

CHABOT COLLEGE
Fire Technology Program



FIRE & EMS NEWS

March 19, 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.

SPRING 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

The Spring 2011 semester at Chabot College has begun! Presently, the only fire technology courses that are left that may have openings this spring semester are as follows:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighter-1 Basic) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: May 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 26, 28, 30, and May 1	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 12, 14, 16 and 17	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours

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 Spring 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.

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

NIST Releases Final Report on Charleston Sofa Store Fire

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released its final report on its study of the June 18, 2007, fire at the Sofa Super Store in Charleston, S.C., that trapped and killed nine firefighters, the highest number of firefighter deaths in a single event since 9/11. The final report is strengthened by clarifications and supplemental text based on comments provided by organizations and individuals in response to the draft report of the study, released for public comment on Oct. 28, 2010. The revisions did not alter the study team's main finding: the major factors contributing to the rapid spread of the fire at the Sofa Super Store were large open spaces with furniture providing high-fuel loads, the inward rush of air following the breaking of windows, and a lack of sprinklers.

Based on its findings, the study team made 11 recommendations for enhancing building, occupant and firefighter safety nationwide. In particular, the team urged state and local communities to adopt and strictly adhere to current national model building and fire safety codes. These codes are used as models for building and fire regulations promulgated and enforced by U.S. state and local jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions have the option of incorporating some or all of the code's provisions but often adopt most provisions.

See the full story and view the report on the NIST website at

http://www.nist.gov/el/fire_research/20110315_charleston.cfm

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT INFO:

- ***FIREHIRE - APPLICATION PERIOD ENDING SOON!!!!***

The next application cut-off date is May 6, 2011!

Please remember that they **MUST** have your application packet and payment postmarked by the posted application cut-off date. If it is not received by that date, your application will be carried over to the next application period. Applications are available to download from www.firehire.com/downloads.htm

You can also get an application mailed to you by calling their office at (800) 755-5891

- **OVER 20 DIFFERENT FIRE DEPARTMENTS WILL BE HIRING OFF THIS LIST!!!**

If you don't make this application cut-off date, you'll have to wait for future application filing deadlines:

- May 6, 2011
- October 1, 2011

Benefits of taking this test include:

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- You're only taking one test (as opposed to separate tests for each fire department)
- The hiring list will be in effect for one year
- There is a chance other fire departments will hire off of this list

You may be wondering, is any fire department going to be hiring? Of course! While the California budget crisis has impacted a number of their clients, and there are some agencies that do not have or do not anticipate any openings in the next year, there are always going to be some departments that will be hiring.

Why then would a department participate if they were not planning on hiring? Well, number one, things can and do change. Just because a department does not have any openings as of this moment, does not mean that situation cannot change overnight. Firefighters retire, firefighters get injured, firefighters quit (usually to go to other departments), many times without any advance notice to the department. Number two, many fire departments are required to keep a current, active hiring list because of their civil service rules or union contract. Even if they do not anticipate hiring, many departments still have to have a current list. Why is that so? Well, just like number one, things can and do change. Additionally, it allows them to get the most current "best-of-the-best" candidates out there. Even though fire departments are facing severe (or potentially severe) budget shortfalls, it does not mean they won't ever hire again. Departments will have to hire at some time in the future to fill vacancies from retirements, permanent injuries, etc. The question is when, and **the bottom line is that if you are not actively testing and on the current hiring list, you do not stand a chance at getting a badge!**

The financial situation in the State is very dynamic and it is just a matter of time when it gets better (when exactly is anyone's guess). If you decide not to test because of the budget problems, that is your choice. Many departments **ONLY** hire candidates from the Firehire testing process. So, if you don't take the test, you don't stand a chance.

Some of the fire departments might have other requirements (view the Firehire web site at www.firehire.com for more specific information) such as:

- EMT
- Paramedic
- Firefighter – 1 Academy
- Firefighter – 1 Certificate

For application materials or more information, visit their website at www.firehire.com or if you do not have internet access, call them at 1-800-755-5891. The following fire departments are expected to be participating (based on the information I had available at the time I printed this document) in this recruitment and will be using the list that is established to hire for open positions:

<u>Fire Department</u>	<u>Positions available</u>
• Albany Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• American Canyon F.P.D. –	Firefighter/EMT
• Central County Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Cosumnes Community Services F.P.D. –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Diamond Springs/El Dorado F.P.D. -	Firefighter/Paramedic
• El Cerrito Fire Department –	Firefighter/Paramedic
• Kentfield Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/EMT
• Larkspur Fire Protection District –	Firefighter/EMT

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Millbrae Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Mill Valley Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Mountain View Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- North County Fire Authority – Brisbane Firefighter/EMT
- North County Fire Authority – Daly City Firefighter/EMT
- North County Fire Authority – Pacifica Firefighter/Paramedic
- Piedmont Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Redwood City Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- Rio Vista Fire Department – Firefighter/Paramedic
- Rodeo-Hercules F.P.D. - Firefighter/Paramedic
- Ross Valley Fire Authority – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- San Bruno Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT
- San Mateo Fire Department – Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
- San Mateo Fire Department – Lateral Firefighter/Paramedic
- San Ramon Valley F.P.D. – Firefighter/Paramedic
- Vallejo Fire Department – Firefighter/Paramedic

CPAT – Physical Ability Test Information

They will only accept a copy of a valid CPAT card/certificate. When you turn in your copy of the CPAT card/certificate, it must be filed with FIREHIRE Inc. on/or before the date of the written examination. **The CPAT card/certificate must be dated LESS THAN ONE YEAR OLD from the date of the written examination that you are participating in.**

FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide

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

WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES

The written examinations will be held at the Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center at 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove, California. The written test is weighted 100%.

Upcoming written test dates include:

- May 17, 2011
- October 10, 2011

ALS ASSESSMENT CENTER EXAMINATION

If you are applying for a paramedic position, you must successfully complete the Advanced Life Support (ALS) assessment center.

Upcoming ALS assessment center dates include:

- TBA

HIRING AND THE ECONOMY-PART 2

Yes, the economy is hurting the fire service. There are numerous agencies that are not hiring what they anticipated or not hiring at all. It is unfortunate, but most fire agencies realize that it is cheaper to pay overtime than it is to hire new employees. It's all cyclic and it will turn itself around. **SO DON'T GIVE UP.**

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

USFA Releases Fire Risk Reports

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

Emmitsburg, MD – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued three special reports, as part of its Topical Fire Report Series, examining the risk of death or injury from fire by various demographics, such as age, race, and gender.

- **Fire Risk in 2007** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i7.pdf>
- **Fire Risk to Children in 2007** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i7.pdf>
- **Fire Risk to Older Adults in 2007** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i10.pdf>

The three reports were developed by the National Fire Data Center, part of USFA. The reports explore factors that influence risk and are based on data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), and the U.S. Census Bureau. These reports are an update of the previous fire risk reports issued in April 2008

Volume 7, Issue 5: http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/casualties_older_adults.shtm

Volume 7, Issue 6: http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/casualties_children.shtm

Volume 7, Issue 7: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/casualties.shtm>

These short topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available from the United States Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov

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.

- **Fire Management 1:** March 28 – April 1, 2011
- **S-290 (Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior):** March 29 – April 1, 2011
- **Fire Command 1C:** April 4 – 8, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 1B:** April 11 – 15, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1C:** April 18 – 22, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1A:** April 25 – 29, 2011
- **I-300 (Intermediate ICS):** May 9 – 11, 2011
- **I-400 (Advanced ICS):** May 12 – 13, 2011
- **Fire Prevention 1B:** May 23 – 27, 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, April 14, 2011

“Fireground Strategies” A Two Part Program

- Presented by Deputy Chief Anthony Avillo, North Hudson (NJ) Fire & Rescue

Part 1: “Get ‘em in safe, Work ‘em safe, Get ‘em out safe. This presentation will challenge officers and prospective officers with regard to their preparation, attitude, philosophical approach, and operational and organizational skills in the hard environment (on the fireground) and in the soft environment (when you are preparing yourself and your members for the fireground). Officers will look inside themselves and at their departments and answer the questions: What kind of officer am I? What type of organization do I work for? Am I really an officer who looks out for his subordinates? Or do I use lip service and then do not practice what I preach? We will discuss why the insignias on the officer's collar stand for "conflict and confrontation" and help them to see that these seemingly negative connotations are actually leadership virtues for the effective officer. This class will explore setting expectations and setting proper example as well as discuss the skills of resolving subordinate issues. Discuss the rules of engagement, the art of command presence, street-command organization, and officer accountability. This will hopefully be a wake-up call for many officers who have become complacent and allowed their subordinates to follow that path as well.

Part 2: Incident Command, Fireground Organization & Size-Up This presentation will address the fireground experience from arrival through termination, including safety and the rules of engagement, the most critical size-up factors, command structure, strategy selection and modification, ongoing fireground operations such as decentralizing the fireground, progress reports, and a comprehensive look at post-control activities. Identify areas where weakness in command and organizational structure cause a breakdown in operations and safety. Learn how to bring the incident command system down to the street level, making for a safer and more effective fireground. Awareness and vigilance are the first steps toward a safer fire service. Students will identify activities counter to the safe execution of the incident action plan and learn that the weight of the "Everyone goes home" philosophy is on their shoulders and is a responsibility they cannot take lightly.

For details on this seminar, go to: http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_avillo.pdf

Seminar #2: 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,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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 #3: 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

ALL THREE 2011 SEMINARS:

- *Three seminars, three speakers, and quality professional networking, all for one low price of \$225, a \$105 savings off the individual seminar fees. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense.*

For details on this three-seminar option, go to <http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11.pdf>

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

Carr Convention Center
4400 Rosewood Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

**GO FOR 5-WIDE RACING
GO FOR GREAT SEATS
GO FOR A GREAT CAUSE**

Get Your Tickets for the AUTO CLUB 400 on March 27th at Auto Club Speedway - Fontana, CA - The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and Auto Club Speedway have teamed up for an exclusive ticket/hospitality program to benefit the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, which leads the effort to honor America's fallen firefighters. Exclusive Offer for the Firefighting Community at the Auto Club Speedway - Only \$99 at <http://www.autoclubspeedway.com/Vanity-Pages/2011/NFFF.aspx>

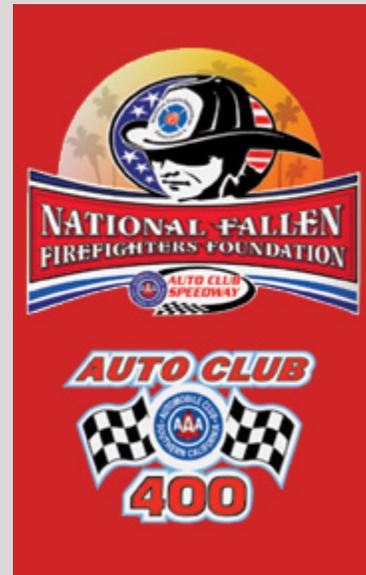
For Only \$99 You Get:

- » Reserved Grandstand Ticket (Rows 15-23)*
- » Pre-Race Pit Pass & Parking
- » Admission to the NFFF Hospitality Pavillion:
includes food, soda, water, beer
- » Special Guest Appearances
- » Commemorative Event T-Shirt
- » Donation the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Visit www.autoclubspeedway.com/nfff to purchase your tickets for the Event at Auto Club Speedway on March 27, 2011.

** Upgrades available for an additional cost. Offer expires March 25, 2011 or while supplies last. All sales are final. No refunds or exchanges. Offer may not be combined with other discounts or promotions.*

Need More Information? For more information or to purchase, please call Dana at 909-429-5309 or visit www.autoclubspeedway.com/nfff.



FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE EVERYONE GOES HOME FOUNDATION:



Redesigned Seatbelt Pledge is Ready to Roll -

http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/news/2011/release_022811.html

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Unveils *Buckle Up! So Everyone Goes Home*® - **Video:** See the New Seatbelt PSA:

http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/news/2011/release_022811.html

Taking an effortless step toward safety can be as simple as a click! The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) today introduced the redesigned **International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge**: <http://everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/> *Buckle Up! So Everyone Goes Home*®. The revised program, part of the Foundation's *Everyone Goes Home*® program, will make it easier for firefighters to participate in the initiative and receive recognition for their commitment. "Motor vehicle crashes are the second-leading cause of firefighter fatalities in the United States and this effort aims to reduce the number of preventable fatalities," said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the NFFF. "Just as you need to get to the scene of a call quickly, you need to get there safely. Buckling your seatbelt is the easiest safety measure you can take."

Now, all the information about the program, including pledge forms and supporting materials, will be available through the NFFF and the Foundation's *Everyone Goes Home*® website at <http://everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/>. This will shorten the process to certify and recognize participation. The ultimate goal is to enroll every emergency first responder in the United States. Departments that are 100 percent compliant will be highlighted on the *Everyone Goes Home*® seatbelt site. Dr. Burton Clark, a distinguished member of the fire service for 40 years and a training specialist at the National Fire Academy, has been the lead advocate of the National Seatbelt Pledge since the inception of the Pledge in 2006. Dr. Clark will continue to serve as an advisor and liaison for the campaign. Numerous organizations within the fire service, including the United States Fire Administration, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the National Volunteer Fire Council have partnered with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for this vitally important safety program.

Make the commitment to *Buckle Up! So Everyone Goes Home*® by taking the International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge. For more information go to: www.everyonegoeshome.org/seatbelts.

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

February 28, 2011
News Alert



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



FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

The **Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District** (CA) will be accepting applications for the position of **Firefighter - Paramedic** until March 28, 2011.

- To view the job announcement and to apply, go to:
http://www.sacmetrofire.ca.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=11

For more information about the **Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District**, visit their website at:
<http://www.sacmetrofire.ca.gov>

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

USFA Releases Fire-Related Firefighter Injuries Report

February 22, 2011 - **Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 EMMITSBURG, MD**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the details of firefighter injuries sustained on the fireground or while responding to or returning from a fire incident. The report, Fire-Related Firefighter Injuries Reported to NFIRS <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i7.pdf> (PDF, 945 Kb), was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's effort to reduce the number of firefighter injuries through an increased awareness and understanding of their causes and how they might be prevented. The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report:

- An estimated 81,070 firefighter injuries occur annually in the United States.
- 49 percent of firefighter injuries occur on the fireground and 6 percent occur while responding to or returning from a fire incident.
- Overexertion/strain is the leading cause of fire-related firefighter injuries at 25 percent.
- 38 percent of all fire-related firefighter injuries result in lost work time.
- The majority of fire-related firefighter injuries (87 percent) occur in structure fires.
- On average, structure fires have more injuries per fire than nonstructure fires.
- Firefighter injury fires are more prevalent in July (10 percent) and peak between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m.

Topical reports are designed to explore facets of the U.S. fire problem as depicted through data collected in NFIRS. Each topical report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available from the U.S. Fire Administration, visit www.usfa.fema.gov

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR Advanced Safety Operations and Management: P154 – Pilot Offering

The United States Fire Administration (USFA), Department of Homeland Security, is conducting a pilot course at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland for the newly revised 6-day course *Advanced Safety Operations and Management (P154)*. The National Fire Academy (NFA) will be delivering this pilot offering May 29 – June 3, 2011, with students to arrive Saturday May 28 and depart Saturday June 4, 2011.

Course Description: This 6-day course provides knowledge and practice, in the context of current issues, to develop strategies of risk management associated with the provision of fire fighting and EMS services to reduce firefighter fatalities and injuries. With a focus on using the risk management model in the health and safety aspects of emergency services operations, current regulations, standards, policies and responsibilities for program management, day-to-day operations and incident safety will be addressed.

Student Selection Criteria: Company-level officers, chief officers and supervisors who have department-level health and safety responsibilities (such as program planning and implementation), who may serve as an Incident Safety Officer.

Class Size: 22

Length: 6 days

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

How to Apply: Students must complete a General Admissions Application FEMA Form 119-25-1 (formerly the FEMA Form 75-5). An electronic application is available on our website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>

Completed applications must be received by March 4, 2011 to:

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

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The Cutting Edge Command Officer

2-Day Workshop in Las Vegas, NV

Today's company and chief officers are facing unprecedented challenges, fireground dangers, liability, personnel conflict, public and fiscal scrutiny.

- **Don't be part of the problem; Be part of the solution!**

Day 1 - Leadership & Team Building

- **Conflict Resolution - Counseling - Role Play Exercises**
- **Liability & Command - Firefighter Bill of Rights - Internal Motivation**
- **Team Building - Labor/Management: The RBO Process**

Day 2 - Strategy & Tactics

- **Size Up and Dynamic Risk Assessment**
- **Street Smart Tactics - Beyond Checking the Boxes**
- **Real World ICS for Structure Fires**
- **The New Enemy and New Battlefield - Modern Fire Behavior and Construction**
- **Incident Reviews of Multi-Alarm Fires**
- **Simulation Scenarios for Residential, Commercial, and Apartment Fires**

Your Instructors:

Division Chief Ed Hadfield, founder of *Firetown Training Specialist* (www.firetowntrainingspecialist.com), has over 23 years of fire service experience. He is a frequent speaker on leadership within the fire service and also with corporate and civic leaders throughout the United States. Ed is well known for the creation and instructional delivery of company officer development programs that have raised the bar of professionalism in today's fire service ranks. Firetown specializes in Truck Company Operations, Firefighter Safety and Survivability, and Mission Focused Command Tactics.

Battalion Chief Anthony Kastros is a 23-year veteran of the fire service and founder of *Firefighter Inspiration Readiness & Education* (www.trainfirefighters.com). He is author of the Fire Engineering book and video series, "Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center," that focuses on strategy, tactics, and leadership. Chief Kastros is an FDIC and Firehouse World instructor, teaching fireground tactics and leadership/team building for fire departments throughout the United States. Anthony is the program director for the Sacramento Metro Fire Command Training Center and currently a line battalion chief supervising 12 companies.

April 13 and 14, 2011 - \$149.00

- **Clark County Fire Training Center - 4425 W. Tropicana Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89103**
- For registration information go to www.trainfirefighters.com
-

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.

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

Safety Week 2011: “Surviving the Fire Ground – Fire Fighter, Fire Officer & Command Preparedness”

- ***Safety, Health and Survival Week 2011 Is Scheduled for June 19-25***

The IAFC and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) have announced the theme for the June 19-25 Safety, Health and Survival Week: *Surviving the Fire Ground – Fire Fighter, Fire Officer & Command Preparedness*.

Safety, Health and Survival Week 2011 –

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=306> (Safety Week) is a collaborative program sponsored by the IAFC and the IAFF, coordinated by the **IAFC's Safety, Health and Survival Section** (<http://www.iafcsafety.org/>) and the **IAFF's Division of Occupational Health, Safety and Medicine** (<http://www.iaff.org/hs/index.htm>), in partnership with more than 20 national fire and emergency service organizations. Fire departments are encouraged to suspend all nonemergency activity during Safety Week and instead focus entirely on survival training and education until all shifts and personnel have taken part. An entire week is provided to ensure each shift and duty crew can spend one day focusing on these critical issues.

Mayday: Not If—When

With so many changes—budget cuts, staffing reductions, reduced training and so on—in so many fire departments, it's critical for fire fighters to focus on their own survival on the fire ground. There's no other call more challenging to fire ground operations than a mayday call—the unthinkable moment when a fire fighter's personal safety is in imminent danger. Fire fighter fatality data compiled by the U.S. Fire Administration have shown that fire fighters “becoming trapped and disoriented represent

the largest portion of structural fire ground fatalities.” The incidents in which fire fighters have lost their lives or lived to tell about it, have a consistent theme—inadequate situational awareness put them at risk.

