

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

May 8, 2011

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

CHABOT COLLEGE 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE:

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

- The following classes are now available in upcoming semesters!
- For registration information, go to www.chabotcollege.edu

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

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

FALL 2011 Semester: (August through December, 2011)

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1150 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 51 (Fire Service Operations)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival) Note: This section (Wednesday afternoon) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 24 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 54 (Fire Prevention Technology)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 56 (Building Construction for Fire Protection)	Wednesday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - October 18, 20 and 22 (Tue/Thu/Sat) - November 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) or Mon & Wed (pm) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours 1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: • November 29, December 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 18	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: • November 15, 17, 19 and 20	Tue (pm) Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1800 – 2215 hours 1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: • November 8, 10, 12 and 13	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2115 hours 0800 – 1730 hours 0800 – 1730 hours
FT 91D (Firefighter Survival) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: • November 1, 3 and 5	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: • August 17, 31, September 28, November 9 and December 14	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1400 – 1750 hours

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COURSE	DAY	TIMES
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – November 6)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">November 29, December 1, 3, 6, 8 & 10	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

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

My 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.

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER WORKSHOP:

Entry Level Firefighter's Workshop!!!

Where: Las Positas College - "Mertes Center For The Arts" (Livermore, CA)
Date: Sunday May 22, 2011
Cost: \$12 (Lunch & Certificate included)

Keynote Speakers:

- **Daryl Louder** – Fire Chief, Contra Costa County Fire District
- **Paul Lepore** – Division Chief, Redondo Beach Fire Department

Topics will include:

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

Reservations are required by May 1, 2011

(However, since it is past May 1, 2011, I would encourage you to go to their website and attempt to enroll or contact them to see if it is not too late)

Contact: Batlas@pstgonline.com
Or register at: www.pstgonline.com

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

Bring your resume!!

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

Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation



3rd Annual

HOOK AND LADDER RUN



Sunday, June 5, 2011

5K RUN/WALK, 10K RUN AND KIDS ONE-MILE FUN RUN

Start Time: 8:00 a.m. 10K 8:05 a.m. 5K (Registration/check-in: 6:30 a.m.)

Place: Wente Vineyards - 5050 Arroyo Rd, Livermore, CA 94550

Benefits: The Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 that supports: Injured and Fallen Firefighters, Burn Foundation and Local Charities in the Tri Valley.

Course: The 5K is a run/walk 50% paved and 50% dirt road and is stroller friendly. The 10K is 90% dirt road and 10% paved road. Strollers are not allowed in the 10K. Both runs travel through Sycamore Grove Park and are very flat with only one hill on the 10K. No dogs.

The Kids 1 Mile Fun Run (for ages 12 & under) will take place at Wente Vineyards at about 9:45 a.m. Finisher ribbons, ice cream and fire prevention material for all kids.

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Send to: "On Your Mark" P.O. Box 1199 Arnold, CA 95223
Make checks payable to: **Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation (LPFF)**

Bib Pickup: Those who have sent in registration forms that are POSTMARKED no later than May 27, 2011 (or registered online by May 28, 2011) may pick up their race packet and T-shirt at Fleet Feet Sports, 310 Main Street, Pleasanton Friday June 3rd till Sat at noon. Final mail-in registration must be postmarked by May 30th, final online registration will close at midnight on June 2nd. After these dates registration will only be available on race day. **WAIVERS SIGNED AT PACKET PICKUP OR RACE DAY**

Awards: 3 deep in each age group (M & F) 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+
(Special prizes for top 3 Male and Female race winners 5K AND 10K RUN)
Top 20 Male and Female both 5 and 10K receive a "TOP TWENTY" technical tee shirt
Special top 3 Firefighter overall awards both 5 and 10K
Great Raffle prizes eligible to all runners and additional tickets available for purchase

Water and refreshments will be provided at the end of the race. Wente Vineyards will have additional food and wine tasting for purchase. No picnicking.

_____ LAST NAME		_____ FIRST NAME	
_____ STREET		_____ CITY	
_____ STATE	_____ ZIP	(_____)_____ PHONE	M F CIRCLE
		_____ AGE	Y N FIREFIGHTER?

EMAIL ADDRESS

Select Event

5K RUN/WALK \$30 Pre-Registered (\$35 on race day) _____

10K RUN \$30 Pre-Registered (\$35 on race day) _____

1-MILE KIDS RUN \$10 Pre-Registered (\$15 on race day) _____

T-Shirt: Youth S – M – L
Regular S - M - L - XL – XXL
Pre-Registered receive shirt prior to start.

**Additional forms or register
online at
www.onyourmarkevents.com**

From Matt Thau, the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation Director:

Hi my name is Matt Thau and I am an Engineer with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and our Firefighters Foundation Director. We are hosting the 3rd Annual Hook and Ladder Run on Sunday, June 5, 2011 at Wente Vineyards 5050 Arroyo Rd. Livermore, CA 94550. The event is going to have a 5K run/walk, a 10K run and a Kids 1 mile fun run. The event benefits the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation which is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 that supports: Injured and fallen firefighters, the Burn Foundation and Local Charities in the Tri-Valley. Start time for the 10K is 8:00 am followed by the 5K at 8:05 am and the kid's fun run at 9:45am. Both the 5 and 10 K runs take place in Sycamore Grove Park and are very flat with only one hill in the 10K. The cost is \$30.00 Pre-Registered for the 5 and 10K and \$10.00 for the Kids Fun Run, Races day \$35.00 and \$15.00. Fee includes Tee shirts and post-race refreshments. Awards will be 3 deep in each age group. New for 2011 top 3 Firefighters overall in the 5k and 10K will be awarded special prizes. We are hoping to get many fire service members and their families to come out for the event. For more information and to register go to: <http://onyourmarkevents.com/Applications/2011Hook&Ladder.pdf> or active.com link <http://www.active.com/running/livermore-ca/3rd-annual-hook-and-ladder-run-2011> .

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY:

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY APPLICATION PERIOD OPENED APRIL 15!

The application period for the first semester of National Fire Academy resident classes opened Friday April 15. **The application period 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

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.

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

Focus on Fire Safety: Communities United Against Arson

Arson can devastate a community, resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decline in property values. Arson is difficult to prosecute, but the effects are felt throughout the community: workers lose jobs, towns and cities lose tax dollars, burned buildings create blighted areas, and innocent people are injured or killed. Uncontrolled arson, along with other serious crime, creates rampant fear among residents, business

customers, and potential visitors. If the community's streets seem out of control, people will be afraid to come into that area to visit or do business. These conditions can quickly lead to a second stage where residents who can afford to move out begin selling homes, even at a loss, to escape before the bottom drops out. Property tax collections plummet, giving the community less and less resources to fight back.

Learn what you can do by going to: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/arson.shtm> to prevent the devastating effects of arson in your community.

Arson Awareness Week is May 1 - 7

The U.S. Fire Administration and its partners will use the week of May 1-7 to focus public attention on the value of a collaborative effort with law enforcement, fire and emergency service departments, and the community to battle serial arsonists.

Read More at http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/arson/arson_awareness.shtm

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...

- Tuesday, May 10, 2011
Tailboard Tuesday at Soup's Sports Grill in Woodland Hills
<http://bit.ly/tailboard-tuesday>

- Saturday, May 14, 2011
Fire Service Day - Annual LAFD Citywide Open House
<http://lafd.org> (information pending)

- Saturday, May 14, 2011
Fire Service Day Pancake Breakfast
LAFD Historical Society Museum in Hollywood
<http://lafdmuseum.org> (information pending)

- Saturday, May 14, 2011
Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce Pancake Breakfast
Fire Station 86
<http://bit.ly/fGdsse>

- Saturday, May 21, 2011
L.A. Heat vs. Philadelphia Blue Flame Football
<http://bit.ly/dTA896>

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- Friday, May 27, 2011
Fire Cancer Support Network Golf Tournament (Industry)
<http://bit.ly/fBumlu>

- Thursday, June 2, 2011
Hope For Firefighters
<http://hopeforfirefighters.org>

- Monday, June 20, 2011
Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament (Porter Ranch)
<http://bit.ly/gluZz6>

- 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://ridefor9-11.org>

- Monday, September 19, 2011
LAFD Golf Invitational (MountainGate)
<http://bit.ly/d7bSpH>

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>

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

Six Fire Officials Selected for Harvard University's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program

May 4, 2011

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

Emmitsburg, MD – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), along with the Fire Protection Publications (FFP)/International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced today that six senior fire officials will receive fellowships to attend **Harvard University's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program** (<http://ksgexecprogram.harvard.edu/Programs/sl/overview.aspx>) this summer at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The 19-day program, which includes State and local government leaders from across the United States and other countries, focuses on exploring the interrelationships between citizens and government, analyzing policy options, and examining the ethical and professional responsibilities of leadership.

In congratulating the fellowship recipients, Deputy U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines said, "USFA and our partner organizations feel very strongly that this experience at the Kennedy School of Government enables fire and emergency services officials to have important conversations between elected officials, careerists, and appointed executives. Now more than ever we need to collectively examine and discuss the critical challenges facing state and local governments."

Gaines went on to say, "These senior fire executives will have an experience that will support their ability to exercise leadership. Our cities and communities are confronted with significant challenges and the Harvard program is a very valuable and unique experience that assists the fellows selected in exercising leadership to overcome them. The partnering organizations are delighted to award these fellowships."

The fellowship program for senior fire service executives is a joint effort between the USFA and FFP/IFSTA, IAFC, NFPA, and Harvard. The final element of the competitive selection process was held on April 26 at the USFA's National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The fellowships were awarded by the John F. Kennedy School of Government's Admission Committee based upon recommendations of a nominating panel that included representatives from each partner organization and former program participants. Those selected are:

- Todd Bower, Deputy Fire Chief, City of Denver (Colorado) Fire Department
- Patrick Butler, Assistant Chief, City of Los Angeles (California) Fire Department
- Steve Cover, Fire Chief, City of Virginia Beach (Virginia) Fire Department
- Daniel Kistner, Fire Chief, City of Lufkin (Texas) Fire Department
- John McKearney, Fire Chief, City of Vancouver (British Columbia) Fire Department, Canada
- Brian Sturdivant, Fire Chief, City of Milpitas (California) Fire Department

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

The **Public Safety Training Group** in Brentwood, California will be offering a large 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.

- **I-300 (Intermediate ICS):** May 9 – 11, 2011
- **I-400 (Advanced ICS):** May 12 – 13, 2011
- **S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior):** May 23 – 27, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1B:** May 23 – 27, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** June 6 – 10, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1C:** June 13 – 17, 2011
- **Fire Command 1C:** June 27 – July 1, 2011

To register for the classes, go to their website at www.pstgonline.com or call (925) 240-5200.

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

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

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

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

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*

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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 leader-ship 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 Fran-cisco 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 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 for registration and more detailed information.**

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 1A:** May 16 – 20, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** June 20 – 24, 2011
- **Fire Command 2A:** July 18 – 22, 2011

To register for the classes, go to their website at www.americanhealtheducation.com or call (800) 483-3615.

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

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

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.

FREE FIRE SERVICE CAREER PREPARATION INFORMATION FROM THE DON McNEA FIRE SCHOOL:

Some more firefighter and promotional preparation testing tips courtesy of the **Don McNea Fire School** - www.fireprep.com!

How to become a PARAMEDIC

Peoples' lives often depend on the quick reaction and competent care of Paramedics. Incidents as varied as automobile accidents, heart attacks, drownings, childbirth, and gunshot wounds all require immediate medical attention. Paramedics provide the vital attention as they care for and transport the sick and injured to a medical facility. In an emergency, Paramedics are typically dispatched to the scene by a 911 operator and often work with police and fire department personnel. Once they arrive, they determine the nature and extent of a patient's condition while trying to ascertain whether the patient has preexisting medical problems. Following strict rules and guidelines, they give appropriate emergency care and, when necessary, transport the patients. Some paramedics are trained to treat patients with minor injuries on the scene of an accident or at their home without transporting to a medical facility. Emergency treatment for more complicated problems is carried out under the direction of medical doctors by radio, preceding or during transport.

Paramedics provide the most extensive pre-hospital care. In addition to carrying out the procedures described above, paramedics may administer drugs orally or intravenously, interpret electro cardiograms (EKGs), perform endotracheal intubations, and use monitors and other complex equipment.

Working conditions: Paramedics work both indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. They are required to do considerable kneeling, bending, and heavy lifting. Many people find the work of an EMT exciting and challenging and enjoy the opportunity to help others. Paramedics employed by fire departments work 40-50 hours per week; those employed by hospitals frequently work between 40-60 hours per week; and those employed by private ambulance services work between 45-50 hours per week. Paramedics held about 265,000 jobs in 2004. Most career Paramedics work in metropolitan areas; there are many more EMTs and Paramedics especially in smaller cities, towns, and rural areas.

Training and other qualifications and advancement: At the Paramedic level, the caregiver gives additional training in body function and learns more advanced skills than an EMT. Education for a Paramedic requires the individual to graduate from a school and take the National Registry EMT Examination to become a certified EMT/Paramedic. Extensive related coursework and clinical and field experience is required. Due to the longer training requirement, almost EMT/Paramedics are in paid positions rather than being volunteers. Refresher courses and continuing education are available for Paramedics at all levels.

