



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**January 29, 2011**

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

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## ***SPRING 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE***

**T**he Spring 2011 semester at Chabot College has begun!

**P**resently, the only fire technology courses that are left that may have openings this spring semester are as follows:

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>TIMES</b>
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - March 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
<b>FT 91A</b> (Wildland Firefighter-1 Basic) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> 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
<b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> April 26, 28, 30, and May 1	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> April 12, 14, 16 and 17	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
<b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher) <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b> 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](http://www.chabotcollege.edu)

**M**y suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and I with more people wanting to become firefighters, I don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing. I would have liked to offer more classes in the summer time and in the fall; however the state budget crisis does not appear to be going away anytime soon. I think we are very fortunate if we get to keep the above courses that I have scheduled. Also, if you are registered in the Chabot College system, you are eligible to take classes at Las Positas College in Livermore as well. Just because one class is full (or does not fit your schedule) at Chabot doesn't mean it isn't being offered at Las Positas. When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

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

### **USFA Releases Provisional 2010 Firefighter Fatality Statistics**

January 7, 2011 - Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853

EMMITSBURG, MD - The United States Fire Administration (USFA) announced today there were 85 on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States as a result of incidents that occurred in 2010, a 6 percent decrease from the 90 fatalities reported for 2009. The 85 fatalities were spread across 31 states. Illinois experienced the highest number of fatalities (9). In addition to Illinois, only New York (8), Ohio (8), Pennsylvania (7), and Kansas (5) had 5 or more firefighter fatalities. **Download 2010 Provisional Firefighter Fatality Statistics at** [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/10\\_fatality\\_summary.pdf](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/10_fatality_summary.pdf) (PDF, 11 Kb)

Acting U.S. Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines noted that "When evaluating the trend in on-duty firefighter fatalities over more than three decades, the past two years have seemed to reflect a possible change in the firefighting culture of the United States where *Everyone Goes Home*, including all firefighters." Gaines then added, "Working closely with our partners, USFA will continue every effort to be sure that when it comes to firefighter health and safety this downward trend in on-duty firefighter deaths continues." Heart attacks and strokes were responsible for the deaths of 51 firefighters (60%) in 2010, nearly the same proportion of firefighter deaths from heart attack or stroke (58%) in 2009. Nine on-duty firefighters died in association with wildland fires, about half the number that died in association with wildland fires in 2009 and a third of the 26 such fatalities in 2008. Forty-eight percent of all firefighter fatalities occurred while performing emergency duties. Eleven firefighters died in 2010 as the result of vehicle crashes, down substantially from 16 deaths in 2009, and for the first time since 1999, none of the deaths involved aircraft. Four firefighters in 2010 died in accidents involving firefighters responding in personal vehicles. Seven firefighter deaths involved fire department apparatus, one of which was a double firefighter fatality incident. These 2010 firefighter fatality statistics are **provisional** and may change as the USFA contacts State Fire Marshals to verify the names of firefighters reported to have died on-duty during 2010. The final number of firefighter fatalities will be reported in USFA's annual firefighter fatality report, expected to be available by July.

For additional information on firefighter fatalities, including the **annual fatality reports** (<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/report.shtm>) from 1986 through 2009 and the **Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study 1990-2000** at <https://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/publications/display.cfm?it=9-0437>, please visit the USFA website at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

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# **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

**FireNuggets.com PRESENTS**

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

(Meets NWCG 310-1)

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

With

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

The course curriculum will deliver “all risk” emergency information for the Safety Officer position commensurate with the requirements of FIRESCOPE. This is a State accredited class recognized by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group and California State Fire Training. Students will develop and deliver safety messages. In addition, they will develop and recommend measures for assuring personnel safety, and to assess and/or anticipate hazardous and unsafe situations. Additional subjects covered include: work place injuries and vehicle accident investigations, OSHA requirements, safety messages and briefings, Incident Command forms, assistant safety officer (Haz-Mat & USAR) responsibilities, risk mitigation, situational analysis of tactical application (215A), wildland duties and responsibilities, case study analysis (structure fires), training exercises (NFPA 1403), certification (CICCS) and task book requirements, fire fighter injury investigation (case study), and roles and responsibilities prior, during, and after Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) deployment.

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

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

**February 7, 8, and 9, 2011**

Carr Convention Center - 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton, CA

09:00-16:30 each day

- **To register or obtain more information, visit [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)**

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

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

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY –** **CAL FIRE:**

**CAL FIRE**, (formerly known as **California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection** or **CDF**) is now accepting applications for **Firefighter I**. Applications will be accepted **until January 31, 2011** for the 2011 fire season, which generally starts in the end of May and generally goes through October. If you are interested in applying you must complete a Firefighter I application (CAL FIRE Form 215) and mail it or deliver it in person to the North Coast Region I and Cascade Region II units (see below for locations). Applications will be accepted on a file in person basis only for the units in Southern California Region III and Central Sierra Region IV. Applications must be filed at each unit in which you wish to be considered for appointment.

**T**o view more information about Seasonal Firefighter Hiring process and positions, go to:  
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about\\_careers\\_fireprotection\\_seasonal.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php)

**T**here are 21 units through-out the state and they are divided between two regions, North Region, and South Region. In the Northern Region you can mail the completed application to each unit that you are interested in applying for. In the Southern Region they must be hand delivered. A list of the units can be found at the end of this announcement.

### **What you can expect working as a firefighter for CAL FIRE:**

**A** firefighter 1 is a temporary position. You work a 72-hour workweek, four days on and three days off. You work the same four days in a week. Your responsibilities will include responding to vegetation fires, vehicle fires, structure fires, vehicle accidents, medical aides, public assist calls, or any other emergency. You are responsible for maintaining equipment and tools, following oral and written directions, cooking and cleaning around the station and other duties as assigned. At some stations you may get only one call per shift and others may get as many as four or five calls on a busy day.

**B**ecause CAL FIRE is a statewide fire department, you can get sent to any area within the state on a strike team assignment. You may only be gone one or two days or as many as fourteen days depending on the needs throughout the state. You may be assigned to an incident, usually a large fire, or may be assigned to cover behind other engines on an out-of-county assignment. In addition to being assigned to working on an engine, a firefighter 1 may be assigned to work at an Air Attack Base refueling aircraft, and reloading tankers with retardant. Another opportunity that is available to firefighter I is to work as a helitack firefighter assigned to one of nine helicopters throughout the state.

**T**here is the opportunity to work as a fire fighter assigned to a Schedule A Contract. This is where a city, county, or fire protection district makes a contract with CAL FIRE to provide fire protection for the community. For example in the Santa Clara Unit, the South County Fire Protection District has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide the personnel to operate their fire department. As a result CAL FIRE personnel operate very much like any other municipal department with firefighter, engineers, captains, and chiefs, operating type I engines, and providing advanced life support medical care.

### **The hiring process:**

**A**fter submitting an application, it is reviewed and given a preliminary score based on your education, training and experience. The more boxes you can check the more points you can get. By mid-March you should receive a letter indicating whether you passed the preliminary evaluation. If a passing score is given you may then be invited to an interview. The interview is 100 percent of your score. Because each unit must follow the same guidelines for hiring you can expect to hear the same, or close to the same questions at each interview. This can be a big help when trying to improve your interviewing skills. So the more units that you apply to the better chance you have to interview and improve.

**T**ypically an interview panel is made up of an engineer and a captain. In some cases at the completion of your interview you are given your score, in other cases it is mailed to you. Your score is based from 0 to 100 points. Typically you need to get a score in the upper 90's to be considered for employment. By mid-May you should have received a letter indicating whether or not you are being considered for employment. From here one of a number of things can happen, you could get a letter stating that you will not be considered for future employment, or you can be contacted and offered a job, or you could be contacted and offered a slot in an academy but not a job.

**T**he presumption is that a position may open up in the future and you would already be trained to take it. Typically a new hire academy is scheduled for the first or second week in June and consists of learning basic skills needed to work as a fire fighter. The end result is that by attending the class you can obtain the CAL FIRE 67 hour Certification. What generally happens around August or September is some firefighters quit and go back to school opening up position to hire more firefighters. So this provides some people second chance to get hired. If you stay in contact with the hiring coordinator in each unit and are willing to start later in the season you might get picked up as a late hire. After you get hired with CAL FIRE and work three months you have automatic rehire rights. Meaning you don't have to go through the same process to get hired the next season.

### **What CAL FIRE can offer you?**

**C**AL FIRE is an all risk fire department. They respond to an average of 6,400 wildland fires annually and more than 275,000 non-wildfire emergencies each year. As a firefighter I you will gain experience in working on an engine as part of an engine company. You will get experience working at emergencies under stressful situation. You will learn what station life is like and how to work with people of different backgrounds in that environment. You will have the opportunity to earn additional certifications including Incident Command Systems, Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Haz Mat Operations, Swift Water Rescue, Auto Extrication, and many other classes. You will gain experience working with the ICS system as part of an engine company at small and large incidents. Just like anything else you can get out of CAL FIRE what you put in. Because of the number of people retiring you have a very good opportunity to gain a permanent position if you put the effort into it. It is now up to you to make the first step!

## **NORTHERN REGION**

### **File-in-person OR mail-in applications accepted at the units listed below:**

- **Amador-El Dorado Unit**, 2840 Mt. Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709, (530) 644-2345
- **Butte Unit**, 176 Nelson Avenue, Oroville, CA 95965, (530) 538-7111
- **Humboldt-Del Norte Unit**, 118 S. Fortuna Blvd., Fortuna, CA 95540, (707) 725-4413
- **Lassen-Modoc Unit**, 697-345 Highway 36, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-4171
- **Mendocino Unit**, 17501 N. Highway 101, Willits, CA 95490, (707) 459-7414
- **Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit**, 13760 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, (530) 823-4904
- **San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit**, 6059 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018, (831) 335-5353
- **Santa Clara Unit**, 15670 Monterey Street, Morgan Hill, CA 95037, (408) 779-2121
- **Shasta-Trinity Unit**, 875 Cypress Avenue, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2418
- **Siskiyou Unit**, 1809 Fair Lane Road, Yreka, CA 96097, (530) 842-3516
- **Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit**, 1199 Big Tree Road, St. Helena, CA 94574, (707) 967-1400
- **Tehama-Glenn Unit**, 604 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff, CA 96080, (530) 529-8548

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **Applications accepted on a FILE-IN-PERSON basis ONLY at the units listed below. Each applicant must appear in person Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

- **Fresno-Kings Unit**, 210 S. Academy Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657, (559) 485-7500
- **Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit**, 5366 Highway 49 North, Mariposa, CA 95338, (209) 966-3622
- **Riverside Unit**, 210 W. San Jacinto, Perris, CA 92570, (909) 940-6900
- **San Benito-Monterey Unit**, 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940-5385, (831) 647-6208
- **San Bernardino Unit**, 3800 Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92405, (909) 881-6900
- **San Diego Unit**, 2249 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019, (619) 590-3100
- **San Luis Obispo Unit**, 635 N. Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405, (805) 543-4244
- **Tulare Unit**, 1968 S. Lovers Lane, Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 732-5954
- **Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit**, 785 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249, (209) 754-3831

To view the job flyer and download an application, go to the CAL FIRE Careers website at: [www.fire.ca.gov/about/about\\_careers\\_fireprotection\\_seasonal.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php)

For more information about CAL FIRE and their extensive operations throughout the State of California, visit their website at: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

### **Minimum Qualifications for Seasonal Firefighter positions:**

- Must be 18 years of age by time of appointment to a firefighter 1 position.

**NOTE:** A special thank you to Andrew Hunter, former Chabot College Fire Technology student for providing me with this information. Andrew works for the Modesto Fire Department and used to be a Firefighter with CDF. I appreciate your time and assistance!

### **For additional information, contact:**

North Coast Headquarters: (707) 576-2275  
Human Resources Office: (916) 445-7801  
Southern Region Headquarters: (559) 243-4100

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



### **Winter Storm Fire Safety**

Winter storms can bring havoc to our daily lives. They can interrupt electrical service, cause colder temperatures, and make traveling difficult. Fire risks increase when winter storms strike. The use of candles, alternative heating sources, and makeshift cooking methods can significantly increase the chance of a home fire occurring. By following some basic safety tips, however, you can protect yourself and your family from fire when winter weather strikes.

Go to: [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm) for more information.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Here are a number of fire service seminars being offered by FireNuggets.com in 2009 – sign up now as they will surely sell out and be very popular! For more information, go to their website at [www.firenuggets.com](http://www.firenuggets.com)

### **Seminar #1:**

Thursday, February 10, 2011

#### **“Mental Management of Emergencies: Understanding Situation Awareness and Decision Making Under Stress”**

- Presented by Chief Richard Gasaway, Phd.

This program focuses on improving the understanding of situation awareness and decision making. The program explores and discusses:

- 6 ways your decision making are impacted by physical and mental stress
- 7 step process for how experts make decisions in high stress, dynamic, rapidly changing environments
- 4 essential components to making decisions under stress
- 4 levels of competency in the development of expertise including tips for how to accelerate the development of expert-level performance
- How decision making is influenced by pattern matching, mental modeling, sense-making and information chunking
- 3 levels of situation awareness including how to develop and maintain each.

And

**“Fifty Ways to Kill a First Responder:  
Understanding the Barriers Challenging Situation Awareness”**

This program focuses on the top fifty barriers to situation awareness at emergency scenes. This program explores and discusses:

- 12 categories of situation awareness barriers
- How situation awareness is impacted by: Staffing levels, Communications issues, Attention management, Workload management, Human factors, The location of command, Command support and command aids, Incident and organizational goals and mission, The organizational culture,...and so much more
- 5 critical command mistakes you can avoid
- 10 best practices for command decision-makers

For details on this seminar, go to: [http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11\\_gasaway.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gasaway.pdf)

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**Seminar #2:** 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](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_avillo.pdf)

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**Seminar #3:** Thursday, October 20, 2011

Mastering Fireground Command – Calming The Chaos

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

The NIOSH top 5 line of duty death (LODD) operational causes on the fireground surround size-up, command, communications, accountability, and SOP's. This intense, hands-on and interactive workshop hits these issues head on and will streamline the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these three key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test AND the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the Fire Service did!

We will conduct extensive incident reviews, including actual video and audio of commercial structure, apartment, residential, wildland, fatal fires and saves. Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, and commercial fire incidents to get answers to the following questions...

