



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**June 4, 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)

**SUMMER 2011 Semester:** (June through early August, 2011)

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b>	Wednesdays (pm)	1800 – 2005 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (Emergency Response – EMS First Responder)	Mondays & Wednesdays (all day)	0900 – 1450 hours

**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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
<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> - October 18, 20 and 22 (Tue/Thu/Sat) - November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day), <b>or</b> Wed & Fri (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 90A</b> (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
<b>FT 90B</b> (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
<b>FT 90C</b> (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
<b>FT 91A</b> (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
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 15, 17, 19 and 20	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
<b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 8, 10, 12 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
<b>FT 91D</b> (Firefighter Survival) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - November 1, 3 and 5	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 95</b> (Work Experience ) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 96**</b>	TBA	TBA
<b>FT 96</b> (Work Experience Seminar) <b>**Must also be registered in FT 95**</b> <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> - August 17, 31, September 28, November 9 and December 14	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours
<b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
<b>Health 81</b> (EMT) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 83**</b>	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
<b>Health 83</b> (Extrication and Triage) <b>**Must also be registered in Health 81**</b>	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class meets on the following dates:</b> • November 29, December 1, 3, 6, 8 & 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
<b>PHED2FSC</b> (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
<b>PHED2FSC</b> (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 to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and I with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. I would have liked to offer more classes in the summer time and in the fall; however the state budget crisis does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I think we are very fortunate if we get to keep the above courses that I have scheduled. 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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## **FIREFIGHTER 1 REFRESHER COURSE:**

We have just put together a new course called Fire Science 112 Refresher Firefighter One. It is a 40 hour course, and will be taught on the dates noted below at our Fire Academy program at our Airport campus, and Sunday, June 26 will be a live burn day at South San Francisco FD. We are addressing perishable skills such as SCBA, ladders, power tools, rope/tool/rescue ties, and so on. Each day will include a physical training component, a classroom component that will review each day topics such as ICS, Building Construction, Hazmat, Confined Space and an emphasis on safety (consistent with the new mandate to teach the new required Firefighter Safety course).

- Saturday June 11
- Saturday June 18
- Sunday June 26.
- Sunday June 12
- Saturday June 25

Hours are 8 a.m-5 pm. June 11, June 12, June 18, and June 25 will be at our Airport campus. June 26 will be all day at SSFFD. No class on Sunday June 19 as it is Father's Day. As you are all aware, the degradation of skills is a common complaint when new hires with a FF1 have been out of an academy for a while and have lost their skill base. We are trying to address that with this course. Students must have proof of a current medical, have their own fire hood, gloves, turnout boots, and we will supply turnout pants/coats and a Bullard fire helmet. The prereq is proof of a FF1 cert, either from the community college or State Fire Training.

The class title is Fire Science 112 Refresher Firefighter Academy. The CRN is 52174. Students may enroll online. If they are new students to CCSF, they need to stay in a menu that they are not taking any more than 9 units. If you can pass this on to your fire academy graduates or fire science students with a Ff1 Certificate, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

Jim Connors, Captain, SFFD (Ret.)  
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Fax: 415-239-3810  
BPA, University of San Francisco

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

## **NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES JUNE 15!**

The application period for the first semester of National Fire Academy resident classes **closes June 15**. The first semester classes are scheduled from October 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012. All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

**Course Catalog and schedules:** [www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm)

This includes the deadline for applications for the **Executive Fire Officer Program:** <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/efop/index.shtm> for the entire year of 2012.

### **Download Application:**

**FEMA Form 119-25-1, General Admissions Application (formerly FEMA Form 75-5) -**  
<http://www.cpssc.gov/info/drywall/guidancesummary.pdf> (PDF, 629 Kb) Use this application if your course code begins with the following letters: R, N, O, P, or T.

### **Tips to completing your application:**

**Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application -**  
<http://www.cpssc.gov/info/drywall/guidancesummary.pdf> (PDF, 332 Kb)

**Completed applications for resident courses must be sent to the following address:**

Office of Admissions, Building I, Room 216  
National Emergency Training Center  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998  
Applications may also be faxed to **(301) 447-1441**.

For more information, please call the Admissions Office at (800) 238-3358, ext. 1035 or (301) 447-1035. Please share this with your organizations, friends and colleagues.

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

## **CPSC Alert: Counterfeit Smoke Alarms Distributed in Atlanta**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging consumers in the Atlanta area to check their homes for counterfeit smoke alarms. About 18,500 counterfeit photoelectric smoke alarms were distributed for free in the Atlanta area between 2006 through May 2011 as part of the Atlanta Smoke Alarm Program. The smoke alarms can fail to alert consumers in the event of a fire. The Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, which distributed the free smoke alarms as part of a fire safety campaign, is recalling the smoke alarms and is working to provide free smoke alarm inspections and replacement units. Consumers who received these alarms should immediately contact the Atlanta Smoke Alarm Recall Hotline at (404) 546-2733. The counterfeit alarms can be identified by a silver Underwriters Laboratories' UL label on the back and three sets of vented slots on the front. The UL label is counterfeit. The alarms do not have a model number or brand name printed on them. "Important: Refer to Manual for Operating Instruction and Safety" and "Do Not Paint" are stamped into the plastic on the front of the alarm in both English and German. The package states, "This Smoke Alarm save [sic] life and property by early warning!" Claims that smoke alarms can "save property" are not typical claims for smoke alarms. The packaging states, "10 YEAR LIFE LITHIUM BATTERY," but the battery included with the smoke alarm is a carbon zinc, industrial, heavy duty battery, which will power the alarm for only one year.

CPSC's independent testing of the smoke alarms determined that the alarms pose a life safety hazard to the occupants in the event of a fire. The alarms perform poorly and inconsistently and do not meet voluntary standards requirements in Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) 217, Single and Multiple Station Smoke Alarms and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 72, Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. The smoke alarms' sensitivity settings varied greatly between the alarms tested. Some alarms did not respond within an adequate time for life safety and other alarms did not respond at all. CPSC has worked with the voluntary standards organizations to improve smoke alarm performance and reliability. Counterfeit alarms can put lives at risk. Working smoke alarms that meet the voluntary standards are proven to save lives. CPSC urges consumers to install smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas and inside bedrooms. Replace batteries at least once every year and test the alarms once a month.





Counterfeit UL Label

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


**FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY**

# LEARNING

**Media CENTER**

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - May 26, 2011

Your Foundation




**National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**


**Our Newest Featured Media**  
**Be a Leader, Help Us Reduce Preventable LODDs:**  
<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/media/2011/S6-5/player.html>

This segment asks us to do a little introspection on being a leader through our seatbelt usage and health and wellness.


» **More: Learning Media:**  
<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/media/>



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



**Homeland Security**

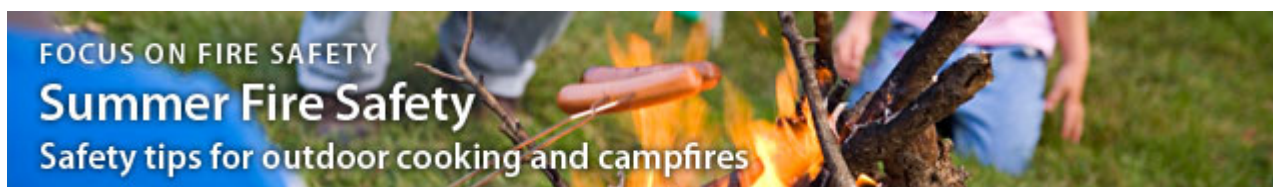


**Fireman's Fund**  
Insurance Company  
A company of **Allianz**

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

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



Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, camping, family reunions, picnics, and the Fourth of July. Summertime, however, also brings fires and injuries due to outdoor cooking and recreational fires. Annually, there are almost 3,800 Americans injured by gas or charcoal grill fires. (Source: CPSC) <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11228.html>

Summertime should be a time of fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few fire safety tips and following safety instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.

Learn More by going to: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/summer.shtm>

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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-Sunday, June 11-12, 2011  
Drought Tolerant Plant Festival in Encino  
<http://bit.ly/kQxe4u>
- Monday, June 20, 2011  
Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament (Porter Ranch)  
<http://bit.ly/gluZz6>
- Friday-Sunday, June 24-26, 2011  
Venice High School Centennial and Parade  
<http://bit.ly/kWn0LW>
- Saturday, June 25, 2011  
Safe Summer 2011 Tip-Off LAPD/LAFD Basketball Event  
<http://bit.ly/ILbCDe>
- Sunday, July 10, 2011  
CicLAvia - Open Streets for Walking/Bicycling  
<http://bit.ly/cicLAvia>
- 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>

# # #

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>

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

### **USFA Releases One- and Two-Family and Multifamily Residential Building Fires Topical Reports**

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 - June 1, 2011

Emmitsburg, MD —

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings.

The reports:

## **One- and Two-Family Residential Building Fires –**

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i2.pdf> (PDF, 779 Kb) and

**Multifamily Residential Building Fires -** <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v12i2.pdf> (PDF, 775 Kb)

...were developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center. One- and two-family residential buildings include detached dwellings, manufactured homes, mobile homes not in transit, and duplexes. Multifamily residential buildings consist of structures such as apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, condominiums, and other tenement properties.

An estimated 248,500 fires in one- and two-family residential buildings occur each year in the United States. Annually, these fires are responsible for 2,135 civilian fire deaths, 8,550 civilian fire injuries, and 5.9 billion dollars in property loss. Additionally, there are an estimated 103,000 fires that occur in multifamily buildings each year resulting in 390 deaths, 4,050 injuries, and 1.2 billion dollars in property loss. The reports are part of the Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2007 to 2009. According to the reports:

Cooking is the leading cause of both one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings fires, followed by heating. Fire incidence in both types of residential properties peaks during winter months partially because of increases in heating and holiday-related fires. Fires peak over the evening dinner hours in one- and two-family and multifamily residences when cooking fires are prevalent.

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

### **Bomb Arson Tracking System: Expanding the Fire Department Toolkit**

Fairfax, Va., May 13, 2011...

The Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS - <http://www.atf.gov/applications/bats/>) is an invaluable tool to aid U.S. fire departments and fire marshals in their efforts to track arson incidents, manage investigation data, and apprehend arsonists. Recently, the IAFC partnered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF - <http://www.atf.gov/>) U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC - <http://www.atf.gov/explosives/groups/usbdc/>) to create a new informational video - <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=154> to alert the fire and emergency service to its evolving capabilities and encourage them to participate in the multifaceted system. BATS is provided at no cost to participating agencies.

“Crimes that involve arson and explosives are among the most devastating incidents that confront our country,” said ATF Acting Director Kenneth Melson. “I encourage all fire service executives to incorporate BATS into their investigative policies and practices to help all of us maximize public safety surrounding these crimes.”

BATS, which has also been endorsed by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI - <http://firearson.com/>), operates on many levels to support both local investigative needs and national collaboration and trend spotting. System benefits include:

- Secure, user-friendly, web-based computer application;
- Ability to track and manage investigations locally while simultaneously contributing findings to a national level database and national statistical reporting;
- Self-administered accounts that allow departments and agencies to control how their information is used and shared;
- Ability to rapidly research, track and compare multiple incidents—locally or across the nation—using real-time data and while maintaining operational security;
- Enhanced reporting using standardized terminology for consistency across stakeholders;
- Access to intelligence advisories and comprehensive resource library;
- Unique data sets associated with the tracing of explosive products from manufacture to the end-user;
- Ability to upload and store multi-media files relating to investigations;
- GIS mapping capabilities; and
- Versatile unit management tools provide a constant snapshot of activity, providing valuable data for administration management of personnel and budgets.

There are currently over 7,000 authorized BATS users from more than 1,500 local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement and public safety agencies across the United States.

“This system has been utilized to assist with several major case investigations which were the result of serial arson fires,” reported Lt. Colonel Scott K. Hoglander of the Prince George’s County (MD) Fire/EMS Department, Special Operations Command. As one of the original pilot departments, Prince George’s County has been using BATS for seven years and praises the ease of the system, the value of the readily available information, and the continued evolution of service offerings. “The Prince George’s County Office of the Fire Marshall could not function in our current capacity without the BATS system,” said Hoglander. It is critical for fire department personnel to understand that BATS is not intended to replace the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). While the primary mission of NFIRS is to collect fire incident information, BATS is dedicated to documenting and supporting the resulting post-incident investigation in cases involving fire or explosives.

“We are happy to lend our support to this effort with the Bomb Arson Tracking System,” said Glenn Gaines, Acting United States Fire Administrator. “The USFA and ATF are partners in promoting Arson Awareness, and BATS is currently included in the curriculum at the National Fire Academy’s Fire/Arson Origin-and-Cause Investigations course. In 2009, ten firefighters died as a result of arson-related fires. In addition, an estimated \$1.1 billion in direct property loss occurs annually. We all must continue every effort to protect our communities and be sure that when it comes to firefighter health and safety, everyone goes home.

To learn more, view the new IAFC-produced video (<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=154>) or visit the ATF website (<http://www.atf.gov/>) where the video will soon be posted under the U.S. Bomb Data Center at <http://www.atf.gov/explosives/groups/usbdc/>.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

The **Public Safety Training Group** in Brentwood, California is always 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. Additional courses include EMS related continuing education courses such as CPR, ACLS, PALS, etc.

- **Training Instructor 1C:** June 13 – 17, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** June 20 – 24, 2011
- **Fire Command 1C:** June 27 – July 1, 2011

To register for these classes and to see the huge range of class offerings, go to their website at [www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com) or call (925) 240-5200.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

**S-404 Safety Officer - All Risk**

(Meets NWCG 310-1)

- **Deputy Chief Mike Bryant** - *Los Angeles County Fire Department*

And

- **Battalion Chief Dave Franklin** – *San Francisco Fire Department*

The course curriculum will deliver "all risk" emergency information for the Safety Officer position commensurate with the requirements of FIRESCOPE. This is a State accredited class recognized by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and California State Fire Training. Students will develop and deliver safety messages. In addition, they will develop and recommend measures for assuring personnel safety, and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations.

Additional subjects covered include: work place injuries and vehicle accident investigations, OSHA requirements, safety messages and briefings, Incident Command forms, assistant safety officer (Haz-Mat & USAR) responsibilities, risk mitigation, situational analysis of tactical application (215A), wildland duties and responsibilities, case study analysis (structure fires), training exercises (NFPA 1403), certification (CICCS) and task book requirements, fire fighter injury investigation (case study), and roles and responsibilities prior, during, and after Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) deployment.

This is a three-day class (24 hours) and a must for all fire service members. Students are required to attend all three days. Upon completion the student will receive a California State Fire Training Certificate. If you have seen Chief Bryant you know firsthand that he is one of the most dynamic and passionate presenters in today's fire service. Do not miss this opportunity! This class is expected to fill quickly, so do not delay.