Fire fighters don't plan to be lost, disoriented, injured or trapped during a structure fire or emergency incident. But fires are unpredictable and volatile, and they won't always go according to plan. What a fire fighter knows about a fire before entering a blazing building may radically change within minutes once inside the structure. Smoke, low visibility, lack of oxygen, structural instability and an unpredictable fire ground can cause even the most seasoned fire fighter to be overwhelmed in an instant. The IAFF Fire Ground Survival Program - <http://www.iaff.org/hs/fgs/fgsindex.htm> (FGS) is the most comprehensive survival-skills and mayday-prevention program currently available and is open to all members of the fire service. Incorporating federal regulations, proven incident-management best practices and survival techniques from leaders in the field, and real case studies from experienced fire fighters, FGS aims to educate all fire fighters to be prepared if the unfortunate happens. The program will provide participating fire departments with the skills they need to improve situational awareness and prevent a mayday.

Topics covered include:

- Preventing the Mayday: situational awareness, planning, size up, air management, fitness for survival, defensive operations.
- Being Ready for the Mayday: personal safety equipment, communications, accountability systems.
- Self-Survival Procedures: avoiding panic, mnemonic learning aid “GRAB LIVES”— actions a fire fighter must take to improve survivability, emergency breathing.
- Self-Survival Skills: SCBA familiarization, emergency procedures, disentanglement, upper floor escape techniques.

Fire Fighter Expectations of Command: command-level mayday training, pre-mayday, mayday and rescue, post-rescue, expanding the incident-command system, communications. This year's Safety Week will focus on delivering the online FGS awareness training course to all fire departments. Other planning tools and resources will be available on the Safety Week website – <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=306> .

Keep watching the website and the IAFC's **Facebook** (<http://www.facebook.com/firechiefs>), **Twitter** (<http://twitter.com/IAFC>) and **LinkedIn** (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1322717>) pages for continuing updates to this year's program and planning resources. Remember to visit the **SHS Section's** website at <http://www.iafcsafety.org/> for more information on health and safety issues and the **IAFF's Health, Safety and Medicine's** website at <http://www.iaff.org/hs/index.htm> for more information on health, wellness and safety programs. You may also contact the IAFF by email at safety@iaff.org for additional resources.

FIRE SERVICE PUBLICATIONS WORTH CHECKING OUT:

- Fire Apparatus Journal: www.fireapparatusjournal.com
- Fire Chief Magazine: www.firechief.com
- Fire Engineering Magazine: www.fireengineering.com
- Firehouse Magazine: www.firehouse.com
- Fire Rescue Magazine: www.firerescuemagazine.com
- Journal of Emergency Medical Services: www.jems.com

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



Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - March 16, 2011

Our Newest Featured Media

Pre-Fire Inspection and Pre-Fire Planning:

This segment discusses the importance of pre-incident planning and how to develop pre-incident plans.

To view the media and for more information, go to:

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/media/2011/S6-4/player.html>

» **Archive: More Learning Media -**

<http://www.everyonegoeshome.com/media/>

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

» For More Information Visit: www.everyonegoeshome.com

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

2011 Upcoming Course Schedule – Sacramento (CA)

The California Fire & Rescue Training Authority announces upcoming classes for 2011! Course registration is available on the website, www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov. Or, you may contact the office at (916) 475-1660 to request a registration form.

Wildland Courses

S-390 Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations April 4-7, 2011 (Monday-Thursday) - \$300.00

This course is designed to meet training requirements for Division Supervisor, Operations Chief, Safety Officer, Situation Unit Leader, Plans Section Chief and prescribed fire positions. This is a skill course designed to instruct prospective fireline supervisors and fire managers in wildland fire behavior for effective and safe fire management operations. **Prerequisite:** S-290 (S-290 certificate must be sent with enrollment form)

Fire Command 2 Series

Fire Command 2E: Wildland Fire Fighting Tactics - Sacramento, CA May 16-20, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$550.00

This course contains such topics as California's wildland fire problem, wildland fire safety, weather effects, wildland fuels, wildland behavior, initial attack methods, using support equipment, using topographic maps, strategy and tactics, and air attack operations. Involves class participation and simulation. This course is designed for fire officers who have command responsibilities at wildland fires.

Prerequisite: I-300, Fire Command 1C, and Fire Command 2A.

Contact Information - phone: (916) 475-1660 - www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

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!

FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION ON ATTAINING YOUR PROMOTION

Everybody in his or her life, whether it is personal or athletic, has always wanted something extremely bad. You know the desire, the want, and the focus that you had when you wanted to attain this goal. You must have that same attitude when preparing for the promotional examination. You have to devote your time and your effort and it will require much personal sacrifice to attain this goal. During this time, many personal sacrifices will have to be made. These sacrifices include your social and family life. Remember that not only will you receive an immediate raise in salary, which will last the rest of your career, but it will also determine the pension that you retire with.

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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 PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION
CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:



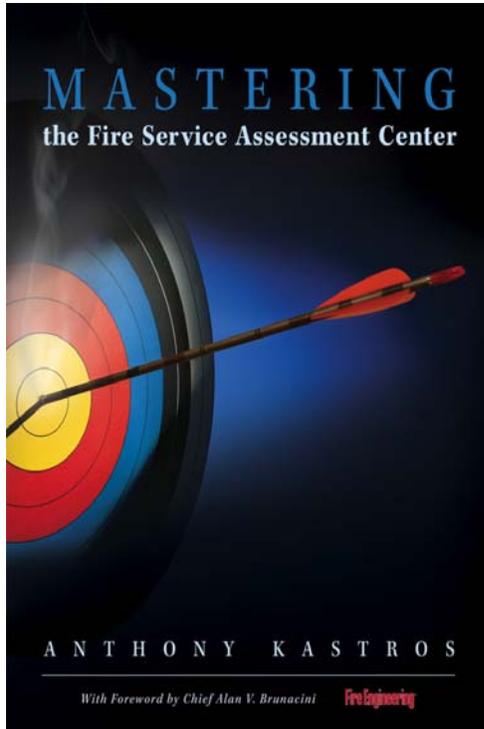
MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE
ASSESSMENT CENTER

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER
BY FIRE ENGINEERING

- PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY SIMULATIONS, ORAL PRESENTATIONS, VISUAL RESUMES, PROMOTIONAL INTERVIEWS, COUNSELING SESSIONS, VIDEO COUNSELING, IN-BASKETS, AND SUPERVISORY EXERCISES.
- DISCOVER THE PROPER MENTALITY FOR THE TEST, INCLUDING HOW TO SHED BAGGAGE AT THE DOOR.
- FOCUS ON BECOMING POSITION ORIENTED VS. TEST ORIENTED.
- LEARN ABOUT THE 27 KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES THAT SPAN THE DIMENSIONS OF LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.
- ASSESS AND BE ASSESSED USING SCORING CRITERIA UTILIZED IN TODAY'S ASSESSMENT CENTERS.
- PRACTICE EXERCISE-SPECIFIC TOOLS AND AVOID CANDIDATE PITFALLS.
- * INCLUDES BEST-SELLING BOOK PUBLISHED BY **FIRE ENGINEERING**.



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

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

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

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

**APRIL 4 THROUGH 7, 2011 – ROSEVILLE, CA
AND
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**

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



Every year, approximately 2,600 Americans die in home fires. Over half of these deaths (52%) occur between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am, when residents are typically sleeping.

Smoke and toxic gases from a home fire are as deadly as heat and flames. Just two or three breaths of toxic smoke can render you unconscious. In addition, smoke obscures vision, decreasing your ability to escape. Smoke alarms save lives, prevent injuries, and minimize property damage by detecting fires early and alerting residents, allowing crucial time to escape. **The risk of dying from a fire in a home *without* working smoke alarms is twice as high as in a home with working smoke alarms.**

To find out what type of smoke alarms are available for your home, including where to install and how to maintain them, visit http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/smoke_alarms.shtm on the U.S. Fire Administration's website.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

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

- **Fire Command 1A:** March 21 – 25, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, CA*)
- **Driver/Operator 1A:** April 11 – 15, 2011 (*Class in Milpitas, CA*)
- **Fire Command 1B:** April 18 – 22, 2011 (*Class in Los Gatos, CA*)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 25, 30 & May 4, 2011 (*Class in Sunnyvale, CA*)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 26, 28 & May 5, 2011 (*Class in Sunnyvale, CA*)
- **Trench Rescue:** April 27, 29 & May 6, 2011 (*Class in Sunnyvale, CA*)
- **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 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Here is an opportunity to take one firefighter examination and be eligible to be hired by one of over 10 fire departments in the **Denver, Colorado** area! The following information was found on their website, which also includes an online application: <http://www.drco.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

The next application filing deadline is May 6, 2011, to be eligible to take the next test on June 6, 2011!

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), on behalf of the member districts/departments, manages the Firefighter Intraregional Recruitment and Employment (FIRE)

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

program. Testing occurs twice a year. Candidates take one written exam and the results then determine an eligibility pool of qualified candidates for our 13 member departments. Files may be reviewed throughout the year as openings occur.

Minimum Employment Requirements

- Be legally entitled to work in the United States and able to obtain a Colorado driver's license.
- Some departments hire candidates 18 years of age or older--others require applicants to be at least 21. There is no maximum age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED; having some college credits is desirable as are EMT/firefighter/paramedic certifications. Departments prefer applicants acquire an EMT certification prior to being hired, although not required to test.
- Some departments will train hires with out-of-state firefighter certification for Colorado certification, but smaller departments require candidates to go through the reciprocity process with the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)--call (720) 852-6735.

Fire Departments Participating

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Hawk Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> North Metro Fire Rescue District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulder Fire & Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> North Washington Fire Protection District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Heights Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Parker Fire District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Littleton Fire Rescue | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Adams County Fire Rescue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Longmont Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Thornton Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Westminster Fire Department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain View Fire Protection District | |

Online Application Process

Completing the application and paying the \$50 non-refundable fee confirms your seat. Candidates will receive special testing instructions via e-mail about a month before the test.

Deferrals

You may request to defer your payment (one-time) to the next test. You must call 303-480-6730 at least three business days prior to your test date to defer. Don't defer unless it's unavoidable because you may miss out on a recruitment process.

What Happens Next

You must score at least 70 percent (overall) to pass, but departments may set a higher score for their recruitments. Departments could contact you for further testing throughout the year so keep your contact information current within your online application.

Written Exam Used

DRCOG administers the New Generation CWH Management Solutions Exam to identify individuals who are most likely to be successful in the fire service. The test assesses skills and abilities that Denver-area firefighters know are essential for their jobs. The exam has 150 questions; applicants have three hours and 15 minutes to complete it. The test measures:

- **Basic educational skills (reading, writing and math),**
- **Practical skills (judgment and common sense),**
- **Interpersonal skills, and**
- **Emotional outlook (ethics, motivation and effectiveness under stress).**

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:	- March 23, 2011	from 1230 to 1700 hours (San Jose, CA)
	- 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 About) 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/pages/about/volunteer.php	

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 –

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots are so you can focus on those areas. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

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

CPAT TESTING CENTER LOCATIONS:

Southern California:

626 N. Eckhoff Street
Orange, CA 92868

Northern California

526 Commerce Way
Livermore, CA 94551

Sacramento Area:

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

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Glenn L. Allen
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic
Age: 61
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 36
Date of Incident: 02/16/2011
Time of Incident: 2319hrs
Date of Death: 02/18/2011
Fire Department: Los Angeles Fire Department
Address: 200 N Main ST, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Telephone: 213 978-3810
Fax: 213 978-3712
Fire Department Chief: Millage Peaks
Fire Department POC: Donald Reyes
Fire Department Website: <http://lafd.org/>

Incident Description: On Wednesday, February 16, 2011, Firefighter Allen responded to a house fire in the Hollywood Hills. Firefighter Allen was among six firefighters who were injured when a partial ceiling collapse occurred. He was rushed to the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where, on February 28, 2011, he succumbed from his injuries sustained in the collapse.

Incident Location: 1546 N Viewside DR, Los Angeles, CA

Funeral Arrangements: Thursday, February 24, 2011 - A Community/Department Candlelight Vigil for Firefighter/Paramedic Allen will take place from 1830 hrs to 2000 hrs at Fire Station 78, located at 4041 Whitsett AVE. Friday, February 25, 2011 - A walking procession will begin at 0830 hrs. The procession will start from the South Lawn of City Hall (1ST ST and Main ST) and end at the Cathedral

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

of Our Lady of the Angels (A distance of five city blocks). The Memorial Church service will begin at 0930 hrs at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, located at 555 W Temple ST, Los Angeles, CA.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending.

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

To date, 23 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 20 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: Chris Stock
Rank: Fire Chief
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 20
Date of Incident: 02/24/2011
Time of Incident: 1820hrs
Date of Death: 02/24/2011
Fire Department: Westport Volunteer Fire Department
Address: PO Box 77, 6301 3rd Street, Westport, KY 40077
Fire Department Chief: Pending

Incident Description: Several hours after participating in a training exercise related to wildland fire incidents, Fire Chief Stock passed away from a heart attack he suffered while at his residence.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Friday (03/04/2011) @ 1200hrs, LaGrange Baptist Church, 1139 Commerce Parkway, LaGrange, KY.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Fire Chief Chris Stock, c/o Westport Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 77, Westport, KY 40077

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

To date, 24 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 21 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: James Von Roden
Rank: Captain
Age: 49
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 15+
Date of Incident: 03/12/2011
Time of Incident: 1900hrs
Date of Death: 03/12/2011
Fire Department: Lee Community Volunteer Fire Department
Address: 317 NE CR 255, Lee, FL 32059
Fire Department Chief: Reese Thomas

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

Incident Description: Captain Von Roden was responding to the fire station for an outdoor fire call when he collapsed from a cause still under investigation. Captain Von Roden was transported to a local hospital where he passed away from his injury.

Incident Location: 9782 Southeast River Road, Madison County

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Fire Captain James Von Roden at

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

To date, 25 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; 22 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-

Funeral services will be held Friday at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels for Los Angeles City 36 year Veteran Firefighter Glenn Allen, 61, who died in the Line of Duty Friday after he was gravely injured at that house fire. **In an extremely sad note, he became a grandfather for the first time Saturday night, when his daughter gave birth to a son.** FF Allen was among 6 Firefighters injured when the ceiling of the 12,500 sq foot Hollywood mansion collapsed on them shortly after midnight Thursday. He died at 0015 hours Friday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The other injured Firefighters, 2 of them L.A. County FF's are all recovering. LAFD is looking into whether the design or construction of that dwelling had anything to do with a ceiling collapse. It appears the fire started around a fireplace, then took off up the walls to the attic and spread. The couple who had been sleeping upstairs escaped without injury. Running through the attic were plastic pipes for residential fire sprinklers. The fire melted the pipes, flooding the attic and filling the insulation with water. The weight of the insulation "appears" to have caused a large section of the ceiling to collapse, fatally injuring FF Allen, and hurting 5 other Firefighters. One of the Firefighters was still hospitalized Friday with a broken ankle, but the others had been treated and released. When the ceiling collapsed, FF Allen was covered with debris and after rescuing him, he was not breathing.

NEW ZEALAND EARTHQUAKE DESTROYS CENTRAL FIRE STATION

While we have confirmed reports that the central fire station in Christchurch city has collapsed from last night's earthquake, we have no additional information related to the condition of Firefighters. Two aftershocks have sent survivors scrambling for safety in Christchurch, New Zealand's second largest city, after the earthquake shook the city last night, killing at least 65 people and injuring many more. Rescue and recovery efforts are

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

underway. The earthquake caused 30 million tons of ice to fall from New Zealand's largest glacier, 120 miles from Christchurch. Twelve-foot-high waves swept up and down the lake for 30 minutes. The two aftershocks - one magnitude 5.6 and another 5.5 - shook Christchurch within hours of the initial 6.3 earthquake. The aftermath caused buildings to crumble, including the 130-year-old Christchurch Cathedral. Its spire toppled into the city square. We wish the best to those affected and will update as applicable.

E.F.O. & CHIEF ANNIE MURPHY SPRINGER:

For those of you who are "older" graduates of the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program, you may remember the "very lively" Instructor, Chief Annie Murphy Springer. I had a recent discussion about "the lady in purple" with some friends, wondering how she was doing, and then today, found this article about her.

CHECK it out HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/4lmjayn> **HERE is her website:** <http://www.anniemurphyspringer.com>

Looks like she is doing great.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-11 / 0825 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In light of so many FD's having to fight non-fire "battles" these days, the timing of this report is excellent. Take note of the focus on STRUCTURAL FIRES, whereas structure fires have more injuries per fire than non structure fires. And the fact that 87% of all FF injuries occur while operating at structural fires. So, as some cities look at (or make) cuts, not only are they increasing the risk to civilians, but here is "clear data" that shows the risk to Firefighters. Since it takes a very calculable and measurable amount of FF's to operate appropriately at a structural fire, based upon conditions, it is also clear that when we have longer (or delayed) responses with less than required firefighters, the risk to the firefighters and civilians go up. In some cases, way up.

As many city hall dwellers insist, "give us data, not emotion"---OK, here ya go:

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) issued a special report today examining the details of firefighter injuries sustained on the fireground or while responding to or returning from a fire incident. The report, Fire-Related Firefighter Injuries Reported to NFIRS (PDF, 945 Kb) **LINK BELOW**, was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's effort to reduce the number of firefighter injuries through an increased awareness and understanding of their causes and how they might be prevented. The report is part of the Topical Fire Report Series and is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). According to the report:

An estimated 81,070 firefighter injuries occur annually in the United States.

=49 percent of firefighter injuries occur on the fireground and 6 percent occur while responding to or returning from a fire incident.

=Overexertion/strain is the leading cause of fire-related firefighter injuries at 25 percent.

=38 percent of all fire-related firefighter injuries result in lost work time.

=The majority of fire-related firefighter injuries (87 percent) occur in structure fires.

=On average, structure fires have more injuries per fire than non structure fires.

=Firefighter injury fires are more prevalent in July (10 percent) and peak between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m.

HERE is the report: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i7.pdf>

-UPDATE: GEORGIA FIREFIGHTER BURNED:

That Lincoln County Firefighter went into surgery this morning after sustaining burns during yesterdays brush fire that damaged 40 acres. Firefighter Perry Kirkland, 50, a veteran firefighter with the Loco Fire Department, was overtaken in the blaze and was transported to the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Joseph M. Still Burn Center in Augusta. Word is that he has burns to 20 percent of his body with 5% 3rd degree and the balance 2nd degree and FF Kirkland is listed in fair condition.