Job Opportunities: Employment for Paramedics is expected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through 2012. Population growth and urbanization will increase the demand for full-time paid Paramedics, rather than for volunteers. In addition, a large segment of the population – the aging baby boomers – will further spur the demand for Paramedic services as they become more likely to have medical emergencies.

Where can you find training to become a Paramedic? Almost all community colleges and some state colleges and hospitals offer training and certification to become a Paramedic. This training usually consists of between 750-1,500 hours of classroom and field instruction. Reaching this level will require a lot of sacrifice and studying on your part, but becoming a Paramedic will increase your chances of becoming a firefighter. Approximately 10-20% of all fire departments across the country now require their fire applicants to become Paramedics even before they take the examination. Remember – you must first become an EMT before you can go on to become a Paramedic.

For those of you who are in the process of becoming a Paramedic and will be taking a certification test, please check our website periodically at the "EMT/Paramedic Review" link. We periodically update our examination questions database to help you pass this examination.

View our list of over 650 Fire/EMT/Paramedic Colleges Across the County -

http://www.firemanemtparamedic.com/fire_emt_paramedic_colleges.html

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Since 1950, Don McNea Fire School has prepared over 40,000 fire applicants with their entry level seminars and products. Fireprep.com has over 250 pages of FREE information and careers articles to help you reach your goal of becoming a firefighter. Go to www.fireprep.com and register for their free fireprep e-mail newsletter that features career articles by the countries top entry level authors. You will also be informed at no cost of firefighter examinations be given across the country. While at their website don't forget to review their award winning 'Ultimate Firefighter Exam Package'. This product has help hundreds of fire applicants finish in the top 2% of the exam process. Go to the link below to review the ultimate firefighter exam package: www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_examinati.html

Don McNea Fire School
dmfireschool@aol.com
1-800-989-FIRE
www.fireprep.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Confined Space Rescue:** May 9 – 13, 2011 (Class in Milpitas, CA)
- **Low Angle Rope Rescue:** May 17 – 19, 2011 (Class in Los Gatos, CA)
- **Confined Space Rescue:** May 23 – 27, 2011 (Class in Santa Clara, CA)
- **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 or call (209) 406-2447.

FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

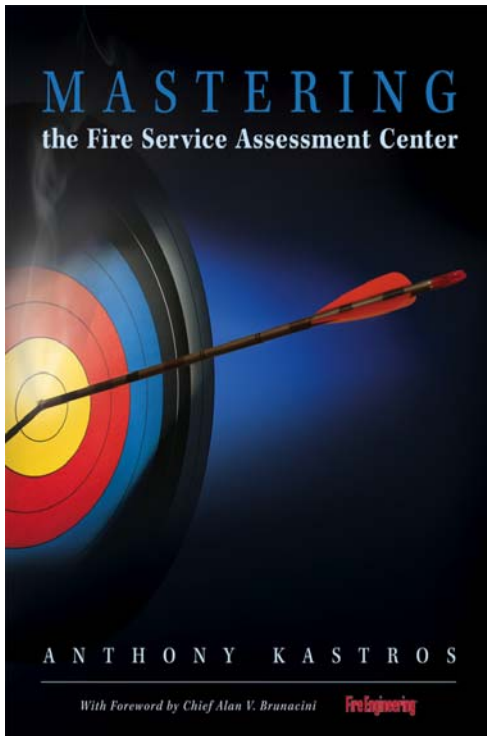
INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

www.chabotfire.com

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- 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 FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION
CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

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

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

Dates / Locations / Times:	- May 12, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- May 13, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- July 14, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- July 15, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- August 15, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- August 16, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- October 13, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- October 14, 2011	from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under Give) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.	
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.	
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.	
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org	

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

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available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area:

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Jacob Anthony Carter
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 18
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: <1
Date of Incident: 04/17/2011
Time of Incident: 1155hrs
Date of Death: 04/17/2011
Fire Department: Becker-Athens Volunteer Fire Department
Address: PO Box 60, Becker, MS 38825
Fire Department Chief: Doug Buchanan

Incident Description: While responding to a mutual aid fire call, Firefighter Carter suffered multiple traumatic injuries when his 2002 Ford Explorer ran off the road, overturned and struck a tree. Firefighter Carter passed away at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, MS. Investigation into the accident continues.

Incident Location: McCullen Road and Fowlkes LN

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Jacob Anthony Carter at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 28 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 25 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

AND:

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Name: Gregory Mack Simmons
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 50
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20+
Date of Incident: 04/15/2011
Time of Incident: 1300hrs
Date of Death: 04/15/2011
Fire Department: Eastland Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 414 S Seaman ST, Eastland, TX 76448

Incident Description: While seeking safety from an area being overrun by flames during wildland firefighting operations, Firefighter Simmons passed away from blunt force trauma consistent with being struck by a vehicle. Reports indicate that while he and other firefighters were trying to escape the fire, Simmons exited his apparatus and ran into or near a smoke obscured roadway and was struck by an unknown vehicle. Investigation into the fatal incident continues by local and state authorities.

Incident Location: County Road 323, Carbon/Eastland, TX

Funeral Arrangements: 04/20/2011 @ 1300hrs, Leon River Cowboy Church, 491 County Road 447, Eastland, TX.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Eastland ISD Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 31, Eastland, TX 76448; and/or the Eastland Volunteer Fire Department, 414 S. Seaman, Eastland, TX 76448.

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Gregory Mack Simmons at

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

To date, 27 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 24 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

AND:

Name: Randy Boley
Rank: Captain
Age: 51
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 29
Date of Incident: 04/11/2011
Time of Incident: 0900hrs
Date of Death: 04/12/2011
Fire Department: Clinton Township Volunteer Fire Department
Address: PO Box 511, 205 E McConkey, Shreve, OH 44676-9311
Fire Department Chief: Assistant Chief Dave Wells

Incident Description: Fire Captain Boley passed away during the night from a cause still to be determined fewer than 24 hours after working two back-to-back EMS calls.

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Incident Location: 208 East South Street, Shreve, OH

Funeral Arrangements: 04/15/2011

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: At the family's request, donations may be sent in honor of Captain Randy Boley to the Clinton Township Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 511, Shreve, OH 44676-9311.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Randy Boley at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 30 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 27 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

AND:

Name: Robert Dean Watts
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 51
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 30
Date of Incident: 04/18/2011
Time of Incident: 2000hrs
Date of Death: 04/18/2011
Fire Department: Windsor Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 275 Broad ST, Windsor, CT 06095
Fire Department Chief: William Lewis
Fire Department Website: <http://www.townofwindsorct.com/wvfd/index.html>

Incident Description: Firefighter Watts collapsed while working water supply at the scene of a report of smoke in the Windsor Rehabilitation Center. Fellow firefighters and EMS personnel immediately initiated CPR and Firefighter Watts was transported to St. Francis Hospital by a Windsor EMS ALS unit where he passed away from a cause still to be determined.

Incident Location: 581 Poquonock Avenue

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Robert Dean Watts at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 29 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 26 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

AND:

Name: Elias Jaquez
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 2
Date of Incident: 04/09/2011
Time of Incident: 1700hrs
May 8, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

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Date of Death: 04/20/2011
Fire Department: Cactus Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 201 Hwy 287, Cactus, TX 79013
Fire Department Chief: Raul Cicneros

Incident Description: Firefighter Jaquez, and three other firefighters were injured after a Dumas and Cactus, TX, fire truck became stuck in the rough terrain while operating on a wildland fire. Jaquez suffered 3rd degree burns over 60% of his body and was rushed for treatment to the Lubbock Burn Center where he remained in critical condition until his passing.

Incident Location: Road U, Moore County, TX

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: A benefit fund has been established in honor of Firefighter Elias Jaquez at the Happy State Bank (<https://www.happybank.com/>).

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

To date, 31 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 28 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

AND:

Name: Michael C. Webb
Rank: Captain
Age: 46
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 25+
Date of Incident: 04/26/2011
Time of Incident: 2130hrs
Date of Death: 04/27/2011
Fire Department: Neon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department
Address: 50 Rescue ST, Neon, KY 41840
Fire Department Chief: Carter Bevins

Incident Description: Fire Captain Webb passed away from an apparent heart attack at his home shortly after responding to an all-terrain vehicle accident in a mountainous area.

Incident Location: Millstone, KY

Funeral Arrangements: Pending. Carty Funeral Home, 1081 Highway 317, Neon, KY, 41840-9090.
Phone: (606) 855-4493

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Fire Captain Michael C. Webb, c/o Neon Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, 50 Rescue ST, Neon, KY 41840.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Michael C. Webb at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 32 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 29 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

AND:

Name: Charles Foster
May 8, 2011 www.chabotfire.com

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Rank: Firefighter
Age: 59
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 11
Date of Incident: 04/25/2011
Time of Incident: 2330hrs
Date of Death: 04/29/2011
Fire Department: Barton Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 5135 Hwy 302, Olive Branch, MS 38654
Fire Department Chief: Jerry Culver

Incident Description: Firefighter Foster passed away in the hospital from a heart attack he had suffered several days earlier while working debris removal related to severe weather incidents in the region.

Incident Location: Hwy 309, south of Deer Creek RD

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing, 1700hrs, 05/03/2011 at Brantley Funeral Home, 6875 Cockrum St, Olive Branch, MS. Funeral services 1400hrs, 05/04/2011, Brookside Baptist Church, 4993 Mississippi HWY 302, Olive Branch, MS 38654.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Firefighter Charles Foster, c/o Barton Volunteer Fire Department, 5135 Hwy 302, Olive Branch, MS 38654.

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

To date, 33 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 30 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

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

FIRE SERVICE SAFETY, TRAINING & NEWS STORIES TO LEARN FROM, COURTESY OF DEPUTY CHIEF BILLY GOLDFEDER & GORDON GRAHAM, HOSTS OF:
www.firefighterclosecalls.com

Hey,

It appears that Texas Firefighter Greg Simmons died in the Line of Duty yesterday after being hit by a vehicle after he tried to escape his fire apparatus that was trapped in the wildfire. We have photos of that apparatus on our home page. Eastland Volunteer Firefighter Greg Simmons was killed by blunt force trauma according to a preliminary autopsy report by a medical examiner in Fort Worth. FF Simmons was found on a roadside, but investigators don't yet know if he was hit by a

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fire truck or car Friday in an area where a 3,000-acre fire caused thick smoke with nearly no visibility. Details now are that FF Simmons was traveling in was attempting to exit a pasture where he and others were fighting the wildfire, but the gate to the field was blocked by other fire apparatus. FF Simmons then reportedly exited the vehicle and went toward County Road 323. It appears that FF Simmons ran onto or near the roadway, which was obscured by heavy smoke, and was struck by the unknown vehicle. Reports initially were that FF Simmons jumped from the fire apparatus, apparently was overcome by smoke and fell in a ditch before fire reached him.

FUNERAL DETAILS:

The funeral service for FF Simmons will be held Wednesday at 1300 HOURS at the Leon River Cowboy Church in Eastland. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Eastland ISD Scholarship Fund (P.O. Box 31, Eastland, TX 76448) or the Eastland Volunteer Fire Department (414 S. Seaman, Eastland, TX 76448).

FIREFIGHTER MAYDAY IN CT (AUDIO)

A FF was trapped on the second floor of the house during a fire in Norwich on Friday, but escaped quickly after the RIT team responded and removed him. Companies arrived about eight minutes after the call to find fire showing from one corner of the house. Mutual aid from the Yantic Fire Company as well as the rapid intervention team from the Mohegan Sun Tribal department responded. The Firefighter issued a mayday after his foot plunged through the floor up to his knee. Two other firefighters held him up so he wouldn't fall through, while several others rushed over to help. A half-dozen firefighters worked to untangle wires that had dropped from the sagging ceiling and to extricate the firefighter from the damaged floor; the two who were holding him up also started to break through the floor. A tower ladder at a nearby window helped get the FF out of the house after he was freed from the floor. **HERE** is the RADIO TRAFFIC from FF SPOT: <http://tinyurl.com/3mphr9b>

FATAL EMS CRASH IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

There was a crash this morning in Orangeburg County involving a Dodge four-door and an ambulance that had resulted in one fatality. It was reported around 0730 just north of Orangeburg. The driver of the Dodge four-door was 22-year-old Zachary Thomas and Thomas' passenger was the person killed in the crash. The driver of the ambulance was identified as Franklin Boardin of Orangeburg. There was a passenger inside the ambulance at the time of the crash.

ANOTHER SPRINKLER ATTEMPTED GETS DOUSED:

The Kansas FF's did their best of the last 2 years , but the Realtors and Homebuilders finally beat them. Governor Sam Brownback signed into law on April 8th the prohibition of any municipality or city to adopt residential sprinkler codes. **That's right.** Even if EVERYONE in any municipality within Kansas WANTED to vote in codes requiring residential sprinklers, they can't. One more ingredient to "the perfect fire storm" forming in many communities.

