the job**
- ✓ **Training officers who desire the latest in tactical training**

***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.***

**Alameda County Fire Department - September 19-20, 2011**

**Go to [www.Trainfirefighters.com](http://www.Trainfirefighters.com) for online registration**

**Class size limited to due to depth of instruction**

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

### **2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Guidance Is Now Available**

The open application period will run from August 15 – September 9, 2011. FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) provides funding for the essentials that firefighters and first responders need to be safe and effective on the job. If your department or agency has critical needs, AFG can help.

#### **Who's Eligible for AFG?**

Paid, volunteer and combination fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations from urban, suburban, and rural communities in the U.S. and its territories.

#### **What Does AFG Support?**

- Firefighting and EMS equipment
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Fire and EMS vehicles
- Training programs
- Wellness and fitness programs
- Modifications to facilities

## **What's New This Year?**

- Funding priorities have been categorized as: High, medium and low. Use our priority system to increase your chances of winning an award.
- We've added new items/activities eligible for funding in 2011: Behavioral health programs, boats under 20 Ft., and extended warranties.
- Flashover simulators are not eligible for funding.
- Applicants may apply for more than one vehicle. However, driver/operator training/certification is required in order to receive a vehicle award.

## **Where Do I Apply?**

Learn more about AFG and start your application online at <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

## **Need Help? Take Advantage of AFG Resources**

We offer a variety of assistance to ensure that deserving applicants are successful:

- View an AFG Application Tutorial - **Coming Soon!**
- Review the AFG Program Guidance and Application Kit: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/documents.shtm>
- Download the Get Ready Guide: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>
- Call or email the Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960 or [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)
- Contact your Regional Representative: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/contact.shtm>
- Review applicable NFPA standards: <http://www.nfpa.org/nfpaafg2011>

## **New This Year: Grant Recipients Must Register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) System**

As of August 2010, prime recipients of Federal grants are required to register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system. As a potential grantee you are not required to register, but you may wish to do so now in case you receive an award. CCR registration will be required if you are selected for an award.

How to register:

1. Obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. If you already have a DUNS number, skip to #2.
2. Once you have a DUNS number, register here: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/default.aspx>.

For more information on grantee registration in the CCR system, download the AFG **Get Ready Guide** or visit their website: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/grantees.aspx>

## **Still Have Questions?**

AFG program staff will be available to answer your questions at the following events:

### **Fire-Rescue International**

August 23-27, 2011 (Exhibits: August 26 & 27)

Georgia World Congress Center

Booth 71

Workshop: Friday, 8/26/2011, 10:30-12:00pm Room B407

Session WK109 "Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program" <http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/iafc/fri11/Public/MainHall.aspx?ID=2514>

Thank you.

## Additional Grant Info:

### Assistance to Firefighters Grant

*Learn How You Can Prepare a Successful AFG Application*

With nearly 20,000 applications each year, and limited funds available, the level of competition for AFG awards is high. Help to ensure that your application stands out from the crowd and scores well during the evaluation process by following these tips:

#### **#1 Know the Funding Priorities**

This year, FEMA has designated High, Medium, and Low funding priorities for every eligible activity and/or item. This makes it easier for applicants to understand the programs FEMA is able to support. Use the priority system to increase your chances of winning an award. The more consistent your funding request is with the highest priority items, as described in the **FY11 AFG Program Guidance** - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/index.shtm> the greater your chances of winning an award.

#### **#2 Comply with State and National Standards**

The AFG Program is designed to help applicants meet state and national standards, such as those provided by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Requesting any item that does not result in state or national certification, or comply with recognized standards, may lower your application's evaluation score. For more information on and for access to these standards related to this year's funding priorities, visit [www.nfpa.org/nfpaafg2011](http://www.nfpa.org/nfpaafg2011)

#### **#3 Ensure Your Request Is Reasonable and Justifiable**

The AFG Program is designed to meet firefighter essential needs, and to help your department meet national standards. Applicants should request only what they must have and only what they can justify. Requesting an excessively expensive brush truck, for example, or asking for what appears to be a "wish list" item is not in your best interest and will result in a lower application score. Applicants make a critical mistake by requesting equipment with excessive or unreasonable costs.

#### **#4 Prepare a Detailed and Concise Narrative**

A surprisingly large number of applications contain poorly written narratives that do not adequately define the risks in the community, the proposed solution, the financial situation of the organization, or the cost-benefit of the project. Additionally, applicants should avoid borrowing language from vendors and manufacturers. Such boilerplate language tends to be general in nature and does not describe the local need. The Narrative must contain a clear picture of your department and its finances, your community and its need(s), as well as the project and its cost-benefit. It should be detailed and concise. Allow enough time to write a complete narrative. This is your opportunity to convince a panel of your peers that your request should be funded - take advantage of it!

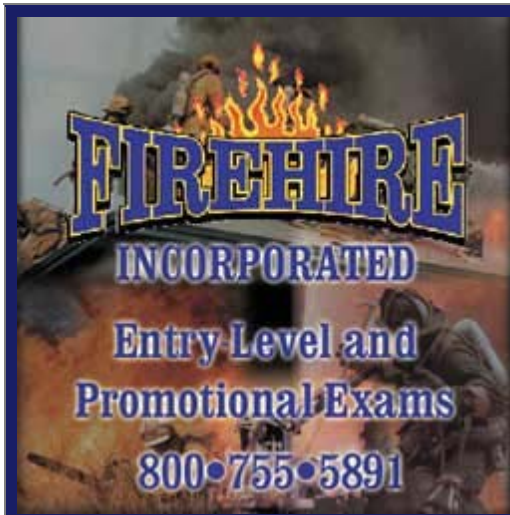
#### **#5 Take Advantage of AFG Resources**

We offer a variety of assistance to ensure that deserving applicants are successful:

- View the AFG Application Tutorial - [http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/tools/new\\_tutorial/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/tools/new_tutorial/index.shtm)
- Review the AFG Program Guidance and Application Kit - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/documents.shtm>
- Watch an AFG webinar. Follow the instructions on the calendar at [http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/workshop\\_schedule\\_august.html](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/js/workshop_schedule_august.html)
- Download the Get Ready Guide - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>

- Download the Narrative Assistance Guide - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/index.shtm>
- Call or email the Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960 or [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)
- Contact your Regional Representative - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/contact.shtm>
- Find additional resources on our website under Rules and Tools - <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/tools/index.shtm>

## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFO - FIREHIRE:**



FIREHIRE® Inc. August 2011 Newsletter

*Where Your Fire Service Career Begins!*

August 4th, 2011

### LATEST NEWS

The October 11th, 2011 examination is quickly approaching. **You have until September 30th, 2011 to get your application packet and payment submitted. You must also have a valid CPAT card or certificate submitted by the October 11th, 2011 examination date. It must be dated after October 11th, 2010 for it to be accepted.**

We have seen some hirings since the last newsletter. The Cities of San Mateo, Piedmont, and the San Ramon Valley Fire District are currently in the process of hiring candidates from our Registry. The City of Vallejo just hired 5 and they are anticipating hiring more after the October examination. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

If you wish to re-test to improve your scores or you are renewing your annual test, you DO NOT have to submit another application packet. We keep everyone's application packet on file for at least 4 years. If you want to fill out an updated application packet, please feel free to do so. If you are new to the process, applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm)

You can also receive an application via USPS mail by contacting our office at (800) 755-5891.

### FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide

The written examination is based solely on the FIREHIRE® Inc. Study Guide. **The Study Guide is available for purchase on our website at the FIREHIRE Store. To score well, it is highly recommended that the candidates purchase the study guide.**

### WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

The written examinations will be held at the Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center.

The address is 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk

**WORKING OPPORTUNITY**

**This is a tremendous opportunity to get some experience as a front-line firefighter. This is as close to a firefighter position that you can get outside of a career position.**

Just wanted to pass along that the Wilton Fire Protection District will be holding a written exam for Shift Firefighter. The test will be held on August 17, 2011 at 0900. Below are the requirements to take the test. For an application or any additional information please visit our website at [www.wilton-fire.org](http://www.wilton-fire.org)

**Minimum Requirements - Shift Firefighter**

1. State of California Firefighter 1 Skills Package, OR California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I Certificate
2. Attended and successfully completed an approved Firefighter Academy
3. California Emergency Medical Technician-Basic
4. Willing to work a minimum of one (1) twenty four (24) hour shift per week
5. Attend mandatory full Department monthly training
6. Have the ability to follow directions
7. Must be in good health
8. Minimum of eighteen (18) years of age
9. Maintain a current CPAT card
10. California Drivers License

**JOB OBJECTIVES**

Assists in Suppression of fires, rescue and lifesaving operations; responds to emergency medical calls and renders first aid; handles fire streams and other fire service equipment in suppression of fires; performs daily maintenance of stations, quarters, apparatus and equipment; makes required equipment checks; assists in putting apparatus and equipment back in readiness for other emergencies; attends scheduled mandatory training drills; performs other duties as assigned. The Wilton Fire Protection District will provide a per shift monetary stipend. Shift Firefighters will receive seventy five (75) dollars per twenty four (24) hour shift to cover on duty meals and uniforms. WFPD approved Licensed Paramedics, providing Advanced Life Support skills, will receive an additional twenty five (25) dollars per twenty four (24) hour shift.

**CPAT INFORMATION**

We will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate.

**When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination.**

The CPAT card/certificate must be dated **AFTER OCTOBER 11TH, 2010** for it to be accepted. You must submit a copy of it for your files. You may bring a copy of your CPAT card or certificate of

Grove, California.

**The next written examination is going to be administered on October 11th, 2011, and is weighed at 100%.**

**Follow FIREHIRE on Twitter**

FIREHIRE® Inc. is now on Twitter. Please take the time to follow us @GBPackerfan1963.

I will update the current hiring status of our contracted agencies.

I will also respond to your tweets regarding the best way to make yourself marketable to the Fire Service.

completion to the written examination. You **MUST** bring a copy, not just show us your Card.

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

#### **RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS**

Between May 17th, 2011 and August 4th, 2011 the following agencies have conducted interviews with FIREHIRE candidates:

**Piedmont FD**

**San Ramon Fire Protection District**

**San Mateo FD**

**Vallejo FD has just hired 5 Firefighter/Paramedics.**

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

**COULD YOU BE NEXT?**

<http://www.firehire.com>

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

### **USFA Releases International Fire Death Rate Trends Topical Report**

**Contact: USFA Press Office - (301) 447-1853 - August 17, 2011**

EMMITSBURG, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of a special report examining the nature of the United States fire death problem and compares it to other industrialized nations. The report, **Fire Death Rate Trends: An International Perspective** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i8.pdf> (PDF, 584 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. The analyses in this report reveal the magnitude of the fire death problem; trends in overall rates and differences between the countries are also explored.

The report is part of the **Topical Fire Report Series** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/index.shtm> and is based on fire death data from the World Fire Statistics Centre and U.N. Demographic Yearbook population estimate data.



According to the report:

- From 1979 to 2007, fire death rates per million population have consistently fallen throughout the industrialized world. The North American and Eastern European regions' fire death rates have fallen faster than other regions.
- From 1979 to 2007, the fire death rate in the United States declined by 66 percent. Today, the United States still has one of the higher fire death rates in the industrialized world; however, its standing has greatly improved.
- Japan, a leader in fire safety, shows a slight worsening of fire death rates over the years studied.

Topical reports generally explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. For information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the USFA, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

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

### California Fire & Rescue Training Authority

There are still spots available!

#### **Fire Management 2A - Organizational Development & Human Relations**

**September 26-30, 2011 Monday-Friday**

**Folsom, CA - \$360.00 per student**

**Instructor: Deputy Chief Michael Bryant, LA County FD**

**Prerequisite: Fire Management 1**

This is the first of a five-course series. This course provides information on how to make the transition from supervisor to manager. It offers sound management principles in preparation for more intensified training in specific disciplines. Topics of discussion include: Internal and external influences, personality traits of your firefighters, managing human relations, group dynamics, conflict solution, and more. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, Training Officers and other Fire Service Managers.

#### **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 a fire manager with advanced knowledge and insight of fire personnel, human resource, diversity management, legal mandates, labor relations, and related areas. Methodology will include presentations, case study, exercises, and focused discussions. This course is designed for Chief Officers, Company Officers, Staff Officers, and 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](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov)

Find us on Facebook 

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



## National Preparedness Month 2011

*This September: A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.*

National Preparedness Month is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) annual campaign to encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools, organizations, businesses, and communities. National Preparedness Month is sponsored by FEMA's *Ready* Campaign in partnership with Citizen Corps, FEMA's grassroots strategy to bring together government and community leaders to involve all citizens in emergency preparedness planning. The goal for this September's National Preparedness Month is to turn awareness into action by motivating all Americans to make and practice an emergency plan. FEMA relies on federal, state, and local partnerships and its Coalition Members to help bring this call to action to all communities throughout the U.S. As the first wave of response to every emergency and disaster of all kinds, the United States Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) community will play a key role in National Preparedness Month.

### **National Preparedness Month Coalition**

**Sign up to be a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member!** Coalition Membership is easy, free, and important and is open to all individuals, businesses and organizations. Register your department at <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>.

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

As a member, you'll have access to tons of information and ready-to-use templates and messaging, including the ability to connect with the thousands of other members across the country. Help us encourage everyone to sign up at <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>. Here are a few easy ways to participate as a Coalition Member:

### **Leverage Existing Events**

Participate in events and meetings that already exist within your community, through local farmers markets, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis, VFW, or the American Legion. Whether it's offering to talk about preparedness or having a representative available to talk to community members and pass out information, tapping into something that is already planned and scheduled is a great way to reach members of your community.

Be sure to post your preparedness activity at <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM> to help others in your community find you.

### **Host an Event, Meeting, or Workshop**

Host an event, such as a preparedness workshop, day, or fair. Ladder trucks and ambulances serve as a perfect backdrop for an educational booth where you distribute home fire safety checklists or surveys, schedule smoke alarm installations, and/or answer questions about smoke and CO alarms and offer fire safety tips.

You may even offer to provide CPR training and/or blood pressure checks to community groups. Be sure to post your preparedness activity at <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM>.

### **Be Part of a Much Larger Event or Initiative**

Individuals want to be part of something bigger. For example, September 11th is now an annual day of service and this year will mark the ten year anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Since fire and EMS were a critical part of the 9/11 response, you might consider doing a preparedness event for this year's annual day of service. Be sure to post your event both on <http://911dayofservice.org/> and <http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM> so people in your community can find you.

### **Spread the Preparedness Message**

Include preparedness messaging in existing forms of communications, such as emails, websites, blogs, social media, newsletters, and even as bill stuffers. Once you're signed up as a Coalition Member, you will have access to ready-to-use messaging that you can use or customize.

## ***The U.S. Fire and EMS Community Involvement***

A few initial ideas for how fire and EMS communities throughout our nation can get involved in National Preparedness Month include:

- Host a Preparedness Open House that doubles as a volunteer recruitment event to assist you in Fire Prevention activities.
- Reach out to youth and families by planning a visit to a local school or day care to discuss emergency plans and fire safety and distribute information that they can take home about the importance of emergency preparedness and the steps they can take to be prepared.
- Consider announcing the launch of Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team - [www.citizencorps.gov/cert/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/)) or a new partnership with a local youth program that will integrate preparedness with a press release and social media effort.
- Reach out to senior citizens by visiting local senior centers to discuss emergency plans and fire safety.

### **Available Resources**

<http://community.fema.gov/connect.ti/READYNPM> - Join us as a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member where you will have access to ideas and ready-to-use messaging, including press

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

releases, posters, graphics, web banners, social media messaging, articles, best practices from 2010, and much more.

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). Ready has resources such as checklists and different information tailored to specific groups of people, including kids, businesses, and those with access or functional needs.

[www.CitizenCorps.gov](http://www.CitizenCorps.gov) - Citizen Corps is a national network of state, local, and tribal Citizen Corps Councils who work to bring preparedness programs and carry out local strategies to involve government, community leaders, and citizens in all-hazards preparedness and resilience.

[www.ReadyRating.org](http://www.ReadyRating.org) - The American Red Cross Ready Rating Program helps organizations take the necessary steps to become prepared to respond to and successfully withstand a disaster and other emergencies.

[www.USFA.fema.gov](http://www.USFA.fema.gov) - The U.S. Fire Administration is an entity within FEMA that provides national leadership to foster a solid foundation for our fire and emergency services stakeholders in prevention, preparedness, and response.

[www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org) - The National Fire Protection Association advocates for fire prevention and is the leading source on public safety, providing and advocating consensus on codes and standards, research, training, and education.

[www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org) - Across the country, states are participating in this earthquake drill. Check the site to see if there is a ShakeOut coming to your community.