-CALIFORNIA FIRE MERGER BEING PUSHED BY FIREFIGHTERS LABOR UNION

A proposal to outsource the City of Costa Mesa firefighting to the county would result in demotions for many in the CMFD. It could also save the city between \$2 million and \$3.7 million. The proposal, however, is not the work of budget cutting city hall dwellers. It's the result of a study by the Orange County Fire Authority that was requested and paid for by the Costa Mesa FF's Association. If the city agrees to the proposals in the study, Costa Mesa's FF's would join the Orange County Fire Authority. The City Council plans a March 8 study session on the matter. **According to the report, if the city out sources to the county, half of the city's firefighters would transfer to other cities; some would get pay cuts; others, demotions. But their jobs might be safer: the OCFA has cash and investments of \$131 million, while Costa Mesa might see its cash reserves dip to \$5 million this year, the report says.**

HERE IS THE FULL STORY: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fire-289287-city-ocfa.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-22-11 / 2036 Hours

AND:

Hey,

At least 20 vehicles are involved in a crash on Interstate 64/40 in St Louis, MO this morning. There are reports of ambulances and fire apparatus also being involved. It has been declared a local mass casualty situation. Right now, there are reported well over 20 serious accidents around the St. Louis area. We'll post more later as applicable.

PHILADELPHIA: Remembering One Meridian Plaza: February 23, 1991

Yesterday in Philly, 2 children died and at least 6 other people were injured in what Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers described as a "catastrophic" fire in a house on the eve of the 20th Anniversary of the infamous One Meridian Plaza Fire. Fire deaths, sadly are not rare in Philly-in spite of Firefighters and their Fire Commissioner attempting to heroically provide services in an environment of budget cuts and brown outs.

Take a moment to REMEMBER PFD Members David P. Holcombe, Phyllis McAllister and James A. Chappell who died in the Line of Duty on February 23, 1991. Additionally, read about the fire below-and the many factors that went wrong.

Here are some notable facts about the fire and building:

- The building was a 38-story, 756,000-square-foot building constructed in 1972;
- The fire broke out on the 22nd floor where workers were using linseed oil to refinish some wood and left the soaked rags in a pile. The rags spontaneously combusted, igniting the fire;
- The fire lasted 19 hours before being brought under control. 3 Firefighters -David P. Holcombe, Phyllis McAllister and James A. Chappell - were killed in the Line of Duty and 24 were injured;
- The fire caused more than \$100 million in property loss;
- Automatic sprinklers on the 30th floor helped douse the fire and bring it under control. Sprinklers were not installed on all of the floors or required when the building was constructed;
- The charred building sat as an eyesore while litigation between the owners and insurance companies was worked out and finally resolved. By 1999 the structure was taken down
- An investment group bought the land in 2000 and constructed a 48-story tower that opened in 2009 as the Residences at Ritz Carlton.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

HERE is the USFA Fire Report: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-049.pdf>

HERE is a Recent Media Report: <http://tinyurl.com/4fpy779>

HERE is an article about WHAT WENT WRONG: <http://tinyurl.com/25jx647>

HERE are Wiki Details: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Meridian_Plaza

JERSEY CITY APPARATUS ISSUE:

Check the article below for photos and details but this is the second hard suction bracket (with the hose strapped in it) to fall off of some new Jersey City, NJ apparatus. FDJC engine 8's fell off and now engine 14, and the new Crimson rigs are not yet in service.

MORE HERE: http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2011/02/piece_of_apparatus_comes_loose.html

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-23-11 / 0830 Hours

AND:

Hey,

61-year-old veteran LAFD Firefighter Glenn Allen died in the Line of Duty last week (Feb 16) trying to save a huge, glamorous, fancy, television location house which has now been discovered to have been "slapped together in one heck of a hurry" during the latter part of 2010. **It now appears that may be major part of why 35 year veteran FF Glenn Allen was killed.** The house and related scene has now been declared a "crime scene" by the LAPD. Some folks have suggested that the producers may have cut corners in fast-tracking that house so it would be ready in time to fit their production schedule. Was LA's poorly staffed Building Department able to do a qualified and thorough job of inspecting the dwelling that took FF Allen's life? One neighbor speculated on the speed of the dwellings construction and wondered if all the building codes were met. **Ya think?** FF Allen was eligible for retirement this year, his daughter gave birth to his first grandson a day after he died.

MORE HERE ON THIS HOUSE CONSTRUCTION ISSUE: <http://tinyurl.com/46ukvx9>

LIVE FUNERAL COVERAGE:

As you read this, his funeral is underway and you can watch it live, on the below link from Dave Statter: <http://tinyurl.com/4c27pe4> Rest In Peace.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY?

Above is yet another example of how building construction, inspections and related structural issues directly (**and horrifically**) impact what we do. All, but especially younger Firefighters should learn about

CHIEF FRANK BRANNIGAN, who said: **'The building is your enemy. Know your enemy.'**

Who is Chief Brannigan? More **HERE:** http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Brannigan

WANT TO LEARN MORE "RIGHT NOW" ABOUT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & FIREFIGHTING?

Check out Chris Naum's OUTSTANDING website: <http://buildingsonfire.com>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-11 / 1328 Hours

AND:

KENTUCKY FIRE CHIEF, AGE 48, DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret we notify you of the line of duty death of Chief Chris Stock of the Westport Volunteer Fire Department (Oldham County, KY, outside of Louisville). Chief Stock suffered a fatal heart attack at his home Thursday after participating earlier in a training exercise regarding wildland
March 19, 2011 www.chabotfire.com 27

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

firefighting operations. Chief Stock is survived by his wife, Mandy, who is a Louisville Metro EMS Paramedic, twin five-year old sons, and a 10-month old daughter. RIP. More details HERE: <http://www.supportingheroes.org> As always, our sincere condolences.

VIRGINIA FD FIRST RESPONDER UTILITY UNIT ROLLS OVER WHILE RESPONDING:

A Suburban rescue unit from the Midway VFD was involved in a crash around 1230 hours yesterday. The single vehicle accident occurred while responding to an emergency call. The FF/EMT driving suffered minor injuries and was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the crash. The cops are investigating.

HAVE YOU SEEN:

This video for **FOLGERS COFFEE** produced by a very creative St Louis (MO) Fire Dept Paramedic?

CHECK IT OUT: <http://tinyurl.com/6dvtgv6>

St Louis FD Medic Neil Bobenhouse wrote, created and produced the above video that defines COFFEE from a FD view and as an entry in a jingle contest for Folgers coffee.

LIKE THAT?

Check these older ones:

DUBLIN Fire Brigade MAXWELL HOUSE Coffee: <http://tinyurl.com/66cy3ua>

RHINEBECK NY Fire Dept "Ladder 59" MAXWELL HOUSE Coffee: <http://tinyurl.com/6lxxmvk>

.....and lastly, one of our all time favorites that is as applicable **THESE DAYS** as it has ever been:

<http://tinyurl.com/635e4w4> (**What If Firefighters Ran The World?**)

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-25-11 / 2028 Hours

AND:

Hey,

On PBS **tonight**, the TV show "American Experience" will feature the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City that killed 146 workers and led to industry reforms.

MORE ABOUT TONIGHTS SHOW HERE:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/triangle/>

MORE ABOUT THE FIRE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/68245p2>

CORNELL UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ON THE FIRE: <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/>

CANADIAN FIREFIGHTER CANCER RELATED LINE OF DUTY DEATH:

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of 35 year veteran Battalion Chief James (Jim) Thomas Banting of IAFF Local 2494, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. Chief Banting 55, passed away on February 23, 2011 from complications associated with job related colon cancer.

MORE DETAILS HERE: www.fortmcmurrayfirefighters.com

AND HERE: <http://www.afca.ab.ca/classifieds/10-memorials/606-lodd-battalion-chief-james-banting>

As always, our sincere condolences.

MICHIGAN, CALIFORNIA AND NEW JERSEY.

THE LAYOFF LUNACY CONTINUES ...IN MICHIGAN: "Why Do We Even Exist?"

After getting ready to layoff his entire FD, the Allen Park City Administrator resigned yesterday. Eric "Outta Town" Waidelich turned in his resignation to the City Council at a special meeting Sunday. Councilwoman Beverly Kelley said she voted not to accept the resignation. "He's in the middle of negotiations with the Firefighters.... Who's going to step in?" she said. Last week, the council approved laying off the 25-person fire department and the fire chief. The city is trying to eliminate a

\$600,000 deficit for the current fiscal year. Fire Chief Doug LaFond said he would be laid off as well....(continued below...)

RELATED QUESTION/COMMENTARY:

If a City Cannot Afford A Fire Department, And Related Basic Services, Is It Really A City?

".....if Allen Park can't support fire service then it really has no reason to exist as an autonomous entity. After all, what's the point of a city if it's unable or unwilling to fund the basic public services? There isn't one. This is the stuff of failed Third World states. It's time Michigan got serious about consolidating cities and townships as well as the state's 550 school districts. Civic pride and cheering for the old Alma Mater are nice, if we want to pay for them. But we don't...." **MORE of This Interesting Commentary HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/6xm8uzx> - It seems the word "Michigan" could easily be replaced in the above article by many other areas as well. Consolidations. Mergers. Collaborations. And those are almost always better off when lead, studied and proposed by Fire Officials, than City Hall. **Just say'n.**

LAYOFFS AND CUTS LEAD TO FIREFIGHTER INJURIES AT WORKING FIRES THIS PAST WEEKEND

And it shouldn't surprise anyone. But laying off Firefighters, slicing budgets and cutting fire/EMS companies IS NOT like laying off or cutting sanitation workers or other non-emergency service personnel such as parks and recreation folks. We knew you knew that-we just felt like saying it again (it's therapy) - on the off chance that some city hall dweller might actually start to get it. Or at least they should clearly inform their taxpayers that less Firefighters than predictably required for a fire = more stuff burning up. And then there is the issue of the citizen needing that rescue or those Firefighters being put in a position to still do the job, under sometimes ridiculous conditions.

FF'S INJURED IN CALIFORNIA: <http://tinyurl.com/5w43j5g>

FF'S INJURED IN NEW JERSEY: <http://tinyurl.com/4bamnqk>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-28-11 / 1445 Hours

AND:

Hey,

2 Firefighters suffered serious but non life threatening electric shock this evening while operating at a working fire in NW Harris County, Texas. The multi-alarm fire started shortly after 1800 hours at a pallet company which then spread to at least 3 dwellings. The Fire Marshal's Office said the fire spread to at least three homes. At least 7 FD's assisted the Northwest FD's for manpower as well as water as there are no hydrants in the area. The FF's have been hospitalized. We'll post updates as applicable.

UPDATE: LITTLE KIDS LEFT ALONE IN TEXAS FIRE THAT KILLED THEM.

While we normally do not cover fires that don't involve FF injury or worse, this update is worthy of note as that Houston home day care operator actually had left the little kids alone she was caring for without adult supervision. This was done last week, while a stovetop burner was on, causing the fire that later killed 4 kids and injured 3 others. The Houston FD also announced today that the day care operator, Jessica Tata, has fled the United States and they had asked the U.S. Marshals Service in Houston to help track her down. They believe Tata, 22, has fled to Nigeria, where she is originally from. Tata, 22, was charged late Sunday evening with reckless injury to a child involving serious bodily injury involving the death of 3-year-old Shomari Dickerson. The charge carries a sentence of two to 10 years in prison.

FDNY SEMINAR "OPEN TO ALL FIRE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS" UPDATE:

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

"HOW DOES YOUR FD HANDLE A MAYDAY?"

One of the new topics that has been added to the upcoming FDNY Command Symposium is how the FDNY handles a May Day. This subject, crucial to all Departments, covers the latest procedures for when a May Day is received on the fireground. The FDNY has significantly changed its operations when this occurs and is being presented by the Chief who developed it. **The training will help answer the question at ANY FD: WHAT IS OUR MAYDAY PROCEDURE BY THE:** Incident Commander? Fire Officers? Firefighters? FAST/RAT/RIT/RIC TEAMS? This critical "MayDay" segment of training will be of major interest to all. Take a moment to CHECK OUT ALL of the topics at this OUTSTANDING seminar, that still has limited seating available. **SEMINAR INFO & VIDEO HERE:** http://www.fdnymfoundation.com/2010/12/2011_high-rise_1.php

EXCELLENT NEW FF SURVIVAL VIDEO FOR ALL FIREFIGHTERS, FIRE OFFICERS AND CHIEFS:

A brand new FF survival video was released today: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOfEsnvXSD8>
Take a minute to check out this excellent 30 second video that can be used at your Fire/EMS Dept.
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 2-28-11 / 2203 Hours

AND:

Hey,

In the U.K., 3 Fire Service Command Officers have been charged with manslaughter by gross negligence after the Line of Duty deaths of 4 Firefighters during a warehouse fire in 2007. The elected Warwickshire County Council has also been charged with failing to ensure the health and safety at work of its employees. Firefighters Ian Reid, John Averis, Ashley Stephens and Darren Yates-Badley died in the Line of Duty at that vegetable packing warehouse. In total, 12 Fire Service members were questioned by cops about their conduct during firefighting operations. Speaking for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Michael Gregory said: "I have reviewed the evidence of the case very carefully and I have decided that there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest to charge Paul Simmons, Adrian Ashley, and Timothy Woodward with gross negligence manslaughter. "Mr Simmons and Mr Ashley were watch managers (chiefs) and Mr Woodward was a station manager at the time of the fire, but they all acted as incident commanders before, during and after their colleagues were sent into the burning building. "In that role, they were responsible for making operational decisions while their colleagues tried to put out the fire." Mr Gregory added: "I have also decided that there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction against Warwickshire County Council for failing to protect the health and safety of its employees and that it is in the public interest to prosecute." The trial starts in April. All 4 Firefighters were "retained" which is a paid-on-call Fire Service. **More Details:**

HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/4hzu8gd>

AND HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/47q38u6>

VIDEO HERE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeVsdmp_kXQ

UPDATE: TEXAS FIREFIGHTERS SHOCKED, INJURED AT LAST NIGHTS FIRE

As previously posted, 2 Houston-area Firefighters were hospitalized for observation after suffering electrical shock and another Firefighter suffered a back injury. Deputy Chief Andy Dexter with the Klein VFD advised that an overhead power line broke while 2 Firefighters were checking a burning mobile home. Both were shocked, but the injuries are considered non-life threatening. Chief Wesley Cole of the Northwest VFD, says the third firefighter was knocked down when a fire hose line broke.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-1-11 / 0946 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Firefighter from the Mims VFD (FL) was airlifted with serious burns from operating at the 16,000 acre fire in Brevard and Volusia Counties, FL this afternoon. FF Matthew Wescott, 22, was flown out to Orlando Regional Medical Center with second-degree burns to his face from this fire that is running near I-95 FF's have been able to control 25 percent of the "Iron Horse" fire but are concerned that predicted shifting winds with expose several hundred structures.

More details to follow as well as:

HERE: <http://www.cfnews13.com>

HERE: <http://www.floridatoday.com/>

HERE: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com>

MIMS VFD FACEBOOK PAGE: <http://tinyurl.com/4rajoxx>

BOSTON FF's, COPS & EMT's DOWN:

Several Boston Police Officers, Firefighters and EMS members have been transported to the hospital after being exposed to what is reported to be, cyanide. Units responded to a call this afternoon from a citizen in Boston's Brighton neighborhood who reported that his wife may have committed suicide using cyanide. When members arrived, a bottle was found next to the body, exposing the first responders as well. More to follow on what is reported to now be a Level 3 hazmat.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-1-11 / 1653 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 20 year old Bellmore (Nassau County, Long Island) NY FF was shot this evening and is currently in surgery, however he is reported to have serious, but non-life threatening injuries. Bellmore FD units responded for the reported crash on Bellmore Avenue, the vehicle had struck a pole that was shattered in half. Upon the FF's arrival, a victim in the car shot at the crew with 1 BFD member being shot. The crew immediately transported their injured member to Nassau University Medical Center Trauma. Nassau County PD arrived, numerous shots were fired, and the end result is that the heavily armed bad guy is reportedly dead. Several NCPD Officers also received minor injuries.

FROM Nassau County PD:

Around 2200 Hours, Nassau County Police received 911 calls about a vehicle striking a pole on Bellmore Avenue. The vehicle then continued approximately 30 feet and stopped in the middle of the road. The Bellmore FD responded to the scene, and according to Detective Lieutenant Kevin Smith, one of the Firefighters, age 20, approached the car to help the injured, was suddenly met by gunfire and was struck in his side toward his back. Officers from the 7th Precinct, NCPD's canine units and numerous other units responded to the scene shortly after the shots were fired. The officers saw the gunman with a weapon and opened fire. "They (police officers) were confronted by an armed individual, who had already fired at a fireman from the Bellmore FD." A witness, said that when police arrived, the gunman "continued to shoot at them." Several guns were found in the occupant's car. According to Smith, it appeared to be a couple of long barrels and at least one handgun. **More to follow.** Keep the BFD FF in your prayers, this response and subsequent "ambush" could have been any FF or EMT, anywhere.

More Details:

LOCAL NEWS VIDEO HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/4am9pom>

LOCAL NEWS HERE: www.NBCNewYork.com

BELLMORE FD HOME PAGE: <http://www.bellmorefd.com>

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

NASSAU COUNTY PD HOME PAGE: <http://www.police.co.nassau.ny.us>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-11 / 0035 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Several Philadelphia Firefighters were injured this morning at an 18 story high rise fire with at least 1 FF reported to now be critical but stable, with serious injuries/burns, heading to hyperbaric. 4 others were treated and released. The fire came in around 0545 hours at the Philadelphia Housing Authority building, the 2nd alarm was transmitted around 0620 hours and under control around 0700 hours. FF's had numerous people trapped on and above the fire floor. The FF's were removed following MAYDAY transmissions from the 11th floor.

MORE DETAILS, VIDEO AND PHOTOS HERE:

<http://www.phillyfirenews.com/content/firewire/detail/5365.php>

UPDATE: NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER SHOOTING

The Director of Public Affairs at Nassau University Medical Center has advised that the Bellmore (Nassau County, Long Island) Firefighter who was shot last night is in "stable" condition as of 0600 hours this morning. Nassau County Police shot and killed the suspect, who was heavily armed.

FIREFIGHTERS ASSAULTED IN DELAWARE

A 20 year old man was arrested Monday night after he assaulted 2 Firefighters who were clearing an apartment building of smoke. Cops charged the man with criminal impersonation, making a false written statement and 2 counts of offensive touching of a Firefighter. Wilmington Manor Firefighters responded to the fire call about 1815 hours and were trying to clear the smoke-filled building when the man refused to evacuate. Firefighters initially traced the smoke to the mans apartment and banged on the door, but got no response. The Firefighters then forced entry into the apartment and found the good citizen sleeping on the floor but they had trouble waking him. The smoke was caused by a smoking pot left on the stove. FF's tried several times to wake him up, and when they woke him a few minutes later, he behaved - but then became argumentative when Firefighters had him leave. The man then physically charged Firefighters as they stood in the doorway of his apartment, he was arrested, and he gave the cops a fake name. He got locked up.

COLORADO FIRE DEPT ARSON VEHICLE SET ON FIRE

An arson investigator looking into 2 car fires in Denver (Colorado) became the victim of arson early this morning. The investigator's van was lit on fire but knocked quickly, limiting the damage to the vehicle and saving the arson investigation equipment in the back. The fire started while investigating 2 possible cases of arson in the area. 2 cars were lit on fire and the investigator was looking for clues when his van was hit.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-11 / 0817 hours

AND:

Hey,

As the fire service remains unfairly under attack in so many areas and arenas, so much of it has become "personal" against departments, against unions, against firefighters and FD leadership, and very often by personal agenda driven city hall dwellers and politicians. When these issues become so deep and personal, those elected or appointed officials often get "high on the moment" or caught up in the "cut no matter what" euphoria - often forgetting or ignoring the publics need. It can happen because "the need" is perceived as not that often-and the public is very distracted these days.