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

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

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**Seminar #4:** Thursday December 8, 2011

**Strategic and Tactical Air Management for the Fireground**

- **Presented by Captain Mike Gagliano, Seattle Fire Department**

The Point of NO Return is a dynamic, cutting edge presentation that is transforming the way the national fire service views Air Management, Tactical safety and Firefighter survival. This fast moving workshop utilizes dramatic audio/video, stimulating discussions, and everyday scenarios to create a synergistic learning experience where the students lead, as well as learn. At the center of the class are The Need, The Mandate, and The Solution. Each area will be covered in detail and gives the students practical information, along with drills, to take back to their departments. Among the topics covered are:

*The Rule Of Air Management (ROAM) ■ The point of NO return ■ How firefighters are dying in structures ■ The coming changes to NFPA 1404 and how they will affect you ■ Factors that affect the duration of a firefighter's air supply ■ READY checks (A new way to do buddy checks) ■ Review of close calls from Seattle, Phoenix, Ft. Worth and other cities ■ Practical methods to manage your air ■ CARA radio reports ■ Myths of air management*

These and other topics will make for a great day of learning and classroom participation. The consistent comment received from firefighters across the spectrum of experience is: "I wish I had this class years ago. I can take this and use it tonight."

For details on this seminar, go to: [http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11\\_gagliano.pdf](http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_gagliano.pdf)

**ALL FOUR 2011 SEMINARS:**

- *Four seminars, five speakers, and quality professional networking, all for one low price of \$300, a \$140 savings off the individual seminar fees. This is 100% tax deductible as a professional education expense.*

For details on this four-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

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## **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](http://www.firetowntrainingspecialist.com) ([www.firetowntrainingspecialist.com](http://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  
January 29, 2011 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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](http://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](http://www.trainfirefighters.com)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **STUDENT RECRUITMENT FOR**

### ***Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction***

P200 – Second Pilot Offering – June 26 – July 1, 2011

The United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy is conducting the second pilot class at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, MD for its newly developed 6-day course *Leadership Strategies for Community Risk Reduction*. The pilot class is scheduled to begin Sunday, June 26 through Friday, July 1, 2011. Students will arrive on Saturday, June 25. Students with cars can depart after graduation at 4:00 p.m. Friday, July 1, 2011. Students will have a room Friday night for those leaving on Saturday.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to enhance knowledge and skills necessary to lead and manage fire prevention, community risk reduction initiatives, illness prevention and health promotion at the local level. This course will give students tools and techniques to raise the level of importance for prevention within their organization. The course will demonstrate how fire prevention and other risk reduction initiatives can benefit them directly and individually in providing a safer work environment. Students will be guided through a process that shows how to strategically build support internally and externally for community risk reduction, the steps and activities necessary to sustain programs and how these come together to create effective risk reduction programs. The ultimate goal of the course is to develop fire and EMS leaders and managers who are committed, in word and deed, to comprehensive multi-hazard community risk reduction.

#### **Course units include:**

- Leading the Process of Strategic Community Risk-Reduction – examination of individual perspectives toward risk and LODD deaths in the United States versus other countries.
- Assessing Community Risk – identification of leading community risk issues through an assessment process.
- Community Risk Reduction as a Strategic Process – the science supporting how risk can be prevented and/or managed. Identification, justification and application of intervention strategies and the development of an implementation/evaluation plan.

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Challenges of Organizational Change - Identifying when change is needed, what type of change is required, and the best strategy for creating and sustaining the change.
- Building Organizational and Community Equity - How to build support inside the organization for risk reduction and how to build a positive relationship with the community.

**Pre-course assignment:** There is an assignment due before class which involves identifying local risks and reading assignments. The pre-course assignment will be located at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/pre-course/> .

**Student Selection Criteria:** Individuals in emergency services, especially those in fire and EMS operations, such as company officers or field supervisors who have responsibility for fire or injury prevention and community risk reduction initiatives at a local level. Individuals recently assigned to fire/injury prevention or community risk reduction divisions/bureaus or those who would like to enhance their skills are encouraged to take this course.

#### **Applications:**

- Applicants must complete General Admission Form FEMA 119-25-1 available on the USFA website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/about/attend/apply.shtm>
- Completed applications should be mailed or faxed by close of business, Friday, April 1, 2011 to:

United States Fire Administration  
NETC Admissions Office  
16825 S. Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

- Completed applications may also be faxed to the Admissions Office at (301)447-1441 or (301)447-1658.
- Applicants should not make plans to attend the pilot until notified by the Admissions Office.

Stipends for eligible students are available for attendance at pilots. Attendance at pilot courses does not prevent an eligible student from obtaining another stipend within the same fiscal year.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

**A** personal Invitation to attend Firehouse World Conference & Exposition in San Diego, CA – February 26 – March 2, 2011 – [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com)

- Over 100 classes
- Action-packed hands-on training
- Preconference programs
- Speakers from around the country
- Exclusive coverage of The Station Fire
- Breaking news of the San Bernardino pipeline explosion
- Driver training simulator classes
- Certified EMS classes
- Group discounts -- Register with 3 people and save 10%; 6 or more and save 20%
- *Plus everything listed below!*

If you're not able to attend the Conference, please be my guest and visit the Exhibit Floor for **FREE!**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

- Meet face-to-face with 350 exhibitors
- Discover new products
- Shop and compare
- Register to win valuable prizes at Firehouse Fever booths
- Take the Driver Sim Rodeo Challenge
- Visit The Hot Box -- Attend one of Billy Goldfeder's "On the Truck Room Floor" 45-minute classroom sessions or Ron Moore's *The Challenges of Extrication Involving Vehicles with Advanced Steel Structure* – FREE to all attendees (conference or exhibit hall).
- Enjoy the Opening Ceremony & Keynote Presentation featuring Marine Corporal Joshua Bleill who will share a motivational message about a bombing in Iraq

Whichever you choose, register online with **Promo Code FPSP86**.

Complete details are available at [www.FirehouseWorld.com](http://www.FirehouseWorld.com) or call 800-827-8009. I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Best Regards,  
Steve Prziborowski

- I will be teaching the following classes at Firehouse World 2011:

**Fire Officer Leadership – Lessons Learned or Reinforced After Getting Promoted**

*CATEGORY: Leadership – Tuesday March 1, 2011*

The focus of this session is to share and discuss lessons learned or reinforced from personal experience after being promoted to the officer ranks. This will cover a variety of subject areas such as the emergency scene, the fire station, leadership, supervision, management, training, career development, and customer service.

**Radio Reports Versus Size-Up: Is There A Difference?**

*CATEGORY: Size-Up – Tuesday March 1, 2011*

This session will explore the terms "radio report" and "size-up," two distinctively different terms. Students will be exposed to different techniques for providing radio reports and sizing up an incident, and have a chance to practice and discuss radio reports and size-up by viewing a variety of simulated emergency scenes.

**PRE6 - How to Excel at Fire Service Promotional Exams**

*CATEGORY: Promotional – Saturday February 27, 2011*

A fire service promotional exam is a stressful process that virtually everyone dreads. Going into the process without having thought out how you will perform and what to expect in the various events is recipe for disaster. Class participants will be exposed to and offered key points for the most common events within a fire service promotional process: the written exam, the oral interview, the personnel problem, the oral presentation and the emergency simulation. The key points contained within this session will help increase your final score and may make the difference between getting promoted or not getting promoted and having to take the test the next time.

- ✓ February 26-March 2, 2011
- ✓ San Diego, CA
- ✓ [www.FirehouseWorld.com](http://www.FirehouseWorld.com)

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:**

### **National Fire Academy Completes New Emergency Medical Services Courses**

January 27, 2011 - **Contact: USFA Press Office (301) 447-1853**

EMMITSBURG, MD - The U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Academy (NFA) has completed development of the first two new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) courses in response to the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008. An additional six courses are in the process of development or revision. The Reauthorization Act included direction for the National Fire Academy to provide advanced EMS training. "In recognition of the value that fire-service based EMS provides American communities, the USFA's NFA is revising and improving the EMS program to meet the needs of EMS agencies," said NFA Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal. "The EMS curriculum now offers courses specifically identified as gaps in EMS education that prepare today's EMS leaders to better manage their system's response abilities and organizational quality control."

The two new EMS courses are Emergency Medical Services Quality Management (EMS QM) and Emergency Medical Services Functions in the Incident Command System (EMS FICS). EMS QM is a six-day course offering to be conducted on the NETC campus, while EMS FICS is a two-day course offering to be conducted either on the NETC campus or locally through partnerships with State and metropolitan fire service training organizations. For more information about the new EMS curriculum or other USFA programs and offerings, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov). You can also follow USFA updates on Twitter at [twitter.com/usfire](https://twitter.com/usfire).

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

### **USFA Releases Attic Fires in Residential Buildings Report**

January 13, 2011 - **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 characteristics of **Attic Fires in Residential Buildings** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i6.pdf> (PDF, 884 Kb). Developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center, the report is based on 2006 to 2008 data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

#### **According to the report:**

- An estimated 10,000 attic fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 30 deaths, 125 injuries, and \$477 million in property damage.
- The leading cause of all attic fires is electrical malfunction (43 percent).
- The most common heat source is electrical arcing (37 percent).
- Almost all residential building attic fires are nonconfined (99 percent) and a third of all residential building attic fires spread to involve the entire building.
- Ninety percent of residential attic fires occur in one- and two-family residential buildings.

- Residential building attic fires are most prevalent in December (12 percent) and January (11 percent) and peak between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m.

*Attic Fires in Residential Buildings* is part of the USFA's **Topical Fire Report Series** - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/> - Topical reports explore facets of the U.S. fire problem that USFA shares with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe. Each report briefly addresses the nature of the specific fire or fire-related topic, highlights important findings from the data, and may suggest other resources to consider for further information. Also included are recent examples of fire incidents that demonstrate some of the issues addressed in the report or that put the report topic in context.

For further information regarding topical reports or any programs and training available from the U.S. Fire Administration, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov) .

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

**S**ome more firefighter preparation testing tips courtesy of the **Don McNea Fire School** ([www.fireprep.com](http://www.fireprep.com))!

### **PHYSICAL AGILITY PREPARATION**

The physical agility test is a major part of the examination for the position of firefighter. Understanding this part of the examination and being prepared for it are critical factors for your success. In physical terms, firefighting is an extremely demanding occupation. It requires agility, strength, and stamina. The firefighting environment is normally hazardous and constantly changing. Firefighting calls for the wearing of special protective clothing and breathing equipment and the use of tools that are often heavy. Because of the extremes encountered in the firefighting environment – hot and cold, wet and dry, night and day, clean and contaminated air – the protective clothing and equipment must be durable and effective. The need for these qualities has led to the development of equipment that is often heavy and cumbersome. Given the demands of the occupation – saving life and property, the challenges of the environment, and the weight and constraint of the protective equipment, the need to ensure that firefighter recruits are physically capable of learning and performing the tasks required is obvious. The physical agility examination is designed to evaluate the candidate's ability to perform firefighting activities. In the recent past, the courts have held that the physical agility examination must be related to the tasks that are actually performed by firefighters. Studies reveal that the firefighter must have a high level of aerobic energy, strength, and a significant ability to resist fatigue.

### **FIREFIGHTER WORKOUTS**

**REMEMBER THAT 60-70% OF THE PHYSICAL AGILITY EVENTS REQUIRE EXCELLENT LEG STRENGTH AND GOOD WIND ENDURANCE!**

Physical agility testing events in most departments are very strenuous in nature. You must begin your workouts immediately in order to put yourself in top condition to perform well. This training should be year-round. In preparing firefighter applicants for physical agility examinations for over 50 years, one of the most important aspects is overall good strength, with emphasis on good leg

January 29, 2011 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

strength and most importantly your wind endurance (lung strength and capacity). Time and time again we see individuals who are 6'4", 250 pounds, can squat 350 pounds 10 times, run 2 miles and think that they are in good physical shape. However, if they have not built up their wind endurance (lung capacity) they may have the strength equivalent of someone who is 100 pounds. Nothing drains your strength more than a lack of wind. Most physical agility test events are of short duration but very demanding. Most of these events are completed in a 5-10 minute timeframe. During that time, it is an all-out effort. We believe that the emphasis of your preparation training should be on developing your wind. Wind sprints are an excellent way of increasing your endurance. Start off by sprinting 30 yards, 3 or 4 times. Then proceed to 40 yards, 50 yards. After a period of training and feeling that your lungs are developing, we suggest that you undertake the following physical agility training.

Mark off 20 yards, 30 yards, 40 yards, and 50 yards. Use a nearby recreation field in your area or even a parking lot. Start your sprints by sprinting 20 yards and then sprint back to the start. Then immediately sprint 30 yards and back to start. Then sprint 40 yards and back to start. Sprint 50 yards and back to start. As you continue training, you will see that your wind endurance is building. You may be able to complete 5-6 of these wind sprints in a single training session and not feel winded. Applicants also need to concentrate on overall strength training – your chest, triceps, biceps, back, legs, sit-ups. We have included descriptions of some physical agility exercises and programs for your review.

Some additional training tips:

- Many times you are required to wear a vest that is from 30-40 pounds, simulating firefighter equipment and air tank. If possible, get a backpack, fill it with sand or weights, and use it while training. For example, wear it while running stairs.
- Run stairs. If you have a school football field accessible to you, we strongly suggest that you run the stands' stairs. You may also be able to use an office or apartment building stairs. You may also want to run the stairs carrying 20-30 pound dumbbells in each hand or your weighted backpack. It is also good practice to skip every other stair – it will build leg strength and endurance, and on some exams you can skip stairs, which will decrease your overall time and better your score.
- If you train in a gym, you may have access to a Stairmaster machine (revolving stairs – not stepper type). We suggest that you build your endurance by not holding onto the rails and increasing the level of difficulty each time you work out. If you have a training backpack, wear it while on the machine.
- If you train by running distance, the best training for firefighter examinations is to aim for your fastest 2-mile time. If you want to alternate a 3-4 mile run in between, that is fine. Your emphasis while training, however, should not be on a steady pace but on a faster pace in order to build your endurance. Physical agility examinations are short in time, but require endurance.
- Remember - always warm up before exercising and cool down after exercising.
- Do not begin these workouts until you get yourself in good physical condition by jogging 15 to 25 minutes, 3 to 4 times a week for at least 3 to 4 weeks. This will strengthen your heart and lungs so it won't be too much of a demand on your body.