REMEMBERING KYLE WILSON:

As you are aware, Technician (Firefighter) Kyle Wilson of the Prince William County (VA) Department of Fire & Rescue was killed in the Line of Duty when he heroically gave his life at a single family dwelling fire on **April 16, 2007**. We take time out this weekend to remember. Below are links to learn about the fire, an excellent way to honor his life for all FF's.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200712.html> (NIOSH)

<http://www.pwcgov.org/vpresentations/fnr/LODDReportFactSheet.pdf> (PW County Fact Sheet)

A NEW AND UNIQUE FIRE SERVICE AWARD: (Note: Applications close the end of this month)

A REMINDER THAT FIRE 20/20 is hosting the first annual Tony Pini Awards for Diversity & Inclusion in the Fire Service. Named in honor of the late Santa Rosa (CA) Fire Chief Tony Pini, the awards will

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honor fire departments that are working to build proactive relationships with their communities. Two career and two volunteer departments will be presented with the Tony Pini Awards during a special breakfast event at the International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference (FRI) on August 25, 2011.

MORE HERE: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/470941/Tony-Pini-Diversity-Inclusion-Awards>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-17-11 / 1936 Hours

AND:

18 Year Old MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER, LINE OF DUTY DEATH-WHILE RESPONDING

We regret to advise you that a Volunteer Firefighter was killed in the Line of Duty after being in a car crash while responding to fire call yesterday morning. FF Jacob Anthony Carter, 18, died at the hospital in Tupelo after suffering massive trauma when his 2002 Ford Explorer ran off the road. His personal vehicle then overturned and struck a tree. **FF Carter, who was a Firefighter with the Becker-Athens Volunteer Fire Department, was not wearing his seat belt.** As always, our sincere condolences to all affected. **RELATED VIDEO HERE:**

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

5 DETROIT FIREFIGHTERS HURT THIS MORNING

Five Detroit firefighters were hurt when a wall collapsed as they fought a blaze on the city's southwest side early this morning. One had injuries to his arm, another had minor back injuries and the others were being checked out after a brick wall fell. The fire was in a vacant commercial building around 0130 this morning and went to a 2nd following the collapse. All are still in the hospital as of this writing.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-18-11 / 0800 Hours

AND:

CT FF LINE OF DUTY DEATH-MEDICAL EMERGENCY AT FIRE CALL SCENE

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter collapsed on the scene of a fire call while standing by the hydrant late last night. Initial reports are that he collapsed, had CPR initiated by other Firefighters, was treated and transported to the hospital by a Windsor EMS ALS unit but was pronounced dead in the Line of Duty at St. Francis Hospital. The Firefighter's name has not been released pending notification of his family. The call was a report of smoke in the building at the Windsor Rehabilitation Center and came in around 2000 hours. As always, our most sincere condolences. More to follow.

TEXAS FIREFIGHTER BURNED DURING RESCUE

Firefighter Matt Clark has only been a Volunteer Firefighter for six months, his full-time job is as a prison guard in Abilene. When one of many Texas working brush fires broke out near his home in Gorman on Friday, he answered the call with his Fire Chief and, almost instantly, they were surrounded by the fire. "At this point, we are at a dead sprint, trying to outrun the fire," Clark said. A blast of flames scarred his face with first degree burns. He suffered third degree burns to his hands. The fire truck they were on was destroyed. "It was very scary," Clark said from bed at the Parkland Memorial Hospital burn unit in Dallas. "I'm not going to lie to you; I honestly did not think I would make it home." And that's when he saw one of his fellow firefighters collapse. "Actually, the burns weren't even hurting that much at that time. My thought was, 'I got to get out of here, and I got to take whoever I can with me,'" Clark said. Matt will be hospitalized for at least another week. He has skin

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graft surgery scheduled for Wednesday. **MORE HERE:** <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Injured-Volunteer-Rescues-Fellow-Firefighter-120140164.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-19-11 / 0425 Hours

AND:

Hey,

DFCD Sergeant Ramon Hounshell and Firefighter Chuckie Ryan both continue to show signs of improvement. Firefighter Ryan will return to the operating room tomorrow for more skin grafts to his arms. Although he had a tough night last night and spent part of today resting in his room, Ryan was able to make 10 laps around the ICU today during rehab and continues to avoid any set backs in his care. His strong will and determination to return to the job have certainly kept him focused with his rehabilitation. Lt. Alvarado and Firefighter Deavers both returned to the burn clinic today for a follow up visit. Lt. Alvarado's burns are healing wonderfully while he counts down the days until he can return to work. Unfortunately the burns to Deavers left arm are not healing as everyone had hoped and he will have to return on Monday for a skin graft. Fox 5 DC conducted an interview this afternoon with Deavers and Alvarado at Washington Hospital Center that you can watch below. A press conference is scheduled for this Thursday at Washington Hospital Center with the Firefighters and the staff of the Burn Center and Washington Hospital Center.

Please go to: <http://www.dcffburnfoundation.org/fullstory.php?134664> to watch today's interview with Lt. Alvarado and Firefighter Deavers. Thanks to the DC Burn Foundation for this update.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-19-11 / 2038 Hours

AND:

NOTE: Your input is quickly needed by the September 11th Families Association-Please take a moment to scroll down to assist with your opinion that is very much needed.

MICHIGAN POLICE OFFICER / FIREFIGHTER/EMT (Public Safety Officer) KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

We regret to advise you that Kalamazoo Public Safety Officer (Police Officer/Firefighter/EMT) Eric Zapata lost his life last night in the line of duty. Kalamazoo Public Safety is one of the largest combined police/fire departments in the nation. Officer Eric Zapata was shot and killed after responding to reports of a shots fired call. Another officer had also responded to the call and approached a man on a porch. As the officer asked the man if he had heard any shots, the man suddenly pulled out a gun and exchanged shots with the officer. The subject then ran in between two houses where he confronted Officer Zapata. More shots were exchanged and Officer Zapata was struck in the head and chest. The man then committed suicide. Officer Zapata had served with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety as a Police Officer/Firefighter/EMT for 10 years. As always, our most sincere condolences.

FATAL APPARATUS RELATED CRASH IN CANADA

A man was killed in a highway crash after he drove past a road block and slammed into a parked fire truck at a crash scene northeast of Edmonton. The fatal collision happened just before 1330 hours last Friday on Highway 45 near the town of Hairy Hill. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Paramedics and County of Two Hills Firefighters were assessing a tractor trailer that had hit the south

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ditch and rolled. The truck was carrying two full propane tanks, but there were no leaks, and the driver wasn't seriously hurt. Firefighters and RCMP had closed the highway in both directions, but a passenger van sped past the road block toward the collision scene, hitting an unoccupied fire truck - with flashing warning lights, positioned to block and/or divert traffic.

CRASH VICTIM PULLS KNIFE ON FIREFIGHTERS

In another attack on Firefighters responding to assist at a crash (Bellmore, Long Island Firefighter Justin Angell was shot in March and thankfully survived, cops killed the shooter), Miami (Florida) Firefighters say a woman who was involved in a fiery single-car crash on I-95 yesterday afternoon became a suspect when she pulled a knife on the men trying to help her. It happened after the woman crashed her van into a wall near the 112 Expressway around 1330 hours. Like any other FD, City of Miami Firefighters responded to rescue anyone who might be trapped after the van burst into fire, but no one was inside. Instead, Firefighter Robert Webster saw a woman 200 yards away walking in the emergency lane, appearing distressed, so he approached her. "She held a knife out towards me and she was saying things, I couldn't make out what she was saying," Webster said. FF Webster said the woman was so violent and combative, they called police for backup. It took two male and two female officers to restrain the woman, who was then hog-tied, placed in the back seat, and taken in for a psychiatric evaluation. Use caution, "ya neva know"

CT LODD UPDATE:

Windsor is mourning the loss of Volunteer Firefighter Robert Watts, 50, who died in the Line of Duty while operating at a fire call at the Windsor Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center last night. FF Watts was on the first engine to arrive on the scene, and was connecting a line to a hydrant when he collapsed. FF Watts joined the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department in 2003 and completed his training in 2006. He served in the Marine Corps from 1980-86 and is a graduate of Manchester High School. Watts' fire service began early when he joined the Manchester Fire Department 8th Utilities District in 1977 as a junior member. He tragically leaves behind 2 children. RIP.

A SPECIAL REQUEST:

SECRET LIST MEMBERS: YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED BY THE SEPTEMBER 11th FAMILIES ASSOC.

The September 11th Families Association also operates the Tribute WTC Visitor Center, a non-profit, 9/11 museum, right next to "Ten House"- across the street from the World Trade Center site that was created by the September 11th Families' Association. Since opening in September 2006, the Tribute Center has welcomed over 2 million people from around the world.

They need your 2 minute input - PLEASE RESPOND TO: jchiles@tributewtc.org (See Below)

To honor the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, the Tribute Center is considering launching a fundraiser to support their operating the Center. **This fundraiser will be directed at the fire service** because of the deep connection we have. The fundraiser will encourage FD's, Companies, Locals, Associations and individuals to raise money for the Center and in return the donors will receive special gifts that hold a deep resonance in remembrance of 9/11. The fundraiser will take place soon and will end July 31st 2011. The special "thank you" gifts will be very limited in number and will go to the first houses or individuals that donate at each level. **THEY NEED YOUR THOUGHTS** on the items and the donations levels. All donations will be 95% tax-deductible, except as may be limited by federal law:

=Steel: First 50 to donate \$2,500 will receive a helmet with a 343 front piece signed by FDNY Fire Commissioner Cassano.

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=**Platinum:** First 100 to donate \$2,000 will receive a helmet with a 343 front piece.

=**Gold:** First 150 to donate \$1,500 will receive an American Flag that has been flown at the World Trade Center site. The flag will be presented in a commemorative wooden box and will have a certificate of authenticity.

=**Silver:** First 100 to donate \$1,000 will receive a helmet plaque with a 343 front piece.

=**Bronze:** First 500 to donate \$500 will receive six limited edition 10th Anniversary apparatus decals and ten decals for personal use.

They very much appreciate your thoughts and response to the following questions. Please email ichiles@tributewtc.org with the subject: 9/11 Anniversary, with answers to the below:

PLEASE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AND RESPOND TO: ichiles@tributewtc.org

- 1-Would your FD or association donate to receive one of these?
- 2-Which level would appeal most to your FD/Assoc?
- 3-Are the donation ranges achievable for your FD/Assoc?
- 4-Is there a different commemorative item your FD would like to have in remembrance of 9/11?
- 5-How many firefighters are in your department?
- 6-Are you planning to hold a 9/11 Commemoration?
- 7-Are you aware of the Tribute WTC Visitor Center?
- 8-Any other thoughts or ideas?

Please send your comments to:

ichiles@tributewtc.org THANK YOU!! For more information please visit www.tributewtc.org

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG
The Secret List 4-19-11 / 1933 Hours

AND:

(Our April FD Budget Cuts & Staffing Updated Report Is Now Posted: <http://tinyurl.com/3hsfte8>)

Hey,

One Philadelphia Firefighter is in critical condition w/burns and 2 other Firefighters were hurt following a flashover and mayday in Philly late last night. The fire also left a civilian dead. When PFD Firefighters got to the home (photos on our home page showing the conditions), they had reports of people trapped. Arriving in 3 minutes, they had heavy smoke and fire blowing from the windows of the home. One person was rescued from a second floor window by Firefighters. Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers described what happened: "While they were attacking the fire they had a flash over. Several of the firefighters were injured. We actually called a mayday on that to make sure we could get our firefighters out." As of this writing, one Firefighter was in critical condition at Temple while the other two were reported to be in stable condition. There were no signs of any smoke detectors in the home. Updates to follow. **PHOTOS HERE:** <http://phillyfirenews.com/content/firewire/detail/5523.php>

TRIAL UPDATE: FDNY RADIO AUDIO OF MAYDAY AT DEUTSCHE BANK FIRE

Jurors in the manslaughter trial of 3 construction supervisors listened this past Monday to radio dispatches from FDNY Firefighters operating at the fatal fire at the former Deutsche Bank building. In the recordings, amongst the transmissions, the men asked for saws to cut through plywood that blocked stairwells. They are also heard transmitting MAYDAY's after they were unable to get water. The recordings back up the prosecution's claims that a disconnected standpipe hampered firefighting

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efforts. Defense attorneys say it was not the cut standpipe, but other factors in the building that led to the deaths of two Firefighters. They argue failures by government agencies are to blame. **Firefighters Robert Beddia and Joseph Graffagnino were killed in the Line of Duty at this August 2007 fire.**

MAYDAY AUDIO LINK: <http://tinyurl.com/4ydu9g9>

AUDIO & VIDEO OF THE FIRE / MEDIA REPORT <http://tinyurl.com/4ydu9g9>

OHIO FIRE APPARATUS STRUCK ON INTERSTATE

A ladder truck from the North Ridgeville FD was attempting to make a U-turn on I-80 when it was struck on the driver's side door by a semi truck early this morning. The Firefighter driving the apparatus was transported to a local hospital with unspecified injuries. Shortly after midnight on Wednesday morning, the fire apparatus was traveling westbound on the turnpike between exits 152 (Route 57) and 145 (Route 10) when Firefighters received a call about a vehicle fire in the eastbound lanes. The fire apparatus attempted a U-turn from a lane other than the left-most lane. As the fire apparatus approached the median turnaround, it was struck by a semi truck that was traveling in the same direction. The driver of the semi truck was not injured. The Ohio Highway Patrol is investigating. Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-11 / 2142 Hours

AND:

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

We regret to advise you that the Cactus (Texas) Firefighter who suffered 3rd degree burns a week ago last Saturday at a huge grassfire has died in the Line of Duty. FF Elias Jaquez suffered burns to 60% of his body in that fire. FF Jaquez, 49, a husband and father of four daughters, has been a Volunteer Firefighter at the fire for slightly less than two years. As you will recall, FF Jaquez, and 3 other Firefighters were injured after a Dumas and Cactus fire apparatus became stuck in the rough terrain. The Cactus crew was going on to de-flank the fire, the Dumas truck got stuck in the sand and the Cactus fire crew came up beside them grab the other FF's, and then they got stuck. The heroic attempts took FF Jaquez's life. As always, our most sincere condolences to all those affected, especially the family of FF Elias Jaquez.