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

32

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

But when the need exists, we are needed **right now**. And we will be needed, it's just a matter of time. On the other hand, some Firefighters and FD's have re-defined what their FD is needed for.

LOOK WHO SHOWED UP AT THIS FD's BUDGET HEARINGS:

Here is a video that shows how a community has NOT forgotten the "need" for **their** fire department:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4zwLnMHmJU>

It also shows a FD and their Firefighters who clearly understand the importance of their role, diversifying their role and the "**need to be needed**" in their community for a multitude of reasons.

QUICK NOTE: ANOTHER SHOOTING AT A FIRE SCENE:

Although this one did not end up with a FF shot, the circumstances are yet another reminder:

<http://www.wjactv.com/news/27050036/detail.html?taf=john>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-11 / 1730 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The man who was shot and killed by Nassau County Police in Bellmore, Long Island (NY) after he crashed his truck and opened fire on BFD personnel was armed with enough weapons to commit a mass killing. **We have several links to video and audio below.**

31-year-old Jason Beller opened fire on BFD members, injuring one FF/EMT (see below). Beller used an SKS 7 rifle with a pistol grip, banana ammunition clip and a green laser scope to fire at least 8 shots at FF's and then on arriving police officers during the gunfight. He also had another rifle strapped across his chest and wore a sleeve on his arm made to hold ammunition. After he was killed, cops found more weapons: a handgun in his lap, a Tech-9 submachine gun on the floor behind the passenger seat, and two other firearms inside the truck. Beer, including an open can, and prescription drugs were also found in the truck. Cops were still trying to figure out Beller's motive. **FF/EMT Justin Angell**, the 20-year-old Bellmore FD member, was injured as he arrived in a BFD ambulance driven by his brother, Dean. FF/EMT Angell sized up the scene and then walked toward the accident, he heard explosions and reportedly thought a transformer on the light pole was exploding, he felt pain and turned around. Unknowingly shot through the side of his stomach, FF/EMT Angell stumbled behind the ambulance and collapsed on a front lawn.

FF Angell is making a full recovery in ICU at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow. Vincent Scaduto, BFD's PIO said that Angell is "doing well." According to Shelley Lotenberg, from NUMC, Angell "is in satisfactory, stable condition and if he continues improving, could be released tomorrow." Angell, 20, has been a Firefighter with Bellmore for two years, and is an EMT with the department as well. Prior, he was a junior Firefighter and a graduate of Mephram High School. Angell is also an EMT with Brentwood Legion Ambulance in nearby Suffolk County. **We wish FF Angell a rapid recovery.**

HERE ARE RELATED LINKS:

Fire and Police Radio Traffic starting with the FD dispatch of the crash: <http://tinyurl.com/6ders5n>
Radio ID and Signal Information:

6-5-0 is the North Bellmore FD Dispatcher who dispatches for Bellmore FD.

600-00 is the Bellmore Chief of Department

6-0-0 related units are Bellmore FD apparatus and equipment.

"23" is the equivalent of "10-4"

"14" is the Nassau County PD.

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

33

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

6-0-11 is the BFD ambulance that initially responded and immediately transported their injured member following the shooting. Medcom is Nassau County Medical Control.

NOTE: At the 4 minute mark, the above recording switches over to the Nassau County PD 7th Pct channel, starting with the initial call for an auto accident, and it unfolds after that.

OTHER RELATED MEDIA & VIDEO LINKS:

<http://tinyurl.com/6l2mkdx>

<http://tinyurl.com/6b8s3n5>

KUDOS to all involved in this incident, from BFD FF Angell for him and his crews heroic actions, the Bellmore FD Chief for absolutely "commanding" the incident and preventing further harm, the Nbfd Dispatcher and the Nassau County Police Officers for professionally "solving" the problem. Scary stuff.

UPDATE: PHILADELPHIA FIRE MAYDAY:

8 of today's 10 injured Philly Firefighters were released after being treated at hospitals this morning. FF Michael McGuire, a 5 year veteran with Engine 27, was the most seriously hurt. He was found unconscious and carried down flights of stairs by FF's. He was injured as he went door to door, searching for residents. FF McGuire is expected to recover, as was a battalion chief who remained hospitalized. FF McGuire was on his 2nd treatment in the hyperbaric chamber and the Dr's are optimistic. Good news.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-2-11 / 2335 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Oklahoma cops are investigating what appears to be a double murder suicide that left 3 people dead including a Pernell volunteer firefighter. Garvin County officials think the 8 year veteran volunteer firefighter horrifically murdered his 2, 5 year old twin kids, set the house on fire and then killed himself. The FD was called to the house fire at about 9:30 this morning in Elmore City. There had also been previous suicide threats reported from the house. Multiple additional companies were called when the first due fire department showed up and had reports that the victims (in the FF's house) were trapped, but they were unable to rescue the occupants. The fire is suspicious as the FF who lived in the house had been separated from his wife and they were in the process of a divorce. Our condolences to all affected.

OHIO FIREFIGHTERS EJECTED IN APPARATUS CRASH

3 Youngstown Firefighters have thankfully been released from the hospital with minor injuries after their apparatus rolled over this morning. The driver tried to avoid a civilian vehicle, went across the dividing line, hit a curb and rolled over. We'll post additional details.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

The Secret List 3-5-11 / 1830 hours

AND:

Hey-

One civilian is reported dead after a 3 vehicle crash in Mississauga, Canada today involving a Fire Apparatus. Squad 114 was responding emergent when it was cut off by a car, leading to the Squad to strike the vehicle fatally injuring the civilian. No word on if any of the firefighters sustained injuries in the crash. Pictures and video are posted on our home page.

HAMILTON, VA VOLUNTEER ARRESTED AFTER DRUNKEN JOYRIDE IN RESERVE ENGINE COMPANY

Early Saturday morning, a deputy with the Loudoun Sheriff's Office witnessed a retired fire engine owned by the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Company operating in a dangerous manner. Upon learning that there were no active fire incidents in the Hamilton area, the deputy stopped the engine. After a subsequent investigation, it was determined that all five off-duty volunteer firefighters in the engine were intoxicated. The driver, a volunteer with the Hamilton Fire Company, was arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Unauthorized Use of Vehicle. The other four occupants of the truck were released to an officer of the fire company. The volunteer members of the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Company involved in this incident have resigned. Two volunteers from other companies who were riding in the truck have been suspended while the internal investigation of this matter continues.

The County's Fire and Rescue Commission, the Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management, and the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Company are grateful for the prompt action of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. The behavior of these individuals does not represent the values of Loudoun's fire and rescue service and will not be tolerated by any of our volunteer companies or the Department. This incident involved off-duty personnel and a retired fire engine, so fire and rescue readiness was not jeopardized. A recent news update this evening reported that a Leesburg Police Officer and two other Loudoun County, VA Volunteers that are in positions of authority were also in the rig. For updates check out www.Statter911.com, as Dave Statter continues to follow this story closely. Stories like this have leave another black mark against the fire service when we are already being scrutinized closely by the public.

THINK - SLOW DOWN - AND NEVER OPERATE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL!

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

The Secret List 3-6-11 / 1950 hours

AND:

Hey,

As you recall, [North Merrick \(Nassau County, NY\)](#) Fire Chief James Allen was issued a citation by a New York State Trooper a few weeks ago while attempting to close the southbound right-hand lane because of an accident in the center lane on the Meadowbrook State Parkway. "It wasn't safe," Chief Allen said. "The weather this morning wasn't good and cars were slipping and sliding all over the place. I had a victim and I was trying to make it as safe as possible. I have to keep my guys safe too." Chief Allen explained that the trooper did not want him to close the right lane of the parkway, insisting that he allow both the right and left lanes to handle the flow of traffic after the accident. When Chief Allen disagreed, the trooper threatened to have him arrested, according to Allen, but instead, the incident ended with the state trooper issuing the citation. "As of January 1, there is a [new law in effect](#) that says that all cars have to move over a lane when they see a disabled vehicle," Allen said. "Now, in this case, no one could move over because the accident was in the center lane, but I had to make the scene secure." Fortunately this morning, the case was dismissed in traffic court. This has been described as a rare incident as relations between the Nassau County fire departments and the various police agencies are usually very good.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 3-7-11 1057 hours

AND:

Hey,

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

In New Jersey this afternoon, a Phillipsburg Emergency Squad ambulance struck a car while traveling the wrong way down a one-way street. The ambulance was responding to a call of an unconscious man (who later died) around 1654 Hours this afternoon when it T-boned a car at an intersection. The car occupants were transported with NLT injuries.

We do no good when we don't arrive. However, what surprised us is that even before the police investigated this crash, the Mayor (also a member of the squad) made the public comment that the ambulance should not have been traveling the wrong way, even if it was responding to an emergency with its lights and sirens on. "You're still supposed to adhere to all traffic laws," Mayor Wyant said. "I don't know if the driver was confused as to whether the street was one-way or not, but still, they were not supposed to be going the wrong way down a one-way street." The acting Squad Chief stated it was too early to tell whether the ambulance driver acted improperly. "If he was using his lights and sirens, that's the proper precautions," he said. "But I can't say anything for sure until I've seen the report." **Exactly Chief.** 2 witnesses said the ambulance had its lights and sirens on just before it approached the intersection, but did not slow down or stop. We are glad no one was seriously hurt and we certainly understand that emergency vehicles are allowed certain privileges in emergencies, when conditions allow it, but must not cause any problems doing it. In other words, someone once said to us "we are allowed to break the laws"....sure, you just can't have a crash or hurt anyone doing it. And while all the facts aren't out yet, the fact that the Mayor made the statements he did doesn't make it easy for the Chief to do his job. Good "close call" reminder for any of us to review our own SOP's and traffic laws so we have the facts, not opinion when it comes to emergency vehicle operations. **HERE** is their home page: <http://www.pburg94rescue.org>
HERE is more: <http://tinyurl.com/6yqtq62e>

FIREFIGHTER DOWN, BURNED IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS:

Companies responded to report of structure fire early yesterday morning in Peoria. Initial companies had heavy smoke and fire from the basement windows of a 1 1/2 story wood frame house. Neighbors reported an occupant inside. All size up indications agreed with that such as: car in garage, doors locked, no mail on front step, etc. First in Peoria E4 and T4 stretched a line through front door to attempt a rapid search. Battalion 1 arrived and sized up the scene and the conditions. **He ordered crews to withdraw as they were having trouble finding the basement and conditions were not improving.**

Tones were sounded and airhorns were blown. During the withdrawal, the crews of E4 and T4 experienced a partial collapse of the front room. Upon exiting a PAR was taken and FF Blaise Steffan of T4 was missing. On orders of the BC, vent/search for life was conducted and a straight stream was played into a basement window in the side of the house. While placing the stream, the Crew of E2 saw 2 hands come through that window and someone yelling help. **FF Steffan had fallen through in the collapse and landed in the fire. He remained conscious and remembered the words of an old Captain: Shelter yourself from the fire , stay low, find a wall and listen for outside sounds.** He felt the stream of water go over his head and followed it to the window. FF Steffan remembered falling through the fire and felt his hands burn and curl up. His radio mic cord had ripped off during the fall, rendering his portable inoperable. FF Steffan activated his pass device with his thumb and worked his way to the window with the hoseline in it. Crews pulled him to safety. **His turnout gear appears to have done its job.** The SCBA and hood stayed in place, no respiratory injuries! However, removal of his gloves revealed severe burns to his hands. He was taken to OSF Medical Center in Peoria and flown to Springfield Memorial Burn unit shortly after. **The prognosis is good.** There will be minimal grafting if any to his left hand and a couple of spots on his torso .

These are VERY preliminary details with reminders for all of us including the importance of:

- Size up, conditions and life/rescue potential.
- Further size up while monitoring and operating within those conditions
- When command orders out, go out.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Situational awareness.
 - FF accountability/tracking & PAR.
 - Survival and related condition ("get out alive") training.
- We wish FF Steffan a rapid improvement.

REMEMBERING 2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN NEW YORK-9 YEARS AGO TODAY

Today marks the 9th anniversary of a double Line of Duty Death fire in Upstate New York. On March 7th 2002, F/F Timothy "TJ" Lynch and Lt. John "Gino" Ginochetti were both killed in a fire in Pompey, New York. Both were also Paramedics. They were advancing into the first floor of a large wood frame residential where a fire that began in the basement extended into other floors of the structure. As they entered the home, the floor collapsed beneath them and they fell directly into the involved area of the basement.

According to locals, there have been changes in the Onondaga County Fire Service since that fire (and nationally as well) as much was learned from so much that went wrong at that fire to include insuring that:

- =The Incident Commander is clearly identified as the only individual responsible for the overall coordination and direction of all activities at an incident.
- =There is strict and disciplined coordination between the Incident Commander and all suppression crews on the fireground.
- =There is a continual size up of the fire conditions
- =An initial size-up (including 360) is done before initiating fire fighting efforts and continually evaluates the risk versus gain during operations at an incident.
- =FF's from the vent crew and the attack crew coordinate their efforts with command.
- =Firefighters report conditions and hazards encountered to their officer or Incident Commander.
- =Firefighters are trained to recognize the danger of operating above a fire.

HERE is the entire FIRE REPORT:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200206.html>

SALLY McCORMACK, RIP

Many of you know Mary McCormack, Executive Director of FDSOA who also works with FDIC Staff each year. Very sadly, Mary lost her daughter Sally a few days ago. Sally McCormack, 48, passed away Friday, March 4, 2011 at Milford Regional Hospital (MA) after a long battle with Calciphylaxis. Born in Framingham, Sally was the daughter of Mary (Boudreau) McCormack and the late Edward H. McCormack, Jr. "Big Ed", of course, was the very well known former Executive Director of ISFSI & FDIC. Many of you had also had an opportunity to know Sally who worked alongside her parents for most of her life serving firefighters around the world with ISFSI and most recently FDSOA. Sally was often seen working registration and related duties at most of FDSOA's safety & apparatus related conferences. In addition to her mother, Sally is survived by her sister Trish Rutkowski and her husband Thomas and her niece Emily Wilcox, all of Hopkinton, her brother James (Jim) McCormack (Lt of the Indianapolis FD) and his wife Becky of Indianapolis along with many aunts, uncles and cousins.

The funeral will be held Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. from the Callanan-Cronin Funeral Home <http://www.callanancronin.com>. The Sally McCormack Calciphylaxis Memorial Fund will be established with UMass Memorial Medical Center of Worcester in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, donations to support the research and study of Calciphylaxis may be sent to the The Sally McCormack Calciphylaxis Memorial Fund, 140 Hayden Rowe St., Hopkinton, MA 01748. Sally was a wonderful person who would go out of her way to help anyone, a true friend to her entire fire service family and a real character who will be genuinely missed. RIP Sally.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

37

The Secret List 3-7-11 / 2218 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Harker Heights (TX) FF Renee Fernandez remains in critical condition following a mobile home fire. They responded to the fire about 0815 yesterday morning and had heavy smoke and fire showing. FF's started a defensive attack after sizing up and determining that there was no one inside the home. The injured Firefighter was on a hose line, outside, when the fire suddenly changed directions because of the wind. Both the injured Firefighter and another individual were engulfed by the heat and smoke because the firefighter's breathing apparatus somehow slipped from his face, according to the Chief. FF Fernandez' mask and regulator was dislodged, and he inhaled smoke and superheated air from the fire. He is currently in ICU as he did have some blistering inside the pharynx and developed a cough. He is intubated, is expected to recover, but the burn unit Dr's are not taking chances. He is expected to be intubated for 24-72 hours. The Firefighter inhaled smoke and suffered a burned airway. We'll keep you advised as we all hope for his recovery.

2 FALLEN SALISBURY (NC) FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED

Yesterday was the 3 year anniversary of the Line of Duty Deaths of North Carolina FF's Justin Monroe and Vic Isler. **Here are some details from various media sources, and a link to the LODD report below:** "Structure fire, 1820 South Martin Luther King Jr.," the radios blared that day. Monroe and Isler responded to the Millworks fire as they would any other. But something went wrong that 2008 morning. A firewall collapsed. The men were trapped. "As soon as I heard the radio traffic, I knew it was something bad," Justin's mother, Lisa, recalled. Also trapped was Capt. Rick Barkley, who desperately called for help. "**Mayday! mayday! mayday!**" Sadly, many of the radio calls could not be heard. "It's my hope that their deaths wont be in vain," Fire Chief Bob Parnell added. RIP.

READ & LEARN MORE HERE: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200807.html>

THE PA FIRE SERVICE, ATTEMPTING TO SAVE LIVES, TAKES A BEATING FROM THE CONTINUALLY MIS-INFORMING HOME BUILDING INDUSTRY.

Building Industry Spokesperson: "**Sprinklers are not a public safety issue, as some in the firefighting community might say**"

ARTICLE: Repeal of home sprinkler mandate advances:

<http://www.timesleader.com/news/Repeal-of-home-sprinkler-mandate-advances.html>

EDITORIAL: Builders group seeks revision of sprinkler mandate **COMMENTARY** Peter Restaino:

http://www.timesleader.com/opinion/commentary/Builders_group_seeks_revision_of_sprinkler_mandate_COMMENTARY_Peter_Restaino_03-04-2011.html

RUMOR: We also "heard" that there is aggressive movement for the removal of stop signs, speed limits as well as double yellow lines on roadways, seat belts, brakes and airbags in all cars, anti-collision systems in airplanes, life jackets on boats and fuse boxes in homes, making them "user options" as to **keep costs down**-but we cannot confirm if the rumors are true or not.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-8-11 / 0817 Hours Hours

AND

Hey,

FDNY Ladder 81 was responding to a car fire this afternoon when it struck a van full of developmentally disabled adults, tragically killing one occupant and sending 2 other occupants to the hospital in critical condition. The crash occurred at Richmond Road and Burgher Avenue in Staten Island. The van's 6 other occupants all suffered minor injuries, as did the 6 Firefighters in the truck. Several witnesses claim the van was making a left turn off Burgher with the green light in its favor, the

apparatus was using its siren and lights as it approached. The apparatus smashed into the rear of the van's driver side and it spun the vehicle around 180 degrees with its tailgate hitting a concrete wall. We'll post more on our home page as it is provided. **There is also a 4th Alarm going on right now (U/C) with several Firefighters reportedly suffering electrical burns. More details to follow.**

ST LOUIS FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH FOLLOWUP

The widow of a fallen St. Louis (MO) Firefighter has received more than \$40 million after the company that made her husband's fire safety equipment lost its appeal. In 2007, a St. Louis jury awarded Angela Martin and her children \$27 million in a judgment against Survivair Respirators Inc. and its parent company, Bacou-Dalloz S.A. Martin's attorney argued at trial that the company had known for years of a product defect, yet failed to warn fire departments. FF 's Derek Martin and Rob Morrison were killed in the Line of Duty in May 2002. The Missouri Court of Appeals affirmed the jury verdict calling the company's cover-up "unquestionably reprehensible." The award was paid last month after growing with interest to \$40.4 million.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-9-11 / 1500 Hours

AND:

Hey,

LODD's are about as horrifically an experience that any Firefighter, friend or family member can experience. A living nightmare to some. Life altering to others. Life ending to even others. Without a doubt, in so many aspects, the impact lasts a lifetime. **Like it or not, some Firefighter LOD deaths are unavoidable.** However, most Firefighter deaths are avoidable. **Some blatantly avoidable.** And so often, how that FF is honored is based upon what happens locally or nationally, after the death, depending upon on how we act. In other words, if a FD loses a FF who was ejected from an apparatus because they weren't belted in and they blew a red light, were struck, rolled over and crashed...and the next week that same FD keeps doing the same thing...they are hardly honoring the fallen Firefighter. Sure, as the IAFF's Safety & Health boss Rich Duffy says "**we do great funerals**" - but that's not long term honor. Long term honor is to be motivated enough to "never forget" by enacting change to minimize "it" from happening again. When Firefighters and EMT's die in the Line of Duty, it often happens on roads and highways and not just heart attacks or structure fires. I wanted to share the following story with each of you on The Secret List.