**START YOUR TRAINING NOW!!!**

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](http://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](http://www.fireprep.com/ultimate_firefighter_examinati.html)

### Don McNea Fire School

[dmfireschool@aol.com](mailto:dmfireschool@aol.com)

1-800-989-FIRE

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### 2011 Upcoming Course Schedule

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

### Resource Ordering & Statusing System (ROSS)

#### **ROSS Dispatcher Training - Mather, CA March 7-11, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$260.00**

The course is designed to instruct students in the use of the Dispatch portion of the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) computer application. This course is both interactive and combines lecture and hands-on practice. Upon completion of the **ROSS Dispatcher Course**, the student will gain an understanding of: ROSS User Basics, Personal Settings/Notifications, Resource Status and Web Status, Initial Reports and Incidents, New Request, Quick Fill, Pending Request, Request Status, Travel, Incident Resources, Rosters, and Strike Teams. Advanced Travel, Tactical Aviation Screen, Cal EMA (Formerly OES) Ordering Process, Version 2.12 New Features. **Supplemental instruction/information:**

- Class hours will begin at 1300 on Monday and end at 1200 on Friday and will be held 0800-1700 Tuesday through Thursday.
- Class attire is business casual, uniforms are not required.

**Prerequisite:** ICS 100 and 200 are required and may be taken online at: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>. In addition, D-110 Dispatch Recorder is a prerequisite; pre-course materials can be purchased through NWCG. It is imperative students attend the entire class.

### Wildland Courses

#### **S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior February 7-11, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$175.00**

This course is designed to instruct prospective fireline supervisors in wildland fire behavior for effective and safe fire management operations. It is required in order

to be qualified as any single resource boss. This course is a prerequisite for S-390. **Prerequisite:** I-200 and S-190

**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 2D: Planning for Large Scale Disasters - Sacramento, CA**  
**March 14-18, 2011 (Monday-Friday) - \$550.00**

This course contains such topics as principles of disaster planning and management, fire service emergency plans, emergency operations centers, case studies of various natural and man made disasters, roles of local, state and federal OES and emergency management agencies, discussion of multi-hazard planning techniques, ICS and SEMS concepts, and principles of exercising emergency management staffs. **Prerequisite:** I-300 and Fire Command 2A

**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.

## Emergency Medical Technician

**Citrus Heights, CA - March 8 - May 11, 2011**  
**Tues & Thurs 6:00pm-10:00pm and Sat 8:00am-5:00pm - \$495.00**

The Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (EMT-Basic) program provides the student with an outline of the EMS system, introduces assessment skills, as well as provides pathophysiology of common neurological, respiratory, and cardiac related emergencies. The EMT-Basic program is a 9-week basic training course for emergency medical technicians performing as ambulance attendants. It covers techniques of emergency medical care presently considered within the responsibilities of the emergency medical technician, and emphasizes the development of student skills in recognition of symptoms of illnesses and injuries and proper procedures of emergency care. A program completion certificate is awarded to students who pass the course with a 80% or better average.

Successful completion of the EMT-Basic course provides eligibility to sit for the County of Sacramento Division of Public Health Emergency Medical Services certification examination. A student must be 18 years old in order to qualify for county certification. This course is conducted in compliance with Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2 of the California Code of Regulations and Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT). Field trips are required. 72 hours lecture, 72 hours laboratory. **Enrollment Limitations:** Current CPR certification from American Heart Association Health Care Provider Course. Proof of negative TB test within the past year; vaccination for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR); and vaccination for Hepatitis B. Once registered, students will be given direction to complete a background check, drug screen, and purchase an EMT Uniform Polo Shirt.

## Hazardous Materials

### **HazMat Assistant Safety Officer - Sacramento, CA February 15-16, 2011 (Tuesday-Wednesday) - \$160.00**

Safe Hazardous Materials incident operations are critical to response and containment. Participants begin by assessing the incident as a "big picture" and learn to maintain site safety. This course is designed for those who may be placed as the Assistant Safety Officer Hazardous Materials. Topics will include role and effectiveness of a Safety Officer, Overall Incident Safety Principles/Risk Management, Departmental and Personal Legal Liabilities, Incident Planning, Personnel Monitoring, Safety Chemical Field Analysis & Monitoring, Safety Briefings and Reports, and Response to Terrorism Safety Issues. **Prerequisite:** Hazardous Materials Technician/Specialist Certification

**\*\*Class is currently full, but if you would like to be added to our waitlist please call out office at (916) 475-1660.\*\***

#### Contact Information

phone: (916) 475-1660

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

### ***“Contemporary Firefighting Strategy & Tactics” Engine and Truck Company Operations***

**T**his highly informative and motivating 1 day seminar will be taught by CHIEF JOHN MITTENDORF and CHIEF PAUL STEIN, two of the most experienced and dynamic fire service instructors in the country. This multimedia presentation uses state of the art DVD technology for realistic fire simulations including 3-Dimensional views. Participants will have the opportunity to self-evaluate their own firefighting ability and discuss their fire incident control strategy with the instructors.

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Topics to be discussed will be:**

- 5 Initial Fireground Priorities
  - Firefighting Safety & Survival benchmarks
  - Reading a Fire (Smoke is the fire talking to you)
  - Firefighter Fatalities (Lessons learned)
  - The Fireground Clock
  - Size-up, mental and verbal evaluation
  - Modern fireground environment as it relates to command and safety
- MULTIPLE DVD DIGITAL SIMULATIONS FOR:**
- Residential Fire Attack
  - Center hallway/Multi-family Fire Attack
  - Mini mall/strip mall Fire Attack
  - Warehouse Fire Attack
  - Multiple story/High rise building Attack

**Instructor Backgrounds:**

**John Mittendorf** has over 30 years' experience with the Los Angeles Fire Dept. Chief Mittendorf has an extensive background as an International lecturer, has provided training programs for the National Fire Academy, California State University at Los Angeles, and many Fire Dept.'s across the country. He is the author of numerous fireground operational articles for magazines in the U.S. and Europe, and is the author of the recently released textbook titled, "*Truck Company Operations*" published by Fire Engineering Magazine.

**Paul Stein** is a 32-year veteran of the Santa Monica & Lakeside Fire Departments. He has experience at all levels of fire service leadership including; Union Officer, Captain, Battalion Chief, Training Chief, and Fire Chief. He has a BA in Management, is a California Master Instructor, and is a former "California Fire Instructor of the Year." Chief Stein has provided training programs for the National Fire Academy, and all the major fire conferences in the US, and many Departments throughout the country. He is the author of the popular Promotional Interview videos, the college text on Entrance Preparation, has written numerous articles for fire service magazines, and is considered an authority on management principles.

***VALUE ADDED: CHIEF'S STEIN & MITTENDORF WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION ON "GETTING PROMOTED"***

Registration fee includes: Multi-media presentation, student manual, refreshments, and certificate of completion. For additional information please call (805) 506-1811 or E-mail ([paulhstein@aol.com](mailto:paulhstein@aol.com))

*Seating is limited, Register Early! - Three (3) Separate Offerings Around California:*

<b>Roseville, CA</b>	<b>Petaluma, CA</b>	<b>Santa Fe Springs, CA</b>
<b>February 8 or 9, 2011</b> 0900 to 1700 hours	<b>February 10, 2011</b> 0830 to 1630 hours	<b>February 15 or 16, 2011</b> 0800 to 1600 hours
Roseville City Corporation Yards 2005 Hilltop Circle Roseville, CA 95747	Petaluma Community Center 320 N. McDowell Blvd. Petaluma, CA 94952	Town Center Hall 11740 E. Telegraph Road Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
<i>Hosted by the Roseville F.D.</i>	<i>Hosted by the Petaluma F.D.</i>	<i>Hosted by the Santa Fe Springs F.D.</i>

**Registration Information for any of the one-day sessions:**

- **Advanced registration before January 9, 2011 - \$80.00**
- **Group Rate 4 or more (must register together before Jan. 9) - \$80.00**
- **All registrations after January 9, 2011 - \$90.00**
- **At the door if available - \$100.00**

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Mail Your Payment to:

**Public Safety Consultants** 2282 W. Adrian St. Newbury Park, Ca. 91320

\* ADVANCED REGISTRATION DEADLINE Jan. 9, 2011

\* NO REFUNDS AFTER Jan. 10, 2011\*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Will Attend:**

- Feb. 8 or 9 – Roseville (circle date)
- Feb. 10 – Petaluma (circle date)
- Feb. 15 or 16 – Santa Fe Springs (circle date)

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

### **Application Period to Open: Fiscal Year 2010 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants**

The Department of Homeland Security posted the FY2010 Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants Program Guidance on the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Web site. The application period is scheduled to begin on Jan. 3, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time. **Applications for these grants must be received by Feb 4, 2011**, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and fire-related hazards. The grants are competitive, and their primary goal is to target high-risk populations. Grant awards are made in order to mitigate high incidences of death and injury, and to carry out research for improving firefighter safety. Examples of the types of fire prevention projects supported by FP&S include smoke alarm installation, fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile fire setter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs. Organizations eligible to apply under the research activity should consult the Program Guidance for detailed information on priorities and areas of emphasis. An applicant tutorial for the fire prevention activity is available through the [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com) Web site. The tutorial provides valuable grant information. It will also walk you through the preparation and submittal of competitive applications. In addition, the applicant tutorial provides an overview of the fire prevention funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Applicants who have questions regarding the Fire Prevention and Safety Grants opportunity should contact the help desk as soon as possible at 1-866-274-0960 or at [firegrants@dhs.gov](mailto:firegrants@dhs.gov). During the application period, the help desk will operate Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET), but is prepared to revise hours of operation based on volume, demand, holidays and urgency to complete the FP&S Grants application period and processing for FY2010. The AFG Program is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate in coordination with the U.S. Fire Administration.

**FY2010 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program Guidance - visit**  
[www.firegrantsupport.com/docs/FY2010\\_FPSGuidance.pdf](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/docs/FY2010_FPSGuidance.pdf).

**FY2010 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants FAQs - visit**  
[www.firegrantsupport.com/content/html/fps/FAQs10.aspx](http://www.firegrantsupport.com/content/html/fps/FAQs10.aspx).

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

## **Winter Weather Warning: CPSC and USFA Issue Home Heating Safety Alert**

January 20, 2011

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853 or CPSC Press Office: (301) 504-7908

WASHINGTON, DC - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) are urging consumers to play it safe as winter weather blankets the United States. According to USFA, home fires spike in winter months. Cooking and home heating are the leading causes of residential building fires during the winter. The risk of fires also increases with the use of supplemental heating, such as space heaters. CPSC estimates that home heating was associated with an average of 33,300 fires and 180 fire deaths per year from 2005 to 2007. Carbon monoxide (CO) is also a serious threat in the winter months. Any fuel-burning appliances in the home, including furnaces and fireplaces, are a potential CO source. Carbon monoxide is called the "invisible killer," because it is an odorless, colorless and poisonous gas.

There has been an increasing trend in unintentional, non-fire CO deaths associated with consumer products since 1999. CPSC staff estimates there were 184 CO poisoning deaths on average per year from 2005-2007 compared to 122 deaths per year from 1999-2001. Since 1999, the majority of CO deaths have been associated with heating systems and portable generators. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are an important line of defense in the home, and they give consumers valuable escape time. About two-thirds of fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms, or in homes where consumers have removed the alarm's batteries or where the batteries are dead. Recently, there were tragic deaths in homes where alarms could have made a difference:

- In Citra, Fla., a fire killed five children on November 8. Their home did not have smoke alarms.
- In Penfield, N.Y., a 54-year-old man died of CO poisoning in November. Prior to his death, the home's CO alarms reportedly beeped and were removed from the house.

CPSC and USFA recommend that in addition to having working smoke and CO alarms, consumers should follow these safety tips to prevent fires and CO poisoning:

### **Preventing Fires**

- Place space heaters on a floor that is flat and level. Do not put space heaters on rugs or carpets. Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture, and other flammable materials; and place space heaters out of the flow of foot traffic. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- To prevent the risk of fire, NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or place a space heater close to any sleeping person. Turn the heater off when you leave the area. See CPSC's electric space heater safety alert for more space heater safety tips.
- Never use gasoline in a kerosene space heater. Even small amounts of gasoline mixed with kerosene can increase the risk of a fire.
- Have fireplace flues and chimneys inspected for leakage and blockage from creosote or debris every year.

- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire, and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Store fireplace ashes in a fire-resistant container, and cover the container with a lid. Keep the container outdoors and away from combustibles. Dispose of ashes carefully, keeping them away from dry leaves, trash or other combustible materials.

### **Preventing CO Poisoning**

- Schedule a yearly professional inspection of all fuel-burning home heating systems, including furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, wood stoves, water heaters, chimneys, flues and vents.
- NEVER operate a portable gasoline-powered generator in an enclosed space, such as a garage, shed, or crawlspace, or in the home.
- Keep portable generators as far away from your home and your neighbors' homes as possible - away from open doors, windows or vents that could allow deadly carbon monoxide into the home.
- When purchasing a space heater, ask the salesperson whether the heater has been safety-certified. A certified heater will have a safety certification mark. These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features. An unvented gas space heater that meets current safety standards will shut off if oxygen levels fall too low.
- Do not use portable propane space heaters indoors or in any confined space, unless they are designed specifically for indoor use. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for proper use.

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## **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](http://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!!!**

**I**f 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

**B**enefits of taking this test include:

- 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

**Y**ou 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.

**W**hy 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!**

**T**he 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.

**S**ome of the fire departments might have other requirements (view the Firehire web site at [www.firehire.com](http://www.firehire.com) for more specific information) such as:

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

**F**or application materials or more information, visit their website at [www.firehire.com](http://www.firehire.com) or if you do not have internet access, call them at 1-800-755-5891.

**T**he 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
• Millbrae Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Mill Valley Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic
• Mountain View Fire Department –	Firefighter/EMT & Firefighter/Paramedic

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- 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:**

## National Incident Management System Training Plan (Draft) Released for Public Comment

The **National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training Plan** (formerly Five-Year NIMS Training Plan) has been released for a period of public comment.