[www.GreatHurricaneBlowout.org](http://www.GreatHurricaneBlowout.org) - The Great Hurricane Blowout is led by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc., or FLASH, to help families get ready for hurricane season. Check the site for future events happening in your community.

[www.Safekids.org](http://www.Safekids.org) - Safe Kids USA is a nationwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 14. Safe Kids USA educate families, provides safety devices to families in need, and advocates for better laws to help keep children safe, healthy, and out of the emergency room.

For more information and ideas, contact [NPM@fema.gov](mailto:NPM@fema.gov)

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

### **USFA Releases University Housing Fires Report**

Contact - USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - August 9, 2011

EMMITSBURG, MD –

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's United States Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in college and university residential buildings that include dormitories and fraternity and sorority houses. The report, **University Housing Fires (2007-2009)** - <https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i9.pdf> (PDF, 788 Kb), was developed by the National Fire Data Center and is a part of the USFA's Topical Fire Report Series. An estimated average of 3,800 university housing fires occur each year. Annually, these fires are responsible for 25 injuries and \$9 million in property loss. This report is based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

August 20, 2011

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

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According to the report:

- 95 percent of university housing fires occur in dormitories or dormitory-type residences, and 5 percent occur in fraternity and sorority houses.
- University housing fires occur most frequently in the late summer and fall - peaking in September - and mainly in the early evening hours between 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., when students prepare snacks or cook meals.
- Cooking accounts for 88 percent of all university housing fires and is the leading cause.
- Confined cooking fires, those confined to the container, account for 81 percent of all university housing fires.

Topical Fire Reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context. For information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the USFA, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

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## **FIREFIGHTER 1 ACADEMY INFORMATION:**



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

Applications Are Now Available For The Upcoming Academy Classes!  
Visit [www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov) to download an application (located on the "Apply" page).

Hardcopies are also available at the Business Office or may be mailed by request.

**The California Regional Fire Academy is Now Accepting applications for Academy Classes scheduled to begin on - Monday, December 5, 2011:**

Academy 16 ~ Full-Time Format Academy  
Academy 17 ~ Extended Format Academy

**Application Deadline:**

**All applications must be received by the Business Office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2011.**

**Late application submissions will not be considered for this academy process.**

All applications will be reviewed after the deadline of September 1, 2011. All applicants will be notified by mail and email on their standing in the Academy within **two weeks** after the application deadline.

Further information is available on the website and in the application packet.

California Fire and Rescue Training Authority - (916) 475-1660

[www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov](http://www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov)

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## **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.

- **Confined Space Rescue:** August 22 through 26, 2011 (Class in Modesto, CA)
- **Trench Rescue:** September 12 through 14, 2011 (Class in Milpitas, CA)
- **Haz Mat Incident Commander:** September 15 & 16, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)
- **Low Angle Rescue Operational:** September 21 through 21, 2011 (Class in Los Gatos, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 26, 28, October 3, 5 & 7, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 27, 29, October 10, 17 & 19, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)
- **Rescue Systems 1:** September 30, October 4, 11, 13 & 18, 2011 (Class in Campbell, CA)

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:**



### **MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**

4-DAY WORKSHOP

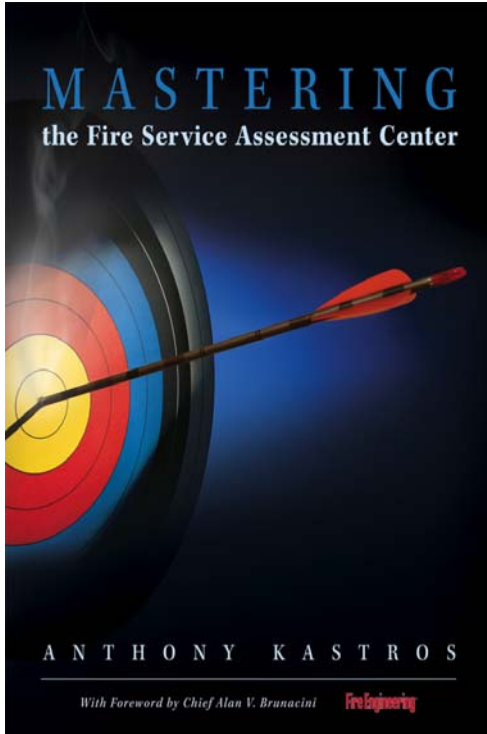
INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

**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.

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- 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.**

**OCTOBER 11 THROUGH 14, 2011 – MONTEREY, CA  
\$495.00\***

**GO TO [WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM](http://WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM) FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION  
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**



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

### **Fallen Firefighters to Be Honored on October 16, 2011**

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the U.S. Fire Administration will honor 89 firefighters who died in the line of duty at the 2011 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. These firefighters will be featured in the National Fallen Firefighters Tribute Widget on July 12, 2011. For more information on how you can include the tribute on your website, visit <http://weekend.firehero.org/widget/>

Emmitsburg, MD - The 30th Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend will be held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg on October 15-16, 2011. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration will honor 72 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2010. A bronze plaque containing their names will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial, located here on the National Fire Academy campus. Seventeen firefighters who died in previous years will also be honored. The plaques surrounding the Memorial, which was established in 1981, will contain the names of more than 3,500 firefighters.

Twenty-seven states experienced line-of-duty deaths in 2010. Deaths resulted from vehicle accidents while en route to or returning from emergency calls, building collapses, natural disaster response, falling, drowning, heart attacks, and burns/smoke inhalation. Three multiple fatality incidents accounted for six deaths. One multiple fatality occurred during a flashover at a structural fire; one incident resulted from an apparatus accident, and one involved a building collapse at a commercial structure fire. Illinois had the nation's greatest number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths in 2010 with 8, followed by New York and Pennsylvania with 7; and Kansas had 6. "Firefighters are called upon to face danger on a daily basis," said Chairman of the NFFF Board of Directors, Chief Dennis Compton. "In October, a grateful Nation will honor their dedication and remember their sacrifice. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend brings their loved ones and the fire service together to let their families, coworkers, and friends know that they will never be forgotten." For more information about the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend visit <http://weekend.FireHero.org>

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## **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 1A:** August 22 through 26, 2011
- **Fire Command 1A:** September 12 through 16, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1A:** September 19 through 23, 2011
- **Management 1:** October 10 through 14
- **Training Instructor 1B:** October 24 through 28
- **Prevention 1B:** October 31 through November 4
- **Command 1C:** November 14 through 18
- **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](http://www.americanhealtheducation.com) or call (800) 483-3615.

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## **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](http://www.firenuggets.com)

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### **Seminar #1: Thursday, October 20, 2011**

#### **Mastering Fireground Command – Calming The Chaos**

- Presented by Battalion Chief Anthony Kastros, Sacramento Metro Fire District

The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death (LODD) operational causes on the fireground surround size-up, command, communications, accountability, and SOP's. This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will streamline the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these three key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test AND the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the Fire Service did! We will conduct extensive incident reviews, including actual video and audio of commercial structure, apartment, residential, wildland, fatal fires and saves. Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, and commercial fire incidents to get answers to the following questions...

1. How do I set clear tactical objectives, have clear communications and establish command presence on my fires?
2. How do I create a personal system that blends all of my classes, certifications, SOP's, ICS, and tactical fundamentals into a simple, street smart and effective way?
3. What are the trigger points and safety issues of Offensive, Defensive and Combination strategies?
4. What are the key points to Rescue, Exposures, Confinement, Extinguishment, Overhaul, Ventilation and Salvage?
5. How do I really use ICS day-to-day and get beyond "checking the boxes"?
6. What could hurt me or my crew tonight?

For details on this seminar, go to: [http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11\\_kastros.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_kastros.pdf)

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### **Seminar #2: 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](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

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## **EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:**

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

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

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	- <b>October 13, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> ) - <b>October 14, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
<b>You will receive:</b>	**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under Give) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer. 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.
<b>Your role:</b>	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.
<b>To register / More information:</b>	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 <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a>

## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- NOTE: Do not wait until the last minute to attempt to complete the CPAT as it is common for people to fail their first attempt and have to go back on another day for a retest. More and more departments are asking for a CPAT card within six months or one year of the date of their testing process and I've seen many candidates fail the CPAT (and even retests) and not

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be able to continue through a department's testing process because of their failure to plan ahead. Don't let this be you!

**CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

**Southern California:**

626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**

526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

**Sacramento Area:**

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

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**FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: Jeffrey Scott Bowen  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 37  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 13  
Date of Incident: 07/28/2011  
Time of Incident: 1230hrs  
Date of Death: 07/28/2011  
Fire Department: Asheville Fire Department  
Address: 100 Court Plaza, PO Box 7148, Asheville, NC, 28802  
Fire Department Chief: Scott Burnette

**Incident Description:** Captain Bowen responded with his fire department to a four alarm fire at an office building. While engaged in search and rescue operations, Bowen became disoriented, succumbing to the intense smoke and heat from the fire and going into cardiac arrest. RIT members located Captain Bowen and removed him from the structure but Captain Bowen did not survive his injuries. Several other firefighters were injured in the incident. None of the injuries are reported to be life threatening.

**Incident Location:** 445 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, NC.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation for Captain Bowen will be held from 1800-2100hrs on 08/01/2011 at Biltmore Baptist Church, 35 Clayton Road, Arden, NC. Memorial Services will be held at the church at 1100hrs, 08/02/2011.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** A Fallen Firefighters Fund has been established to help the family of Captain Jeff Bowen, who lost his life, and for his partner Jay Bettencourt, who is currently receiving treatment at the burn center in Augusta, Georgia and for other City of Asheville firefighters injured while battling a four-alarm fire at 445 Biltmore Avenue on July 28, 2011. Mission Health System, in cooperation with the Asheville Fire Department, has created the Fallen Firefighters Fund to assist the families impacted by the July 28 fire. Mission Health System will match all contributions up to a total of \$10,000. **The full amount of all contributions donated will go to the families, with no administrative charges applied.** The Asheville Fire Department will distribute the funds. Contributions are tax-deductible and receipts will be issued by The Foundation. When all contributions have been distributed, any donor who wishes to view the usage of the funds may contact the Foundation for a full listing of all the payments made. Anyone interested in contributing to the Fallen Firefighters Fund may do so online [www.missionfoundation.org](http://www.missionfoundation.org) or may mail contributions to Mission Foundation, 980 Hendersonville Road, Suite C, Asheville, NC 28803. Please mark your checks

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"Fallen Firefighters Fund." For additional information, please contact Kelley Webb, (828) 251-4011 or [kwebb@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:kwebb@ashevillenc.gov).

**Tribute** is being paid to Captain Jeffrey Scott Bowen at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 54 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 49 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Ronald Dwane Ruprecht  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 51  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 16  
Date of Incident: 06/10/2011  
Time of Incident: 1200hrs  
Date of Death: 06/11/2011  
Fire Department: Stone Lake Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 41, N6070 Stone Lake RD, Stone Lake, WI 54876  
Fire Department Chief: Jim Rhea

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Ruprecht responded to a false alarm call at approximately 1200hrs. The following morning, he was found by family members having passed away during the night.

**Incident Location:** Pending

**Funeral Arrangements:** June, 2011

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending.

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Ronald Dwane Ruprecht at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 56 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 51 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Timothy Oliveira  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 53  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 27  
Date of Incident: 07/29/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 07/29/2011  
Fire Department: Salisbury Fire Rescue  
Address: PO Box 5426, 37 Lafayette RD, Salisbury, MA 01952  
Fire Department Chief: Richard Souliotis

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**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Salisbury passed away from injuries sustained when the fire department vehicle he was working under fell off of a jack and struck him.

**Incident Location:** 37 Lafayette RD, Salisbury, MA

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Timothy Oliveira at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 55 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 50 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name:	Deon "Dino" Jason Classay
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	42
Gender:	Male
Status:	Wildland
Years of Service:	22
Date of Incident:	06/23/2011
Time of Incident:	1200hrs
Date of Death:	06/23/2011
Fire Department:	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Apache Agency
Address:	P.O. Box 560, Whiteriver, AZ 85941
Telephone:	(928) 338-5303
Fire Department Chief:	Lynn Polacca, Deputy Superintendent

**Incident Description:** The lightning caused Diamond Fire was reported to Show Low Dispatch on 06/23/2011 at approximately 1200hrs local time. The location of the fire was confirmed by a helicopter to be north of the Black River on Fort Apache, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Ten of Diamonds Ranch. The Fort Apache Helitack and Fort Apache Hotshots were dispatched as Initial Attack resources and were flown to a helispot located on a ridge top on Paddy Butte near the fire start. Terrain in the area is steep and rocky with a dense woodlands fuel type. Following completion of a handline around the approximately 35 acre fire all resources hiked back up to the helispot (spike camp). As resources returned to helispot, the Incident Commander determined that one firefighter was not accounted for and initiated a search to locate the missing firefighter. The firefighter was in possession of a handheld radio and attempts to contact him throughout the evening were not successful. After several sweeps of the area, law enforcement from local, county and state agencies were requested to assist with the search efforts. Search efforts continued throughout the night until the missing firefighter was found deceased at 0618hrs.

**Incident Location:** Vicinity of Paddy Butte, AZ

**Funeral Arrangements:** 07/31/2011

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** None reported.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Deon "Dino" Jason Classay at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 57 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 52 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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**AND:**

Name: Kyle King  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 53  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 23  
Date of Incident: 07/29/2011  
Time of Incident: 1735hrs  
Date of Death: 07/29/2011  
Fire Department: Perry Fire Department  
Address: 732 Delaware ST, Perry, OK 73077-6425  
Fire Department Chief: Wayne Emmons

**Incident Description:** Captain King passed away from a cause still to be determined while fighting a grass and abandoned structure fire. Weather conditions (heat) are being considered as a contributing factor in the death.

**Incident Location:** County Road 160 and Pioneer Road, Noble County, OK.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** A memorial fund has been established in honor of Captain Kyle King at both the Exchange Bank, 523 Delaware Perry, OK 73077 ((580) 336-5531); and, 1<sup>st</sup> Bank and Trust, 401 North 7th Street Perry, OK 73077-6407 ((580) 336-5562).

**Tribute** is being paid to Captain Kyle King at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 58 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 53 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Jeffery Alan Cocke  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 59  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 39  
Date of Incident: 08/01/2011  
Time of Incident: 1900hrs  
Date of Death: 08/04/2011  
Fire Department: Altavista Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 208, 510 Seventh ST, Altavista, VA 24517  
Fire Department Chief: John Tucker  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.altavistafire.com/>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Cocke suffered a pulmonary embolism within 24 hours of responding to two fire incident calls, one outdoor and one residential fire. After being treated and released from the hospital, Cocke returned two days later exhibiting symptoms when he passed away from his injury.

**Incident Location:** Barclay Lane, Altavista, VA



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**Funeral Arrangements:** 08/07/2011

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** The family suggests those wishing to make memorials give to one of the following: Altavista Fire Company, P.O. Box 208, Altavista, VA 24517; and/or, Lane Memorial United Methodist Church, 1201 Bedford Avenue, Altavista, VA 24517.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Jeffery Alan Cocke at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 59 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 54 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Timothy R. White  
Rank: Firefighter/EMT  
Age: 50  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 07/17/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 08/05/2011  
Fire Department: Cedar Lake Fire Department  
Address: 9430 West 133rd Avenue, Cedar Lake, IN 46303-9463  
Fire Department Chief: Todd Wilkening

**Incident Description:** Firefighter/EMT White suffered a heart attack on July 17, 2011, while participating in Technical Rescue Training. On August 5, 2011, White passed away from complications as a result of the heart attack.

**Incident Location:** Cedar Lake, IN

**Funeral Arrangements:** 08/10/2011

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Timothy R. White at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 61 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 56 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Trampus Haskvitz  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 23  
Gender: Male  
Status: Wildland Part-time  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 08/11/2011  
Time of Incident: 1500hrs  
Date of Death: 08/11/2011  
Fire Department: South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression Division  
Address: 4250 Fire Station Road, Suite 2, Rapid City, SD 57703  
August 20, 2011 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

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Fire Department Chief: Joe Lowe, Director/Wildland Fire Coordinator

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Haskvitz passed away as a result of injuries he suffered after being caught in a burnover while fighting the Coal Canyon Fire near Edgemont, South Dakota.

**Incident Location:** Nine miles north of Edgemont, SD

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Trampus Haskvitz at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 60 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 55 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Todd Krodle  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 41  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 17  
Date of Incident: 08/14/2011  
Time of Incident: 1612hrs  
Date of Death: 08/14/2011  
Fire Department: Dallas Fire Department  
Address: 1500 Marilla ST, L1CS, Dallas, TX 75201  
Fire Department Chief: Acting Fire Chief Louie Bright

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Krodle was among the several crews that responded to a working structure fire in a multifamily residential building. While attempting to perform vertical ventilation from the roof of the 2-story apartment, Lt. Krodle fell through the roof and into the attic. He was rescued by fellow firefighters and was transported to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas where he later died from his injuries.