TEXAS CONTINUES TO BURN:

Firefighters in Texas continued to operate at fires that have scorched a million acres and have been burning for more than a week. "We're actually seeing Texas burn from border to border. We've got it in West Texas, in East Texas, in North Texas, in South Texas -- it's all over the state," Texas Forest Service spokeswoman April Saginor told CNN Radio. "We've got one in the Dallas area that's four fires that have actually merged together." Saginor said firefighters from 34 states are now in Texas battling blazes that, over the past two weeks, have destroyed 170 homes and burned 1 million acres. "Some (fires) are over 100,000 acres and they've been burning for over a week, so that's our priority right now," Saginor said, "to put out the big ones." Much of Texas, however, is expected to get a break today from the dry weather and high winds blamed for the spreading wildfires, according to the National Weather Service. However, the fire danger is likely to return Thursday for various parts of the state.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-11 / 1016 Hours

AND:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Hey,

As you know, several Philadelphia Firefighters were caught in a flashover last night. The fire, with victims trapped and rescues made, resulted in a civilian fatality as well. The fire was a 2 story end of row basement fire with people trapped on 2nd floor. PFD members rescued 1 adult male from 2nd floor. While attempting to rescue a 2nd adult male (70 retired and wheel chair bound police officer), the fire flashed trapping the Firefighters. Firefighter Seeger came out of a 2nd floor window. Lieutenant Vozzeli and Firefighter Lardon were able to escape thru the stairs. Firefighters did find working smoke detectors inside the home.

CONDITIONS OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Lt Ray Vozzeli from L15C working L2B 27 yrs on the job
Stable now released.

FF Joseph Seeger L3A 14 yrs on the job
Critical condition but talking, aware and in good spirits.

FF Christine Lardon E29A
4 yrs 9 mo on the job-stable in Burn unit in good spirits.
We wish them all a rapid recovery.

HERE is excellent video of the working fire:

<http://phillyfirenews.com/content/firewire/detail/5523.php>

HERE are 2 news videos with more details:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8083603>

http://www.emergencystream.com/video_archive/04/20d.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,
BillyG

The Secret List 4-20-11 / 2137 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Mississauga (Ontario, Canada) Firefighter has been charged after a fatal responding wreck involving his fire apparatus. Citizen Kimberley Schulz, 42 (whose Brother and Father are Firefighters) was killed on March 6 when the fire apparatus, which was responding to a call, struck her car at an intersection. Police had been investigating whether the sensor system that is meant to change traffic lights had not switched the light. When an emergency vehicle approaches a traffic light, the vehicle supposed to have a green light, while all three other directions are supposed to have a red light. It is now clear that the fire apparatus did have a red light, according to the cops. Firefighter Jarrett Johns, 35, of Toronto, who was driving the apparatus, has been charged with failing to stop at the red light. FF Johns is scheduled to appear in court on June 16. The fire apparatus had its sirens on and was traveling to another crash when it went through the red light and hit her vehicle. Kimberley Schulz, 42, comes from a of Firefighters as her Brother, Steve Bayley, is a Toronto firefighter and her Father, Warren Bayley, is a retired Toronto Firefighter. None of the 3 Firefighters on the truck was injured.

HERE are several excellent fire apparatus driver training/resource links:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-272.pdf> (USFA)

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/vehicle.shtm> (USFA)

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/home.html> (IAFF Driver Training)

<http://www.iaff.org/hs/evsp/PowerPoint%20Handouts%20in%20PDF.pdf> (Ppt)

http://www.nvfc.org/files/documents/EVSO_2009.pdf (NVFC Driver Training)

https://lacountyfirefighters.org/items/1A_3_3_Driving_App_Incidents.pdf (LA County)

www.emergencyvehicleresponse.com (EVR Resources)

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<http://www.drivetosurvive.org/> (Resources)

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/resources/VFIS/responseguidelines.pdf> (VFIS/EGH)

<http://tinyurl.com/4x5oulm> (EGH Resource List)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-21-11 / 0925 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The battle continues in California as at least one city is looking at trading in their FD to a for-profit FD who claims they can do it better and cheaper-and will guarantee it. As we shared a few weeks ago, this is a big deal as more and more local governments look to save money-and in many cases, ignoring what is best for public safety, not the public's purses. The city of San Carlos has utilized the services of Tri-Data consultants. You will recall Tri-Data as the company who, working for the National League of Cities, issued a report on CANCER & FIREFIGHTING. It was the NLC report where the title implied that there is no link between cancer & firefighting. **HERE is a reminder about that report from the IAFF & IAFC:** http://www.iaff.org/Comm/PDFs/IAFF_IAFC_Cancer_Statement.pdf

Now, back to the private-for-profit issue-

San Carlos FF's went on a door-to-door campaign today, hoping to save their jobs. Currently San Carlos shares its FD with the city of Belmont. But last year, San Carlos politicians said that they wanted to end that agreement to save money. The city has 3 options: it can create its own stand-alone FD, consolidate with the Redwood City FD, or it could shut down the FD completely and contract with the private for profit security company: Wackenhut Corporation.

TRI DATA REPORT:

According to Tri-Data, the city of San Carlos would be better off ending its joint FD with Belmont and outsource the service completely to private provider Wackenhut Services, Inc. or create a hybrid model to share management with Redwood City. The findings of TriData were released yesterday, a week after the City Council heard formal presentations on its fire alternatives. According to TriData, two of them should get more consideration - Wackenhut, or the hybrid model. "They offer the full range of fire and EMS services and in some cases innovation and they are the least costly today while offering potential for cost control in the future," the report concluded. But while Tri-Data was impressed by Florida-based Wackenhut, some residents most definitely are not. Some voiced their reservations at last Monday's meeting and others, on behalf of Firefighters Union Local 2400, visited residences with anti-Wackenhut literature asking the like-minded to attend the upcoming City Council meeting at which a decision is expected. (More below)

CALIFORNIA APPLES, CALIFORNIA ORANGES & FIREFIGHTER SALARIES:

And in southern California this week, San Diego Council members claim that San Diego Firefighters earn as much as 325 percent more than their private sector colleagues. San Diego Council members Carl DeMaio and Lorie Zapf issued a report using figures from the city's Independent Budget Analyst to show that San Diego FD employees who are classified as Firefighter II/EMT make nearly 3 times as much in salary as EMTs at Rural/Metro, a private for profit ambulance service that works under a city contract. The same SDFD employees each make nine times the benefits of the Rural/Metro worker for a total pay difference of 325 percent, according to their report. Large disparities exist in other classifications, as well, according to the IBA figures. **"Any time the city gives out salaries and benefits that are higher than the local labor market, we are wasting the taxpayers' money,"** said DeMaio. He and Zapf asked the IBA to provide more data for the city to have on hand when negotiations open on a new contract with the

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firefighters union. Fire Chief Javier Mainar and union President Frank De Clercq both said the comparisons amount to mixing apples and oranges. (See link below)

HERE is MORE related to MERGERS and related issues:

<http://tinyurl.com/67gz5ou> (Municipal Mergers)

<http://tinyurl.com/3ftxrgg> (San Carlos Local Media)

<http://tinyurl.com/3lq3nty> (San Diego Salary Issue)

==SOME VIDEOS OF INTEREST:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnMkKsS6dWE&feature=related> (A Great Firefighter Recruit Video)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieQTBHvFsnY> (Humorous Fire Apparatus Pull Over Video)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/04/texas-wildfires/100050/> (Wildfire Photos from Texas)

http://www.fdnretiree.com/DISPATCHERS/E94_attacked.htm (FDNY E-94 Under Attack - June 28, 1976)

==LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:

MICHIGAN: PSO ERIC ZAPATA, FF/EMT

Public Safety (Police/Fire/EMS) Officer Eric Zapata, 35, a 10-year vet of Kalamazoo and Father of three, was killed in the Line of Duty just before his shift ended at midnight April 18. He was responding to a report of "shots fired" when he was confronted by an armed man who shot Officer Zapata. The suspect then turned his weapon on himself. Visitation will be at Langeland Funeral Home, 3926 S. Ninth St., **Sunday (Tomorrow)**, from 4 to 8 p.m. and Monday, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. A wake service is planned at 6:30 p.m., followed by a Rosary. MORE HERE:

www.kalamazoopublicsafety.org A private burial is planned for Wednesday. RIP.

TEXAS: FF Elias Jaquez

Funeral Services for Firefighter Elias Jaquez, Cactus, Texas, will be held Monday at the St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, 10th & Maddox, Dumas, Texas at 1100 hours. FF Jaquez died in the Line of Duty from burns at last weeks wildland fire. All apparatus and Honor Guard personnel are requested to be at the church at 0900. The Amarillo FD Honor Guard is performing the duties. **Any Texas Firefighter's Pipes & Drums that wish to attend** should contact James Williams AFD HG at 806.670.6927. They do have a local pipe, John Brewer who has agreed to pipe at the service. John welcomes any others to please attend. He can be reached at 806.373.7634 Hm , 806.672.9876 c. RIP.

==THANKS TO CHIEF ALAN SHUMAN:

A quick word of THANKS to Georgia State Fire Marshal Alan Shuman for his incredible service to the people of Georgia as well as the USA. Chief Shuman has set the example of what a State Fire Marshal is with his no nonsense, non-political focus and concern for citizen and Firefighter survival. Alan, who also serves as the President of the National Association of State Fire Marshals is departing his position after 10 years of service. We wish Alan THE BEST as he moves onto his next challenge. Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-23-11 / 1426 Hours

AND:

(**FREE TRAINING:** Metro Atlanta Firefighters Conference. April 30-May 1, 2011. A **FREE** conference by FF's for **ALL** FF's with some of the **BEST** Instructors available today. Check it out: www.maffc.org)

Hey,

Yesterday in Arizona, a Maricopa County Superior Court jury found an Iraq war veteran guilty of negligent homicide in the 2001 death of a Phoenix firefighter. The jury also found Christopher Benitez guilty of two counts of arson for lighting a fire that consumed a supermarket. Firefighter Bret Tarver, who operated at that fire, died in the Line of Duty of burns and smoke inhalation after becoming tangled in debris inside the burning market. Benitez will be sentenced June 3. More **HERE:**

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2011/04/25/20110425phoenix-firefighter-tarver-death-murder-arson-trial-verdict-brk25-ON.html#ixzz1Kd8T6G3Y>

CALIFORNIA CITY SAYS NO TO FOR-PROFIT FIRE SERVICE:

The San Carlos city council unanimously voted to partner with Redwood City last night on a "shared services/collaborative" hybrid FD, with more than 150 vocally passionate attendees, many of whom held anti-Wackenhut signs in opposition of the private for-profit company who wanted the contract. The hybrid proposal will save the city \$1.8 million. As a back-up plan, the city also voted to 3-2 to re invite the private firm Wackenhut Services to re bid should negotiations with Redwood City fail.

The details of the hybrid option are as follow:

- Redwood City will provide four firefighters staffing "Truck 9" out of Fire Station 9.
- Supervision and scene management will be provided by Redwood City
- Administrative staff will be provided by Redwood City including Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, an administrative assistant, a secretary, and another secretary working out of the 755 Marshall Street office.
- A fire inspector will be assigned to San Carlos.
- Training services will be provided by Redwood City's battalion Chief.
- San Carlos would maintain an EMS battalion chief.

Wackenhut, the for profit business that had a sent in a bid to the city just before the April 1 deadline - offers businesses and governments an array of services, including EMS and fire. Not surprisingly, the company had presented some "not completely accurate" details in their presentation.

PA GOV SAYS NO TO RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLERS

Yesterday Gov. Tom Corbett signed House Bill 377, which **repeals** the mandate to require fire sprinkler systems in new homes. Gov. Corbett stated that this legislation is a "common sense" measure and will save Pennsylvania's working families thousands of dollars. He commented "whether or not new homes are equipped with fire sprinklers should be a decision left to individual consumers and not the government." The saddest part of the story is that the PA Fire Service did everything right. They encouraged the new codes, they went to the builder's meetings, they won the votes, they pitched it to the people, and then they got cut off at the knees by money and politics.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-26-11 / 0600 hours

AND:

Hey,

Two veteran Valentine (Nebraska) Volunteer Firefighters were burned while operating at a wild fire near Thedford. FF's JD Osburn and Warren Rockwell were on the back of a Valentine rural fire fighting rig when the truck was trapped by the 50 mph wind blown flames. Both men were wearing

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their complete wildland fire gear which helped to protect them. They were checked out by EMS on the scene and transported back to the Valentine Firehall on the apparatus. After arriving in Valentine, both men were taken to the Cherry County Hospital for assessment. Warren Rockwell was transferred to the Saint Elizabeth Burn Unit in Lincoln for further assessment. JD Osburn was held for observation at the Cherry County Hospital. Several hundred fire fighters from across central Nebraska were called to that large grass fire west of Thedford. Over 25 departments were involved including an aircraft that helped bring the fire under control about 1800 Friday evening. The fire is believed to have started on the Mike Finney place about 9 miles west of Thedford. Fueled by wind gusts of 50 mph, the blaze raced for about 7.5 miles before it was finally contained about 1.5 miles west of Thedford. An estimated 11,000 acres were burned. The cause of the fire is not know at this time and this occurred last Friday. We wish them a rapid recovery.