**Total cost is \$375, and includes lunch each day, class materials and State Certificate.**

**LOCATION**

Sonoma Mountain Event Center  
1100 Valley House Drive  
Rohnert Park CA 94928

**Dates & Time**

June 6-8, 2011 - 09:00-17:00 each day

**Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant** is a 29-year veteran of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. He has held the ranks of Firefighter/Paramedic, Firefighter Specialist, Fire Prevention Inspector, Fire Captain, Training Captain, Training Program Developer, Fire Battalion Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. Chief Bryant currently manages and oversees the East Regional Operations Bureau. He provides leadership for 33 cities, 76 fire stations, 4 divisions, 10 battalions and 1,400 personnel. Chief Bryant holds a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational studies from California State University, Long Beach. He is a qualified Type II incident commander, operations section chief, safety officer and division/group supervisor. In addition, he is a certified Master Instructor from California State Fire Training.

**Battalion Chief Dave Franklin** has been with the San Francisco Fire Department since 1990 and was Chief of Special Operations until the position was defunded. He is currently assigned to Battalion 4. Chief Franklin has worked on some of the busiest companies in San Francisco including Lt. of Rescue Co. 2 in the city's Mission District. As a Captain he was recruited to head up the SFFD newly formed Safety Division. When the Safety Division was moved under the control of the Chief of Training, he assumed the responsibilities as the in-service training Captain responsible for all in-service fire training along with continuing to function as a Safety Officer. Chief Franklin has been a Hands-On-Training (H.O.T.) Instructor for FDIC West in Sacramento and is the secretary for the Northern California Training Officers Association

*All Sonoma County Operational Area participants must register with Eleanor Ratliff at [eratliff@sonoma-county.org](mailto:eratliff@sonoma-county.org) in order to have registration paid by the Sonoma County 2009 Homeland Security Grant. All no shows will be responsible to repay Sonoma County for the cost of registration.*

- Go to [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com) for registration and more detailed information.

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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 Investigation 1B:** June 20 – 24, 2011
- **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 – 23, 2011

Additionally, they are offering numerous EMS related initial and continuing education courses such as EMT, EMT refresher, Paramedic, CPR, ACLS and PALS:

- **Paramedic** program starting July 12, 2011. Call (800) 483-3615 for more info.
- **EMT** Program:
  - July 5 – August 11 (Tue/Wed/Thu), or
  - July 9 – August 18 (Sat/Sun), or
  - October 8 – December 18 (Sat/Sun)

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

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

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).

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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



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

4-DAY WORKSHOP

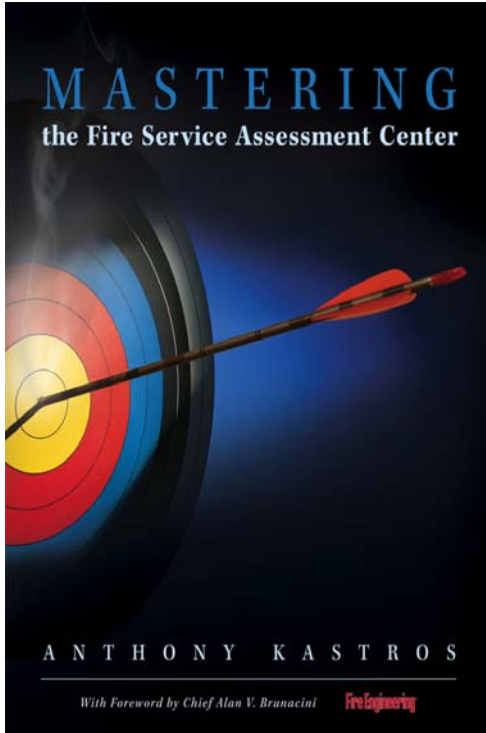
INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

**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 22-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FIRE SERVICE. HE IS A BATTALION CHIEF WITH SACRAMENTO METRO FIRE DISTRICT. HE IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK AND VIDEO SERIES, "MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER", BY FIRE ENGINEERING THAT FOCUSES ON ASSESSMENT CENTERS AND SIMULATIONS. CHIEF KASTROS IS AN FDIC INSTRUCTOR, TEACHING FIREGROUND TACTICS AND LEADERSHIP/TEAM BUILDING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.**

**JUNE 28 THROUGH JULY 1, 2011 – ANAHEIM, CA - \$495.00\***  
GO TO [WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM](http://WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM) FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION  
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION

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## **FIRE SERVICE 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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## **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>	- <b>July 14, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
	- <b>July 15, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
	- <b>August 15, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
	- <b>August 16, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
	- <b>October 13, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
	- <b>October 14, 2011</b>	from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <u>Sausalito, CA</u> )
	**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:**

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

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

- 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: Michael Esposito  
Rank: Ex-Captain  
Age: 43  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 21  
Date of Incident: 05/18/2011  
Time of Incident: 0337hrs  
Date of Death: 05/18/2011  
Fire Department: Baldwin Fire Department  
Address: 2386 Grand AVE, Baldwin, NY 11510-3235  
Fire Department Chief: Kevin Smith  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.baldwinfd.com>

**Incident Description:** Ex-Captain Esposito fell ill while responding to a residential fire, complaining to other firefighters on-board the apparatus of experiencing chest pain. Several minutes after arrival at the scene, EMS personnel evaluated Esposito's condition and subsequently transported him to the South Nassau Communities Hospital where he passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 2870 Grand Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Ex-Captain Michael Esposito at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 34 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 31 from incidents that occurred in 2011 and three 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: Thomas "Todd" Lange  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 60

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 32  
Date of Incident: 02/05/1978  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 05/20/2011  
Fire Department: Pittsfield Fire Department  
Address: 74 Columbus AVE, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
Fire Department Chief: Robert Czerwinski

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Lange passed away from complications resulting from Hepatitis that he contracted through a documented exposure to an infected patient on an EMS incident more than 20 years ago.

**Incident Location:** 617 Hancock RD, Pittsfield, MA

**Funeral Arrangements:** 05/23/2011

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Firefighter Thomas "Todd" Lange, Pittsfield Permanent Fireman's Benefit Association, c/o Pittsfield Fire Department, 74 Columbus AVE, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter Thomas "Todd" Lange at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 35 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 31 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: Chip Imker  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 35  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 1  
Date of Incident: 05/23/2011  
Time of Incident: 2130hrs  
Date of Death: 05/23/2011  
Fire Department: Cambridge Fire Department  
Address: 300 3<sup>rd</sup> AVE NE, Cambridge, MN 55008  
Fire Department Chief: Sean Okerland

**Incident Description:** Initial reports indicate that Firefighter Imker passed away from injuries he sustained after falling six to eight feet onto a concrete surface at the fire hall during rope rescue training. Investigation into the incident continues by local and state authorities.

**Incident Location:** 300 3<sup>rd</sup> AVE NE, Cambridge, MN 55008

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** A Chip Imker Firefighter Memorial Fund has been established and donations can be sent to Minnco Credit Union, 235 1st Avenue West, Cambridge, MN 55008. Checks should be made payable to Kristin Hill.

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

To date, 36 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 32 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: Thomas Shields  
Rank: Second Assistant Fire Chief  
Age: 42  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 23  
Date of Incident: 05/31/2011  
Time of Incident: 1252hrs  
Date of Death: 05/31/2011  
Fire Department: Flanders Fire Department Company #1 and Rescue  
Address: 27 Main ST, Flanders, NJ 07836  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.flandersfire.org/home>  
Fire Department Chief: Greg Widzemok

**Incident Description:** Second Assistant Chief Shields responded to an emergency call of a child who became overheated at the Mountainview Elementary School. Assistant Chief Shields returned to the firehouse and then headed home, feeling ill, with chest pains. Emergency medical personnel responded but tragically Chief Shields died at Saint Clare's Hospital in Denville, NJ.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 37 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 33 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)

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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)**

**PARAMEDIC KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-AMBULANCE CRASH**

We regret to advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Pacific/Bowers EMS Paramedic Douglas L. Odgers in an ambulance crash in Rialto, California yesterday. Paramedic Odgers wasn't wearing a seat belt when he was injured at 0610 yesterday along the westbound lanes of I-10. "For unknown reasons, the ambulance ... collided with a wood/metal guardrail located north of the north roadway edge," according to the CHP statement. "The ambulance traveled out of control and subsequently struck a large freeway overhead-sign support pole." As always, our sincere condolences. HERE is the agency home page: <http://www.pacificambulance.com>

**SERIOUS RESPONDING FIRE APPARATUS CRASH THIS EVENING IN KANSAS**

At least two people have been injured in a responding apparatus crash near Topeka. It happened just before 1600 hours early this evening on Topeka Boulevard. A car and a Soldier Township Fire Truck hit each other in the intersection. On scene at least two people were critically injured and still entrapped. Topeka FD called mutual aid. (5:03 CDT) More to follow.

**MISSOURI APPARATUS CRASH-FOLLOWUP FROM THIS MORNING**

2 of the 5 Firefighters who suffered serious injuries this morning when those two fire trucks crashed head-on in rural Platte County have been released from a hospital. The two firefighters were identified as Kevin Burge and Al Ryan. The 3 other Firefighters, Kent Pine, Carl Foreman and Fire Chief Larry Bigus, remained hospitalized. Their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening. 2 apparatus from the Central Platte FPD were responding from Platte City about 0400 to an electrical fire on the deck of a house. In the darkness, the first apparatus missed the house's driveway. The rig turned around and was headed back toward the house when it collided with the other apparatus and both trucks were severely damaged. We wish them a rapid recovery.

**CITIZEN STRUCK BY APPARATUS IN NEW YORK-ON PUBLIC SAFETY DAY IN NEW YORK**

An 87-year-old Brewster man was injured Saturday when he was struck by a Patterson fire apparatus. The accident happened about 0930 at the Government Campus at 110 Old Route 6, where people had gathered for Putnam County's Children's Expo and Public Safety Day. Norman Berenback walked in front of a slow-moving Patterson fire engine and was struck. He was rushed by TransCare Ambulance to Danbury (Conn.) Hospital after complaining of pain in his pelvis and abdomen and spent the night at the hospital and was released yesterday. The apparatus driver was not at fault as Mr Berenback walked out in front of the rig.

**TOUGH FIRE IN UTICA NY-Mom & Kids Killed In Dwelling Fire**

Just another reminder to those at some city halls who forgot what FD's do...<http://tinyurl.com/3rslyuc> (video) & <http://www.uticaod.com> (photos/story)

**AND FINALLY CHECK THIS VIDEO:**

Check out this excellent "**Salute to Firefighters**" Music Video by Cee Lo Green.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjjkFTEyqA4> (Music Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oviUOyBMZQ&feature=relmfu> (Behind The Scenes)

**Great job** on this by Duracell and the **National Volunteer Fire Council.**

Visit <http://www.facebook.com/duracell> and check out the Cee Lo Green tab to find out how you can download the "Thank You" audio clip.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-9-11/ 2055 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

The triple fatal fire on in Utica (NY) yesterday caused a lot of emotion and finger pointing, as would be expected, especially when little kids are killed. Utica Fire Chief Russell Brooks is refuting any allegations stating the facts that his department arrived on the scene within 3 minutes of getting the call. The Chief said his crews initially went in immediately upon their arrival, but had to pull out because of the intensity of the fire. "It is not uncommon for people to point fingers when there is a tragedy," Chief Brooks said. "When we initially went into the building it was obvious anyone in there was dead."

**NOW, CHECK OUT THIS REPORTERS REPORT:**

One of the reporters at the scene was Utica WKTV's Photojournalist Tim Fisher - a 40 year veteran of the news business, who wanted to respond to an onlooker who was saying Firefighters didn't do enough to save the family. That would be the same onlooker who struck Tim when he saw him recording video at the scene. **HERE is Tim's side of the story, in his own words, as he stated:**

"I believe it is important, **especially at this moment in our country's history when public servants are being resented** for what they earn or bargain for to see them at work as they truly are. Folks just like all of us, doing a hard days work. In this case it was a very intense job in which they faced "a clear and present danger". Still, they did it and then went back to their firehouse to await the next call. We don't even know their names.

**CHECK OUT his video report:** <http://www.wktv.com/news/local/121577954.html>

**HERE are pre-arrival pictures of the fire & add'l from Dave Statter:** <http://tinyurl.com/3okjbrz>

**ANOTHER "POWER LINE DOWN" REMINDER AT ANY FIRE SCENE, THIS TIME IN FLORIDA:**

A Firefighter was trapped inside his apparatus last night after a power line fell across the vehicle at a dwelling fire. The Orange County Firefighter was able to escape the truck after the power company secured the line. As members operated at the fire. the power line to the home burned through and fell on the fire apparatus and the Firefighter was unable to get out of the rig for about 10 minutes.

**A LOCAL LINE OF DUTY DEATH-POLICE OFFICER STRUCK DOWN BY CAR THIEF**

Not 15 minutes from where we live and work, this morning a Warren County (Ohio) Sheriff's Deputy was tragically struck and instantly killed in the Line of Duty while trying to stop a driver fleeing police in a stolen car. Sgt. Brian Dulle, 36, died after being hit while deploying "stop sticks," devices used to puncture the tires of fleeing vehicles. Dulle, a father of three children under the age of 10, including a daughter recovering from cancer, is the first Warren County deputy killed in the Line of Duty. A arrest was made earlier today. Sgt Dulle is survived by his wife and children Madelyn, 10; Emma, 7 and Jackson, 4, as well as by his parents Edward and Denise, brother Ryan and sister Brooke. RIP. Additional details and updates will be posted HERE: <http://www.wcsooh.org/>

**NOTE:** Sgt Dulle's 10-year-old daughter Maddie has battled cancer twice in her young life-and has fought back and beat it both times. The family started up "Maddie's Hope" to raise money for cancer research and support families at Children's Hospital. **HERE** is their link on **FACEBOOK** (w/submissions related to her Fathers LODD: <https://www.facebook.com/maddieshope>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-10-11 / 2044 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As you can will see from the congressional schedule, House members are scheduled to be in their districts next week for a Congressional work week. It would be in the fire service's best interest to pay their members a visit as per Bill Webb from the CFSI-and we couldn't agree more after seeing these proposed cuts. While in past years, proposed cuts to fire/EMS related programs have been dealt with-and "fixed" - don't get too comfortable with this round-things are a lot different in Washington these days. **A lot different.**

**=WHY BE CONCERNED?**

**=WHY VISIT YOUR FEDERALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS WHEN THEY COME HOME NEXT WEEK?**

Today the House Appropriations Committee released a draft of the FY12 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. **The bill provides \$40.6 billion in funding for the Department of Homeland Security, a decrease of \$1.1 billion (2.6%) from the Fiscal Year 2011 level and \$3 billion below the Administration's request.** (The Committee's press release on the on the bill can be viewed at [www.CFSI.org](http://www.CFSI.org) )

**NOTE:** The draft bill makes **significant cuts to several programs of importance to the fire and emergency services.** The Assistance to Firefighters (FIRE) Grant Program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program would be funded at a total of \$350 million (\$200m for FIRE and \$150m for SAFER). The programs were funded at \$810 million (\$405 million for each) in Fiscal Year 2011. The United States Fire Administration (USFA) would be cut by more than \$3 million. The draft legislation provides only \$42.5 million for USFA, down from nearly \$45.6 million in Fiscal Year 2011.

**Additionally, the draft bill provides \$1 billion to be distributed at the "discretion of the Secretary" between several programs, including:**

- State Homeland Security Grant Program
- Urban Area Security Initiative (USAI)
- Metropolitan Medical Response System
- Citizen Corps
- Public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance
- Over-the-Road Security Assistance
- Port Security Grants
- Driver's License Security Grant Program
- Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program

**This somewhat unusual provision represents a significant cut to these critical programs. In Fiscal Year 2011, the State Homeland Security Grant Program and UASI were funded at \$725 million each.** The Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee has scheduled a mark-up for Friday, May 12th at 11:00 a.m. in Room HC-5 of the Capitol Building.