REMEMBER:

Tomorrow is the 13th anniversary of the PA Turnpike crash that killed a Firefighter and injured 9 others in the Line of Duty. To this day, we do not recall hearing about any other roadway incident taking out that many emergency responders at one time.

WHAT HAPPENED:

At approximately 2:18 PM - 3/9/1998, Lionville Fire Company (Chester County, PA) and Uwchlan Ambulance were dispatched to a single vehicle automobile accident at milepost 310.9, just west of the Downingtown Interchange on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. A Heavy Rescue Truck, Engine, Assistant Chief and Ambulance responded. Upon arrival on the scene, the Ambulance, Rescue Truck, and Assistant Chief's vehicle parked on the shoulder of the road off the travel lanes of the highway. At the same time, two additional accidents were reported on the Turnpike. The second accident was reported at milepost 307 westbound (west of the first incident). The Engine responding to the first accident was directed to continue past the primary scene to respond to the second crash. A third accident was reported of a vehicle overturned at milepost 314 on the eastbound side of the highway (east of the original incident). Lionville Fire Chief William Minahan responded to that call with mutual aid units to investigate.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

At 2:38 PM, as rescue personnel were loading the accident victim into the Uwchlan Ambulance, a tractor trailer traveling westbound lost control and crashed into the Assistance Chief's vehicle, overturned, and slid into the back of the ambulance and the other responders in that area. The A/C and a firefighter with him in his truck were trapped in the severely damaged vehicle and had to be extricated by mutual aid rescue personnel using the Jaws of Life. **Firefighter Dave Good of the Lionville Fire Company was killed in the line of duty. Nine other emergency responders were injured, three seriously.** The injured included Assistant Chief Steve Senn, Firefighters Chris Good, Mike Cox, Eric John, Pete Harmansky, James Rattrie, and Robert Doan, all firefighters with the Lionville Fire Company, and EMT Brent Kaplan and EMT John Wanczyk of Uwchlan Ambulance.

Firefighter David Good was 38 years old and had 5 years of service as a Firefighter with Lionville Fire Company. He was survived by his wife Maryanne and two sons, Johnathan and Jason Good.

WHEN LODD's CHANGE THINGS:

That incident 13 years ago eventually led to the production of a video called the "10 Cones of Highway Safety" and a training program about Highway Safety both by VFIS. It also was one of two firefighter struck-by-vehicle line of duty deaths in 1998 that led to the formation of the Emergency Responder Safety Institute (ERSI) (www.respondersafety.com) a committee of the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Assoc. Since that time ERSI personnel have worked constantly to build awareness of the dangers responders face while working at roadway incidents, to develop training aids that are available for free from the website*, and to collaborate with government and fire service officials to develop standards, regulations and guidelines to protect emergency responders at roadway incidents. ERSI personnel continue to work on more new training programs and educational material related to this subject and to pass along this information at fire service trade shows and conferences. Their motivation started with the death of FF Good-and hasn't ended.

***CHECK THIS OUT:** http://www.lionvillefire.org/hwy_safety/

SO, RELATED TO THE ABOVE INCIDENT, WE WILL SEE YOU AT FDIC:

In a few days, a good chunk of the fire service heads to FDIC, to our annual "battery recharging". From veteran instructors to first time attendees, we ALL get "that" feeling and come home charged up-ready to do what we do. There will be numerous opportunities for all us to come home and affect change. Many of our programs at FDIC are about incidents that DID NOT GO WELL, and are taught to you by instructors who are motivated to change things. FOR EXAMPLE: related to the above story, **ERSI will have an exhibit booth at FDIC and Jack Sullivan will be teaching a classroom session that Friday morning on "The First 15 Minutes: Survival Strategies for Roadway Incidents".**

My first FDIC was in 1977 and I get as pumped up about it now, as I did then. I look forward to seeing you at FDIC as well all head there so we can learn, and come home to change stuff.

NOT REGISTERED FOR FDIC? It is NOT too late, go to www.FDIC.com to get it handled.

See ya at FDIC as well as the NFFF Stop, Drop, Rock and Roll Party, Battle of The Bands, The Stair Climb,, the FOOLS gathering and numerous other excellent events.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-8-11 / 2005 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Looks like some areas of the USA are very well headed for a **PEFRECT (fire) STORM**. All it takes is a pencil and paper to sit down and figure out this equation:

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

40

Fire department budgets cut in nearly all FD's +
+Career Firefighter layoffs, brownouts and station closures.
+Active responding Volunteer Firefighter numbers dropping due to availability.
+Homebuilders greasing politicians to avoid residential sprinklers.
= DO THE MATH.

Next thing you know, some "suit" will claim there is a fire problem in the United States.
How 'bout that.

Specifically related to the fire sprinkler issue, we are all seeing numerous states get slammed by various homebuilder associations, successfully and sadly stopping required residential sprinklers. So in light of this "perfect storm" here is an editorial from Pennsylvania that "gets" it. Fires are not rare in Pennsylvania. Yesterday 7 little kids were killed in a rural house fire. Last week a couple and their child were killed in Philly. This is from the Intelligencer in Doylestown where they stated:

MONEY SPOKE LOUDER than safety this week in Harrisburg, where House lawmakers voted 154-39 to repeal a law requiring sprinkler systems in all new residential construction. The bill now moves to the Senate.

The battle lines on this issue are clearly drawn: On one side are firefighters and fire safety officials, who know from personal experience that home sprinklers save lives and property; on the other side are Realtors and home builders, who say that the additional cost of putting sprinklers in new homes is a detriment to sales, particularly in a continuing weak housing market. Though the vote among local legislators was slightly against repeal, the overall vote tally to do away with the sprinkler requirement wasn't even close. Apparently, the builders have a stronger lobby than the firefighters, and economic concerns are more persuasive than common sense. The cost argument is legitimate, insofar as sprinklers do add to the price of a new home. How much seems to depend on whether you talk to someone who favors sprinklers or someone who's opposed to them. If you use a more-or-less accepted price of, say, \$1.65 a square foot, then the cost to put sprinklers in a 3,000-square-foot house figures out to just under \$5,000. In light of the cost of a typical new house today - at least in our neck of the woods - \$5,000 more isn't a whole lot. Amortized over the life of a 30-year mortgage, it's next to nothing.

The bigger the house, the more expensive the sprinkler system. But bigger houses cost more whether they have sprinklers or not, and those houses attract high-end buyers who aren't necessarily put off by the extra expense. In addition, you can't discount that sprinklers may actually be a selling point in a potential home sale. A fire-safe house has definite appeal. Hard-wired smoke detectors, which are required, contribute to that appeal. We think sprinklers would be a great complement. We find it ironic that sprinkler opponents claim the law is especially burdensome in rural communities. It's there, in areas not served by nearby fire departments, that sprinklers can really prove their worth, limiting the extent of fires or even extinguishing them while fire trucks are still miles away. If you weigh the initial financial outlay for a sprinkler system, whatever it is, against the cost of a possible future tragedy that involves loss of life + well, we're glad we were not among those who voted for repeal. There's no debate about the effectiveness of sprinklers. They absolutely work, which is why they're a standard part of commercial construction. Sprinklers protect property and preserve lives, not only the occupants of a building but those who respond to fight the fire. Don Konkle, a former Harrisburg fire chief and executive director of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, made the value of sprinklers perfectly clear: "We could almost avoid all loss of life in sprinklered buildings." That's from a man who knows all about the destruction fires can cause. Lawmakers in the House saw the penny wisdom in repealing the sprinkler law. But they missed the obvious pound foolishness of their decision. **BINGO. Now let's turn on the weather channel and see what the prediction of this perfect "fire" storm will be.** Here is the editorial from the newspaper: <http://tinyurl.com/4so23lq>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-10-11 / 0954 hours

AND:

Hey,

For the first time in the San Antonio FD's history, 3 Firefighters (including a Captain) have been suspended for traveling at an unsafe speed and not buckling up while responding to a fire last year. Following this story, is another story below, about a Connecticut widow as well as Firefighters who have tried to sue each other over a crash of 2 responding apparatus. In San Antonio, Ladder 35 rolled over, seriously injured one of the four men inside and destroyed the \$600,000 truck. And it looks like Fire Chief Charles Hood is making an example of it and probably saving some FF's lives in the future. Sometimes we have to be saved from ourselves. While written rules, policies and pledges are important, the no nonsense understanding, respect and enforcement of the department policy is equally important.

Firefighter Brandon Wheeler, 29, was driving the rig to the building fire call around 1800 hours back on Nov. 14. At 33 mph, FF Wheeler tried to turn left onto an access road, but couldn't hold the corner and rolled it on its side. Airbags deployed and FF Robert Arranaga, 30, was trapped. Wheeler, 29, Captain Larry Schultz, 59, and FF Brad Phipps, 31, were uninjured. Cops said speeding caused the crash. Apparently a seat belt policy at the SAFD alone doesn't ensure compliance by some Firefighters and Officers, so the Chief disciplined the uninjured crew members.

Captain Schultz received the harshest punishment: a 60-day suspension because the truck and crew ultimately were his responsibility, as the supervisor. FF Wheeler was suspended for 45 days and Phipps for 5 days. Arranaga, a 1 year veteran whose first day at the station was the day of the crash, wasn't suspended as he followed his Captains example, and his injuries were punishment enough. In the days after Ladder 35's crash, Chief Hood took other steps. Seat belt drills now are required, drivers are getting additional training, and all 1,674 operations employees were ordered to go take a look at the demolished fire truck. The cab will be displayed at the training academy as a permanent reminder. **HERE is more:** <http://tinyurl.com/6j9lev8>

AND IN WATERBURY, CT: FF WIDOW ATTEMPTS TO SUE. FF's ATTEMPT TO SUE EACH OTHER.

Connecticut has made it impossible for the widow of a Firefighter killed in a responding Line of Duty apparatus crash in May of 2007, to sue the Firefighters driving the rigs. The court also ruled that the 2 Firefighters who were driving the rigs, cannot sue each other. A decision by CT Supreme Court yesterday affirmed rulings from lower courts that said Monica Keane, the widow of Captain John Keane, could not sue the Firefighters (Joseph Fischetti and William Mahoney) driving the 2 rigs that struck each other. The court also blocked a separate lawsuit by Mahoney and his wife, Erin, claiming negligence on the part of Keane or Fischetti. Truck 1, driven by Mahoney, and Engine 12, driven by Fischetti, collided on their way to a kitchen fire. Captain Keane, the highest ranking officer in the crew, was sitting next to Fischetti when the crash occurred. Cops determined that Fischetti and Keane were not wearing seat belts and that Fischetti ran a red light, failing to grant Mahoney the right of way.

Thought: Slow down so you get there, stop before blowing red lights/stop signs and belt in. Not a particularly new thought, but these 2 stories show how far (and how nasty) it can go, from FF's being unnecessarily critically injured and killed, to suspensions to "firefighter against firefighter" lawsuits. Damn.

Take Care, BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-11-11 / 0121 Hours

March 19, 2011

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42

AND:

MEDICAL LODD - FL

We regret to inform you of the Line of Duty Death of Captain James Von Roden of the Lee Community Volunteer Fire Department. On Saturday night March 12, 2011, while responding to the fire station, Captain Von Roden collapsed and was transported to the local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. At this time, arrangements are incomplete. Our sincere condolences to the family of Capt. Von Roden and his department.

MEDICAL LODD - MO

A Northeast Fire District EMT who collapsed while trying to resuscitate a man died Friday afternoon at Barnes-Jewish hospital in St. Louis. Scherese Bishop, 37, was one of four Northeast Ambulance and Fire Protection District members who responded . on March 3 to the Sav-A-Lot to treat a man after he collapsed. As Bishop was administering CPR on the man, she herself collapsed. Northeast Deputy Chief Quinten Randolph had said that when Bishop collapsed, she was without a pulse and that her co-workers attempted to resuscitate her while still trying to revive the man. She had last been reported in critical condition at the hospital. Bishop was hired by Northeast in August 2008 as a part-time EMT. She has a 9-year-old daughter and lived in the fire district. Our sincere condolences to her family and Northeast EMS and Fire District.

Take Care, BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-13-11 / 2040 Hours

AND:

(Note: Many of you have written asking the status of Japanese Firefighters. We have unconfirmed media reports of possibly 50 or more Japanese FF LODD's, but as stated, that's not confirmed. Our prayers go out to all affected by the earthquake, as well as for all the mutual aid USAR and related rescue teams operating. Our affiliate, Dave Statter, has some excellent USAR coverage at www.Statter911.com)

**POLICE OFFICER (Also an Active Volunteer Firefighter) KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY
Funeral Details Below**

While not a fire service LODD, a Nassau County (NY) Police Officer who was also an active member of the Selden (Suffolk County) NY Fire Department was killed in the Line of Duty Saturday in an incredibly horrific incident. NCPD Special Operations Officer Geoffrey Breitkopf, 40, was shot and killed by a Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA, railroad) Police Officer following a confrontation with knife-wielding man at a home. Police said that the tragic accident may have occurred because a man at the scene yelled 'gun' when he later saw Officer Breitkopf approaching with a rifle. While Officer Breitkopf was known to other NCPD cops at the scene, the 2 MTA Police Officers "didn't recognize who he was" and one of those MTA officers, Glen Gentile, shot and killed Officer Breitkopf. The tragic shooting came a reported 8 to 13 minutes after police had initially arrived at the Massapequa Park scene and came upon 21-year-old Anthony Digeronimo, who had knives strapped to his body and in his hands. Digeronimo ran into his parents' home, barricaded himself inside a bedroom before charging police with a knife. Police drew their weapons before shooting and killing Digeronimo.

Funeral Services for Officer Breitkopf will be held Wednesday and Thursday at the headquarters of the Selden FD, where the officer had been a Volunteer Firefighter for 14 years. His funeral mass will be held noon Friday at St. Margaret's of Scotland in Selden. Viewing services will be held Wednesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Police and fire services will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday. The Selden Fire headquarters is at 44 Woodmere Pl., Selden (link below). Officer

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Breitkopf had been a member of the NCPD Special Operations Unit for 7 years. During his 12 years on the NCPD, Breitkopf received 5 Command Recognitions, 4 Meritorious Police Service Awards and a Medal of Commendation. He was a member of SFD's Heavy Rescue Co. 4.

HERE is the SFD website <http://www.seldenfd.com/>

HERE is the NCPD website: <http://www.police.co.nassau.ny.us/>

Officer Breitkopf leaves behind his wife, Paula, and two young sons Owen, 3, and Connor, 6. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

IT HAS BEEN A VERY TOUGH COUPLE OF DAYS FOR POLICE OFFICERS IN OUR COUNTRY

=A New York City Police Officer was killed in Brooklyn yesterday morning. In an altercation, NYPD Officer Alain Schaberger fell 9 feet to his death during a domestic violence call. A suspect with a criminal history has been charged with 1st degree murder. The Officer was pushed over a railing, fell down a cement stairwell, broke his neck and died in the Line of Duty. Officer Schaberger, 42, was a nine-year member of the NYPD and was a decorated officer, having earned an Excellent Police Duty medal.

=In Virginia, 2 Sheriff's deputies died in the Line of Duty after being shot, and 2 other Deputies were critically wounded yesterday afternoon in Buchanan County in far southwestern Virginia. The four deputies were all shot by a single bad guy, who was later found dead. The first 2 Deputies to arrive were immediately shot and killed, and when backup arrived, they were shot as well. Deputies Cameron Neil Justus, 41, and William Ezra Stiltner, 46, both died in the Line of Duty. The deputies who were wounded were Wayne Rasnake, 32,, and Shane Earl Charles, 25. Rasnake remains in the intensive care unit at Bristol Regional Medical Center, while Charles is being treated at Holston Valley Medical Center in Kingsport, Tenn. Both are listed in critical condition. RIP.

The Long Island incident is the second time in 5 weeks a Nassau County Police Officer died in the Line of Duty. NCPD Highway Patrolman Michael J. Califano was killed in the Line of Duty when a trucker dozed off and slammed into the officer's stopped patrol car. The driver as arrested shortly after the crash on charges including criminally negligent homicide. it also comes 11 days after NCPD Officers killed a man who shot Firefighter/EMT Justin Angell, a 20-year-old in Bellmore, who had arrived to assist at the crash. FF Angell survived and has since been released from the hospital.

NOTE REGARDING POLICE OFFICER LINE OF DUTY DEATHS:

Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics save numerous Police Officers lives each year. According to our partner, Gordon Graham, this Country lost 285 cops in 1974 and 129 in 2009. And while the numbers are still tragic, that reduction in many cases is due to the rapid response of FF's and responders providing BLS and ALS to their Brothers and Sisters from the PD. Our sincere thanks to ALL who have made a difference, or attempted to save the lives of all Police Officers affected. **More HERE:** <http://www.odmp.org/>

NEW YORK EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The Spencerport Ambulance has released a statement about the Line of Duty Death of Russell Hogue who passed away Saturday. The funeral details are posted below from Spencerport Ambulance below. Thanks to Monroe County Fire Wire for the details. As always, our sincere condolences.

DETAILS HERE: <http://www.mcfw.com/?p=4659>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-11 / 1839 Hours

AND:

Hey,

Yesterday was the anniversary the Pittsburgh "Ebenezer Baptist Church" fire that killed Firefighter
March 19, 2011

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Richard A. Stefanakis, 51, and Battalion Chief Charles G. Brace, 55 in the Line of Duty. On March 13, 2004. PBF Firefighters had the church fire under control as the shell of the building steeple still stood, smoldering. Suddenly, FF's were trapped when the building's steeple completely collapsed within seconds, killing 2 of them. 29 Firefighters were also injured, 5 seriously as well as a backdraft that occurred earlier in the fire that injured an additional 6 Firefighters.

HERE is the NIOSH report w/photos: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200417.html>

And not far from Pittsburgh, Wednesday will mark the 30th anniversary of John G. Heidish Jr.'s, death in a dwelling fire in Penn Hills, Pa. John was a member of Penn Hills No. 1 (now Station 221). He was on the 2nd floor to vent at a house fire, the house was balloon frame. When some air got in there, the fire took off and cut off the stairwell. John assisted other FF's out but was unable to get out himself and died in the Line of Duty.

PHOTOS OF 2 FDNY LODD FIREFIGHTERS ARE IRRELEVANT?