WASHINGTON DC FIREFIGHTER UPDATES: 1 FF REMAINS CRITICAL WITH BURNS:

Firefighter Mike Deavers returned to the Burn Center yesterday for a skin graft to his left arm. The surgery went remarkably well and his returned home last night for recovery. Lt. Alvarado and Sergeant Ramon Hounshell continue to receive treatment on an outpatient level as well as rehabilitation in the Burn Centers Firefighters Burn Rehabilitation Gym. Firefighter Chuckie Ryan still remains in critical condition in the Burn Center's Intensive Care Unit. He continues to work toward his recovery and the burns to his hands continue to show progress. Firefighter Ryan still has a number of surgeries ahead of him. Please continue to keep Firefighter Ryan and his family on your thoughts and prayers. For more updates along with videos and pictures please visit our website at www.dcffburnfoundation.org

IAFF FREEZES POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The IAFF, who is one of the Democratic parties most reliable sources of funding will now quit donating to federal candidates because, as stated by General President Harold Schaitberger: members of Congress are not doing enough to support them. **As quoted:** "...until we see our friends in Congress be as committed to standing and fighting with us with the same level of intensity and ferocity as our enemies are trying to kill us, I'm turning the spigot off" "Extreme right-wing conservative and so-called Tea Party politicians are coming after fire fighters, paramedics and all public workers with a vengeance across the United States." "With the full support of our union's Executive Board, we are turning off the spigot to federal candidates and federal parties, party committees and the super PACs that are created to support them."

HERE is the entire statement from the General President:

<http://www.iaff.org/11News/042611FIREPAC.htm>

HERE is the IAFF Fighting Back Campaign:

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

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-26-11 / 1600 Hours

AND:

KY FIREFIGHTER LODD - MEDICAL

It is with deep regret we notify you of the line of duty death of Firefighter Michael Webb of the Fleming-Neon Volunteer Fire Department in Letcher County, Kentucky (approximately 35 miles east of Hazard near Virginia border). Firefighter Webb suffered a fatal heart attack at his home Wednesday morning after returning from an earlier response to an ATV incident in a mountainous area. He is 46 years old and is survived by his wife, a son, and two daughters. Our sincere condolences to the Webb and Fleming-Neon Fire families in your thoughts and prayers.

FF STRUCK IN MARYLAND

We have preliminary information that a firefighter in Montgomery County, MD has been struck by a vehicle on Wisconsin Ave. The Firefighter was a member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad. More information on this incident as we receive it will be posted on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-26-11 / 1600 Hours

AND:

Hey,

While there are numerous horrific stories of how this week's weather has devastated the south, including it impacting numerous Firefighters and departments, **this story is absolutely amazing.** While responding on a run before a tornado approached his community, the Fire Chief of the Shoal Creek (Alabama) VFD, was actually picked up by the tornado, flipped around several times and dropped upside down in the Coosa River! While the apparatus was upside down in the river, Fire Chief Vernon White amazingly managed to unbuckle his seat belt, get out of the truck through a broken window and swim to safety.

According to the Chief: "When I got to the end of the road, I saw the tornado coming--- I turned left and tried to outrun it. I got a quarter-of-a-mile down the road and the tornado hit me. It picked my truck up, turned it around and around. "I don't know how many times I rolled and rolled and rolled on the ground. I ended up in the river." Chief White said the tornado picked the truck up he knows at least one time and they made a complete circle one time before being dropped in the river. Chief White estimates the tornado took him and the vehicle 100 to 150 yards before it landed in the water. "When the tornado first hit the truck, I grabbed hold of the steering wheel and laid down in the seat," White said. "The force of the wind blew all of the windows out of the truck. I remember being upside down in the water. I had to hold my breath maybe 30 to 45 seconds as I unbuckled my seatbelt and went out the driver's side window to get out of and swim to safety." The only injury White sustained was a black eye and he did say he was real sore after all the tumbling. "I am thankful to God I survived," he said.

TORNADO VIDEO REPORTS:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7T7GYI0xvg>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhCXX5lyfSQ&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TornadoVideosdotnet?blend=1&ob=5> (**TornadoVideos.Net-AMAZING VIDEO**)

Our thoughts and prayers to the many TSL members who have checked in to let us know they are ok but are also involved in the recovery efforts-some being Firefighters who have lost much of their own.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE CRITICAL AFTER APPARATUS INCIDENT DURING TRAINING

A newly hired Firefighter was injured while he was in training at a fire training facility in St. Louis. East St. Louis (IL) FF Trainee Bobby Cole Jr., 27, was in training Wednesday **when he was pinned between a moving fire apparatus and a wall.** He suffered a broken pelvis and has serious internal injuries. His Dad, Bobby Cole Sr., a police captain at the East St. Louis Police Department, said his son is in the intensive care unit at St. Louis University Hospital and is expected to live-but has a very long road ahead of him. The incident is under investigation and we'll pass along more details as they are available.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 4-30-11 / 0800 hours

AND:

WELCOME TO 2011 (One Reporter Gets It)

Los Angeles City is looking at closing **18 fire companies and 4 ambulances**. Other cities are doing similar things. In some of those cities, the citizens are fighting back. However, in L.A. not only are some citizens NOT fighting back, but many are getting "joy" out of the cuts. **Incredible**. They clearly do not understand who ends up "paying" for the cuts. I don't care where you are, 18 fire companies and 4 ambulances being cut WILL impact those who dial 9-1-1. The cuts will save the city more than \$53 million in the next fiscal year, and nearly \$200 million over three years, and would also put an end to rotating staff reductions. Currently, the LA City FD temporarily closes 22 fire companies and 6 ambulances in order to save money. LA City FD determines which companies should go with the help of a computer program that measures which companies were most in demand. Under the proposal, no firefighters would be laid off. **READ THIS Editorial Where This Member Of The Media Absolutely Gets It:** <http://tinyurl.com/4yqdh05>

OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES: (Non-LODD's)

In **INDIANA**, Portland Fire Chief Matt Aker died in a crash yesterday. Chief Aker - who was also local Task Force Element Leader in District 6, was in a motorcycle crash yesterday around 1630. He was taken by helicopter to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne where he was pronounced dead at about 1750 hours. Chief Aker, 34, a Portland Firefighter since 1997, was appointed Fire Chief in December 2007. Our condolences. **HERE is PFD's website:** <http://www.thecityofportland.net/fire>

AND IN FRANCE:

A volunteer Firefighter died at his home in central France as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. The construction worker (an immigrant from Ireland), who also volunteered with the local fire company, was found lifeless in his living room by his own colleagues. They believe 21-year-old Jamie Henry started cooking on Tuesday night when he came home but changed his mind and went to bed without turning off the gas stove. They think that he put oil into a pan to fry some chips and that it evaporated when he forgot to switch the cooker off. The pan then "carbonized" and started releasing carbon monoxide that killed the young man and his dog Daisy. His colleagues were so distraught that a second fire brigade from a different town took over the incident. Our condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-11 / 1405 Hours

AND:

As Requested:

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE WAYS YOU CAN RECEIVE THE SECRET LIST.

Hey,

2 Firefighters have been burned at that wildfire that is burning across the Arizona-Mexico border. The fire has taken nearly 30,000 acres of land on both sides of the border, about five miles west of the city of Nogales. 2 Firefighters were injured and taken to the hospital on Friday. One was later released, the other remains in the hospital for NLT 2nd degree burns. We wish the FF a rapid recovery.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES CLOSE CALL:

PSYCHO PUSHES EMS CREW OUT AND STEALS THE AMBULANCE and: The Tip of The Day.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

In Albuquerque (New Mexico) on Friday, a screwball drug filled patient went nuts, pushed the rear crew out of the unit, pushed the driver out and took the ambulance for a ride, while not wearing any clothes. The patient's father said his son had also climbed onto the rooftops of neighbors that morning and that's why his wife called police. That'll do it every time. APD cops finally gained control of the patient. However, both Albuquerque PD and Albuquerque FD crews still recommended that Albuquerque Ambulance Service staff restrain the patient before taking him to the hospital **BUT the Albuquerque Ambulance crew decided not to.** "At the time of transport he was cooperative so the restraints were not used," an EMS spokesperson said. "We would rather not restrain people if they're being calm and cooperative." **TIP OF THE DAY:** If a patient is acting irrational, is found climbing amongst the neighborhood rooftops and the cops have to take him to get him to calm down, consider having the cops restrain the patient and if EMS must transport the patient, do it **WITH** a cop in the back. Just say'n. **HERE is a PG rated video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsVWY-3N1nU>

FIREFIGHTER CLOSE CALL: Firefighters Exposed To Mercury

A small fire at a Perkasio (PA) area manufacturing plant yesterday turned into a hazmat incident after firefighters were exposed to an unknown amount of mercury in the building. The Bucks County's Hazmat Team responded to the incident at PSG Controls and set up decontamination showers for the firefighters. 8 fire departments, EMS and about 125 firefighters responded to the scene and most had entered the building. 45 firefighters, who were the closest to the mercury, were taken to area hospitals to have blood drawn and to be evaluated. Perkasio Fire Chief Dave Worthington directed the precautionary move.

TIP: Metallic mercury is the liquid substance used in thermostats, thermometers and some batteries and electrical switches. At room temperature, metallic mercury will evaporate and form odorless mercury vapors, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. When the temperature rises, more vapors are released from liquid metallic mercury. Breathing these vapors can leave a metallic taste in your mouth. According to the ATSDR, exposure to very high levels of metallic mercury vapors can cause brain, kidney, and lung damage, as well as coughing, chest pains, nausea, and skin and eye irritation. Prolonged exposure to lower levels of metallic mercury vapors can cause irritability, tremors, changes in vision, memory problems, and other issues.

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Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-11 / 1405 Hours

SUBSCRIBE DIRECTLY TO JOIN THE SECRET LIST VIA E-MAIL:

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

FOLLOW THE SECRET LIST ON FACEBOOK:

<http://tinyurl.com/y855vmt>

RECEIVE THE SECRET LIST NOTIFICATIONS VIA TWITTER:

<http://twitter.com/#!/thesecretlist>

AND:

MISSISSIPPI FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY DURING STORM

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Charles Foster, 59, of the Barton VFD died in the Line of Duty. The Barton Fire Department is in Marshal County, MS. FF Foster was in the hospital since early Tuesday morning when members were out doing a debris removal after one of the storms that came through their area. During that duty, he suffered a massive heart attack. 2 Firefighters with him immediately started CPR, he was transported to the hospital where he had been on life support. He passed away on yesterday at 1500 hours. Charles Foster was a past Captain and Lieutenant and as always, our sincere condolences to the members and the family of FF Charlie Foster.

HERE is the BFD's FACEBOOK page: <http://www.facebook.com/bartonvolunteerfiredepartment>

GREEK FIRE OFFICER SHOT & KILLED-TRYING TO STOP A ROBBERY

ALSO, our condolences to the members of the Patras (Greece) Fire Service on the loss of one of their members. Fire Sergeant Chris Mantas. Sgt Mantas was killed yesterday, during a Super Market robbery. The Fire Sergeant, 59 years old, was walking in to shop-as the bad guys were moving, Chris saw the incident, took a metal object and tried to immobilize them. He hit one of the robbers, but the second one shot him twice. People in the store were in panic and despite the chase that followed, the two men haven't been arrested yet. While not a confirmed LODD/On Duty Death, it's another example of a Firefighter stepping up. Our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-1-11 / 2119 Hours

AND:

Hey,

After a fire in a mobile home was knocked down (in South Brunswick NJ), 8 Firefighters were taken to the hospital to be treated for light headedness and burning sensations.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

The fire was reported at 1655 hours yesterday and Kendall Park FF's arrived with unit filled with smoke. Firefighters made entry into the residence and found a fire in the bathroom area of the home and it was knocked in about 10 minutes. After the fire, South Brunswick Fire Marshals began to investigate the cause of the fire and they reported having a burning sensation in their eyes and were feeling lightheaded. In addition to the two marshals, 5 firefighters from the Kendall Park Fire Department and one firefighter from the Kingston Fire Company complained of similar problems. All were treated and transported and an investigation is underway to determine what caused their illness. While the cause has **NOT** yet been determined, this is a REMINDER for FF's and Investigators of the importance of air monitoring, SCBA or related protection-during and after an incident....for both short term, and long term protection, on any related run. We wish the members a rapid recovery.

APPARATUS STRUCK ON I-70 IN MISSOURI-CIVILIAN CRITICAL

A civilian had surgery this morning after he drove into the back of an engine company that was parked in the right lane of Interstate 70, on a run. The 42 year old motorist suffered two broken legs and other serious injuries. He was trapped in his car for about 20 minutes until FF's could cut the car apart. Firefighters were delayed in freeing him because the tools they needed to pry his car apart were in the back of the apparatus that was smashed in, but also used a saw to get to the tools. The crash happened at about 0430 hours this morning on westbound Interstate 70. The engine and an ambulance from the St. Charles FD had parked there to help an asthma patient. The asthma patient had forgotten his inhaler and was driving home to get it when he pulled over on I-70 and called for help. There was no shoulder in that section of the roadway. so the engine and ambulance ended up parking in the right traffic lane with their warning lights on.

