



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**July 9, 2011**

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**T**his 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:**

**L**ooking 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 in upcoming semesters!
- For registration information, go to [www.chabotcollege.edu](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**FALL 2011 Semester:** (August through December, 2011)

<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)	0800 – 1150 hours
<b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 51</b> (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
<b>FT 52</b> (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 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)	0900 – 1150 hours
<b>FT 54</b> (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 56</b> (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm)	1700 – 2050 hours
- October 18, 20 and 22 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Saturday (all day), <b>or</b>	0830 – 1650 hours
- November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Wed & Fri (pm)	1700 – 2050 hours
	Sunday (all day)	0830 – 1650 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**</b>	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) <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
FT 91B (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
FT 91C (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
FT 91D (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
FT 95 (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (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
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 83**</b>	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 81**</b>	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (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
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

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

## **Focus on Fire Safety: Residential Fire Sprinklers Save Lives**

In 2009, only 20% of reported fires occurred in one- and two-family homes but these fires caused 70% (2,107) of all civilian fire deaths. Homes also account for the largest share of civilian fire injuries and direct property damage. Despite the fact that these figures represent improvement over the last 30 years, they continue to be appalling. Such losses are unacceptable. The Building and Fire Research Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology has studied the impact of both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers in residential occupancies and estimates that:

1. When fire sprinklers alone are installed, the chances of dying in a fire are reduced by 69%, when compared to a home without sprinklers.
2. When smoke alarms alone are installed, a reduction in the death rate of 63% can be expected, when compared to a home without smoke alarms.
3. When both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers are present, the risk of dying in a fire is reduced by 82%, when compared to a home without either.

While smoke alarms can **alert** residents to a home fire, they cannot **extinguish** a fire. Fire sprinkler systems can! Learn the benefits of modern residential fire sprinklers by going to their website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/residentialsprinklers.shtm>

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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:**

### **New Online Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit Helps Fire Service Demonstrate the Value of Fire Prevention**

Alexandria, VA – June 14, 2011 The Institution of Fire Engineers USA Branch (IFE-USA) is launching a new web-based Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit that gives local fire departments the tools they need to prove the value of fire prevention in saving lives and reducing the

impact of fire on a community and its economy. Available at [www.strategicfire.org](http://www.strategicfire.org), this program was funded by a DHS Fire Prevention and Safety Grant to IFE-USA to demonstrate the value of investing in fire prevention in these difficult economic times. The Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit was developed under one of the five Vision 20/20 strategies, *Strategy 1 Fire Prevention Advocacy*. This strategy is led by Alan Perdue, Emergency Services Director Guildford County (NC), a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a member of the Vision 20/20 Steering Committee, and supported by Peg Carson of Carson Associates, Inc.

“In this economy, community officials and fire chiefs are confronted with tough decisions when it comes to what services to save and what services to cut,” said Perdue. “We all know that fire prevention saves lives and money, but it’s been somewhat difficult to justify these programs economically. Every day, a fire department responds to a fire every 23 seconds, someone is injured every 31 minutes, and every three hours someone dies. Annually, across the nation, fires cause \$15.5 billion in property damage and these new tools can demonstrate the terrible impact that a fire can have at a local level on people, a community and its economy. A catastrophic fire can not only cause injuries and deaths, but it may also mean that businesses close their doors, resulting in losing both jobs and tax revenue. It’s really quite simple - prevention pays.”

Included in this toolkit, among others, are resources such as...

- Fire prevention advocacy strategies
- Community investment in fire prevention
- Implementing an advocacy program
- Working with the local media
- Evaluating your program’s impact
- Reaching audiences

“There has never been something like this that local fire chiefs can use to prove the value of fire prevention programs,” said Vision 20/20 Project Manager Jim Crawford. “The Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit gives them the information that they can use in reaching out to community leaders, city officials and other decision makers to prove the impact that fire prevention programs have in not only saving lives but making communities economically sound and viable.” The Vision 20/20 Fire Prevention Advocacy Toolkit can be found at [www.StrategicFire.org](http://www.StrategicFire.org). You can also learn more by following us on Twitter @strategicfire and Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/strategicfire](http://www.Facebook.com/strategicfire).

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

### **2011 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Workshops Now Underway**

#### ***Prepare now to apply for FY 2011 AFG funding!***

To find out about the latest changes to the AFG application and Program Guidance, attend one of the many FY 2011 AFG application workshops that are currently underway. AFG regional representatives will be available to answer your application questions after the presentation. If you are unable to attend a workshop, the workshop presentation can be found at:

[http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/docs/FY\\_2011\\_AFG\\_Workshop\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/docs/FY_2011_AFG_Workshop_Presentation.pdf) (PDF, 3.7 Mb) or on the workshop schedule homepage at [www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/workshop\\_schedule.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/program/workshop_schedule.shtm)

If you have questions regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant opportunity, please contact our help desk at 1-866-274-0960 or at [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING INFORMATION:**

### **NFPA launches online, self-paced training for Chevy Volt**

NFPA, Chevrolet and OnStar have launched the first virtual electric vehicle safety training for first responders - <http://evsafetytraining.org/Training>. The online training — hosted on NFPA's Electric Vehicles Safety Training website — features an inside look at the technology and safety systems for the all-new 2011 Chevrolet Volt, an electric vehicle with extended-range capabilities that hit the roads last fall. The collaboration with Chevrolet and OnStar stems from NFPA's electric vehicle safety training initiative (<http://evsafetytraining.org/>) a result of a \$4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, that supports the growing number of electric vehicles in the United States. This is an NFPA sponsored training opportunity which may be reached at:



[http://ebm.cheetahmail.com/c/tag/hBN7M9nB8VQHIB8bGCMNsf9dU5\\$/doc.html?email=bob.jones@wsp.wa.gov](http://ebm.cheetahmail.com/c/tag/hBN7M9nB8VQHIB8bGCMNsf9dU5$/doc.html?email=bob.jones@wsp.wa.gov)

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

### **U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Academy seeks Subject Matter Experts**

Are you a mid-career professional interested in enhancing your educational influence? The United States Fire Administration National Fire Academy wishes to increase its pool of subject matter experts for potential course developments. Subject matter experts are compensated for their work. We are seeking experts in the following areas: Arson, Fire and Explosion Investigation; Fire Prevention: Public Education; Fire Prevention Technology and Codes; Fire Prevention: Management; Hazardous Materials; Training and Education Program Management; Planning and Information Management; Emergency Medical Services; First Responders Health, Wellness and Safety; Incident Command and Control; and Management Science. If you are interested, please submit your resume and areas of interest to Deputy Superintendent Robert A. Neale at [robert.neale@dhs.gov](mailto:robert.neale@dhs.gov). This notice does not constitute an offer of employment or guarantee of further consideration.

Robert A. Neale - Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
United States National Fire Academy  
16825 S. Seton Avenue (J-201)  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727  
Telephone: 301.447.1209 - Mobile: 240.997.2043  
Fax: 301.447.1178  
E-mail: [robert.neale@dhs.gov](mailto:robert.neale@dhs.gov)

July 9, 2011

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

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# **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

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

## **USFA Releases Large Loss Building Fires Report**

Contact: USFA Press Office (301) 447-1853 June 21, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the characteristics and causes of Large Loss Building Fires (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i4.pdf> - PDF, 834 Kb). The report, developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center, is based on 2007 to 2009 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). From 2007 to 2009, an estimated 900 large loss building fires were reported by U.S. fire departments annually. These fires caused an estimated 35 deaths, 100 injuries, and \$2.8 billion dollars in property damage. In this report, *large loss building fires* are defined as fires that resulted in a total dollar loss of \$1 million or more.

According to the report:

- Forty-eight percent of large loss fires occur in residential buildings.
- Exposures are the leading cause of large loss building fires at 22 percent, followed by electrical malfunctions (12 percent), other unintentional, careless actions (11 percent), and intentional (9 percent).
- A peak in large loss building fires is seen between the hours of 1 a.m. and 4 a.m.
- Attics are the primary origin of all large loss building fires, along with cooking areas or kitchens.

Large Loss Building Fires (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i4.pdf> - PDF, 834 Kb) is part of the Topical Fire Report Series. Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context. For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at the United States Fire Administration, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.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.

- **Low Angle Rope Rescue:** September 21 – 23, 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 INFORMATION FROM THE LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT (LAFD):**

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

Please save these dates and mark them on your calendar today. ALL members of our community and friends of the LAFD are welcomed to join us for these family-friendly events.

- Saturday, July 16, 2011 - American Heroes Airshow - <http://bit.ly/dGuxr7>
- Sunday, July 24 - Friday, September 9, 2011 - Ride for 9-11 / Los Angeles to New York City  
<http://bit.ly/inmro8>
- Thursday-Sunday, July 29-August 1, 2011 - ESPN X Games and X Fest - <http://bit.ly/ESPN-xgames>
- Sunday, September 11, 2011 - Patriot Day & 9-11 10th Anniversary Remembrance  
Details Pending - More Info Soon
- Monday, September 19, 2011 - LAFD Golf Invitational (MountainGate) - <http://bit.ly/d7bSpH>

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Are You on Twitter? Follow our official accounts via <http://twitter.com>

@LAFD, @LAFDtalk @LAFDFireChief @SmokeAlarm

...and be sure to bookmark and "LIKE" us today on Facebook:

<http://facebook.com/LosAngelesFireDepartment>

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Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

Brian Humphrey  
Firefighter/Specialist  
Public Service Officer  
Emergency Public Information (EPI) Center  
Los Angeles Fire Department

*"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"*

LAFD Home Page: <http://LAFD.ORG>

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



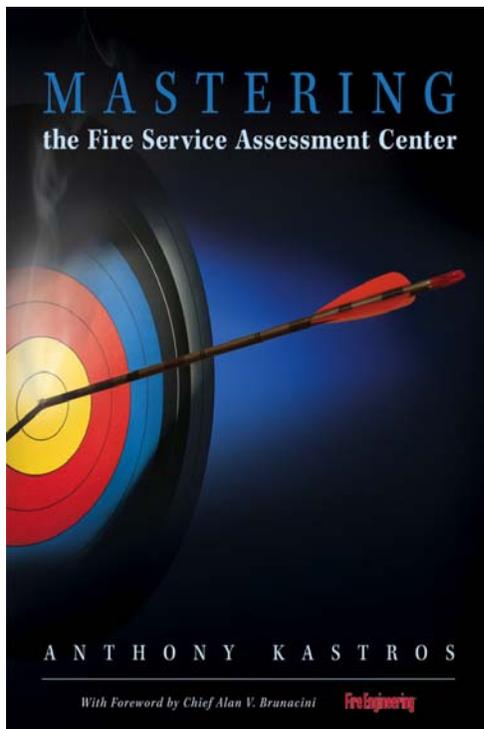
## **MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**  
**BY FIRE ENGINEERING**

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

- **Public Safety Specialist, Senior**

### *Department Overview*

Our energy flows through you! We recognize that our employees are the backbone of our success. It's the mix of talent, skill, enthusiasm, drive and team spirit that empowers our employees to deliver your energy, today and tomorrow. This is your opportunity to join our team and make your contributions in an industry that is rapidly changing. Pacific Gas and Electric Company provides gas and electric service in over 250 California cities, within an approximately 70,000 square mile service territory. We are looking for new talent to significantly enhance our public safety presence in the communities we serve.

### **Position Summary**

PG&E's goal is to have the best and safest gas pipeline system in the United States, and the Pipeline 2020 program is one of the approaches PG&E is using to achieve this goal. The Pipeline 2020 program will focus on five main initiatives: 1) modernizing critical pipeline infrastructure, 2) expanding the use of automated and remote shut off valves, 3) developing next generation inspection technologies, 4) identifying and implementing industry best practices, and 5) strengthening our public safety partnerships. This position will serve as the primary point of contact for public safety information related to gas or electric for external audiences such as schools, community representatives, fire and police departments, departments of public works, contractors, tree trimmers, utilities and other specialized groups within PG&E's service territory. Determine specific training needs support and conduct that training for target audiences or identify alternate methods of delivering the training. Provide opportunities for local first responders to exercise with PG&E first responders. Provide on-site support to PG&E and agency responders during emergencies.

### *Responsibilities*

- Provide public safety education by delivering training and/or materials that enhance public safety for relevant public safety, civic and emergency agencies/organizations, contractors, tree trimmers, other utilities, general community members, and schools

- For public safety agency partners, provide both training to improve knowledge and facilitate emergency response exercises with PG&E/Agency representative to test capabilities
- Assign appropriate public safety education presentations to PG&E's volunteer corps and provide logistical support for those presentations.
- Ensure that program effectiveness is measured
- Ensure that information is available for regulatory reporting
- Serve as the on-site liaison to public safety agencies during emergencies and provide the PG&E Incident Commander with advice and guidance as needed during the response.
- Identify and provide input to and/or developing strategies to mitigate public safety issues
- Serve as an advocate to resolve issues that are identified/raised during your work with our communities
- Coordinate public safety activities and follow-up items with other lines of business including corporate communications, governmental relations, energy solutions and sales, gas and electric operations.
- Be an advocate for safety and lead by example. Ensure that safe practices and procedures are communicated, incorporated, improved where needed and followed in all activities. Safety is our #1 priority!

### *Qualifications*

#### *Required:*

- 6 years business experience, including 5 years experience conducting training to diverse audience
- Completion of Incident Command System (ICS) 100 – 700 courses
- Must be able to work weekends and evenings

#### *Desired:*

- Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in education, communications, safety
- Experience as a public safety organization training officer
- Knowledge of fundamentals of electricity, natural gas, gas and electric safety procedures, and gas and electric operations.
- Work experience that may have been obtained in utility customer contact position such as in an industrial power engineer or senior new business rep role, electric or gas operations, maintenance or construction, or account rep with volunteer experience in a public safety capacity
- Ability to build and sustain working relationships with diverse groups, preferably public safety first responders, contractors, and educators

Pacific Gas and Electric Company is an AA/EEO employer that actively pursues and hires a diverse workforce.

#### **AND:**

- **Public Safety, Principal**

#### *Department Overview*

Our energy flows through you! We recognize that our employees are the backbone of our success. It's the mix of talent, skill, enthusiasm, drive and team spirit that empowers our employees to deliver your

energy, today and tomorrow. This is your opportunity to join our team and make your contributions in an industry that is rapidly changing. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Gas provides gas and electric service in over 250 California cities, within an approximately 70,000 square mile service territory. We are looking for new talent to significantly enhance our public safety presence in the communities we serve.

### **Position Summary**

PG&E's goal is to have the best and safest gas pipeline system in the United States, and the Pipeline 2020 program is one of the approaches PG&E is using to achieve this goal. The Pipeline 2020 program will focus on five main initiatives: 1) modernizing critical pipeline infrastructure, 2) expanding the use of automated and remote shut off valves, 3) developing next generation inspection technologies, 4) identifying and implementing industry best practices, and 5) strengthening our public safety partnerships.

Responsible for developing and enhancing enterprise-wide emergency response training plans, and developing training and public safety education programs including materials and exercises, both for internal and external audiences. Collaborate with PG&E Academy to ensure that materials are integrated into training programs and curriculum for employees and with lines of business. Provide technical mentoring and guidance to the Emergency Preparedness Public Safety Specialist and Public Safety/Damage Prevention teams.

### ***Responsibilities***

- Apply technical expertise and familiarity with emergency plan, by developing training and building exercises for use by the public and by public safety leads. Stay current with the training needs delivery methods for target EPP&R audience (PG&E emergency management organization members, Fire responders, Peace Officers, Emergency dispatchers, and departments of public works employees)
  - Ensure that EPP&R concepts are built into work methods and procedures, and Learning Academy training. Integrate understanding of the requirements of RP 1162 (gas), General Order 166 (electric) , and 49CFR192.615 (gas) into work products
  - Evaluate various reports including audit, quality control/quality assurance, and after-action reports, to identify planning, training and exercise needs. Provide feedback for determining team skill development needs and future audit, quality control/quality assurance plans
- Field Support:
- Provide clarification for the execution of training and exercise
  - Support emergency response efforts and after-action review forums Development and Enhancement Activities:
  - Maintain and enhance the Gas T&D Emergency Response Plan/Electric T&D Emergency Response Plan template
  - Maintain and improve the gas/electric EPP&R training library, including job aids, public safety education materials, classroom training materials, web based training modules, and seminar-style materials
  - Ensure that safety is integrated into the development of plans, training materials and exercises
  - Research program option products are available through vendors
  - Be an advocate for safety and lead by example. Ensure that safe practices and procedures are communicated, incorporated, improved where needed and followed in all activities. Safety is our #1 priority!

### ***Qualifications***

#### ***Required:***

July 9, 2011

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

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- Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university
- Experience as a public safety agency training officer desired
- 10-years related experience required, including 5 years experience using Incident Command System
- Experience developing or planning, training programs and exercises
- Able to work weekends and evenings

***Desired:***

- Experience working in a public safety agency capacity including training officers, battalion chiefs, or captains.
- Utility experience coupled with background in safety or emergency management
- Public safety professional
- Emergency management agency personnel.
- Ability to work in matrix function across teams to achieve desired results
- Ability to work collaboratively with others under deadline pressure
- High level of knowledge and capability in exercise design, including seminars, workshops, and table top, functional and operational exercises.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company is an AA/EEO employer that actively pursues and hires a diverse workforce.

- If anyone is interested, they can go to [www.pge.com/careers](http://www.pge.com/careers) and search the titles and apply.

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

### **The U.S. Fire Administration and Safe Kids USA Encourage Everyone to Practice Fire Safety During Independence Day Celebrations**

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

EMMITSBURG, MD – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and Safe Kids USA are encouraging families and individuals to prepare for a safe and memorable Fourth of July by practicing safe grilling and leaving the fireworks to the professionals. “Independence Day is a major highlight of the summer and for many people there’s a lot of excitement around setting off colorful fireworks and starting up the grill,” said Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. Meri-K Appy, President, Safe Kids USA joins Deputy Administrator Gaines in urging all Americans to have a fun and safe weekend. “We are reminding everyone of simple steps they can take to protect their children who are most vulnerable to fire-related burns, injuries, and deaths,” says Appy.