The *NIMS Training Plan (Draft)* is located at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) - Docket # **FEMA-2009-0012** (<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FEMA-2009-0012-0002>)

Comments must be received by February 22, 2011. A well-developed NIMS training program that both guides and promotes NIMS training is vital to a successful nationwide implementation of NIMS. Therefore, the National Integration Center (NIC) asks that you take time to review and submit any comments, questions, and/or recommendations to assist with its improvement. In addition to describing preexisting training requirements and detailing a practical approach for the development and maintenance of a NIMS curriculum, *NIMS Training Plan (Draft)* provides assistance and insight to stakeholders on current and future NIMS training. Core competencies will form the basis of the training courses' learning objectives and personnel qualifications that validate proficiency. FEMA recognizes the national NIMS training program must be more than a plan to train emergency management personnel to the ICS. As a result, the NIC releases this *NIMS Training Plan (Draft)* to define a national NIMS training curriculum, core competencies, and personnel qualifications as well as assemble and update the training guidance for available NIMS courses (organized as a core curriculum).

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## **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.

- **Training Instructor 1A:** February 7 – 11, 2011
- **S-230 (Crew Boss – Single Resource):** February 15 – 17, 2011
- **Fire Command 1B:** February 21 – 25, 2011
- **Fire Instructor 2C:** February 28 – March 4, 2011
- **Fire Investigation 2A:** March 7 – 11, 2011
- **Training Instructor 1B:** March 14 – 18, 2011
- **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

For more information and to register for the classes, go to their website at [www.pstgonline.com](http://www.pstgonline.com) or call (925) 240-5200.

## **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.

- **Trench Rescue:** January 31 – February 2, 2011 (*Class in South San Francisco, CA*)
- **Fire Management 1:** February 7 - 11, 2011 (*Class in Saratoga, CA*)
- **Fire Command 1A:** March 21 – 25, 2011 (*Class in Campbell, 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*)

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**H**ere 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.drcoq.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

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

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

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- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <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).**

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Southern California:**

626 N. Eckhoff Street  
Orange, CA 92868

**Northern California**

526 Commerce Way  
Livermore, CA 94551

**Sacramento Area:**

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

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Looking to increase your fire service knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) or obtain some initial or continuing education?
- Check out some of the various fire service & EMS training conferences and seminars around the United States:

**Firehouse World – San Diego, CA** - February 26 through March 2, 2011

Go to [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com) for more information.

**Fire Service Leadership Conference – Seaside, CA – March 6 through 9, 2011**

Go to [www.fireserviceleadership.org](http://www.fireserviceleadership.org) for more information.

**Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – March 21 through 26, 2011 -**

Go to [www.fdic.com](http://www.fdic.com) for more information.

**Firehouse Expo – Baltimore, MD - July 19 through 23, 2011**

Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

**Fire Rescue International – Atlanta, GA - August 23 through 27, 2011**

Go to [www.iafc.org/frj](http://www.iafc.org/frj) for more information.

**Firehouse Central – Las Vegas, NV - August 29 through September 2, 2011**

Go to [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com) for more information.

**California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – Fresno, CA - November 14 through 18,**

2011 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information

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

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

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

<b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>February 10, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>February 11, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>May 12, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>May 13, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>July 14, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>July 15, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>August 15, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>August 16, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>October 13, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li><li>- <b>October 14, 2011</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours (<a href="#">Sausalito, CA</a>)</li></ul>
	**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.
<b>You will receive:</b>	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
<b>Your role:</b>	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
<b>To register / More information:</b>	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>

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## **FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: Richard Paul  
Rank: Firefighter/Fire Apparatus Operator  
Age: 54  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 33  
Date of Incident: 01/07/2011  
Time of Incident: 1100hrs  
Date of Death: 01/07/2011  
Fire Department: Kansas City Fire Department  
Address: 635 Woodland AVE, STE 2100, Kansas City, MO 64106  
Fire Department Chief: Richard "Smokey" Dyer  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.kcmo.org/CKCMO/Depts/Fire/index.htm>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Paul suffered a medical emergency while walking on a treadmill during a heart stress test, a portion of the annual fire department physical examination. Firefighter Paul was treated by emergency personnel and transported to the hospital but succumbed to his injury and passed away.

**Incident Location:** Pending

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Firefighter/Fire Apparatus Operator Richard Paul at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, two firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

### **AND:**

Name: Roy Chelsen  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 51  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 09/11/2001  
Time of Incident: 0848hrs  
Date of Death: 01/09/2011  
Fire Department: Fire Department City of New York  
Address: 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Fire Department Chief: Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Chelsen passed away from bone-marrow cancer resulting from his response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11th, 2001.

**Incident Location:** World Trade Center, New York City, NY.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, three firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; two from incidents that occurred in 2011 and one from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Harold Frey  
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic  
Age: 46  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 3  
Date of Incident: 01/16/2011  
Time of Incident: 1100hrs  
Date of Death: 01/16/2011  
Fire Department: Sandown Fire and Rescue Department  
Address: 316 Main ST, Sandown, NH 03873  
Fire Department Chief: Wilfred Tapley

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Frey passed away from an apparent heart attack while participating in an ice rescue training exercise.

**Incident Location:** Fremont Road and Philips Road, Sandown, NH.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Calling hours, 01/20/2011 from 4-8pm, Peabody Funeral Home, 15 Birch ST, Dairy, NH. An interment service is open to the public and will be held on 01/21/2011, 1100am, at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, NH. The Sea of Blue and Honor Guards will form at 1000hrs at the cemetery.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in honor of Firefighter/Paramedic Harold Frey to the Sandown Volunteer Fireman's Association, PO Box 1756, Sandown, NH 03873.

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

To date, seven firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; six from incidents that occurred in 2011 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Jim Duane Niles  
Rank: Fire Captain  
Age: 59  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 18

January 29, 2011

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

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Date of Incident: 01/13/2011  
Time of Incident: 1224hrs  
Date of Death: 01/13/2011  
Fire Department: Downs Fire Department  
Address: 715 E RAILROAD, Downs, KS 67437  
Fire Department Chief: Kail Schoen

**Incident Description:** Captain Niles became ill while working at the scene of a garage fire and was transported to the hospital where he passed away from a reported cardiac related injury.

**Incident Location:** Pending

**Funeral Arrangements:** Tuesday, 10 a.m. at United Methodist Church, Morgan & Blunt Street, Downs, Kansas.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** A memorial fund has been established to the Downs Fire Department. Memorials may be sent or dropped off at the Domoney Funeral Home, 817 Morgan Ave., Downs, KS 67437.

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Captain Jim Duane Niles at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, six firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; five from incidents that occurred in 2011 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: William (Bill) Floyd Hopman  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 53  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 20  
Date of Incident: 01/10/2011  
Time of Incident: 2108hrs  
Date of Death: 01/11/2011  
Fire Department: Quincy Volunteer Fire Department  
Address: 505 Lawrence ST, Quincy, CA 95971  
Fire Department Chief: Robert Cassou  
Fire Department POC: Yvonne Bush

**Incident Description:** On 01/10/11, Captain Hopman had responded to a structure fire in the downtown Quincy area. After the fire had been extinguished, Captain Hopman returned to the fire station and then went home. Sometime in the early morning hours of 01/11/11, he was found in his bed where he had passed away. The cause of death is under investigation.

**Funeral Arrangements:** The funeral will be held at the Qansner Airport, Highway 70, Quincy, CA on Wednesday, January 19, 2010, at 1300hrs. Captain Hopman had a hangar at this airport.

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

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

To date, five firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; four from incidents that occurred in 2011 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**AND:**

Name: Jarrett Eleam  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 26  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 1.5  
Date of Incident: 01/10/2011  
Time of Incident: 1900hrs  
Date of Death: 01/12/2011  
Fire Department: Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company  
Address: 4307 S Park AVE, Blasdell, NY 14219-2837  
Fire Department Chief: Ed Hughes  
Fire Department POC: Ed Hughes  
Fire Department Website: <http://bigtreevfc.com>

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Eleam fell ill during routine SCBA training at the firehouse. Eleam was treated and taken to Mercy Hospital by the fire company's EMS unit. After being admitted to the hospital, Lieutenant Eleam's condition rapidly deteriorated and he passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 4307 S Park AVE, Blasdell, NY 14219-2837

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Monetary contributions will be accepted to honor his legacy by improving the fire company he so selflessly served: Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, 4307 S Park AVE, Blasdell, NY 14219-2837. Portions of the contributions will also go to Upstate New York Transplant Services.

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

To date, four firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; three from incidents that occurred in 2011 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Patrick Hannon  
Rank: Lieutenant  
Age: 51  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 22  
Date of Incident: 01/15/2011  
Time of Incident: 0700hrs  
Date of Death: 01/15/2011  
Fire Department: Chicago Fire Department  
Address: 10 W 35th ST, Floor 14, Chicago, IL 60616  
Fire Department Chief: Fire Commissioner Robert S. Hoff

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Hannon was found unconscious and unresponsive in his bed at fire company quarters. Hannon was rushed to Mercy Medical Center but could not be revived. The specific nature of Lt. Hannon's fatal injury is still to be reported.

January 29, 2011

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

**Incident Location:** 2534 S. Throop St.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation is 01/18/2011 from 1500-2000hrs at Blake Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn. The funeral mass will be 01/19/2011, 1030hrs, at Saint Barnabas Church, 10134 South Longwood in Chicago.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, eight firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; seven from incidents that occurred in 2011 and one from a previous year incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: William Henry Quick  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 55  
Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: Pending  
Date of Incident: 09/11/2001  
Time of Incident: 0848hrs  
Date of Death: 01/18/2011  
Fire Department: Fire Department City of New York  
Address: 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
Fire Department Chief: Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Quick passed away from injuries sustained as a result of his response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11th, 2001.

**Incident Location:** World Trade Center, New York City, NY.

**Funeral Arrangements:** A funeral mass was held on Tuesday (01/18) at St. Ignatius Martyr RC Church. Visitation, Macken Mortuary, Island Park Chapel, 3930 Long Beach Road, Thursday & Friday (01/20-21), 2-4 & 7-9 pm. Interment, Saturday (01/22 @ 11:15 am), St. Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale, NY. (mackenmortuary.com)

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, nine firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; seven from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous years incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @ [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Mark G. Falkenhan  
Rank: Firefighter/Paramedic  
Age: 43  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 16+  
Date of Incident: 01/19/2011  
January 29, 2011

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Time of Incident: 1818hrs  
Date of Death: 01/19/2011  
Fire Department: Baltimore County Fire Department - Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company  
Address: 700 E Joppa RD, Towson, MD 21093  
Fire Department Chief: John Hohman  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.LVFC.com>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Falkenhan died from injuries sustained when he became caught and trapped by rapidly progressing fire conditions in a multi-story residential apartment building. Firefighter Falkenhan called a mayday about 20 minutes into the call. He was on the third floor, searching for fire victims. His partner was able to escape through a window on the third floor. Firefighters found Falkenhan near the balcony and delivered him to paramedics, who administered advanced life support measures and transported him to St. Joseph Medical Center. Fire crews rescued two civilians who critically injured. An adult female was transported to the Johns Hopkins Bayview Burn Center, and an adult male was transported to Sinai Hospital. The fire was contained by firefighters to a single garden-apartment building. The cause of the fire remains under investigation by authorities.

**Incident Location:** Dowling Circle, Towson Crossing apartments.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**AND:**

Name: Leslie "Les" Clark  
Rank: Captain  
Age: 80  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 20  
Date of Incident: 01/20/2011  
Time of Incident: Pending  
Date of Death: 01/20/2011  
Fire Department: Dixon Rural Fire Protection District  
Address: PO Box 92, 203 S Walnut ST, Dixon, MO 65459  
Fire Department Chief: Dennis Lachowicz

**Incident Description:** Captain Clark passed away after suffering a medical emergency while responding to a reported structure fire. Captain Clark was operating a tanker when he advised a crew member that he felt as if he might pass out, and then lost consciousness. The other firefighter reached over and applied the air brake to stop the vehicle. He and firefighters from the apparatus following the tanker removed Captain Clark and began CPR. Ground and Air ambulances were summoned to the scene and treatment continued. Captain Clark, however, did not survive his injury and was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Maries County Coroner.

**Incident Location:** Pending

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visitation will be held from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 23 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Dixon. Firefighters will walk through as a group at 4:30 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25 at the same hall. There will be visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will be held at to follow at Guardian Angel Catholic Church Cemetery.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to the Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation of Missouri

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

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

To date, 11 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; nine from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: David Eason  
Rank: Firefighter Recruit  
Age: 38  
Gender: Male  
Status: Firefighter Recruit  
Years of Service: N/A  
Date of Incident: 01/26/11  
Time of Incident: 1545hrs  
Date of Death: 01/26/11  
Fire Department: West Memphis Fire Department  
Address: 200 N 7<sup>TH</sup> ST, West Memphis, AR 72301  
Fire Department Chief: Wayne Gately  
Fire Department POC: Wayne Gately  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.westmemphisfire.com/>

**Incident Description:** During a training exercise at the Arkansas Fire Academy in East Camden, Arkansas, Firefighter Recruit Eason went into cardiac arrest while performing a hose trace evolution. Paramedics were on-site and immediately performed CPR and advanced life support. However, Firefighter Recruit Eason passed away at the hospital approximately 30 minutes later. Cause of death is under investigation.

**Incident Location:** Arkansas Fire Academy, East Camden, AR

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 12 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2011; ten from incidents that occurred in 2011 and two from a previous year's incident. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted online @

[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff\\_stats.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

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

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

**CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER DIES FROM CANCER**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the death of Alameda Fire Captain Scott Carnevale, who succumbed to job related esophageal cancer Monday at age 42. Captain Carnevale is survived by his wife, Liz, and their 8-year-old son. Firefighters say they suspect Carnevale, who was diagnosed with the disease in March, contracted cancer as a result of toxins that he may have been exposed to at fires and other emergency scenes. Carnevale began his career in 1993 with the fire department at the former Navy base here. He joined the Alameda Fire Department four years later and was promoted to apparatus operator in 2001. Carnevale became a captain in 2007. Carnevale also served as an executive board trustee and shift vice president for Local 689 of the IAFF. As always, our sincere condolences.