The members had loaded the asthma patient and were caring for him. The driver of apparatus said he got out and walked up to the ambulance, he had a "bad feeling" and said they should probably hurry and leave, SCFD Captain Dan Casey said. "We're very nervous on the highway." Within about 10 seconds, Casey said, the car slammed into the back of the engine. "There were no skid marks," Casey said. "I'm sure he was going full speed, highway speed." The front part of the car went underneath the bumper of the fire truck. The driver of the car was trapped underneath the dash. Both of his legs were broken, and he suffered other injuries as well. None of the 3 Firefighters on the truck, nor the two EMT's on the ambulance, were hurt. Because of the damage sustained in the crash, the fire truck will be out of service for a while.

NEW MEXICO FIRE CHIEF ARRESTED FOR DUI

A Doña Ana County Fire Chief charged with aggravated drunken driving allegedly had a nearly empty bottle of whiskey in the government truck he was driving last week. Garfield Fire Chief Henry E. Duran, 52, pleaded not guilty to the drunken driving charge, as well as charges of failing to maintain his lane and having an open container in the vehicle. Garfield has a volunteer FD of about 20 members, who use county vehicles to serve their area. The white Ford Super Duty truck, with a New Mexico government license plate, was spotted speeding and then Chief Duran allegedly nearly struck the curb, then crossed the center line and white side line of U.S. 70 before nearly colliding with a concrete barrier at the intersection of Mescalero Trail and U.S. 70. An "overwhelming odor of alcohol" was reported when Chavez stopped Duran in front of the Holiday Inn Express, according to the criminal complaint. Inside the vehicle, Chavez reported finding a nearly empty bottle of booze. His blood-alcohol level was subsequently revealed to be .19 and .18, more than twice the legal limit of .08.

REMEMBERING ST LOUIS & PA:

2 FIRE CAPATINS KILLED:

We take time to remember the 2 St. Louis (MO) Fire Captains who were killed in the Line of Duty on this date in 2002 at the Gravois Refrigeration Company. Captain Derek Martin and Captain Rob Morrison entered the structure looking for a fellow firefighter who had reportedly become disoriented. The firefighter, who was missing, was later found alive. When the two were finally found, neither had a heartbeat. Both were transported where they were later pronounced dead. Captains Martin and Morrison were 11 year veterans of the department and members of Rescue Squad 1. Both were married. Martin was a father of three and Morrison a father of two. RIP

HERE is the NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200220.html>

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER KILLED:

In what turned out to be a controversial fire service death causing many FD's to revisit their "Junior Firefighter" programs and procedures, Christopher Kangas, a 14 year old Junior Firefighter with Brookhaven Volunteer Fire Company was struck and killed on this date in 2002. He was struck by a car while bicycling to the fire station in response to a fire call. In the period following his death, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognized Jr FF Kangas as a Firefighter, and also recognized that his death occurred while in the Line of Duty. Although recognized by the State, the Federal government ruled that Jr FF Kangas did not meet the criteria to be recognized as a firefighter. RIP

HERE is the NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200221.html>

And lastly, while not an LODD, our condolences to the friends and family of Richmond (KY) Firefighter Timothy (Chewy) Farthing, 29, who died in a traffic crash early Monday morning. In addition to being a FF for nearly four years, the ECU graduate also worked part-time as an EMT for Madison County EMS. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 5-4-11 / 1008 hours

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

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

Budget Related Items:

The Reno (NV) City Council on Friday reviewed a "hunky-dory" version of its next budget that assumes employee unions agree to cut their wages by 7.5 percent and no new layoffs will be required -- but city departments will remain stretched, and four firefighters whose jobs were temporarily saved by concessions will be lost. But on Monday, council members will be presented with a second, grimmer budget that assumes unions do not make concessions, resulting in layoffs and even more services being affected, including the closure of a fire station, to reduce expenses by \$7.4 million to balance the budget. Fire Chief Michael Hernandez offered the only clue Friday as to what more cutbacks would bring: He said another fire station would be closed, making the sixth fire or ladder truck company eliminated since the recession began three years ago. Fire employees total 257, down from 386 two year ago and down from 340 in July 2000 when Reno Fire took over operations for the Truckee Meadows fire district. With that, its territory jumped from 75 square miles to 6,300 square miles: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110505/NEWS/105050353/Reno-budget-scenarios-Even-hunky-dory-one-grim?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

Nevada Legislators approved a bill that would reduce local governments' obligation to cover heart and lung medical bills for future police and firefighter retirees, squeezing the measure in ahead of a legislative deadline for bills to clear committee. Senate Bill 135 cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy by unanimous vote Friday afternoon after a last minute rush to put together an amendment that enabled a firefighter union official and the leader of a taxpayer watchdog group to warily endorse it:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/reform-bill-on-firefighters-health-care-advances-119952909.html>

Midvale (UT) will hold a special public hearing Thursday, and city officials hope it will be a long night. Faced with a budget deficit of \$2 million, the City Council is weighing the idea of merging its own police and fire services with the Unified Fire Authority and Unified Police Department. The council hopes residents will give them direction on what Mayor JoAnn Seghini calls an "extremely emotional" issue. The city has three options, Seghini explained: significantly raise taxes and fees, reduce staff through layoffs or outsource public safety services: <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/51635562-78/midvale-seghini-police-services.html.csp>

Private or partnership? The City of San Carlos (CA) studies fire options. More details on San Carlos' fire service options are coming to light in advance of formal presentations tonight, offering a peek into the facts and figures the council will use to decide between a private bidder, a neighboring city, fixing the existing system or just going it alone:

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=156888&title=Private%20or%20partnership%20City%20studies%20fire%20options

For years now, four out of every five 911 calls to the Los Angeles Fire Department have been for medical assistance, not burning houses. Yet, the department's staffing and deployment model still reflected the old emphasis on fire suppression. No more. With the aid of computer modeling software, Fire Chief Millage Peaks' team analyzed three years of 911 calls and came up with a plan that reflects the reality of L.A. today. His redeployment beefs up medical response, trims fire resources and cuts staff to save \$54 million this coming year. It won't be an easy sell. Nobody wants to hear that the city is cutting fire engines or shrinking the size of the fire force. But, Peaks said, the alternative is just as bad. Since 2008, the department's budget has shrunk by about \$100 million and the LAFD hasn't hired a single firefighter. Peaks' redeployment plan will permanently and selectively close fire companies based on the computer modeling data. He'll reduce the number of staffed fire engines in areas where demand is low, and increase medical response in areas where demand is high. Some 10 fire companies will be reassigned as paramedic resources - a reflection of the high number of medical calls: http://www.dailynews.com/columnists/ci_17895309

Omaha's (NE) Fire Chief is sounding off on the battle between the department's union and the city regarding safety versus cost. In a 30-minute interview Wednesday with KETV NewsWatch 7's Ryan Luby, Chief Mike McDonnell discussed firefighter response times, how budget cuts have affected his department, and what else could or should be cut. "It's a balancing act," said McDonnell. "We have some city councilmen, we have some people from the business community, some people from the chamber that have very unrealistic ideas on how much it costs to run a fire department." "I don't think that is an accurate statement the Chief made," responded Councilwoman Jean Stothert. Stothert said she wholeheartedly supports public safety, but said the fire department staff needs to find a balanced budget:

<http://www.ketv.com/mostpopular/27619212/detail.html>

Pink slips for 38 Queen Creek (AZ) 186 full-time employees, a small sewer-fee hike, and slight reductions in fire and police services are among the recommendations Queen Creek Town Manager John Kross will propose to close a projected \$4.7 million gap in the town's budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Fire Department recommendations included reducing some overtime pay for firefighters and eliminating some non-emergency Fire Department services: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/pinal/articles/2011/04/22/20110422queen-creek-budget-proposals.html>

How do you avoid rolling closures of neighborhood fire stations and laying off 171 police officers to balance San Francisco's (CA) budget? Mayor Ed Lee has a straightforward answer: pension reform. "A third of that \$306 million deficit is due to our pension overruns," Lee said Thursday. "If we can solve that, I don't think we'd even be mentioning ... police layoffs or brownouts" at fire stations. As it stands, San Francisco is facing the threat of rotating fire station closures and laying off 171 police officers to balance its budget in the fiscal year that starts July 1, city officials say, even as police officers and firefighters are slated to receive more than \$20 million in combined pay raises that have been deferred for a year or longer as part of earlier budget concessions: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/04/22/BA4Q1J5HMD.DTL>

When you call 911 in San Diego (CA), a city fire truck is likely to arrive. It will come with several EMT's and at least one paramedic. About 80 percent of calls the fire department responds to are medical. Councilman Carl DeMaio said that makes the work of the firefighters comparable to EMT's and paramedics with private ambulance companies. "When you look at it from that lens, we are seeing very clearly that there is a significantly higher salary and benefit package in the city of San Diego for the same work that's done in the private sector," he said. An analysis requested by DeMaio and Councilwoman Lorie Zapf from the Independent Budget Analyst shows in some cases city firefighters are paid 325 percent more than private employees when you consider their benefits package. But Fire Chief Javier Mainar said the comparison has an obvious flaw -- ambulance drivers can't fight fires: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/apr/21/debate-flares-firefighter-pay/>

After two hours of at times emotional debate, the San Carlos City Council late Monday unanimously voted to seek a partnership with Redwood City for its fire protection and rejected a plan to outsource the service. Officials said they would attempt to reach an agreement with nearby Redwood City to form a joint fire department. However, they added that if those efforts failed, outsourcing would once again be on the table. San Carlos city leaders say the cost of fire services is up 30% over the last five years. Now the city is facing a \$3.5 million budget deficit on Monday night, the city council discussed the controversial idea of hiring a private company -- Florida based Wackenhut Corporation -- as its new fire department: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/27669922/detail.html>

Saying they don't anticipate revenues going up much, if at all, Los Angeles (CA) city officials plan on cutting \$300 million out of next year's budget. And the fire department is one of those agencies facing cuts. The union is fighting a plan that would close 18 fire companies and four ambulance teams. The move would save the city nearly \$200 million over three years. Currently the LAFD temporarily closes 22 fire companies and six ambulance teams each day on a rotating basis. Fire Chief Millage Peaks has called that system "disruptive" and is now seeking a more permanent solution that would eliminate the "rolling" service reductions. No firefighters would be laid off but the reduction in fire stations would impact the need future hiring: <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Firefighter-Budget-Cuts-120819464.html>

Come October, fire service in the city of Belmont (CA) will be provided by its own stand-alone department as talks to save the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department have officially failed. Monday night, the San Carlos City Council voted to pursue a partnership with Redwood City on a hybrid fire department and last night, Belmont's legal counsel said it was no longer a possibility to mend the two city's fractured relationship. The critical next step for Belmont is developing a design for the new organization, said City Manager Greg Scoles. Previous estimates on establishing a stand-alone fire department, though, have indicated Belmont does not quite generate enough money through an annual assessment to support a new department. City staff will be working over the next month to try to bring costs closer to available revenue and will present the council with a more detailed analysis on command structure, work schedules, shared services and labor cost in May:

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=157542&title=Belmont%20to%20go%20it%20alone%20with%20fire%20service

San Carlos (CA) City Council members unanimously voted to negotiate a contract for fire services with Redwood City, but they left open the option of going with a private company if the deal falls through. Councilors, facing an "anxious and apprehensive" crowd opposing a contract with the private company Wackenhut Services, decided in favor of the Redwood City deal by a 5-0 vote at Monday's meeting, city officials said. Under the proposed contract, Redwood City would provide administrative duties, fire prevention, and battalion-chief coverage and supervision to San Carlos, Redwood City fire Chief Jim Skinner said. Later, San Carlos would hire its own working staff to fill vacant positions at its two fire stations. The move, which in recent months evolved from a proposed merger to more of a hybrid model, could save Redwood City about \$1 million to \$1.5 million annually and San Carlos about \$1.7 million, officials said.:

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/bay-area/2011/04/redwood-city-take-over-san-carlos-fire-services>

Wildwood (NJ) City commissioners voted unanimously to approve the city's \$23.5 million budget and accompanying \$1.089 tax rate, despite hundreds of people filling the Wildwood High School auditorium Wednesday night to oppose the plan, which includes layoffs among the police, fire, support staff and public works employees. Concerns about safety dominated the comments, as others, such as business owner Wally Lerro wondered how the loss of 20 police officers and six firefighters would affect safety in the tourism-dependent town:

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cape_may/wildwood-commissioners-approve-budget-as-protesters-say-layoffs-hurt-public/article_e66c69e2-7121-11e0-a279-001cc4c03286.html

The fallout from San Jose's (CA) \$115.2 million budget hole came into sharper focus Monday when City Manager Debra Figone proposed a 2011-12 budget that slashes staff to its lowest level in 25 years. Figone's budget would slash police and firefighter services, library and community center hours, extend or add new park fees and significantly cut back on park rangers and employees who enforce city codes. City leaders promise it will only get worse if all 11 employee unions don't agree to 10 percent ongoing compensation cuts. Two of the unions also must agree to give up raises they received last year. Even if all the unions agree to the concessions, the numbers are grim. Of the 588 positions that could be cut, 370 employees could be subject to actual layoffs. Fire Department numbers include 64 sworn firefighter positions to be cut, including 13 that will be outsourced at the airport; fire truck personnel would be reduced from five to four; under a flexible minimum staffing plan, no fire stations would be closed: http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_17978463