"While very disappointing, it is important to note that this is just the first step in the lengthy appropriations process" said Bill Webb, Executive Director of CFSI. "We will continue to work with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, as well as all of our allies on Capitol Hill, to ensure our nation's fire and emergency services have the resources they need to protect our homeland."

**MORE HERE:** [www.CFSI.org](http://www.CFSI.org)

**2 FIRE APPARATUS ROLLOVERS:**

**=ARIZONA:** A fire apparatus rolled over in Casa Grande as it averted a collision with a vehicle that ran a stop sign, sending a firefighter to the hospital early today. Around 0100 hours 2 Firefighters



were inside the firetruck when it rolled over in an intersection-and were treated/transported for minor injuries. A white vehicle had been traveling west at a high rate of speed and ran a stop sign at the intersection and in order to avoid a collision, the firetruck took evasive action and ended up rolling over, The suspect vehicle was occupied by eight or nine undocumented immigrants, who were turned over to Casa Grande Police Department and the U.S. Border Patrol.

=FRANCE: 2 Firefighters are in critical condition after their apparatus rolled over while operating at a brush fire. We have more details and a picture on our home page.

**FAIRWELL TO A CHICAGO FIREFIGHTING HERO:**

Our condolences to the friends and family of Chicago Firefighter Christopher G. Reischl, 45, a member of Squad 2 and former deep-sea construction diver who died May 4 of cancer at University of Chicago Hospitals. **NOTE: Chris was posthumously awarded the state's Medal of Honor this week, Illinois' highest commendation for heroism by a Firefighter. The honor comes for having helped to rescue a man last year from a coach house fire, as the man's unconscious body blocked a locked door atop a narrow, winding staircase.** FF Reischl is also survived by his wife, Maria daughter, Nicole, and his brother, Michael. Our sincere condolences to all affected. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-12-11 / 2208 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Here is an in-depth article related to the Chicago FD and their staffing. While the writer gives an impression of asking (and stirring it up) "**why isn't the CFD being cut**" ?-the article does have some interesting data that also could leave a reader to believe that Chicago FD is CORRECT-and the others that have cut are WRONG. **How 'bout that.** The article also has the flavor that "The CFD should suffer too". Well after any FD "suffers" cuts, it's the citizens with the FIRE or EMS run that pays the price. No emotion. That's the fact. **HERE** is the entire piece:

<http://www.chicagonewscoop.org/in-tough-times-fire-department-untouched-2/>

**AND ON THE OTHER HAND:**

The City of Cape Coral (Florida) STOPPED their brownouts after a woman died of a heart attack last weekend which many blame on the fact that the 2nd Rescue truck in the Fire Station closest to the woman's location was unstaffed due to budget cuts. "We want the Fire Department to operate at the highest level of efficiency," Mayor John Sullivan said. "We're not reducing other services. We've found more efficient ways of doing things." Trucks, even entire fire stations in some fire districts, go unmanned for a shift when there are not enough people on duty to cover them. These brownouts save money by eliminating the need to pay overtime to fully staff the service. "What happened last weekend was an eye opener," said City Councilman Marty McClain. "It's a victory for the citizens," said Firefighters union Vice President Brendan Fonock. "**These brownouts were taking place. There was a reduction in service but taxpayers were paying exactly the same amount of money,**" Fonock said. **HERE** is more: <http://tinyurl.com/5v5wh2a>

**A BOOK WORTH OWNING:**

With the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 coming up, there will be many valid opportunities (and some shyster stuff to avoid) to purchase books and related items - so that we can educate future generations-and keep ourselves focused as well, while remembering those who gave their lives. **Harvey Eisner, Fire Chief (Ret) and Editor in Chief at Firehouse has put together what may be the finest compilation that is available-and the sales benefit FOUR major fire service organizations.** Filled with comprehensive, exclusive interviews with **Firefighters** who responded to the World Trade Center

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

attack, **WTC: In Their Own Words**, is a special collector's edition book from Firehouse Magazine to honor the 10th anniversary of 9/11. **Check it out HERE:** [www.firehouse.com/wtcbook](http://www.firehouse.com/wtcbook)  
We just ordered ours.  
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 5-13-11 / 1558 Hours

### **AND:**

Hey,

**A Salem (Indiana) Firefighter** is reported to be in critical condition after being injured during a training detail. The incident occurred yesterday around noon when members were apparently doing a pump and hose drill. For a yet to be determined reason, the Firefighter was either thrown or fell due to an issue with a hose line and was injured. The Firefighter is reported to be in a medically induced coma at University Hospital ICU with serious head trauma. We wish the FF a rapid recovery.

### **APPARATUS CRASHES IN KENTUCKY & ARIZONA**

Last evening on Kentucky 1394 in Laurel County fire apparatus was responding to a house fire. While enroute, the driver lost control on the wet roadway. The apparatus went about 100 feet down a ditch line and crashed over an embankment. Firefighters Kendall Osborne, and his passenger, FF Mike Sizemore, were taken to a local hospital for their undisclosed injuries.

**3 Phoenix (AZ) Firemedics** were injured yesterday when their ambulance was hit by a car while transporting an electrocution patient to the hospital. The victim electrocuted himself while working on a roof air conditioner. FF's used ground ladders to get him to the ground and continued to do perform ALS. The ambulance with a crew of 5 treated/transported but just as they turned left into the Baptist emergency room entrance, a Toyota Camry failed to yield. They were t-boned and hit by a car, which hit the back passenger side corner of the ambulance; that threw everybody in the back of the ambulance around because they were actively doing chest compressions, maintaining the airway. One of the 3 Firefighters injured will required a CT scan for a head injury. The patient in his 30s did not survive, but appears to have died from the electrocution and not the crash.

### **RELATED:**

A police officer and 2 Paramedic Supervisors were injured in a responding crash yesterday afternoon at a Pittsburgh intersection. The officer was heading to the scene of a fatal shooting in Pittsburgh's Hill District when the collision happened. The Officer and 2 EMS supervisors were taken to a local hospital and have been listed in stable condition.

### **PA FIREFIGHTER INJURED-CHEMICAL BURNS**

Several Firefighters received chemical burns in Harborcreek Township near Erie, PA yesterday. The American Biodiesel Energy and North American Powder Coatings facility was unoccupied when the fire started last night. However 3 firefighters did suffer minor injuries, said Asst Chief Ronald Hawryliw of the Fairfield Hose Co. At least 2 Firefighters received chemical burns and were transported to the hospital, but their injuries weren't believed to be serious.

### **INMATE FIREFIGHTERS IN CALIFORNIA**

Following the budget driven reduction of 700 seasonal Firefighter positions in California, Cal Fire said they'll rely more than ever on the state prison inmates to help fight and prevent fires statewide. The firefighting force was reduced as part of state budget cuts made earlier in the year. The inmate Firefighters, who are mostly serving time for lower level offenses and live in minimum security camps near fire-prone areas, work at almost no cost. **The inmates earn \$1.00 a day during their service**

with Cal Fire, and \$1.00 an hour while actively fighting a fire or implementing fire-preventing measures. "It's an honor for them, but they're also paying back their debt to society," said a Cal Fire spokesman. "It's like we have something to prove as inmates," said Don Pride, an inmate working his 3rd fire season. "Here's our chance to show you we're not bums and we can get it done if you give us a chance," Pride said.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 5-15-11 / 1815 Hours

**AND:**

**CANADIAN FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH-COLLAPSE AT WILDLAND FIRE**

We regret to advise you that a Canadian Firefighter died in the Line of Duty last Tuesday when he operating at a wildland fire in the ClÃ©ricy forestry sector, Rouyn-Noranda, northwestern Quebec, Canada. Firefighter Sylvain Perron, 33, experienced medical discomfort and collapsed with a medical emergency. His colleagues tried to resuscitate him until an ambulance transported him to the Center for Health and Social Services in Rouyn-Noranda, where he was pronounced. As always, our sincere condolences.

**FLOOR COLLAPSE INJURES FIREFIGHTERS**

A Christchurch (New Zealand) Firefighter is undergoing emergency surgery for injuries caused when the first floor of a burning building collapsed. 3 Firefighters were injured when the floor collapsed at a commercial building. 3 suffered back and knee injuries when they fell into the ground floor this morning. The injured men were stretching a line onto the building's first floor when they fell through. Other FF's were able to rapidly rescue them. The occupants of the building had not used the first floor since the February earthquake, because of damages.

**FIRE SERVICE AWARD OPPORTUNITES:**

Know someone who has made a real difference in relation to the survival of Firefighters? Perhaps someone who has made a difference to YOUR FIREFIGHTERS? Well, do ya? 'Course ya do! Nominations are now open for the annual IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Awards. These awards recognize individuals of fire departments, fire organizations (of any size or type) and organizations themselves that have made a significant contribution to the overall environment of firefighter safety, health and survival in their organizations and/or the fire service. The awards will be presented at Fire-Rescue International 2011 this summer. Check out the AWARDS program HERE:

<http://www.iafcsafety.org/awards.php>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 5-17-11 / 2131 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**BALDWIN, NEW YORK FF LODD-Medical Emergency While Responding**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of a Firefighter of the Baldwin FD, Nassau County, Long Island, NY. Initial details are that they were responding to a fire this morning when the member, in his early 40's, experienced a medical emergency. He was treated by personnel and transported but unfortunately succumbed. As always our sincere condolences to all affected. More details will be posted.

Take Care-Be Careful,  
BillyG

The Secret List 5-18-11 / 0754 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Tragically, this morning, Baldwin (Long Island, New York) A Baldwin Firefighter died of a heart attack after responding to a working fire this morning. Michael Esposito, 43, a 21-year member and Ex-Captain of the department, complained of chest pains in a department truck en route to the fire on the 2800 block of Grand Avenue at 3:30 hours. He was at the scene about 10 minutes when EMS evaluated him and took him to South Nassau Communities Hospital in Oceanside, where he died in the Line of Duty. According to the Baldwin Fire Chief, Esposito had a checkup "within the past few weeks," adding: "He had a clean bill of health." He is survived by two sisters, another brother and their father, Gerard, 70. RIP. Here is the Baldwin FD Website: <http://www.baldwinfd.org/>

**PA. FIRE REPORT OUTLINES WHAT WENT WRONG/WHAT SHOULD CHANGE  
Firefighters Were Trapped & Burned Last September At a Multi-Family Dwelling Fire.  
These Recommendations Can Be Used By Any FD/Any Of Us, As A Template To Learn From.  
(VIDEO BELOW)**

In a no nonsense report regarding the fireground leadership of the Coatesville (PA) FD, independent investigators outlined a slew of recommendations to assist the department. Mismanagement, dangerously poor communication and broken leadership were significant factors in the emergency response for an apartment building fire that left seven firefighters injured.

**NOTE:** In April, the area local paper, the Daily Local News, made a formal request for a copy of the report; however, the city requested an additional 30 days to determine if such a report was indeed a public document and therefore should be released. Meanwhile, the Daily Local News obtained the report through another source and this information is based upon the findings of reporter Jennifer Carboni. Specifically, the 26-page report says Coatesville Fire Chief Kevin Johnson and other incident leaders failed at their duties during the Sept. 10, 2010, fire at the Millview Apartments. More than 100 firefighters responded to the blaze that caused roughly \$1.5 million in damage to the 28-unit building. According to the report, a major failure in communication allowed firefighters to "stay in an area of danger for far too long." Also, at least two "mayday" calls from firefighters went unanswered during the incident. The report is the result of an independent investigation sought by Chief Johnson. The city paid two retired Philadelphia deputy fire chiefs \$16,000 for the examination and subsequent report, which investigators released to Johnson on March 29. The city has not formally released the report nor discussed its contents publicly.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The investigators, Jim Smith and Bill Shouldis, retired Philadelphia Chiefs, seasoned fire commanders, NFA Instructors and noted tactical firefighting book authors, outlined 24 recommendations on how to improve emergency responses based on how the department handled the Millview incident. Chief Johnson was the incident commander and therefore was responsible for overseeing the entire event, including the fire itself as well as dealing with the media and other agencies. Assistant Fire Chief Dan Paulukinas was operations section chief. An Incident Action Plan is required for all incidents, investigators said, but did not exist for Millview. Moving forward, the department should have a plan in place for all incidents. The plan does not need to be written, but should consider conditions, actions and resource needs and be relayed to responders. "Though the incident commander may have had a mental plan at this incident; it was never made known to anyone including (Paulukinas)," the report states.

Typically, the incident commander (Johnson) would relay the plan to the operations section chief (Paulukinas), who would then "ensure that all tactical units receive the needed information and the resources to carry out their portion of the (plan)," the report states. Without a plan, the firefighters working inside the burning building were not receiving appropriate guidance from leaders on the outside, investigators said. "At this incident no one with command/leadership authority ever asked the basic question: is it still safe to work on the interior? Continuously evaluating safety factors is a basic of a risk management plan," the report states. Later, a ceiling collapsed and injured seven firefighters, including Deputy Chief Robert Pacana, who was working with a team inside the building. (SEE VIDEO BELOW). Pacana, who at the time was a volunteer Firefighter in Coatesville, suffered severe burns and a serious leg injury. Pacana is also a paid firefighter in Washington, D.C., and has not been able to return to work due to minimal mobility with his left foot. In the report, investigators gave numerous examples where communication failed among leadership. For example, both Paulukinas and Johnson were giving tactical directions to crews, which investigators said should never happen. "Two individuals cannot be directing the tactical operations. The incident commander (Johnson) needs to provide guidance, establish the 'framework' of an incident action plan and share strategic views with operations (Paulukinas)".

The incident commander must allow the operations chief to carry out the plan, investigators said. At the same time, the commander and operations chief must stay in constant communication regarding progress with the fire fight. "This frequent exchange of communication is necessary to create a common operating picture. Communication is essential to making operation adjustments based on changes in conditions," the report states. Investigators said training is needed in the department to clarify roles and responsibilities of command personnel. During an interview, Paulukinas reportedly told investigators his strategy was to finish the interior search for residents. However, investigators said, "he failed to follow-up by checking on the progress of search assignments in the fire building and exposures." Additionally, investigators said documentation shows that the interior crew was not only looking for victims, but working to suppress the fire. At the same time, while Paulukinas told the inside crew to perform search and rescue tactics, he did not request feedback. Instead, firefighters were working by self-direction.

"This communication void allowed members to freelance and hampered effective decision making at the strategic level. Without specific instructions and with members determining their own actions, units were allowed to stay in an area of danger for far too long," the report states. Investigators said a scene must be monitored for hazards that could interfere with successfully completing objectives. In the future, leaders should set time frames for search and rescue while fire conditions are monitored. "Firefighters must be withdrawn when primary search is completed or when conditions present too much of a hazard to those attempting to search and rescue," the report states. While the department has an existing policy requiring interior firefighters to provide frequent verbal status reports to operations outside, investigators said such reporting did not occur at Millview. Investigators said Paulukinas should have requested the reports. Investigators said such reports guide the decision to switch from an offensive to a defensive approach, meaning firefighters leave the building and fight the flames from outside. In terms of command, investigators said it is critical for the incident commander or operations chief to establish a visible staging area to assist with direction and organization among firefighters.