#### ***Fireworks***

Many children and adults are fascinated by fireworks, but they can be extremely dangerous. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s (CPSC) **annual death and injury report** - <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/2010fwreport.pdf> (PDF, 325 Kb) on fireworks, approximately 40 percent of fireworks injuries occur to children younger than 15 years of age. In addition, CPSC

received reports of three fatalities related to fireworks in 2010. The best way to protect your family and friends is not to use any fireworks at home. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals.

### **Fireworks Fire Safety Tips**

- Sparklers are not toys. They can reach 2,000° Fahrenheit--hot enough to melt some metals.
- Leave pieces of fireworks on the ground after an event. Some may still be ignited and can explode.
- Stand several feet away from the professionals lighting fireworks; fireworks have been known to backfire or shoot off in the wrong direction.

For more information, please visit the USFA's Focus on Fire Safety: Fireworks - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/fireworks.shtm> webpage and Safe Kids USA at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org).

### **Grilling**

Every Fourth of July Americans look forward to picnics, camping, and other outdoor activities. The holiday, however, also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor cooking. By taking a few fire safety precautions, you can ensure that everyone enjoys a safe Independence Day.

### **Grilling Fire Safety Tips**

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose a fire hazard and a risk of exposing occupants to deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic. Grills should be positioned at least 10 feet away from siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep matches, lighters, and starter fluid out of the reach of children in a locked drawer or cabinet.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Use long barbeque mitts and long-handled grilling tools to protect the chef from heat and flames when cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

For more information, please visit Safe Kids USA at [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) and the USFA's Focus on Fire Safety: Summer Fire Safety - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/summer.shtm> webpage.

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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.

- **Fire Command 2A:** July 18 – 22, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1A:** August 22 – 26, 2011
- **Fire Command 1A:** September 12 – 16, 2011

- **Fire Prevention 1A:** September 19 – 23, 2011

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:**

**H**ere 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 their website at [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 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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## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION:**

### **Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Nomination Period Opens**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the opening of the 2010–2011 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor - <https://www.medalofvalor.gov/> nomination period. The highest national award for valor by a public safety officer, this medal is awarded annually by the President or Vice President of the United States to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. To nominate an officer today – go to: <https://www.medalofvalor.gov/>

#### **How to Nominate an Officer**

Nominations will be accepted between May 31, 2011–July 31, 2011. Only applications submitted through the Medal of Valor Application System will be eligible for consideration. To receive the Medal of Valor, public safety officers must be nominated by the chief executive officer of their employing agencies; recommended by the bipartisan Medal of Valor Review Board; and cited by the Attorney General. Those interested in nominating an officer must submit their application through the online Medal of Valor Application System at <https://www.medalofvalor.gov/>

All applications are limited to acts of valor that occurred between June 1, 2010 and May 31, 2011. For questions about the award or how to nominate a public safety officer, please contact BJA at [medalofvalor@usdoj.gov](mailto:medalofvalor@usdoj.gov).

## **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.

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

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

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

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	- July 14, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- July 15, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- August 15, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- August 16, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- October 13, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	- October 14, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a> )
	**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.	
<b>You will receive:</b>	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>

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

**T**he 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.

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

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

### **CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:**

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

**Northern California**  
526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

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

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: Vincent A. Perez  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 48

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 21  
Date of Incident: 06/02/2011  
Time of Incident: 1044hrs  
Date of Death: 06/02/2011

Name: Anthony M. Valerio  
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic  
Age: 53  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 14  
Date of Incident: 06/02/2011  
Time of Incident: 1044hrs  
Date of Death: 06/04/2011

Fire Department: San Francisco Fire Department  
Address: 698 2ND ST, San Francisco, CA 94107  
Fire Department Chief: Joanne Hayes-White  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.sf-fire.org/>

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Perez and Firefighter/Paramedic Valerio passed away from injuries sustained while operating at a house fire in the Diamond Heights district of San Francisco.

**Incident Location:** 133 Berkeley Way

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending. Updates posted on <http://www.sf-fire.org/>

**Condolence messages** may be mailed to Fire Station 26, 80 Digby Street, San Francisco, CA 94131.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 has established Trust Accounts at the San Francisco Fire Credit Union (SFFCU) for the families of Lt. Perez and Firefighter/Paramedic Valerio. SFFCU, 3201 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118; [www.sffirecu.org](http://www.sffirecu.org) .

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Vincent A. Perez and Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony M. Valerio at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 39 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 35 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Garet Rasmussen  
Rank: Acting Battalion Chief  
Age: 38  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 15  
Date of Incident: 06/12/2011  
Time of Incident: 0155hrs  
Date of Death: 06/12/2011  
Fire Department: Chelan County Fire District 1  
July 9, 2011 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Address: 206 Easy ST, Wenatchee, WA 98801-5979  
Fire Department Chief: Mike Burnett  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.chelancountyfire.com>

**Incident Description:** Shortly after returning home from a motor vehicle accident response, Battalion Chief Rasmussen passed away from a cause still to be reported.

**Incident Location:** Pending

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Battalion Chief Garet Rasmussen at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 40 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 36 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Scott Davis  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 40  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 17  
Date of Incident: 06/15/2011  
Time of Incident: 1600hrs  
Date of Death: 06/15/2011  
Fire Department: Muncie Fire Department  
Address: 300 N High Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Muncie, IN 47305-1804  
Fire Department Chief: Sean Burcham

**Incident Description:** While operating at a church fire, Firefighter Davis passed away from injuries sustained when the roof of the building collapsed. Investigation into the incident continues by local, state, and federal authorities.

**Incident Location:** 2200 E. Fuson Road, Muncie, IN

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 41 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 37 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Corey Shaw  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 22  
Gender: Male

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Status: Paid-on-call  
Years of Service: 1  
Date of Incident: 06/17/2011  
Time of Incident: 1530hrs  
Date of Death: 06/17/2011  
Fire Department: Du Quoin Fire Department  
Address: 30 S Division ST, Du Quoin, IL 62832  
Telephone: 618-542-5600  
Fire Department Chief: Bob Shaw  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.duquoin.org/newfiredept.htm>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Shaw passed away from injuries sustained in a wall collapse while operating at a large fire in an antique mall and opera house in nearby Pinckneyville, Illinois. Investigation into the cause of the fire continues by authorities.

**Incident Location:** 7 E Jackson St, Pinckneyville, IL

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Du Quoin Middle School, 845 East Jackson Street.

Funeral service is at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 16 N. Walnut St., Du Quoin. Burial will be in Old Du Quoin Cemetery.

For additional information or to sign the memorial guest register, visit [www.searbyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.searbyfuneralhomes.com).

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Memorials for an education fund for Firefighter Shaw's daughter, Camryn Ray Shaw, will be accepted by the funeral home ([www.searbyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.searbyfuneralhomes.com)).

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

To date, 42 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 38 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Brett Fulton  
Rank: Forest Ranger  
Age: 52  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 12  
Date of Incident: 06/20/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 06/20/2011

Name: Josh Burch  
Rank: Forest Ranger  
Age: 31  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 10+  
Date of Incident: 06/20/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 06/20/2011

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Fire Department: Suwannee Forestry Center, Florida Division of Forestry  
Address: 137 SE Forestry Circle, Lake City, FL 32025  
Fire Department Chief: Sam Leneave, Manager  
Fire Department Website: [http://www.fl-dof.com/field\\_operations/suwannee.html](http://www.fl-dof.com/field_operations/suwannee.html)

**Incident Description:** Forest Rangers Fulton and Burch were killed when their position was overrun by flames while conducting tractor plow operations on the Blue Ribbon Fire in Hamilton County, Florida.

Two other firefighters – Robert Marvin and Stephen Carpenter – were injured while attempting to assist their fellow firefighters. Both were treated for smoke-related injuries and released from the hospital. Investigation into the fatal incident continues by the Florida Division of Forestry and the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement.

**Incident Location:** Vicinity of County Road 6, Hamilton County, FL

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Forest Ranger Brett Fulton and Forest Ranger Josh Burch at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 44 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 40 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Robin Erlic West  
Rank: Assistant Chief  
Age: 55  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 35  
Date of Incident: 06/18/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 06/19/2011  
Fire Department: Startex Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 470, 170 Spartanburg RD, Wellford, SC 29385  
Fire Department Chief: Jesse E. West III

**Incident Description:** On Saturday, June 18, Assistant Chief West responded to an electrical fire in a private residence in addition to multiple alarms associated with a severe storm system that passed through the area in the afternoon. Upon his return home, West was not feeling well and EMS units were summoned to his house to transport him to the hospital where he was evaluated and released early the following day. Approximately three hours after returning home, Assistant Chief West was discovered by family members having passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 5 Chestnut Street

**Funeral Arrangements:** The family will receive friends Wednesday, June 22, 2011, from 7:00-9:00 PM at Seawright Funeral Home. A celebration of his life service will be held at Lyman United Methodist Church at 4:00 PM on Thursday, June 23rd, with Rev. Brian Gilmer and Rev. Ron Towery officiating. Burial will be in the Perkins Cemetery.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Lyman United Methodist Church Building Fund, 106 Groce Rd., Lyman, SC 29365.

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Tribute** is being paid to Assistant Chief Robin Erlic West at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 45 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 41 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Chris Pham  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 35  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 4  
Date of Incident: 06/23/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 06/23/2011  
Fire Department: Dallas Fire-Rescue  
Address: 1500 Marilla ST, L1CS, Dallas, TX 75201  
Fire Department Chief: Eddie Burns, Sr.  
Fire Department Website: [http://www.dallasfirerescue.com/sta\\_list/sta\\_49.html](http://www.dallasfirerescue.com/sta_list/sta_49.html)

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Pham was found unresponsive in quarters at Dallas Fire Station 49 by other firefighters who performed CPR and then rushed Pham to Methodist Charlton Medical Center where he later passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 4901 South Hampton Road, Dallas, TX 75232-1851

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Chris Pham at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 46 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 42 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Matt Hadaller  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 47  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 20+  
Date of Incident: 06/27/2011  
Time of Incident: 2210hrs  
Date of Death: 06/27/2011  
Fire Department: Lewis County Fire District #3  
Address: 137 E Main ST, Mossyrock, WA 98564-0127  
Fire Department Chief: Doug Fosberg

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** Fire Chief Hadaller passed away from a sudden illness after responding to two EMS incidents within the preceding 24hrs.

**Incident Location:** 112 Laurel ST, Mossyrock, WA

**Funeral Arrangements:** A memorial service has been set for 07/02/2011, 1300hrs, at the Mossyrock High School, 295 William ST, Mossyrock, WA.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Memorial donations in honor of Fire Chief Matt Hadaller may be made to any Twin Star Credit Union branch ([www.twinstarcu.com](http://www.twinstarcu.com)).

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

To date, 47 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 43 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and four 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: Walter E. Hauser  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 62  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 02/11/1981  
Time of Incident: 0925hrs  
Date of Death: 07/02/2011  
Fire Department: Rochester Fire Department  
Address: 185 Exchange ST, STE 665, Rochester, NY 14614  
Fire Department Chief: John D. Caufield  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/services/fire>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Hauser passed away from serious injuries he suffered during a 1981 fire in a department store at the Midtown Plaza.

**Incident Location:** McCurdy's Department Store, Midtown Plaza, 211 Midtown Plz, Rochester, NY 14604

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

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** None

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

To date, 48 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 43 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: Charles "Sparky" Sparks  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 49  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 32  
Date of Incident: 06/30/2011  
July 9, 2011

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Time of Incident: 1505hrs  
Date of Death: 07/08/2011  
Fire Department: Adair County Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 200 Merchant ST, Columbia, KY 42728  
Fire Department Chief: Michael C. Glasgow

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Sparks suffered an apparent heart attack while he was operating on the interior of a residential structure fire. Firefighter Sparks was treated on-scene by fellow firefighters until the Adair County EMS arrived and transported him to Westlake Regional Hospital. He was then airlifted by Air Evac to Norton's Audubon Hospital, where he had remained until his passing.

**Incident Location:** 3043 Liberty Road, Columbia, KY

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending. Arrangements will be made available on the Stotts-Phelps-McQueary Funeral Home website: <http://www.stottsphelpsmcquearyfh.com/html/>

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Charles "Sparky" Sparks at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 49 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 44 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)

Hey,

A public memorial service for both SFFD Lt Vincent Perez and FF/PM Anthony Valerio will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral and is tentatively scheduled for 12:30 p.m. The SFFD expects thousands of guests from throughout California, other states and possibly other countries. Anthony "Tony" Valerio, a 53-year-old firefighter and paramedic, died Saturday morning from injuries he suffered in Thursday's fire. He had battled for survival from the moment he arrived at San Francisco General Hospital, already in cardiac arrest and suffering from burns and lung damage. Valerio's boss, 48-year-old Lt. Vincent Perez, died Thursday at the hospital. Both men from Engine Company 26 were seasoned Firefighters who had been raised in large families in San Francisco. Neither man was married or had children. The last San Francisco FF to die in the Line of Duty (specifically while fighting a fire) also came from Fire Station 26. The plaque inside the station honors Lt. Louis Mambretti, 57, who was killed in 1995 when an automatic garage door trapped him inside a burning home.

July 9, 2011

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

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### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The last time more than one San Francisco firefighter was killed in a blaze was in 1946, when four men were killed in a fire at the Herbert Hotel on Powell Street.

#### **DONATIONS & CONDOLENCES:**

San Francisco Fire Fighters Local 798 has established trust accounts at the San Francisco Fire Credit Union for the families of Lt. Vincent Perez and firefighter-paramedic Anthony Valerio. Donations can be made to SFFCU, 3201 California St., San Francisco, CA 94118. Condolence messages can be sent to Fire Station 26, 80 Digby St., San Francisco, CA 94131.

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL**

A Murrells Inlet-Garden City Firefighter (south of Myrtle Beach, SC) remains in critical condition today at MUSC after suffering a medical emergency at a fire Saturday. He was operating on the roof at the fire in 90 degree temps and heavy humidity which resulted in heat problems, and then a heart attack. He was taken to Georgetown Memorial Hospital on Saturday evening, at the apartment complex near the Garden City Connector, and transferred to MUSC. More details at [www.SConFire.com](http://www.SConFire.com)

#### **439 FIREFIGHTERS ARRESTED OVER WAGE PROTEST ACTIONS**

In an event of perspective, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) Firefighters, on strike for better salaries, occupied their fire headquarters on Friday. Yesterday (Saturday), the police stormed the building and arrested 439 Firefighters. There are (unconfirmed) reports that the FF/prisoners did not receive food and have been kept in police buses during the night. Other FFs and their families are protesting in front of State of Rio de Janeiro's House of Representatives right now and the crisis seem to be far from the end. Unlike most of other countries, Brazilian career municipal FFs are military employees, and fall under military laws. The arrested FF' can face up to 12 years in jail for military crimes. According to a Rio's FFs Association website <http://www.sosquardavidas.com> their gross monthly salary is approx. \$ 656.00.

**HERE** is a report in English:

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/178140/175/Police-Clash-With-Thousands-Of-Firefighters>

**HERE** are photos:

<http://g1.globo.com/rio-de-janeiro/fotos/2011/06/veja-galeria-de-fotos-do-protesto-dos-bombeiros-no-rio.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-6-11 / 0028 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

**The public memorial service for both SFFD Lt Vincent Perez and FF/PM Anthony Valerio will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral and is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. THIS COMING FRIDAY.**

MORE details will be posted HERE: <http://www.sffdlocal798.org/>

Anthony "Tony" Valerio, a 53-year-old firefighter and paramedic, died Saturday morning from injuries he suffered in Thursday's fire. He had battled for survival from the moment he arrived at San Francisco General Hospital, already in cardiac arrest and suffering from burns and lung damage. Valerio's boss, 48-year-old Lt. Vincent Perez, died Thursday at the hospital. Both men from Engine Company 26 were seasoned Firefighters who had been raised in large families in San Francisco.

#### **UPSET ABOUT ALAMEDA? It's Just The Tip Of The Iceberg.**

Everyone "and their brother" (I love that term) is upset about Firefighters in California watching a suicidal man head into the San Francisco Bay - to drown. If you are not aware of it by now, on

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Memorial Day, in Alameda, CA, 52-year-old Raymond Zack walked fully clothed into water up to his neck and ended up floating face down an hour later. The "world" has been outraged every since.

"How could the firefighters stand on the shore and not react!?" - screamed the public!

Interim AFD Fire Chief Mike D'Orazi stated department policy precludes his Firefighters from attempting water rescues because they aren't trained to do water rescues. Makes sense-to us-but not the public. On the other hand, we have all done stuff that we are not trained to do-resulting in good and bad outcomes.

But it's a good rule of thumb-unless you are trained and certified, don't do it.

The bigger issue for us though is the discussion they had out there on FUNDING. Funding for Firefighter water-rescue training, which was CUT from the Alameda budget in 2009, training funding that would have probably helped. Others have also added psychiatric care would have stopped the suicide of Mr. Zack. Maybe. But the fact is, he went into the water and the FD was unable to get him out-for relatively valid reasons: the training budget was cut and they no longer provide water rescue services. Another "penny wise and pound foolish" decision by city hall dwellers-most likely responding to public cries of "lower the budget-cut the taxes".

A good reminder to any and all fire and local officials: when "it" (whatever "it" is) is being considered to be cut from the budget, make it crystal clear (publicly) what impact it will have on those who call 9-1-1. We keep seeing budgets cut-BIG BUDGET CUTS-but we keep reading " it won't affect services" - or "response times will be the same" .