Pics of 2 soot covered FDNY Firefighters killed in the former Deutsche Bank building were barred today as evidence in the manslaughter trial of 3 construction supervisors who face up to 15 years behind bars. A judge using questionable judgment ruled that pictures of FDNY Firefighters Robert Beddia and Joseph Graffagnino being carried out of the burning building shouldn't be shown to a jury since there's no question they died of smoke inhalation. "That is really inflammatory, excuse the word," defense lawyer Edward Little, who represents site safety manager Jeffrey Melofchik, said of the prosecution's pictures. "They're not relevant at all." WTF!? I guess they want to make sure the jury is kept as far away from the reality of these 2 Firefighters deaths as possible. **HERE** is more: <http://tinyurl.com/4kv58sc>

ATTENDING FDIC NEXT WEEK?

Still not sure!? OK, we'll help you decide. **Attend.** OK good, now, to do so, go to www.FDIC.com to register asap.

TRAVELING TO FDIC?

If you are driving from the Mid-Atlantic or Northeast, there is a very cool "firehouse" restaurant totally owned by Firefighters that you should stop at, right off I-70 in the Dayton, Ohio area. **Check out Company 7 BBQ:** <http://www.company7bbq.com/> - Englewood OH (I-70 Exit 29, OH State Route 48). Since many of you drive out for FDIC, we thought you would want to stop in at a joint owned by Firefighters. They will also be catering the outside events at FDIC from Thursday 3/24 through Saturday 3/26, and will be in the middle of State Street near the Combat Challenge, Outside Exhibits and Battle of the Bands stage. **A portion of all Co. 7 BBQ sales in Indy will be donated to the Ray Downey Courage and Valor Fund.**

The Annual STOP, DROP, ROCK & ROLL PARTY & AUCTION AT FDIC

Over the past eight years, Stop, Drop, Rock 'n' Roll has played an important part in helping us honor America's Fallen Firefighters. A \$15.00 donation at the door includes all of the music, fun, food (Buffet from 7 - 9 p.m.) and refreshments - and you will helping the programs of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. **This year, Stop, Drop, Rock 'n' Roll will be held during FDIC on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the historic Indiana Roof Ballroom. MORE DETAILS HERE:**

<http://www.stopdroprocknroll.com/about/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 3-14-11 / 2139 Hours

AND:

BELOVED FIRE CHIEF, FIRE INSTRUCTOR RAY HOFF PASSES AWAY

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Retired Battalion Chief Ray Hoff, Chicago Fire Department, nationally known Fire Instructor and former Chief of the Topinabee (Michigan) VFD very sadly passed away today. More information will be posted on our home page as it becomes available. The very much loved and popular Ray was a field instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute, is a veteran FDIC Instructor as well as being an independent instructor who absolutely loved teaching. Ray is a third generation Firefighter and is the Brother of Chicago Fire Commissioner Bob Hoff. Those who had the opportunity to be involved in any of his classes and programs not only gained a wealth of knowledge, but was treated to the entertainment of the absolute "best of the best" Chicago FD war stories. Ray spent over 40 years on the fire line and retired from the Chicago Fire Department as a Battalion Chief of the 4th Battalion. The movie Backdraft was loosely based on Ray and Bobby whose father, Chief Thomas Hoff died in the Line of Duty. Ray, as many will remember, was the first due Truck Company Officer at the infamous PAXTON HOTEL fire that killed over 20 people* Our condolences to the Hoff Family as well as all of Ray's family and friends throughout the world on the loss of a great guy who absolutely made a difference to so many. Rest In Peace.

***ABOUT The Paxton Hotel Fire in Chicago on March 23, 1993:**

First arriving CFD companies were, within moments, faced with residents hanging from windows on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors of the hotel. Residents on the 1st floors were trapped in their rooms due to burglar bars. Within minutes every ground ladder available was being thrown to rescue residents on the upper floors. Nearly all initial fire resources were focused on making rescues, and over 100 rescues were made

WATCH VIDEO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYEjatUwSf8>

BASIC DETAILS & VIDEO INFO:

HERE: <http://www.chicagofirevideo.com/products/paxton/details.html>

AND HERE: <http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/dc2142.shtml>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-15-11 / 2158 Hours

AND:

2 CANADIAN FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-COMMERICAL "DOLLAR STORE" FIRE

2 Listowel (North Perth, Ontario, Canada) Volunteer Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty at a fire that began in a Dollar Store in the SW Ontario town north of Stratford this afternoon. Just after 1530 hours, 2 Firefighters were unaccounted for, members searched the building and found the 2 missing Firefighters who were deceased. "It's tragic," said Jim Holmes, the head of the London Professional Firefighters Assoc: "They sacrificed their lives for the safety of their community." We will update as more details come in. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

EMS RELATED LODD:

OFFICER PROVIDING EMS DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FROM AN INFECTION AFTER GIVING A BABY MOUTH TO MOUTH RESUSCITATION

An Orange County (FL) Deputy Sheriff died in the Line of Duty from giving a baby mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After 11 years on the job, 40-year-old Deputy Sebastian Diana died last weekend in the line of duty. Deputy Diana responded to the 911 call (that happened 5 years ago) and was trying to save a 3-month-old baby's life by performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. He was one of 3 deputies who first arrived on the scene to find the mother screaming that her son was dead. The child didn't make it and Deputy Diana contracted the bacterial infection. He was sick off and on for the last few years until this weekend when he passed away. Fellow deputies say his heart stopped and an autopsy is being performed. **RIP.**

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR CHIEF RAY HOFF

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

46

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Memorial Services for retired Chicago Battalion Chief Ray Hoff will be held on March 26, 2011 at Holy Family Church. 1080 W. Roosevelt. Wake: 0900-1100 with services followed by a Mass at 1100 Hours. **More details HERE:**

<http://www.sfm.illinois.gov/Uploads/bbadc772-2562-450a-9d73-f8ca034061e2.pdf>

LODD REPORT: CAN "THEY" SEE US?

We Need To Act As If "They" Intentionally Want To Strike Us.

A lack of traffic warning devices contributed to the Line of Duty death of a Firefighter who was struck by a vehicle while directing traffic at the scene of a crash. Woolrich, Pa., Volunteer Fire Police Captain Donald Mellott died in the Line of Duty Feb. 12 last year after he was hit by a car while responding to a two-car crash. While Capt. Mellott's personal vehicle was parked nearby with a red mini-light bar activated and he placed both a flare and five 18-inch lime green traffic cones across the roadway, the report suggests additional signs could have helped alert drivers. Capt. Mellott had his back to oncoming traffic and was not wearing highly visible clothing or equipment, contributing to his death, according to the below NIOSH report,

HERE: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201006.html>

KANSAS FIREFIGHTER FIRED FOR PRANK FIRE IN THE FIREHOUSE

A Wichita Firefighter has been fired for setting a fire inside a firehouse. The Firefighter says it was a practical joke, but his bosses appear to disagree. The 7 year vet of the WFD was let go and 5 other firefighters were disciplined after he set fire inside Station 1. On January 12th, according to FF Jarrod Womack, he used lighter fluid to set a paper towel on fire in an upstairs shower. There was no damage, but a training exercise was going on at the firehouse at the time. Womack says it was all a practical joke, which he says is commonplace in the department. FF Womack told the media "I was wrongfully terminated. Some guys in upper management have done the same kind of thing more than once." His attorney will be filing a grievance against the city Friday, which will start a lengthy appeals process as he fights to get his job back.

TEXAS APPARATUS STRIKES WOMAN WHO WAS ALREADY DECEASED

A woman was hit early this morning and then inadvertently run over by fire apparatus that was headed to separate scene. It's still unclear exactly when she passed away. Neighbors say they believe the woman lived in a mobile home area less than a mile from where she was hit. The West Odessa VFD says they did drive over the woman accidentally and did not see her because it was so dark and she was wearing dark clothing. They said it's likely she had already been killed from when she was hit by the first vehicle.

NO DRIVERS LICENSE?

A Firefighter in Kamloops, B.C. has been fired after his bosses discovered he was driving fire apparatus while his licence was suspended. The firefighter received a 90-day administrative driving prohibition but didn't disclose it to the department, The FF reported for duty as usual, and then drove an emergency vehicle to respond to multiple emergency calls. The FF was suspended without pay earlier this week when it was discovered, and then fired today after an internal investigation.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-17-11 / 2022 Hours

AND:

HELP JAPAN FIREFIGHTERS: Fireman's Fund Heritage Program has advised us that for each new "like" of their **Facebook** page through March 24th, they'll **donate** 10 cents (up to \$5,000) to the Japan Firefighters Association. If you are a Facebooker, go

to: www.facebook.com/SupportingFirefighters and like'm. **Costs you nothing and it helps.** You can also donate \$, here: <http://tinyurl.com/64wosqk>

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

47

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NIGERIAN FF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-BURN INJURIES AT BRUSH FIRE

Firefighter Zubariu Sada of the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport Fire Department Nigeria has died in the Line of Duty. The fire that started at the airport killed, Zubairu FF Sada and injured 4 other firefighters. They were part of an airport firefighter crew who were entrapped as the fire spread toward the airport's two runways. Firefighter Sada and the other Firefighters were admitted to the Gamji Military Hospital. The fire, which was said to have started around 12PM yesterday lasted for two hours before it was brought under control by airport and Kano State firefighters, consumed a large part of the brush near the tarmac. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined, but witnesses said it started from brush burning activities near the eastern section of the airport. Strong winds reportedly pushed the fire. As always, our sincere condolences.

FINAL NIST REPORT:

The final report on 2007's Sofa Super Store fire has been released by NIST who used computer simulations to determine how the blaze spread through the massive furniture outlet, killing 9 Charleston Firefighters in the Line of Duty. This excellent technical report does not (and was not expected to) address fireground command, control and accountability. NIST said its final report was clarified and strengthened by comments agency officials received during an October visit to Charleston to review its draft findings. The revisions did not alter the study team's main findings.

HERE is the report:

http://www.nist.gov/el/fire_research/20110315_charleston.cfm

HERE is a media report:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/mar/16/final-sofa-super-store-fire-report-released>

THE IAFF FIGHTS BACK:

In an effort to provide the facts and fight lunacy related to some areas making or considering ridiculous cuts to their fire/EMS service budgets, the IAFF has created a webpage. There are numerous articles, resources and downloads available. **Check it out:** <http://www.iaffightingback.com/>

A CONFERENCE re: YOUR PPE.

The bi-annual PPE Symposium is an excellent series of outstanding presentations about the PPE (SCBA, bunker gear etc) that Firefighters wear and use daily. If you are involved in the specification of your FD's PPE-check this out or pass it along to whoever is responsible at your FD:

<http://fireppesymposium.com>

Taje Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-16-11 / 2200 Hours

AND:

UPDATE; 2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRE COLLAPSE

As reported earlier, 2 Canadian Volunteer Firefighters were killed Thursday afternoon as they operated at a fire in a commercial building. Just after 1530 hours, 2 Firefighters from the North Perth FD (Ontario, Canada) were reported missing inside the 1 story structure. Killed in the Line of Duty were 30-year-old FF Raymond Walter and 56-year-old Deputy District Fire Chief Kenneth Rea. Chief Rea was the Deputy District Chief for the Atwood station, one of 3 firehouses serving North Perth. Various reports are that the fire began on the roof of the building, where roofing work may have been taking place. The store was open for business at the time, and witnesses said somebody went inside to warn the occupants that the building was on fire-and saw smoke coming through the ceiling. By around 1600, the fire was through the roof and thick, black smoke was pouring from the structure. The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office was at the scene last night, working with building experts to evaluate the building and come up with a plan to recover the bodies of the fallen Firefighters. We have
March 19, 2011 www.chabotfire.com 48

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

posted some photos of the fire on our home page. More to follow. **HERE** is the NPFD Website:
<http://www.northperthfireservice.ca/>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 3-18-11 / 0219 Hours

AND

Hey,
2 Tempe (AZ) Firefighters were injured from a smoke explosion at a house fire this afternoon around 1430 hours. As TFD Firefighters were in front of the house getting their gear on, a large "smoke" explosion occurred on the east side of the dwelling. 1 Firefighter suffered serious burns to his head, ear and hand and was taken to a hospital burn unit and a 2nd Firefighter suffered some kind of knee injury when the explosion occurred and was taken to the hospital. We'll post more details on our home page.

UPDATE ON THE 2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN ONTARIO, CANADA

(See Below Story As Yesterdays Fire Fell On Another Infamous Date For Firefighters)

Around 1430 this afternoon, nearly 23 hours after the fire broke out at the Dollar Stop, the bodies of North Perth/Listowel FF Raymond Walter, 30, and Deputy District Chief Kenneth Rea, 56, were removed and transported by hearse. Chief Rea was married with adult children, was a volunteer firefighter since the 70's and FF Walter was married a year ago, and had 4 years as a FF. Several firefighters were inside the Dollar Stop building doing a "primary" search to ensure no one was inside when the roof collapsed, trapping the 2 Firefighters who were found dead a few hours later. No details are yet available on funeral arrangements.

YESTERDAYS FIRE OCCURED ON THE EXACT SAME DATE THAT 2 OTHER CANADIAN FIREFIGHTERS DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

March 17 , 2005 in Yellowknife, N.W.T. (Canada) FF Kevin Olson, 24, and Lieut. Cyril Fyfe, 41, were both killed in the Line of Duty. FF Olson, a rookie with Yellowknife, was from Calgary, Alta., and had been recently hired by Yellowknife. The two were part of a crew called to a fire at a hardware store about 7 a.m. on St. Patrick's Day. They were inside with an attack line battling a fire in a small shed attached to the store, where lumber was cut. Another crew was up on the snow-covered roof working at ventilation when the roof caved in on top of Fyfe and Olson. The Firefighters who were on the roof when it collapsed managed to get out safely without serious injuries. Both Olson and Fyfe were rescued from the shed and transported. Olson died that day of injuries sustained in the collapse. Fyfe was seriously injured and placed on life support and then died Monday, March 21, 2005.

THAT FIRE LEAD TO CHARGES against the City and Fire Command Officers, details **HERE:**

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/27585>

MORE HERE:

<http://www.firehall.com/forum/showthread.php?threadid=6503>

TODAY IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF A FIRE THAT KILLED 2 VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS:

Today is the 15th Anniversary of the Advanced Auto fire in Chesapeake that killed Chesapeake Firefighters John Hudgins and Frank Young in the Line of Duty. Chesapeake Fire Chief-1 did a memorial tribute to FFs Frank Young and John Hudgins over the radio this morning @ 11:15 hours.

WHAT HAPPENED:

On March 18, 1996, the above 2 Firefighters were killed when they became trapped by a rapidly spreading fire in the auto parts store and a pre-engineered wood truss roof collapsed on them. The cause of the fire was an electrical short created when a power company truck working in the rear of the building drove away with its boom in an elevated position, pulling an electrical feed line from the main breaker panel at the rear of the store. This was another LODD illustrating the rapid failure of lightweight construction systems when key support components are involved in a fire. It points out the

March 19, 2011

www.chabotfire.com

49

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

importance of pre fire planning and thorough size up by fire companies to determine the risk factors associated with a fire. This fire provided lessons regarding the critical importance of initial company actions, constant re-evaluation of tactical action plans, strong command, control, accountability and coordination of units on the fireground

HERE IS THE FIRE REPORT: http://www.interfire.org/res_file/pdf/Tr-087.pdf

HERE IS THE RADIO TRIBUTE: http://members.cox.net/bjrueger/Stuff/hudgins_young.wav

THE MAYOR:

WHILE WE KNOW "THE WORLD HAS GONE NUTS" LATELY, HERE IS ANOTHER "AWARD WINNING" EXAMPLE:

West Cape May (NJ) Mayor Pamela Kaithern would like the West Cape May VFD to become completely self-supporting through "creative fund raising" on their own. "**How great would it be if we could support the fire company and not have it come out of tax dollars?**" ... "**That really is my goal.**" She noted the Environmental Commission and ever critical Shade Tree Commission support themselves through the farmer's market. "I think we can do that with the fire company, too," said Mayor Kaithern, and then she topped it off with: "We want to help them any way we can."

MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/6cyunem>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

SAFE TRAVELS TO ALL HEADING TO INDY FOR FDIC, Seeya There.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-18-11 / 2317 Hours

AND:

Hey,

2 PA. Firefighters are in the hospital after a fire in a Franklin County mobile home early this morning. Around 0245 Hours they arrived with a working mobile home fire. 5 Firefighters went inside to hit the fire and 3 members of the Franklin Fire Company, Station 4, were burned when it reportedly flashed on them. All 3 were initially taken to Chambersburg Hospital. 1 of the injured Firefighters was treated and released. 1 Firefighter received significant serious burns and was flown to Baltimore, and 1 Firefighter suffered serious hand/wrist injuries, and was taken to Lehigh in PA.

MARYLAND FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY INJURED

A fire in a 3 story apartment building left 2 Firefighters injured. Yesterday morning, while Howard County FF's were enroute, a large column of smoke was seen and a fire task force was requested; a request for a second alarm and other units quickly followed. 1 Firefighter was transported to Howard County General with minor injuries; but a 2nd Firefighter suffered serious hand injuries and was transported to Union Memorial Hospital's hand center. **PHOTOS HERE:**

<http://howardfire.net/2011/03/18/apartment-fire-in-columbia-injures-2-firefighters/>

UPDATE: PEORIA FIREFIGHTER SERIOUSLY BURNED

PFD FF Blaise Steffen was released from Springfield Memorial Burn Center Thursday after surgeons declared the grafts a success. They had to graft to his underarms, lower back and left hand. The prognosis is very good. They expect 2-3 months of therapy before he will be released to "Altered Duty". They attribute his survival to proper and complete use of his PPE.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-19-11 / 1417 Hours

AND:

6 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WILDLAND HELICOPTER CRASH

We regret to advise you that 6 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty and 1 Firefighter was injured in eastern Spain this afternoon when their helicopter crashed as they were responding to a fire. The crash occurred near the town of Teruel in the Aragon region, east of Madrid but the cause of the crash was not immediately clear. 1 Firefighter survived and is in the hospital with a cranial fracture and numerous fractures. The Firefighters were part of the airborne fire service of the Aragon government. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 3-19-11 / 1549 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:

Police and firefighters in Scottsdale (AZ) are joining forces in an effort to save the city money. The city is planning to combine its police and fire departments into one new public safety department. According to Scottsdale's city manager, administrative staff from the two departments will be combined as much as possible:

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/Scottsdale-police-fire-departments-merging-to-save-money-116592603.html>

Five weeks after Camden (NJ) laid off a third of its firefighters, the shock waves are reverberating outside city lines. Camden's fire department was cut to such bare bones that a structure fire on any given day requires all seven companies to respond, leaving none to attend to any other fire or rescue emergencies in the city. Suburban fire companies - most staffed by volunteers - are filling the void in the densely populated, nine-square-mile city:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20110222_Camden_feels_the_effects_of_Fire_Department_layoffs.html

Firefighters in Allen Park (MI) this morning were still reeling over news that the city council voted to issue layoff notices to nearly the entire department. The notices to the department's 27 firefighters are to be issued today and would take effect in 30 days, although Mayor Gary Burtka said he's "hoping to negotiate to avoid that." "The city is doing everything within its power to not lay off firefighters," Waidelich said. "It's just the economy." The city's 2010-2011 budget was originally projected to break even, with \$21 million in revenue to cover \$20.7 million in expenses, Waidelich said. But falling property tax revenues and residents' failure to pay taxes and emergency medical service bills has contributed to a \$1 million shortfall, he said: <http://www.freep.com/article/20110223/NEWS02/110223020/1004/Allen-Park-fire-department-still-reeling-over-layoff-news>

Eliminating nine vacant Salinas (CA) firefighter jobs to help balance the city's budget has fallen flat, as soaring overtime costs canceled out the savings, a new report shows. Amid the void in savings, paying for overtime, however, remains a better option than hiring new firefighters — at least for now, said interim Fire Chief Jesse Piñon:

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/article/20110301/NEWS01/103010312/Salinas-Fire-s-overtime-costs-undo-savings?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

The Sacramento (CA) area's two fire departments, Sacramento Fire Department and Sacramento Metro Fire District have been awarded more than \$11 million in federal funds to hire firefighters and in the case of the Sac Fire, restore two fire engine companies. Sac Fire is to receive \$5,606,864 in Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant monies, the office of Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, announced Wednesday. That will allow the department to hire 27 firefighters in addition to restoring two browned-out companies. The department began rotating fire company brown-outs in July 2008 due to budget cuts. Sac Metro was awarded \$5,470,824 to hire 24 firefighters:

<http://www.news10.net/news/story.aspx?storyid=124566&catid=2>

Charter amendment would roll back some Los Angeles (CA) police and fire pension benefits:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-election-pension-20110228,0,4620950.story>

The Hemet (CA) Fire Department is also getting an in-depth analysis. On the heels of retaining a consultant to analyze the Hemet Police Department and decide whether keeping its own department is in the financially strapped city's best interest, the city also is planning a thorough efficiency analysis of its fire services. City Manager Brian Nakamura said the city is seeking a qualified consultant to provide a detailed overview of the Hemet Fire Department to ensure the department is being run as efficiently as possible:

http://www.pe.com/localnews/hemet/stories/PE_News_Local_D_efire27.26aed42.html

Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval wants a separate retirement system for new hires that will rely more on employee contributions and limit long-term state pension liability, administration officials said Monday:

<http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/article/20110301/NEWS/110309995/1055&ParentProfile=1045>

Cops vs Teachers and/or Firefighters: Who's Worth More in Tight Times? Cash-Strapped States Are Having to Decide Which Public Employees Matter Most. Are some public-sector workers more equal than others? Are cops and firemen more deserving of public money, say, than file clerks? Than prison guards? Than librarians or hospital orderlies?