**Incident Location:** 5606 Plum Grove Lane.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Todd Krodle at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 62 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 57 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Larry Gale Nelson  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 61  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer

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Years of Service: 6  
Date of Incident: 08/12/2011  
Time of Incident: 1215hrs  
Date of Death: 08/12/2011  
Fire Department: Val Verde County Rural Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 420836, 1690 Cienegas RD, Del Rio, TX 78842-0836  
Fire Department Chief: Jerry Rust  
Fire Department Website: [http://www.valverdecountry.org/Fire\\_Rescue\\_Department.html](http://www.valverdecountry.org/Fire_Rescue_Department.html)

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Nelson passed away from a cause still to be determined while working at the fire station and experiencing a fall from a small step ladder. Lt. Nelson had also responded to an emergency call the previous day that was canceled while en route.

**Incident Location:** Station 3, 6911 Rec Road 2, Del Rio, TX

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitations will be on Monday, 1-9:00P.M, August 15, 2011 and with a Chapel service at 3:00P.M, at G. W. Cox Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Officiating will be Gerald L. Prather, Chaplain, Maj. Gen., USAF (Ret.) Visitations and Church service will also be in Andrews, Texas. Visitations will on Tuesday, 5-9:00P.M, August 16, 2011 at the McNett Funeral Home and Church services will be on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 10:00A.M, at the Andrews Church of Christ, Andrews, Texas followed by burial at the Andrews County Cemetery.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In Lieu of Usual Remembrances donations can be made to the Val Verde County Rural Fire Department.

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Larry Gale Nelson at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>.

To date, 63 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 58 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Dennis J. Cauthen  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 54  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 31  
Date of Incident: 08/16/2011  
Time of Incident: 0245hrs  
Date of Death: 08/16/2011  
Fire Department: Elgin Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 1809, 114 Tram RD, Lancaster, SC 29720-9594  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Cauthen collapsed at the station and shortly thereafter passed away from a cause still to be determined after returning from fighting an early morning fire at an abandoned residence.

**Incident Location:** 937 15th Street, Lancaster, SC

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Dennis J. Cauthen at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

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To date, 64 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 59 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and five 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](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](http://www.firehero.org)) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.*

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

**DELAYED LODD NOTIFICATION - WI FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Medical Emergency**

It is with regret that we advise you that Lt. Ronald Dwane Ruprecht, 51, of the Stone Lake FD in Wisconsin died in the Line of Duty in June. Lt Ruprecht, who had 16 years on the department, had responded to a false alarm call at approximately 1200hrs on 6-11-11 and the following morning, he was found by family members having passed away during the night. Our condolences to all affected.

**PA FIRE POLICE MEMBER STRUCK**

A Sellersville FD fire police officer, responding to a motorcycle accident in West Rockhill on Saturday, was struck by a car on Ridge Road near Lawn Avenue. The Fire Police Officer was directing traffic when he was struck. The officer was taken by ambulance to Grand View Hospital and then flown to St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem. His injuries were not life threatening but the officer was being kept at the hospital for observation and the driver of the vehicle who struck the fire police officer did stop.

**FIRE RESCUE INTERNATIONAL IS A FEW WEEKS AWAY**

Check out all the information here, including registration, program details and FREE exhibit hall passes. <http://tinyurl.com/3penz8a> - August 23-27th, Atlanta: Hope to seeya there!  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 8-1-11 / 1115 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**The Grand Rapids (MI) FD's "newest" apparatus will help keep motorists, along with firefighters and other responders safer on the highway...and we don't think any other FD in North America has such a unit. They have actually converted an old city dump truck into "Utility 2" - the former city water department truck's new life cost ZERO to taxpayers, and the GRFD folks hope it's the answer to a serious problem. Video below.** Every time there's a crash on the interstate,

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the GRFD sends two pieces of apparatus: one handles the crash scene, the other protects those crews handling that scene by blocking the lane ahead of the crash. **But motorists keep hitting the blocking fire truck, and it's costing the city a lot of money.** So fire officials, MDOT and the Kent County Road Commission put their heads together and came up with Utility 2. It's an old dump truck that the water department turned in that now has warning lights, siren and reflective chevron strips on the back, plus a lighted road arrow sign typically seen on road commission trucks. They also put on a crash attenuator in the event that the "motoring public" did not see all the warning lights and the flashing arrows and hit them, that they would suffer less severe injuries, if any. It's filled with aluminum honeycomb, so that all starts collapsing, the armature starts collapsing and it absorbs the impact. Sounds like a pretty cool idea. **HERE** is a video all about the "new" unit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JAqE99iAaA>

#### **ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN, FDNY WALDBAUMS FIRE: (VIDEO)**

August 2, 1978: 6 FDNY Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty, and more than 35 injured, some seriously. Killed were covering Lt. James Cutillo 39, 33rd Battalion, Fr Charles Bouton 38, Ladder Co 156, Fr William O'Conner 29, Ladder Co 156, Fr James P McManus, 48, Ladder Co 153, Fr George Rice, 38, Ladder Co 153, Fr Harold F. Hastings, 40, Ladder Co 153. **Story and VIDEO below.**

Just prior to the collapse, Louise O'Conner, Wife of FF William O'Conner was at the scene of the fire with her 3 small children. While FF O'Conner was operating on the roof, he waved to his family, and then they waved back, then shortly thereafter the roof collapsed, taking her husbands, and the father of her children's life. **HERE ARE REPORTS FROM THE FIRE:**

<http://www.fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire97/art141.html>

<http://fire.nist.gov/bfrlpubs/fire97/PDF/f97141.pdf>

**HERE** is the story with photos from STEVE SPAK: <http://stevespak.com/waldbaums.html>

**NOTE:** **HERE** is an excellent related video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTzBg1YIZmI>

#### **FIREFIGHTERS & "BIKES" - Another Sad Loss.**

Its not unusual to find Firefighters riding bikes off duty-and sadly, it's not that unusual where we are notified of a FF death related to the bike especially this time of year. We were saddened that High Springs (Florida) Firefighter Chad Hood, 35, was killed (while on his way to work) this morning after the 0635 crash. FF Hood is survived by, among others, a wife and a 4-year-old son, all of Gainesville. According to initial reports, FF Hood was wearing a helmet and headed north on U.S. 441 aboard a 1999 Suzuki when a Volkswagen minivan pulled out of a convenience store parking lot. The crash left the motorcycle in flames. The other driver, who was alone in the minivan, was not injured. Our condolences to all affected as we are reminded that be it going on an emergency run on the rigs, or driving off duty, especially on a bike-they "never" seem to see us forcing us to use extreme defensive caution. **RIP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-2-11 / 1331 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

Today, President Obama announced his intent to nominate Chief Ernie Mitchell, Jr. a retired Fire Chief and past president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). Prior to retiring, from 1998 to 2004, Ernie served as Fire Chief and Assistant Director of Disaster Emergency Services for the City of Pasadena, California Fire Department. Previously, from 1991 to 1998, he served as Fire Chief and Deputy City Manager of Monrovia, California. Chief Mitchell also served as a Battalion Chief for the City of Compton in California. In addition to maintaining his active membership in the IAFC, the Chief currently serves on the IAFF Hazardous Materials Advisory Board and the IFSTA Executive

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Board. Mr. Mitchell holds an A.S. in fire science from Long Beach City College, a B.P.A. from the University of San Francisco and an M.P.A. from California State University at Northridge. Besides being a veteran Firefighter, a Fire Chief, an Instructor, an original "TSL" member and past President of the IAFC, Ernie is a real stand gentleman who, if appointed, will do a phenomenal job as the "Nation's Fire Chief". CONGRATS and best wishes to Chief Ernie Mitchell.

Take Care,  
BillyG

The Secret List 8-2-11 / 1500 Hours

**AND:**

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER LODD-MEDICAL ILLNESS**

The Indialantic (FL) Fire Department has advised us of the Line of Duty Death of Captain James "Jimmy" Haggas from complications of Hepatitis C. Jimmy had 17 years of service with Indialantic Fire Rescue and was on disability pension. Jimmy leaves behind his wife and son and his station brothers. Jimmy passed on July 21, 2011. LODD services will be held on August 20th at the Indialantic Baptist Church at noon and a family reception will be held after, at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Indialantic. This will be a full LODD service and apparatus are welcome to attend. Please contact IFR at 321-723-0366 if you wish to participate. Our sincere condolences.

**ASHEVILLE LODD FIRE: ARSON**

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), along with criminal investigators with the Asheville Fire and Police Departments and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (NCSBI) have determined that the fire on July 28, 2011, at the Medical Office Complex Building, 445 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, was deliberately set. Asheville Fire Department Captain Jeffrey Scott Bowen was killed in the Line of Duty and over \$20 million in damage occurred as a result of the fire. The investigation is being conducted jointly by ATF, the Asheville Police and Fire Departments and the NCSBI. Much more to follow.

**TRACKING & FINDING FIREFIGHTERS**

**DHS's Science & Technology Directorate has announced that a Firefighter location-tracking technology has graduated from research and development and is ready for market after nearly a decade of extensive testing by engineers and fire departments.** The multi-layered technology was unveiled this week at the Precision Indoor Personnel Location and Tracking International Technology Workshop at the Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute and is expected to reach market next year. "Technologies have been developed that combine sensor technologies and medical sciences as a way of monitoring what is happening to that person, specifically their location, their heart rate and their temperature," said Jalal Mapar, S&T program manager. Honeywell will lead the team of companies that will commercialize and sell the system as a product next year, Mapar said. Tracking firefighters became a priority after the 1999 Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire, in which 6 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty after becoming lost. The idea re-energized after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, and leadership tasked scientists to develop and test technologies that could track firefighters in buildings where GPS was unavailable, Mapar said. **HERE is MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3uja5c6> - Additional media **HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3pyfecf>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-4-11 / 1717 Hours

**AND:**

**AMERICAN FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY IN KUWAIT**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A Firefighter working for ITT Systems, K-BOSSS in Kuwait was killed in the Line of Duty, yesterday August 4th, 2011. Firefighter Benjamin Davine, from Hampstead, New Hampshire, was traveling northbound on a military MSR, en route to his assigned military base yesterday morning. At approximately 0740 hrs, local Kuwait time, FF Davine's SUV collided headfirst with a fully loaded fuel tanker heading south. The details of the crash are still under investigation by the US Military, and the Kuwaiti authorities. While FF Davine was not a FF in Hampstead, he was a veteran of the United States Air Force, enlisting in 2002 and serving until 2008 with several foreign deployments. He arrived in Kuwait as a Firefighter in 2008, after his discharge, and continued to serve our armed forces as a contract Firefighter throughout Kuwait. Ben was 27 years old, and down to single digit days before leaving Kuwait to return home to his family, a new job, and a new life. Our sincere condolences to his family as well as the members of the ASG-Kuwait Fire and Emergency Services Division.

#### **FIRE CHIEF SAYS NO TO CUTS - AND PARAMEDICS SAY NO TO MERGER**

Toronto's Fire Chief is adamant he shouldn't lose one Firefighter, despite a warning that if council protects fire and police budgets it would deepen looming cuts to libraries and other so-called soft services, according to Canadian media. Chief Bill Stewart made it very clear yesterday when he stated that he does not support any recommendation to make cuts to Toronto fire, adding he has told City Manager Joe Pennachetti as much in a confidential report. His concern, like many Chiefs is that their run volume is up but their staffing is down. His remarks came a day after Pennachetti told the media that, if council doesn't hold police and fire to the same 10 per cent budget cut he's demanding from other departments "it will be worse for the other services that Torontonians said for the past two weeks are dear to their hearts." He was referring to hundreds of deputations at City Hall from Torontonians opposed to cuts suggested by consultant KPMG, including closing libraries and slashing spending on social programs and grants for student nutrition. Chief Stewart said cutting \$37 million from his budget would mean a loss of 400 staff, and jeopardize public safety by increasing response times to fires and medical emergencies. He suggested councillors look at how much staffing has risen in other city departments since amalgamation. The Fire Chief said he's willing to look at a KPMG-suggested merger of FIRE and EMS services, which are now separate. The union representing paramedics is strongly opposed to any merger. HERE is more: <http://tinyurl.com/3gvfko8>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-5-11 / 1035 Hours

#### **AND:**

NOTE: Our condolences to the family and friends of the 31 American Soldiers who were shot down in Afghanistan this morning. 22 of the dead were reported as members of a Navy SEAL unit, along with other American service members and some from an Afghan unit. The copter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in which the Taliban claimed responsibility.. Our condolences at all affected)

Hey,

The standpipe system inside of the office building where Asheville Fire Captain Jeff Bowen died in the Line of Duty appears to have been working, the Chief stated yesterday. In his first interview with Jon Ostendorff of the Citizen-Times newspaper, since the July 28 fire, Chief of Department Scott Burnette said the standpipe system at 445 Biltmore Avenue will be investigated, though he has no indication of problems.

"It is critical to us to understand whether or not that was functioning as it was designed," he said. "We have no information, as of today, that there were issues with that standpipe system." Nearly 25 minutes passed from the time the companies left their stations about 1230 hours until Firefighters reported they had water on the fire. Firefighters, in a recording of their transmissions during the fire, repeatedly made references to a lack of water.

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

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Captain Jeff Bowen, a 13-year veteran, died after exposure to heat and smoke in the arson fire. Bowen, Captain of Rescue Company 301, was among the first firefighters to reach the medical office building and was conducting a primary search. The Captain reportedly transmitted a "mayday" over the radio after reaching the top floor and encountering the conditions. Additional personnel found him and Firefighter Jay Bettencourt on the third floor, all according to the media's interpretation of radio transmission recordings. Bettencourt was flown to a burn center in Georgia and later released and will be able to return to duty. About 200 people were in the 150,000-square-foot medical office building when companies were dispatched. The fire started on the fifth floor. Some offices there were vacant, some housed records and some were used by doctors. The fire Incident Commander on the recording can be heard trying to locate Captain Bowen after the mayday call. At some point, firefighters switched radio channels, according to the recording. It took seven minutes for rescuers to find Captain Bowen and FF Bettencourt after the mayday call, according to the recording.

Understandably, the AFD has declined to address the recording, other than to say it did not release it. Chief Burnette on Friday said he has not yet listened to recordings but planned to. "I heard all of that live as it was happening," he said. "A four-alarm fire with firefighter in a mayday situation, it sounded as I expect radio traffic to sound for that complex of an incident."

The fire department requires building owners certify that standpipes are working properly. Owners typically hire companies to do the tests and prepare certified reports, Chief Burnette said. He said that he wasn't sure of the status of the most recent standpipe certification at the building. The chief said there are three investigations into the fire that will answer many of the questions about what happened:

- Asheville-Buncombe Arson Task Force is leading a criminal homicide and arson investigation along with the State Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.
- N.C. Department of Labor is doing a workplace safety investigation into Bowen's death and injuries of 10 other firefighters. The agency could fine the city if it finds fire department policies were violated.
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health will look at every aspect of the fire, including how it was fought.

The NIOSH investigation will be the most thorough look at how the fire department fought the fire. Chief Burnette said he understands people have questions about what happened. He said answering the questions isn't as easy as listening to the radio traffic of the fire and offering his opinion. "We want as much information as we can provide out to the community," he said. "The community is hurting just as we are. The community is needing understanding just as much as we are to help start the healing process. "We want to be responsible to the community, and we want to be able to provide those answers, but what is most important is that as we fill that need of providing understanding, we want to make sure that it is accurate."

## **RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS VS MOOSE CRASH IN MAINE**

North Lakes Firefighters called to the scene of a collision between a van and a moose on Route 161 late Thursday night struck and killed another moose on the way. The three people in the van suffered minor cuts and scrapes, though one passenger was taken to a Caribou hospital and the two firefighters walked away from their accident. Firefighter Stephen Belanger, 53, was driving the North Lakes Fire and Rescue Department's 1979 International tanker truck to the scene when a moose ran into the roadway in front of him a mile or so from the first crash. FF Belanger tried to avoid the moose but could not and also struck and killed the animal. Belanger and his passenger, FF Ben Pelletier, 54,



were not injured in the accident. **The tanker sustained heavy damage to the front and had to be towed from the scene.**

**WE TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER THE MANN GULCH FIRE-13 FF LODD's**

The Mann Gulch fire of 1949 was a wildfire in the Helena National Forest, Montana, which killed 13 Firefighters in the Line of Duty including 12 smoke jumpers who were parachuted into the area to fight the fire, but were unable to control it. Lessons learned from the Mann Gulch fire had a great impact on firefighter training. However, some of the same problematic issues were again repeated in the South Canyon Fire (Colorado) of 1994, in which 14 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty. RIP.