Also, investigators said accountability is key among leadership. For example, at times key responders were unable to locate Johnson at the scene. Investigators said it is critical for the incident commander - or a designee - to be stationary and visible. "The command post should be stationary, properly staffed and established in front of the building for recognition by outside cooperating and assisting agencies," the report states. Investigators also documented failures with proper terminology over the

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radio, lack of proper direction for responders via radio, and calls that simply went unanswered including a "mayday" call by at least two different firefighters. Investigators said seven firefighters were injured by a collapsed ceiling after being inside the burning building "for a prolonged period of time." Investigators said the establishment of an Incident Safety Officer at the scene would allow one qualified person to "concentrate strictly on the safety of those operating at the incident scene." That person could make suggestions to the incident commander on how to ensure firefighters' safety.

Furthermore, in regard to firefighter safety, investigators said that the firefighters working inside the building were not actually looking for victims, but fighting the fire. "The excessive amount of time that units were operating in an offensive attack should have raised a safety concern. The intense fire caused the roof to burn away and collapse over practically the entire third floor ... Despite these seriously deteriorating conditions, firefighters were allowed to remain inside the structure on an offensive attack," the report states. Firefighters continued working on the offensive from inside the building, despite one of the first responders suggesting crews immediately work on the defensive - outside the building. "Risk versus gain must be assessed at all incidents and it should be discussed between the incident commander, the operations section chief and the incident safety officer," the report states.

**HERE is video of the fire:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wu62sNropwU>

**HERE is the entire article about the report:**

<http://dailylocal.com/articles/2011/05/17/news/doc4dd3253752272839763513.txt>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-18-11 / 1356 Hours

**AND:**

**CANADIAN FIREFIGHTING HELICOPTER CRASH - LODD**

We regret to advise you of the death of a Canadian Firefighter Helicopter Pilot yesterday at the Slave Lake Fire, in Alberta, Canada. The helicopter was fighting the fire when it crashed into Slave Lake approx. 30 meters from shore. The pilot was killed and several other firefighters were treated for hypothermia from working in the lake during the rescue operation. Our sincere condolences to all involved in this incident. Additional updates will be posted on our homepage.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-20-11 / 0725 Hours

**AND:**

**MA. FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

**HEPATITIS COMPLICATIONS FROM A RUN-OVER 20 YEARS AGO**

We regret to advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Pittsfield (MA) FF Todd Lange who lost his battle with complications due to hepatitis contracted while doing mouth to mouth/CPR over 20 years ago. FF Lange, 60, a member of IAFF #2647, worked for nearly half his career battling the disease and/while going thru experimental treatments. He leaves behind his wife, 2 sons, 2 granddaughters and many family and friends. As always, our most sincere condolences.

**GA FIREFIGHTER DROWNS ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HIS OWN CHILDREN (OFF DUTY)**

A 24-year-old Firefighter trainee drowned in Lake Tobesofkee near Macon, GA while trying to save three children, all who survived. FF Michael Dewayne Jones was pulled from the lake Saturday about an hour after he disappeared. Leon Jones said the man was rescuing three children ages 5, 7 and 8

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who were having trouble swimming. Leon Jones said the children, two of which belonged to Michael Jones, were saved but Jones drowned. The other child was an 8-year-old girl who Jones' sons were playing with in the water. Jones had gone to the lake for an outing with his wife and three sons. The other son, 7 months old, was not in the water. Jones was training to become a Macon firefighter. "He did what any parent's gonna do," Sheriff's Lt. Paul Edwards told the Telegraph. "He did what firemen are trained to do. But for whatever reason, he slipped. It could've been a catfish hole, it could've been a rock. He went down and he never came back up." Our condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 5-23-11 / 1455 Hours

**AND:**

**MINN. FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-TRAUMATIC INJURY AT TRAINING**

We regret to advise you that a rookie Cambridge (MN) Firefighter was tragically killed in the Line of Duty from a fall while training. Following a training session at the Cambridge Fire Hall on Monday, May 23, at around 2130 hours, Firefighter Chip Imker, 35, fell onto the pavement. FF Imker was flown to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, and died as a result of his injuries. Reports are that FF Imker was putting his foot in a looped rope that got twisted, and the rope spread under his weight, came loose, and he fell about 6-8 feet onto concrete. FF Imker was a father, son, brother, partner, soldier, private business owner, Firefighter and coach. He was a certified Firefighter I and II as well as a trained EMS first responder and served his country as a member of the Army National Guard. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

**FEDERAL POLITICIANS CONTINUE TOWARD CUTTING FIRE RELATED PROGRAMS**

House politicians moved their first two 2012 appropriations bills through committee today amid fights with other committee members over deep cuts to disaster aid that come as Missouri grapples with a devastating tornado. The Homeland Security appropriations bill, which included cuts to disaster aid and Firefighter funding, was approved on a party-line vote. **The measure would cut \$1.07 billion from fiscal 2011 levels, and about \$3 billion from President Obama's request for next year.**

Rep. David Price offered amendments to the Homeland Security bill to reverse cuts to disaster aid and firefighter assistance grants, but both failed on largely party-line votes. The first amendment would have restored \$460 million for the firefighter grants, bringing funding up to last year's levels and reversing a 65 percent cut. The second amendment would have restored cuts to state and local FEMA programs as well as the Firefighter program. With the cuts, FEMA state and local programs would be reduced by 55 percent compared to levels for fiscal 2011, and by 70 percent compared to fiscal 2010. **MORE HERE:** <http://thehill.com/homenews/house/163091-house-panel-moves-to-cut-fema-firefighter-grants>

**LODD UPDATE: TEXAS JUDGE RULES TRANSGENDER WIDOW MARRIAGE IS NOT VALID. SURVIVOR IS NOT QUALIFIED TO RECEIVE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS.**

A Wharton County (Texas) judge declared today that a transgender widow's marriage to Wharton Firefighter Thomas Araguz, who died in the Line of Duty, was not valid, so she is not eligible for his Federal PSOB death benefits. Ever since FF Thomas Araguz died at that fire at an egg farm last year, his family has been fighting his widow, Nikki Araguz, over \$600,000 in death benefits. The Firefighter's family argued that, since Nikki Araguz was born a man, her marriage to Thomas Araguz, under Texas law, wasn't not valid. The family said the death benefits should go to FF Araguz's 2 children, that he had with his first wife. However, Nikki Araguz has maintained that Thomas Araguz knew about her past as a man, and that their marriage was legal. She had sexual reassignment surgery after the marriage but the couple was estranged at the time of FF Araguz's death. Judge Randy Clapp said today that because Nikki Araguz was born a man, FF Thomas Araguz was not married on the day he

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died in the Line of Duty, and any marriage, formal or informal, is void. According to attorneys, it's likely that the benefits won't be released until the appeals process is over, and that could take another year. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-24-11 / 2201 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

This will be quick-**take a look at this video** and understand why no matter how many Federal dollars are given to us to do firefighter training, no matter how many national meetings are held, no matter how many studies are done, standards written and no matter whatever else you can think of that is done for us-if the issues of Firefighter Survival aren't handled "locally" - the ability to unnecessarily injure and kill Firefighters will continue. The potential for Firefighter death is very real in this clip. It has happened before and while many HAVE learned from past Firefighter deaths, the leadership of these people have not. Some may claim that "live fire training" needs to be outlawed, we disagree-we just need to follow the standards-standards that were developed **because** of firefighters killed doing just what is seen here: **WATCH THE LATEST VIDEO:**

<http://firefighterspot.com/#1499904/Adding-Fuel-To-The-Fire-Live-Burn-Training>

Thanks to Jason at FireFighterSpot.com, one of our partnering sites, for that clip.

And JUST in case it's needed, here are some articles & reference info on NFPA 1403, Live Fire Training: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/wp-solutions/2005-102/>

**(Preventing Deaths and Injuries to FF's during Live-Fire Training in Acquired Structures-NIOSH)**

<http://tinyurl.com/4ypy3tn> (Fire Engineering)

<http://tinyurl.com/434wfza> (Firehouse)

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/36756> (Case Study)

**AND SPEAKING OF FIREGROUND LEADERSHIP:**

**Be it the "training ground" or the "fireground" - we have a choice to operate professionally or operate like the above circus shown in that video. It often comes down to the "bosses"-the Company Officers and the Chief Officers as the "bottom line" of why things go right-or wrong.**

One solution we want to pass on to you is the 2nd Annual Brunacini's Hazard Zone (Fire Ground) Management Conference. This really solid Conference will take place at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, on **October 17th to 19th, 2011**. This conference will focus on all 3 of the major hazard zone (fireground) breakdowns that are killing and injuring firefighters today; incident command systems, the critical decision-making process, along with the most up to date and inclusive fire/burn studies done over the past two years. **This is a "WELL WORTH IT" training event that over 400 firefighters & officers attended last year.**

**MORE HERE:** [http://www.regonline.ca/brunacinis\\_conference\\_2011](http://www.regonline.ca/brunacinis_conference_2011)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-26-11 / 0915 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Among the Philadelphia (PA) FD's 116 injuries so far this year are a FF that had hot aluminum drop down his neck, a gas explosion tossing a FF into the air, a FF put his hand thru glass and a medic



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was bitten by a dog. Those are included in numbers that are up 26 percent over the 92 injuries reported at the same time last year. **Bill Gault, President of IAFF Local 22 blames "brownouts" and other cost-saving measures, claiming the members are overworked and understaffed.** City officials counter that the spike is a historical anomaly. Injuries did dip to just 45 during the first quarter of 2010. But look at the years before, Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison said, and they average 84 for the same time period, which is in line with the 85 injuries reported in the first quarter of 2011. No surprise, Gillison blasted Gault, saying he's preying on public fears of inadequate emergency protection in a poorly disguised grab for more overtime money. City officials began the brownouts - in which three stations a week close temporarily on a rotational basis - last August in an effort to save \$3.8 million in firefighter overtime. The argument might be decided by an independent research group recently hired, at a \$219,000 price tag, to independently review the PFD. Results are expected in four to six months, according to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority, which commissioned the study at the PFD's request. **HERE is more:** <http://tinyurl.com/3db4fsc>

**NOTE:** No doubt, the measuring of injuries (civilian & Firefighters) along with fire loss will show whether or not brownouts, cuts, layoff's, shut downs etc are leading to "perfect storm" conditions. Any bets? With FD's and staffing being cut, homebuilders slamming us (and the public) by kissing politicians on fire sprinklers, volunteer recruitment and turnout very tough in many areas: **do the math.** Maybe we will even have someone suggest a study and call it "**America Burning III**". **OK, sorry.**

- **America Burning 1973:** <http://tinyurl.com/yg9acmh>
- **America Burning Revisited 1987:** <http://tinyurl.com/5uhhwpk>

#### **CHIEF RICK LASKY TO RETIRE FROM THE LFD.**

Heard from Rick this week that he is retiring, sort of. Well, at least from the FD. It is due to his..... **Passion for teaching...**and here are some words from an e-mail Rick sent us: "About two years ago my best friend, FDNY Battalion Chief John Salka, and I explored the idea of moving into the lecture arena on a more regular or "full time" basis. We decided that we would retire and begin teaching that January. We began booking extra classes and we were all set to move on. Then we changed our minds and decided to hold off. Rick had some family issues to deal with (including the sad passing of his Mom) "When that began I made the decision to cancel the next two years of speaking engagements and be there for my family. I'm so very glad I did. You know my belief of "family first." Today my mom is in a much better place, my dad is doing very well, (Daughter) Emily is a "Fighting Farmer" and doing great, and my son is a Navy Corpsman in Afghanistan attached to the Marines and taking care of 35 of them on the ground.

**Last July I realized just how much I missed teaching. I missed the energy of the classroom, the people, and of making a difference in the fire service on a national platform.**

That being said this past fall I was presented with the opportunity to once again teach with my good friend John and began to explore the possibilities. We once again made the decision to move forward and decided that it would begin in 2011 later in the year. Teaching in Indy at FDIC this year just confirmed that it was time. I missed writing and working for my friend Chief Bobby Halton and I really missed teaching. Therefore I am announcing that I will be retiring as Lewisville Fire Chief this fall. The reason for choosing that time of year is that we have several extremely important tasks to accomplish this summer at the LFD. With over 30 years in the fire service, eleven in Lewisville, I can't help but feel proud of what we have been able to accomplish. In moving on there is some sadness when I look at the relationships and friends I developed and made in Texas, but we're not moving or leaving the fire service-we're just closing one chapter and moving into the next. Thank you, God Bless, Family First, and as always, "Be Safe." We certainly wish Rick THE BEST as he starts this next chapter in his life. **TO CONTACT RICK, GO TO:** <http://www.fivealarmleadership.com/>  
**HERE IS A RELATED ARTICLE:** [http://www.scntx.com/articles/2011/05/27/news\\_update/397.txt](http://www.scntx.com/articles/2011/05/27/news_update/397.txt)

**MEMORIAL DAY 2011 (See Photo Link Below)**

The "Memorial" in Memorial Day has been ignored by too many of us who are beneficiaries of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Often we do not observe the day as it should be, a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members (**my Dad: WW 2**), our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice:

- by visiting cemeteries and placing flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes.
- by visiting memorials.
- by flying the U.S. Flag at half-staff until noon.
- by respecting the flag when it passes by (**PLEASE SEE BELOW**)
- by flying the 'POW/MIA Flag' as well (Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act).
- by participating in a "National Moment of Remembrance": at 3 p.m. to pause and think upon the true meaning of the day, and for Taps to be played.
- and by renewing a pledge to aid the widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen dead, and to aid the disabled -veterans.

**Have a BBQ with family and friends, but just don't forget the importance and meaning of Memorial Day. LASTLY, of all the photos related to Memorial Day and respect for our Country, this is our favorite and wanted to pass it on to you. It shows a man in a wheel chair STANDING for the American flag as it passes by-doing as we were taught to do as kids, and we have taught our own kids-but notice the rest of the crowd in this picture: <http://tinyurl.com/3erqjch> He Gets It.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-28-11 / 1836 Hours

**AND:**

**N.J. ASSISTANT FIRE-RESCUE CHIEF, 42, DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

A Flanders Fire & Rescue Company (Mt Olive Township, Morris County, NJ) Officer died in the Line of Duty today after responding on a run at Mountainview Elementary School. The death of Assistant Fire Chief Thomas Shields, 42, is being called the first line-of-duty death for the Flanders fire company since 1927. The husband and father of two responded to the school because a student reportedly became overheated. The child was fine and Chief Shields returned to the firehouse and then headed home, feeling ill. He told his wife he was having chest pains, EMS responded but tragically Chief Shields died at Saint Clare's Hospital in Denville. As always our most sincere condolences to all affected by this loss. **HERE** is their webpage: <http://www.flandersfire.org/home>

**FROM THE IAFC REGARDING ACTION:**

Tomorrow, Wednesday, June 1, the House of Representatives is scheduled to consider H.R. 2017, the Fiscal Year 2012 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act. **NOTE: This bill would cut the FIRE grant program from \$405 million to \$200 million and the SAFER grant program from \$405 million to \$150 million. In addition, the bill would end the existing waivers to the SAFER grant program, and limit the number of cities eligible for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program to the top 10 cities based on risk.**

Please contact your Representative ASAP and ask them to vote for the following amendments:

Amendment to restore funding to the FIRE and SAFER grant programs. This amendment would restore funding for the FIRE and SAFER grant programs to \$335 million for each program (Sponsored by Steven LaTourette (R-OH) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)).