Stop the BS. While there are some areas where some budgets can be cut-"here and there" - at some point, when the budget is cut to the bone, the public saves a few bucks a year but services and response times are effected. If you can fix that thru alternative responses such as thru collaborative services with neighboring FD's, great-but if that is not an option or if time delays will be a part of the solution-let'm know the truth. Anything else is bs. If the public and city hall dwellers want budgets cut to save money-they need to honestly and factually be told what it will-and will not impact. No emotion. Pure factual honesty required at all levels.

As the impacts of budget cuts continue to be enacted, similar "WTF!?, you mean the budget cuts actually impacted fire rescue services!?" awareness will continue to upset, shock and directly impact the ability to help the public, when they are having a really bad day. This is just the tip of the iceberg. What a FD can do and what it cannot do, based upon training and funding, is a public decision. Being factual without bs in making them understand what cuts truly mean (after making sure our budgets are squeaky clean) is our responsibility. There are numerous "Alamedas" out there just waiting for someone to call 9-1-1 expecting one thing, but getting another. Budget cuts to the FD without impacting the public? Don't be silly.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-6-11 / 1102 hours

### **AND:**

#### **CANADIAN FIREFIGHTING PILOT LODD**

This is a delayed LODD occurring on May 20, 2011. We regret to advise you that Pilot Jean-Luc Debra was flying a contracted Bell B212 and had been working for several days on the local forest fires in northern Alberta-near the shore of Lesser Slave Lake and the community of Canyon Ferry, about 22 kilometers west of the town of Slave Lake, Alta. He was in the process of transporting water

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

by bucket from Lesser Salve Lake to on-going fire activity when according to one local witness said the helicopter hovered over the lake to fill up its bucket, then tipped sideways and appeared horizontal before it crashed into the water. Firefighters in the vicinity immediately attempted to pull the pilot from the wreckage and within minutes a ground ambulance was on the scene. The pilot was pronounced dead at the scene. He was the only person on board. The helicopter reportedly crashed about 30 meters offshore. The winds and lake water were reported to be calm at the time of the crash. The incident remains under investigation by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada and is expected to take about a year to complete. The pilot and helicopter were on contract to the Government of Alberta, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development Ministry. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-6-11 / 2312 hours

### **AND:**

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

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter from the Huntington (Angelina County, Texas) Fire Department has died in the Line of Duty. Firefighter David Goins, age 47, died between 1700 and 1800 hours this evening (Thursday) while assisting the Texas Forest Service at a brush fire in Huntington near his own residence. The exact details of his death are not known, but officials did say that when other Firefighters found Goins, he was burned and had expired. One report is that he was found by a Texas Forest Service spotter plane out investigating smoke in the area and the forest service then contacted the Angelina County Sheriff's Office. FF Goins started his career with the city of Lufkin, and had been a volunteer with Huntington since 1988, holding the titles of lieutenant, captain and lastly, assistant chief. This occurred in Angelina County, which is northeast of Houston. FF Goins is survived by 3 sons. As always our sincere condolences.

#### **MORE TALES OF ALAMEDA:**

OK, so far everyone knows that Firefighters from the Alameda FD (a city surrounded by water, known as "The Island City") didn't go into San Francisco Bay to help rescue a man attempting to kill himself May 30. Tragically, Raymond Zack waded for an hour in neck deep water off an Alameda beach and later died. Police and Firefighters did not enter the water for a variety of reasons, depending upon who you ask. **SOME** officials claim mutual aid was called. Mutual aid says no one called. **A CIVILIAN** woman went out in the water and brought him in-as Fire & Police watched. He was dead. **THEN AFD** officials claimed: Budget issues led to the loss of the FD's ability to train for water rescues. **BUT** now the fact is that: The AFD has HAD funding since 2009 to "re certify instructors and train new swimmers," according to an internal memo. The training was just never done. What Alameda officials said to that yesterday: No comment.

**MORE CONFUSION HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/4xcmz8u>

Some of you wrote us with a bit of agita related to our previous comments focusing on budget issues restricting the FD's service. While this story keeps changing, clearly if the budget had been cut, leadership should have clear policy, procedures and training on what the FD IS supposed to do when they pull up on a man in the water-and what they shouldn't do. They should also identify WHO will be responsible for water rescue, because, and call us crazy, when you live on an island-water emergencies just might just surface every now and then. **Now, as far as this case, who knows who is telling the truth?** Our original comments made the point that these days, with many fire budgets being carelessly slashed, **when a service is reduced or cut, elected officials (and the public) need to fully understand the realistic impact of those cuts ...and how that will affect the lives of the public and Firefighters.** And while we may find ourselves in an urgent situation to save a life

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

irregardless of policy and/or political decisions in an extreme situation, and can or should react - the less FF's are placed in that position, the better.

**Final Comment: Our Condolences:**

A Pike Township (Indianapolis, IN) Firefighter died today and 2 of his children were hospitalized in a 3 vehicle crash in Lawrence. FF James C. Shelly, 35, died in the crash involving a box truck, a semi and a pickup around 1215 hours. An eastbound box truck rear-ended the semi then rolled into oncoming traffic, where the box truck tragically slammed head-on into FF Shelly's Chevrolet Avalanche. His children and the other driver suffered NLT injuries. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-10-11 / 0208 Hours

**AND:**

**WASHINGTON STATE BATTALION CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Battalion Chief Garet Rasmussen of Chelan County Fire District #1 has died in the Line of Duty. Chief Rasmussen passed away at home (where he responds from on the weekends) at 0745 Hours this morning (when his wife called 911). His last response was at 0155 hours this morning PDT to a crash. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

**=FIREFIGHTER FALLS THRU ROOF AT WORKING MODULAR HOUSE FIRE  
EXTREME CLOSE CALL VIDEO**

Another reminder for us all to remember that when it's burning below us, the INTEGRITY of the roof (or floor etc) is burning away. If we MUST vent the roof of a small, one story single family (modular) dwelling, use a roof ladder or an aerial to support the inevitable fall thru the roof-into the fire below.

<http://tinyurl.com/3hdld4n> ("LIVE" SCENE VIDEO)

<http://tinyurl.com/3uz8s7w> (More Coverage And Radio Traffic From Dave Statter)

**HERE IS AN LODD EXAMPLE:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200240.html>

**HERE ARE MUST SEE TRAINING VIDEOS OF WOOD TRUSS ROOF COLLAPSES:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jo5ZtBXJiHo>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE9Hf\\_CEGpw&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE9Hf_CEGpw&feature=related)

**=FIRE APPARATUS INVOLVED IN FATAL RESPONDING CRASH-NORTH CAROLINA**

This afternoon, around 1230 hours in Kernersville (NC) an 80 year old man was killed when he was struck by responding fire apparatus. Although the investigation is ongoing, police said after talking to numerous eyewitnesses, it appears that the car failed to yield the right of way. Firefighters as well as the victims wife received NLT injuries.

**=FIREFIGHTER RESPONDING TO FIRE CRASHES AND GOES OVER AN EMBANKMENT IN OHIO**

Yesterday morning, a Scioto Township Volunteer Firefighter Nathan Cuckler, 21, was driving his personal car, on fire call, when he lost control of the 2000 Lincoln Town Car. FF Cuckler's car straddled the median then went across the southbound lanes, where it struck a guard rail and went along it for about 45 feet before flipping and crashing about 50 feet down an embankment. FF Cuckler told police he had swerved to miss something, possibly an animal, on the road. He was taken to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries and was cited by the cops for failure to control. Several fire departments responded to the 0820 working fire call to as a neighbor spotted the fire and at first thought someone still was inside, but wasn't.

**=ONE HALF BILLION FIRE COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS SCREW UP**

July 9, 2011

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

More than half a billion pounds (in the U.K.) of taxpayers money that had been committed to providing the fire service with eight empty buildings that will never be used for their intended purpose. FireControl, a private finance initiative to replace 46 emergency call centers with nine regional sites, became mired in technical problems that proved fatal to the plan. The eight sites outside London have been canceled, although the London site will go ahead. HERE is more: <http://tinyurl.com/4ytchwv>

**=FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH FUNERALS-POLITICS IN SAN FRANCISCO**

The double LODD funeral Friday at St. Mary's Cathedral for SFFD Lt. Vincent Perez and Firefighter-Paramedic Anthony Valerio who were both killed in the Line of Duty was a sober, elaborate affair, and everyone from Gov. Jerry Brown to Rep. Nancy Pelosi to Mayor Edwin Lee came to pay their respects. Jeff Adachi, the San Francisco public defender, came too, and was standing before the procession began in an area at the front of the Cathedral with other elected officials. An unidentified SFFD staffer asked him to leave. Adachi demurred, and then the SFFD official returned with a colleague, and they asked Adachi to leave once more. At this point, Adachi split. This underscores just how bitter SFFD Firefighters and other unions remain over Mr. Adachi's now two-year-old campaign to reform the city's pension costs by requiring city workers to contribute more into the plan. The funeral for Fire Department Lt. Vincent Perez and Firefighter-Paramedic Anthony Valerio drew thousands of mourners from across the state and country.

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

**Take Care-BE CAREFUL.**

**BillyG**

**The Secret List 6-12-11 / 2147 Hours**

**AND:**

Hey,

The NFPA's annual report on Firefighter fatalities in U.S. shows lowest number of on-duty deaths in 34 years Report shows drop in average number of deaths over 10 year period, but deaths from cardiac arrest remain steady. **Keep in mind** that the USFA and NFPA has different criteria's in determining what an LODD "definition" is, however, both process of analysis are relatively close to one another.

**HERE** is the NFPA Report: [www.nfpa.org/ff2010](http://www.nfpa.org/ff2010)

**HERE** is the most recent USFA Report:

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/10\\_fatality\\_summary.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/10_fatality_summary.pdf)

**SKIN CANCER & FIREFIGHTERS:**

Once in a while we take "executive privilege" to share a message for you **AND** your families...and this would be one of those times. **PLEASE** take a look at this quick video-the first minute or so is kind of hokey-but the balance of the message is a very big deal.

NOTE: One of the absolute most important people in my life recently had dozens of pre-cancerous "spots" removed that, if not identified, would have lead to skin cancer.

PLEASE take a look, share this and pass it on.

Big Deal.

**WATCH THIS VIDEO RIGHT HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/63zns75>

**(Do You Remember "Wear Sunscreen"?** <http://tinyurl.com/2apszr> )

**FDIC INSTRUCTORS (And Those That Wanna Be)-FINAL REMINDER:**

The FDIC Call for Presentations closes on the 15th of June, this coming Wednesday. If you had planned to submit a class or program for consideration, stop reading this e-mail, click below, and get crack'n:

**CLICK HERE:** <http://s36.a2zinc.net/clients/pennwell/FDIC2012/Public/enter.aspx>

**Take Care-BE CAREFUL.**

July 9, 2011

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

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**CONGRATS To The Class Of 2011.**  
**BillyG**  
**The Secret List 6-13-11 / 1907 Hours**

**AND:**

Hey,  
2 Halltown (MO) Firefighters injured when their fire apparatus went off the road and overturned. The Firefighters were ejected from the responding pumper and were airlifted to Springfield hospitals for treatment. **Neither Firefighter was wearing a seatbelt.** The accident occurred at 1508 hours on Lawrence 1232, just south of Halltown. They were responding to an emergency call when the crash occurred. Click on the headline of this story to see a series of photos from the accident site. This happened on Tuesday afternoon, June 7 and we have been advised that 1 FF has been transferred out of ICU for further treatment and the other has since been released.

**RELATED VIDEOS:**

**Forensic animation roll-over seatbelt ejection video:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSHxdYhuIG8>

**Rollover with Unrestrained Dummy Ejection**

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

**TRAINING VIDEO: Fire Dept Seat Belt Procedure:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfHzrEon9Js>

**TRAINING VIDEO: Fire Dept Seat Belt PSA from NFFF:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOfEsnvXSD8>

**FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY INJURED AFTER 25' FALL FROM ROOF IN HONOLULU**

A Honolulu Firefighter is in serious condition after operating at a reported building fire last night. When Firefighters arrived at the scene, they discovered it was not a fire. Instead, the smoke was coming a furnace used to bake combustible materials. As crews continued their investigation on the roof, one of the HFD Firefighters stepped on a panel that gave way and he then fell between 25 and 30 feet below. He was treated and transported. This is the 2nd recent Close Call at the HFD as the other occurred on June 3 in Haleiwa when Firefighter Kamaki Worthington was nearly electrocuted.

**FDNY DOUBLE LODD FOLLOWUP "Deutsche Bank"**

Defense Lawyer Edward Little for supervisor Jeffrey Melofchik, began his closing argument today at state Supreme Court in Manhattan, commencing the final chapter of the trial that has lasted more than two months with over 70 witnesses and 1,100 exhibits. **"The deaths of these 2 Firefighters, Bob Beddia and Joe Graffagnino, were terrible, were tragic and were heartbreaking," Little said.** "BUT not every tragic accident has someone who committed a negligent act. Not every tragic accident has somebody who committed a crime behind it," he said. FDNY's Beddia, 53, and Graffagnino, 33, were killed in the Line of Duty by smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. Another 115 firefighters suffered injuries, many severe enough to force them to take medical leave. Prosecutors argued that the asbestos abatement supervisors -- Melofchik, Mitchell Alvo and Salvatore dePaola knew that the crucial water standpipe in the basement had been damaged and was never replaced, cutting off the water supply to the building. The defense, which called only one witness, argued that the pipe was not a direct cause of the deaths and that their clients are scapegoats. The company hired to complete the abatement, John Galt Corp., is also charged.

**MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3suomh2>

**VIDEOS OF THE FIRE HERE:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-6CWA3mZwE>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3hsNoeQoFQ>

<http://tinyurl.com/3wtfva6>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNf0jkqWZ90>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-14-11 / 1531 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As you know, DuQuoin (IL) Firefighter Corey Shaw, son of Fire Chief Robert Shaw, died in the Line of Duty late yesterday while operating at a "downtown block" fire in Pinckneyville, Illinois. A wall collapsed during initial firefighting operations. Corey's father, DuQuoin Fire Chief Bob Shaw, was also working the fire at the time and witnessed the collapse. At the time of collapse, the fire was burning out of control and FF Shaw was in an alley moving a ladder and preparing to "back everyone out" of the building so they could fight the fire defensively, when the wall collapsed on him. FF Shaw was immediately pulled from the bricks and rubble, was treated for severe head/neck trauma, stabilized at a hospital just 2 blocks away, was then flown to a trauma center in St. Louis, Mo. where he eventually passed away. The FF who was operating with FF Shaw was not injured. 22-year-old Firefighter Shaw had been a paid on call Firefighter with DuQuoin since July 2010 and was married to his wife Nicole – they have a 2 year old daughter, Cameron.

**FIRE SCENE VIDEOS AND MORE COVERAGE HERE:**

<http://tinyurl.com/6k4f935>

<http://tinyurl.com/6ka39ew>

<http://tinyurl.com/5uxr68z>

**Arrangements for Firefighter Corey Shaw are as follows:**

**VISITATION:** Tuesday, June 21 from 4pm to 8pm at the Du Quoin Middle school gym.

**FUNERAL:** Wednesday, June 22 at 10am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Du Quoin; interment: Old Du Quoin Cemetery. **NOTE:** Those departments that will be sending apparatus to participate in the funeral procession are asked to arrive at the Church between 0830 and 0900 hrs for staging.

RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-18-11 / 2215 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The fire service has been taking some very hard "public opinion" hits lately. While some of the "hits" may be fair and deserved (such as firefighter arson, firefighters stealing from scenes, substance abuse, beating people up, assaulting each other, sodomy in the firehouse, driving like idiots, stealing days off and sick time abuse scams etc), nationally and clearly the vast majority of FD's do not deserve the hits ...by any stretch of the imagination. Unfortunately, for a variety of local political issues, valid (and invalid) fiscal issues and the rapid ability of the Internet to share info "now" - we are taking some nasty hits on a large scale.

One writer in Canada recently wrote that he felt that the issues of Firefighter line of duty deaths as being overblown. Too much "pomp and circumstance" when we get killed. From our perspective, it is one of the most misguided editorials we've read - with a significant missing ingredient: perspective

and balance. He misses the mark that when all the other "professions" get in trouble, it is us who bail them out-with little time to spare. We do our best to fix "their" accidents, errors, ignored risk and stupid. Do we cause accidents and errors? Do we ignore risk? Sure-but we are getting better as the numbers show. Are we done? Hardly, but the culture we live within today is significantly improved than the culture we lived with 10-15 years ago-and of course, even further back. We are getting better at minimizing the unnecessary risks, injuries and deaths.

The writer completely misses the mark when he fails to understand that our job is to respond to the folks that he talks about - when they do stuff. Taxi drivers having a more risky job than firefighters? Stay off the phone, stop texting, stop reading, obey traffic laws, stop speeding, stop drinking, stop doping and that number can be reduced. How about that? And they won't even need a Federal grant to study the problem-we just solved it for them.

But, in the case of that editorial, the hits just keep on coming.

**HERE is that editorial:** <http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3174542>

**THEN THERE IS** that Santa Clara County (California) civil grand jury that has called for a wholesale rethinking of fire & EMS response, arguing that sending "Firefighters" to what are now "mostly" medical calls is outdated and wasteful. The report comes as area Firefighters face public scrutiny for perceived high salaries and pensions. This is a really good example of civilians (perhaps by non-fire service EMS providers. **I said perhaps.**) who have not looked at the bigger picture of firefighters **being** EMS providers, multiple calls, staffing required on runs such as a cardiac arrest and the need for "real" response times that matter to those having "their" emergency. Is some of it wasteful? Sure-but so is paying your insurance premium and never having a claim. You pay for what you might need in the worst case scenario-and it is never important unless it is YOUR scenario.