**MORE Mann Gulch Fire Investigation Info HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3nwcgvn>

**MORE South Canyon Fire Investigation Info HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/43m3gfm>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-6-11 / 1325 hours

**AND:**

**VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL**

It is with deep regret that we advise of a LODD involving a member of the Altavista VFD in Campbell County, Va. FF Jefferey A. Cocke, 59, died in the Line of Duty yesterday from a heart related issue. Services at this time will be Held at Altavista High School, 3 pm on Sunday August 7. FF Cocke was a member of the Altavista VFD for over 39 years. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

**FATAL RESPONDING APPARATUS CRASH IN AUSTRALIA**

2 civilians were killed and 1 is critical from a crash where a responding fire apparatus struck them in an intersection. One man who was a passenger in the back was killed instantly when the vehicle was crushed under the cabin of the Airservices Australia fire apparatus and a woman in the front passenger seat was conscious in the crushed vehicle for more than an hour, but died after she arrived at hospital. Her husband, who was driving the vehicle, is fighting for his life with serious head and spinal injuries. Amazingly a third man, climbed out of the back seat uninjured. The Darwin Airport fire apparatus had been requested for foam as back-up by Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service for a major industrial fire at the Wyuna Cold Stores facility.

**NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER LIGHTNIG STRIKE**

A Half Moon Volunteer Firefighter was indirectly hit by lightning while on the scene of a fire in Onslow County yesterday. The FF was at a fire call on Winter Place; it was sparked by a separate lightning strike. While operating at the fire scene, lightning again struck when it hit groundwater before traveling through flood waters to shock the FF. The Firefighter was taken to a local hospital but is expected to survive.

**POPULAR FIRE CHIEF/ FIRE INSTRUCTOR PASSES**

And lastly, we are sad to advise you of the passing of Rochester (MN) Battalion Chief Chuck Hermann who died Thursday while logging on property that he owns. As a highly decorated Fire Officer, Chuck received numerous awards including the Mayor's Medal of Honor, was an instructor for the National Fire Academy, and was an active advocate of Fire Fighters for Christ. Our condolences to all affected in the loss of Chief Hermann.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-7-11 / 1026 Hours

**AND:**

**OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS**

We regret to advise you that the Oklahoma Firefighter who collapsed on August 1 while operating at a wildfire in Noble County (OK) has died in the Line of Duty. According to Perry Fire Chief Wayne Emmons, 52-year-old Perry FD Captain Kyle King stopped breathing and received CPR and ALS treatment. He started breathing again at the scene and was taken to a hospital in Oklahoma City where he has now passed away. Our sincere condolences. Updates will be posted **HERE:** <http://www.perryok.org/>

**MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER DIES WHILE ATTEMPTING A WATER RESCUE**

A member of the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire Department in Charles County, Maryland, died tragically this weekend while attempting to perform a water rescue. FF Chris Staley, age 21, was attending a family picnic on the shores of the Potomac river when one of the guests swimming in the river began to struggle and drown. Chris entered the water to attempt a rescue, and tragically both of them lost their lives. We are awaiting further determinations and details from the NFFF from his FD's leadership. Our sincere condolences.

**NEW FIREFIGHTER EXTREME RADIO MICROPHONES**

While we don't endorse stuff specifically, when someone comes out with a product that we think would be important for you to know about, we pass it on....especially one that could directly impact Firefighter survivability. Motorola Solutions has launched their new APX XE Remote Speaker Microphone. The new RSM "mic" is designed specifically to enhance firefighter communications, safety and survivability in working fire conditions.

**HERE ARE SOME DETAILS:**

- =RSM features exaggerated controls easily accessible with bulky gloves. These controls include a large, yet protected orange emergency button, prominent Push-To-Talk (PTT) button with strong tactile feedback and a large volume switch.
- =This is the first RSM for the fire market to feature a two-microphone design (sound enters 2 different ways) that provides exceptional noise suppression for Firefighters working in extremely loud environments.
- =A larger speaker enables the user to hear radio communications over typical fire department background noises such as apparatus, sirens and tools.
- =RSM is optimized to perform with any of the best-in-class APX portable radios.

Other features of the microphone include a high-visibility impact green color, an emergency activated strobe light visible up to 10 feet in thick smoke, submersibility, and flexible mounting options with a large d-ring hook and clamping clip that rotates 360 degrees. These should be available in the fourth quarter of 2011. I'm sure you'll be able to see these new mic's at FRI the week of the August 22nd in Atlanta.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List

**AND:**

Hey,

A Baltimore City Firefighter was transported to the Maryland Shock Trauma Center shortly after noon today after he fell off a fire apparatus that was turning a corner while responding to a box alarm.

**NOTE:** Chief Kevin Cartwright, the FD PIO said that Truck Company No. 12 member had been in the cab of the truck and wore a seat belt, and that an investigation was now underway to determine how and why he fell out. He suffered injuries to his head and elbow, including lacerations, and was taken

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to Shock Trauma as a precaution as the Firefighter did not appear to have fractures or life-threatening injuries. Updates will follow.

**WHAT YOUR MAYORS AND CITY MANAGERS ARE READING:**

We wanted to share with you two articles in **this months** Public Management magazine that are very well worth your time. PM Magazine is a publication of the ICMA (Int'l City Managers Association) and it has some clear insight into what the bosses (Mayors, City Managers, City Hall Dwellers etc) are reading and very strongly contemplating.

The first paragraph in the cover story reads: "**Local and state governments are facing unprecedented financial challenges**". The story that follows is about CAFS (compressed air foam systems) - but in the middle of the article it states: "**The role of the fire service is not to be an employment agency**". The other article is about residential fire sprinklers. The theme running throughout is that if the fire service would use CAFS and the builders would install sprinklers, the fire service would be much less of a financial drain on local governments. These are just a sample of some very serious "foods for thoughts" in these unprecedented times. If you are a Mayor and City Manager and are looking at "how to cut" - you are definitely going to (at least) read articles like this- especially when "your" Association publishes it. **It's important WE pay real close attention.**

**HERE** are the **CURRENT** articles which were also published in Fire Chief Magazine.

<http://webapps.icma.org/pm/9307/>

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

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

**HERE** are **OTHER** related, previous articles and details that they are also reading:

<http://tinyurl.com/3mc9ozl>

<http://tinyurl.com/3nwmce3>

<http://fireservicebooks.com/osb/itemdetails.cfm?ID=2293>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-9-11 / 1600 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Many of you come from or have family members in the fire service-along with yourself....kind of a "family affair" in bunker gear. Some in your own departments, some in others, but Brothers, Sisters, Grandparents, Aunt's and Uncles, Mom's and Son's, Mom's and Daughters and Father's and Son's are a nice "icing on the cake" in firefighter "family" pride.

**On 9/11/01 Fathers and Son's took on a whole different and heart chilling meaning.**

As many of you know, there were several FDNY firefighting son's who lost their Dad's on 9/11- and FDNY Dad's who lost their son's on 9/11. It's a whole other dimension of loss.

Many of the fire service magazines are doing wonderful "must read" features on 9/11-all of them with writers who were there-some arriving prior to the towers collapsing-and to read what they have to say is as sobering-10 years later. Fire Engineering, Firehouse and Fire Rescue Magazines all have Firefighter/writers who fit into that category of sharing that "life changing event" with us.

I want to take a moment to point out to you the August 2011 issue of Fire Rescue Magazine-and specifically an article entitled: **A COMMON BOND: The Fathers and Son's**. This article, with photos, is a heartfelt discussion with Fire Rescue's Tim Sendelbach and **4 FDNY FATHERS** (Lee Ielpi, Dennis August 20, 2011

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O'Berg, George Reilly and John Vigiano) who lost their son's on 9/11. Additionally, as a part of that article are interviews with **3 FDNY SON's** (Joe Downey, James Dowdell and Chris Ganci) who lost their Fathers-and have followed in their Dad's footsteps. Take some time to read the August 2011 issue, filled with several 9/11 related pieces, but specifically, be sure to read the COMMON BOND piece.

It's as solemnly good as it gets.

**FOR YOUR FIRE SERVICE BOOK COLLECTION:**

There are several 9/11 "10 Years Later" books available that are worth checking out for additions to your department and personal libraries. If you are aware of others, that are being sold to raise funds or donations related to 9/11 and Fallen Firefighters, let me know and we'll pass it on.

**=WTC: IN THEIR OWN WORDS**, by Harvey Eisner.

<http://www.firehouse.com/wtcbook>

**=A DECADE OF HOPE: Stories of Grief and Endurance from 9/11 Families and Friends** by Dennis Smith with Deidre Smith.

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

**=BROOKLYN REMEMBERS: The Fallen Heroes of September 11th:**

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

**It's "WEATHER" SEASON:**

This time of year, many of you follow the tropical storms, hurricanes and related weather that "form" and often head our way. Below is a link to a very cool website, operated by a retired Firefighter, that pulls all the details together in one up to the minute location. Check it out **HERE:**

<http://myfloridahurricane.info>

**FIREWOMEN 2011:**

Women and Men Firefighters are welcome in Colorado on October 6-9, 2011. Sponsored by the Colorado Division of Fire Safety and hosted by the High Country Training Center in Summit County, Colorado, Firewomen 2011 will offer three days of hands-on training, great classroom workshops, fun social events, and lots of networking time with local firefighters as well as firefighters from all over the country and the world. More **HERE:** [www.firewomen2011.net](http://www.firewomen2011.net)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-11-11 / 1010 Hours

**AND:**

**2 FIREFIGHTERS DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY: SOUTH DAKOTA & INDIANA**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty and 2 were injured while operating at the Coal Canyon Fire on the border of Wyoming and South Dakota in the southern Black Hills, of South Dakota, 9 miles north of Edgemont. The three firefighters, all from Hot Springs, were seasonal firefighting employees of the South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression. Firefighter Trampus Haskvitz, 23, died in the Line of Duty as a result of injuries he suffered when the Type 6 fire apparatus he was working on was burned over by the fire. 2 other Firefighters, Austin Whitney and Kevin Fees, were injured and transported by Life Flight to Rapid City Regional Hospital. Whitney is being transferred tonight to a certified burn center in Greeley, Colorado. Fees is in stable condition at Rapid City Regional Hospital. Our sincere condolences, RIP.

**INDIANA FIREFIGHTER DIES FOLLOWING TRAINING-MEDICAL**

It is with deep regret we notify you of the death of Firefighter/EMT Tim White of the Cedar Lake Fire Department. Firefighter/EMT White died August 5th of apparent complications of a heart attack

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suffered July 17th during Technical Rescue Training. In addition to being a member of the Cedar Lake Department, he was a member of Indiana District 1 Urban Search and Rescue/Technical Rescue Team. He is 50 years old and served the citizens of Cedar Lake for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, 3 daughters, and 6 grandchildren. Our sincere condolences, RIP.

#### **UPDATE: AUTOPSY: FF DIED FROM HYPERTHERMIA**

The Bureau of Land Management has advised that a final autopsy report on 23-year old Caleb Hamm of Boise, Idaho, has concluded he died of "hyperthermia" (uncontrolled overheating of the body). FF Hamm died in the Line of Duty on July 7 while fighting a fire near Mineral Wells, Texas. He was a member of the Utah-based Bonneville Interagency Hotshot crew. The Dallas (Texas) Office of the Medical Examiner's autopsy report concluded, "Based on the case history and autopsy findings, it is our opinion that Caleb Nathanael Hamm died as a result of hyperthermia." The report was signed by three physicians. Hamm's death is being reviewed by an Interagency Serious Accident Investigation Team. Reviews are a standard practice when firefighters are seriously injured or die in the line of duty. The team's purpose is to gather factual information and make recommendations that will help prevent future injuries or illnesses to wildland firefighters. The team's final report should be completed sometime in September.

**CORRECTION: Dennis Smiths New Book: "A DECADE OF HOPE: Stories of Grief and Endurance from 9/11 Families and Friends"** is available on AMAZON and related online book sellers. **HERE** is a **LINK:** <http://tinyurl.com/3nfeucc> as well as **HERE:**

<http://www.amazon.com/Decade-Hope-Stories-Endurance-Families/dp/0670022934>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-12-11 / 0630 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **INDIANA EMT LINE OF DUTY DEATH-Medical Emergency On A Run**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of EMT Charles Black of the Superior Ambulance. EMT Black was assigned to the Highland, Indiana base. EMT Black suffered a fatal heart attack Wednesday, August 10th, while transporting a patient from St. Margaret Hospital - North Campus - in Hammond, Indiana. Due to the patient's size and difficulty getting him in the dwelling, a second ambulance crew was called to assist. After the four EMTs got the patient inside, EMT Black suffered a fatal heart attack. He is 54 years old and survived by his wife, Miavria, daughter Jackie, 11, and son Joe, 18. Our sincere condolences.

#### **KC FIREFIGHTER RE-ENTERS HIS FIREHOUSE WITH A GUN DRAWN - A Grim Historic Reminder**

Kansas City police were called to a firehouse this past Wednesday morning after a firefighter waved a gun at four other firefighters during a dispute. The victims later said they didn't want to prosecute. Fire Union representatives went to the suspect's home after the incident and escorted him to a psychiatric hospital. It started about 0650 hours, when the 47-year-old (suspect) firefighter arrived to start his shift at Fire Station 28, The suspect started complaining about the new guys never putting fuel in the fire trucks. A 29-year-old firefighter "wasn't really listening to the suspect," police said, because he was trying to get ready to go home. This angered the suspect, who said, "I'm talking to you, too!" The younger firefighter asked "what his problem was...and why he was yelling," according to police reports. The suspect then allegedly shoved the younger firefighter with both hands. A Fire Captain intervened and told the suspect to go home and take a sick day. A few minutes later, the suspect showed back up in the firehouse with a gun and "began waving it back and forth and pointing it at" four firefighters who were sitting in a common area. The suspect "stated he was going to

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shoot them all". The fire captain told the suspect to put his gun away. The suspect complied and left. The younger firefighter declined to prosecute for the shoving, and the three firefighters and captain also declined to prosecute for the alleged aggravated assault. "The issue is being handled internally," said Battalion Chief Joe Vitale, a department spokesman.

#### **NOTE:**

While the facts of what happened this week in KC are based upon media reports, and thankfully no one was hurt, it reminded us of just how very serious this and related stress and mental health issues in this job can be....and how paying serious attention by members at all levels is critical.

**---Some old timers will remember the horrific 1996 incident when a Jackson, Mississippi Firefighter killed his wife at home, then went to their central station and opened fire on his supervisors, killing Captain Meredith Don Moree, Captain John Richard Robbins, and District Chief Stanley Cleo Adams before being wounded in a shootout.** Tornos admitted to reporters that he was guilty. He was ultimately sentenced to death row, but he died in prison before the sentence was carried out. Tornos had made threatening statements long before the shootings: "He was a perfect gentlemen except when you got him talking about the chiefs," a 14-year firefighter, Tim Dukes, said. "Apparently he was upset about his wife and he came here and did this. But he's been talking about this for years."

#### **RELATED LINKS:**

**The Role of Occupational Stress in The Contemporary Fire Service:**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/efo30543.pdf>

**Jackson FD (Memorial)**

<http://www.jacksonms.gov/government/fire/fallenfirefighters>

**IAFF Behavioral Wellness Manual**

[http://www.iaff.org/ET/JobAid/EAP/IAFF\\_Online\\_Behavioral\\_Wellness\\_Manual\\_INTRO.htm](http://www.iaff.org/ET/JobAid/EAP/IAFF_Online_Behavioral_Wellness_Manual_INTRO.htm)

**IAFC/IAFF Wellness/Fitness**

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/well/wellness.html>

**Firefighter Close Calls "PERSONAL SURVIVAL"**

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

**Fire Service Related Mental Health Articles/Links**

<http://tinyurl.com/3th2k9t>

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

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/pdf/efop/efo31227.pdf>

**A Military Perspective**

<http://www.army.mil/article/44579/>

**North American Federal Workplace Violence Links**

<http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/violence/wpv.htm>

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/workplaceviolence/>

<http://workplaceviolencenews.com/>

[http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/violence.html#\\_1\\_3](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/psychosocial/violence.html#_1_3)

**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)**

#### **UPDATE ON BURNED FIREFIGHTER: CRITICAL BUT STABLE**

FF Austin Whitney, the 20-year-old wildland firefighter injured in that South Dakota wildfire yesterday, is in critical, but stable condition in Western States Burn Center at the Northern Colorado Medical Center in Greeley, Colo. South Dakota Wildland Fire Suppression Division FF Whitney suffered second and third-degree burns on his legs, arms and neck. We'll keep you advised as he progresses.

**FIRE ACT GRANTS-INTERESTING CHANGES & SOME NEW RULES:**

The 2011 open application period will run from this coming Monday, August 15 - September 9, 2011, so hurry. Seriously, hurry.