Benicia (CA) is considering a plan to layoff its fire chief to help close a \$1.7 million deficit. Eliminating the fire chief position would save the city more than \$284,000. The elimination would be part of a larger plan to merge both the police and fire departments into one public safety department. If Benicia doesn't merge the two departments the city may be forced to make other cuts, which could include the elimination of two firefighter positions, a police night lieutenant position or a police investigations sergeant:

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/27736299/detail.html>

Memphis (TN) Fire Director Alvin Benson told City Council members Monday that he didn't believe proposed reductions of 111 from the ranks of the city's firefighting personnel would impact public safety. "Response times will not change. The coverage is still there," Benson said. The attrition strategy proposed by Memphis Fire Department leadership would reduce the ranks over a three-year period. Benson said the reduction plan, to begin in the fiscal year that begins July 1, was a response to several studies that claimed the Fire Department has too many employees:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2011/may/03/director-fire-cuts-wont-affect-safety/>

Battle lines sharpened Thursday over California's public pensions with the release of a new report that concludes pay and benefit packages for public workers are better than those for their counterparts in the private sector. Commissioned by pension overhaul advocates poised to seek changes, the report drew immediate fire from public employee unions, which have muscled up to fight the emerging pension wars. The two-part study, released by the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, also cautions that public pension obligations threaten to crowd out money for public services. The foundation, headed by longtime pension change advocate Marcia Fritz, has proposed several pension cost-cutting ideas, including a cap on pension payouts, higher employee contributions and higher retiree health premiums. The proposals would affect both current workers and future hires:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_18008726?nclick_check=1

The City of Houston (TX) plans to lay off 238 firefighters as part of ongoing budget cuts, union officials said Thursday. Jeff Caynon, the president of the Houston Professional Firefighters Association, said the union was simply responding to reporters' questions and hadn't sought media attention. "The effect is on public safety for the entire city," Caynon said. "My members feel like they've been vilified by this administration." Caynon said the cuts could mean about 10 fire stations would close. Months ago, Mayor Annise Parker ordered the fire department to come up with \$17 million in cuts. The union says that's unreasonable. Parker has repeatedly said she doesn't "intend" to lay off firefighters. <http://www.khou.com/news/Union-City-of-Houston-plans-ot-lay-off-238-firefighters-close-stations-121370989.html>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

work for feels is appropriate, reasonable, cost-effective and efficient, in regards to staffing and the number of fire stations and resoures.

The City of Buffalo (NY) would have to pay firefighters retroactive raises dating back to 2002 based on an arbitration ruling announced Friday that caps off a twist-filled, six-year legal fight. The fire union estimated that its members are due at least \$9 million, with many firefighters likely to receive \$14,000 to \$20,000 in retroactive pay. When other tax obligations are factored in, the city's total tab could exceed \$13 million. The annual base pay for most rank-and-file firefighters is \$53,918. Newly hired firefighters make \$33,234. On Friday, swearing-in ceremonies were held for 35 new firefighter recruits:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/article394215.ece>

It's the number everyone dials in case of an emergency. But new internal documents obtained by the WDSU I-Team show that thousands of 911 calls are not being answered each month in New Orleans (LA). All day and throughout the night, the workers inside a building on City Park Avenue are busy. They're 911 call takers, the men and women responsible for dispatching police officers, firefighters and medical responders to emergencies in New Orleans. The report shows that last October, more than 38,000 people dialed 911 in New Orleans, but more than 5,000 of those calls were not answered. In December of last year, the report indicates more than 38,000 people called 911 for help. Almost 7,000 of those calls were not answered. That means almost 20 percent of all people who called 911 didn't get an answer. And one month later -- in January of this year -- more than 35,000 911 calls came in, and almost 5,500 went unanswered. That's more than 15 percent of all calls. The reason for the disconnect is staffing. Despite the fact that some calls are sent to the New Orleans Fire Department and EMS, all original 911 calls that come into the call center building are answered by the New Orleans Police Department. "Police answer all 911 calls because the majority of all 911 calls are police-related," said Gordon: <http://www.wdsu.com/investigations/27749142/detail.html>

A Flint (MI) woman's home caught fire early Sunday, but her body wasn't discovered until 12 hours later. Now, neighbors are questioning how firefighters missed her. Flint Firefighters were called to the home in the 3900 block of Leerda just after 6:30 Sunday morning. They put the fire out and left, but hours later, neighbors discovered a woman's body:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=8078522>

Former Alameda (CA) fire Chief Dave Kapler has filed a \$2 million wrongful termination lawsuit against the city of Alameda, saying he was forced to quit his job. Kapler resigned as chief in November amid accusations that he inappropriately used city gas pumps to fuel his personal vehicle. But in the lawsuit filed Thursday Kapler denies wrongdoing and says city officials targeted him on behalf of the firefighters union, which he claims did not approve of the tough stand he took against it during contract talks. Kapler says in the lawsuit that he was allowed to use the city pumps to fuel his personal vehicle through a verbal agreement with former City Manager Debra Kurita, who hired him in October 2007. He says he had an "exemplary" work history for more than 40 years and that he stepped down as chief to preserve his reputation when he learned that city officials were planning to fire him. He is seeking compensation for lost wages, emotional distress and other damages. Kapler says in the lawsuit that Councilmember Lena Tam conspired with the firefighters union and that his termination was "politically motivated."

http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci_17883528?nclick_check=1

A consultant's study of the scandal-plagued Haverhill (MA) Fire Department says their network of four fire stations provides excellent coverage for residents, but also calls for major

changes. The 127-page report by Matrix Consulting Group recommends hiring an outside firm to scrutinize the cases of firefighters who are being paid while out of work because of work-related injuries:

<http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x641331498/Report-urges-Haverhill-Fire-Department-changes>

The City of Monterey Park's (CA) first female fire chief has sued the city, alleging she was discriminated against and forced out of her job because she's a gay woman. In her lawsuit filed Thursday, Chief Cathleen Orchard alleges the City Council and firefighter's union conspired to undermine her authority and force her out:

http://www.sqtribune.com/news/ci_17885034

Here's a surprising number: two out of every three firefighters in San Jose (CA) retire on disability. Now a just released city audit says that high number should be questioned. The tax laws favor disability benefits versus retirement benefits, but the city auditors said that really doesn't explain what's going on in San Jose. San Jose firefighters don't dispute that a significant number of them leave the job on permanent disability. "Firefighting is a dangerous, strenuous job and over a career of service, it definitely takes its toll on your body," said Jeff Welch from the San Jose Firefighters Union. A 34-page report by the city auditor though said the numbers don't add up. That report was presented on Thursday to San Jose's Public Safety, Finance & Strategic Support Committee. "We can't ignore the numbers that we have people who are retiring out at a disability rate far greater than any of our peer cities," said Pete Constant, the Public Safety Committee chair. The audit said 67 percent of San Jose firefighters retire with a service related disability; 41 percent of San Jose police officers retire on disability. That compares to an average of 37 percent of sworn employees in Oakland and a 40 percent figure statewide. San Jose City Auditor Sharon Erickson said the number of workers' compensation claims also raises some questions:

http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?section=news/local/south_bay&id=8087537

Legal fallout from a Roanoke (VA) fire captain's on-duty tryst with an ambulance crew member continued Tuesday as a judge said the firefighter can't pick the panel that will decide whether to give him his job back or uphold his firing. Roanoke Circuit Court Judge Charlie Dorsey's ruling was a defeat for former fire Capt. Dennis Croft, who has battled both the city and an ex-girlfriend in court since he was dismissed last summer for having sex in a fire department bunkhouse. The next step for Croft, who appealed his dismissal, appears to be a city grievance panel scheduled to review his case May 24:

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/283896>

While this is the result of a police officer's judgment, it does have a correlation to the fire service as many of us think that we can just ban the media from our incident scenes. In reality, the media understand where they can be better than we usually do and usually have a right to be where they are. Must see video: Police officer beats & arrests man who won't turn off his camera - an important lesson for the fire service:

<http://statter911.com/2011/04/24/must-see-video-police-officer-beats-arrests-man-who-wont-turn-off-his-camera-an-important-lesson/>

Belmont and San Carlos (CA) have agreed to disagree after a mediation talk on Friday, with plans under way to pursue separate fire and emergency service departments. The Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department partnership is slated to dissolve by Oct. 12, according to city officials:

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Belmont-and-San-Carlos-Fire-Department-Split-120566089.html>

A Stockton (CA) firefighter, who claims his demotion in 2009 was motivated by racism, rather than budget imperatives, is suing the city and embattled Fire Chief Ron Hittle. The suit makes public tensions among the leadership of the Fire Department, whose chief, already the target of a long, slow leak of minor embarrassments and implied scandals, was placed on leave without explanation in March. In late 2009, Battalion Chief Edmond Rodriguez filed a complaint with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, alleging the climate at the Fire Department was "racially hostile," and that Hittle had told him "people like me do not have a place in his senior management positions."

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110425/A_NEWS/104250310

Guess where most San Francisco (CA) police officers and firefighters live? Hint: Not here. Representatives of the city's firefighters and police officers have been knee-deep in pension reform talks with Mayor Ed Lee, saying their members can't afford anywhere near the contribution rates being pushed by Public Defender Jeff Adachi. That may be, but their oft-used claim that their workers need big paychecks to afford this pricey city doesn't necessarily hold up under scrutiny. You know, the kind of scrutiny that shows the vast majority of them hightailing it out of San Francisco once their shifts are over:

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/cityinsider/detail?entry_id=87428

Nipplegate: Topless calendar photo brings trouble for Philadelphia (PA) firefighter. Commissioner Lloyd Ayers says we sell safety, not sex:

<http://statter911.com/2011/04/28/nipplegate-topless-calendar-photo-brings-trouble-for-philly-firefighter-commissioner-lloyd-ayers-says-we-sell-safety-not-sex/>

The chief of a Pennsylvania fire company may be in hot water for allegedly refusing to supply water to another fire company battling a blaze. A source tells Fox 29 police are investigating the chief for refusing to hook up a fire company to a hose to help put out a fire. Vincent Troisi is chief of the Union Fire Company in Bensalem and he told Fox 29 on the phone Tuesday that he's under orders not to talk while an investigation is happening. Troisi would not say what he's being investigated for. But a source tells Fox 29 that Troisi is being investigated for refusing to supply water to a paid fire company that arrived first on the scene of a warehouse fire. The source says instead Troisi supplied the water to the volunteer fire company that was the second to get there:

http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/news/local_news/chief-investigated-in-fire-department-feud

Milwaukee (WI) Alderman Terry Witkowski wants a study done on ways to save tax dollars. He pointed to the cost of city ambulance service, saying hiring a private company instead of using union firefighters could be the answer. "My intent here is to maintain service, but look at how we do it and deliver it in a different way," Witkowski said:

<http://www.wisn.com/r/27708741/detail.html>

A Dona Ana County (NM) fire chief charged with aggravated drunken driving allegedly had a nearly empty bottle of whiskey in the government truck he was driving last week, according to authorities. Garfield Volunteer Fire Department chief Henry E. Duran, 52, pleaded not guilty to the drunken driving charge, as well as charges of failing to maintain his lane and having an open container in the vehicle, in Ruidoso Magistrate Court on Monday:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/1038906-fire-chief-arrested-on-drunken-driving-charges-in-nm/>

Dozens of Ocala (FL) firefighters are under investigation after police said six vials of morphine and fentanyl disappeared from locked boxes. Ocala police said someone stole three vials of drugs from Engine 5 based on Northeast 25th Avenue, and three vials from Rescue Truck No.