Again, in the case of this article, the hits just keep on coming.

**HERE is that article (including FD comments):** <http://tinyurl.com/43qvvvw>

**'COURSE UP IN MAINE**, there is the elected official in Auburn who followed the Firefighters around and video taped them as they "wasted" time. Then the Secret Squirrel posted an 11-minute video (below) that shows Auburn Engine 3 driving around the southern part of the city. Acting Fire Chief Geoff Low said the June 6 trip that the elected official recorded has a simple explanation: His firefighters were touring the route of a drill that was scheduled for June 14 involving multiple fire agencies. "I really think all of this comes down to a large **misunderstanding** on the part of some councilors (elected officials) and a lack of **communication**," Acting Chief Low said. "What they need to understand is that my door is open. If they have any questions, they can bring them directly to me."

**HERE IS LOTS MORE:** <http://www.sunjournal.com/city/story/1046710>

**AND NOW** in Illinois, the 183rd Illinois Air National Guard Fire Crew is facing a shut down. On Friday, the State Journal Register newspaper of Springfield (IL) published a cartoon by Chris Britt in regard to the FF's at the 183rd. The cartoon is a clear "hit"...against the Firefighters. The good news is that a coalition of Illinois state legislators, representatives of congressmen, firefighters and the military met with representatives of Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon's office last week to look at ways to keep firefighters with the 183rd Fighter Wing in on the job. There are currently 15 FF's at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport who work around the clock in shifts of four-providing on and off site fire rescue service. It was announced last year that they would be laid off after the 2008 loss of the 183rd's F-16 flying mission. The firefighters were given a one-year extension through Sept. 30, 2011. Unfortunately, in their mission to provide facts to the public, the paper failed to research how many calls they have done annually, how much training they do to stay proficient to respond to any emergency at the airport or the neighboring communities and specifically, what all their job entails. They didn't explore what that FD is now doing, since the planes aren't flying in and out as much. They are not aware (or choose to ignore) the mutual aid they provide, the training they deliver, the numerous "major" fires they are

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called out to. Instead, **THIS** cartoon is what appeared in the newspaper. Another one on the hit parade: <http://www.sj-r.com/cartoon/x1425872588/Britt-183rd-firefighters-have-vital-mission>  
A "picture" to the unknowing and uninformed citizen/taxpayer-is worth a thousand words and can immediately set the negative tone, and has.

**There are several common denominators in all these issues:**

**-Firefighters**

**-Tax Dollar Use (and understanding value, usage, waste and perceived waste)**

**-Public Image (perception, reality etc) Of What We Do**

Amongst these recent "hits" the issue of the public, elected officials and the media truly understanding what we do...that is the biggie.

We can go about our business "normally" or we can make sure that the public can't live without us. We can make sure that any hit to THEIR fire department is unacceptable.

There are FD's like that out there, FD's that are NOT being targeted - *and in many cases it's because they were ahead of the game, so to speak. They were proactive and they were "driving the bus" in understanding that, in order to be "needed" they willingly and positively accept doing stuff such as:*

-EMS

-PubEd

-Mrs Smith stuff (blood pressure checks, school visits, community support, stinky the fire dog etc)

-Daily Training.

-Daily Hands On Training.

-Daily Inspections.

-Pre-Planning Every Building.

-Home Safety Checks.

-Hydrant Details.

...and other "non fire" services is part of the job in 2011.

Now-to be clear-these comments are NOT specifically reflective on the above cases...however, the above cases are excellent examples and warnings that NO fire department should rest on our laurels. We really need to be going out of our way daily for the public, the elected officials and the media to make sure THEY fully understand the good we are doing. We should conduct an **FDSI** (a **Fire Department Survival Inventory**) to show **all** our FD is doing-and how we are communicating all of that outstanding "value" to the "customers"--as well as us honestly looking at what services "other" FD's are providing-and asking why "we" are not providing those services as well. Conducting an **FDSI** (and planning to implement the needed changes) will help City Hall dwellers, Management/Labor leaders, Chiefs, Officers and Firefighters understand how "needed" they/we are in the community-and how loud the community will or will not "scream" if anyone "dares" to touch THEIR fire department. An **FDSI** allows us to compare priorities, time availability, staffing and run volume against the additional "customer" services we may need to implement to bring the most "value" of the FD to the public. An FDSI isn't a fireground survival tool-it's an fire department organizational survival tool.

The other option is that we can just do nothing, be sitting ducks and simply await the hits-because in 2011, they are coming-right or wrong, factual or not, fair or unfair-as we are being targeted like never before.

**Mission: Give Them Nothing To Shoot At.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL-Happy Fathers Day.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-19-11 / 1257 Hours

**AND:**

## **2 FLORIDA DIVISION OF FORESTRY FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

We regret to advise you that 2 Florida Division of Forestry Firefighters died and two others were injured in the Line of Duty in Hamilton County (Florida) this evening. The Firefighters were fighting the Blue Ribbon Fire and reports are that they were overrun by the fire while cutting fire lines. One of the injured firefighters went to the Lake City Hospital (and has reportedly been released) while the other went to Shands Gainesville for treatment of smoke-related injuries. The Blue Ribbon Fire started on June 16, 2011. The fire had previously been declared contained, but recent extreme fire weather caused the fire to flare up again today. The local field unit has been actively working the fire since this afternoon. We'll post more as it is available, as always our sincere condolences to all affected. **VIDEO HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3zee3a3>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
The Secret List 6-20-11 / 1145 Hours

### **AND:**

## **ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WALL COLLAPSE AT STRUCTURAL FIRE**

It's with deep regret that we advise you that the Du Quoin (IL) Firefighter who suffered injuries after a wall collapsed on him while operating at a multi alarm Pinckneyville, Illinois business fire late this afternoon, has now died in the Line of Duty. **22 year old Firefighter Corey Shaw was reportedly on a ladder when the collapse occurred. Corey is the son of Du Quoin Fire Chief Bob Shaw.** He was first taken to a Pinckneyville hospital then flown to a St. Louis hospital for treatment. Pinckneyville is about 70 miles southeast of St. Louis, MO. Firefighters were still working six hours after the fire started. The fire started at the Antique Mall about 1530 hours Friday and vacant Kunz Opera House adjacent to the business also caught fire. As always, our most sincere condolences-much more to follow. **VIDEO & PHOTOS on our home page.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 0111 hours 6/18/11

### **AND:**

Hey,

As we continue to see the LODD numbers dropping, it is no secret that TRAINING is a main ingredient to minimizing fire fighter injury and death. While we will not be able to totally eliminate fire fighter death and injury (because of the fact that there will be times where we must place our personnel in extreme but necessary risk in order to attempt to save a life) those incidents are not as frequent. Even though they are not frequent, we must respond to every reported structural fire with the well trained resources, staffing and command/control leadership to match the reported situation, with the ability to make the rescue-if the conditions indicate the need. As we have seen in just the last 10 days, things can and do turn horrific for a variety of reason.

These days, "THE NEW PUBLIC" (the 2011's taxpayers mind set are a lot different than 10 years ago) aggressively want to know what they get for their tax dollars. Chiefs also have responsibility to honestly and without "fluff" make sure "THE NEW PUBLIC" (including city hall dwellers) fully understand what we generally can do-and what we cannot do, based upon available funding. A simple example is that if you "had" 30 fire-fighters on your first alarm in the past, all arriving within 7 minutes, and due to city hall cuts, you now have 15 fire fighters in 10 minutes, it is impossible for you and your members to provide service as expected previously. **Simple math. No emotion. Just the way it is.**

Forward thinking fire chiefs understand that fire service collaborative's, sharing resources, automatic

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mutual aid, mergers when applicable, tougher building and sprinkler codes and other creative thinking can sometimes help minimize the challenges. The most basic ingredient of fire service delivery (but the most important) are the one's who get the job done: our fire fighters and our company officers. While you can have a great chief (your definition) -but without great company officers who carry out the mission with discipline and fire fighters getting the job done with equal respect and discipline, you are like a great football coach without a winning team.

With it being fire fighter survival **SAFETY WEEK 2011**, TRAINING is a major focus of any fire chief wanting their members to succeed at structural fires. Structural fire survival is the theme and focus for 2011. As you have seen, the IAFC has again partnered with numerous national fire service organizations, and, of course, the IAFF. The IAFF (working with representatives from the IAFC, USFA and NIOSH) took the lead in the development of a program focused on this year's theme: FIREGROUND SURVIVAL. NOTE: The program is available to all fire fighters, volunteer or career. This new program is the most comprehensive survival skills and MAYDAY prevention program currently available within the fire service. Incorporating federal regulations, proven incident management best practices and survival techniques from field veterans, and real case studies from experienced fire fighters, the FGS program aims to educate all fire fighters to be prepared if the unfortunate happens. IAFF Fire Ground Survival instructors will provide participating fire departments with the skills they need to improve situational awareness and prevent a MAYDAY.

The IAFF began developing the program in December 2007 to ensure that training for MAYDAY prevention and MAYDAY operations are consistent between all fire fighters, company officers and chiefs. This comprehensive training program applies the lessons learned from fire fighter fatality investigations conducted by the NIOSH and was developed by a committee of subject matter experts from the IAFF, the IAFC and NIOSH. **(Link to the program below)**. To be clear: Fire Chiefs are responsible to find out who is training their fire fighters and WHAT they are being taught. In the above program, years of researching using veteran subject matter experts provide a diverse range of ideas and input along with seasoned veteran fire officers, resulting in a qualified program a chief can be confident in. But what about "other" training opportunities that are "out there" ?

In the last several years, there are numerous fire fighters and fire officers who offer "hands on" training at or near your location. **Now, make no mistake about it, most of the programs are EXCELLENT and amongst the best you can get.** Programs that are taught by veteran senior fire officers with decades of fireground as well as command experience who fully understand the "big picture" when training fire fighters. However, unfortunately, there are also programs where those who are "instructing" have yet to ride the front seat of their rig, not to mention command a working incident at their department. Is that important?

That's up to you Chief.

**Here are a few thoughts and/or questions you may want to apply when providing direction on WHO you want training your fire fighters in "hands on" programs-and on WHAT:**

- What is the focus, goals and objectives of the training program?
- Are they teaching your fire fighters operations based upon recognized national standards?
- Do they test and/or certify the attendees at the conclusion of the training?
- Are they teaching what you want taught and performed on your fireground, or are they teaching what they do on their own fireground? Make sure what they teach matches what your FD does, or what you want done.
- Are they asking you-well before they arrive to do your training-for copies of YOUR SOP's so that they can teach based upon your operational guidelines. Are they following that up with discussions with

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you to insure they are going to deliver what you expect?

-Are all of the instructors certified and qualified to teach what they are teaching?

-Are they instructors at and for their own FD's? Do they teach what they are teaching your folks, at their own FD's?

-Are references provided from other Chiefs regarding their satisfaction with the program?

-Who "owns" any problems that may occur during the training be it fire fighter injury, fire fighter death, personnel matters or related issues?

-Are all of the instructors "clean" and adhering to your FD's standard of substance free operations?

-Have all of the participating instructors successfully passed current police background checks?

Big deal? Not until something goes wrong. What can go wrong? Take a look:

<http://tinyurl.com/3o7dnz9>

Some of the above questions may seem like a big stretch-and may be easy to ignore-until something goes wrong. Without question, as we said, there are some phenomenal programs out there lead and taught by some of the best hands on fire instructors in the business. Instructors that provide hands on training that "match" the needs of your department. However, there are also programs that teach fire fighters techniques and tactics that may/may not work well where they operate, but would not work well in your community. How do you know which programs to pick? Can you sit back, with confidence, knowing your personnel are receiving the best and most applicable training from the most qualified instructors? That's up to you, but asking the questions couldn't (or shouldn't) hurt.

**HERE is the Fireground Survival Program Information:**

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/fgs/fgsindex.htm>

**HERE is IAFC/IAFF SAFETY WEEK INFORMATION:**

<http://www.iafc.org/safetyweek>

### **FLORIDA LINE OF DUTY DEATH UPDATE:**

The 2 Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty yesterday have been identified.

Forest Ranger Josh Burch, 31 and Brett Fulton, 52, both died in the Line of Duty last night while fighting the Blue Ribbon Fire in Hamilton County. The fire had been contained, but flared up again yesterday; Firefighters had been working on the fire since Monday afternoon. Forest Rangers Fulton and Burch were killed when their position was overrun by flames while conducting tractor plow/fire line cutting operations. **FR Burch had worked for the Division of Forestry for more than 10 years and was a forest ranger. He was married with two children. FR Fulton worked for DOF for 12 years and had been a forest ranger for most of that time. He was married with two children.** Robert Marvin and Stephen Carpenter were taken to Lake City Hospital and Shands Gainesville to be treated for smoke-related injuries, then released last night. More updates will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-21-11 / 1156 Hours

### **AND:**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA FF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

We regret to advise you that Assistant Chief Robin Erlic West of the Startex Fire Department (Spartanburg, SC) has died in the Line of Duty. On Saturday, June 18, Assistant Chief West responded to an electrical fire in a private residence in addition to multiple alarms associated with a severe storm system that passed through the area in the afternoon. Upon his return home, Chief West was not feeling well and EMS units were summoned to his house to transport him to the hospital where he was evaluated and released early the following day. Approximately three hours after

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returning home, Assistant Chief West was discovered by family members having passed away from a cause still to be determined. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

**UPDATE: FLORIDA DOUBLE LINE OF DUTY DEATH - DOF PRELIMINARY REPORT**

This initial summary from the Florida DOF is intended to provide factual information from the first 24 hours of their incident review.

**Synopsis-** The following information is a preliminary summary of a burnover resulting in two fatalities and two injuries that occurred while conducting wildland fire suppression activities in Hamilton County within the Florida Division of Forestry's Suwannee Forestry Center.

**Narrative-** At approximately 1455 hours on June 20, 2011, there was a break-out on the Blue Ribbon Fire in Hamilton County, which originally started on June 16, 2011. Initial responding units to this break-out consisted of one fire supervisor, two Type 6 engines, four Type 2 enclosed cab Tractor/Plow units and one Type 3 open cab Tractor Plow unit. At approximately 1630 hours, radio contact was lost with two of the Tractor/Plow units (one Type 2 and the one Type 3). **The Type 3 Tractor/Plow unit became stumped in a hardwood cut-over dry swamp. One of the Type 2 Tractor/Plow units came to assist and became hung up in the process as well. With the fire approaching, the two operators left their units on foot and both were overtaken by fire shortly after where they both lost their lives in the Line of Duty.** In addition, two others were injured (one engine operator and another Type 2 Tractor/Plow unit operator) in their attempt to rescue the operators who were burned over. Both were transported to area hospitals, treated and released the evening of June 20, 2011. Additional details will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-22-11 / 1636 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Numerous FD's are in the middle of SAFETY WEEK activities, focused on this years theme:

**SURVIVING THE FIREGROUND.** We thought you might be interested in what the largest fire department in North America is doing: **FDNY**. Actually, FDNY is the 2nd largest worldwide, after the Tokyo FD.

**FDNY has created a SAFETY WEEK "Surviving The Fireground" booklet that you can download on our home page (link below).**

This document is a great example of how FDNY's leadership "gets it" related to their members safety and survival and their relationship with the IAFC / IAFF for SAFETY WEEK 2011. While some uninformed may inappropriately "feel" FDNY isn't committed to their members safety, health and survival from years gone by, the proof is in the pudding. Actually, nothing could be further from the truth.

***"....those who don't get it-soon will-because they have never had to inform a Mom that her son was killed in the line of duty, especially when it could have been avoided...."***

Powerful words related to the importance of his members survival, from a few years ago from then Chief of Dept Sal Cassano (now Commissioner) -words that some of you can relate to, from a Chief who has unfortunately "been there and done that"...but one, along with his department leadership and membership that are determined to minimize the loss. It's another example of a FD leadership that "gets it"- while still being a very effective "firefighting" department. They have approximately 11,080 fire officers and fire fighters and over 3,300 EMTs and paramedics responding to anything you can imagine - with 198 engines, 143 ladders, a couple dozen "special" units, 600+

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FDNY-EMS daily average tours with units answering 507,000 fire related runs and 1,261,993 EMS runs annually. **So if they can do it.....**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-23-11 / 0700 Hours

[www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com) ( <----CLICK and go to our DAILY NEWS on the home page for the FDNY Safety Week "Surviving The Fireground" Download)

**AND:**

**DALLAS FF LODD-FOUND IN THE FIREHOUSE**

A Dallas (TX) fire fighter has died after he was found unresponsive. The 32 year-old fire fighter was attached to Fire Station 49. Reports indicate other fire fighters found him this morning and performed CPR, ALS etc. The FF was transported to Methodist Charlton Medical Center where he later died. The cause of death has not been released. Dallas Fire-Rescue Chief Eddie Burns said he will release a statement this afternoon in reference to this situation, and we'll post more on our home page. As always, our sincere condolences.

**NO COST ON-LINE FIRE FIGHTER DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM**

Vehicle crashes are consistently a major cause of Fire Fighter Line of Duty deaths each year. Hundreds more are injured while responding to or returning from an incident. Recognizing that more needs to be done to educate fire fighters and EMT's about vehicle safety, The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) has partnered with McNeil & Company and its ESIP Program to create a new campaign/training program designed to increase safe vehicle operations among **ALL fire fighters and EMS personnel** and provide training to STOP preventable injury and death from vehicle accidents.

The new STOP campaign reinforces that Safety Tops Our Priorities. The first training in the program - *STOP: Seatbelts Top Our Priorities* - is now available at **NO COST** online for **ANY FD** at <http://training.mcneilandcompany.com> (access code 6832). The **FREE** 30-minute training module focuses on vehicle safety with an emphasis on seatbelt use. **With Fire/EMS Safety, Health, and Survival Week** in progress and proper seatbelt use one of the NVFC's [Health and Safety Priorities for the Fire Service](#), now is the perfect time to implement this training in your department.