**=WHAT'S NEW, CHANGED OR DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?**

- Funding priorities have been categorized as: High, medium and low. Use their priority system to increase your chances of winning an award.
- They've added new items/activities eligible for funding in 2011: Behavioral health programs, boats under 20' and extended warranties.
- Flashover simulators are not eligible for funding.**
- Applicants may apply for more than one vehicle. However, driver/operator training/certification is required in order to receive a vehicle award.

**=WHERE DO I APPLY?**

Learn more about AFG and start your application online at <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants> .

**=NEED HELP? TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AFG RESOURCES**

They offer a variety of assistance to ensure that deserving applicants are successful:

View an AFG Application Tutorial - Coming Soon!

Review the AFG Program Guidance and Application Kit:

<http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/documents.shtm>

Download the Get Ready Guide: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants>

Call or email the Help Desk: 1-866-274-0960 or [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)

Contact your Regional Representative: <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/contact.shtm>

Review applicable NFPA standards: <http://www.nfpa.org/nfpaafg2011>

**=NEW THIS YEAR: GRANT RECIPIENTS MUST REGISTER IN THE CENTRAL CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION (CCR) SYSTEM**

As of August 2010, prime recipients of Federal grants are required to register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) system. As a potential grantee you are not required to register, but you may wish to do so now in case you receive an award. CCR registration will be required if you are selected for an award.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-12-11 / 2227 Hours

**AND:**

**TEXAS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Val Verde County Volunteer Fire & Rescue (Texas) Firefighter Larry Gale Nelson died in the Line of Duty yesterday. Around noon, FF Nelson was doing work at the firehouse and was alone. Sometime after he started doing some work, passerby saw him down on the front concrete area and help was summoned as he was in arrest. It has not yet been determined if his injuries were traumatic, medical or a combination. FF Nelson was a very active and beloved member, Firefighter of the year in 2007 and also served as a consultant to the oil industry as his career, according to Fire Chief Jerry Rust. Our sincere condolences to those affected. **HERE is the VV County Fire & Rescue FACEBOOK Page:** <http://tinyurl.com/3w28fmr>

**UPDATED INFO CONTINUES TO SHOW THE MEDICAL FACTS BETWEEN 9/11 AND FIREFIGHTERS**

A new study published in the American Journal of Industrial Medicine reveals that the WTC attacks affected the health of the FDNY resulting in more post-9/11 retirements than expected.

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Led by David J. Prezant, MD, Chief Medical Officer, FDNY, researchers assessed a total of 7,763 retired firefighters between September 11, 1994, and September 10, 2008, comparing the total number of retirements and the number and proportion of accidental disability retirements 7 years before and 7 years after the WTC attack. Results found that in the 7 years before 9/11, there were 3,261 retirements, 48% (1,571) of which were disability retirements. In the 7 years after 9/11, there were 4,502 retirements, 66% (2,970) were disability retirements, of which 47% (1,402) were associated with WTC-related injuries or illnesses. After 9/11, the increase in disability retirements was, for the most part, due to respiratory-related illnesses and resulted in approximately 10% of the workforce having to retire. Pension benefits associated with WTC-related disability retirements have produced an increased financial burden of over \$826 million on the FDNY pension system. **"It is clear that the WTC attack has had an enormous impact on the health of the FDNY workforce and, as a consequence, its pension system," Prezant concludes. "Human suffering cannot be measured in dollars alone but does serve as a reminder that recovery efforts, when rescue is no longer possible, should be carried out with special attention to the preservation of health for the responders."**

**MORE DETAILS HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3ovk2vu>

**AND HERE:** [http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/investigations/wtc/health\\_studies/](http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/investigations/wtc/health_studies/)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8/13/11 - 0900 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

3 stories about 3 Fire Chiefs: One who passed away this morning leaving an amazing legacy of service, another who resigned because of his very real concerns about liability as the Fire Chief-and lastly, one who is retiring after one heck of a ride.

**1-CHIEF PAUL BOECKER-RIP**

**"LISLE WOODRIDGE FIRE CHIEF AND NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE LEADER"**

Some of you, with no hair or gray hair will know the name Chief Paul Boecker-a big cigar smoking giant of a chief who made a positive impact locally-and nationally at the IAFC, ISFSI, IFSI, NFA and numerous other organizations. Here is a wonderful piece that Janet from Fire Chief Magazine wrote about Paul, who passed away early this morning.

**Good Night, My Friend, My Mentor and My Chief-by Janet Wilmoth**

My chief is dying. The tubes and wires have been removed, the do-not-resuscitate order is in place and he is in a deep sleep - oblivious to the heartache growing in those around him. His has been a long, arduous journey, drawn to a close after a fall caused a massive bleed in his brain. As I stood by his hospital bed and watched his loud, slow breathing, I thought about the first time I met Paul "Bud" Boecker. It was at the Lisle (Ill.) Volunteer Fire Department station, just after he arrived from the neighboring town of Naperville. He was only the second full-time fire chief hired by Lisle. (The first chief only lasted six months.) The two departments were rivals, in some ways - Boecker once called Lisle a "Mickey Mouse department." Now here he was, their fire chief. Slowly, this hearty giant of a man worked his way into the Lisle fire department, hiring the first full-time firefighters, ordering new equipment, changing rules one by one, and eventually turning the department into the first ISO Class 1-rated fire district in the United States. While I never served in Boecker's fire department, my father and brothers did. He was a part of our family, and we were part of his. He; his wife, Sonja; and sons, Paul III and A.J., wove their way into the hearts and lives of the families in the department. From



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weddings, graduations and funerals to holiday events and other celebrations, the big guy from Naperville truly became the chief of Lisle - and we always called him "Chief."

Boecker was an innovator, a man before his time. He created "Keep the Wreaths Red" at Christmas and encouraged his firefighters to specialize and continue their education. The department thrived, and every national conference I went to seemed to have someone from the now Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District on the program or teaching a class. Boecker himself exceeded the International Association of Fire Chiefs' presidential celebrations for many years. He taught at the National Fire Academy and introduced the concept of "Think Big" for disasters. And in 2004, Boecker won the Congressional Fire Services Institute's prestigious Mason Lankford Award. In our small town of Lisle, Chief Boecker was the cigar-chomping guy in the white turnout coat and helmet who truly cared about the citizens, yet was savvy with politicians. Everyone has a story about the chief - because he touched so many lives - from the time he talked a suicidal young man down from the high tension wires to the day he took the new aerial out of district to cheer-up a depressed friend. But he was my chief in a different way. Boecker would invite me to ride in his car to the scene of a fire, lights and sirens blaring. He told me in the early '70s, when I tried to volunteer for the fire department, told me to "go home and have babies." But 15 years later, he introduced me to the editor of Fire Chief that resulted in my first job with the magazine. He has been my mentor and my friend, and enjoyed the title of my "Favorite Fire Chief."

Chief Boecker was an organizer and a motivator. He left four large envelopes, each labeled "After my death," with his own funeral arrangements. After years of organizing and developing SOPs for firefighters' funerals, Boecker has preplanned his own. Last night, I watched my chief in his deep slumber. I thanked him for his influence on my life and on my family and remembered Matthew 25:21: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. ... Come and share your Master's happiness." **RIP Chief Paul Boecker** HERE is Janet's Original Piece: <http://tinyurl.com/3p55ynf>

### **2-CHIEF KEITH MACY RESIGNS:**

#### **"The Reality of Being A Fire Chief ...And The Liability"**

Keith Macy, Jonesville (NC) FD's Chief, handed a letter of resignation to town council member last. Chief Macy has served as Volunteer Fire Chief since 2001. **Why did he resign?** Well-he didn't fully resign as a member-but he sure did as the Chief. Macy steps down from the role of Chief but will serve as a Volunteer Firefighter. Chief Macy said potential personal liability and lack of support for the fire department are 2 reasons for his resignation. The Chief became aware of potential personal liability after completing the Fire Chief 101 class required of North Carolina fire chiefs for FD's to be certified with a 9S rating. North Carolina FD's must meet requirements to be certified with this rating for insurance grading purposes. Liability as Fire Chiefs are a very real issue-one worth learning about to fully understand your state and local laws, responsibility, liability, requirements and protections.

HERE is More: <http://tinyurl.com/4x5cexa>

### **3-CHIEF DEBRA AMESQUA-Madison, WI:**

#### **"A very WILD TENURE with a well deserved retirement"**

And lastly, best wishes to Madison (WI) Fire Chief Debra Amesqua on her retirement. While we can't post every retirement, this one is pretty interesting from a labor/management standpoint with a story worth reading. Ya' see, 5 years into Amesqua's tenure as Chief, Joe Conway, president of IAFF Local 311, publicly called for former Mayor Sue Bauman to seek her resignation "to prevent further damage to the fire department." His statement in May 2001 was part of the steady stream of scathing criticism that started as soon as Amesqua's selection was announced. Fast-forward to June 2011. Chief Amesqua celebrated her 60th birthday by announcing she would retire at the end of this year. The same Joe Conway, still IAFF Local 311 president, said he was sorry to see her go and wished

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she would stay on. Things that make you go hmmm. **HERE Is The Very Interesting Story:**  
<http://www.isthmus.com/isthmus/article.php?article=34354>  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 8-14-11 / 1514 Hours

**AND:**

**DALLAS FIRE LIEUTENANT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-Operating at an Apartment Complex Fire**

We regret to advise you that the Dallas (Texas) Firefighter, who was rushed to the hospital late this afternoon after being injured while operating at an apartment fire in southwest Dallas, has died in the Line of Duty. The call for the fire at the Ridgecrest Apartments was transmitted at 1612 hours and additional alarms were transmitted. Initial reports are that Fire Lieutenant Todd Krodle, a 17-year veteran, fell thru the roof while venting the multi family dwelling. He was removed and Firefighters and Medics brought the critically injured/burned Fire Lieutenant down from the second floor and rushed him to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where Lt. Krodle tragically succumbed to his injuries. We'll post updates in the morning. **Our sincere condolences to all affected. Dallas Local Media Links HERE:** <http://www.wfaa.com/> and <http://www.nbcdfw.com> and <http://www.dallasnews.com/news>  
**Additional Details Will Be Posted HERE:**

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

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

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

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-14-11 / 2100 Hours

**AND:**

**SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING HOUSE FIRE**

We regret to advise you that the Fire Chief of the Elgin (SC) Volunteer Fire Department died this morning after returning from a house fire in Lancaster. Chief Dennis Cauthen, who has served as a Volunteer Firefighter for more than 30 years, died in the Line of Duty at the age of 54. The fire call at the abandoned Lancaster dwelling came in at 0245 hours this morning. On the way to the call, Chief Cauthen was complaining of stomach pains, but remained at the fire for three hours. Around 0600, after returning, Chief Cauthen reportedly passed out and died. Our sincere condolences to all affected. **HERE** is the EVFD Facebook Page: <http://tinyurl.com/4xkpi45>

**MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR DALLAS FIRE LIEUTENANT TODD KRODLE**

Memorial services are set for Dallas Fire Lt. Todd W. Krodle who died in the Line of Duty on Sunday at an apartment complex will be held Friday in Greenville. The funeral for Krodle will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Highland Terrace Baptist Church in Greenville and burial will follow at Memoryland Memorial Park.

**===THE BUILDINGS IN THAT COMPLEX HAVE A (Lack Of) SAFETY HISTORY**

The apartment complex where he died has a history of "numerous and persistent" code violations. Lt. Krodle fell through that second story roof of the Ridgecrest Terrace Apartments on Sunday. It took obvious time for DFR Firefighters to rescue him from the burning unit below, and he was later pronounced dead at Parkland Memorial Hospital. The fire was one of two fires at the complex Sunday that were both blamed on electrical problems. Tenants and outreach workers who helped residents with landlord complaints said better attention to ongoing maintenance problems could have prevented

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the fires and the roof accident. Residents of both apartments that burned Sunday said they complained to the landlord about electrical problems before. Problems with the roof are among the concerns noted in city inspection records as recently as August 2010. The city filed lawsuits in 2004 and 2008 against a prior owner of the property for code violations. A February 2009 aerial photo of the property available at the Dallas County Appraisal District website shows a dozen blue tarps on roofs of the property, evidently to cover leaks. The 2008 lawsuit was settled in 2009 and a January 2010 city inspection found problems had been corrected. But an August 2010 inspection found numerous problems again, including the roof issues on several buildings. At that point, the property was sent to the city's SAFE team for more intense inspections. The SAFE team includes police officers, fire inspectors and code enforcement officers who review crime prevention and code enforcement issues.

Records show the property was transferred to a new owner in September 2010, Potomac Realty Capital in Boston. Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Sipes said the new owners have been cooperating with the city and a May 2011 inspection found that problems had been corrected. Residents said they had complained to the landlord but not to the city about their recent electrical complaints. Roof defects were obvious from the ground at other parts of the complex Monday. It is certainly unclear at this point whether the above discussed building issues played any role in Lt. Krodle's death. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-16-11 / 1000 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

We take time today to remember the fire that on August 17, 1975 specifically (links below). 8 Philly Firefighters died in the line of Duty. **In these times when short sighted budget cuts to FIRE departments continue all over, it is especially important to remember all who give their lives as Firefighters.** 3 Philadelphia Firefighters were caught in a sudden flash of flames during a spectacular refinery blaze were turned into human torches. All three died in the Line of Duty-but that was just the start. At least 3 more Firefighters were missing and 5 Firefighters were among the 13 people injured in the fire that started Sunday and burned at the Gulf Oil Co. Refinery. The fire at the second largest refinery on the East Coast could be seen for 20 miles. Fire covering an area about a half-mile square created a massive cloud of black smoke. The fire started that Sunday at dawn when an 80,000-barrel storage tank ignited while being filled with oil from a tanker. The ship was not damaged and the fire was brought under control by 0900 hours. Clean-up crews moved in. They spent the day pouring chemical foam onto the smoldering tank. The firemen were relaxed. There was no apparent danger. But then the facility's sewage system failed to drain off oil that was spilled from the first fire. Fumes backed up-and it flashed at 1600 hours, when the area was crowded with equipment and men, a bowl of flame erupted. There was one explosion, then another. Fire was everywhere. Within minutes the fire jumped to 11 alarms, calling in 600 fire fighters. In the refinery at the time of the fire was crude oils, jet fuel and naphtha, an explosive. Of course, all 3 were fueling the fire.

#### **The Philadelphia Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty:**

JOHN ANDREWS, 49, Engine 49.

JOSEPH WILEY, 33, Ladder 27.

ROGER PARKER, 28, Ladder 27.

HUGH McINTYRE, 53, Engine 56.

ROBERT FISHER, 43, Engine 33.

RALPH CAMPANA, 41, Ladder 19.

JAMES POULIOT, 35, Engine 20. (Died 8-24-1975).

CARROLL BRENEK, 30, Engine 57. (Died 8-30-1975).  
Rest in peace.

### **THE PASSING OF TWO STAND UP FIREFIGHTERS CALIFORNIA:**

And on a local level, 2 beloved fire service giants, and old pals of ours, have passed away. Chief "Smokey" Bass, well known California Fire Chief and fire buff has died. Smokey began working for Vernon (CA) Fire in 1953. Chief Bass had been widely known as "Smokey", dating back to his childhood. He was so nicknamed because he often smelled of smoke from the many fires he took in. Firefighter to the core, even his vacations included visits to firehouses and firefighters all over the country. He retired from the department in January, 1988 but his involvement with Box 15 and other groups continued until his passing. We had a few great visits with The Chief years ago in California, and ended up sharing a room with him and 3 other FF's at one of the first Firehouse Expos a long time ago-THAT was a treat! RIP to a man who, like so many, was a firefighter 24/7 no matter what.