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/firemen-cops-versus-teachers-nurses-state-budget-crises/story?id=13003968>

Concerned that a significant chunk of Los Angeles' (CA) budget is going to employees who no longer work for the city, the mayor laid out a plan today to cut back on retiree healthcare and pensions. At a City Hall news conference, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa called for: -- rejecting a proposed increase in healthcare subsidies for sworn police and firefighters, which the Board of Fire and Police Pension Commissioners is expected to vote on Thursday; -- preventing both sworn and civilian employees from receiving more than current healthcare subsidies when they retire, and having them contribute 2 percent of their salary toward their post-employment healthcare; and -- scaling back the benefits of future civilian employees by raising the retirement age to 65; raising employee pension contributions from 7 percent to 11 percent; and reducing their maximum pension benefit from 100 percent of their final salary to 75 percent of their final salary:

<http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/la-mayor-calls-for-changes-in-retiree-benefits-20110302>

After nine months of stalemate in labor negotiations, the city of St. Louis (MO) will lay off 30 firefighters, the office of Mayor Francis Slay said late Monday, one of the few Fire Department layoffs in city history. In addition, said chief of staff Jeff Rainford, the city will cut 24 more positions through attrition, bringing the cuts to nearly 10 percent of the department's 600 firefighters:

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_bdd20e68-d7fb-553d-b5b8-2a963a040eda.html

The Fairfield (CA) City Council has decided to postpone a scheduled vote on the proposed 2011-2012 budget and look for alternative ways to balance their \$7 million shortfall. The proposed budget would mean eliminating the fire department's sixth company:

<http://www.kcra.com/mostpopular/27112192/detail.html>

Three-person fire crews, possible ambulance service in south Washoe Valley (NV) and efforts to build a station, move two stations and close a station are pieces of a puzzle to contend with shrinking tax dollars and provide better fire service south of Reno:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110306/NEWS/103060384/-1/TT>

In one last effort to save four firefighter jobs, the Reno (NV) City Council on Wednesday asked the city fire union remove conditions from \$160,447 in concessions. Local 731 of the International Association of Fire Fighters has agreed to give up a uniform allowance and holiday premium pay for working Memorial Day in exchange for the rehiring of four of 36 firefighters laid off March 1. The union's 250 members agreed to give up a \$375 uniform allowance, saving the city \$93,999 and holiday premium pay equal to a \$66,448 for working Memorial Day. That would save the four jobs through June 30. But in its offer, the union wanted a guarantee the money would be used only to keep the four on the job. Otherwise, the money was to be returned. With Nevada Legislature in session and possibly grabbing city funds, council members said can't agree to that. "We have an legal obligation to balance the budget," Councilwoman Jessica Sferrazza said:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110309/NEWS/110309060/-1/CARSON/Reno-union-still-trying-to-save-4-firefighter-jobs>

San Carlos (CA) weighs splitting fire crews into smaller teams. A proposal to send firefighters to medical calls in smaller SUV-type vehicles rather than fire engines could help trim emergency services costs, but firefighters say response times to fires could suffer. As part of a redesign of its fire service, San Carlos is considering a practice known as "cross-staffing," in which two firefighters would respond to a medical emergency in a light rescue vehicle, leaving two others back at the station:

http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/bay-area/2011/03/san-carlos-weighs-splitting-fire-crews-smaller-teams?utm_source=feedburner+sfexaminer%2FLocal&utm_medium=feed+Local+News&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sfexaminer%2FLocal+%28Local+News%29feed&utm_content=feed&utm_term=feed

The fight over costly public pensions is raging across the country, but voters in the heavily Democratic city of Los Angeles (CA) quietly rolled back retirement pay for future police officers and firefighters this week with no opposition from labor. The changes approved by voters Tuesday are modest in a financially ailing city where the taxpayer bill for its retirees could double by 2015 _ it applies only to police officers and firefighters hired after July 1. Its easy passage in a light-turnout election was a stark contrast with the battleground of Wisconsin, where Gov. Scott Walker has worked to strip most public workers of their collective bargaining rights. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa wants to boost the retirement age for civilian employees, then provide less generous pension benefits compared to today's retirees, and informal talks are under way to get police and firefighters now on the payroll to kick in for spiraling retiree health costs. "We are in a situation where we cannot afford the benefits we are currently providing, so we have a choice," says Deputy Mayor Matt Szabo. "We can either reduce the benefits or work with our employees to figure out a way to pay for them."

http://www.lompocrecord.com/news/state-and-regional/article_0687e2ee-b828-5618-afa0-a22c7d04e7b3.html

Saying it makes no sense "to do life support on a ghost," Washoe County (NV) Commission Chairman John Breternitz called for regionalizing fire districts in the county, a call that was

echoed by other commissioners Tuesday night. "We all know Sierra Fire and Truckee Meadows are not sustainable," Breternitz said of their declining property taxes due to the recession. "Give us some ideas not limited by current boundaries," he said to county fire officials. "I'm looking for a solution. We are still in the same box when I was first elected a couple of years ago." Sierra Fire and Truckee Meadows fire districts could merge. If Reno Fire Department is added, Commissioner David Humke said the city should provide a dedicated property tax for a regional district just as Sierra and Truckee Meadows do:

<http://www.rji.com/article/20110308/NEWS/110308055/-1/FALLON03/Leaders-consider-regional-fire-districts-in-Washoe-County>

Washington's chief economist Thursday delivered the bad news everyone expected: Tax collections are down, pushing the state's projected budget deficit above \$5 billion. Now lawmakers must erase it, a task they've been dreading, and the governor warned it must be done without any fiscal gimmickry. "This must be a year of decision, not deferral," she said. "The size of the shortfall means we cannot trim our way out of it. We are going to have to make cuts and they will be felt everywhere throughout the state." Arun Raha, executive director of the Economic Revenue and Forecast Council, predicted Thursday the state will take in \$780 million less in revenue through mid-2013. That widens a hole in the current budget and pushes the projected shortfall in the next one above \$5 billion:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110317/NEWS01/703189955/-1/BLOG08>

After years of exemption from budget cuts, the Stockton (CA) Fire Department is facing a \$19 million cut this year and city hall now faces the prospect of shutting down several fire stations. Stockton City Hall is proposing eliminating one firefighter on each truck crew and station crew, bringing daily staffing down from 70 firefighters to 42. The city is also looking at closing Truck Company 3 at First Street, Engine Company 1 at Fresno Ave., Engine Co. 6 in Victory Park, and Engine Co. 7 at Hammer Lane:

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=128952&provider=top>

Costa Mesa (CA) has sent layoff notices to nearly half of its employees in a dramatic austerity program being closely watched by other cities struggling with ballooning pension obligations. The six-month termination notices affect 213 of the city's 472 full-time employees and cut across departments: firefighters, maintenance workers, jail staff, even dogcatchers. Costa Mesa is among hundreds of local governments around the country facing massive future shortfalls in what they owe retirees. This year's tab — \$15 million out of the city's \$93-million budget — is estimated to grow to more than \$25 million within five years:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-costa-mesa-cuts-20110318-1,0,2888208,full.story>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

Departed Cedar Rapids (IA) Fire Chief Stephen Reid, who abruptly “retired” Wednesday without notice, says he left for good reasons. Reid, 59, said on Monday that he decided to call it quits after just nine months on the job because the City Council and City Manager Jeff Pomeranz were not supporting the day-to-day operation of the Fire Department in the way that he had wanted for training, equipment purchases and college tuition reimbursement for firefighters. At one point in Monday’s interview, Reid played off the city of Cedar Rapids’ moniker, the City of Five Seasons, and said Cedar Rapids was the city of five letters when it came to supporting fundamental needs of its firefighters — “C.H.E.A.P.”

<http://thegazette.com/2011/02/22/former-c-r-fire-chief-cites-frustrations-for-leaving/>

Former Los Angeles (CA) fire Capt. David Del Toro was convicted today of murdering an acquaintance in a drunken rage that prosecutors said led to "some of the most violent acts that a human being can inflict on other people." Del Toro, a 23-year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department, was convicted of second-degree murder in the strangulation of 42-year-old acquaintance Jennifer Flores in 2006:

http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_17634350

Pittsburgh (PA) Fire Chief Darryl Jones wants to fire a department lieutenant who was charged with drunken driving for a third time. East Pittsburgh police filed the most recent charge against Stephen Jasper, 39, of Lincoln-Lemington after stopping him Saturday for making an illegal turn on Route 30, according to a criminal complaint. He was charged when he failed field sobriety tests and a breath test, the complaint states. Jasper, a 13-year veteran now in a treatment facility, was under suspension for a DUI charge filed in January, Jones said. That charge violated part of an agreement he signed to abstain from drugs and alcohol for a year after a DUI charge filed last February, Jones said: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/975962-Pittsburgh-fire-lieutenant-could-lose-job-over-3rd-DUI/>

Two high-ranking officials at the Orange County (CA) Employees Retirement System have been placed on paid leave in connection with a \$228 million mistake that has resulted in multi-million dollar pension catch-up bills for agencies countywide. In particular, the Orange County Fire Authority has been handed a catch-up bill of \$76 million – the amount of contributions that went uncollected for eight years for “special pay” stipends for paramedics, EMT’s, and others with specialized jobs: <http://taxdollars.ocregister.com/2011/02/24/228-million-error-has-county-pension-officials-on-the-hot-seat/76311/>

Less than two weeks after Joe Piccinini was reinstated in a 3-2 vote of the governing board for the Central Calaveras (CA) Fire Rescue and Protection District, the embattled fire chief is once again looking for work. Piccinini was "let go" Tuesday as the district's full-time fire chief and his volunteer assistant chief, Jeff Stone, was hired as the district's new part-time interim chief, according to minutes of a special closed-session meeting. Piccinini quit amid swirling controversy surrounding the release of a Shasta County prosecutor's report stating that he should have faced prosecution on at least three charges had not state time limits for filing such charges run out: <http://www.redding.com/news/2011/feb/25/fire-chief-out-of-job/>

Facebook claims another firefighter’s job. Bourne (MA) Fire Department’s Richard Doherty fired over posting:

<http://statter911.com/2011/02/25/facebook-claims-another-firefighters-job-bourne-fire-departments-richard-doherty-fired-over-posting/>

Resignations from Hamilton, Virginia firefighter charged with DUI & others as five volunteer firefighters said to be on a joyride after a night of drinking:

<http://statter911.com/2011/03/06/virginia-volunteer-charged-with-drunk-driving-group-on-a-fire-engine-joyride/>

Hardball negotiations to save four to six laid-off Reno (NV) firefighters might have come to an end Thursday after fire union leadership refused to take contract changes proposed by the Reno City Council to the membership for a vote. Council members said the changes sought would have saved about \$500,000 in overtime expenses in scheduling vacations and allowed more stations to be open in relaxing another rule on the amount of time to assemble fire crews. If the union had agreed to the concessions, the City Council was willing to rehire six of 36 firefighters laid off Tuesday to balance this year's budget. That would include concessions by the fire union to give up uniform allowances and holiday premium pay for Memorial Day, totaling \$160,447 to save four jobs:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110303/NEWS/303030002/-1/CARSON/Reno-firefighter-union-won-t-take-proposed-contract-changes-to-membership>

Las Vegas (NV) city firefighters make too much money and new city employees should receive lower starting pay and benefits than their predecessors did, according to most voters who took a recent Las Vegas Review-Journal/8NewsNow poll. The results drew mixed responses from mayoral candidates and union leaders, who seemed divided about whether employees had given up enough or could concede more in tough budgetary times:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/las-vegas-city-firefighters-make-too-much-money-according-to-new-poll-117562268.html>

A former fire chief in two North Shore (MA) towns pleaded guilty yesterday to submitting false EMT training records for classes he never conducted, and then lying about it to a grand jury. "I'm sorry I did it. It was a stupid thing to do," former Middleton and Ipswich fire Chief Henry Michalski Jr., 63, told a Salem Superior Court judge as he pleaded guilty to perjury, two counts of attempted obstruction of justice and six counts of violating the state emergency service laws: <http://www.salemnews.com/local/x977544155/Ex-chief-admits-to-false-records>

Pittsburgh (PA) fire Chief Darryl Jones declined comment yesterday on the arrests of two city firefighters in separate incidents over the weekend. Nicholas Florian, 24, of Beechview and his brother were arrested early Saturday on charges of beating up a man in the South Side. Nicholas Florian was charged with aggravated assault and released after posting a \$10,000 bond. Erik Vater, 40, of Westwood was arrested late Friday in Green Tree and charged with driving under the influence and careless driving. With these cases, at least nine city firefighters have been arrested on various charges in the past 14 months:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/988259-2-pittsburgh-firefighters-arrested-in-separate-incidents/>

Dennis Kessler walked into a Las Vegas (NV) supermarket wearing his old firefighter T-shirt from St. Paul, Minn., and drew a scornful glare from a woman. She asked him if he was one of the sick leave abusers. It didn't matter that Kessler, a retired captain, worked on fire crews thousands of miles removed from the sick leave scandal engulfing Clark County firefighters. His T-shirt tagged him as a firefighter, making him a target:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-getting-cold-shoulder-117893074.html>

A Memphis (TN) firefighter is off the job after claims surfaced he was stealing city equipment and selling it on eBay. According to city records, Carlos Dease sold more than \$40,000 worth of fire department gear on eBay in the last five years. According to the investigative files, several times after Dease was sent to a fire house to fill in, equipment turned up missing. Shortly thereafter equipment similar to the missing items appeared on eBay for sale by Dease. Dease denied stealing equipment but did admit to dumpster diving in fire department dumpsters: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/993402-Tenn-firefighter-fired-after-selling-fire-gear-on-eBay/>

If Reno (NV) firefighters got to their fire trucks quicker at the station and if delays in dispatching calls were eliminated, fire rigs could get to the scene faster. Reno firefighters take up to 2 minutes 22 seconds, 85 percent of the time, to hop on their fire trucks and get moving after being dispatched. That's twice as long as the national standard of 60 seconds. Dispatchers also might be spending much longer on the phones than national standards:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110315/NEWS/103150328>

Money managers have paid more than \$180 million to middlemen as a way to gain investment business from the nation's largest public pension (CAL PERS) fund, and at least some of those costs likely ended up being paid by the fund itself through inflated fees. That's among the findings in a 56-page report to be presented Tuesday to the board of the California Public Employees' Retirement System. The review, released to reporters late Monday, is part of the fund's investigation into alleged wrongdoing by former officials:

<http://www.cbs8.com/Global/story.asp?S=14251364>

The North Carolina Department of Labor on Friday proposed a total of \$81,300 in fines against the High Point Fire Department for 16 alleged serious violations of the state's Occupational Safety and Health Act. The alleged violations relate to deficiencies with firefighters' training, equipment and safety that were uncovered by OSHA inspectors, who launched an investigation in response to firefighter complaints in September 2010:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/north-carolina-fire-department-hit-osa-fines>

No one questions the value of firefighters. They are routinely called upon to do unpleasant and dangerous work, from retrieving body parts from car crashes to entering burning buildings. They save lives, often at the risk of their own. But other public servants provide valuable service as well, such as police officers and teachers. In the current economic downturn, police, teachers and even firefighters have had to sacrifice, absorbing big pay cuts, layoffs and furloughs. But despite the worst government fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, firefighters at one district in the Sacramento (CA) region continue to rake in extraordinarily generous paychecks. In 2009, 13 employees of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District earned more than \$200,000 a year; another 125 earned more than \$150,000. The average firefighter in that suburban Sacramento district earned an eye-popping \$122,321 annually. That's \$32,000 more than the average pay for Sacramento city firefighters – \$90,142, itself not a bad wag:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/03/13/3469224/sac-metro-salaries-are-a-disgrace.html#ixzz1GXyegae5>

A panel of Pittsburgh (PA) firefighters on Thursday fired a lieutenant accused of drunken driving three times in the past 13 months. Fire Chief Darryl Jones said Stephen M. Jasper of Lincoln-Lemington pleaded guilty to several departmental charges, including conduct unbecoming an officer, disobedience to laws and regulations, and insubordination. "I believe the trial board recognizes that enough is enough," Jones said. "We need to make a statement that this will not be tolerated."