Every year, 25 percent of on-duty fire fighter fatalities are caused by vehicle crashes. According to the National Fire Protection Association, **nearly 1,000 fire fighters were injured in vehicle accidents in 2009 either in department apparatus or in personal vehicles responding to or returning from incidents.**

**STOP: Seatbelts Top Our Priorities** is a training module delivered through an online platform hosted by McNeil and Company's Emergency Services Insurance Program (ESIP) and presented by Chief David Denniston, Client Education and Training Manager. Departments can incorporate the STOP program as part of their training activities to educate their members about vehicle safety and reduce the risk of fire fighter and EMT death and injury from vehicle accidents. STOP contains completion tracking capabilities so departments can ensure their members have completed the course, and certificates of successful completion can be printed once individuals have finished the training. Training officers may contact the NVFC for a report of all their members who have completed the training.

**CLICK HERE (or above) FOR THE ON LINE TRAINING PROGRAM:** <http://tinyurl.com/6dfdygy>

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If you experience any difficulties accessing the training, please contact Heather Fredenburg at [hfredenburg@mcneilandcompany.com](mailto:hfredenburg@mcneilandcompany.com) or 800-822-3747 Ext. 524. Stay tuned for information about additional STOP training modules from the NVFC at: [www.NVFC.org](http://www.NVFC.org).

**NOTE:** While this is a great opportunity, it should be used as a part of a comprehensive fire and emergency services hands on / classroom driver program.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-23-11 / 1200 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

An Oden Ridge (AL) fire rig drove through a house while responding on a run yesterday afternoon and some folks are questioning the **age** of the apparatus driver. Firefighter Ben Cahela, 18, was driving the apparatus when he overcorrected, leaving the road into the direction of the home. Firefighter Jessica Bullard, 19, was the other FF in the truck. Both were wearing seatbelts and were transported to Decatur General Hospital for treatment of injuries. The apparatus flipped several times before coming to a rest inside the living room. No one was home at the time except for a pest control worker. Homeowner Rita Williamson (and family) found out about the crash when she was told that a fire truck went through her house. The mother and son say they were told a 19-year-old was driving the truck. Local media reports that she stated: **"In my opinion, I do not think a 19-year-old is qualified to drive a fire truck to any circumstance as a call."** They also say officials told them there had been a number of false alarms and prank calls made by someone who stole a firefighter's radio. "It is sad. I am sure it was some kid. I do not know how they figured that this was funny making false calls like that because it's not," added Ms. Williamson. **Maybe it's the age?...maybe it's the training. Fortunately they were belted in.**

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER FUNERALS ANNOUNCED** Funerals have been set for Friday and Saturday for two state Division of Forestry Firefighters who died in the Line of Duty Monday while working to control that fire in Hamilton County. The funeral for Josh Burch, 31, will be Friday at 10 a.m. at Christ Central Ministries Church at 217 SW Dyal Road in Lake City. A graveside service will follow the funeral at Gateway Forest Lawn Cemetery, 3596 S. U.S. 441. The funeral for Brett Fulton, 52, will be Saturday at 10 a.m., also at Christ Central Ministries Church. The men died at the Blue Ribbon Fire, a 12-acre blaze in Hamilton County, when they were caught in a burn over. The state is investigating the circumstances that led to their deaths. Two other fire fighters who tried to rescue them were treated at hospitals in Gainesville and Lake City for smoke inhalation. Letters of condolence on behalf of the families of Burch and Fulton can be sent to: Director Jim Karels, Division of Forestry, 125 Conner Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-23-11 / 1609 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The Texas State Fire Marshals Office has released an excellent comprehensive report on the Line of Duty Death of Wharton VFD Captain Thomas Araguz III, who was killed during firefighting operations at that egg production and processing facility on July 3rd, 2010. We are posting the findings first, as a sort of "check list" that can be used to benefit any of our FD's and honor the loss of Captain Araguz by us all learning. **If you don't read the entire report, at least read the list of findings (below) as a template for ANY FD's operations.**

**HERE ARE THE FINDINGS:**

**=FINDING 1:**

**There were no lives to save in the building.** An inadequate water supply, lack of fire protection systems in the structure to assist in controlling the spread of the smoke and fire, and the heavy fire near the windward side facilitated smoke and fire spread further into the interior and toward "A" side operations. Along with the size of the building, the large fuel load, and the time period from fire discovery, interior firefighters were at increased risk.

**=FINDING 2:**

Initial crews **failed to perform a 360-degree scene size-up** and did not secure the utilities before operations began.

**=FINDING 3:**

The Incident Commander **failed to maintain an adequate span of control** for the type of incident. Safety, personnel accountability, staging of resources, and firefighting operations require additional supervision for the scope of incident. Radio recordings and interview statements indicate the IC performing several functions including: Command, Safety, Staging, Division A Operations, Interior Operations and Scene Security.

**=FINDING 4:**

The interior fire team advanced into the building **prior to the establishment of a rapid intervention crew.**

**=FINDING 5:**

The interior team and Incident Commander **did not verify the correct operation of communications equipment** before entering the IDLH atmosphere and subsequently did not maintain communications between the interior crew and Command. Although Chief Barnett stated he communicated with Captain Cano, there was no contact with Captain Araguz.

**=FINDING 6:**

The interior operating crew **did not practice effective air management techniques** for the size and complexity of the structure. Interviews indicate the crew expended breathing air while attempting to breach an exterior wall for approximately 10 minutes, then advanced a hose line into a 15,000 square feet room without monitoring their air supply. During interviews Captain Cano estimated his consumption limit at 15 - 20 minutes on a 45 minute SCBA.

**=FINDING 7:**

Captains Araguz and Cano **became separated from their hoseline.** While it is unclear as to the reason they became separated from the hose line, interviews with Captain Cano indicate that while he was finding an exterior wall and took actions to alert the exterior by banging and kicking the wall, he lost contact with Captain Araguz. **\*\*Captain Cano credits his survival to the actions he learned from recent Mayday, Firefighter Safety training.**

**INCIDENT SUMMARY:**

On July 3rd, 2011, At 9:41 PM, Wharton County Sheriff's Office 911 received a report of a fire at the Maxim Egg Farm located at 3307 FM 442, Boling, Texas. Boling VFD and the Wharton VFD responded first, arriving approximately 12 minutes after dispatch. Eventually, more than 30 fire departments with 100 apparatus and more than 150 personnel responded. Some departments came as far as 60 miles to assist in fighting the fire. The fire involved the egg processing building, including the storage areas holding stacked pallets of foam, plastic, and cardboard egg cartons and boxes. It

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was a large windowless, limited access structure with large open areas totaling over 58,000 square feet. A mixed construction, it included a two-story business office, the egg processing plant, storage areas, coolers, and shipping docks. It was primarily metal frame construction with metal siding and roofing on a concrete slab foundation with some areas using wood framing for the roof structure.

Captain Araguz responded to the scene from the Wharton Firehouse, approximately 20 miles from the fire scene, arriving to the front, south side main entrance 20 minutes after dispatch. Captain Araguz, Captain Juan Cano, and Firefighter Paul Maldonado advanced a line through the main entrance and along the south, interior wall to doors leading to a storage area at the Southeast corner. Maldonado fed hose at the entry door as Captains Araguz and Cano advanced through the processing room. Araguz and Cano became separated from the hose line and then each other. Captain Cano found an exterior wall and began kicking and hitting the wall as his air supply ran out. Firefighters cut through the exterior metal wall at the location of the knocking and pulled him out. Several attempts were made to locate Captain Araguz including entering the building through the hole and cutting an additional hole in the exterior wall where Cano believed Araguz was located. Fire conditions eventually drove the rescuers back and defensive firefighting operations were initiated.

Captain Cano was transported to the Gulf Coast Medical Center where he was treated and released. Captain Araguz was recovered at 7:40 AM, the following morning. Initially transported by ambulance to the Wharton Funeral Home then taken to the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office in Austin, Texas for a post-mortem examination.

**HERE is the ENTIRE Report:** <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/reports/fire/documents/fmloddaraguz.pdf>

As you may recall, there has been significant controversy related to the benefit claims and family members of Captain Araguz.

**MORE ABOUT THAT HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/685kv4n>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-25-11 / 2210 Hours

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

**AND:**

Hey,

We are saddened to pass the information of these 3 losses along to you:

**PHILADELPHIA:**

FF John (Jack) Slivinski Jr., the Philadelphia Firefighter who became well known outside of PFD circles because as he had posed shirtless for a charity calendar, was tragically found dead at his home yesterday. Police and colleagues said the cause was suicide. FF Slivinski, 31, a former Marine who followed his father into the department, was praised Sunday as a gutsy Firefighter who won a spot on the department's elite rescue unit. "If you or your family members were in danger, this was the kid you'd want showing up at your house," said Mike Kane, an executive board member at Firefighters Union Local 22. RIP.

**TEXAS:**

Hon Chief Garrett Christopher Hall, son of Melissa and FF Chris Hall, nephew of Captain John Hall, and an Honorary Chief of Department (Needham, Texas) passed away June 23, 2001. This young man was 5 yrs old fighting a brain tumor and cancer. Garrett was named honorary fire chief. Visitation 5-8pm Wednesday, June 29, at Klein Funeral Home Magnolia. Funeral 2pm Thursday, June

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30, at Champion Cowboy Church in Hockley and burial at Klein Memorial Park Magnolia. RIP. **More Here:** <http://welovegarett.com/>

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Former Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner Chet Henry passed away at 0230 hours yesterday, Saturday, June 25. His wife Sandy and niece Marilyn were with him at the time. Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, State Street, Harrisburg, at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 9. He served as a firefighter and worked his way up to Chief for the City of Harrisburg (PA) and was the first Pennsylvania Fire Commissioner serving from 1977 to 1989. Chet was very active in the "old" ISFSI back in the 70's and 80's and was a true gentleman. He was also very innovative and brought some interesting changes to the HFD-such as the "blitz" boxes. which were plywood boxes on the engine companies. Chet was a Battalion Chief and was promoted to Assistant Chief in charge of Training in September, 1967. At that time he was sent abroad and attended numerous big city department training schools. During '68 and '69 when the War Years erupted in Harrisburg, he made some major changes to the way they operated at fires. Thus preconnects and blitz boxes were born. The original blitz boxes were about 3'-6" wide and about 6' long and sat transverse across a pumper above the pump panel. They were about 2' high. Each box was built with permanent plywood dividers and held four-150' inch and a half crosslays and two-150' two and a half crosslays. Two 1-1/2" and one 2-1/2" lines came off either side. All were preconnected to the discharges on the pump panels of either side. None had connections within the box itself. It was a great way to adapt and innovate and now you could use one engine at the scene of a fire and one supplying instead of a lot of rigs. It was the forerunner of all the modern engines that now have crosslays. The "boxes" were just one of many ways that "Chet" made such a positive difference to the Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania and the North American fire service. **RIP.**

(Thanks to the forums of [www.CentralPAFire.com](http://www.CentralPAFire.com) and <http://tinyurl.com/6hefr2g> for some details)

**FIREHOUSE EXPO IS COMING UP-Registered Yet?**

July 19-23, 2011 Baltimore, Maryland On The 10th Anniversary of 9/11, Firehouse 2011 Is a Tribute to America's Bravest. **Keynote by Salvatore J. Cassano, Fire Commissioner, FDNY**  
**Presentation by David Handschuh, NY Daily News** Photographer who ended up buried....  
**Presentation by Jay Jonas, Deputy Chief, FDNY** Jonas and five of his firefighters from Ladder 6, based in Chinatown, had been on the 27th floor of the North Tower when they heard a rumble...

**NEW FEATURE** For 2011-Free presentations for all attendees, located at the rear of the 300 aisle:

[http://firehouseexpo.com/speaker\\_showcase.html](http://firehouseexpo.com/speaker_showcase.html)

**FIREHOUSE EXPO PROGRAM:** <http://firehouseexpo.com/z-pdf/2011/FHE11-Conference-at-a-Glance.pdf>

**ALL INFORMATION HERE:** <http://firehouseexpo.com/>

Take Care, Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-26-11 / 2103 Hours

**AND:**

**NOTE: The National (US) Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**  
**Canadian Suicide Services Are HERE:** <http://suicidehotlines.com/canada.html>

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Hey,

As you read yesterday, Philadelphia Firefighter John "Jack" Slivinski Jr. lost his life to suicide. A beloved Firefighter, he had followed his father into PFD's Rescue 1, but on Saturday, the former Marine was found dead. He was found, reportedly, by his father, Jack Sr, who is still an active Firefighter. Jack Sr also had served in Rescue 1, and the son slept in his old bunk. Word is that they

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

were inseparable. They did everything together. In 2004, a friend of Slivinski's, Lt. Derrick Harvey, died when he went into a house fire to help Slivinski and another Firefighter. A friend said Slivinski kept a small memorial to Harvey in his home, using Harvey's helmet. Besides his Dad, he is survived by his wife, Carla; his mother, Gerry; and a sister, Jennifer Wysocki. In our area (greater Cincinnati) we also had a young and very promising Firefighter/Paramedic take his own life last week. The young Firefighter was dealing with some personal issues and, for reasons that perhaps we'll never know, took his own life. He too was "close" to an actual Line of Duty death issue as was FF Slivinski, in Philadelphia.

Suicide is a very real issue in our service-but one we struggle to talk about, reach out about-or certainly even deal with personally. But it is very real. It may be easy to suggest people "suck it up" - but it's not that simple. Whatever the issue is, it is **their** issue, not ours or yours-but one we can sometimes help with when we sense "something" is wrong. Suicide is pretty subjective, in other words, what may be a "life ending" consideration for some people may be something that you and I may be able to blow off. It all depends on how we each cope with "stuff", the reasons are as different as people are different - but without question, it is an issue in our business.

**For example, 4 Phoenix Firefighters took their own lives in a 7 month period:**

<http://tinyurl.com/2aqbj8>

**Here is a USA Today article on rescuer suicide:**

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-09-22-legacy-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-09-22-legacy-usat_x.htm)

**HERE is information from the IAFF on SUICIDE:**

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

So who knows what happens to cause suicide? We certainly don't. But what we do know is that there is help out there. We also know that in this extremely "busy" world, it may be easy to miss signs-if there are any. It may also be nearly impossible for those contemplating taking their own life to reach out, when they think those who care are simply too busy. They don't want to bother you. They don't want to be a burden. They...whatever. Look, I am about as far removed from being a mental health professional as they come. But I do know folks who do know. They have very personally been there. They can help. They have time.

**We have tried to raise the issue and provide some level of support on our Fire Fighter Close Calls PERSONAL SURVIVAL Page, which is coordinated by Chief Pat Kenny.**

**FIRST READ PAT's STORY HERE:** <http://firechief.com/health-safety/ar/fathers-grief-0209/>

**HERE is the FFCC page information:**

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/116712>

**HERE are the actual FFCC page and articles:** <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/personal-survival.php>

**HERE is the National Website:** <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

#### **WHAT ELSE IS BEING DONE, ON A NATIONAL LEVEL?**

The NFFF is hosting an invitation only (due to logistics) symposium on suicide (and related mental health) in the fire service on July 12th and 13th in Baltimore Md. The nation's leading researchers/practitioners will be in attendance including representatives of the following fire and EMS organizations:

International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO

International Association of Fire Chiefs

National Volunteer Fire Council

National Associations of EMS Physicians

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National Fire Protection Association  
North American Fire Training Directors  
Women in Fire and Emergency Services  
National Association of Fire Chaplains

Forward progress by great folks who will certainly share all they come up with, so we can all learn.

Again, **The National (US) Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**  
**Canadian Suicide Services Are HERE:** <http://suicidehotlines.com/canada.html>  
**HERE** is the National Website: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

**REMEMBERING BOSTON FIRE LIEUTENANT STEVE MINEHAN**

June 24, 1994 Boston Fire Lieutenant Steve Minehan of Ladder 15 died in the line of duty while rescuing 2 Firefighters from a burning warehouse at box 4113. During the rescue, which saved 2 firefighters, Steve was separated from his company and died in the fire. **HERE** is more about Steve, his life, and his Line of Duty Death: <http://tinyurl.com/5srqhb>  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 6-27-11 / 1315 Hours

**AND:**

**WASHINGTON FIRE CHIEF DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL**

We regret to advise you that the Fire Chief in the small town of Mossyrock (Lewis County, WA) has died in the Line of Duty. Chief Matt Hadaller suffered a yet undetermined medical problem at his home while on-duty, on-call on last night He was taken to Morton General Hospital, and while en route to the hospital he suffered a cardiac arrest. Fire District 3 personnel and Morton General Hospital's Emergency Department staff made a valiant effort to revive him, but sadly were unsuccessful. Services are scheduled for Saturday July 2, 2011, at the Mossyrock High School Football field, where Chief Hadaller had played quarterback for the Vikings' football team. As always, our sincere condolences. RIP.

**INDIANA FIRE CHIEF DUI KILLS CIVILIAN**

A western Indiana Fire Chief is being held on a preliminary drunken driving charge after his car crashed into a house, killing a man and critically injuring his wife. 43-year-old Stacey Williamson was DOA at the scene of this mornings crash. His 46-year-old wife, Mary Williamson, was in critical condition at the hospital. Mecca (IN) Fire Chief Michael R. Collom, 38, was driving a 2006 Ford Mustang when he lost control of the car about 0445 hours and crashed into the Williamson's home in the town of Mecca, entering their bedroom. Four children in the house were not injured. Chief Collom is being held without bail on a preliminary drunken driving charge.