### **FLORIDA:**

We all know "character" Firefighters who are usually **assigned** "appropriate" nick names (like "Smokey" above) and Glenn "Big'n" Davis, retired Captain from Bradenton and Commissioner of the East Manatee/Braden River Fire District (both in Manatee County, FL) is no exception. Let me help you understand-back in the day he CARRIED his SCBA under one arm and stretched 2.5" handlines on his own. Glenn was huger than huge (as in "holy @\$! look at the SIZE of that FIREFIGHTER") and so was his heart-about as kind a man you couldn't otherwise find. "Physically, he was probably the strongest and biggest man I have ever been around in my life. But he had a soft heart. He was one of the kindest men I knew," says Bradenton City Council Member Gene Gallo, former Fire Chief of Bradenton. Big'n's feats of strength were legendary. Gene recalled a lumberyard fire when Captain Davis single-handedly manned a 2 1/2-inch hose with an open-tip nozzle. That thing would lift you off the ground, but Big'n handled it like a garden hose. More importantly, "Big'n" got stuff done-be it as Captain in the City or Fire Commissioner in the suburbs-he cared and made a huge difference. And he avoided the politics: he would often ask **"is this good for the protection of the people or the firefighters?----if so, let's just do it"**. Good simple logic so sorely needed today. RIP Commish.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-17-11 / 2145 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

Hopefully, by now, your department, company, regional or county Association, Local etc have plans for a remembrance memorial service as we approach the 10th Anniversary of 9/11. IF NOT, it is NOT too late. **CLICK THIS LINK FOR FREE GUIDELINES ON HOLDING YOUR LOCAL 9/11 COMMUNITY CEREMONY:** [http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/\\$9-11.shtml](http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/$9-11.shtml)

### **SOME VERY PERSONAL, DIVERSE AND POWERFUL WORDS PROVIDE PERSPECTIVE:**

While collectively the attacks and murders on 9/11/01 created some very common feelings amongst most Americans, especially Firefighters, it also though, at a more personal level, means different things to different people. It depends on who you are and how you were personally impacted. Everyone reacts differently-and can-especially those who were directly impacted by losing friends and especially loved ones. We want to share with you some words that provide some really powerful perspective:

=="I was totally distracted, and for a long time, I couldn't even read a book," says Jim Smith, whose

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wife, Moira, was an NYPD officer who died while rescuing people in the south tower of the World Trade Center.

=="There are days when I don't want to see people," says retired FDNY Captain John Vigiano, whose 2 sons, John and Joe, an NYPD Emergency Services Police Officer and an FDNY Firefighter, died on 9/11 in the line of duty. "If there's a real bad day, I get in my car and I go to the beach in winter."

=="During the first four years after 9/11, I was not in a good place," says FDNY FF Brendan Ielpi who lost his brother Jonathan, also a firefighter, in the south tower. "I really didn't care about anybody but myself, and if you didn't like it, tough." He is better now, he says: "I just try to help others, and do my best to raise my family." Many of you know the Ielpi name, Lee Ielpi, a highly decorated retired Rescue 2 FF is their Father. Lee has since dedicated his life to the efforts of educating the world (literally) thru the WTC Tribute Center: <http://www.tributewtc.org> . If you have never been, make it a MUST visit this year. Seriously.

=="You can quote me: Cheney can rot in hell," declares Cameron MacRae, whose 23-year-old daughter, Catherine, died on 9/11, and who believes that former Vice President Dick Cheney was wrong to push the Iraq War as a response to the attacks.

=="September 11 was something that was thrust upon me," says Ray Habib, a man who lost his wife, Barbara, in the World Trade Center. "I didn't choose to be part of it, but the fact is that it happened and I am part of it. I'll accept it, I'll absorb it, and I'll do everything I can to continue to deal with it."

THE ABOVE "real world" FEELINGS are from Dennis Smith's new book, A Decade of Hope: Stories of Grief and Endurance from 9/11 Families and Friends. It is available HERE (Hardcover & Electronic Versions): <http://tinyurl.com/3lix5uf>

Also, at least 3 other books that belong in your library are HERE:

<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bw9801.shtml> (Eisner's IN THEIR OWN WORDS, book w/DVD)

<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bf0391.shtml> (FDNY's Official 10 year Book)

<http://www.fire-police-ems.com/books/bf0290.shtml> (Brooklyn Wall of Remembrance book)

#### **NEVER FORGET?**

A good friend of The Secret List who was there as an FDNY senior command officer within minutes of the first alarm at WTC said to us recently, "Never Forget? All I have been trying to do IS forget...."

#### **THE ISSUE OF "LIMITED SPACE" AT THE WTC SITE FOR THE 10th ANNIVERSARY:**

From an FDNY Captain who wrote us regarding the fact that there will not be any space reserved for FDNY and other NYC Responders at the 10th Anniversary Memorial Service:".....I always go to the NYC Firefighters Monument on 100th Street and Riverside Drive. We do have many members who have always chosen to go to Ground Zero. It is a matter of choice. The mayor's decision has simply removed one choice for those who have served...." HERE is more:

<http://www.myfoxny.com/dpp/news/911-ground-zero-ceremony-controversy-20110818>

#### **NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTERS STRUCK**

2 Firefighters suffered only minor injuries yesterday afternoon while operating at a vehicle crash on I-40 in Raleigh. The firefighters were on the scene of a two-vehicle crash on the interstate when they were hit by a third car. Both firefighters were taken to the hospital to be checked out. Three people in the cars from the original accident were also taken to the hospital with minor injuries. Another WARNING to all of us on how bad the roadways are. WHAT can you do about it? Check out [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com)

**SMOKE DETECTOR FACTS:**

On January 13, 2011, Office of the State Fire Marshal in California convened fire folks from all over the USA related to smoke alarms to form a Smoke Alarm Task Force. Their purpose was to address the understanding, utilization, and effectiveness of smoke detection technology including ionization and photoelectric used in residential occupancies. The final Analysis and Recommendation Report to the Fire Marshal documents the understanding and utilization of smoke alarm technology through the review and examination of current/relevant studies, reports, and/or scientific data. HERE are the facts:

<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/firelifesafety/pdf/Smoke%20Alarm%20Task%20Force/CSFM%20SATF%20Report%208-16-11.pdf>

**TAKE A MOMENT TO CHECK THIS NEW MAGAZINE OUT:**

Describing the second issue of B Shifter (fire service) Magazine (which is free) is like trying to explain hydraulics to a ladder company. Hmmm. The "Eagle issue" features Chief Vincent Dunn (THE expert) talking building construction, UL & the Chicago crew examine the fire performance characteristics of legacy versus lightweight construction methods, designing a command training program and much more. Also be sure to read the article: FRIENDLY FIRE if you need something to talk about at the firehouse. Click here for your copy: <http://training.bshifter.com/SelectMagazines.aspx>

**OUR CONDOLENCES:**

On Thursday in Washington (State) a parachutist who was in serious trouble landed in the Pilchuck River. He had trouble with his main chute and the back-up chute's lines became tangled - Cal McKibbon, 51, was rescued from the water by firefighters and was airlifted to the hospital. McKibbon plunged to the ground when his parachutes failed. He apparently cut his first parachute when it failed and the second then became entangled. Cal was listed in hospital in critical condition, but died later that afternoon. Captain Cal McKibbon was a 26-year veteran of the Surrey Fire Department in B.C, Canada. Our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-20-11 / 1057 Hours

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

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

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**Budget Related Items:**

North Las Vegas (NV) began taking Fire Department vehicles out of service Monday to save on overtime costs, a first for Clark County emergency personnel. A city spokeswoman said three vehicles were kept out of service Monday using a practice known as brownouts. She added that brownouts will continue on an as-needed basis as the financially strapped city attempts to address its debts to prevent a takeover by the state Taxation Department. "This was approved by the City Council and the firefighters, and it's what we needed to do to move forward," said Juliet Casey, city spokeswoman:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/aug/03/north-las-vegas-fire-department-begins-brownouts/>

Graham (WA) Fire and Rescue has had to occasionally shut down one of its fire stations because of a lack of staff. Station Number 6 has been operating about 90 percent of the time since April, according to department records. Station Number 6 had to be shut down earlier that evening because one of the two firefighters working on the skeleton crew had to go home for a family emergency. The station cannot operate with only one firefighter:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/study-urges-honolulu-fire-ems-merge>

Even as officials in Washington DC pledged to cut domestic spending, the city of Central Falls (RI) landed in bankruptcy court on Monday, a stark reminder that some American cities have debts so overwhelming that no amount of belt tightening can set things right. “This is not simply a Central Falls issue — this is a statewide issue and even a national issue,” said Rhode Island’s governor, Lincoln D. Chafee, an independent, who as a senator was the only Republican to vote against the invasion of Iraq. “We have to match our revenue to our expenditures.” Central Falls got into trouble, above all, by promising its police and firefighters generous retirement benefits without setting aside enough money to pay for them. The benefits were often determined by outside arbitrators, who were intent on resolving disputes rather than assessing whether towns could afford their promises:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/02/business/rhode-island-city-files-for-bankruptcy.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/02/business/rhode-island-city-files-for-bankruptcy.html?_r=2&hp)

The Stockton (CA) City Council is to consider next week whether to unilaterally cut the pay and benefits of firefighters, who earlier this week rejected a contract the union’s leadership had negotiated with the city. City Manager Bob Deis had said that if the contract was rejected, he would recommend to the council the imposition of the city’s last, best offer to Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456. It’s a move made possible by the passage last year of Measure H, which stripped the city charter of a requirement that contract disputes with firefighters be settled through third-party binding arbitration:

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110804/A\\_NEWS/110809930/-1/a\\_news](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110804/A_NEWS/110809930/-1/a_news)

The Yakima (WA) Fire Department has cuts to its budget year after year, and things continue to be tight for them. Deputy Chief Dave Wilson told me they’re operating at about a quarter of a million dollars less than last year even though expenses for running the department continue to grow. The 75 uniformed firefighters in Yakima even took a 3% pay cut to save 8 jobs within the department this year. And while the Chief says the budget for 2012 is still being ironed out, he’s concerned for the future of the department and for his firefighters:

<http://www.kndo.com/story/15238993/budget-for-yakima-fire-continues-to-be-tight>

Although they still wear different uniforms, deputy fire marshals in Eugene (OR) and Springfield are now officially part of the same team. The labor unions representing the two cities’ fire department employees formally agreed last week to merge the Eugene and Springfield fire marshals’ offices. It’s another step — a big one, officials say — in a complicated, years-long process to consolidate the fire departments. “We look at this as a major step,” said Mark Walker, the deputy chief of emergency medical services and community relations for the Eugene and Springfield fire departments. By unifying the two offices, deputy fire marshals in Eugene may now be called to investigate fires in Springfield, and vice versa. Five deputy fire marshals work in Eugene, and four remain stationed in Springfield, Walker said. Nobody is being laid off as a result of the change, and deputy fire marshals’ salaries remain unchanged, Walker said. The two offices have been “minimally staffed for a while,” Walker said. “This allows us to be better able to operate efficiently at the reduced staffing levels.” <http://www.registerguard.com/web/updates/26700340-46/fire-springfield-eugene-marshals-offices.html.csp>

Ten Minneapolis (MN) firefighters got calls from Fire Chief Alex Jackson on Tuesday telling them they are losing their jobs as the result of state budget cuts. Even more firefighters might have gotten laid off, but Mayor R.T. Rybak and City Council President Barbara Johnson said they're urging the council to dip into the city's reserves for \$1.75 million to save 31 additional firefighter jobs and avoid any police layoffs. While Rybak and Johnson blame the Legislature for skimping on local government aid, a frustrated fire union President Mark Lakosky put the blame on Rybak. The number of sworn firefighters has dropped from about 469 in 2003, which was Rybak's first budget, to 401. He warned that firefighters will be stretched even thinner and it will take them longer to respond to emergency calls:

[http://www.fireengineering.com/index/blogs/fire-engineering\\_news/blogs/FireEngineering/fire-engineering-news/post987\\_8714284726623419235.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyAugust102011](http://www.fireengineering.com/index/blogs/fire-engineering_news/blogs/FireEngineering/fire-engineering-news/post987_8714284726623419235.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyAugust102011)

A Ventura (CA) fire station shuttered last year amid steep city budget cuts could reopen by year's end. The city learned Wednesday it was awarded a three-year, multimillion federal grant to afford the nine firefighter-paramedic positions necessary to reopen and staff the fire house 24 hours a day. The Department of Homeland Security grant does come with a major condition: the federal government will provide \$2.33 million over two years to cover salaries and benefits, but the city must agree to cover the entire expense in the third year and beyond, officials said:

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2011/aug/10/shuttered-ventura-fire-station-could-reopen-by/>

Budget battles continue in Washoe County (NV) and the latest sacrifice looks like it will be firefighter jobs. The reason seems to be a lack of compromise. The Sierra Fire Protection District sent layoff notices to three captains, one firefighter and one mechanic and those layoffs will result in the closure of at least one fire station. County Commissioners say a key factor in their decision, is the lack of a new labor contract that would allow the use of three man fire crews. The county says four person crews at all times is an unsustainable cost. According to County Commissioner John Breternitz, layoffs could be avoided if an agreement is reached: <http://www.mynews4.com/news/local/story/Firefighter-Jobs-on-the-Line-County-Seeks/Y0przMDJm0mPZz-5m3n5ng.csp>

Washoe County (NV) Commission Chairman John Breternitz may well be right when he writes in today's Community Forum that county residents no longer can afford the cost of fire protection provided by their 10-year-old contract with Reno. The critical question, however, is whether Washoe County residents will be better served by going it alone -- by returning to separate fire departments serving Reno, Sparks, the Sierra foothills and the remainder of unincorporated Washoe County -- or by using the next year to begin planning for a single, community-wide fire district with a dedicated tax rate. Ten years ago, the Washoe County Commission and Reno City Council were convinced that it no longer made sense to run separate fire departments. The contract that united the Reno Fire Department, overseen by the City Council, and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, overseen by the County Commission, took months of difficult negotiating before it won approval of the two political bodies that didn't entirely trust each other. Bringing two disparate departments with two different cultures together took considerable time and effort:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110814/OPED01/108140334/Editorial-Department-split-sets-back-critical-consolidation-effort?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CVoices%7Cs>

Collapsing budgets have nixed a plan to consolidate administrative positions at local fire agencies, at least for the time being. A \$500,000 budget shortfall this year in the Nevada County (CA) Consolidated Fire District, resulting in temporary closures at three county fire stations, means the agency serving much of unincorporated western Nevada County will pull



out of plans to consolidate administration with Grass Valley and Nevada City fire departments. With major cuts in services, including the temporary station closures and drastic reductions in overtime pay, Consolidated cannot afford to take on the venture at this time, he added. The agreement must remain a priority, said Consolidated Board President David Hanson, because the fire agencies are currently operating with two-man engine crews, which is below the optimum three-man crews the agreement could have provided:

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20110817/BREAKINGNEWS/110819821/1066&ParentProfile=1053>

Major changes are in store for both the South Lake Tahoe (CA) Fire and Police departments as the city continues a struggle to live within its means. And one of the most significant changes has already taken place. Police Chief Brian Uhler took over as fire chief on Monday following the resignation of Lorenzo Gigliotti on Aug. 1. And Gigliotti, who said he expected to stay through September in a resignation letter, may not be the only leadership position on the way out. During a Wednesday interview, Uhler said he expects a “significantly smaller command structure” at the fire department as part of an upcoming reorganization. The new structure has not been finalized, but the department’s three division chief positions could be cut as part of the changes. Two of the division chiefs are eligible or will soon be eligible for early retirement, Uhler said. Layoffs of the positions are also being considered, said City Manager Tony O’Rourke. If the division chiefs are cut, the department would then look to find three supervisors from its pool of nine captains. O’Rourke said he then plans on finding a fire chief from the current captains to replace Uhler in the next six to 12 months. Uhler acknowledged there is “a lot of tension” in the Fire Department because of the possibility of job losses, but said he was confident the department would be able to work through it:

<http://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/tahoe-police-chief-takes-over-fire-dept/>

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

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

Chicago's (IL) inspector general is recommending the termination of 54 firefighters assigned to the Fire Department's scandal-scarred Fire Prevention Bureau for allegedly falsifying mileage used to reimburse them for driving their personal vehicles to inspections. The alleged fraud cost Chicago taxpayers more than \$100,000 in 2009 alone, but has been going on for years, the sources said. Confronted with evidence from GPS-equipped cell phones that have tracked several firefighters' movements since a 2007 scandal, sources said the firefighters have acknowledged padding their mileage expenses, in some cases for their entire careers. "Some flat out said, 'This is what we're told to do. This is the way we've always done it, and I've been here since 1991,'” said a source familiar with the investigation:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1090913-54-Chicago-firefighters-could-be-fired-in-scandal/>

A Memphis (TN) firefighter is in hot water with Southaven authorities, and is now suspended from his job. William Land was arrested Saturday, July 30, 2011, while Southaven firefighters and police were responding to a fire at his home. He wasn't the only one taken into custody. Both Land and his teenage son are now facing criminal charges. Authorities say the fire started in Land's kitchen just before 4:00 a.m. on July 30th. When Southaven's firefighters arrived, they say the fire was out, but there was still lots of heavy smoke. When they went inside to check things out, Land went with them. "As to what was happening in there," Southaven Police Chief Tom Long tells abc24.com, "all we know is the on-scene fire commander came out and told officers that Land needed to be removed from the residence." That's when officers arrested Land. Police say he was interfering with the other working firefighters: <http://www.abc24.com/news/local/story/Memphis-Firefighter-Arrested-After-Fire-at-His-Hom/y-R-ZmlvEEaWFP69J5puzg.csp>