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_727983.html

Positive Public Relations Items:

The Make-A-Wish Foundation helped Utah firefighters go bald for a good cause Thursday. According to the Unified Fire Authority, more than 90 people -- including firefighters and citizens -- gathered at Tangles Hair Salon in Salt Lake City to shave their heads. Make-A-Wish receives donations for every video and photo, and received \$36,000 in donations:

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=14595961>

Within his first few weeks as the new Scottsdale (AZ) assistant fire chief, Terry Welker helped bring in a \$150,000 grant for firefighter overtime in Scottsdale. Unlike other grants that require matching funds, "there were no strings attached other than to use for firefighter overtime," Welker said. The grant helped fire crews keep appropriate staffing levels in situations such as when a firefighter is deployed on military leave and the position has to be backfilled, he said: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/scottsdale/articles/2011/02/24/20110224scottsdale-assistant-fire-chief-pulls-grant-pay-overtime.html>

Four Reno (NV) firefighters laid off Tuesday could be rehired today if the Reno City Council and the firefighters' union come to an agreement on concessions offered by the union. To put four of 36 laid-off firefighters back to work, members of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 731 has agreed to give up a \$375 uniform allowance, saving the city \$93,999, and holiday premium pay equal to a \$66,448 for working Memorial Day. That would save the four jobs through June 30. The council reviewed that agreement on Monday. Members said they want to save the jobs but cannot have their hands tied by a provision calling for firefighters to be reimbursed if the city should lay off any more firefighters between now and June 30: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110302/NEWS/103020419/1007/news04>

Under the dust and the bravado of what some would describe as a crusty and cantankerous man is one of the Payson (AZ) Fire Department's finest. "While these descriptions may fit on occasion, they do no justice to the truth of this firefighter's character," said PFD Battalion Chief Dan Bramble. "If you need help, Sam is the guy you want coming. He is the can-do and go-to guy." On Wednesday, Capt. Sam Mays was honored as Payson's firefighter of the year: <http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2011/mar/01/top-firefighter-cop-honored/>

Labor negotiations covering more than 5,000 San Jose (CA) city employees seem to be a little less contentious this time around, as a number of unions have signaled their willingness to make concessions. That includes the San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230, as Union President Jeff Welch has told the city council that he wants to get a deal done "It's a 10 percent total compensation reduction in an ongoing manner, a reduction in minimum staffing, a second-tier retirement for new employees and an opt-in second-tier for active employees," said Welch: <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2011/03/01/unions-san-jose-making-progress-in-labor-negotiations/>

Dozens of people in Minnesota perform CPR for 96 minutes to save one heart attack victim. What makes the incident even more striking was that it took place in rural Goodhue, pop. about 900, a town without a traffic light. "It's remarkable," says Bruce Wilkoff, a Cleveland Clinic heart rhythm specialist. "It's a great example of people doing the right thing and having it work out." <http://yourlife.usatoday.com/mind-soul/doing-good/story/2011/03/Dozens-of-people-perform-CPR-to-save-one-heart-attack-victim/44427376/1>

San Jose (CA) officials Thursday announced a tentative deal in which city firefighters would agree to cut their pay and benefits 10 percent for the next two years to reduce the need for layoffs in the thinly staffed department. The deal requires ratification from the city's 647 firefighters over the weekend and City Council approval Tuesday. But it makes firefighters the first among San Jose's 11 employee unions to reach a deal on the 10 percent cuts Mayor Chuck Reed and the council have sought to help close a \$105.4 million deficit in the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. "Firefighters are making significant sacrifices every day on the streets, and they're making sacrifices again at the bargaining table," said Fire Capt. Jeff Welch, president of the San Jose Firefighters union. "We're really happy. The city and firefighters came to the table and made a deal to save firefighters' jobs and keep the public safe." http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci_17535180?nclick_check=1

It took all of 20 minutes this morning for a traffic court judge to dismiss a ticket against North Merrick (NY) Fire Chief James Allen that a state trooper issued on the Meadowbrook Parkway on Jan. 26. The trooper slapped Allen with the citation after he refused to move his emergency vehicle at an accident scene, believing that doing so would create unsafe working conditions for his volunteers. The trooper wanted the vehicle moved to free up a lane of the parkway amid a heavy snowstorm: <http://www.liherald.com/merrick/merrick/stories/Case-dismissed-against-fire-chief-slapped-with-ticket,31199>

There are lots of ways to be heroes, including agreeing to take a pay cut to keep more firefighters on the job. 95 percent of union members who voted on the deal over the weekend said yes. Mayor Chuck Reed and the San Jose City Council on Tuesday are sure to approve the contract with a 10 percent pay cut and other operational savings that could be even more important in the long run. Until now, the fire union has stood in stark contrast to police officers, who have reached agreements over the years when firefighters went to arbitration. The police officers' association made concessions last year that prevented layoffs in their department, while 49 firefighters lost their jobs. A number of factors no doubt led to this shift for fire. One had to be the overwhelming public vote last fall supporting measures on arbitration and pension reform, both strenuously opposed by police and firefighters. Ironically, Reed floated those measures partly because of firefighters' resistance to compromise on contracts. But the main thing that has changed in the fire union is leadership. Under the previous president, Randy Sekany, the union filed endless grievances -- including one over the city's right to ban pornography in the workplace -- and sometimes barely bothered to negotiate before going to arbitration. Now fire Capt. Jeff Welch heads the union, and the difference is night and day. With his leadership, firefighters have faced up to the reality of city finances, set aside their resentment of various slights, real and imagined, and have become part of the solution to city problems. Beyond this specific agreement, the union has committed to achieving pension reform and is working with Fire Chief Willie McDonald to secure a federal grant preserving more firefighter jobs:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17559272?nclick_check=1

With two weeks left to collect donations, the Forest Grove (OR) Fire & Rescue stairclimb team has already surpassed its fundraising goal by hundreds of dollars. The team of 15 firefighters traveled to Seattle on March 6 to participate in the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb benefiting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. They hoped to raise a modest \$4,000, but as of Friday, donations had already surpassed \$4,600:

http://www.oregonlive.com/forest-grove/index.ssf/2011/03/forest_grove_firefighters_surpass_fundraising_goal_conquer_columbia_center_in_seattle_stairclimb.html

In a heart attack, every second counts. A gift from the Salt Lake City (UT) Fire Department means patients of the Fourth Street Clinic experiencing heart attacks will get treatment sooner. The clinic received a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) from firefighters last week, along with training on how to use the device, which uses a jolt of electricity to restart the heart. The clinic's existing AED was about 14 years old, said Fire Capt. Michael Harp, and could not deliver the same level of care in a cardiac event:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/neighborhoodcity/51413956-135/clinic-patients-care-hyvonen.html.csp>

Colton (CA) Firefighters' take-home pay will decrease by 9 percent as they begin paying their share of retirement benefits under a package of concessions the City Council approved Tuesday evening. They also gave up a 6.5 percent raise they had earlier deferred, delayed by five years the age at which new employees will receive full retirement benefits and accepted other concessions that city staff estimate will save \$185,455 this fiscal year and \$1,019,963 in Fiscal Year 2012-2013: http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_17622112

Reno (NV) firefighters have agreed to concessions that will bring four laid-off firefighters back to work through June 30. In a statement issued Tuesday by Local 731 of the International Association of Fire Fighters, the 244-member union has agreed to forego a uniform allowance of \$93,000 owed for the current fiscal year and to waive \$66,448 in premium holiday pay for Memorial Day to raise money to bring back four laid-off firefighters. The agreement is subject to ratification by the union and the Reno City Council. Dennis Jacobsen, union president, said the membership voted overwhelming in support. "This is another positive step in the concerted effort to increase the level of service delivered to the citizens of the city of Reno and the Truckee Meadows," he said: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110316/NEWS/103160347>

Firefighter Kevin Oldham was supposed to make the trip with Lorenzo Abundiz down to Orange County (CA), where Oldham was to tell colleagues about his fight with pancreatic cancer. The Orange County Fire Authority station was to be one of the first stops in the 20,000-mile trek for Code 3 for a Cure Foundation, a non-profit organization set to raise awareness of cancer to firefighters across the country. Oldham, who worked with the Waukegan Fire Department, passed away Friday night, Abundiz said. Now Abundiz and other firefighters are continuing on the trip and will be carrying Oldham's name, and memory, emblazoned on the side of the fire truck, as they travel to fire stations across the country and Canada: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/firefighters-292312-abundiz-fire.html>

Christian Contreras, 4, peeked out from behind a surgical mask covering most of his face and watched with mild interest Wednesday as his uncle Marcello Contreras, Carson City (NV) Fire Battalion Chief Bob Charles and firefighters Robert Stanford and Jeff Novakovich had their heads shaved in advance of today's St. Baldrick's Foundation Fundraising event in Reno. The money raised goes toward childhood cancer research: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20110317/NEWS/110319634/1070&ParentProfile=1058>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Taking an effortless step toward safety can be as simple as a click! The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) today introduced the redesigned International First Responder Seatbelt Pledge, *Buckle Up! So Everyone Goes Home*[®]. The revised program, part of the Foundation's Everyone Goes Home[®] program, will make it easier for firefighters to participate in the initiative and receive recognition for their commitment. "Motor vehicle crashes are the second-leading cause of firefighter fatalities in the United States and this effort aims to reduce the number of preventable fatalities," said Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the NFFF. "Just as you need to get to the scene of a call quickly, you need to get there safely. Buckling your seatbelt is the easiest safety measure you can take." http://everyonegoeshome.com/seatbelts/news/2011/release_022811.html

Three fire service officers in the United Kingdom have been charged with manslaughter by gross negligence after the deaths of four firefighters during a warehouse blaze in 2007. Warwickshire County Council has also been charged with failing to ensure the health and safety at work of its employees. Firefighters Ian Reid, John Averis, Ashley Stephens and Darren Yates-Badley died while tackling the blaze at a vegetable packing warehouse, near Stratford-upon-Avon: <http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/UK-News/Firefighter-Deaths-Warwickshire-Fire-Bosses-Charged-With-Manslaughter-By-Gross-Negligence/Article/201102415942524?f=rss>

A fight between two women outside a Raleigh fire station on South Saunders Street early Thursday could have ended in tragedy when a bullet went flying into the building, just inches above a sleeping firefighter. "He was lying in bed asleep, and all of a sudden, he heard this

loud sound right behind his head,” Capt. Dale Wall, with Raleigh Fire Station 2, said. “They didn't really know what had happened until they got up and started looking around and noticed the slug on the floor and noticed the hole through the partition.” The bullet missed firefighter Will Smith by 6 inches: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/9206989/>

In a recent discussion on the IAFC LinkedIn discussion group, members were asked what advice they'd offer fire officers on a career track to become chiefs: *What is the one piece of advice that you would give a new fire officer who tells you they want to be a fire chief some day? Why this over another?* Though the responses to this posting were far and wide in scope, a few points came up several times: 1. Persevere; 2. Develop a Thick Skin; 3. Develop Leadership Skills; 4. Heed the Golden Rule:
<http://www.iafc.org/displayindustryarticle.cfm?articlenbr=45858>

A Fire Department New York (FDNY) fire engine involved in a fatal collision with a van ran a red light, violating state law while on an emergency run, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. The critically injured passengers were rushed to Staten Island North Hospital. Six firefighters were hurt in the crash, as well as six civilians. The fire engine did not come to a complete stop at a red light as required by state law, according to the Journal report. State law requires emergency vehicles to stop at red lights, even if their lights and flashing and sirens blaring: <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2011/03/10/report-fdny-truck-ran-light-in-fatal-collision/>

For the first time in the San Antonio (TX) Fire Department's history, three firefighters have been suspended for traveling at an unsafe speed and not buckling up while racing to a fire on the Northwest Side last year. Maybe the rollover crash of Ladder 35, which seriously injured one of the four men inside and destroyed the \$600,000 vehicle, was startling enough to force a change in fire crews' longstanding disregard of active restraints, Chief Charles Hood said. At any rate, he's using it as an example. “Seatbelt issues are cultural issues in the fire service,” Hood said in an interview at his office Wednesday. “I've never had to discipline for a driving infraction since I've been here, but a strong message needed to be sent to the members of the department.” http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/Firefighters-suspended-in-the-wake-of-wreck-1065726.php

Here are five (5) NIOSH Firefighter LODD Event report summaries for incidents that occurred in the March 4-8 time frame in the years 1998, 2001, 2002, 2008. Take the time to look over the event summaries, discuss and comment on the factors that lead to the events and the recommendations formulated from the subsequent investigations. Take the opportunity to identify the common themes and apparent causes that were identified and discuss with your company, team or station, relevant considerations that may have a direct or indirect relationship to your organization, past incident calls or district risk profile. What are your capabilities? What are your gaps? How can you prevent a similar situation from occurring?
<http://thekitchentable.firerescue1.com/2011/03/ides-of-march.html>

Stop, evaluate and decide - Keeping communication open lets you know if your plan is being carried out, and if it's having the impact you're hoping for. As we finish up this series on the IAFC's Rules of Engagement for Structural Firefighting we'll look at the last "rules" for "The Incident Commanders' Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Safety." As always, check out the resources listed on this page for both a full outline of the rules and a great poster. It's also worth pointing out that many of these rules can be practiced at regular drills. Including these items in table top and even regular drills will give command officers an opportunity to practice these skills. And like most, if not all, skills in the fire service, the more we practice them, the easier they are to implement in the field:
<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/994531-Stop-evaluate-and-decide/>

A federal agency's final report on the deadly Sofa Super Store blaze in Charleston (SC) where nine (9) firefighters died in 2007 recommends stronger building codes to require sprinklers and additional research on how fire spreads on upholstered furniture. A key finding was that sprinklers likely would have contained the fire to the store's loading dock and prevented it from spreading into the sprawling Savannah Highway showroom, where it became an inferno. Specifically, the NIST report calls for national building and fire codes to require sprinklers for all new commercial retail furniture stores regardless of size, and for existing retail furniture stores with any single display area of greater than 2,000 square feet:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2011/mar/17/final-fire-report-urges-sprinklers/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

A proposal to outsource the city's firefighting to the county would result in demotions for many in the Costa Mesa (CA) Fire Department. It could also save the city between \$2 million and \$3.7 million. The proposal, however, is not the work of budget cutters on the City Council. It's the result of a study by the Orange County Fire Authority that was requested and paid for by the Costa Mesa Firefighters Association. If the city agrees to the proposals in the study, released Friday, Costa Mesa's firefighters would join the Orange County Fire Authority. The City Council plans a March 8 study session on the matter. According to the report, if the city outsources to the county, half of the city's firefighters would transfer to other cities; some would get pay cuts; others, demotions. But their jobs might be safer: the OCFA has cash and investments of \$131 million, while Costa Mesa might see its cash reserves dip to \$5 million this year, the report says: <http://www.ocregister.com/news/fire-289287-city-ocfa.html>

Just a week after El Segundo (CA) leaders set an April 2012 vote on a proposal to merge the town's Fire Department with Los Angeles County's, the firefighters union has offered to foot the bill for an earlier election date. The association, which circulated an initiative petition calling for a public vote on a merger and supports such a move, has pushed for an election as early as this spring. Money was mentioned by some officials last week as a reason to hold off until the scheduled 2012 municipal races, as the City Clerk's Office said the expense of putting the question on the ballot at that time would be "negligible." But fire association members on Monday offered to pay for a consolidated election this spring, possibly when voters choose a replacement for retiring Rep. Jane Harman, who represents the 36th Congressional District. That cost is estimated at \$35,000. Or, if there's no way to consolidate elections, the firefighters offered to cover the cost of a stand-alone special election, which could approach \$60,000:

http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_17455361

A divided El Segundo (CA) City Council this week decided against rescheduling a planned April 2012 vote on a Fire Department merger with Los Angeles County, despite a union's offer to pay for an earlier election. The El Segundo Firefighters Association offered to pick up the estimated \$35,000 bill for a consolidated election, or, if need be, a stand-alone special election. The City Clerk's Office estimated the latter could cost \$60,000. The council considered the offer at a special meeting Monday night that drew a crowd of residents, but the firefighters couldn't get the support they needed to bring the issue to a swift conclusion.

http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_17508626

Several Utah County municipalities are poised to form a regional firefighting agency modeled on ones in Davis and Salt Lake counties:

<http://www.abc4.com/content/news/slc/story/Utah-County-cities-may-decide-regional-fire-issue/RevdmEXejEuaQY5hw73Vvq.csp>

Talks are under way for the Southern Marin (CA) Fire Protection District and Corte Madera Fire Department to share a battalion chief. Since the Southern Marin Fire Protection District's battalion chief is hoping to retire in few months, sharing Corte Madera's battalion chief could make more sense for the district instead of hiring a new chief, said SMFPD Fire Chief Jim Irving. "We're trying to eliminate duplication of services. We have quite a number of battalion chiefs in Marin County," he said. Irving said having one battalion chief among the municipalities is more in line with fire department organization in metropolitan areas. "There are probably too many battalion chiefs and fire chiefs in Marin. We're trying to be more efficient."

http://www.marinscope.com/articles/2011/03/16/twin_cities_times/news/doc4d8130dbb16e0579462588.txt

The Reno (NV) City Council will weigh in Wednesday on a Nevada bill introduced Tuesday that would allow Nevada's larger counties and cities to create a metropolitan fire department after city staff analyzes the bill: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20110317/NEWS11/103170341/-1/news04>

With San Carlos (CA) running out of time and options for contracting out fire services, the city may consider establishing its own fire department. "It's one of the options we're going to have to explore now that the board of supervisors passed on allowing us to have a bid through the state," Council Member Andy Klein said in an interview Friday. The idea isn't completely new, but city officials are giving it a closer look since a San Mateo County Board of Supervisors committee said recently it wouldn't extend the county's contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to serve San Carlos:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17488978?IADID=Search-www.mercurynews.com-www.mercurynews.com&nclick_check=1

Houston (TX) Fire Chief Terry Garrison said Wednesday he won't appeal the reinstatement of three Houston firefighters after an arbitrator ruled the city fired them without evidence that they typed a racist slur into the department's computer system. Garrison also said he will take no action against Assistant Chief Rick Flanagan, the acting chief who acknowledged during a grievance hearing he fired the officers last year without evidence, according to the examiner's ruling. Flanagan fired Ryan Smith, Randall Ricks and Spencer Allred in early September, after the three firefighters were interrogated repeatedly by Flanagan and an investigator from the city's Office of Inspector General. The men were suspected of inserting a racially insensitive comment in the computerized patient care record (PCR) of an elderly African-American woman they transported by ambulance to St. Luke's Hospital on March 7:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7454031.html>

On Jan. 1, Joe Molina's first day as Vancouver's (WA) interim fire chief, the department closed one of its stations, creating a gap in coverage in the middle of the city. It's clear the department he will lead will be very different from the one he joined in 2008 as deputy chief. Molina took the fire chief job permanently last month, and he is now setting about reorganizing the department to keep the engines going out the door:

http://www.oregonlive.com/clark-county/index.ssf/2011/03/vancouver_fire_chief_joe_molina_on_leading_a_department_in_flux_ga.html

The city of Detroit (MI) has overhauled its troubled EMS system with sweeping changes that gives dispatchers the discretion over what type of unit to send to emergencies, and is working on a plan that would allow 911 operators to refuse ambulance service to callers deemed frivolous. Other changes under way include purchasing new ambulances, scheduling extra

training to fill vacancies faster, revamping personnel policies and improving the city's bill collection practices. Currently, the city only collects a fraction of the money it's owed from residents, Medicaid and Medicare recipients and insurance companies for services rendered. Detroit's EMS system has come under fire for slow response times, broken equipment, and in some cases, not showing up to calls in emergencies that resulted in death. In August, a man died of a heart attack after relatives repeatedly called 911 but got no ambulance. In other instances, city-owned Crown Victorias were used to transport patients because no ambulances were available: <http://detnews.com/article/20110304/METRO01/103040400>

In an effort to increase efficiency and cut costs, Anaheim, Fullerton and Orange are examining the possibility of merging their fire departments that collectively serve more than 600,000 residents. It is getting increasingly more difficult to operate as an independent fire department, said Wolfgang Knabe, Fullerton's fire chief. "We have to think outside the box," Knabe said. "This is one of the ways." The three Orange County cities are joining a growing number in the state considering merging fire departments. A half-dozen San Diego County communities are exploring consolidating their fire services:
<http://www.ocregister.com/news/fire-291600-cities-study.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
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***** PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS THIS ON TO YOUR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS*****

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