**A MUST READ (Because Your Mayor / City Manager Is Reading It) - "FIREFIGHTERS HAVE GONE FROM HEROES TO BUDGET BAIT"**

Below is a **LINK** to an article from Governing Magazine that your Mayor, City Manager and Elected Officials are reading right now-so it's probably a good idea if we read what they are reading, to insure your local facts are presented and your elected officials are well educated about YOUR FD. **AS THE ARTICLE STATES:** "The new landscape has clearly been shaped by the brutal fiscal conditions in localities. In an era of such severe economic uncertainty, high-level municipal officials -- elected and otherwise -- have not been shy about portraying firefighters as a group that has vacuumed up more than its fair share of municipal resources -- whether it's for salaries, equipment and firehouses, or for some of the most generous retirement packages offered by local governments today...." **MORE HERE:**

<http://www.governing.com/topics/public-workforce/firefighters-feel-squeeze-shrinking-budgets.html>

**-----BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN:**

"Are Budget Cuts Leaving The Fire Department Unprepared For Emergencies"?

The following article is from Mike Daly, NY Daily News asking: What if next time it is not a blizzard, but a terrorist attack? What if we suddenly miss those thousands of cops we have lost? What if we discover we need not fewer fire companies, but more? **MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/35odjci>

**REST IN PEACE, CHIEF MARK SOUDERS**

We want to express our condolences to the members of the Bradenton (FL) FD along with the family and friends of our old friend, Chief Mark Souders, 55, on his very sudden and shocking passing yesterday. Chief Souders, a Manatee High graduate, earned numerous advanced degrees along with his EFO and CFO designations and was a past president of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association. The Chief also was the program manager for State College of Florida's fire science technology program for the past seven years. Chief Souders leaves behind his fiancée -- the pair planned to marry in March - - as well as a daughter, Lauren Elliot, and grandson, Brogan Elliot, of Denver. The city hired Chief Souders in 1997 to replace the retiring Jim Hackle. Previously, Chief Souders worked at Manatee County's Cedar Hammock Fire District as a firefighter from 1978-82, a fire inspector from 1982-87 and then fire marshal. From 1989-91 he served as Cedar Hammock's assistant fire chief before taking over the deputy fire chief position. RIP Chief. For those that knew Mark, or want to learn additional, here is **MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2dyur3i>

**TORONTO MAYDAY & REENACTMENT:**

For those that may have missed Monday's **MAYDAY** in Toronto, here is the audio and story:

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

**AND HERE is a reenactment of that MAYDAY:** <http://tinyurl.com/2bn7yf4>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-6-11 / 1824 Hours

**AND:**

**MISSOURI FF DIES DURING DEPARTMENT PHYSICAL**

We regret to advise you that a Kansas City, Mo., Firefighter has died after having a medical emergency during his annual fire department physical examination. Kansas City Fire apparatus Operator Richard Paul, 54, suffered a medical emergency late this morning during his annual Kansas City Fire Department physical exam. Firefighter Paul was taken to a local hospital in critical condition and died later. FF Paul was married and had two children. He entered the Fire Academy in 1977 and was promoted to a fire apparatus operator in 2006. We'll post more on our home page as it becomes available. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-7-11/2032 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A few weeks ago we covered a story (link below) related to EMS personnel in NJ getting sick due to a cleansing product and or system. **UPDATE:** Now, the United States EPA has **issued a stop use and sale of the micro-misting disinfecting technology sold by Zimek Technologies**

([www.zimek.com](http://www.zimek.com)), according to the IAFF. EPA Region 2 has ordered a New Jersey EMS provider, Monmouth-Ocean Hospital Service Corporation (MONOC) to immediately stop the use of the toxic micro-misting of their ambulances with disinfectants acquired from Zimek Technologies and the Zimek Micro-Misting System. This device is used by MONOC to deliver disinfectants to the interior of ambulances as micron or submicron sized particles. EPA's enforcement action came as a result of a formal complaint to the EPA by IAFF Local 4610, the Professional Emergency Services Association of New Jersey, on behalf of its exposed brothers and sisters. The IAFF has contacted EPA and has confirmed that this action applies to ALL uses of the Zimek Micro-Misting Systems, whether they are used in ambulances, fire apparatus, fire stations or other vehicles and facilities. The order states that the disinfectants that have been used in the MONOC ambulances are likely to cause harm to humans when applied using the Zimek system. The order also states that EPA has reason to believe that individuals working in MONOC ambulances in which disinfectants were applied have become ill and treated for pesticide poisoning. Disinfectants used for decontaminating equipment must be EPA-registered hospital disinfectant chemical germicides that have been documented as effective against the infectious agent and MUST be used as they were approved by EPA.

**ORIGINAL DETAILS HERE:**

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/124864/layout/no>

**MORE HERE:** <http://www.iaff.org/11News/PDFs/MONOC.pdf>

**IAFF NOTICE:** <http://www.iaff.org/11News/010711Monoc.htm>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-8-11 / 1638 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A sincere tip of the helmet to the Officers and Members of **The Northwest Fire Rescue District** in Tucson (AZ) for making the entire fire/rescue service look highly professional during a very tough situation. As we all saw, yesterdays mass shooting would challenge the most seasoned fire/EMS personnel, and by all accounts (from the interviews with Dr Rhee and crew to all media accounts) the members of <http://www.northwestfire.org/> were as professional as it gets.

**HERE** is a time line of the shooting run (right hand column) <http://tinyurl.com/32j4zhw>

**HERE** is some scene raw video:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrWvkCTQSI4>

**FATHER SLAMS INTO THE AMBULANCE THAT WAS TRANSPORTING HIS OWN CHILD:**

5 people were sent to the hospital after a vehicle collided with an ambulance late Friday night in Luzerne County, PA. Hunlock Creek EMS was transporting a young child to the hospital after a seizure when her father, while rushing home, accidentally collided with the ambulance carrying her. They were taking a four-year-old girl to the hospital after she suffered a seizure. Her father was rushing home when he collided nearly head-on with the ambulance late Friday night. EMS crews said the father admitted to police he was driving too fast. The little girl was not hurt in the crash, but she, the ambulance driver, an EMT, her father and his passenger were all taken to the hospital.

**FATHER OF PATIENT STRIKES FIREFIGHTERS, COPS, LANDS IN THE SLAMMER:**

After rushing to the scene of a serious car crash involving his daughter this week, a West Virginia man was tasered and, along with his son, arrested and charged with multiple felonies after they reportedly got into a scuffle with emergency personnel. Instead of accompanying his 16-year-old daughter to the hospital, Rudolph V. Falbo II, 40, and his son, Joshua F. Falbo, 18, spent Thursday night at the Western Regional Jail in Barboursville, West Virginia. His daughters car was hit on the driver's side, pinning her inside the car. Her brother Josh was in another car close behind, and saw the wreck. Josh immediately called his father, who rushed over from the family's home, just blocks away. Unable to get his daughter out of the car, Rudy comforted her through the window. According to criminal complaints filed, Paramedics, Firefighters and Police repeatedly told Rudy to get out of the way numerous times-and he didn't, resulting in the tazing and arrest. **MORE** details on our home page.

**CRASHES: HIT THE TRUCKS-NOT THE TROOPS:**

The Stratford (CT) FD is down to "no spares" after the loss of two of its engines in a crash on Interstate 95 in which one tractor-trailer slammed into Engine 1, and another into Engine 5. The crash occurred about 2030 Friday on I-95. 6 Firefighters received minor injuries and were treated and released. The two engines were parked in a "staggered" configuration on the highway, in order to protect the lives of those operating at the original car crash. **MORE** details and photos on our home page, Daily news/Updates: [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

**MORE** info on protecting us on the roadways: [www.ResponderSafety.com](http://www.ResponderSafety.com)

**FIRE CHIEF CHARGED IN RESPONDING CRASH:**

The Fire Chief of Marion County (Oregon) has been cited for illegal operation of an emergency vehicle, after he crashed his SUV into oncoming traffic on the way to a fire on New Year's Eve. According to the cops, Chief Henson reached speeds of 62 mph in a department 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe and was seriously injured in the late-morning crash, but is thankfully recovering. The Chief was driving with his lights and sirens on but was trying to pass a truck when the two vehicles collided and his vehicle rolled.

**\*\*\*\*FDNY-TRAINING REMINDER: (This Is Open To All Firefighter & Fire Officers Everywhere)**

The FDNY Foundation will present the annual 2011 FDNY Training Symposium on Tuesday March 15th & Wednesday March 16th at the FDNY Training Academy. This class is filling up fast, so if you are thinking about attending, think hard and **GO HERE:**

[http://www.fdnymfoundation.com/2010/12/2011\\_high-rise\\_1.php](http://www.fdnymfoundation.com/2010/12/2011_high-rise_1.php)

**TRAINING FLYER:** <http://www.fdnymfoundation.com/ad-2011b.pdf>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-9-11 / 1517 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,  
For some who may not have received it, here is a link to the 9-1-1 call taker audio in Saturdays shooting. It is of great training value to 9-1-1 and related fire/EMS call takers, dispatchers etc.  
**Click HERE for the audio:** <http://tinyurl.com/27k233q> (scroll down on that page)  
**Click HERE for a written version:** <http://tinyurl.com/37xkvek>

**LOCAL Tucson News Coverage:**

<http://www.kvoa.com/pages/deadly-ramapge-complete-coverage/>  
<http://www.kgun9.com/>  
<http://www.kold.com/>  
<http://tucsoncitizen.com/>

**OTHER TUCSON area media links:** <http://www.abyznewslinks.com/uniteaztc.htm>

**FDNY 9/11 HERO FIREFIGHTER DIES**

An FDNY FF who operated at Ground Zero died Sunday from bone-marrow cancer that was linked to the time he spent rescuing victims from Ground Zero. Roy Chelsen, a Firefighter from Engine 28 in the East Village, died at 51 years old, only a month after receiving a long-needed stem-cell transplant. Several blood drives were organized for Chelsen while he was sick. The firefighter's legacy have an impact on the community because of the sheer number of people who volunteered to become donors, his lawyer and former firefighter told the paper. **Several firefighters credit Chelsen for saving their lives during 9/11 after the south tower collapsed, including friend and former firefighter Kevin Murray. Chelsen ran to the north tower to warn friends of its imminent collapse.** "We ran out of the north tower because of him," Murray told the media. "He ran back through all the jumpers to grab us and rush us out." After 9/11, Chelsen spent weeks digging through the rubble. Chelsen's death comes 8 days after President Barack Obama signed a \$4.3 billion 9/11 bill, which will provide five years of free healthcare and compensation to thousands of sick rescue and recovery workers, along with survivors of the attack. Chelson died peacefully at his upstate N.Y. home in Orange County at 6 p.m. surrounded by friends and family and is survived by his wife, Trish, and son Christopher, 24. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected. **REST IN PEACE. MORE HERE:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/24lejpa>

**SIREN SETTLEMENT:**

Federal Signal Corporation announced today that it has reached a settlement with 1,125 Firefighters in connection with hearing loss claims. This agreement was reached after Federal Signal obtained complete defense verdicts in consecutive recent trials involving the cases of 18 firefighter plaintiffs. Federal Signal also prevailed on pretrial motions with respect to three other plaintiffs.

**HERE** is more from Federal Signal: <http://tinyurl.com/2bjyl27>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-10-11 / 1018 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,  
A fire in Asbury Park New Jersey this morning went to 3 alarms and sent one Firefighter, acting truck Captain Jason Fazio to the hospital with very serious injuries. He and his partner were reportedly performing a search on the second floor of the two story attached building, middle of the row, when he  
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**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

became separated and his escape route was cut off by the fire. Reports are that the Captain ended up jumping from the 2nd floor window, suffering burns and inhalation injuries from the fire as well as numerous fractures. He was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center (regional trauma center) initially and was later medivac'd to Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center (state trauma center/burn unit) in New Brunswick, NJ. More info to follow. **HERE are several dozen photos showing the progression of the conditions, the smoke and then following fire. USE THESE PHOTOS in the training of your members related to understanding how FAST conditions can and will change.** <http://tinyurl.com/4byr6ey> - MORE to follow on the condition of Captain Fazio.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-10-11 / 1600 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Acting Fire Captain Jason Fazio, who turned 41 today, was seriously burned in this mornings fire in Asbury Park and he remains in critical condition this evening at the St. Barnabas Burn Center (not the Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center as we originally reported) in Livingston, New Jersey. Fazio, 41, acting Captain of the APFD truck company, went into that building which contains 12 2nd floor apartments along with stores on the 1st floor. Fazio was in a room in that apartment, which flashed over from the heat and he dove out of the second story apartment to save himself, according to APFD Fire Chief Kevin Keddy. Captain Fazio suffered several fractured bones in addition to his severe burns. **HERE** is a link to several dozen outstanding photos showing the progression of the conditions, the smoke, the venting and then the subsequent fire. **USE THESE PHOTOS** in the training of your members related to understanding how FAST conditions can and will change:

<http://tinyurl.com/4byr6ey>

**We also have optional links on our home page for those who had trouble with the above link on our earlier Secret List. We anticipate local UPDATES on this page in the near future:**

<http://www.asburyparkfirefighters.net/>

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

**Asbury Park** currently has 1 centrally located firehouse (with a new one planned for the future). They staff 1 Engine Company, 1 Truck Company, 2 Basic Life Support Ambulances, and a Duty Battalion Chief. Their apparatus fleet includes 4 engines, 2 Ladder Trucks, 1 Technical Rescue Response Vehicle and more. The APFD employs approximately 60 people, of which, 55 are certified FF/EMT's.