**DOUBLE FATAL EMS CRASH IN OKLAHOMA**

Two people died this afternoon when the car they were riding in collided with an ambulance that was carrying a patient near Braggs OK. The EMT driving and patient were airlifted to a Tulsa hospital after suffering injuries in the crash. The crash happened about 1500 on State Highway 10 near Braggs, the two vehicles both had three occupants and collided head-on. 2 people in the car died and the third was airlifted to a Tulsa hospital in critical condition. The EMT driving the ambulance was in serious condition, the female patient in the back was in critical condition and A paramedic attending to the patient was taken to a Tahlequah hospital with non-life-threatening injuries

**FIREFIGHTERS DISCOVER DYNAMITE AT FIRE SCENE**

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

Firefighters operating at a large wildfire in south Georgia discovered 339 sticks of dynamite, and a U.S. Army bomb squad was called to detonate the explosives. The dynamite was found yesterday in a 1940's bunker-like structure near the pen that holds black bears at the Okefenokee Swamp Park, The dynamite was uncovered as firefighters prepared to conduct a back burn in the park area and were clearing out areas around the black bear pen when they came across the explosives. The park is about eight miles south of Waycross.

#### **UPDATE: FDNY DEUTSCHE BANK FIRE DOUBLE LODD**

Today a Manhattan jury cleared foreman Salvatore DePaola of charges that he should have known a crucial water standpipe was damaged in the former Deutsche Bank building at Ground Zero which caught fire in August 2007, killing 2 firefighters in the Line of Duty. The jury was still deliberating the case of Jeffrey Melofchik, the building site safety manager, who like DePaola was charged with manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide in the blaze. Also charged are the building's toxin cleanup director Mitchell Alvo and the Galt Corp., the subcontractor that employed Alvo and DePaola. They have chosen to have Judge Rena Uviller, not the jury, rule on their cases and the judge has not yet ruled. The jury found DePaola not guilty of all charges. Firefighters Robert Beddia, 53, and Joseph Graffagnino, 33, died in the Line of Duty of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning when they became trapped in the nine-floor fire. The defense argued that the construction managers removing asbestos could not have anticipated the circumstances that led to the firefighters' deaths. They had argued that if local government inspectors had repeatedly failed to identify a damaged water pipe in the basement, it was unreasonable to expect construction supervisors with less expertise to recognize the potential danger. The defense argued that the conditions were caused not by a lack of water but by a fan system that pulled smoke downward, leaving firefighters blind and disoriented.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-28-11 / 2147 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

A Tallahassee (Florida) fire apparatus was responding to an emergency call this evening and had its sirens and lights activated. As they responded, the truck ran into a motorcycle that was traveling south on White Drive and the motorcyclist did not survive the crash. We'll post more information on our home page.

#### **CONNECTICUT FIREFIGHTER DOUBLE LODD REPORT POSTED BY MEDIA**

The report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health report on the double LODD in Bridgeport (CT) last July has been posted and written about by a CT newspaper. Lt. Steven Velasquez and Firefighter Michel Baik died in the Line of Duty while operating in the third floor of the wood-frame home on Elmwood Ave. According to the media, the 60 page report identifies significant issues by the Bridgeport FD that may have led to their deaths. The report echoes the findings of an earlier one from the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration. But the NIOSH report goes into far greater detail concerning how the department responded to the fire and the factors that contributed to FF Baik's and Lt. Velasquez's deaths. According to the media interpretation of the NIOSH report, the 40-year-old Velasquez and the 49-year-old Baik, along with two other Firefighters, had been assigned to conduct a search for victims and hot spots on the third floor of the multifamily house. The fire already had been extinguished on the second floor. While the two were pulling the walls and ceiling on the third floor, the fire suddenly reignited. Velasquez transmitted a mayday that was not acknowledged or acted on. Minutes later, the incident commander ordered an evacuation of the third floor. As a Firefighter exited the third floor he discovered Lt. Velasquez sitting on the stairs

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unconscious and not breathing. FF Baik was found about seven minutes later on the third floor in heavy smoke conditions.

**HERE is more:**

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

<http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Report-Bridgeport-Fire-Department-faulted-in-1446033.php>

**HERE is the fire timeline:**

<http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Timeline-of-firefighters-response-1446537.php>

**We will post the report when it is officially released by NIOSH.**

**FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH REPORT: CHICAGO**

The Chicago Fire Department says a number of regulations, released Wednesday in a federal government report, were implemented within days of a firefighter's death. FF Christopher Wheatley died in the Line of Duty in August 2010 after falling 52 feet from a fire escape as he was trying to reach the roof of a restaurant burning on the 600 block of West Randolph Street. **"We must learn all we can from this," Fire Commissioner Robert Hoff said after Wheatley's death..... "We owe our fallen member nothing less."**

**HERE IS THE REPORT:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201025.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-30-11 / 0147 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Today we remember Hackensack (NJ) Fire Captain Williams, Lieutenant Reinhagen, and Firemen Kresja, Radumski, and Ennis were killed in the Line of Duty while fighting a fire at Hackensack Ford, on July 1, 1988.

**To the younger Firefighters on The Secret List and visitors to FireFighterCloseCalls.com, please take time to study this fire and also determine if your local "fire" library (department, academy, training center etc) has access to the old AMERICAN HEAT video and story on this fire. It is a "must see" study for all firefighters.**

These 6 men were in the structure, a bowstring truss building, when the roof suddenly collapsed. Williams, Kresja, and Radumski were killed instantly, and Reinhagen and Ennis, despite heroic rescue attempts, were trapped and died from carbon monoxide poisoning. This fire caused significant awareness and changes in many aspects of firefighting not only in Hackensack, but all of North America.

**(From the NFPA Report):**

5 Firefighters from the Hackensack, New Jersey, FD were killed in the Line of Duty while they were engaged in interior fire suppression efforts at an automobile dealership when portions of the building's wood bowstring truss roof suddenly collapsed. The incident occurred on Friday, July 1, 1988, at approximately 1500 hours., when they received the first of a series of telephone calls reporting "flames and smoke" coming from the roof of the Hackensack Ford Dealership. Two pumpers, a ladder truck, and a battalion chief responded to the first alarm assignment. The first arriving fire fighters observed a "heavy smoke condition" at the roof area of the building. Engine company crews investigated the source of the smoke inside the building while the truck company crew assessed conditions on the roof. For the next 20 minutes, the focus of the suppression effort was concentrated on these initial tactics. During this time, however, little headway appeared to have been made by the initial suppression efforts, and the magnitude of the fire continued to grow. The overall fire ground

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tactics were shifted to a more "defensive" posture (exterior operation) and the battalion chief gave the order to "back your lines out." However, before suppression crews could exit from the interior, a sudden partial collapse of the truss roof occurred, trapping six fire fighters. An intense fire immediately engulfed the area of the collapse. One trapped fire fighter was able to escape through an opening in the debris. The other five died as a result of the collapse.

This incident and an earlier similar incident at the Waldbaums supermarket fire in Brooklyn, New York, <http://stevespak.com/waldbaums.html> provide important lessons to the fire service regarding the fire ground hazards of wood truss roof assemblies.

### **ARTICLE:**

<http://tinyurl.com/339u4z9>

### **PHOTO/VIDEO:**

<http://www.cyberonic.net/~mikef6/p0000120.htm>

### **RESOURCES:**

<http://tinyurl.com/2uchtoq>

### **REMEMBERING GLOUCESTER CITY, N.J. TRIPLE LODD-July 4th, 2002**

On July 4th, 2002 at 0136 hrs., the Gloucester City FD along with auto-mutual aid including the Mt Ephraim FD was dispatched to 200 North Broadway in Gloucester City for a dwelling fire. Responding units were advised that occupants may be trapped. First arriving units were on the scene in less than three minutes and had heavy fire, burn victims and kids trapped. While Firefighters were operating an interior attack and rescue, a partial collapse of the structure occurred. An emergency evacuation signal was sounded and while that was happening, a much more substantial collapse occurred trapping 8 Firefighters. Additional rescue resources were requested, Firefighter accountability was initiated and rescue efforts continued. Five of the eight trapped Firefighters were rescued. But 3 Firefighters (see below) died in the Line of Duty and 3 children were killed. We remember James Sylvester, Fire Chief, Mount Ephraim FD. Sylvester, 31, a 17 year veteran, was survived by his wife, who was pregnant with the couple's first child. John West Deputy Chief, Mount Ephraim FD. West, 40, a 23-year veteran, was survived by his wife and three children. Thomas G. Stewart III, Career Firefighter, Gloucester City FD. Stewart, 30, a 13 year veteran, was survived by his fiancée and their son. Stewart publicly proposed to his girlfriend, just hours before the fire while they watched the city's fireworks from high atop a fire truck ladder at Gloucester City High School.

**HERE is the NIOSH REPORT:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200232.html>

**HERE is the NJ STATE REPORT:** <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs/gloucester.pdf>

### **OFF DUTY FIREFIGHTER WORKING HIS POLICE JOB KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

We regret to advise you that Kyle D. Pagerly, 28, functioning as a Police Officer, who was also a Firefighter, was killed in the Line of Duty. Kyle was a military police officer in the Balkans and Iraq and a Volunteer Firefighter for Spring Township. Officer Pagerly, a Berks County deputy sheriff working in the fugitive warrants division, was fatally shot Wednesday night in Albany Township with a semi-automatic AK-47 rifle by a man wanted by a joint state police-U.S. marshal's task force, authorities said. Pagerly is the first Berks deputy killed in the line of duty. The gunman, Matthew M. Connor, 25, dressed from head to toe in camouflage, was shot and killed by law enforcement officers near his home about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Pagerly, one of two K-9 officers in the sheriff's department, went with troopers, federal marshals and other deputies to look for Connor at his parents' house in the first block of Pine Swamp Road. Cops knew Connor recently had threatened to kill himself and others, that he was likely armed and inclined to provoke police so they would shoot him. RIP.

### **PA FIREFIGHTER CRASHES WHILE RESPONDING POV, OTHER CAR FLEES**

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

A Firefighter is in satisfactory condition at York Hospital Friday after being injured Thursday morning in a two-vehicle crash. FF David A. Miller, 29, was responding to an emergency call in his personal vehicle, a 2008 Chevy Cobalt. The driver of the second car, a 2003 Acura, fled the scene and must still be interviewed. Bean declined to say whether charges will be filed. FF Miller was trapped in his vehicle and had to be extricated and taken to the hospital. A female passenger in the Acura, who remained on the scene after the driver fled, was not injured.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **Seriously.**

BillyG

The Secret List 7-1-11 / 1322 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

Today we take time to remember the **14 Firefighters** who died in the Line of Duty during the fire run on the afternoon of July 6, 1994, on the South Canyon Fire in Colorado. The following Firefighters lost their lives in the Line of Duty: **Prineville Hotshots:** Firefighters Kathi Beck, Tamera Bickett, Scott Blecha, Levi Brinkley, Douglas Dunbar, Terri Hagen, Bonnie Holtby, Rob Johnson, Jon Kelso. **Missoula Smokejumpers:** Firefighters Don Mackey, Roger Roth, Jim Thrash. **Helitack:** Firefighters Robert Browning, Jr., Richard Tyler. **FULL DETAILS HERE:**

<http://www.coloradofirecamp.com/south-canyon-fire/index.htm>

#### **RELATED TO WILDLAND:**

There was a fire apparatus crash that we posted on Monday, that injured 9 Firefighters near Palmdale, CA. A U.S. Forest Service fire truck tumbled about 15 feet down an embankment and came to a rest on its side. 3 Firefighters were extricated from the wreckage by L.A. County firefighters and taken by ground ambulance and helicopters to area hospitals for treatment of injuries.

#### **FDNY UPDATE:**

A toxin-cleanup director and a company were **acquitted** today of manslaughter in an August 2007 blaze that killed two firefighters at a condemned bank tower at Ground Zero, **although the firm was convicted of a misdemeanor. The John Galt Corp. was convicted of second-degree reckless endangerment, the only conviction in the criminal case filed over the fire at the former Deutsche Bank building.** The judge acquitted worker Mitchel Alvo of all charges. Jurors had acquitted two other construction-company supervisors of all charges last week. The fire killed FDNY FF's Robert Beddia and Joseph P. Graffagnino and revealed poor regulation of the damaged building, which was being dismantled in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks.

#### **ARE YOU IN COMMAND?**

##### **WHAT Are The Qualifications? WHAT Are The Certifications? WHAT Are The Responsibilities?**

If you are one of those **FIRE OFFICERS** who took NIMS training and then tried to figure out how that related to your regular response to house, multi family dwelling and commercial/industrial fires, read on. Chief and Company Officers across North America have a common goal for the fire ground: making it safer and more effective. Chief Alan Brunacini and crew have made hazard zone management the priority and has collaborated with leading fire service instructors to host this 2.5 day conference. Your department is invited to benefit from information sharing and instruction directed towards effective hazard zone management during the 2nd Annual Brunacini's Hazard Zone Management Conference. Register now and join 99% of last year's attendees that said they would return.

**IF YOU respond on runs and are in a position to transmit on the radio that "you have command" or "are assuming COMMAND" -then this program is a MUST for you.**

FOR Information and registration at: [http://www.regonline.com/brunacinis\\_conference\\_2011](http://www.regonline.com/brunacinis_conference_2011)

**UPDATES AND NEW STUFF FROM THE NFFF:**

Here is # 2 in a series of EXCELLENT firefighter seatbelt videos.

THIS FF VIDEO is with NASCAR driver Joey Logano:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/NFFFTV#p/a/u/1/jFCOyCv5Mbg>

HERE is FF VIDEO # 1:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOfEsnvXSD8&feature=channel\\_video\\_title](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOfEsnvXSD8&feature=channel_video_title)

**MORE FF Seatbelt info:** [http://everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/news/2011/release\\_062911.html](http://everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/news/2011/release_062911.html)

**ARE YOU ATTENDING FIREHOUSE EXPO IN BALTIMORE?**

They are about a third of the way there in filling all 343 spots for the Firehouse Expo NFFF 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb. **Here's the link to find out MORE on how you can participate:**

<http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=964327>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-6-11 / 1806 Hours

**AND:**

We regret to inform you of the Line of Duty Death of Rochester, NY FF Walter E. Hauser. FF Houser passed away from serious injuries he suffered during a fire in 1981 at a McCurdy's Department Store fire in Midtown Plaza. More details will be posted on our homepage as they become available. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-7-11 / 1633 Hours

**AND:**

**TEXAS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND FIRE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Firefighter (who was airlifted this afternoon from the 337 Fire northwest of Mineral Wells TX) has now died in the Line of Duty. The 25-year-old was an out-of-state Firefighter working for the Texas Forest Service. Initial reports are that he was overcome by heat, leading to cardiac arrest and he died at the hospital at 1900 hours this evening. The fire began Monday west of State Highway 337 burning 1,200 acres and forcing the evacuation of people from 20 homes in the Coronado's Camp and Devil's Hollow areas. The fire is reported to be 50% contained. More details to follow, as always our most sincere condolences.

**2 OKLAHOMA FIREFIGHTERS & THEIR APPARATUS BURNED**

In Oklahoma, 2 Pocasset Firefighters were injured and the fire apparatus in which they were working was lost in a grass fire north of Chickasha this afternoon. The Firefighters were operating at a fire off of US 81 north of Chickasha when their truck was overtaken by the fire. The Firefighters were both taken to Grady Memorial Hospital for treatment of 2nd- and 3rd-degree burns. The injuries are serious but reported to not be life threatening. One of the injured Firefighters, Christie Rainey, is also the mayor of Pocasset. We wish them a quick recovery.

**ARSONIST WHO CRITICALLY BURNED FIREFIGHTERS IS NAILED, AND IN THE SLAMMER**

A Washington DC man has been charged with arson at several house fires in recent months, including an April fire that injured 5 DCFD Firefighters, some of them very severely. Arsonist Maurice

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

T. Dews, 26, was arrested yesterday after he reportedly set fire to a vacant house in Northeast Washington DC. Dew had been under investigation in a series of arsons at vacant houses in Maryland and DC in recent years. Although Arsonist Dews remains a suspect in those other fires, he has been charged in only 3 fires so far, all in DC, including the April 8 fire on 48th Place NE. One of the 5 D.C. Firefighters injured that morning, Chucky Ryan, suffered burns on about 30 percent of his body and has had several operations. FF Ramon Hounshell, who was also burned, has required multiple skin grafts-both are undergoing rehabilitation. FF Ryan also serves as the Fire Chief of the Riverdale VFD in nearby Prince Georges County, MD. Firefighters Theodore Douglas, Warren Deavers and Robert Alvarado also were injured in the April 8 fire but have since returned to duty. Dews has provided a videotaped statement to investigators in which he said he set a number of fires in vacant buildings in DC and Maryland. He was charged with one count of arson in each of those fires, said DCFD's Pete Piringer. Dews has called 911 to report several fires in recent years and has been seen standing in crowds watching buildings burn. His scheduled initial appearance in Court was postponed today, pending a psych evaluation.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-7-11 / 2150 Hours

### **AND:**

#### **KENTUCKY FIREFIGHTER/DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

We regret to advise you that a 32 year veteran Firefighter (and Deputy State Fire Marshal) with the Columbia-Adair County FD suffered an apparent heart attack and has now died in the Line of Duty. He was originally air lifted to a Louisville hospital after operating at the fire at a residence on KY 206 on June 30th. Forty-nine-year-old Charles "Sparky" Sparks, a 32-year veteran of the CACFD who works as a Deputy State Fire Marshall, and also a well known State Fire Instructor, suffered the heart attack and went into sudden cardiac arrest while inside the burning structure. His fellow volunteer firemen used CPR and AED on Sparks until the Adair County EMS arrived on the scene. He was transported to Westlake Regional Hospital and then airlifted by Air Evac to Norton's Audubon Hospital in Louisville. FF Sparks was 49 years old and survived by his wife, Tammy, and 15 year old son, Trent. The fire at which FF Sparks was stricken occurred around 0305 hours Thursday, June 30, at a dwelling located at 3043 Liberty Road. No one was at home at the time the fire occurred. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected in the loss of this well known Kentucky Firefighter.