1 from the headquarters last week. The drugs disappeared on Friday and the fire chief has forced at least 35 firefighters to be drug-tested because it's believed the drugs were stolen for personal use: <http://www.wftv.com/news/27767864/detail.html>

The High Point (NC) deputy fire chief who has filed a gender discrimination grievance against the city said she thinks she has been unfairly blamed for safety problems at the fire department that resulted in state fines. Martha Younts said she is not responsible for Occupational Safety and Health Act violations by the department that were found by state Department of Labor investigators in March. She said she perceived that the violations were being pinned on her at Monday's City Council meeting, where she went public with her accusation that City Manager Strib Boynton declined to promote her to chief due to her gender – a claim that Boynton denies. She said that was her first inkling that her performance was being called into question, because she got a positive employee evaluation review last month that made no mention of the violations: <http://www.wxii12.com/news/27785206/detail.html>

Ten Los Alamos (NM) firefighters face disciplinary action after a recent investigation – prompted by a case of voyeurism at a fire station last year – found that pornographic images were being viewed on fire department computers. The news marks the latest black eye for the Los Alamos Fire Department. One firefighter resigned in the voyeurism case and another quit after being charged with indecent exposure. Two of the firefighters who face possible discipline in the porn investigation are ranking officers, according to Fire Chief Doug Tucker. The actions of “a few” met the standard for suspension, he said. But Tucker would not say how many may end up being suspended as the firefighters have the right to appeal the chief's proposed administrative action. Tucker said the investigation was launched at Fire Station 3 in White Rock more than six months ago, on the heels of former fire Capt. Aaron Adair being charged with videotaping a female firefighter in her bathroom at the station. Tucker said he wanted to determine whether others at the fire station had downloaded video of the female firefighter onto computers. He ended up finding out that some of the computers contained other “inappropriate material.” http://firelink.monster.com/news/articles/16977-new-mexico-dept-finds-porn-on-station-computers?utm_source=nlet&utm_content=fl_pl_c1_20110506

A former chief for the East Valley (WA) Fire Department is suing the agency for allegedly creating a hostile work environment. Warren Gay names two commissioners, four firefighters, and a secretary in his lawsuit filed last week. He claims the people involved retaliated against him, and the fire district didn't do anything to fix the problem: <http://www.kvewtv.com/article/2011/may/05/fomer-east-valley-fire-chief-suing-over-alleged-ho/>

Positive Public Relations Items:

A few of the men featured in the Colorado Firefighter Calendar paid a visit to the 9News backyard. They stopped by to raise awareness about the Fired Up for Kids, a nonprofit organization that supports The Children's Hospital Burn Center. Fired Up for Kids hosts a number of events, including the Judging Event that will take place on April 22 at the EXDO Event Center in Denver. Judging will begin at 8:30 p.m. and will continue until midnight. A panel of local celebrity judges will decide which firemen and women will appear in the 2012 calendar. The Colorado Firefighter Calendar is produced by Fired Up for Kids. The men pictured in the calendar donate their time to raise money for adolescent fire victims. The net proceeds from the calendar and other Fired Up for Kids events go to The Children's Hospital Burn Center: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article/194160/222/Firefighters-get-fired-up-for-kids>

San Bernardino County's (CA) firefighters will accept pension cuts and smaller raises in an effort to help preserve public services and balance the county's budget. San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters, Local 935, which consists of the county's 344 firefighters, fire captains and fire engineers, voted 98 percent in favor of accepting a reduction in benefits when their contract goes into effect July 2 – something that would save the county approximately \$2.14 million annually. "County firefighters are hyper-aware of the economic climate out there," Bret Henry, president of the San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters, Local 935, said in a San Bernardino County Sun article. "We're living through the hard times as well. We're interested in a balanced budget as much as everybody else." The concessions would involve a 7 percent salary reduction through a reduced retirement pickup, a 50 percent reduction in salary step increases from 5 percent to 2.5 percent and a capped medical subsidy that would no longer apply toward retirement calculations:

<http://www.examiner.com/democrat-in-los-angeles/san-bernardino-county-firefighters-accept-benefit-changes-to-help-county-budget>

Positive letter regarding San Bernardino County (CA) Firefighters: It was with deep appreciation and much gratitude that I received the news last Thursday that San Bernardino County's firefighters had almost unanimously agreed to concede pension and salary benefits in order to reduce layoffs and preserve public service. As chair of the Board of Supervisors, I extend to the members of San Bernardino County Professional Firefighters Local 935 the county's thanks and let them know that as far as I am concerned, their sacrifice will not be forgotten. The county budget is facing a gap of more than \$120 million over the next five years, in large part due to a sharp increase in retirement benefits that must be paid. We need to close a gap of more than \$45 million by July 1. It is mathematically impossible to do this without either massive cuts in services to the public or county employees agreeing to pare down benefits and pay. On Thursday, our firefighters became the first group of employees to agree to do so for this budget cycle: http://www.dailybulletin.com/letters/ci_17876936

Twelve firefighting agencies in the North County (San Diego, CA), including, Vista, Carlsbad, and Escondido came together at the San Marcos Training Center on Tuesday to participate in a joint training. The three day training sessions teaches around 160 firefighters what to do in life threatening situations. Division Chief Gary Lane said with a tight budget, this joint training is a good way to save money. "It allows us to share instructor costs," Lane said. "They do this one time instead of 12 times across the zone:"

http://www.fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-firefighter-training_0,2811365.story

The heated negotiations between the City of North Las Vegas (NV) and the International Association of Firefighters Local 1607 have finally cooled. Under an agreement approved by the city council Wednesday, union members will give up wage increases, merit raises and holiday pay. In return, the city will not lay off 33 workers. "It's challenging. It's challenging times for our firefighters and their families," said Local 1607 President Jeff Hurley. "I think (we're) just making sure we can maintain their employment, maintain what we're sworn in to do and that is protect the citizens." Hurley says his firefighters are committed to helping the city balance its budget, even if it means giving up more-- including five percent of their pay. "We're back to the table," he said. "The first step was the five percent offer, but you know, we still have a lot of work ahead of us. I don't know that that will be enough, so we're just going to keep working, find a solution we're both going to be happy with and emphasize maintaining our staff."

<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/14576025/north-las-vegas-approves-deal-with-firefighters-union>

In a county where health-care coverage is unaffordable for more than 200,000 residents, Alameda County (CA) health officials are undertaking a project that could bring basic health care services as close as your local fire station. In an effort to get primary and preventive care to those who most need it and to cut down on expensive emergency room visits, the Alameda County Health Care Services is attempting to launch a unique pilot program in which fire stations serve as a type of health clinic. "When people get primary care, things go great. We know that," said Alex Briscoe, director of the county's health care services. "The problem is, there is a huge supply and demand disconnect on preventive and primary care in our community." The idea got a boost last week when the county's board of supervisors allocated \$750,000 for the proposed project — which in its basic outline would staff fire stations with three people — including a paramedic and medical or drug practitioner — to help residents who do not have health care deal with simple health issues like vaccinations, prescriptions or sinus infections. Briscoe said, in theory, such a program could save millions of dollars in unnecessary emergency room visits and paramedic response services. In return, it could make clinical services more accessible to those who need the county's safety net services the most: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/1011018-Fire-stations-serve-as-clinics-in-Calif-health-care-program/>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Two Washington D.C. firefighters seriously burned with two others inside a Northeast bungalow earlier this month are telling their stories to FOX 5. Robert Alvarado and Warren Deavers sustained third-degree burns on their arms when they were caught in a vicious flashover. Both men believe they were seconds from death before finding the door and crawling to safety. Alvarado and Deavers say they are alive today because of the intense training they have received over the years and the instincts that come with the job: <http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/dc/2-dc-firefighters-detail-their-near-death-experience-in-northeast-house-fire-041911>

A deadly fire is highlighting a growing problem for emergency dispatchers. Is it better to use a land line or a cellphone to call 911? Fire investigators said Mary Ann Remechuk used a cellphone when she called 911 Monday morning and gave dispatchers the wrong address in Bern Township (PA). Dispatchers said a land line would have helped firefighters respond to her burning home on Spring Street in Reading faster. Remechuk, 59, died: <http://www.wfmz.com/berksnews/27680192/detail.html>

General Fire Service Related Items:

The nation's main firefighters' union, long a strong supporter of Democratic candidates, announced on Tuesday that it would indefinitely suspend all contributions to federal candidates out of frustration with Congressional Democrats who, union officials say, have not fought harder against budget cuts and antiunion legislation. The union, the International Association of Fire Fighters, said it would focus its contributions and energies on state and local races because many legislatures have sought to curtail collective bargaining or otherwise weaken public-sector unions: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/27/us/politics/27firefighters.html?_r=2&scp=2&sq=firefighters&st=cs
[e](#)

Testing a four-city merger of fire services is the next step in consolidating services in central San Mateo County (CA), which got final approval by the Burlingame City Council last night. Burlingame was the last of four cities to OK creating an implementation plan for a pilot program to test combining services between Millbrae, San Bruno and Central County Fire estimated to save over \$1.5 million combined. Much of the savings comes from closing two fire stations in Millbrae and Burlingame and replacing it with a centralized location. Burlingame stands to see a greater financial gain if station 36, remains closed coupled with reduced staff through labor negotiations, said Central Fire Chief Don Dornell:

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=156982&title=Burlingame%20OKs%20testing%20a%20four-city%20fire%20merger

After searching for a new fire chief for several months, Lancaster (MA) officials have opted to suspend the search and run the department internally with help from the police chief and acting deputy fire chief. The plan will save the town thousands of dollars, according to town officials. Capt. Mike Hanson will be appointed the interim deputy chief in charge of all day-to-day activities at the station. Police Chief Kevin Lamb will serve as the interim fire chief and keep track of the budget and other administrative issues. These positions will hold true for two years, when an evaluation will decide if Hanson should move to the chief position:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/pennsylvania-police-chief-oversee-fire-department>

Tom Corbett has signed his first bill as Pennsylvania's governor — repealing a requirement that fire sprinkler systems be installed in all new one- and two-family homes. The repeal was a big victory for homebuilders who lobbied against the mandate from the beginning. Opponents of the original legislation, led by the Pennsylvania Home Builders Association, said the measure would drive up housing prices unnecessarily. And they noted the state's construction code already requires hard-wired smoke detectors. Proponents have said sprinklers save lives by extinguishing fires before firefighters arrive. Brian Garver, vice president of the Chester County Fire Chiefs Association, said his organization finds it "disheartening" that the sprinkler requirement was repealed. "It was an important safety factor for the community and firefighters," Garver said: <http://www.dailylocal.com/articles/2011/04/26/news/srv0000011523613.txt>

Sometime in the next year, there may be about 20 or so job openings with the Tacoma (WA) Fire Department. On Wednesday, thousands of men and women who hope to fill those positions lined up outside the Tacoma Dome. Firefighting is a tough, dangerous job. But somebody's got to do it. Turns out a lot of people want to do it. Men and women lined up at the Tacoma Dome on Wednesday, hoping to grab one of the 20 or so positions expected to become available in the Tacoma Fire Department sometime in the next year. "In total we had almost approximately 3,000 that applied," said Tacoma Fire Lt. Bruce Boyer:

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/120823649.html>

The badges on either side Ed Tubbs' uniform exemplify the challenging task he has undertaken. Just two weeks into his assignment as chief for both the Piedmont and Albany fire departments, the 52-year-old career firefighter's primary task is simply to stay organized. Tubbs, who was hired as Piedmont's chief last year, started splitting his duties as Albany's chief in early April as part of a cost-cutting arrangement between the two cities. Sharing Tubbs on a 50-50 basis -- including his \$266,000 salary and benefits package -- saves the two cities the cost of a full-time chief. For at least the next year, which is the length of the pilot program, Tubbs will maintain a calendar in Piedmont, one in Albany and one at home in Danville. What's more, the calendars are on paper, which can make synchronizing them even more difficult. But Tubbs is taking his divided duties in stride, attending community gatherings in both cities to put a new face on the fire service while also getting a lay of the land. Tubbs works in Albany

on Mondays and Thursdays, in Piedmont on Wednesdays and Fridays and splits his time between the two cities on Tuesdays. Besides multiple calendars, he also has two email accounts and two phone numbers with voice mail to monitor:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17950070?nclick_check=1

Saying Reno (NV) and Washoe County officials are on the eve of deciding whether to merge fire services, their elected officials voted Monday not to adopt regional fire response standards contained in a new study. The fire study sets response-time goals for the urban, suburban and rural areas of the county that would require building five new fire stations and relocating two others stations. It also said two minutes could be cut from response times by changing dispatch procedures and improving the time it takes for firefighters to get out of the station and on the road. But the long-term plan comes at a time when Reno has idled equipment at five its 13 fire stations and the surrounding Sierra and Truckee Meadows fire districts overseen by the county also are looking at cutbacks because of declining property taxes. "We can't afford to have a fire department," Reno Mayor Bob Cashell. He proposed the city contract for fire service with Sparks, where he said the fire chief has more control of the department. Its chief has cut its fire crew size to three members to deal with the recession:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110502/NEWS/110502056/Reno-Washoe-officials-vote-not-adopt-regional-fire-response-standards?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Cresskill (NJ) Police Officer Brad Levitzki used a switchblade knife to remove Dumont Fire Department emblems from a shirt worn by a Cresskill firefighter and essentially assaulted him, according to arguments made by a prosecutor. Levitzki's attorney said that the officer was horsing around with firefighter Bryan Hakim and that witnesses laughed because they considered it a joke. A nine-year veteran of the force, Levitzki faces six charges related to violating borough policies and Police Department rules and regulations tied to three incidents in which he was on duty, according to William R. Lundsten, the attorney prosecuting the case. The patrolman has been suspended without pay since October:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/1038927-NJ-cop-accused-of-removing-firefighters-emblems-with-switchblade/>

Hundreds of people wanting a chance to apply for firefighters jobs camped out overnight -- even though there are currently no job openings at the Valley Regional Fire Authority in Auburn (WA). More than 300 people were in line early Friday, waiting to fill out the 200 applications available once the doors opened at 7 a.m. The fire department opened the application process two years ago and eventually hired eight people from the eligibility list over the next two years: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/27800700/detail.html>

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

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

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

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Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site: www.chabotfire.com
Chabot College web site: www.chabotcollege.edu

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- If you are subscribed to my email mailing list and you are not receiving anything (a problem some earthlink, aol, hotmail and yahoo users have at times), make sure you add my name – Steve Prziborowski and the email address I use to send this newsletter and other fire and EMS related news items out – sprziborowski@aol.com to your address book, safe list, white list, etc. Since I mass mail items to thousands of people, some email providers may think these items are spam or junk mail, even though they are not. If you have not received anything from me in over two weeks, email me to let me know so that I can attempt to troubleshoot the issue.