Emphasize that the American public views fire and emergency response as an "inherently governmental function" and that the FIRE and SAFER grant programs are the only federal programs that help fire departments prepare for all hazards, including those of national significance.

Point out that the FIRE and SAFER grant programs use a highly-regarded merit-based, peer-review process to grant awards directly to fire departments. If you have received a FIRE or SAFER grant, explain how they have improved your emergency response capabilities. Also, let your Representative know if you plan on applying for a FIRE or SAFER grant, and how these grant programs can help you protect your jurisdiction.

**Amendment to extend the existing SAFER waivers through FY 2012.**

For the FY 2011 SAFER grants, there is a waiver on the 10/20/50/70 percent local match requirement and a waiver on the requirement that SAFER funds cannot supplant existing state or local funds. For FY 2011, the SAFER funds also can be used to re-hire and retain firefighters. The amendment also would remove the \$100,000 per firefighter cap on SAFER awards and the requirement to retain the SAFER firefighter for a fifth year at the local jurisdiction's expense.

**=Explain why it is important that fire departments be adequately staffed to ensure the health and safety of your fire department and the American public.**

If you have received a SAFER grant, explain how the SAFER-funded firefighters or the SAFER-funded volunteer recruitment/retention programs have improved your fire department's operations.

**=Amendment to remove the limit on the number of cities eligible for the UASI grant program.**

REMINDE THEM that there is still an active terrorist threat and that many of the United States' urban areas are still at risk. If you have received funding as part of a UASI grant, explain how it has been used to improve regional and local cooperation in emergency response operations and enhanced your capability to respond to a terrorist attack or other disasters.

**=Lastly, make it clear that your Representative should oppose any amendment to eliminate the FIRE and SAFER grant programs.**

Explain that the local fire service is the nation's front-line responder to all disasters, natural and man-made, and that these programs play an even more important role now that many local budgets are being cut. You can locate contact information for your representative on THIS website <http://www.house.gov/> by inputting your full 9-digit zip code at the top right-hand corner of the homepage. This tool will direct you to your Representative's web page where you can find his or her phone number and/or submit comments in support of these amendments. Alternatively, you can call the House switchboard at 202-225-3121 and ask to be connected to your Representative's office.

**MORE HERE:** <http://www.iafc.org/>

**RUNAWAY FD RIG IN NEW YORK :**

An unmanned fire department SUV was slightly damaged this morning after it rolled over a small tree and crashed into a stoop. It happened around 1000 hours when firefighters from the Arbor Hill station were inspecting a building. Rescue 2, a Chevrolet Suburban SUV used to carry paramedics and paramedic equipment, was parked outside on the street when -- for reasons that officials said are not yet clear -- it began to roll slowly down the block. The SUV jumped the curb, crushed a small tree and ran into a concrete stoop at 178 North Lake, shoving the steps about a foot out of alignment-no one was injured. At some point, whether the truck slipped into gear with a failure of some sort, they don't know yet. The Firefighters had been out of the truck for five or six minutes before the accident, the vehicle has been sent for a mechanical inspection.

**REMINDER-FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL WEEK IS A FEW WEEKS AWAY:**

Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week is June 19-25, 2011 **2011 Theme: Surviving the Fire Ground - Fire Fighter, Fire Officer & Command Preparedness Mayday: Not If...When.** With so many changes (budget cuts, staffing reductions, reduced training, etc.) in so many fire departments, it is a critical reminder critical for fire fighters to focus on their own survival on the fire ground. There is no other call more challenging to fire ground operations than a Mayday call - the moment when a fire fighter's personal safety is in imminent danger. Fire fighter fatality data have shown that fire fighters "becoming trapped and disoriented represent the largest portion of structural fire ground fatalities." The incidents in which fire fighters have lost their lives, or lived to tell about it, have a consistent theme - inadequate situational awareness put them at risk. **MORE HERE TO HELP YOUR FD PREPARE FOR SAFETY WEEK:** <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=306>

**NOTE: SAFETY WEEK**, formerly known as safety "STAND DOWN" Week, is a collaborative program sponsored by the IAFC and the IAFF, coordinated by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section and the IAFF Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine, in partnership with more than 20 national fire service organizations. Departments are encouraged to suspend all non-emergency activity during Safety Week and instead focus entirely on this year's theme related training and education until all shifts and personnel have taken part. An entire week is provided to ensure each shift and duty crew can spend one day focusing on these critical issues.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-31-11 / 2209 Hours

**AND:**

**SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTER LODD-FF'S BURNED**

SF media is reported that 1 Firefighter has died in the Line of Duty, 1 San Francisco Firefighter was also badly burned and a third suffered minor injuries battling a house fire just a little while ago in the city's Diamond Heights neighborhood. They were hurt at a fire in a four-story home at 133 Berkeley Way when there was a flashover. The 3 members were taken to San Francisco General Hospital. The two found unconscious suffered "severe burns," with 1 reported in CPR-who has since died. The house appears to be two stories from the street, but has two additional stories built into the slope of a hill in the back. MORE to follow. As always, our sincere condolences. We have also posted some photos on our home page.

**BALTIMORE CITY FD SAFETY OFFICER STRUCK WHILE RESPONDING**

A Baltimore City Fire Department Safety Officer was in a car accident in route to a fire this morning. The safety officer was on the way to a house fire in the 3600 block of Dudley Avenue when he was involved in a three car accident which was reported not to be his fault. We have pictures posted on our home page. The Safety Officer received non-life-threatening injuries.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-2-11 / 1530 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Here is a link to another series of photos from the fire that killed San Francisco FD Lt. Vincent Perez yesterday and seriously injured FF Anthony Valerio. As the below slide show plays, note in the series of photos from the rear, how the building looked "normal" - then erupted.

**WATCH SLIDE SHOW HERE:** <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/123042233.html>

Firefighter Tony Valerio continues to battle for his life today with his family by his side and his SF Firefighters gathered outside in prayer. FF Valerio was injured when that flashover engulfed he and two other Firefighters were trapped in that house fire. BE SURE to look at the construction challenges at that fire in the photos above. As you know, Lt. Vincent Perez, 48, was killed and a third firefighter was treated and released for undisclosed injuries. CALOsha and other fire investigators are on the scene today determining what went wrong. More to follow.

**EDITORIAL REGARDING YESTERDAYS FIRE:** <http://tinyurl.com/3solass>

(Feel free to pass on to your elected officials and city hall dwellers, as this was written by a former elected official of SF )

**MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2 FF's:** <http://tinyurl.com/3otpnmg>

**=BRIDGEPORT CT FIREFIGHTER BURNED**

A BFD Firefighter was burned and 21 residents were displaced from a house fire at 0230 this morning that is suspected to be arson. The fire burned through all three floors of the house, including tearing through the kitchen floor on one of the levels. The rear fire escape was also rolling shortly after the fire began. The FF suffered neck and facial burns when his mask accidentally pulled off while operating has since been released from the hospital.

**=FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE FROM THE IAFC:**

Last night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2017, the Fiscal Year 2012 U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill, which would appropriate \$40.6 billion in discretionary spending for the DHS and its programs. As per an IAFC members alert:

=Restoring \$320 million to the FIRE and SAFER grant programs. This amendment, offered by Representatives Steven LaTourette (R-OH) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), restored \$320 million to the FIRE and SAFER grant programs. After passage of the amendment, the FIRE and SAFER grant programs would be funded at \$335 million each.

=Removing the Limit on Cities Eligible for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Grants. This amendment, offered by Representatives Hansen Clarke (D-MI), Brian Higgins (D-NY), and Dave Reichert (R-WA), removed the provision in H.R. 2017 that would have limited the number of cities eligible for UASI grants to the ten highest-risk cities. This amendment will ensure that all UASI cities are eligible for the funding.

=Extending the SAFER Waivers Through FY 2012. This amendment, offered by Representative David Price (D-NC), extended the waivers to requirements for the SAFER grant programs through FY 2012. It will allow fire departments to use the SAFER grants to re-hire and retain firefighters. The Senate must now consider its own FY 2012 DHS Appropriations bill later this summer. Then, the House-passed and Senate-passed bills must be reconciled and sent to President Obama for signature by the beginning of the FY 2012 fiscal year on October 1. MORE DETAILS: [www.IAFC.org](http://www.IAFC.org)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 6-3-11 / 1313 Hours

**AND:**

**2nd SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

It is with deep regret that we have been advised that San Francisco Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Valerio, 53, has now also died in the Line of Duty following the loss of Lt. Vincent Perez. He passed at

0740 hours this morning. We will post additional information as it becomes available. As always, our sincere condolences to the SFFD and all those affected by this double LODD.

**DESPERATE SEARCH FOR MISSING SFFD FIREFIGHTERS (Radio Traffic Links Below)**

Fire commanders at the scene of Thursday's house fire in San Francisco desperately sought to find a crew of Firefighters when they became separated from their colleagues, but couldn't locate them before two of them were enveloped in a flashover, radio logs (below) and dispatch recordings show. The fire at 133 Berkeley Way began about 1044 hours, apparently when an electrical outlet sparked and ignited curtains in the ground-level living room of the four-story home, one of the occupants of the home told dispatchers. The woman and three children in the home at the time escaped unharmed.

**This piece is by Jaxon Van Derbeken of the SF Chronicle.**

About 20 minutes after the first firefighters arrived, superheated gases ignited in a room where a two-man crew from the neighborhood station house was fighting the blaze. The leader of the crew, Lt. Vincent Perez, 48, was killed, and his colleague Anthony Valerio, 53, was in critical condition Friday night at San Francisco General Hospital. SFFD is investigating what happened but did not issue any updates on the probe Friday. Dispatch logs and recordings shed light on how what the first responding firefighters called a "low-grade" blaze went tragically wrong.

**ZERO VISIBILITY**

Lt. Perez, a 21-year veteran firefighter, and two colleagues from Engine Company 26 in Diamond Heights were the first to arrive at 10:47 a.m., the dispatch log shows. Dispatch tapes captured him coughing as he reported on the situation. "We have an active fire, zero visibility, third floor," Perez said. The home's third floor is actually the ground level from the street, with two floors below it built into a hillside. A scene commander, identified by firefighters as Battalion Chief Thomas Abbott, ordered a crew from Engine Company 24 to back up Perez's crew inside the building. For several minutes, however, scene commanders repeatedly tried to find the Engine 26 firefighters, without success. Finally, what appeared to be the last communication from the doomed crew came over the radio. "This is 26, this is 26. ... Battalion 6, what's your location?" said a muffled voice. "Twenty-six, this is command, I need to know your ..." came in reply. "This is Engine 26, we're on the third..." At that point, the voice over the radio trailed off.

**VENTING GASES**

Another crew soon asked the command post for permission to cut a hole in the roof to allow superheating gases to escape from the home. It is not clear whether anyone had done that in the dozen or so minutes firefighters had been on the scene, but it would have been a crucial step in preventing what happened to Perez and Valerio. The two firefighters were alone when they were overcome, and exactly when the flashover happened is unclear. One mystery raised by the dispatch tapes concerns a radio message that a dispatcher sent to the Berkeley Way command post at about 11:07 a.m. She said, "Engine 20 activated their emergency alarm and they haven't confirmed their response for five minutes." The emergency alarm is a red panic button that SFFD firefighters carry on their radios. On Thursday, Fire Department spokeswoman Mindy Talmadge said the alarm had come from one of the fallen firefighters. However, Engine 20 was a different company, which was not yet at the fire scene. A fire official close to the investigation, speaking on condition he not be named because the probe is in its early stages, said someone on Engine 20 may have pressed a panic button accidentally while en route to Berkeley Way.

**A HURRIED CHECK**

A commander at the scene, however, said he was heading into the house anyway when he got the dispatcher's radio call. "I copy that, I'm going to look for them right now," said the commander, who is not identified on the tape. A few seconds later, about 11:10 a.m., a firefighter announced that he

needed medics right away. "I've got a man down," the firefighter said, his voice surging with adrenaline. "Come through the front door, go down the stairs to the right, do you copy?" Chief Joanne Hayes-White said the whole episode, including the communications dispatches, will be under review as part of the investigation. "We want to do a complete and thorough investigation," Hayes-White said. "Right now, my complete attention is on Perez and Valerio. We're holding out hope for Tony - he's a fighter." (NOTE: FF/Paramedic Valerio died this morning)

HERE is the entire above article: <http://tinyurl.com/3hp9ewa>

HERE ARE LINKS TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED RADIO TRAFFIC:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho2gzzHJg7Q&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho2gzzHJg7Q&feature=player_embedded)

<http://alertpage1.posterous.com/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 6-4-11 1300 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:**

Without pay concessions from city unions, Reno (NV) city officials are planning to eliminate 82 more city employee positions to save \$8 million for the next fiscal year starting July 1, reducing city services to bare-bone levels for police, fire and parks. Saving those positions hinges on the city's 10 labor unions accepting 7.5-percent pay cuts. Eighty employees, including 32 firefighters, were laid off March 1 to balance the current budget and prepare for the upcoming budget. In the possible layoffs, 14 more firefighters would be lost, resulting in closure of the city's fire station at Kings Row or Ralston Street in northwest Reno, Fire Chief Michael Hernandez said. That would be the sixth station where fire crews have been reduced, and he said another station could experience periodic brown-outs or temporary closures: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110510/NEWS/105100328/Reno-council-plan-cut-82-city-jobs?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cs>

The San Carlos (CA) City Council agreed Monday to pay firefighters hired to work in its new hybrid fire agency with Redwood City less than those currently employed in the soon-to-be dissolved Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department. But council members delayed a decision on whether to apply the 5 percent pay cut to current firefighters who are tapped to work for the new agency. "This would be for new hires," City Manager Jeff Maltbie said. "You could choose to treat existing employees ... not as new hires." Council members also voted to give new firefighters less vacation and sick time than current firefighters, as well as reduced pension benefits. Most firefighters currently receive 3 percent of the average of their three highest annual salaries, multiplied by years worked when they retire at age 55. New firefighters would get just 2 percent: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_18031161?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_18031161?nclick_check=1)

A Los Angeles (CA) City Council committee voted Tuesday to recommend six furlough days for police officers and certain firefighters in January if labor talks are unproductive in the coming months:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/05/la-city-budget-furloughs-firefighters-police-officers.html>

The San Jose (CA) Fire Department may have to resort to rolling brownouts this summer as the cash strapped city tries to cut costs. That would mean fewer trucks and engines in as many as seven stations. Mayor Chuck Reed's office says only those fire houses with two trucks would be affected, with one of them taken out of service on a designated brownout day. The other stations with only one engine would not participate. The move would save the city some \$3.5 million: [http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/south\\_bay&id=8122489](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/south_bay&id=8122489)

Following the reduction of 700 seasonal firefighter positions, Cal Fire said they'll rely more than ever on the state prison inmates to help fight and prevent fires statewide. "We're in tough fiscal times, so this program is a great budget saver," said Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant. He said their force was reduced as part of state budget cuts made earlier in the year. The inmate firefighters, who are mostly serving time for lower level offenses, and live in minimum security camps near fire-prone areas, work at almost no cost. Berlant said they earn \$1 a day during their service with Cal Fire, and \$1 an hour while actively fighting a fire or implementing fire-preventing measures:

<http://www.news10.net/news/article/137586/2/Cal-Fire-to-rely-more-on-inmate-firefighters>

What happens when a small town runs out of money? The cost cutting becomes a matter of public safety. Tuesday night the Lincoln (CA) City Council set out to bridge a \$1.7 million deficit. On the chopping block, jobs in the Police AND Fire department. Lincoln is another one of those towns that went from boom to bust. As recently as 1993, the population here was 7,500 people. Today it's almost 42,000 and city hall struggles to meet its obligations. The city has \$2 million in reserve and another \$3 million in a special fund. But City Manager Jim Estep made it clear Lincoln can't keep every cop and fire fighter." We still go negative. We have a major revenue problem here." Even at the height of the boom, the fire department wasn't at full staffed; and last year fire station #33 was closed. Chief Dave Whitt says fire fighters are now going to be forced to let homes burn. "Ideally, we would have 14 people on a structure fire within the first 8 minutes. That's the national standard, it's not a gold plated standard, it's a safe standard. Just a couple of weeks ago we had 4 firefighters in the city of Lincoln."