FDNY hiring practices were scrutinized Monday as a top department official was questioned about the hiring of two white former cops who beat murder raps in the infamous police shooting of Amadou Diallo. Dean Tow, director of candidate investigations for the FDNY, was grilled in Brooklyn Federal Court Monday by a lawyer for the Vulcan Society, a fraternal organization of black firefighters. The organization wants the court to appoint a special monitor to oversee reforms in the FDNY - particularly in the hiring exam, which has helped create a department that is 91% white. Tow struggled to explain how a white firefighter candidate who had earlier been entangled in a domestic incident involving a weapon was hired, while a minority candidate who was arrested for "pushing" his wife was not. "I did not have these two cases before me at the same time," Tow said. Tow was then asked about former NYPD cops Richard Murphy and Edward McMellon. They got jobs at the FDNY after they were cleared by a jury of gunning down Diallo, who they had mistaken for a wanted rapist: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/08/01/2011-08-01\\_fdney\\_official\\_grilled\\_over\\_agencys\\_hiring\\_of\\_two\\_exnypd\\_cops\\_involved\\_in\\_amadou\\_.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/08/01/2011-08-01_fdney_official_grilled_over_agencys_hiring_of_two_exnypd_cops_involved_in_amadou_.html)

A former Boston (MA) firefighter is set to go on trial on fraud charges for participating in a bodybuilding contest after claiming he was permanently disabled. Albert Arroyo has pleaded not guilty to mail fraud for what prosecutors say was an attempt to collect a tax-free accidental disability he was not entitled to receive. Arroyo claimed he was disabled when he hurt his back in a fall at a Boston fire station in March 2008. He was seen two months later participating in a bodybuilding contest: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/1087889-Boston-firefighter-on-trial-for-disability-fraud/>

Authorities say a body has been found in a Pasadena (CA) home where a fire broke out earlier this week. Pasadena police Lt. Rodney Wallace says the body was found Tuesday inside a detached garage, two days after fire broke out at the home on South San Marino Avenue. Wallace says it's not clear if the person died as a result of the fire or some other cause. The person has not been identified. Police say the body was found by a private arson investigator who went to the home to conduct a follow-up investigation. Pasadena fire spokeswoman Lisa Derderian says firefighters searched the burned area twice on Sunday but did not find a body: [http://www.fireengineering.com/index/blogs/fire-engineering\\_news/blogs/FireEngineering/fire-engineering-news/post987\\_628995368032430140.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyAugust32011](http://www.fireengineering.com/index/blogs/fire-engineering_news/blogs/FireEngineering/fire-engineering-news/post987_628995368032430140.html?cmpid=EnlFireEngWeeklyAugust32011)

Kansas City (MO) police were called to a fire station Wednesday morning after a firefighter allegedly waved a gun at four other firefighters. The victims later said they didn't want to prosecute. Fire union representatives went to the firefighter's home after the incident and escorted him to a psychiatric hospital, according to police reports: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/08/12/3073695/firefighter-allegedly-waves-gun.html>

A federal judge lashed into New York Fire Department (FDNY) officials yesterday for not aggressively investigating complaints of "widespread" cheating by applicants on the city's last firefighter entrance exam. The revelation came as a senior Fire Department official testified about a memorandum she had written alerting FDNY higher-ups that the supervision of the firefighter test in 2007 had turned into a debacle. "CHEATING: Complaints of cheating were widespread and from all five boroughs," Michele Maglione, the FDNY's assistant commissioner for recruitment and diversity, wrote in the May 2007 memo, a copy of which was obtained by The Post:

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/fdny\\_takes\\_heat\\_over\\_test\\_cheats\\_Jpl9AIUZbnx22PLVXWQXkl](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/fdny_takes_heat_over_test_cheats_Jpl9AIUZbnx22PLVXWQXkl)

The Memphis (TN) Fire Department calls it a violation of department policy. A lieutenant snapped a picture he says was for training after an unusual rescue of a five-year-old boy who had a nail attached to a board embedded in his head. The lieutenant says the photo was snapped for training purposes. A paramedic posted the picture to Facebook. Now they both have received four-hour suspensions: <http://statter911.com/2011/08/03/facebook-fine-paramedic-and-lieutenant-in-memphis-suspended-over-posting-of-young-patients-picture/>

Steven Lowery says he was on an emergency run Monday evening in Louisville (KY): A report of a dog that had been struck at Preston and Cooper Chapel. To get there he turned on the lights and sirens of his ambulance that is part of his firm called Metro Medical. Here's what Lowery told WDRB-TV about Metro Medical: "It's Metro Medical. We do drug testing. We also do emergency critical care, pet transportation," Behind the drug testing mobile/pet ambulance (wouldn't it be nice if he added pet detective too?) was someone authorized to use lights and siren. But Officer Dale Elliott says he couldn't get Lowery to stop and gave up ... for the moment. The officer eventually caught up with the ambulance at Lowery's home where he arrested Lowery and impounded the rig: <http://statter911.com/2011/08/03/busted-driver-of-ambulance-running-red-lights-siren-on-pet-calls-in-louisville-kentucky/>

Rio Rancho's (NM) fire chief resigned Wednesday, saying the backlash from a recent hazing incident in the department was damaging his health. James Tobin, who became Rio Rancho's fire chief in 2006, began medical leave on June 20. He said friction from a hazing incident that occurred at Rio Rancho Fire Rescue in May was too much to bear and made his blood pressure rise so significantly his doctor advised him go on medical leave. Tobin claims he received threatening telephone calls at home and anonymous letters saying "watch out, it will be the end of your career." A city news release issued on June 14 said an investigation into the hazing incident had been concluded and that five employees had been disciplined. The investigation, which began in mid-May, found that five male employees engaged in the "continuous harassment" of a new male employee regarding the "size of his genitalia." The city said the disciplinary actions ranged from a written reprimand to a 30-day suspension without pay: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1098386-NM-fire-chief-quits-as-hazing-incident-takes-toll/>

Clark County (NV) officials said Thursday they have finished their internal probe into sick leave abuse in the Fire Department and have imposed penalties on those they determined broke the rules. There will be no firings beyond Battalion Chief Renee Dillingham and firefighter Donald Munn, who recently were terminated after managers confirmed they misused sick leave. "None of the remaining 12 cases yielded evidence warranting termination," county spokesman Erik Pappa said in an emailed statement. Pappa later said in an interview that the lesser punishments such as demotion and forfeiture of sick days would not be disclosed because of personnel privacy rules:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/county-ends-sick-leave-probe-126823643.html>

The Baltimore (MD) Fire Department has voluntarily ended its emergency medical services training in the wake of an investigation into cheating at the fire academy in June, according to the state agency that oversees such training. The disclosure came a day before the state was set to review the findings of the cheating investigation. The Fire Department preemptively sent a letter to the head of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems board indicating that the department would give up the fire academy's designation as a state-certified EMS educational program, Fire Chief James S. Clack said Monday. However, Clack said that the cheating investigation was not the only reason he chose to forfeit the academy's credentials. "It's about paperwork, policies and procedures," he said, adding that management issues at the academy date to 2010. The decision to shutter a portion of the academy will not limit the city's ability to train fire recruits in other aspects of firefighting. However, recruits will need to get EMS training at local colleges or in other jurisdictions, though the department can re-apply for accreditation in the future: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-city/bs-md-ci-city-surrenders-fire-academy20110808,0,5932283.story>

The city of Haverhill (MA) is investigating allegations that more firefighters may have falsified records to obtain their emergency medical technician certifications, The Eagle-Tribune has learned. The new investigation follows much-publicized state and local probes of fraudulent 2008 and 2009 EMT and paramedic training course rosters in which 27 Haverhill firefighters admitted they lied about training to save their jobs: <http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x850292686/State-city-eye-more-EMT-fraud-in-fire-department>

The 2-year-old dispute between Lawrence Park Township (PA) and the Lawrence Park Fire Department has blown up into a court fight. A majority of the township commissioners want a judge to appoint a custodian to oversee the volunteer Fire Department, which three of the five commissioners say lacks financial transparency. The commissioners claim the Fire Department is not abiding by a 2010 township ordinance that sets forth safety and financial requirements. They claim the department has failed to account for the \$25,000 to \$30,000 it gets from the township annually to cover dispatching costs, workers' compensation and other expenses: <http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110808/NEWS02/308059909/-1/ETN>

Not all that long ago, North Las Vegas (NV) was one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation and a boomtown for development. But all of that has changed in the wake of the housing market's crash, and the result has been disastrous for the city. For the past three years, North Las Vegas has balanced its budget by cutting and pulling from its reserves. As the Las Vegas Sun's David McGrath Schwartz reported last week, that includes taking \$45 million in one-time transfers and \$38 million from fund balances. The city is in dire financial straits. It will have to cut \$8.6 million in its current budget to comply with a court order that has, at least temporarily, blocked the layoffs of any firefighters or police officers. Budget projections say the city's deficit could reach \$39 million in two years, and that is based on assumptions the former state budget chief says are too optimistic. The state's Local Government Financing Committee on Thursday noted that the city is only months away from running out of money: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/aug/07/north-las-vegas-could-face-state-takeover-due-moun/>

From STATER911 - my experience with this blog is those firefighters who find trouble with blue lights tend to be on the younger side. Ernest Morrison doesn't fit that pattern. He is 53-years-old and the former chief of the Salt Rock Volunteer Fire Department in Cabell County, West Virginia. According to herald-dispatch.com, Morrison was arrested Thursday and charged with "misdemeanor impersonation, assault and reckless driving". He is described as an active member of the department: <http://statter911.com/2011/08/19/firefighter-arrested-on-cop-impersonation-charges-former-west-virginia-chief-accused-of-pulling-woman-over/>

A federal appeals court on Monday revived a lawsuit brought by a black Connecticut firefighter over a 2003 exam that led to the promotions of more than a dozen white firefighters ahead of him. The decision of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan raised new questions about the impact of a Supreme Court ruling in favor of a discrimination lawsuit brought by 18 mainly white firefighters seeking promotions in New Haven, Conn., where white candidates outperformed minority candidates on the exam. The 2nd U.S. Circuit said the lawsuit by firefighter Michael Briscoe was too hastily tossed out by a lower court judge who referred to the Supreme Court decision in Ricci v. DeStefano, a case brought in 2004. The Supreme Court ordered New Haven to enforce the results of a 2003 exam that led to the promotions of 17 white firefighters and one Hispanic firefighter and the rejection of Briscoe's promotion quest. The Supreme Court said local governments can nullify the outcomes of such tests only if they can prove there is a "strong basis in evidence" that the tests were discriminatory:

<http://www.silive.com/newsflash/index.ssf/story/ny-court-reinstates-lawsuit-by-black-conn/dbb6a223c5a441c78ee3701eec83ffdd>

Pay up or we'll take your truck! ATA-Bexar Volunteer (TX) Fire Department received a notice demanding nearly \$10,000, or the bank would take their main fire truck. "It's scary. It's scary," assistant chief Doug Inmon said. Inmon says in the past, the Emergency Services District # 6 has always made all of their payments on the truck. He was shocked to receive the letter demanding payment at the beginning of this month. "That's our primary engine. That's what we use to fight fires," he said. Inmon also shared his concerns about the 2011-2012 ESD budget the board recently approved. It includes no money for his department or the other two covered by the ESD to maintain any of their trucks, he said. "Without running trucks, you don't have a fire department," he explained. "Right now they're not taking anything we submit to them as far as repair costs." <http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Pay-up-or-well-take-your-fire-truck/aVX9gkKpqEyS0BjL-GxIKw.csp>

The Chicago (IL) Fire Department will hire 111 bypassed black firefighters by March 2012 and pay at least \$30 million in damages to about 6,000 others who will never get that chance, under a court order expected to be approved Wednesday by a federal judge. Would-be firefighters who have moved on to other careers or choose to bypass the jobs lottery for other reasons will receive cash awards of at least \$5,000 per person. Chicago taxpayers will also be on the hook for \$10 million to \$20 million in back pension contributions for those who get jobs. That means the total cost could approach \$50 million. The Chicago Fire Department's age limit for new hires is 38, but that will not apply to the 111 black firefighters because the discrimination occurred before the cutoff was established. "I don't think we'll have a problem coming up with 111 who still want the job and are fully qualified to have it," said Joshua Karsh, another attorney representing the plaintiffs. "Some of these people are older than 38. But better than half the department is older than 38." When results from the 1995 entrance exam were disappointing for minorities, the city established a cut-off score of 89 and hired randomly from the top 1,800 "well-qualified" candidates. In 2005, a federal judge ruled that the city's decision had the effect of perpetuating the predominantly white status quo, because 78 percent of those "well-qualified" candidates were white. Nineteen percent of Chicago's 5,000 firefighters and paramedics are African American. The force is 68 percent white, 11 percent Hispanic. "By comparison to the Police Department, African Americans are dramatically underrepresented: [http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/Wire\\_News\\_Display.1480741937.html](http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/Wire_News_Display.1480741937.html)

Fire Chief Bryant Beddard and Justin Stargardt (listed in one article as assistant chief) of the Red Oak Community Rural Fire Department in Greenville, North Carolina were arrested and charged with shooting at electric power fixtures and setting fire to a wooded area last Thursday. The men are accused of knocking out two insulators on a transmission

line, knocking loose a 115-kilovolt power line that started the fire. Power was lost for about a half-hour to 16,000 customers served by five substations in a fairly large area. Chief Beddard has also been employed by Greenville Fire-Rescue since 2006:

<http://statter911.com/2011/08/18/chief-assistant-chief-charged-with-shooting-power-line-down-fire-started-electricity-cut-for-16000-customer-in-red-oak-north-carolina/>

An arbitrator has ruled against the Austin (TX) Fire Department and sided with the fire union in how an entrance exam for applicants should be scored. But the impact of the opinion — and how the city will proceed — is not yet known. The dispute centered on how to attract more diverse candidates to the department. The city thought a pass/fail ranking would be the better approach, but the union favored a numeric score. Arbitrator Don E. Williams wrote in a 34-page ruling Tuesday that the city violated its labor contract with the union in how it scored the exam. Williams said in his ruling that "the city shall cease and desist from implementing or utilizing any hiring process that does not rank applicants in numerical order as required." The city is seeking to hire about 100 firefighters, but it had not yet calculated final scores for most applicants: <http://www.statesman.com/news/local/arbitrator-rules-against-city-in-firefighter-exam-scoring-1757069.html>

An incident involving two Martin County (FL) Firefighters taking handguns into a fire station in July turned potentially deadly when one of the firearms accidentally discharged, according to a sheriff's report. The bullet hit a desk but no one in a bunk room of Station 32 the night of July 20 in Hobe Sound was injured, according to a sheriff's report. No charges were filed. But three firefighters were disciplined and the lieutenant in charge at the time was given a written reprimand for not reporting the incident until the next morning, said Joseph Ferrara, Martin County Fire Rescue Chief. "Fire Rescue takes these incidents very seriously and county rules prohibit the use or display of firearms on county property," Ferrara said: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2011/aug/18/martin-firefighter-suspended-for-gun-that/>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Colorado firefighters are working together to raise money for a good cause - the Children's Hospital Burn Center. But they're doing it in an unconventional way with their 2012 Colorado Firefighter Calendar. Fifteen local heroes - men and women - are featured in the calendar that comes out Aug. 18. Fired Up for Kids, the producer of the calendar, is a nonprofit organization that focuses on fundraising and raising awareness for the Children's Hospital Burn Center: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article/212995/222/When-they-arent-putting-out-fires-theyre-helping-children>

The Huntington Beach (CA) firefighters' contract originally provided for 4.5 percent in pay raises over a two-year period. Under the contract amendment approved Monday night, those raises will instead contribute to the firefighters' pension funds. When the changes are enacted on Oct. 1, each employee's total contribution will rise to 6.75 percent, the highest of all city employees. Over the two-year life of the agreement, the city would save \$1.23 million, according to a city staff report. For the individual firefighter, the concession means taking home \$5,200 less per year: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/city-312186-firefighters-retirement.html>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

A lack of hazardous building information at an abandoned structure and an absence of radios on some firefighters contributed to the deaths of two Chicago (IL) firefighters last year, August 20, 2011 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

according to an investigation. Firefighters Edward Stringer and Cory Ankum were killed and 19 other firefighters were injured when the bowstring truss roof of the 84-year-old building collapsed during suppression operations, according to a NIOSH report released Thursday. In addition, NIOSH made the following recommendations for fire departments to avoid similar incidents:

- Use risk management principles at all structure fires and especially abandoned or vacant unsecured structures
- Train firefighters to communicate interior conditions to the Incident Commander as soon as possible and to provide regular updates
- Provide battalion chiefs with a staff assistant or chief's aide to help manage information and communication
- Develop, train on, and enforce the use of standard operating procedures that specifically address operations in abandoned and vacant structures:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1099243-NIOSH-Lack-of-hazard-markers-radios-factored-in-Chicago-LODDs/>