Updates on Captain Fazio will follow,

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-10-11 / 2200 Hours

**AND:**

**3 Firefighters Killed In The Line of Duty-Mudslide, 1 Firefighter Missing**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 3 Firefighters of the Civilian Defense of the State of Rio de Janeiro were killed in the Line of Duty today when their fire apparatus was caught by a mudslide. It happened while responding to rescue operations in the city of Nova Friburgo. Another Firefighter is reported missing. The death toll reaches 61 people because of heavy rains that triggered landslides and destroyed buildings in towns in the mountainous area ("Região Serrana") near the city of Rio de Janeiro. Yesterday, mudslides and floods killed at least 13 in Sao Paulo state and caused traffic chaos in Brazil's biggest city. We'll post more later. As always our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

January 29, 2011

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

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The Secret List 1-12-11 / 1114 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

In update New York, 26 year old Firefighter Jarrett Eleam of the Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, in Hamburg NY is in a coma due to an unknown medical emergency which occurred Monday evening after training. Firefighter Elam had completed the annual company in house SCBA/ firefighter survival certification and remained with other firefighters after his completion of his evolutions to assist in the training. Firefighter Eleam complained of feeling ill and was checked out by fellow firefighters. He was transported to South Buffalo Mercy Hospital where he fell into a coma and is critical and currently on life support. Jarretts immediate family members made the trip from Pittsburgh PA to Buffalo during the winter storm where they remain by his side at this time with many of the members of the BTVFC. Will advise updates.

**ASBURY PARK ACTING CAPTAIN JASON FAZIO UPDATE:**

Acting APFD Fire Captain Jason Fazio suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns to 48 percent of his body Monday at that apartment fire. While the 41-year-old Firefighter has not had any setbacks so far at St. Barnabas Burn Center in Livingston, he remains critical and heavily sedated. Fazio was caught in that flashover on Monday while operating on the 2nd floor, when he dove out. Keep him in your prayers.

**LODD REPORT RELATED TO FIREFIGHTING VEHICLE**

North Franklin Fire District 4 (Washington) Chief Chet Bauermeister was driving a retrofitted, rubber-tracked vehicle built in the 1960s when it overturned during fire operations at a brush fire on June 23, 2010. The 46-year-old Fire Chief was killed in the Line of Duty. With the economy being what it is, we suspect many FD's may consider homemade or local manufacturing or repairs and modifications to their apparatus-which can lead to trouble. While always more expensive, it is money well spent to have certified and qualified personnel and facilities repair, modify or manufacture. In this LODD, the vehicle had not been designed for use as a mobile attack fire apparatus. In this fire and related LODD, they were traveling uphill, and encountered rocky terrain where the slope increased sharply. The vehicle lost traction on loose rocks that were thrown out from under the spinning tracks. The Fire Chief maneuvered the vehicle side-hill to the east to get through the rock outcropping. The vehicle turned uphill, lost traction again, quickly turned back, and then overturned sideways and rolled downhill. The Firefighter riding with the Chief was ejected following the first roll and was not seriously injured. The vehicle rolled at least 3 more times before coming to rest on the drivers side, facing west, pinning the Fire Chief beneath the vehicles canopy. The Fire Chief died on the scene. HERE is the entire report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201015.html>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-12-10 / 0740 Hours

**AND:**

**NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY AFTER TRAINING**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 26-year-old Big Tree Volunteer Firefighter Jarrett Eleam passed away last night. It's reported that he got sick during routine SCBA training Monday night at the firehouse. The Firefighter was taken to Mercy Hospital by the fire company's EMS unit. After being admitted to the hospital, the Firefighter's condition rapidly deteriorated and he passed away at approximately 2030 hours last night. Big Tree Volunteer Fire Chief Ed Hughes said, "The entire Big Tree Fire Company is devastated by this loss, and our thoughts and prayers are with the family." As always our sincere condolences go out to all affected. Watch **HERE** for updates directly from the fire company: <http://www.bigtreevfc.com/>

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

**DETROIT FD OVERHAUL - A NATIONAL SEARCH FOR A NEW FIRE COMMISSIONER.**

Here is an **editorial** from the Detroit news: Detroit's Long-Troubled Fire Department Needs Thorough Reform. In dismissing the head of the Detroit Fire Department and the department's chief deputy commissioner, Mayor Dave Bing did what he was elected to do: hold top city officials accountable for the effective delivery of services. But Councilman Andre Spivey is correct that reform of the department can't stop there. It needs a complete overhaul.

The ENTIRE EDITORIAL IS HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/4h95u3s>

**CITY BANKRUPTCIES: KEEP AN EYE ON THIS / READ THE REPORT:**

While some of the numbers looked better for 2010 (vs 2009), JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon said he expects more U.S. municipalities to declare bankruptcy and urged caution when investing in the \$2.9 trillion public-debt market. "There have been six or seven municipal bankruptcies already," Dimon, 54, said yesterday, "I think unfortunately you will see more." Cities including Detroit and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, have raised the prospect of bankruptcy. Still, the number of filings has declined. Five municipal entities sought protection in 2010 compared with 10 in 2009, according to data compiled by James Spiotto, head of the bankruptcy practice at Chapman & Cutler, a Chicago law firm. The biggest last year was a South Carolina toll road with more than \$300 million in debt, he said. U.S. states will contend with about \$140 billion in deficits in the next fiscal year, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington research group, said in a report issued Dec. 16. **HERE IS THAT NATIONAL REPORT:** <http://www.cbpp.org/cms/?fa=view&id=711>

**HERE IS THE ENTIRE ARTICLE:** <http://tinyurl.com/5u3cxex>

**At The Risk Of Being Repetitive:** If there was ever a time where FIRE DEPARTMENTS should be aggressively reminding and demonstrating their value and worth to the community in a "we, the citizens, cannot and will not live without a (our) well staffed, well trained, well lead FD" - this would be it. In most respects it's sad and ridiculous that it has to be done, but that appears to be the "new" reality.

**WE TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER FIREFIGHTER KENNY HEDRICK**

On January 12th 1992, Prince George's County (Maryland) Engine Company 27 (Morningside VFD) was dispatched to 3807 Walls Lane in their due for a fire. Firefighter Kenneth Michael Hedrick was riding the Engine that day and responded on the run. Kenny entered the house and rescued a 7 year old boy who was trapped inside. Kenny went back inside to search for other reported trapped occupants. While searching the basement Kenny became trapped under debris and died in the Line of Duty. **CO. 27 INFO:** <http://tinyurl.com/4gm7xb4>

Kenny's Mom & Dad (Former Fire Chief Les, and Cathy) were and are still active members at Company 27. They are also both active members of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and MANY of you know the wonderful Cathy Hedrick, Kenny's Mom and active staffer with the NFFF.

**HERE is an interview with Cathy from Firehouse.com:** <http://tinyurl.com/4f63ndw>

If you would like to make a donation to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Kenny's name please visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org) . RIP Kenny.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-11 / 0748 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**KANSAS FIRE CAPTAIN LINE OF DUTY DEATH-CARDIAC AT FIRE SCENE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that the Kansas State Firefighters Association, along with the Downs, (Kansas) Fire Department announce the Line of Duty Death of Fire Captain Jim Niles.

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

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Captain Niles a 59 year old, 18 year member of the Downs Fire Department was stricken with cardiac problems while operating at a garage fire on Thursday January 13th, 2011. Captain Niles leaves behind a wife, 2 children and 4 grandchildren. The family and department is working out the details of the funeral at this time. Further info will be passed on when it becomes available. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-14-11 / 1638 Hours

#### **AND:**

#### **NEW JERSEY FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT WAR**

We regret to advise you that 23-year-old Firefighter/EMT from the Hope Hose Humane Fire Company in Bordentown, N.J. has died while serving our country in Afghanistan. A roadside bomb killed U.S. Army Private 1st Class Benjamin Moore yesterday, Wednesday. PFC Moore started as a volunteer with the company when he was just 16. PFC Moore was reportedly killed yesterday (Wednesday) by a roadside bomb somewhere in Afghanistan. Stateside, his unit was out of Fort Drum, and back home in Bordentown, he was a member of the Hope Hose Humane Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. Moore joined up at the age of 16 as a junior member.

**A post written months ago by Moore's mother, Amy Moore, on the Hope Hose-Humane Fire Company's Facebook page seemed to tell just how much his membership in the fire company meant to him.** "I bet everyone over there at HHH miss my Benny and I bet Benny misses HHH," Moore's mother wrote back in July of this year, after her son went to fight overseas. "I can remember when he was just a young teenager he probably drove all you guys crazy. "Thank you for giving my Benny a direction to go in when he was younger. Now look at the lug they actually trust him with a gun and a truck."

**HOPE HOSE HUMANE FACEBOOK PAGE:** <http://tinyurl.com/4qpd5xn>

**BORDENTOWN FMBA:** <http://www.bordentownfmba.com/>

Our sincere condolences go out to the family of Pvt 1st Class Moore, his friends and the members of the Bordentown FD, especially the members of Hope Hose Humane.

#### **UPDATE: ASBURY PARK (N.J.) ACTING CAPTAIN REMAINS CRITICAL**

Asbury Park (Acting) Fire Captain Jason Fazio remains in critical with 3rd degree burns over 50% at the St. Barnabas Burn Center in Livingston. He also suffered from multiple fractures including his femur, pelvis and ribs, due to the bail out. Initial reports are that he did have a bailout system but there simply was no time to deploy it. Captain Fazio was operating in that 2nd floor apartment Monday when he was forced to immediately dive out a window when the apartment flashed over, according to APFD Chief Kevin Keddy, who updated us this evening. The fire has been determined to be accidental and originated in the front bedroom of the second-floor apartment-which is the room that flashed over. Captain Fazio, who joined the APFD in 1994, was in the 2nd floor apartment, when "flashed over" according to Chief Keddy. Fire companies that assisted Asbury Park came from Neptune, Ocean Township and Fort Monmouth. Keep him in your prayers.

**MORE DETAILS WILL BE POSTED HERE:** <http://www.asburyparkfirefighters.net/>

#### **CLOSE CALL FOR VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS-NITROUS OXIDE TANK EXPLODES**

**Another Reminder: We Never Know WHAT May Be In There.**

4 Firefighters in Danville (Virginia) trying to knock down a garage fire escaped injury this afternoon after a 10-pound bottle of nitrous oxide exploded inside the structure. The fire was caused by a heat lamp that was installed too close to exposed roof trusses in a shed that was attached to the garage, the fire then spread from the shed housing dogs to the inside of the garage. The powerful explosion occurred while members were operating inside the garage. The explosion lifted the roof off the

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**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

structure and blew debris across the street. The 4 Firefighters that were inside the garage were able to escape without injuries. 2 other Firefighters who were outside the garage next to a doorway took most of the force from the blast. The explosion was found to be from a 10-pound bottle of nitrous oxide that exploded during the fire. The bottle ruptured due to the heat from the fire and sent shrapnel throughout the garage and into the street. We have more on our home page.

**FATAL EMS CRASH IN CALIFORNIA INJURES FIRE/EMS MEMBERS, KILLS PATIENT**

A patient in an ambulance died late last night during a crash that hurt 5 people, including 2 Firefighters and 2 Paramedics. Riverside County (CA) Firefighters were called to the crash at 2245 involving a car and an ambulance. The unit was transporting a cardiac patient when the crash occurred and the patient, a 47 year old woman, died inside the ambulance. The crash injured the two paramedics and two firefighters riding in the back of the ambulance with the patient. No cause as of yet.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-13-11 / 2133 Hours

**AND:**

**CALIFORNIA FIRE CAPTAIN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY FOLLOWING A STRUCTURE FIRE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Captain William (Bill) Floyd Hopman, 53, of the Quincy Fire Protection District in California passed away at home January 11, 2011, several hours after fighting a residential structure fire on January 10 in the evening. The fire was reported at 2108 hours, and was confined to the attic with damage to the second and first floors. Captain Hopman performed fire attack, extinguishment, and overhaul, and all Quincy companies and personnel were back at the stations and in service by 2255 hours. Captain Hopman helped clean up, and returned home. He died in the Line of Duty that night from an apparent heart attack and was found unresponsive at 0719 hours the next day. A celebration of Bill's life is planned for 1:00PM Wednesday, January 19th, 2011 at his hangar at the Quincy Gansner Field Airport off Highway 70 in Quincy. All fire personnel wishing to participate are welcome. For more information on participating, please contact Plumas Eureka FD Captain Chad Castagnetti at 530-258-9313, or Plumas Eureka FD Asst. Chief Tom Forster at 530-836-1086. Quincy FD Fire Chief Robbie Cassou is also available for questions at 530-283-0870. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-15-11 / 1827 Hours

**AND:**

**NH FIREFIGHTER DIES DURING TRAINING**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Harold Frey, 46, of the Sandown, NH Fire Department died during ice rescue training. Investigators said he appeared to have suffered a heart attack. Frey had been a longtime firefighter but has only been with the Sandown Fire Department for a few months. As always our sincere condolences. Officials said the crews were picking up to go home when an accident happened on the ice. Witnesses said Frey had just gotten out of the water when he began to exhibit symptoms of not being able to breathe. He collapsed and crews were unable to revive him. More details will be posted to our homepage as we receive them.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-16-11 / 1815 Hours

**AND:**

**RIVER EDGE, NJ VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS MEMEBER FOUND DOWN AT STATION**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Matthew Pelletiere, 37, died at Hackensack University Medical Center after squad members found him "unresponsive" and started CPR to try and revive him, said Joseph Zemaites, captain of the River Edge Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Responding to an emergency call around 9:40 a.m., Pelletiere went to the squad building so he could ride with the ambulance, but he missed the rig. Pelletiere, a teacher's aide in Paterson and the father of two children, was a probationary member and had been on the squad about one year, Zemaites said. More details will be posted to our homepage as we receive them.

Take Care-Be Careful,  
BillyG

The Secret List 1-16-11 / 2015Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As we continue to see the poorer cities of the United States get slammed with fiscal issues and related cuts (**although not exclusive to the poorer cities**), it appears that 50% of the Camden (NJ) Police Dept and 30% of the Camden Fire Department will, incredibly, be cut tomorrow. We have a piece posted on our home page about that. It's worth following because as the Fed's cut state funding, and the States cut local funding-cities like Camden (and cities NOT like Camden) are going to have to figure out where their funding will come from-or what services will just be reduced or eliminated. When nearly 50% of the residents in cities like Camden live in poverty, and with no jobs-it creates some conditions well worth learning from.