<http://www.fox40.com/news/headlines/ktxl-lincolncutscopsandfirefighters,0,5677030.story>

San Jose's (CA) mayor says the city must declare a state of fiscal emergency in the face of skyrocketing pension costs and the planned layoffs of hundreds of municipal workers, including police officers and firefighters, to close a \$115 million budget deficit. Mayor Chuck Reed on Friday also introduced a sweeping pension-reform plan that he hopes to put before voters in November, the San Jose Mercury News reports. The proposal would raise retirement ages and significantly reduce benefits. Reed said the reforms would stabilize the Silicon Valley city's finances as it grapples its 10th straight deficit. Without the changes, San Jose might be forced to cut its 4,200-person workforce to 1,600 within five years, the two-term Democratic mayor warned. The city's annual retirement costs have ballooned from \$63 million in 2000 to \$250 million this year. Retirement costs account for about half of the budget deficit for the coming fiscal year, Reed said. To offset that fiscal burden, the city will likely be forced to eliminate 195 sworn police positions and 64 firefighter positions, in addition to other painful cuts, he said: [http://www.nctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_2c1ce23b-6d23-5090-909d-e92c47f66f5c.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/article_2c1ce23b-6d23-5090-909d-e92c47f66f5c.html)

The Washoe County (NV) Commission on Monday approved a budget for the Sierra Fire Protection District for fiscal 2011-12 that calls for three-person crews and an 11 percent cut in pay. But district financial adviser Mary Walker said the district is "not financially viable" for the



long-term even with these cuts: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110516/NEWS/105160333/Sierra-Fire-budget-includes-11-pay-cuts?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

Cleveland (OH) Mayor Frank Jackson said the City of Cleveland will layoff 321 workers, including 123 police officers and 51 firefighters, and some ranking officers will be demoted. There will be 51 firefighters laid off and Jackson said the city will close five fire companies. Jackson said a fire company is an apparatus, a pumper truck or hook and ladder for example, not a fire station. To save money, four police sergeants will be demoted, as will four fire battalion chiefs, three captains and 10 lieutenants:

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/190050/45/Mayor-Jackson-321-laid-off-with-Cleveland-budget-cuts>

The FDNY has released a list of fire companies that could soon be closed, according to WNYW-TV. The report targets 20 firehouses that would be shuttered due to budget cuts. "It would be great if we could have a firehouse or company on every corner, that's not the real world," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "And we just have to find some balance, but it's much too early in the process and every year we've come worked with the City Council and we've come to the agreement that I might point out has kept the city safe."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/20-fire-companies-fdny-list-possible-closures>

Editorial - A Fire Department for tough times: Los Angeles (CA) Department leaders have come up with a plan that would trim the overall size of the force without significantly increasing response times. The City Council should approve it. The plan is fiercely opposed by the city's firefighter union, which views it as making permanent the cuts that the department has absorbed. Its leaders have drummed up public opposition by highlighting the closure of fire companies, the teams of firefighters and equipment that some neighborhoods will lose if the plan is approved. Some protesters, however, have misinterpreted those missives as suggesting that fire stations will be shuttered. That's false. Not one of the city's 106 stations would be closed. In addition, some have decried the prospect of laying off firefighters. That's false too. The Fire Department's proposed budget contemplates making all the cuts through attrition, leaving positions vacant for the next couple of years as firefighters retire or leave:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinionla/la-ed-fire-20110518,0,3896587.story>

The cuts are deep and sweeping. The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council voting Tuesday night to eliminate nearly 260 jobs. No department was spared in the most drastic cuts in city history. "We can sit here and analyze and procrastinate and vacillate all night long. The bottom line is there is going to have to be some folks laid off," said Ward 2 Councilman William Robinson, following nearly two hours of public comment. The city council is working to keep the city afloat while cutting \$30.3 million, which accounts for about 24% of the general fund. Public safety cuts were capped at 15%, but it still amounts to a staggering number of layoffs. From the fire department, 40 positions are set to be eliminated which could result in the closure of two of the city's seven fire stations. Police will lost 83 positions, which includes shutting down a large chunk of the city's jail:

<http://www.ktnv.com/story/14666258/north-las-vegas-slashes-budget-judges-warn-crime-will-go-up>

The Los Angeles (CA) City Council approved the Los Angeles Fire Department's controversial redeployment plan Wednesday, but, in a concession to the firefighters union, it voted against eliminating hundreds of firefighter jobs. The redeployment plan calls for firetrucks or ambulances at about one-fourth of the 106 LAFD stations to be put out of service. It also included the elimination of 318 staff positions, but the city council rejected that part of the plan. Now, city fire jobs will not be eliminated as they come open. Instead, the city will simply keep them vacant. The city council also voted to create a fund of almost \$7 million to restore

some fire services. The \$7 million is the amount the city hopes to save in contract negotiations with the United Firefighters of Los Angeles:

<http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-la-city-fire-cuts,0,1446610.story>

Pension benefits for Oregon public employees should undergo deep cuts to shore up the financial health of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System and reduce PERS' drain on government budgets, a new report from the City Club of Portland says. The City Club report concludes that an average 30-year PERS retiree will receive pension benefits that exceed his final salary, when Social Security payments are added to state benefits. Bringing public pension benefits in line with the typical retirement plan target of 75 percent to 80 percent of salary would reduce costs to cash-strapped state and local governments, said Portland resident Rob Aldisert, chairman of the City Club committee that spent a year researching the issue. "What we're suggesting would be modest reforms that would in the end hopefully result in fewer layoffs and less cuts to services," Aldisert said:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20110519/NEWS/105190362/Report-urges-hefty-cuts-PERS?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Cimg%7CHome>

Watsonville (CA) City leaders, seeking employee concessions in the face of escalating pension costs and a \$1.4 million deficit, upped the pressure on police and firefighter unions, handing out more than a dozen pink slips Thursday. Five other bargaining units representing all other city employees have agreed to changes in their pension packages as well as to continue a furlough program that has cut their pay 10 percent this year, officials said. But police officers and firefighters are holding out on a city demand to go to a two-tier pension system that would cut escalating retirement costs by trimming benefits for future hires. City Manager Carlos Palacios said the city can't save the jobs without pension concessions. Seven police officers, including a lieutenant, three fire captains and one firefighter received layoff notices. A vacant police position also is slated for elimination: [http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci\\_18099785](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_18099785)

Clark County (NV) Fire Department battalion chiefs' salaries would be reduced almost 5 percent under a tentative agreement reached by their union and county officials. The deal, if approved by the County Commission and the nine battalion chiefs affected, would reduce average annual compensation by more than \$40,000, which includes a reduction in base wages of 4.875 percent and "significant" reductions in callback and overtime, according to a county statement. It also would reduce vacation and sick leave accruals, freeze merit increases, reduce longevity pay and reduce bonus leave for new employees:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/battalion-chiefs-salaries-face-5-percent-cut-122373774.html>

Without concessions from Palo Alto's (CA) police and fire unions, the city may be forced to shut down a fire station, eliminate an emergency rescue unit, or lay off more than a tenth of its police officers, according to a new report. Though City Manager Jim Keene's 2011-12 fiscal year budget counts on \$4.3 million in concessions from police and fire unions, the city council's Finance Committee asked the departments earlier this month to come up with a list of potential cuts in case negotiations don't pan out. Interim Director of Public Safety Dennis Burns will describe his proposals at a Finance Committee meeting today, including drastic cuts to both departments. "The good news is the unions and the city continue to negotiate," Burns told The Daily News. "And in the meantime, we're also looking for other options. I don't think these are cast in concrete, and I don't think these are the only options." To save \$2.3 million from the fire department, Burns offers two solutions. The city could shut down one engine company, cutting nine firefighter positions, and temporarily close one station at a time in "brownout" fashion. Or it could cut 18 positions by eliminating an engine company and the city's only rescue company: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_18126559](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_18126559)

The San Joaquin County civil grand jury Monday released a report saying Stockton (CA) Fire Department crews are too big and recommending cuts that it estimated would save millions of dollars. In its report, the grand jury recommended cutting engine and truck crews by one firefighter each and establishing a relief pool with the remainder to reduce overtime. The grand jury estimated savings from those reductions at \$5 million to \$7 million annually. Working under a worst-case budget deficit projection of \$37 million, the city has proposed closing five engine companies and cutting engine crews to three firefighters and truck crews to four. "Every fire chief in the country would embrace four firefighters on the engines and five on the trucks, but in reality the cost to sustain those firefighters must be addressed at a time when cities are planning deeper cuts to city services to balance the budgets." In a written statement, Capt. Dave Macedo, president of the firefighters union, said the grand jury's analysis was shallow and contained nothing new. Macedo said staffing cuts are almost inevitable. The Fire Department is expected to come up \$19 million short next year. That can't be made up with wage and benefit concessions alone, he said, and the city has proved willing to impose cuts it can't negotiate. Macedo said firefighters are still negotiating with the city and making credible offers: [http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110524/A\\_NEWS/105240319](http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110524/A_NEWS/105240319)

If the Washoe County (NV) Commission drops its contract with Reno for Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District service, Reno City Council members said the commissioners will be responsible for closing fire stations in the city. John Breternitz, County Commission chairman, said Wednesday that the commission already has determined it cannot live with the Reno labor contract with the firefighters, represented by Local 731 of the International Association of Fire Fighters. "We can't afford the Reno contract," he said. "We cannot make that contract work." The commission wants the flexibility of staffing stations with three firefighters rather than four to save money and keep its six stations open: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110526/NEWS/105260349/Reno-council-says-layoffs-possible-Washoe-County-drops-fire-contract?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Brentwood and Oakley (CA) leaders said this week that they are committed to saving the financially troubled East Contra Costa Fire District, but Brentwood nonetheless will pursue the possibility of forming its own fire department. "This is our plan B; plan A is to fund the current district to provide service," Councilman and fire board President Erick Stonebarger said. The fire agency that serves far East County has struggled to remain solvent in the wake of the housing crash, and is expected to exhaust its reserves before the end of the 2012-13 fiscal year: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_18138694](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_18138694)

An unusually high number of retirements, coupled with the city's budget issues, will force the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department to cut positions and take some trucks off the street. The Tucson Fire Department will say goodbye to 41 firefighters who will retire by the end of June, including 27 who leave this month, said Assistant Fire Chief Mike McKendrick. The department will cut 54 positions, including the 41 retiring firefighters, by the end of the fiscal year in June. Those positions include six fire inspectors and a training officer. The department will take three alpha trucks, which are smaller pickup trucks that handle low-priority calls, out of service, McKendrick said. Two paramedic units and a support truck that carries air to refill the firefighters' air tanks will also be taken off the street as well, he said: [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article\\_1caf3651-fe63-5448-ad89-ff871ddb6eac.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article_1caf3651-fe63-5448-ad89-ff871ddb6eac.html)

Glendale (CA) fire officials are proposing sweeping changes to the department in order to cut costs, including hiring 60 hourly emergency medical technicians to offset the 21 sworn firefighter positions that will be eliminated through attrition within the next two years. The

transition could eventually end up saving the city \$2.5 million annually, Fire Chief Harold Scoggins said, because the hourly workers wouldn't require the benefits that their full-time counterparts get. The city's rising pension obligations have been a driving factor behind the need to cut expenses or face crushing budget deficits:

<http://www.glendalenewspress.com/news/tn-gnp-0529-firebudget.0.6129358.story>

As public agencies - fatigued from years of layoffs, furloughs and unfilled vacancies - come under growing pressure to reduce the cost of employee benefits, they certainly have options. But those options come with a political price tag, too, as the past 10 days have proven. In Santa Cruz (CA), a police union leader blasted city leaders Tuesday for pushing pay cuts to cover more of the city's pension obligation. And May 19, Watsonville handed out pink slips to 11 public safety workers, citing the rising costs of retirements. With so much at stake, does the political will exist to accept pension reform countywide? Interviews with a host of public officials and employees reveals that answer is unclear. Facing greater unfunded pension liabilities and increasing contribution rates, some local officials have asked labor groups to accept a two-tiered system that reduces benefits for future hires and to pick up a share of the employer's contribution to retirement plans: [http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci\\_18160391](http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_18160391)

The Marysville (WA) Fire District is cutting back spending to stay out of the hole. The district has been hit hard by declining property values in its coverage area, Fire Chief Greg Corn said. Most of the district's revenue comes from property taxes, and the housing market isn't making much of a recovery. The district made its first major round of cuts in April, including layoffs. Lost were three firefighters, four staffers and \$590,000 in operations and capital spending:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110531/NEWS01/705319934/1036/NEWS05>

The FDNY recently released a list of twenty fire companies that will be closed on July 1 as part of Mayor Bloomberg's budget cuts. The closings have been looming for years. But unlike in the seventies, when officials used complicated and ultimately flawed computer models that resulted in burned-out South Bronx vistas, the department is trying to keep things brutally simple this time around. "The budget comes from the City Council and the mayor's office, and our job is to do the best we can with that," said FDNY Chief of Operations Robert Sweeney. "No one here wants to close fire companies, but if we have to, we think this is the best way to do it." [http://nymag.com/daily/intel/2011/06/faced\\_with\\_cutbacks\\_the\\_fdny\\_t.html](http://nymag.com/daily/intel/2011/06/faced_with_cutbacks_the_fdny_t.html)

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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.*

One Clark County (NV) firefighter will be fired for abusing sick leave and 16 others will be disciplined. According to several sources, the disciplinary actions follow an internal

investigation by county and Fire Department administrators. Sources did not know the specifics of the discipline faced by the 16 firefighters who won't be terminated. Allegations that county firefighters have abused the sick-leave system have been floated for more than a year. First reported by the Sun, the allegations surfaced in a March 2010 Clark County compensation study that found the average number of shifts taken off for sick leave by roughly 700 firefighters came to almost twice as many as rank-and-file employees and about four times those of management:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/may/12/sources-firefighter-sick-leave-probe-will-leave-1-/>