Firefighters who answered the call in Waterbury (CT) Tuesday didn't battle a raging fire, but instead were overrun by fleas. The members of Engine 2 left the scene of an abandoned house they were investigating on Taylor Street when they began to itch terribly. While on the ride back to the station, they noticed fleas all over them. "It was thousands of them," Fire Chief David Martin said. The firefighters were taken to the hospital, where they had to strip before going in for fear they might bring the fleas in with them. Covered in flea bites, they were scrubbed down at the hospital before being released. All four firefighters were bitten so many times that they returned to the hospital Wednesday to be tested for a number of flea-borne illnesses, including the bubonic plague, according to Martin:

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Firefighters-Attacked-by-Fleas-127952463.html>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

Riverside County's (CA) emergency dispatch system treats all 911 calls as life-threatening emergencies and deploys firefighters and ambulances, a practice that emergency providers call potentially wasteful and dangerous. They say this type of dispatching protocol diverts firefighters or delays them from going to emergencies that require their expertise, such as firefighting, hazardous material cleanup and collisions in which people are trapped. Firefighters sent to calls that could be handled by an ambulance crew also risk getting into collisions that could injure or kill people and damage expensive equipment, emergency officials say. A Santa Clara County grand jury recently came to a similar conclusion after it examined how its county firefighters and ambulances were dispatched to emergency calls. Santa Clara County also sends firefighters and ambulances to all emergency calls, despite the nature of the emergency. "Taxpayers no longer can afford the status quo," the grand jury report states. "It is common to see fire departments over-deploy multiple firefighting apparatus in response to nonlife-threatening medical emergencies, seemingly a waste of taxpayer dollars." [http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_amr31.3e99360.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_amr31.3e99360.html)

The city of Honolulu (HI) could save more than \$10 million within five years if its emergency and water safety duties are combined with the Honolulu Fire Department, an administration study released Monday concludes. The proposed merger of the Department of Emergency Services with the Fire Department is also being discussed by the City Council's Safety, Economic Development and Government Affairs Committee at 9 a.m. today. Combining

nonpolice emergency functions has been discussed for more than a decade. Some paramedics have resisted such a merger. But tight economic times across the country have made consolidations more commonplace on the mainland and regenerated the idea locally. Besides saving money, a merger could improve emergency services on Oahu, the report said. The \$175,000 study by Emergency Services Consulting International said problems that plagued the emergency services system, which were spelled out in a 1992 study, continue. Those include a dependence on overtime to meet daily operational needs, lack of advanced support service personnel, competition for staff from federal fire agencies providing emergency medical services, lack of career opportunities and advancement for emergency services personnel and insufficient resources in some urban areas:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/study-urges-honolulu-fire-ems-merge>

The Stockton (CA) firefighters union has rejected contract terms union leaders and city negotiators agreed on in early July. The contract was defeated when 80 voted against it to 65 in favor. The much smaller management union approved its contract 8 to 0. In a letter to the city sent shortly after the vote, Capt. Dave Macedo, president of Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456, said he hoped to reach an agreement with the city over a recent ruling by a third-party arbitrator that the city had wrongfully imposed compensation cuts on firefighters last year. Among other cuts, the city halted a 12.5 percent raise firefighters were due under the terms of their contract:

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110802/A\\_NEWS/110809970/-1/a\\_news](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110802/A_NEWS/110809970/-1/a_news)

A proposed transition plan including nearly 120 steps to create a new Truckee Meadows (NV) Fire Department will be reviewed by the Washoe County Commission on Tuesday. In late June, the commission voted to end an 11-year contract with Reno for fire service on June 30, 2012, and create its own department. Officials are planning for three-person crews to keep its five stations open in the years ahead as property tax revenues slowly recover. Reno maintains four-person crews. The new department would have 60-70 employees, according to the plan. That's less than the 98 employees who were transferred to the Reno Fire Department when it took over service in July 2000: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110804/NEWS/108040409/Washoe-looks-ways-create-new-Truckee-Meadows-Fire-Department-before-contract-Reno-expires?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

Two Clark County (NV) firefighters fired for abusing sick leave received a combined \$120,000 in severance pay and qualified for sizable pensions. The money and perks received by Battalion Chief Renee Dillingham and firefighter Donald Munn are the same packages as they would have received if they had retired in good standing, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported. The two were allowed under the labor contract to cash in unused vacation, sick leave and other benefits. According to figures from the county, Dillingham received about \$70,000 and Munn got about \$50,000, the newspaper reported. Dillingham, who had 24 years of service, will collect a pension of about \$75,000 per year. Munn will be eligible for about \$40,000 a year in retirement pay when he turns 60. County Commissioner Steve Sisolak said he was outraged that firefighters who lost their jobs because of misconduct are treated the same as those who leave with exemplary records: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110806/NEWS07/108060338/Fired-Clark-County-firefighters-get-perks?odyssey=nav|head>

Fountain Valley (CA) and Huntington Beach may soon share a fire chief. Huntington Beach City Manager Fred Wilson said he had had preliminary discussions with his counterpart in Fountain Valley about giving Huntington's fire chief, Patrick McIntosh, the task of managing both departments. Fountain Valley Fire Chief Bill Walker left recently to serve in Alhambra. Former Laguna Beach Fire Chief Mike Macey replaced Walker in the interim. If the deal works,



it would be a win-win situation for both cities, Wilson said. Huntington Beach would gain revenue from providing the service, and Fountain Valley would save money by cutting costs: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/08/to-save-money-2-oc-cities-may-share-one-fire-chief.html>

Hemet (CA) city leaders this week said there must be a major overhaul in the management structure of the city's Fire Department, and if those changes cannot be accomplished, then the city could strongly consider eliminating the department for an option such as contracting with Cal Fire. In the strongest comments yet indicating the city would seriously consider eliminating one of its public safety departments, Hemet's public safety director and vice mayor both said one of the highest priorities is to completely restructure the Fire Department.

"The Fire Department, when it is done, it will be completely different than how it was in the past," Vice Mayor Robert Youssef said. "It has to be different. "If they can't be rebuilt and can't function normally or successfully, then you have to look at outsourcing or contracting, or making further cuts. That's the challenge put before them to change and to help rebuild their own department.":

[http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_efire06.3e5f240.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE_News_Local_D_efire06.3e5f240.html)

Sacramento (CA) Area Firefighters Local 522 announced today that firefighters in the city of Sacramento will contribute 6 percent of their salaries to their retirements. The firefighters covered by the agreement also will delay a 5 percent raise that originally was due in 2008. The union previously had agreed to delay the raise until January 2012. Under the new pact, the raise won't kick in until January 2013. On the pension side, the labor union said it was the first labor group in the city to voluntarily offer pension reform. Labor leaders, in a written announcement, said the agreement will save the city about \$3.5 million in payroll costs over the next 18 months and an added \$3 million a year in annual retirement contributions:

<http://blogs.sacbee.com/crime/archives/2011/08/sacramento-fire-8.html>

Without explaining why, the union representing Palo Alto's (CA) firefighters has stopped trying to block the city's controversial measure to repeal binding arbitration from going on the Nov. 8 ballot. After meeting Thursday with the city and a mediator from the state Public Employment Relations Board, the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1319, withdrew its request that the board seek a court injunction to stop the ballot measure. According to city and union representatives, firefighters also won't press the "unfair practice charge" they filed against the city, at least not until after the two sides meet again on Sept. 13:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_18641900?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_18641900?nclick_check=1)

Vallejo's (CA) fire department is set to hire nine new firefighters for two years, buy two new fire engines and reopen a station following City Council approval Tuesday night. The council also accepted a nearly \$736,000 grant from Kaiser Foundation Hospital and Health Plan to pay three years of salary and benefits for a new police officer. In other action, the council delayed by a week severing all ties with a potential Mare Island film studio developer. The new fire staffing will come from a federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant, the second the city has received in recent years. Interim Fire Chief Paige Meyer said last week that the city had a serious need for personnel, after an approximately 45 percent force reduction in the past three and a half years. Meyer said it's unclear what will happen when the grant ends, but expressed hope the department can absorb the personnel as replacements for outgoing retirees. Interim City Manager Phil Batchelor also addressed the limited funding. "Even if we're going to lose all nine of them, we think it's good to have additional personnel serving the community for two years," Batchelor said:

[http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci\\_18651789](http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_18651789)

Ron Burgess has been suspended as the fire chief of Ansonia, Connecticut after his office at the Public Works complex was broken into and ransacked. The suspension by Mayor Jim Della Volpe comes after it was discovered that among the items missing from the chief's office are a handgun and a rifle. The mayor said in a statement "I have never authorized the storage of firearms at any city building other than the police department out of concern for the public safety of our citizens."

<http://statter911.com/2011/08/11/chiefs-office-in-ansonia-connecticut-broken-into-weapons-stolen-mayor-wants-to-know-why-chief-had-guns-in-work-place/>

A California law that imposes an annual wildfire fee on rural residents may have an unintended consequence - sapping the state fire agency of money it needs to fight wildland blazes, officials said Wednesday. Concerns about the \$150-a-year fee, which is contained in the state budget Gov. Jerry Brown signed earlier this summer, were raised Wednesday by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Democrats in the Legislature passed the fee and said it eventually would raise \$200 million a year. That would allow the state to transfer an equal amount of money from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to the general fund budget. Under the law, proceeds from the fee must go to local fire-prevention efforts through local fire districts, fire councils or the California Conservation Corps - not the state fire department: <http://www.sacbee.com/2011/08/10/3829856/apnewsbreak-new-fee-may-drain.html>

From Dave Statter at STATter911.com - There is a definite pattern to the interaction between those posting comments on STATter911.com (and most other Internet forums) that I am not very fond of. Almost always there's a tipping point where the discussion turns toxic with nasty remarks back and forth over who has the biggest hose. Even when the digital conversation is a good, healthy one, with a thoughtful exchange of ideas, at some point it seems to turn personal and ugly. Many times that happens when someone connected to the department that is the subject of a video or news article becomes defensive and lashes out. I am extremely happy to report on one recent case where that did not happen. That was last Wednesday's post titled- Communicating with the public: Fire department Facebook rant chews out 'asshole' drivers. We would all like to do this, but should we? The column was my analysis of a post on the official Facebook page of the Ladd Fire Department in Illinois where a lieutenant quite bluntly took some drivers to task who decided to go the wrong way on the shoulder of an Interstate Highway to avoid a traffic jam caused by a serious wreck. The post included the use of a common four letter word and referred to selfish drivers as "assholes". It was quite refreshing reading what he had to say. Instead of attacking his critics and taking a knee jerk defensive position, Lt. Englehaupt acknowledged, despite the support he had and the success in getting his message in the local media, there was probably a better way to get his point across and decided to edit his original post on Facebook. Lt. Englehaupt even acknowledged that the discussion here helped him look at what he wrote in a different light. That kind of positive response is such a rare occurrence I decided it needed to be seen beyond the comments section and have reposted it in the link below: <http://statter911.com/2011/08/14/this-just-in-firefighter-criticized-by-statter911-com-readers-doesnt-get-defensive-a-follow-up-to-a-column-about-calling-the-citizens-assholes/>

A goal a half-century in the making could take a huge leap forward Tuesday. The Eureka City Council and the Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection District Board are slated to consider approving an agreement at their respective meetings Tuesday that would bring both their fire departments under the leadership of a single chief: current district chief Ken Woods. If approved, the agreement would represent a monumental step toward consolidating the two departments, which has long been a goal of their governing agencies. "It's a huge undertaking,

but we really have one community with two separate fire departments, and consolidation has been talked about for 50 years," Woods said. "I've talked to both departments at all levels of the organizations, and everyone is really pretty positive and optimistic that this is a good time to move forward with this. It's the right thing to do, and there really seems to be buy-in from all levels to give this a try and see if we can make it work."

[http://www.times-standard.com/ci\\_18675204?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.times-standard.com/ci_18675204?source=most_viewed)

The city of Tucson (AZ) has upheld the firing of a Tucson 911 dispatcher who brought attention to problems with the operation. After an hours-long hearing Tuesday, the city's General Services Department decided at about 9:15 p.m. that the firing of dispatcher Mike LaFond would go forward. City leaders have been at odds over the system during in the past several weeks, which 911 dispatchers claim has dropped calls more than the city has let on. LaFond says he was fired for exposing problems with the system. His manager says he was fired for violating policies by copying confidential information:

<http://www.kold.com/story/15279797/city-changing-management-for-troubled-911-system>

The city of Soledad (CA) will contract with the state Cal Fire agency for fire protection services under an arrangement designed to save money and two firefighter jobs. The Soledad City Council voted 4-1 Monday to give the city manager the go-ahead to finalize the deal with Cal Fire, which is expected to happen within three months. To continue running a stand-alone city fire department, the city's proposed budget called for laying off two of the department's eight firefighters and spending \$1.16 million for 2011-12, a council report said. The council in May decided to seek alternate service proposals from Cal Fire, which has 18 fire stations in Monterey County and provides rural service from Aromas to Lockwood and to parts of the Peninsula and Carmel Valley. The council chose one of four options offered by Cal Fire, which City Manager Adela Gonzalez says will trim about \$210,000 in annual costs, absorb the eight firefighters and provide "a greater level of service for our community." Consolidation with Cal Fire was backed by the local firefighters association as a way to keep "our members employed and ... provide a professional and competent level of service to our citizens," the report said. The city's full-time fire employees will go from the city's payroll to Cal Fire's "ideally without loss of compensation," the report says. Cal Fire's 72-hour duty shift will allow fire personnel to provide constant two-person staffing for the Soledad engine company as opposed to six people needed under the city's current 56-hour duty shift, the report says:

[http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci\\_18697746?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci_18697746?nclick_check=1)

RaShaunda Dooley was sure she could pass the Chicago (IL) firefighters Physical Abilities Test. A personal trainer helped her get in shape. And her mother, uncle and cousin, all Chicago firefighters, saw to it that she knew how to drag a hose across the floor and climb a flight of stairs carrying 20-pound gear. But when Dooley took the test last year, she failed. So did dozens of other athletic women, including marathon runners, triathletes, lifeguards and spin class instructors. "When I finished the test, I thought I had passed," said Dooley, 27, who is now a communications major at Roosevelt University and regrets having to put her firefighting aspirations on hold. "My cousin was pinned by my uncle, and I was looking forward to being pinned by my mom and keeping up the family tradition." For many women, physical abilities tests have been the major barrier keeping them from becoming firefighters. While firefighter exams have long been controversial in departments across the country, Chicago has become latest target in a legal battle over whether the test discriminates against women:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-female-firefighter-test-20110817.0.1942054.story>

Chicago (IL) will hire 111 bypassed black firefighters by March 2012 and pay at least \$30 million in damages to about 6,000 others who will never get that chance, under a court order expected to be approved Wednesday by a federal judge. Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously agreed that African-American candidates did not wait too long before filing a lawsuit that accused the city of discriminating against them for the way it handled a 1995 firefighter's entrance exam. Would-be firefighters who have moved on to other careers or choose to bypass the jobs lottery for other reasons will receive cash awards of at least \$5,000 per person. Chicago taxpayers will also be on the hook for \$10 million to \$20 million in back pension contributions for those who get jobs. That means the total cost could approach \$50 million. The Chicago Fire Department's age limit for new hires is 38, but that will not apply to the 111 black firefighters because the discrimination occurred before the cutoff was established: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/1106021-Chicago-to-hire-111-black-firefighters-pay-30M-in-court-order/>

For the first time, all 1,800 Baltimore (MD) fire personnel will undergo department wide health tests during a wellness project that officials hope will become a yearly event. "We will get a good picture of the health of the department in general," said Fire Chief James S. Clack, who will be among the first to undergo the testing. "If there are major issues with our personnel, we will be able to tell." The Baltimore department does not require annual health assessments, but fire officials are in preliminary discussions about making a yearly wellness test mandatory, officials said: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/baltimore-firefighters-undergo-health-screenings>

A Pennsylvania firefighter may face discipline for wearing fire department equipment in a dating website photo. Liberty Fire Company No. 2 volunteer Firefighter Ernest Hase III, based in Bangor, posted a picture of himself wearing a firefighter helmet while topless with the word "PLUGGER" written across his chest in red. The photo is one of several that violate the volunteer department's policies to use any department-issued gear for anything other than department business, according to Liberty's fire chief. Several photos posted online also included Firefighter Hase III wearing his firefighting pants, with at least two showing the fly folded open and underwear exposed. Other photos were from fire department events and responses, and depicted the Bangor Fire Department banner and the company's emblem prominently on the page: <http://www.firerescue1.com/social-media-for-firefighters/articles/1107573-Firefighter-faces-discipline-for-posing-with-fire-gear-on-dating-website/>

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

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

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

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