**CHECK OUT** the entire story our home page: [www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com](http://www.FireFighterCloseCalls.com) "Daily News & Updates" - Here is another piece on the Camden situation: <http://tinyurl.com/62sfebK>

**COUNTY-WIDE, REGIONAL AND COLLABORATIVE FIRE SERVICES?**

HERE is an EDITORIAL related to the above-but also to the many other cities and towns in Camden COUNTY (NJ) whose elected officials are also looking for "different" ways to provide public safety: <http://tinyurl.com/6jgazde> - And Others Have "Chimed In" As Well: <http://tinyurl.com/6fwecwh>

**WHAT YOUR CITY MANAGER IS LISTENING TO:**

In some communities, city managers and other city hall dwellers HAVE a good relationship with their firefighters and fire department leaders-but many do not. Here is a SAMPLING of how many city managers are "learning" about their FD these days, if they are not learning from us:

<http://tinyurl.com/4rw55pu>

**IN SOME TOWNS, LETTING POLITICIANS DECIDE COMMUNITY FIRE COVERAGE IS LIKE HAVING YOUR WORST ENEMY REPAIR THE BRAKES ON YOUR CAR:**

For almost 50 years, a career Firefighter has manned the Rockville Adams Township, Indiana firehouse 24 hours a day. That ended today. Are they worried about coverage? "No, we're not worried about the fire coverage," said Rockville Town Board President Norm Camerer. Norm said with a county-wide 9-1-1 system, it is less crucial for the fire station to be manned 24/7. **WTF!?** He hoped that Rockville police officers who are also volunteer firefighters can help provide station coverage during the day. **There ya go. HERE is the video:** <http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/local/fire-dept-cuts> (Thanks to FFCC Senior Affiliate Dave Statter for the heads up on this tiny town, that is also experiencing cuts) - WHY do we sent items like this on The Secret List when our mission is Firefighter Survival, Safety and Health? **Duh.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG

The Secret List 1-17-11 / 1007 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**We have been asked to pass this information on, specifically for Firefighters in the Western PA area who may wish to/be able to participate in this funeral for Lt. Jarrett Eleam, of NY.**

Lt. Eleam, age 26, became ill after participating in self-contained breathing apparatus training on Monday-January 10, 2011 and died in the Line of Duty on Wednesday-January 12, 2011. Jarrett is survived by his parents Terrell and Jacqueline Eleam of Millvale PA (just outside of Pittsburgh) and nine siblings: Adrian Locke, Darneice Bivins, Lillian Cannon, Dionnea Watkins; Terrell, Sharell, Jacquelin and Termane Eleam; and Gloria Wicks. Jarrett was predeceased by his brother and sister Norman and Lavenia Williams.

**ARRANGEMENTS:**

Visitation - Both the Wake and Funeral will be held at: Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2001 Wylie Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Wake -Thursday - January 20, 2011 - 4-8pm

Funeral Service -Friday - January 21, 2011 - 11am

(Fire apparatus is asked to arrive in the staging area by 9:30am - see below)

Internment -All are welcome to join in procession from the church to the cemetery:

Allegheny Cemetery - 4374 Butler St. - Pittsburgh PA 15201

Brunch -Following the cemetery service, a funeral brunch will be hosted by: Parkview Volunteer Fire Department - 726 Midway Drive - Pittsburgh PA 15215

**PARTICIPATION:**

Wake: Fire department walk-throughs are welcome at the wake on Thursday.

Funeral: Honor Details and apparatus are welcome at the funeral on Friday.

Staging Area: Apparatus will be directed where to park upon arrival at or near the church. Overflow parking will be addressed as necessary.

**CONTACT:**

Local Fire Departments from Erie County and WNY traveling to the wake and/or funeral and cemetery procession are asked to contact Town of Hamburg Deputy Fire Radio Coordinator John Carlin at [jcfdd2@aol.com](mailto:jcfdd2@aol.com) or 716.818.4350 with the number of apparatus and personnel participating.

Pittsburgh and Western PA area and outside fire departments and media participating at the wake and/or funeral and cemetery procession are asked to please contact Erie County (NY) Deputy Fire Coordinator Tiger Schmittendorf at [schmitte@erie.gov](mailto:schmitte@erie.gov) or 716.432.3915 with the number of apparatus and personnel participating.

**==SANDOWN, NH LODD DETAILS:**

As you know, FF Harold Frey, 46, died of a heart attack following an ice rescue training exercise Sunday on the Exeter River in Sandown. Calling hours will be held at Peabody Funeral Home in Derry from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, according to a release from the Derry Fire Department, followed by a private graveside service. Frey, formerly of Epping, moved to Sandown two years ago. He was a Marine veteran and served in Beirut during the Gulf War, according to his obituary.

**==CHICAGO FIRE LT DETAILS:**

Funeral arrangements have been announced for Chicago Fire Lieutenant Patrick Hannon, 51, who was rushed to Mercy Medical Center Saturday morning. He could not be revived. An autopsy found he died of natural causes. **His wife, Michelle, is a paramedic with the department.** They have two children. Visitation is Tuesday from 3 to 8 p.m. at Blake Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn. The funeral mass will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at Saint Barnabas Church, 10134 South Longwood in Chicago.

Take Care-Be Careful,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-18-11 / 1700 Hours

**AND:**

**RETIRED FDNY FIREFIGHTER WILLIAM "BILLY" QUICK-9/11 WTC Cancer**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that FDNY FF Billy Quick, 55 (Retired) has died from cancer. Billy was a very well known, colorful and popular FDNY Firefighter who the absolute definition of a Fireman's Fireman-from his fun side to the "job serious" side. Billy was also a 20+ year member of the Long Beach FD, in Nassau County, Long Island, New York. He leaves behind his wife, Lisa and 2 children, their twins Ryan Mary and William Henry, age 17. Tragically, Billy lost a short battle with what appeared to be effects suffered from operating at Ground Zero during 9/11. He was suffering from COPD, CHF along with other health issues. Before he passed away, he was hooked up around the clock to a machine that gave him the oxygen that his lungs no longer could take from the air.

=He will be reposing at Macken Mortuary 3930 Long Beach Road Island Park, NY on Thursday (01/20/11) 2-4pm & 7-9pm and Friday (01/21/11) 2-4pm & 7-9pm.

=Firematic Services will be held on Friday 01/21/11 at 8pm Macken Mortuary 3930 Long Beach Road, Island Park, N.Y.

=Mass will be held 9:30am at St. Ignatius Church 721 West Broadway, Long Beach, NY Burial to follow at St. Charles Cemetery 149 Conklin Street, Farmingdale, NY

**NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHILE ENROUTE TO TRAINING**

Members of Little Swift Creek Volunteer Fire Department are mourning the loss Firefighter Jeffrey Grega, 23, whose pickup plunged into Little Swift Creek Monday night. FF Grega was killed in the crash. Grega, who had been a Firefighter with Little Swift Creek since his teens, was driving north on his way to a training session at the firehouse. He was 3½ miles from his destination. The session was to start at 1900 hours. The N.C. Highway Patrol estimated his speed at 85 miles per hour prior to the crash. Troopers speculate that with the wet conditions on the roadway, Grega hydroplaned. Very sadly, FF Grega had been recovering from another car crash that happened a year ago, one that nearly killed him. As always, our sincere condolences.

**"SMELL OF GAS" CLOSE CALL IN PHILADELPHIA LAST NIGHT:**

**1 Gas Company Worker Killed, Several Critical, 1 FF Injured**

**Smell Of Gas Followed By Explosion Caught On Video:**

A gas explosion in Northeast Philadelphia last night killed one gas company worker and sent five people to the hospital, three of whom were in critical condition. The body of a dead Philadelphia Gas Works employee was found at the scene of the explosion in 6900 block of Torresdale Avenue in the Tacony neighborhood. Additionally, 3 gas company workers (PGW) workers were in critical condition at the hospital. Another PGW worker was in stable condition, as was an injured PFD Firefighter. The explosion occurred at about 2030 hours, a 12-inch gas main had exploded.

**RESPONDING TO THE SMELL OF GAS,** Firefighters and gas workers had cleared residents from homes in the area before the blast and were trying to address the leak to the gas line. A water main had also broken. Once the explosion occurred, at least two homes and a PGW truck were set on fire. Firefighters eventually extinguished the fires.

**HERE IS THE "LIVE" VIDEO** showing the explosion along with additional related links:

<http://tinyurl.com/65t9krw>

**HERE are numerous additional clips including PFD Fire Commissioner Ayers' comments:**

<http://tinyurl.com/68gpg5a>

**HERE are photos for those who may not be able to view video:** <http://tinyurl.com/6c37bz7>

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

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-19-11 / 1828 Hours

**AND**

Hey,  
We have been advised officially that a Firefighter from Baltimore County, MD is in extremely grave condition after becoming trapped in a MAYDAY situation. The FF has suffered multiple critical burns while operating at a multi-family dwelling 4th alarm fire this evening. The MAYDAY was reportedly transmitted about 20 minutes into the fire. **NOTE:** There has been speculation that this is an LODD but that is not official as per Baltimore County Fire. We will do updates soon. **HERE IS A VIDEO LINK OF THE FIRE:** <http://tinyurl.com/6q84pzi> - More to follow,

Take Care-Be careful,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-19-11 / 2039 Hours

**AND:**

**BALTIMORE COUNTY FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY  
TRAPPED IN MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING FIRE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Baltimore County FF Mark Falkenhan, 43. Mark was killed this evening after becoming trapped and calling a mayday in a multi-family dwelling fire and suffering massive burns. FF Falkenhan had recently left as a career Baltimore County FF to take a position with the United States Secret Service. However, he was an active member of Baltimore County's Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company (Station 30), a part of the Baltimore County FD. Mark was also an Instructor with MFRI, the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute. He leaves his wife and 2 children, ages 10 & 13 behind. More to follow. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-19-11 / 2221 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,  
As you are aware, Heroic Lutherville Volunteer Firefighter Mark Falkenhan, who had retired from the county's career fire department to pursue a career in the U.S. Secret Service, was killed in the Line of Duty last night while operating at a fire with civilians trapped. Firefighters from county firehouses in White Marsh and Cockeysville, and volunteer firehouses in Lutherville, Providence, Long Green, Rockaway Beach and others, responded Wednesday to the 1818 hours run for the kitchen fire at 30 Dowling Circle. On arrival, the kitchen fire was quickly upgraded to a rescue operation (occupants trapped) and then eventually to a 4 alarm fire. Initially, fire conditions made it very tough for Firefighters to enter, but eventually Firefighters made it in and performed at least two heroic rescues. While on an upper-floor apartment, where Firefighters were hitting the fire, reports are that it flashed over- 1 FF escaped successfully but FF Falkenhan did not. FF Mark Falkenhan, 43, was a husband and father of two young kids, ages 10 & 13. He was an active member of the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company (**See Videos Below**), where he served even after retiring from the Baltimore County (career) fire service, to pursue a career in the Secret Service. Mark was also a life member and Past Chief of the Middle River Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Company, an active MFRI (Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute) Instructor and USAR Team member. In addition to the tragic loss of FF Falkenhan, some 30 people were displaced and two civilians were injured very seriously. Governor Martin O'Malley has ordered the Maryland State Flag flown at half staff immediately.

January 29, 2011

**ABOUT THE BALTIMORE COUNTY FIRE SERVICE:**

Some of you following the heroic but tragic loss of FF Falkenhan may not be familiar with the unique Baltimore County operation. Hopefully this info will help you better understand it as one of the most successful combination FD's in the Country. The Baltimore County FD includes more than 1,000 paid career emergency personnel, housed at 25 exclusively career stations. The career members work at fire and rescue scenes alongside volunteer firefighters from the county's 33 exclusively volunteer fire companies. Each fire/rescue station in Baltimore County is either 100% career or 100% volunteer. More than 2,000 citizens volunteer in the county fire service as active responders, fundraisers and support personnel. Though volunteer companies are independent, private corporations, Baltimore County has a true and highly successful combination fire service, with career and volunteer members under one command structure. Baltimore County responds to more than 114,000 incidents annually. More than 70 percent of those incidents are medical calls.

**FIRE & RESCUE APPARATUS:**

88 engines (27 career and 61 volunteer)

13 trucks (7 career, 6 volunteer)

3 tower ladders

10 career engine companies have advanced life support capabilities; these are strategically located throughout the county. Their volunteer companies operate the county's 9 heavy rescue squads. They also have: a state-of-the-art, urban search-and-rescue unit, a decon unit, 6 large-capacity tankers for rural firefighting and various brush and squad units.

**EXCELLENT VIDEOS: HISTORY OF THE LUTHERVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY:**

These video clips will give you insight and good sense of the Lutherville VFC.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K15\\_zfkl\\_lo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K15_zfkl_lo)

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

**UPDATES HERE:**

<http://www.bcvfa.org/> (Baltimore Co VFF Assoc)

<http://www.mrvar.com/> (Middle River Rescue)

<http://www.lvfc.com> (Lutherville)

<http://tinyurl.com/4cmej8h> (Dave Statter)

More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-20-11 / 1142 Hours

**AND:**

**FUNERAL DETAILS: FIREFIGHTER MARK FALKENHAN  
LUTHERVILLE VFD, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

".....FF Falkenhan is survived by two sons and a wife, that he met in the fire service....his wife lost her father over the Christmas holidays, and now she must deal with the death of her husband...."

**VIEWING:** SATURDAY JAN 22 AND SUNDAY JAN 23 1400-1600 and 1800-2000 Hours

LOCATION: Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Road, Towson, Maryland.

**FUNERAL:** MONDAY JAN 24 1100 HOURS

SERVICE:

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21210 followed by:

CEMETERY:

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, Fallen Heroes Section, 200 East Padonia Road, Timonium, Maryland 21093

We will post and send more details as far as Firefighter/Fire Department attendance, line up etc soon. Also be sure to check these sites for updates as well:

**UPDATED FIRE DETAILS:**

While the investigation has just started, what is known is that something happened that caused Falkenhan's partner to jump out a third-floor window of the room where they'd been operating. The possibility of a flashover certainly exists by numerous accounts. The Firefighter who jumped escaped with NLT injuries, but FF Falkenhan radioed a mayday. Firefighters found and removed FF Falkenhan from the fire and performed resuscitation procedures on their comrade, who was taken to St. Joseph Medical Center.