The Atlanta (GA) Fire Rescue Department is recalling more than 18,000 smoke alarms, the department announced Thursday. The department had distributed the smoke detectors to residents at no charge, but an investigation by the FBI and Underwriters Laboratories found the smoke alarms were counterfeit:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/Prevention-Products/articles/1043919-Counterfeit-smoke-detectors-recalled-by-Atlanta-Fire-Dept/>

Some firefighters in Colorado may have been allowed to cheat on tests that they take to become firefighters. The Colorado Division of Fire Safety has launched an investigation against a man giving the tests. He's accused of providing copies to firefighter candidates in advance. The Division of Fire Safety believes that less than 100 firefighters in our state were given the advance copies: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article/197885/222/Firefighters-may-have-been-allowed-to-cheat-on-certification-test>

Flint (MI) authorities have suspended four firefighters and a police officer in an investigation of why it took 12 hours for a woman's body to be found following a house fire. Firefighters put out the blaze April 17 and left the scene. Neighbors later found the resident's body in a bedroom: <http://my.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/flint-suspends-five-over-body>

Here are a couple of stories about the woes of the Detroit (MI) Fire Department from WJBK-TV. As usual they provide lessons on what not to do when dealing with the news media. The first story is another Charlie LeDuff special trying to determine, once again, where the money has gone that was supposed to be used to repair the city's fire stations. LeDuff say this includes a paid for, but never installed, sprinkler system at a firehouse that burned. Interim Commissioner Fred Wheeler, who has been the subject of a number of LeDuff's stories, agreed to meet with the reporter. But the commissioner said no cameras. Wheeler also seemed to be avoiding the cameras in the story below about a City Council hearing Wednesday that had the commissioner on the hot seat. Unfortunately, the fire commissioner just continues to make bad stories much worse by constantly giving the impression he is running from the press and has something to hide. The reporters, whether you like them or not, are asking legitimate questions of a public official. That's their job. Your job is to be accountable. If you have a defensible position, defend it and provide the supporting facts. If mistakes were made, get it all out in the open and explain how you are dealing with it and making sure it doesn't happen again. In either case, don't run, don't hide: <http://statter911.com/2011/05/12/interim-detroit-fire-commissioner-fred-wheeler-finally-meets-with-reporter-charlie-leduff-sort-of/>

A Virginia volunteer firefighter is being charged with rape after police responded to a sex offense involving a 13-year-old girl. Spotsylvania police say Justin Baber, a 23-year-old volunteer with the Chancellor Volunteer Fire Department, met the girl in the department's response vehicle after a series of text messages:

<http://statter911.com/2011/05/15/spotsylvania-county-virginia-firefighter-charged-with-statutory-rape-of-13-year-old-sheriff-says-justin-baber-met-girl-in-chancellor-vfd-response-vehicle/>

David Garmoe's Glen Ellyn (IL) home has a new concrete driveway, and authorities say village residents may have helped pay for it. Garmoe, a 26-year veteran of the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company, is accused of stealing more than \$260,000 from the fire company's funds for his personal and professional use, prosecutors said Friday. As the fire company's treasurer for the past 20 years, Garmoe is accused of writing unauthorized checks to himself and his business from the fire company's bank account. There were about 87 fraudulent transactions made between 2004 and February, when officials from the fire company discovered a discrepancy in its bank account and brought their concerns to police, authorities said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1045187-III-firefighter-charged-with-stealing-260K-from-department/>

Four Flint (MI) firefighters have been suspended 28 days without pay for their role in missing a body after a fire last month on Leerda Street, according to a press release. Chief Alvern Lock said while firefighters conducted a proper initial search, they did not conduct a second search of the home after the smoke had cleared. About 12 hours later, a friend found Luverne Wilson's body next to a bedroom window:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/05/city\\_of\\_flint\\_leaves\\_28-day\\_su.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/05/city_of_flint_leaves_28-day_su.html)

The Milwaukee (WI) Fire Department is reviewing its policies after crews failed to find a woman's body inside a burned home. "The question is why? Why did we miss this fire victim?" Milwaukee Fire Department Chief Mark Rohlfing said. Around midnight Friday, crews responded to a house fire near Center Street and Humboldt Avenue. "There was someone at the scene and they said there was someone missing," Rohlfing said. That someone was the Rev. Mary Ellen Freundl, a speech therapist, daughter and friend to many. Standard protocol is two searches, an initial one when firefighters arrive and a second one when the fire is out to look for victims. The chief said they did two searches, but they still did not find the woman:

<http://www.wisn.com/news/27928430/detail.html>

A Clark County (NV) firefighter has been terminated for misusing sick leave, and officials indicated Wednesday that more firefighters will be punished in the coming weeks. Donald Munn, an 18-year veteran, was fired Wednesday after managers determined he improperly used sick leave. Thirteen other firefighters are under internal investigation and face punishments ranging from firing to demotion to forfeiture of sick leave, according to county officials, who said they didn't know when the next penalties would be imposed. The internal probe is separate from an inquiry being conducted by the Metropolitan Police Department and the FBI that could turn into a criminal investigation:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighter-terminated-for-sick-leave-misuse-122198944.html>

A Bridgeport (CT) city firefighter was arrested after police said they caught him injecting heroin while in uniform. Michael Arthur, 34, of Danbury, a 10-year fire department veteran, was charged with possession of narcotics and use of drug paraphernalia. He was released after posting \$500 bond. He was off duty at the time of his arrest, fire officials said, and it was unclear whether he was starting or ending his shift:

<http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Bridgeport-firefighter-charged-with-heroin-use-1387692.php>

The French Camp (CA) Fire District is considering reinstating a firefighter accused of having sex in a fire engine. Firefighter Brandon Wilson was placed on administrative leave a year ago after being accused of sexual misconduct. Residents have voiced opposition to his reinstatement. "He should not be with the fire department," said Checster Gish, a resident who has come to many of the board meetings where the issue has been discussed:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/calif-firefighter-accused-having-sex-engine>

Austin (TX) city officials said they must retest more than 2,000 firefighter applicants amid concerns some of them could have obtained confidential questions they were asked in oral interviews. Officials have opened an inquiry into the matter that will be conducted by a special team of Austin police investigators. The offices of the Assistant City Manager and Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr received an anonymous letter Tuesday during which a writer provided an official copy of interview questions firefighter applicants would face, several officials confirmed to the American-Statesman. Fearing that the integrity of the scores was compromised, fire officials have ordered the inquiry and said they will retest applicants on that portion of the test, which involves oral interviews. More than 5,500 people applied for about 100 Austin firefighting positions. Applicants who pass the aptitude and psychological makeup test will advance to additional screening. In the past, the department relied on rankings from written exams, oral interviews and physical tests to screen candidates:

[http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/cityhall/entries/2011/05/19/city\\_officials\\_investigate\\_pos.html?cxntcid=breaking\\_news](http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/cityhall/entries/2011/05/19/city_officials_investigate_pos.html?cxntcid=breaking_news)

More than a dozen firefighters could possibly be facing disciplinary action for abusing sick leave. On Wednesday, Clark County (NV) firefighter Donald Munn was the first to be fired and wonder if other firefighters face the same fate. Aside from Munn, 13 other firefighters are being investigated at the administrative level for their alleged role in sick leave abuse. County Commissioner Steve Sisolak has been very outspoken about this issue. He says, as far as he's concerned, county firefighters who cheated the system should be nervous. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that more than one person should be fired for what happened in the sick leave system. So, somewhere in between there is a number that actually abused the system and took advantage of it and I'll leave it up to the chief and the other investigative bodies to determine how many that is," he said:

<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/14680798/firefighter-sick-time-investigation-heats-up>

Some people in Newport Beach (CA) are calling into question firefighters' overtime pay as the city grapples with budget cutbacks. The fire operations division, which includes firefighters and paramedics, exceeded its overtime budget by about \$1 million in each of the last two fiscal years and is on track to do the same this year. The city spent \$3.6 million in firefighter and paramedic overtime last year. Officials have been looking to trim about \$8 million from the city's total budget, and they identified some maintenance workers and lifeguards, among others, to either lay off or demote to part-time:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/05/newport-beach-firefighters-overtime-under-fire.html>

A former Palo Alto (CA) firefighter pleaded no contest Thursday to charges that he threatened to seriously injure or possibly kill police Chief Dennis Burns a few months ago, and made his point by referring to the ending of a "Rambo" movie in which the title character opens fire on his foes with a powerful machine gun. Andrew Jeffrey Jentzsch, 48, entered the plea to felony counts of threatening to commit a crime resulting in death or great bodily injury. He faces one year in county jail and three years of supervised probation when sentenced July 20 by Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Douglas Southard:

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_18102589](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_18102589)

For the second time in 10 days a volunteer with Chancellor Volunteer Fire & Rescue in Spotsylvania County, Virginia has been charged with a sex crime. The Spotsylvania County Sheriff says, as in the first case, a fire department vehicle was used as transportation when the sexual assault occurred: <http://statter911.com/2011/05/24/second-spotsylvania-co-firefighter-charged-with-sex-crime-sheriff-says-chancellor-volunteer-also-used-fd-vehicle/>

**Firehouse sex scandals: Losing the public's trust.** The recent case of a firefighter allegedly having sex in a fire truck isn't the first time such incidents have made the headlines. If this high level of trust breaks down, firefighters are in trouble. In an environment of suspicion or disrespect, citizens will not cooperate with the fire department, they will not allow access to their homes or their businesses, and they will even look for ways to undermine the mission that the fire department pursues. This breakdown of trust does not happen very often with fire departments, but it does happen. Once trust is lost, it is very difficult to rebuild:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/cod-company-officer-development/articles/1049445-Firehouse-sex-scandals-Losing-the-publics-trust/>

**A jury awarded \$350,000 Friday to a St. Louis (MO) Fire Department black deputy fire chief who claimed racial discrimination when he was passed over in favor of a white subordinate for the top job in 2007.** The panel gave Charles Coyle the full \$300,000 he sought for actual damages but only \$50,000 of the \$1 million he asked in punitive damages. The suit by Coyle, who holds the title of fire marshal, is part of a continuing pattern of racial discord that dates to integration of the St. Louis Fire Department decades ago. Much of the tension in recent years has been at the top. Coyle, 55, a firefighter since 1978 and deputy chief since 2001, claimed the city violated its charter by reaching below the deputy chief level to choose Dennis Jenkerson as fire chief. Jenkerson was said to be the first person elevated directly from battalion chief to chief:

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/article\\_299fdd4b-8ad3-5b5a-b066-5406afa1dd79.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/article_299fdd4b-8ad3-5b5a-b066-5406afa1dd79.html)

**WIS-TV is reporting that a Fairfield County, South Carolina volunteer firefighter, who is a registered sex offender, has been jailed on charges of groping a legally blind woman whose fence caught fire on Saturday.** The TV station reports the sexual assault occurred when Ralph Marthers brought a fire report to the woman's home:

<http://statter911.com/2011/05/25/registered-sex-offenderfirefighter-accused-of-groping-fire-victim-woman-says-it-happened-after-fire-outside-her-fairfield-county-sc-home/>

**At some point bad news will happen to almost every fire department and it will likely bring those pesky reporters to the door asking tough questions.** This week it is Osceola County (FL) Fire Rescue's moment in the spotlight after Firefighter Douglas Werk was arrested and charged with breaking into the home of an elderly woman he had taken to the hospital and stealing her guns. This may be a pattern of behavior. WESH-TV reports, "Detectives said Werk may have been scouting out homes to burglarize" and that the firefighter was already on administrative duty after the Osceola County Sheriff's office investigated him for snooping around a different property in February. The response by a fire chief faced with this situation is crucial to how quickly the issue can be put behind them and the department moves on trying to restore its reputation. Too often the chief won't talk to reporters or let anyone in his department come clean about what happened. "It's a personnel matter" or "it's under investigation" are some of the lame excuses used as cover to keep from telling the truth. Usually this makes a bad situation worse, stretching a one day story into multiple days and turning a small brush fire into a conflagration. What can be incinerated in that fire is the department's image and any good will it has built up in the community:

<http://statter911.com/2011/05/28/firefighter-charged-with-burglarizing-home-of-elderly-woman-he-took-to-the-hospital-osceola-county-florida-fire-chief-gets-how-to-handle-bad-news/>

**It has always been hard to sue government employees, but after a recent Tennessee Supreme Court ruling, it could be harder than ever to sue a state, city or county worker who intentionally hurts someone.** A Tennessee Supreme Court ruling recently made a huge distinction: if a government employee hurts you by accident, you can sue the government for



up to \$300,000. If he hurts you on purpose, you now get nothing. "Occasionally, you will have a confrontation, where the employee acts intentionally and illegally, but that doesn't mean that the citizen should have ... the worst the harm is, the less the citizen gets," said David Raybin, a lawyer and noted legal scholar. "That makes no sense at all." All of this came about after Nashville firefighter Dalton Hughes sued the city of Nashville and won \$250,000 when a Public Works employee pulled up behind him and slammed his front loader. Hughes was scared, jumped over a guardrail and injured himself. But the state Supreme Court said the driver of the front loader admitted he "was just joking" and "didn't mean to do that" and was "just trying to scare you all." The Supreme Court ruled that the action was intentional and took away the \$250,000 judgment: <http://www.wsmv.com/news/28075327/detail.html>

A federal jury in Alexandria has ruled that the Fairfax County (VA) Fire and Rescue Department knew of and tolerated a male lieutenant's sexual harassment of a female firefighter and has awarded her \$250,000. The county is facing a second federal trial next month involving allegations of years of far more intense and continual harassment of another female firefighter by her male colleagues and superiors. The harassment of firefighter Mary Getts Bland, who retired last year, began when she was being recruited to the Fairfax department in 2001 by Lt. Timothy D. Young, according to a 61-page memorandum opinion written by U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris this month. Summarizing the facts of the case, Cacheris noted that Young reportedly asked Bland questions such as "Do you enjoy having sex with more than one partner?" and "Do you like to be watched while you masturbate?" Young also asked Bland to accompany him to an adult sex-toy shop and did so several more times in ensuing years: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/fairfax-fire-department-tolerated-sexual-harassment-federal-jury-rules/2011/05/26/AGDu5JCH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/fairfax-fire-department-tolerated-sexual-harassment-federal-jury-rules/2011/05/26/AGDu5JCH_story.html)

A Fairfield County (SC) volunteer fireman is in jail charged with sexually assaulting a legally blind fire victim over the weekend. The fireman is also a registered sex offender. Eight hours after Fairfield County's community fire department put out a fence fire Saturday, Ralph Marthers delivered the fire report to the victim. "I laid the report on the table," said the victim. "He proceeded to put his hand down my shirt and pinched my left breast. I slapped his hand away, then he proceeded to put his hand up my gown, from the bottom and I slapped his hand away again." Fairfield County Chief Deputy Keith Lewis said Marthers knew the victim: <http://www.firerescue1.com/volunteer/articles/1053116-Blind-fire-victim-claims-SC-firefighter-groped-her/>