#### **FORMER IAFC PRESIDENT PASSES**

We are saddened to let you know that Chief Doug Pollington, age 87, IAFC President in 1983 has passed away. Chief Pollington had a very productive life with the fire service, serving as the Cambridge Fire Chief and President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs. Margaret (Thomson), who was the love of his life for 67 years, died the day prior to his passing.

#### **A TRAGIC OFF DUTY FIREFIGHTER DEATH**

Texas Firefighter Shannon Stone from Brownwood City, was attending a ball game game between Texas Rangers and Oakland Athletics last night, with his son. A tragic accident happened during the second inning following a foul ball by Oakland's Connor Jackson which bounced into left field. Reports are that FF Stone fell about 20 feet after trying to catch the ball. He was reportedly conscious immediately after the fall, however went into full arrest while being transported by EMS. He was pronounced dead in Fort Worth hospital one hour after the accident. Our condolences to all affected. As you may remember, Firefighter Tyler Morris (Lake Cities FD, Texas) fractured his skull a year ago at the same ball field, following a similar fall as well.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-8-11/ 1000 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A patient who was being taken by ambulance to Citizen's Memorial Hospital in Bolivar (MO) died today when the ambulance collided with a dump truck that crossed the centerline on Highway 32 about a mile east of Fair Play. The crash happened around 1320 hours. 3 EMT's from the Cox Health Ambulance and the truck driver, were airlifted to a Springfield hospital by 4 air ambulances. **The crash happened when some number of westbound vehicles on Mo. 32 slowed as the eastbound ambulance approached them. The westbound dump truck skidded and fishtailed out of control behind the other westbound vehicles and then collided with the ambulance.** The truck came to rest facing east. We'll update you on the EMT's conditions.

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY WHILE SERVING OUR COUNTRY**

We regret to advise you that Staff Sgt. Thomas J. Dodds Dudley, 29, of Tega Cay, S.C., died in the Line of Duty on July 7 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Marine Air Group 26, 2nd Marine Air Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, N.C. Staff Sgt Dudley was also a Firefighter with the Haws Run Volunteer Fire Department in Jacksonville, FL where he was stationed. As always our sincere condolences to all affected as we remember all who are serving in the military.

**REPORT: 2 RECENT FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS**

The 2 Florida Firefighters who died while operating at that fire in northeast Florida were blinded by excessive smoke and that the poor visibility hindered their ability to escape. The report also notes that interference on radio communication channels created some confusion as other firefighters fought unsuccessfully to somehow save their comrades who died in the June 20 wildfire in Hamilton County. **Firefighters Josh Burch of Lake City and Brett Fulton of White Springs were killed in the Line of Duty.** The report included several recommendations designed to avoid a similar incidents including:

- Evaluate strategy and tactics used as fire danger increases.
- Provide refresher training to firefighters on principles of LCES (lookouts, communications, escape routes and safety zones) and situational awareness.
- Review radio frequencies and ensure proper channel and procedures are known and understood.
- Evaluate benefits of Asset Tracker System and consider installation on all equipment.
- Evaluate work/rest ratio to ensure proper rest of fire personnel.
- Evaluate how fire shelters should be carried and stored on equipment.
- Pursue avenues for increased availability of aviation resources.

**INCIDENT FACTS:**

- Excessive smoke caused by the fire hindered visibility of crewmen operating tractors on the ground and the pilot monitoring the fire conditions from a fixed-wing aircraft.
- Difficult terrain and limited visibility due to smoke hindered the ability of firefighters to escape dangerous conditions.
- Traffic and interference on radio communication channels caused some confusion during the incident, though significant effort was made to resolve this issue.
- Fire shelters were not used by the two firefighters who were killed.

**HERE IS THE REPORT:** <http://tinyurl.com/3fbgg8c>

**SOUTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER STRUCK BY A BULLET - CLOSE CALL**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

An Anderson County FF with the Centerville FD, was hurt today when a bullet hit his foot while operating at a house fire. Heat from the fire caused a bullet to go off and hit the FF in the foot. The firefighter was bruised by the bullet and was taken to a hospital to be examined. We never know what's in there-no matter what's on fire.

**FEMA.....Re-Writing The "Disaster Response" Playbook:**

In a major shift at FEMA, they are reportedly looking beyond the information provided by professional first responders during an emergency, instead creating a two-way dialogue with the public, media and private sector to help provide quicker disaster assessments.

**HERE is the article:** <http://tinyurl.com/63znszh>

**\$\$\$ FREE MONEY FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING:**

True North, a manufacturer of bags, backpacks and fire resistant clothing, has announced their second 2011 Training Scholarship. **The scholarship provides an eligible Fire Department, Fire Academy or Organized Fire Training Group up to \$3,000 in training with On Scene Training Associates.**

The scholarship will provide a fire department up to \$3,000 for classroom and hands-on training with On Scene Training Associates at your station. **MORE HERE:**

[http://www.truenorthgear.com/scholarship\\_signup.php](http://www.truenorthgear.com/scholarship_signup.php) Applications are due by 7/25.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-8-11 / 2100 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**A New Jersey truck driver who killed a Firefighter on Interstate 90 near Haugan has been convicted of negligent homicide and negligent endangerment.** Yesterday, a jury convicted Sergey Buslayev for the Dec. 17, 2008, crash that killed 59-year-old FF Jerry Parrick of the West End VFD in Mineral County. Sentencing is scheduled for Sept. 9. FF Parrick was in his truck with his emergency lights flashing and was parked "nearly a foot" off the interstate's driving lane when the semi, which was traveling between 63 and 72 mph, slid and jackknifed on the snow covered road. Buslayev faces up to 21 years in prison on both charges.

**MISS. & OHIO FF's INJURED, 1 SERIOUSLY BURNED-EQUIPMENT BEING EYED:**

A Canton Firefighter was hospitalized, and equipment failure may be to blame, a state fire official said. 3 Firefighters were injured Wednesday afternoon at a fire in Canton and the injuries to two of the firefighters were relatively minor -- one had a twisted ankle and the other minor cuts and scrapes.

**But the third firefighter, Daniel Watkins, 28, fell inside the burning house and was unconscious, and was burned on his face and chest and suffered smoke inhalation. FF Watkins remained Friday in the intensive care unit at Baptist Hospital.**

**MORE HERE:** <http://www.wapt.com/news/28490720/detail.html#ixzz1RcZE4zl9>

**AND IN OHIO:**

A University Heights Firefighter is in the hospital with burns following a dwelling fire this morning. 5 people, including 3 kids, were inside the home at the time. All civilians were hospitalized as a precaution. A flashover inside the home is reported to have injured the Firefighter who remains in the hospital. Update to follow.

**PERSONAL USE OF FIRE ACT GRANT FUNDS?**

A Smith's Station (AL) Deputy Fire Chief has been indicted for allegedly using federal grant money on herself. Angelia Curran, is also a former city council woman and daughter of the current fire chief. Federal agents did not say how much money Curran is accused of stealing from the \$300,000 in grants. Federal investigators charged her with three counts of embezzling funds from FEMA grants. Curran is scheduled to be in a Montgomery courtroom next week for her charges. Wonderful.

**PA SUCCEEDS IN PASSING FIREFIGHTER CANCER PRESUMPTION IN SPITE OF POLITICS**

Well, as you know. The PA cancer bill was initially vetoed by PA's former governor, Ed Rendell who was pressured by municipal leaders. Many local city hall dwellers told elected officials and the public that this was a "bad" law. They claimed there is NO research that proves firefighters are at greater risk for cancers and **many are of the opinion** that it was partially because of the Tri-Data report published by the National League of Cities. As you'll recall a few years ago the report: "Assessing State Firefighter Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Firefighter Cancer Research," was study commissioned by the National League of Cities and compiled by Tri-Data Division. The "study" found no correlation between firefighters and cancer, said the report. NLC's press release on the report read, "There is no substantial scientific evidence that firefighters suffer higher cancer rates than the general population," and calls into question the "presumption laws" passed in 24 states that allow firefighters with cancer to collect workers' compensation without proving that they contracted the disease as a result of their job."

**HERE ARE THE FACTS FROM THE IAFF & IAFC:**

[http://www.iaff.org/Comm/PDFs/IAFF\\_IAFC\\_Cancer\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.iaff.org/Comm/PDFs/IAFF_IAFC_Cancer_Statement.pdf)

**Fortunately**, 20 years of consolidated and consistent effort and facts from Career and Volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania resulted in the long overdue passage of HB797 into law:

**MORE HERE:** <http://capwiz.com/pfesi/issues/alert/?alertid=51209976>

**AND LASTLY**, congrats to one of the "good guys", our friend Chief John Lightbody, of the Toms River (NJ) Twp. Bureau of Fire Prevention, retiring after 37 ½ years of service, as well as over 50 years in the fire service, both career and volunteer. Enjoy your "retirement" Chief!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-9-11 / 1153 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:**

**South Lane Fire & Rescue District (OR) officials say that unless they can figure out how to raise some fast cash, they may be forced to slash the district's work force in half next year. But there's a chance that the troubled fire district that serves 25,000 people in the Cottage Grove and Creswell areas will be a thing of the past by then. A projected budget shortfall for the fiscal year that begins in July 2012 has some district board members openly wondering if it's time to dissolve the eight-year-old district altogether:**

<http://www.registerguard.com/web/updates/26333483-46/district-fire-board-lane-south.html.csp>

Forty North Las Vegas (NV) firefighters have been given a thirty day notice that they'll be laid off, but there could be so much more at risk than just their individual jobs. If those firefighters go response times in North Las Vegas could also rise. There's still thirty days for both the city and the fire fighters union to reach some kind of an agreement to avoid this kind of mass lay off:

<http://www.ktnv.com/story/14901163/forty-firefighters-put-on-notice-theyll-be-laid-off-in-30-days>

The Seattle (WA) Mayor's Office is expected to ask the Seattle Fire Department to cut \$4.7 million from its budget Monday, which the Seattle Fire Fighters Union says will have ramifications on public safety. "Cuts of that magnitude would require cutting services to the citizens of Seattle," union president Kenny Stuart said. He said cutting almost \$5 million would require a big step, like closing a fire station or "brownouts," in which different fire stations are taken out of service on different says. Stuart said moves like that could mean residents would have to wait longer for help to arrive:

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/28288475/detail.html>

Even though city staffers say it would be impractical and expensive to reopen a closed fire station with volunteer firefighters, the Redding (CA) city councilman who first pitched the proposal isn't giving up on his idea. "If the county can do it, what's the reason the city could not?" asks Councilman Patrick Jones. At Tuesday's Redding City Council meeting, the council will hear a report from Redding Fire Chief Kevin Kreitman, who will present the challenges of staffing Redding's Fire Station 2 with volunteers. Last month, the council asked Kreitman to explore the possibility of using volunteers to bulk up fire protection in the city. That could range from opening the station to another agency or creating a volunteer auxiliary within the fire department: <http://www.redding.com/news/2011/jun/18/city-staff-reopening-fire-station-is-impractical/?partner=popular>

Property owners cheered when property taxes dropped twice in recent years, but a decline in revenue for the Hesperia (CA) Fire District may mean big cuts in staffing. Assistant City Manager Brian Johnson laid out the details of the proposed cuts at Tuesday's budget workshop, held at Hesperia City Hall. "Many of our homeowners are enjoying paying lower property taxes," he said, "but for us, it's a dangerous hit to our revenue." About 57 percent of the fire district's revenue comes from property tax. The district's property tax revenue dropped from \$4.3 million in the 2008-09 fiscal year to \$3.8 million in the 2010-11 year. City staff are estimating next year's property tax revenue is going to drop to \$3.7 million. Police and fire service are "what people pay taxes for," he said. "But right now, tax revenue is down." In the proposed budget outlined Tuesday afternoon, the city would cut 21.6 full-time employees, which breaks down as 20 full-time positions and one part-time position being cut. The 20 eliminations include cutting 11 currently vacant positions and nine firefighters. Those nine cuts will mean one less firefighter/paramedic on each truck per shift:

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/hesperia-28296-firefighter-lose.html>

Looking to pare back retirement costs in a tight budget year, the Los Angeles (CA) City Council voted Tuesday to freeze the amount of money provided for the healthcare of retired police officers and firefighters. On an 11 to 2 vote, the council approved an ordinance that caps the monthly healthcare subsidy at \$1,097 for retired sworn employees starting July 1. That ordinance, which will require a second vote in 30 days before it can go into effect, is part of a larger effort to persuade police officers and firefighters to contribute a portion of their salaries toward retiree healthcare costs: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/06/la-council-caps-health-care-subsidy-for-retired-cops-firefighters.html>

After earthquake concerns forced the temporary closure of one fire station, the Pasadena (CA) Fire Department has proposed shedding one person from each of its fire engine units in an effort to cut \$2 million from its operating budget. Fire Chief Dennis Downs said the \$2 million in cuts to the department's 2011-12 budget would be implemented by trimming the daily staffing level from 51 firefighters on duty to 46 citywide. The department averages nine positions that are vacant due to vacation or sick leave each day:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_18294670?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_18294670?nclick_check=1)

Norco (CA) City officials are planning layoffs for the fire department and in the parks and recreation department to help balance the 2011-12 budget. An animal control officer and a maintenance worker were served layoff notices in an effort to balance the city's \$13 million budget. The positions are expected to be staffed by realigning part-time positions and schedules, according to a city report. A firefighter and two paramedic firefighters are also expected to be laid off: <http://blogs.pe.com/news/digest/2011/06/norco-layoffs-and-park-closure.html>

Even if Palo Alto (CA) firefighters do offer up \$3.1 million in pay cuts and other concessions, the city says that wouldn't be enough to help dig it out of a financial hole. "I think that we'll be taking a closer look at their numbers, but I think the city would calculate the value of their offer differently than they have," City Manager James Keene said Thursday. He said the firefighters' offer on its surface doesn't go as far as those made by the city's other employee unions or address some of the city's longer-term budget problems. Union President Tony Spitaleri said firefighters offered to return raises they got in 2009, amounting to 4 percent for firefighters and engineers and 5 percent for captains and fire inspectors. In addition, union members would start paying 10 percent of their health insurance premiums, which now are completely funded by the city. The union also proposed to raise the age at which new hires could receive retirement benefits, from 50 to 55:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_18343840?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_18343840?nclick_check=1)

Watsonville (CA) City leaders, aiming to trim the cost of fire services, are looking south to the San Bernardino County city of Yucaipa. With a similar-sized population and providing a similar level of service, Yucaipa spends about 40 percent less through a contract with Cal Fire. On Tuesday, the City Council will consider whether to explore such a contract or consolidation with other South County fire agencies. The discussion comes as officials try to win more than \$500,000 in concessions from firefighters as part of citywide cost-cutting to bridge a \$1.9 million budget gap next year. If an agreement can't be reached, officials are proposing to layoff four firefighters and cut services -- a plan also up for consideration by the council Tuesday:

[http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci\\_18209955](http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_18209955)

The City of Stockton (CA) has laid off 36 firefighters due to budget constraints. Stockton Fire Department Deputy Chief Paul Willette said 48 positions will be cut Friday at 8 a.m. Before city and fire union negotiations became deadlocked Thursday night, seven fire fighters opted for early retirement and several others agreed to take demotions over layoffs. The lay offs will reduce staffing of all engine companies from five to four and drops staffing on trucks from three to two; 19 fewer firefighters will be on duty. Engine Company 1 will be closed by Friday. "Simply, the city can no longer afford the level of fire service it previously could afford," Stockton Interim Fire Chief Dave Rudat said:

<http://www.news10.net/news/article/144012/2/City-of-Stockton-lays-off-36-firefighters>

Gene Neely is nervous. With the layoff of four firefighters going into effect today, the Lathrop-Manteca (CA) Fire Chief will now be operating each of his four stations with two-man skeleton crews. That means that stations that serve highly populated areas – Station 31 on J Street and

Station 34 on River Islands Drive – will only have two firefighters per shift. That could impact the way that the district responds to structure fires. “It’s a considerable difference on shifts where we would have three people,” Neely said. “That’s a [33] percent decrease, and that’s not enough people to make entrance to a structure. They’d be relying on a second or third or fourth crew to get there: <http://www.mantecabulletin.com/section/1/article/25137/>

The city of Stockton (CA) and the firefighters union have reached a tentative agreement over new labor terms, with firefighters offering salary and benefit concessions, as well as conceding a raise that had figured in the city’s deficit projections. The union’s membership and the City Council must still approve the agreement. Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456 said firefighters would agree to raise the retirement age to 55 years for new hires, cut and reduce extra pays, contribute more to pensions and medical care, and eliminate contract provisions that protect minimum staffing. The concessions would not save any of the 36 firefighters laid off last week, nor allow for the re-opening of Station 1, also closed last week, or Truck Co. 4, closed last June. “We agreed to these concessions because the city was prepared to make even more dangerous cuts to service levels,” said Capt. Dave Macedo, the union’s president:

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110706/A\\_NEWS/110709945/-1/a\\_news](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110706/A_NEWS/110709945/-1/a_news)

Selma (CA) City Manager D.B. Heusser says the fire chief’s position will now go unfunded. The now ex-chief says it was unexpected. But city officials are hoping to be able to fund the position after this fiscal year. Dennis Lujan has been cutting hair across the street from city hall for 40 years. He’s been a council member for 30 years. He says this budget crisis is the worst he’s ever seen. “We’ve taken a new approach to balancing a budget. We had a \$700,000 shortfall, and we’ve done it with a two pronged approach.” That approach called for the elimination of the Fire Chief’s position, and Public Works Director. The other part of that approach calls for city staff retirement participation to 8%. Over the past couple of years, Selma has seen city staff reduced from about 160 positions to almost 90:

<http://www.ksee24.com/news/video/Selma-Chief---JWI-125101339.html>

Members of the San Francisco (CA) police and firefighters unions are about to decide whether to approve wage and pension deals struck between their leaders and Mayor Ed Lee. The mayor counted on the pacts’ delayed raises and increased pension contributions to help close the \$306 million budget deficit in his 2011-12 budget. If union members reject the deals, both departments would be forced to make cuts, most likely in the form of layoffs:

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2011/07/san-francisco-police-fire-pay-changes-await-approval>

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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 resoures.*

Bensalem's (PA) public safety director suspended one of the township's volunteer fire companies Monday, citing "operational issues" that posed a safety risk to both residents and firefighters. Fred Harran, the director, said the township's remaining five volunteer fire companies and four daytime paid firefighters would cover the area served by the Union Fire Co. Its coverage area is along State Road between the township's borders with Philadelphia and Bristol Township: [http://www.phillyburbs.com/my\\_town/bensalem/bensalem-suspends-union-fire-co/article\\_9c008ee1-8c78-53b2-bd91-cba34b41132d.html](http://www.phillyburbs.com/my_town/bensalem/bensalem-suspends-union-fire-co/article_9c008ee1-8c78-53b2-bd91-cba34b41132d.html)

The city of Fresno (CA) has launched an investigation to determine whether three uniformed police officers and a few firefighters crossed the line when they posed with bikini-clad models at a car show. In one photo, two young women are sitting on a firefighter's lap while several models pose next to a firetruck. In another photo, three Fresno police officers stand next to a woman in a bikini in front of a patrol car. City Manager Mark Scott said: "If these photos are real, it would involve a clear violation of Fresno's Public Safety agencies' ethical and professional standards, and we will deal with them through our existing personnel practices." <http://www.fresnobee.com/2011/06/11/2423656/fresno-police-launch-inquiry-into.html>

A Florida firefighter can be seen giving the middle finger to a motorist during a road rage incident in video recently made public. The May 1 footage shows the driver almost forcing a smaller car off the road while passing the vehicle, taking the fire truck up the median. The car had neglected to pull over and was driving ahead of the fire truck despite emergency lights and sirens being on. Orange County Fire Rescue terminated the firefighter who was driving the apparatus, and demoted Lt. Thomas Veal to the rank of Firefighter, for failing to properly supervise the driver: <http://www.firerescue1.com/apparatus/articles/1060064-Video-Firefighter-flips-off-driver-in-fire-truck-road-rage-incident/>

Clark County (NV) firefighters' efforts to collect money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association are likely ending — at least while they are on duty. After receiving inquiries from other not-for-profit agencies wanting to use the services of the county's 700-or-so firefighters for their charitable efforts, county administrators gave the Fire Department two options, sources said: Either find a way to assist different charities every two months, or simply end the practice of firefighters doing volunteer work on the taxpayer's dime: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jun/17/clark-county-firefighters--duty-boot-drives-likely/>

Road rage caught on camera cost one Orange County (FL) firefighter his job and another his rank. But Friday, they both filed appeals, one to get his job back, the other his rank back, because they say they did nothing wrong. Orange County firefighter David Jordan and former lieutenant Thomas Veal said the driver in front of them failed to yield the right of way, on their way to emergency call last month. Veal was so angry he flipped off the driver. Then Jordan appeared to intentionally cut off that car causing them to swerve to avoid a crash. "I know if I did anything as a teacher, we're pretty much done. We are accountable for everything we do," said Richard Marshall, Orange County resident. After 22-years, Jordan was fired and lost a \$60,000 salary. Veal, an eight year veteran, was demoted and now makes \$43,000 a year instead of 53. The firefighters said what the video doesn't show is that the driver pulled out in front of them from a shopping center. The chief said that's no excuse for their behavior: <http://www.wftv.com/news/28276377/detail.html>

The Weld County (CO) district attorney's office has charged a Greeley firefighter with one count of official misconduct after he gave out tests to firefighters preparing for a certification exam. Lt. Roger Moore, 46, was issued a summons for the Class 2 misdemeanor, according to Jennifer Finch, the district attorney's spokeswoman: [http://www.denverpost.com/ci\\_18342967](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_18342967)

It sounds like the Pasadena (Texas) Fire Department brass made all of the right moves three years ago when they were made aware that nude photos were on the Internet that had been taken inside the firehouse. Posing next to a fire engine with just a fire coat barely covering her body, was the wife of a volunteer firefighter. Her husband had taken the pictures inside the station. The department parted ways with the volunteer and the chief thought the offending pictures had been removed from the Internet. But the pictures caught the eye of quite a few on the Internet. All you have to do is put the phrase "Nude chick at Pasadena fire station" in Google and you will find many sites showing off the wares of the firefighter's wife with the Pasadena FD logo on the fire truck about chest high (something tells me most people won't notice the logo first). Obviously in this case, even without the Internet, there were some pretty clear ethical lapses that you would hope a fire chief wouldn't have to go over with a new member or recruit. I am sure many fire chiefs reading this are adding this line to the personnel manual and/or department rules: No nude pictures of the wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, friends or strangers are to be taken on fire department property. And you would think that is one you wouldn't have to spell out. But as they say, you can't fix stupid:

<http://statter911.com/2011/06/19/nude-fire-station-photos-continue-to-cause-trouble-for-pasadena-texas-fire-department-three-years-after-it-was-dealt-with-a-good-reminder-about-social-media-ethics-just-plain-ignorance/>

A part-time Florida firefighter lost his job and was taken to jail after reportedly making threats over the phone and on the Internet. Polk County Fire Department Firefighter Christopher Baird allegedly began to post rants and threats on his Facebook page while on medical leave last month and unable to get his position back, according to the department:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/1063841-Fla-firefighter-fired-jailed-after-Facebook-comments/>

A criminal complaint has been filed against Holyoke's (MA) Fire Chief, since he allegedly called in a false alarm. According to a document from the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, Interim Fire Chief William Moran called in a false alarm which resulted in a four-car accident. The District Attorney is now seeking two charges against Moran: Filing a false report and disorderly conduct:

<http://www.wwp.com/dpp/news/local/hampden/Legal-trouble-for-Holyoke-Fire-Chief>

Daly City's (CA) only female firefighter claims she suffered retaliation from her superiors after complaining about inadequate bathroom facilities at her firehouse, according to a lawsuit. Barbara Lewicki, 50, says she had to walk across the men's sleeping area in her station -- where firefighters were sometimes nude or in their underwear -- to get to the women's restroom. Although that bathroom was reserved for women, her male colleagues often used it. The bathroom had no lock. "The male firefighters continuously left plaintiff's bathroom in a grotesque condition, which included the presence of unflushed urine," according to the suit filed June 16 in San Mateo County Superior Court: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_18350247](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_18350247)

A former Newport Beach fire official accused of racking up \$26,000 in unpaid toll road fees while using a city vehicle has sued the city for alleged discrimination and retaliation against an injured worker, court records show:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/06/ex-fire-captain-accused-for-racking-up-toll-road-charges-sues-newport-beach.html>

Captain uses national TV to apologize for firefighter taking cell phone video of dead woman. Why did it take eight months for Spalding County, Georgia to tell Dayna Kempson's family

they're sorry? <http://statter911.com/2011/06/25/spalding-county-georgia-fire-captain-uses-network-news-show-to-apologize-for-firefighters-cell-phone-video-of-dead-woman-story-focuses-on-protecting-children-from-seeing-the-clip-of-mom/>

The Boston (MA) Fire Department suspended 54 firefighters yesterday who were among more than 200 EMTs who state investigators say faked medical training certifications in a fraudulent scheme that came to light last year:

[http://articles.boston.com/2011-06-24/news/29699851\\_1\\_emts-boston-firefighters-fake-credentials](http://articles.boston.com/2011-06-24/news/29699851_1_emts-boston-firefighters-fake-credentials)

An Oakland (CA) Fire Department employee embroiled in a long dispute with the agency has filed a lawsuit claiming that his colleagues provided inadequate treatment to Oscar Grant after he was fatally shot by a BART police officer. Sean Gillis, who works in the training division at the Fire Department's emergency medical services division, filed the whistle-blower suit Friday in Alameda County Superior Court. He says his superiors engage in racism, sexism and cronyism: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/06/22/MNCH1K1I3R.DTL&tsp=1>

A San Joaquin County (CA) judge delivered a partial setback Wednesday to beleaguered Stockton Fire Chief Ron Hittle's lawsuit against City Hall but declined to toss out the suit entirely. Superior Court Judge Lesley Holland sided with the city's objections to the litigation, but said he would allow the fire chief to make changes to his civil complaint in the next 20 business days, which Hittle's lawyer said he would do. At the center of Hittle's lawsuit is whether voter-approved city charter changes last year, which make it easier for City Hall to remove a fire chief, apply to Hittle, who has held the position since 2006. Hittle has been on paid leave since March and is the subject of investigations into alleged misconduct and poor job performance. He filed suit in April, in part to block Hittle being fired:

[http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110623/A\\_NEWS/106230334/-1/A\\_MARKET](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110623/A_NEWS/106230334/-1/A_MARKET)

A fire chief has stepped down amid allegations that he solicited sex from a subordinate female firefighter. Bryan Frank, chief of the Richland Township (IN) Volunteer Fire Department, has been demoted to a firefighter position, according to Richland Township Trustee Richard Cleaver, who would not comment further. Frank is the subject of a sexual harassment complaint filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Thursday. The complaint alleges that Frank tried to get female firefighter Samantha Hendrick to engage in sex with him at his home, promising to pay for another firefighter's boots if she agreed:

<http://heraldbulletin.com/crime/x2088984958/Richland-fire-chief-accused-of-soliciting-sex>

Why were pictures of three teenage girls posing in their underwear allegedly taken at the Bayside Park (MS) Volunteer Fire Department? Two of the girls were reportedly 16, the other was 14. And that, investigators say, is considered child exploitation. Consequently, Assistant Fire Chief Clarence "Zeke" Hall and volunteer fireman Vincent Reiber have been arrested and accused of taking lewd pictures of three underage girls:

<http://statter911.com/2011/06/22/assistant-chief-firefighter-charged-with-child-exploitation-underwear-shots-of-young-teen-girls-taken-at-mississippi-firehouse/>

Concern is growing over the driving habits of Orange County (FL) firefighters following two incidents, one which was for road rage, that resulted in punishment earlier this month, according to officials. On Tuesday, Battalion Chief Brett Wasmund received a warning for nearly hitting a woman on the way to a call and officials said that led to a citizen complaint. A woman said she came face-to-face with Wasmund's truck when he was on his way to a call after he crossed a median into oncoming traffic. The witness said he did not have his lights or sirens on: <http://www.wftv.com/countybycounty/28387506/detail.html>

**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Leaders of Oakland's (CA) four main employee unions have agreed to cuts that would help the city plug a \$58 million budget shortfall. The City Council is scheduled to discuss labor negotiations during a closed-session meeting on Tuesday morning. But union leaders, including those representing police officers and firefighters, have reportedly already reached tentative deals with the city on concessions. Few details about those deals have been disclosed:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/06/28/state/n070601D18.DTL&type=newsbayarea>

After working without a salary for the past 12 months, Tim Borman, Napa's (CA) fire chief, is signing up for another six months of volunteer duty. Borman, 56, officially retired last July after 24 years with the department, but kept working, receiving benefits, but not a salary. "He came to us (in 2010) and said he was in the middle of some projects, understood the city's financial challenges and didn't want to see any more cuts take place," City Manager Mike Parness said. "It's really a generous move on his part." A year later, Borman, who did not wish to comment, came to the city to volunteer more of his time, Parness said. He did so at a time when the fire department's budget remains under pressure. Last year, the city eliminated vacant positions for two firefighters, two fire captains, two community service officers and a youth services sergeant. Borman is extending his volunteer tour of duty out of "his own volition and for purely civic, charitable, or humanitarian reasons," said the resolution adopted by the City Council Tuesday:

[http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/article\\_ca88cdf4-9e00-11e0-8c50-001cc4c03286.html](http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/article_ca88cdf4-9e00-11e0-8c50-001cc4c03286.html)

The union that represents Reno's (NV) nearly 240 firefighters agreed to a two-year potential contract that the City Council is set to address on Wednesday. The contract is the culmination of about a year and a half of negotiations between the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 731 and the city and includes a 7.5 percent overall reduction in wages and benefits, which include changes to overtime pay. That's estimated to save the city about \$2.1 million until the contract expires in June 2013:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110628/NEWS/106280338/Reno-firefighters-union-approves-deal?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Cimg%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cp>

The San Francisco (CA) Mayor's Office announced late Tuesday an agreement with the police and fire unions over wage givebacks Mayor Ed Lee had asked of them to help close San Francisco's \$306 million deficit. Both labor unions are entitled to wage hikes next fiscal year. Lee was so serious in his request he didn't include funding in his budget proposal. The agreement is expected to include a 3 percent raise on July 1, but in return the public safety employees would increase their pension contributions by 3 percent. And then they would receive a 1 percent raise in the middle of the year. The deal comes a week after Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White warned about possible station closures if there were not giveback agreements. "Police and fire are reaching into our pockets," said Tom O'Connor, leader of the fire union. But O'Connor said they understand during these tough economic times "everyone needs to sacrifice."

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/blogs/under-dome/2011/06/mayor-ed-lee-strikes-deal-san-francisco-police-fire-unions-over-givebacks>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

The Detroit (MI) Fire Department said it is changing its policy on battling blazes at vacant buildings in order to vamp up firefighters' protection. Detroit Fire Commissioner Donald Austin said firefighters would previously enter every building they responded to as a precaution. But now, Austin said, firefighters will only go into a burning building if there's a clear indication that someone is inside. "Just to assume that a vacant building always has a squatter or a homeless person in there is kind of a false assumption," Austin said. Austin said the months between July and October are the busiest for the department, and that the city has about 80,000 vacant buildings or foreclosed homes. "There's not a building in the city that's worth losing a firefighter's life, particularly if it's vacant," Austin said:

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/28237327/detail.html>

The egg farm fire that killed Wharton fire department captain Thomas Araguz in 2010 accidentally started in a light fixture. A report from the Texas Fire Marshal's office also reveals it was too risky to send firefighters inside the building when only property and no people were in danger. The 18 workers who were inside the burning egg processing facility had already made it out safely. The state investigation into the fire makes seven findings, including that firefighting crews failed to adequately assess the scene before attacking the flames. The report accuses the incident commander of failing to maintain control and says the firefighters went into the building before a rescue team was on stand-by:

<http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/110626-fatal-egg-farm-fire-investigation>

Bridgeport (CT) fire officials' failure on nearly every level led to the deaths of two firefighters battling a West Side blaze last July, a federal report has concluded. Among the findings of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health report released Wednesday: The deputy fire chief and his assistant at the scene of the Elmwood Street fire had a discussion about whether they heard a mayday call from the two fallen firefighters instead of taking immediate action to rescue them. There was no rapid intervention team readily available to come to the firefighters' aid. The report stated firefighters failed to immediately treat one of the firefighters who managed to make it to relative safety before collapsing. Officials also did not properly manage firefighters' air supplies -- both firefighters' air cylinders were empty when they were found, the report stated: <http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Report-Bridgeport-Fire-Department-faulted-in-1446033.php>

What NOT to do Video: Firefighters in air bag explosion close call in Idaho. This fire and near miss is a reminder about the dangers of vehicle fires. This fire and near miss is a reminder about the dangers of vehicle fires. We must be and vigilant and attack with our guards up. There is no valid reason for an unprotected aggressive attack on any unoccupied vehicle. Remember the explosive hazards, and that the majority of vehicle fires on arrival are total losses. Treat them that way, and make your safety and the integrity of your crew the priority on all attacks and WEAR YOUR SCBA:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/1074453-video-firefighters-in-air-bag-explosion-close-call-in-idaho/>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

A recent Solano County (CA) grand jury report is challenging the way two county fire departments do business, and one department is firing back. In the report, which was issued Tuesday, the grand jury raised an eyebrow at the Vacaville and Vallejo fire departments' use of volunteer and reserve firefighters -- or lack thereof. Of the county's seven fire departments, only these two have chosen not to utilize non-paid firefighting personnel. "Because the

relationship between the fire departments and cities is crucial to the wellbeing of the citizens given the crucial functions they perform, fire department volunteer programs are beneficial to the community," the report stated. It went on to say that the mixture of career and volunteer firefighters "eases the burden on already restricted budgets" and recommend that the cities "take advantage of the use of volunteers in their firefighting services." However, according to Vacaville Fire Chief Brian Preciado, not only did the grand jury reach its conclusion without talking to anyone in the fire department, but their findings are groundless:

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_18416634](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_18416634)

Urban villages, quaint and pedestrian-friendly developments embraced by environmentalists, are sparking opposition from fire officials who say the streets are too narrow for their fire engines. The popularity of such residential complexes sprouting throughout suburbia is forcing a rethinking of street design so the villages can accommodate both emergency responders and a desire for more intimate neighborhoods:

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-07-05-firetrucks-new-urbanism-villages\\_n.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2011-07-05-firetrucks-new-urbanism-villages_n.htm)

A Haverhill (MA) City Council committee will meet in mid-July with firefighters and the fire chief to try to determine how much the city is likely to save as a result of 26 firefighters agreeing to work hundreds of free "punishment duty" hours and whether any of the money can be used to buy new, life-saving equipment. The firefighters made the concessions, which also includes forfeiting extra EMT pay this year and next year, to save their jobs after they admitted in February of lying about their emergency medical technician training. Several councilors want to use the money, which Councilor David Hall has estimated at between \$600,000 and \$800,000, to buy protective "turnout gear" clothing and "air pack" breathing apparatus systems for the department's roughly 90 firefighters:

<http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x925651722/Council-to-take-up-EMT-punishment-duty-winfall>

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

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

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

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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:** [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)  
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