A New York (NY) City police detective and two firefighters were involved in an illegal gambling ring that ran high-stakes poker games, federal authorities said Thursday. The three men were among 15 people arrested early Thursday on charges of conspiracy to operate an illegal gambling business and illegal gambling. New York Police Department Detective Richard Palase, firefighters Michael Bergen and Gerald Parsons and the other defendants, including a retired police sergeant and a retired firefighter, were to make an initial appearance later in the day in federal court in Brooklyn: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1056569-2-firefighters-arrested-in-nyc-gambling-ring-crackdown/>

In the midst of this extreme heat, the Washington DC Fire and EMS Department is facing a stiff challenge. The firefighters' union says seven of the city's 25 basic life support units are out of service. Members of Ambulance 20 at the Tenleytown station in Northwest said they were extremely busy Tuesday, with the majority of the calls being heat related. The DC Firefighters Association says the ambulances, 28% of the city's fleet, have mechanical problems such as the lack of air conditioning, allowing temperatures inside the ambulances to go over 100 degrees Fahrenheit:

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/article/153024/158/7-DC-Ambulances-Out-Of-Service-In-Extreme-Heat>

**Positive Public Relations Items:**

Clark County (NV) firefighters have voted in favor of a labor deal that would save the county \$4.2 million a year. The proposed one-year contract, which would run from July 1 to June 2012, will go before commissioners in June to ratify. The 741 firefighters covered by the contract would take a 1.5 percent pay cut, lose a vacation and a sick day, and have longevity pay frozen at current levels. Also, the first-year wage for rookie firefighters would be lowered by 5 percent. An estimated two-thirds of firefighters who cast ballots voted for the new terms, according to union leaders. These concessions would be on top of the reductions in firefighters' pay and benefits that the county won in arbitration, for a total savings of \$13.3 million yearly, county officials estimate. Last year, county firefighters averaged \$130,000 in wages and \$58,000 in benefits. Battalion chiefs received an average of \$183,000 in wages and \$81,000 in benefits:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/county-firefighters-vote-to-support-wage-benefit-cuts-122700919.html>

Reno (NV) firefighters and Operating Engineers Local 39 rank-and-file workers and supervisors have offers on the negotiating table that are close to the 7.5 percent pay cut the city is asking from all employees for fiscal year 2011-12, Interim City Manager Kevin Knutson said Friday. If seven other unions follow suit, he said, the city would avoid laying off employees who hold 55.6 full-time equivalent positions on July:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110513/NEWS/105140311/City-union-workers-Reno-make-pay-cut-offer?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CLocal%20News%7Cs>

Recognizing the humane act of Firefighter James A. Rono in the face of an emergency, Pasadena (CA) Fire Chief Dennis J. Downs has awarded Rono The Lifesaving Star. While commending Rono's dedication and professionalism to the Pasadena Fire Department, the Fire Chief handed the citation to Rono during the Department's annual luncheon held this year on May 10 at the Langham Huntington Hotel. The citation also said that due to a prior medical condition the patient's doctor would have given him only a 5 per cent chance of survival and that but for the medical help given by Rono, the patient would not have survived:

<http://pasadenanow.com/main/firefighter-rono-good-samaritan-in-the-nick-of-time>

The city and Houston (TX) firefighters have reached a labor deal that heads off what could have been the first firefighter layoffs in the city's history. Tuesday was the deadline for issuing layoff notices to city employees to be dropped from the payroll as Mayor Annise Parker seeks to bridge a \$75 million budget gap for the fiscal year that begins July 1. Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association President Jeff Caynon had said that 238 firefighters' jobs were on the line. Fire Chief Terry Garrison put the number at 236. The mayor seeks to reduce the fire department's \$449 million budget by \$17.7 million. The agreement's components include program cuts and fees for services that are currently free such as plan checks for new construction. But the largest chunk of the savings comes from deferring rather than cutting spending: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7569023.html>

Saint Petersburg (FL) firefighters foil purse snatcher. Firefighter: 'We're here to serve the citizens of St. Pete, whether it be fire, accident, heart attack or purse snatching':

<http://www.firerescue1.com/weird-news/articles/1055833-Fla-firefighters-foil-purse-snatcher/>

With firefighter concessions adding up to a 7.5 percent pay cut, a tentative two-year contract approved by Reno (NV) fire union leadership and city officials avoids laying off 12 firefighters on July 1, Reno Mayor Bob Cashell announced Friday. Coupled with a federal grant to return

10 laid-off firefighters to work in July, Reno Fire Chief Michael Hernandez said he is looking forward to reopening two closed fire stations at Somerset and Skyline with two-man rescue units and possibly reopening the closed Stead station:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110521/NEWS/105210326/Reno-fire-union-reach-deal-avoid-layoffs?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

Independent investigators have faulted Coatesville (PA) fire officials in the response to a blaze last fall that injured seven firefighters, according to The Daily Local News. The 26-page report listed mismanagement, poor communication and broken leadership by Fire Chief Kevin Johnson and other commanders as significant factors during the Sept. 10, 2010 apartment fire. More than 100 firefighters responded to the blaze at the Millview Apartments in the 1800 block of Saginaw Drive that caused approximately \$1.5 million in damage to the 28-unit building. A ceiling collapsed during the blaze, injuring seven firefighters, including Deputy Chief Robert Pacana. Pacana -- who is also a paid firefighter in Washington, D.C. -- suffered severe burns and a serious leg injury and has not been able to return to work. The report states that the breakdown in communication led firefighters to "stay in an area of danger for far too long." It also alleges that at least two Mayday calls went unanswered:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/pa-commanders-faulted-fire-injuring-7-firefighters>

MRSA transmission may be occurring in fire stations, according to a study published in the June issue of the *American Journal of Infection Control*, the official publication of APIC -- the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110601111257.htm>

A fire station in Des Moines (IA) has been dealing with bedbugs. They are usually called on to put out a blaze in a burning building, but at station number 4, firefighters had to call in for help to stamp out a little problem of their own. "One of the firefighters found what he thought was a bedbug. He put it in a bag," said Fire Captain Steve Brown. Firefighters brought in an expert, a bedbug dog to sniff them out. "They found them in the captain's office, two chairs, in a bedroom, four mattresses and stools in the day room," said Brown:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/iowa-station-battles-bedbug-infestation>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

Privatization push: Can fire departments survive? There's a big move to privatize not just EMS service delivery but fire departments as well. The referee has already blown the whistle — but did you even know the game had begun? The fire service of today may look drastically different within the next 10 years unless mindsets are changed, a session at Fire-Rescue Med in Las Vegas was told Friday. And one of the first things that needs to be done is implementing a culture change to embrace the EMS mission at some departments, according to Mike Metro, Deputy Fire Chief at Los Angeles County Fire Department:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/1045264-Privatization-push-Can-fire-departments-survive/>

If all goes as expected, Cambria's (CA) former Fire Chief Mark Miller might not be "former" for much longer. Tammy Rudock, then the general manager of the Cambria Community Services District, terminated Miller on April 12, and declined to state any reasons, citing personnel

confidentiality. After substantial community outcry, the district's Board of Directors then terminated Rudock on April 29:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/05/12/1597572/ex-chief-miller-told-he-will-be.html>

Washington DC Fire & EMS Department Chief Kenneth Ellerbe says he is still working with the union on a compromise solution over his previous order that "DCFD" was out and "FEMS" was in as the department's acronym. In an interview with Lou Chibbaro Jr. at WashingtonBlade.com Chief Ellerbe admits there are concerns about what FEMS means: D.C. Fire Chief Kenneth Ellerbe acknowledged that his decision to postpone an order that firefighters place the initials "FEMS" on the shirts and jackets they wear while on duty was based, in part, on that acronym's perception as a possible derogatory reference to gay men. The chief told Chibbaro that they are working with IAFF Local 36 on a possible compromise logo that will reflect the important role of EMS in the department's mission:

<http://statter911.com/2011/05/27/fems-dcfd-update-chief-ellerbe-tells-reporter-concerns-that-term-fems-is-derogatory-is-one-reason-for-delay/>

A federal appeals court ruled on Friday that the Chicago (IL) Fire Department must hire 111 African Americans who passed a firefighters entrance exam 16 years ago and pay millions of dollars to thousands more who took and passed the same test. The Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling was the latest blow to the city, which has been on the losing end of court decisions regarding the 1995 test for years, including a 2005 ruling by a federal judge who said the test discriminated against black applicants and a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that the candidates did not wait too long to sue the city. The ruling stems from a test given in 1995 that was intended to measure an aptitude for firefighting. After the test, anyone who scored 64 or below was deemed not qualified, but officials told those who scored above that number that while they passed, they would randomly hire the top 1,800 who scored 89 or better. Because only 11 percent of the African Americans scored 89 or better, the overwhelming number of applicants hired from that test were white. Karsh said the test was discriminatory because there was no evidence that the applicant who scored 89 or better would be any better firefighter than another who scored a 64, and in fact in 2005 a federal judge said the test discriminated against black candidates:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/1043963-Court-Chicago-must-hire-111-black-firefighters/>

With the Los Angeles (CA) City Council scheduled to vote Wednesday on Los Angeles' \$6.9 billion budget plan, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and the Fire Department are pushing hard for passage of a controversial deployment plan that could save an estimated \$54 million. Fire Chief Millage Peaks has been meeting with individual council members to lobby for the staffing plan, which he says would restore some of the cuts made under a previous money-saving deployment schedule. "Right now, we have 22 fire resources out of service under the modified deployment plan," Peaks said in a round-table discussion arranged by Councilman Tony Cardenas. "If this new deployment plan was in effect, we would have 18 resources out of service. "No fire stations will be closed. We will have all 106 fire stations open and staffed." The proposal also would reduce the number of off-duty firefighters from 122 to 106, Peaks said. After determining that medical emergencies comprise 83 percent of the department's calls for service, Peaks proposed sidelining fire engines or replacing them with ambulances at several stations. All 3,300 of L.A.'s firefighters are trained as emergency medical technicians and 700 of them are certified paramedics:

[http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci\\_18075967](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_18075967)

The Belmont-San Carlos (CA) Fire Department's board will not immediately select a new agency head, choosing instead to split the job among three battalion chiefs who will each get a 6 percent raise for the trouble. Chief Doug Fry, who announced his retirement earlier this month and stopped working last week, remains on the department payroll until May 31 because he is taking unused administrative leave time. On May 17, the fire department's board decided that instead of hiring an interim fire chief, the work would be rotated among three battalion chiefs until the agency dissolves in October. Whichever battalion chief is on duty will be the acting chief that day, according to a department report released in advance of Monday's San Carlos City Council meeting: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_18125377](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_18125377)

A Missouri judge has struck down a state law allowing St. Louis firefighters to live outside the city limits because it infringed on the city's authority to set its own work policies. St. Louis has long had residency requirements for most of its employees. But the Missouri Legislature passed a bill last year giving firefighters the right to live outside the city as long as they were within an hour of their home fire station. St. Louis officials contended the law infringed on its city charter: <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/1055827-Judge-strikes-St-Louis-firefighter-residency-law/>

Not long after a new Cal Fire unit chief was introduced to the city Monday evening, the organization's contract was brought before the council. Cal Fire first came on the scene to provide fire protection for Atwater (CA) in 2008 on a two-year, nine-month contract, Unit Chief Nancy Koerperich said shortly after being introduced during Monday's meeting. The contract expires June 30. Several Cal Fire personnel sat in the audience during the meeting. Before the meeting, some expressed concerns about the future of the organization in Atwater. Councilman Gary Frago, a former firefighter with the city-run fire department, has been critical of Cal Fire since it came to Atwater. But the criticism is purely based on Cal Fire's cost to the city, Frago said after the meeting. The council was presented options, including continuing services with Cal Fire at current staffing levels, continuing services at lower staffing levels or ending services with Cal Fire, which would start the transition back to a city-run fire department: <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/05/24/1903027/atwater-looking-at-its-cal-fire.html>

Former Coatesville (PA) City Fire Chief Kevin Johnson said Tuesday he did not resign Monday because of a recent report on an incident in September that put him in a poor light. Two retired Philadelphia fire chiefs — James P. Smith and William Shouldis — prepared a 26-page report on a Sept. 20, 2010, fire that caused about \$1.5 million damage to 28 units at the Millview Apartments. The report, obtained by the Daily Local News, said poor communication and a lack of accountability led in part to the injuries of seven firefighters. The report specifically blamed Johnson and other leaders for failing to properly manage the emergency response: <http://www.dailylocal.com/articles/2011/05/24/news/doc4ddc43b64f91d903454104.txt>

For much of Monday morning, Dolores Berry watched helplessly as her depressed and despondent adult stepson stood in neck-deep waters off a bustling Alameda (CA) beach, raising his arms above his head at times, and then floating 150 yards into the icy bay waters. Nobody — not firefighters, police, passers-by or Berry, 84, — moved into the 55-degree water to try to pull the 280-pound, suicidal man to safety. Firefighters did not go into the water because they are not trained in land-water rescue and don't have a boat that could maneuver into the shallow waters. Police officers did not enter the water because they did not know if Zack was suicidal and possible armed and violent: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1056494-stepmother-of-calif-drowning-victim-criticizes-emergency-response/>

Charlie LeDuff finally sits down with a fire commissioner who doesn't run from him. Retired LAFD Assistant Chief Donald Austin takes over in Detroit (MI) on Monday. Donald Austin needs to always keep what happened to him yesterday in mind once he takes over as the commissioner of the troubled Detroit Fire Department. Friday was the day the Detroit native, who retired in February as an assistant chief with the Los Angeles Fire Department, sat down with TV reporter Charlie LeDuff, the man two previous fire commissioners constantly ran from. And the fact that the former commissioners never understood how to handle LeDuff is one of the reasons Chief Austin has this new job. What Chief Austin needs to remember is the demeanor, candor and poise he showed in the video above. Bottle it. You will need it:  
<http://statter911.com/2011/05/21/charlie-leduff-finally-sits-down-with-a-fire-commissioner-who-doesnt-run-from-him-retired-lafd-assistant-chief-donald-austin-takes-over-as-detroit-commissioner-on-monday/>

Grand Rapids (MI) City Manager Greg Sundstrom said he's getting tired of having his firefighters put out fires in the neighboring suburb of Grand Rapids Township. "Just know that if you buy a house in Grand Rapids Township and it starts on fire, say goodbye. That's how it is," said Sundstrom in remarks to city commissioners Tuesday:  
[http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/06/grand\\_rapids\\_city\\_manager\\_lash.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/06/grand_rapids_city_manager_lash.html)

The New York (NY) City Council passed a bill extending the age limit for hopeful firefighter candidates who have been stymied by an ongoing legal battle over the entry exams. The extension - from age 29 to 35 - would allow job-seekers who took the 2007 test to remain eligible for the next test. The last firefighter exam was administered in 2007, but the results were invalidated by a federal judge who ruled that it discriminated against African-American and Hispanic candidates. "This rectified a wrong that the court inadvertently created," said Council Speaker Christine Quinn. The FDNY plans to begin accepting applications for a new exam on July 1. The Council also passed a resolution supporting greater oversight of bonus points granted to firefighter candidates living in the city. Currently, city residents get an added five points, but many are suspected of lying about where they actually live:  
[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2011/05/27/2011-05-27\\_council\\_makes\\_amends\\_extends\\_firefighter\\_age.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/05/27/2011-05-27_council_makes_amends_extends_firefighter_age.html)

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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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