**HERE IS AN EXCELLENT PIECE ABOUT MARK:**

**(Our thanks to Balto County D/C Mike Robinson for passing this on from ABC2. Mike is an original TSL member and was operating at the fire last night-Mark and Mike were long time friends)**

Any distress call would strike home to longtime firefighters like Division Chief Michael Robinson with the Baltimore County Fire Department, but this one was personal. "It was really a tragedy. On a personal level for myself, I've known Mark Falkenhan for over 25 years. I knew him as a volunteer." At the time of his death, Robinson says Falkenhan was searching the fourth floor of a burning structure in Hillendale for any possible victims. At his fire company in Lutherville, fellow firefighters are now hanging black and purple buntings and have lowered a flag to half-staff in tribute to their fallen comrade. Volunteers from other companies like Hereford, Norrisville and Jacksonville helped them answer calls for service as they draped their firehouse in grief. "You live together. You work together," said Robinson, "As I tell people in our recruit school, 'Look around the room. Some of these people may be your husband or wife. They may be the godparents of your children. They're going to be in your wedding, and even though they don't want to talk about it, they may be the pallbearers at your funeral.'" **While the circumstances surrounding Falkenhan's death remain under investigation, Robinson says no one could have been better prepared to deal with them, if it was possible.**

"If anyone knew in terms of expectations and anticipation, it was Mark Falkenhan, and again, no matter how prepared you are... It's like astronauts going into space and you look at the tragedies we've had there. They train rigorously. We train like astronauts everyday---operational readiness when we come to the station, situational awareness and Mark embraced all those," said Robinson. Falkenhan is survived by two sons and a wife that he met in the fire service. Robinson says his wife lost her father over the Christmas holidays, and now she must deal with the death of her husband. U.S. Secret Service Director Mike Sullivan called Falkenhan a "dedicated employee, ... close friend, colleague and public servant. He joined the Secret Service in 2006. "Mark is one of many Secret Service employees who volunteer their off-duty time to local fire and emergency rescue departments," Sullivan said in a statement. "Mark's devotion to public service was indicative of the strength of character he possessed, and we share in the grief of his loss." Falkenhan was a trainer for the Secret Service. "As part of the Emergency Medicine Section at the James J. Rowley Training Center (in Laurel), he was not only responsible for providing emergency medicine, rescue and firefighting services at the training facility, but was responsible for training Secret Service agents, officers and other critical response employees to respond to life-threatening incidents," the statement said. More to follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-20-11 / 1757 Hours

**AND:**

January 29, 2011

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Hey,

The Baltimore County Fire Department's Commendations Board has posthumously awarded its highest honor, the Medal of Honor, to FF Mark Falkenhan, who died in the Line of Duty this week operating at that 4 alarm fire with occupants trapped. The Departmental Medal of Honor \* awarded rarely \* is given to fire service members who, in the course of firefighting or rescue operations, intelligently perform acts of extraordinary heroism or bravery in the saving, or attempted saving, of the lives of others. Guidelines for this award specify that the action "shall be above and beyond the call of duty, at the grave risk of personally being killed or seriously injured," and that the action is taken with knowledge of the risks involved.

**"MY HERO" Trapped occupant Evangelyn Code said that Lutherville VFC Firefighter Mark Falkenhan rescued her from her third floor apartment during Wednesday night's fire. "I was getting ready to jump and he asked me please don't jump, I'm coming to you with a ladder and he came over with a ladder," said Code. "He was my hero but I feel bad about what happened, I really do. Knowing he was a volunteer firefighter and leaves his two children, his wife....I feel bad."**

The Commendations Board has also awarded FF Falkenhan the Purple Heart, "awarded to members who, in the course of firefighting, rescue or emergency operations, receive a grievous or life-threatening injury, through no fault of their own." "Mark Falkenhan was an intelligent, committed Firefighter who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is an understatement to say that he has earned these honors," said Fire Chief John J. Hohman. The Department formally will present the awards at its upcoming annual Promotional and Commendations Ceremony, scheduled for March 22. The Baltimore County Fire Department Commendations Board is comprised of career, volunteer and retired fire service members who evaluate candidates for various awards based on specific criteria. The board voted unanimously to honor Falkenhan with the Medal of Honor and Purple Heart.

**GREAT FIREFIGHTER, GREAT HUSBAND, GREAT FATHER:**

<http://timonium.patch.com/articles/great-firefighter-great-husband-great-father>

**MORE RELATED UPDATES HERE:**

<http://www.bcvfa.org/> (Baltimore Co VFF Assoc)

<http://www.mrvar.com/> (Middle River Rescue)

<http://www.lvfc.com> (Lutherville)

<http://tinyurl.com/6abyz5t> (Dave Statter)

**MEMORIAL SERVICE DETAILS:**

VIEWING: TOMORROW: SATURDAY JAN 22 AND SUNDAY JAN 23 1400-1600 and 1800-2000 Hours

LOCATION: Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Road, Towson, Maryland.

FUNERAL: MONDAY JAN 24 1100 HOURS

SERVICE:

Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21210 followed by:

CEMETERY:

Dulaney Valley Memorial Gardens, Fallen Heroes Sec, 200 East Padonia Road, Timonium, Maryland 21093

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-21-11 / 1210 Hours

**AND:**

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Hey,

It is with deep regret that we advise you that fire service apparatus expert Bob Barraclough sadly passed away this morning from a suspected heart attack. Bob had been dealing with some very significant health issues over the last several years. There will be no service at this time, but a memorial is being considered for later in the spring. I first met Bob at FDIC in Memphis in the early 70's attending one of his, of course, apparatus classes-and we remained friends ever since. Bob was an outstanding gentleman who without question, very positively influence firefighters everywhere and always had time to talk, discuss, answer or just catchup. Bob was a 50-year veteran of the fire service and fire manufacturing industry. Bob wrote for many of the fire service magazines and was a 20-year member of the NFPA 1901 Fire Apparatus Standards Committee. A principal organizer of the annual FDSOA Apparatus Specification Symposium, he is also a past president of the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association. Barraclough served as a consultant to Rosenbauer America and is called upon as an expert witness in litigation involving fire industry products. His career includes executive positions at E-ONE, Hale Fire Pumps, National Foam, Span Instruments and Class 1.s.  
Rest in Peace Bob.

**BALTIMORE COUNTY LODD INFO FOR PARTICPATING FD's, PIPE, DRUMS AND RELATED**

Mark Falkenhan-FF/Medic, Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company, Baltimore County FD.

**==FOR PIPE BANDS:**

Any pipe bands wishing to participate the funeral please contact EVD Robert McCurdy - Baltimore City Fire Dept and Band Manager - The Fire Brigade Pipes and Drums of Greater Baltimore:  
[fbbandmanager@comcast.net](mailto:fbbandmanager@comcast.net)

**==FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS/FIREFIGHTERS ATTENDING:**

Fire companies attending the funeral and funeral procession should contact Glenn Resnick:  
[glenn@marbledesignsltd.com](mailto:glenn@marbledesignsltd.com)

**==FOR DONATIONS FOR MARK'S SON'S:**

Donations for Mark's sons can be made to: Baltimore County Fallen Firefighters Foundation - Mark Falkenhan Fund. Checks can be mailed to: P.O. Box 20128 Towson, MD 21284.

**==USE THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS: [LODD520@yahoo.com](mailto:LODD520@yahoo.com)**

As it has been established for all to send thoughts, pictures, condolences and memories of Mark

**==FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS HELMET STOLEN==**

As some of you may know last Tuesday after the funeral for fallen Framingham (MA) Firefighter Mike Urban, some dirtbag stole his black leather helmet from his nephews car who had broken down during the snowstorm in Middleborough. The Framingham Board of Selectmen has put up a \$1,000 reward for the return of the helmet. Please keep an eye out on chatrooms, forums, ebay and craigslist in hopes of a lucky break. The information is in the MetroWest Daily News link below.

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/features/x104388154/-1k-offered-for-return-of-dead-Framingham-firefighters-helmet>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-21-11 / 1743 Hours

**AND:**

**MISSOURI FIRE CAPTAIN DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY WHILE RESPONDING**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Captain Leslie Clark of the Dixon Rural Fire Protection District, Missouri died after suffering a medical emergency while responding on a run yesterday. Captain Clark was driving a tanker to a reported structure fire when he advised a crew member that he felt as if he may pass out. Captain Clark did pass out and the Firefighter also in the tanker reached over and applied the air brake to stop the vehicle. Firefighters from apparatus following the tanker  
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along with the other Firefighter in the tanker removed Captain Clark and began CPR. Ground and Air ambulances were summoned to the scene, and after long efforts, Captain Clark was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Maries County Coroner. Funeral arrangements are pending, with tentative visitation on Sunday Jan 23rd and funeral Monday Jan 24th, 2011. Once finalized, arrangements will be posted at [www.mofirefuneral.org](http://www.mofirefuneral.org) As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-21-11 / 2113 Hours

#### **AND:**

Hey,

Middleboro FD (MA) confirms that the helmet of that fallen Firefighter has been returned to the firefighter's family. It was found in a backpack tonight laying outside a Middleboro firehouse. It belonged to Framingham fire veteran Mike Urban who tragically died of lung cancer earlier this month. The helmet was given to his widow at his funeral and his nephew was in charge of holding on to it. But as you know, Mike's nephew was forced to abandon his car when it broke down in last week's snowstorm right after the funeral. An unknown dirt bag broke into the car and stole the helmet, but fortunately it has been returned this evening.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 1-21-11 / 2326 Hours

#### **AND:**

### **3RD FIREFIGHTER LODD IN LESS THAN A WEEK IN BELGIUM**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that the Belgian Fire Rescue services suffered a third LODD in barely one week. The 39 year old Civil Protection Force Fire Rescue FF/Diver Olivier Rouxhet was killed in the Line of Duty during the search for 2 children in the Meuse River. The 12 and 6 year old children have been missing since January 16 when the oldest girl jumped after her sister who fell into the water. As a part of the recovery efforts, the fire rescue service participated and the FF, Olivier Rouxhet, an experienced diver, crew-chief of the diving operation over the the previous days, got into trouble going down in the man-made barrier complex on the river. He gave alarm signals by his security line, but the surface-crew couldn't free him. They immediately started a rescue operation but it was too late. He had been smashed to a pier of bridge by the flow and lost a part of his diving equipment, most importantly his breathing mask. A diver of the Liège Fire brigade was also injured bringing the unconscious FF to the surface. An medical crew start life saving measures but he did not survive. FF Oliver Rouxhet was divorced and leaves a 7 year old daughter. As always, our sincere condolences.

### **SECURE YOUR HOSE LINES / PRE-CONNECTS / EQUIPMENT ETC.**

The PA State Supreme Court yesterday affirmed a \$5 million verdict awarded in the case of a flailing fire hose that killed a Coraopolis girl and critically injured her friend. An Allegheny County jury in 2006 found Oklahoma-based Sinor Manufacturing and the Coraopolis VFD liable for the death of Erin Schmidt, 10, and injuries to her friend. Schmidt was struck in the face Aug. 19, 2004, by a hose trailing behind the fire apparatus as Coraopolis firefighters responded to a fire on her street. A divided high court upheld a lower court's ruling that approved the verdict.

### **MORE DETAILS HERE:**

[http://www.timesonline.com/bct\\_news/news\\_details/article/1373/2011/January/25/jury-award-in-hose-death-upheld.html](http://www.timesonline.com/bct_news/news_details/article/1373/2011/January/25/jury-award-in-hose-death-upheld.html)

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:**

**FDNY FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMBS.**

Help the Fire Service Honor and Remember - Help coordinate a 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb in Your Area. **What is the Mission of the NFFF Memorial Stair Climbs?** We climb to ensure that the fallen firefighters of September 11 are never forgotten; we complete their journey through dedication, training, and physical fitness. **What is a 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb?** On the morning of September 11th, Firefighters convene in high-rise buildings across the United States to climb 110 stories as a tribute to their fallen brothers. Some use air pack or carry hoses; many are in full turn-out gear; others are accompanied by rescue dogs. Each climber carries the photograph of a Firefighter who was lost on September 11, 2001. Several climbs have been modified to enable citizens to participate, building height issues and are generally held in outdoor venues. For both types of event, the 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb is not a race, but an opportunity to honor and remember the 343 FDNY members who selflessly gave their lives so that others might live.

**MORE HERE.** <http://firehero.org/creative/stairclimb/2011/blast/>

**PLEASE CONSIDER GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT, ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR, THE 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THOSE MURDERED 9-11-01.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-25-11 / 2203 Hours

**AND:**

**BELGIUM FF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-COMMERCIAL BUILDING/NIGHTCLUB FIRE (Videos/Photos below)**

Its with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Étienne Manise 39 of the Mons Fire Department in Belgium died in the Line of Duty this morning while operating at a fire in a commercial complex. The fire started in a nightclub quickly spread to the entire facade of the building. When the fire broke out, hundreds of candidates for the Belgium Top Models contest were rehearsing in a room in the complex. They were evacuated safely. There were no injuries among them. Tragically, during the operation, FF Manise, 39, Firefighter at Mons station was killed. The Firefighter was one of the first team of Firefighters inside the nightclub. As conditions significantly worsened, fearing a risk of flashover, Firefighters decided to withdraw. 2 of them managed to find the exit but the 3rd was trapped in the furniture and could not evacuate. Etienne Manise, a Firefighter since February 2002, was severely burned. His colleagues are naturally in shock. The body of the firefighter was carried out by other FF's on the scene and his family was present as well.

**HERE** is a link to the post on FF Pascal Marchand's blog. It's in French but there is a lot of video for you to check out. <http://www.formationincendieblog.com/2011/01/un-pompier-de-mons-est-mort-en-devoir.html>

**HERE** is a link to FF Ronan Vinays Facebook page with details related to this fire:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/FIRE-TECHNIC/164734117228>

**MORE** on this fire and LODD here as well: <http://www.laprovence.be>

**TAKE A MOMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FLASHOVERS:**

<http://www.firetactics.com/FLASHOVER.htm>

As always, our sincere condolences to all affected-especially FF Manise's family, friends and his FF's.

**VENTING AT FIRES?**

**==RE-THINKING RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURAL FIRE VENTILATION / FIRE ATTACK.**

The firefighters/fire scientists at UL have completed a very interesting (and enlightening) study and program (with videos, graphs and related photos/documentation) on residential fire behavior and January 29, 2011

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ventilation. It is called "**The Impact of Ventilation on Fire Behavior in Legacy and Contemporary Residential Construction.**" It includes tests on **how YOUR fire environment has changed** and how ventilation practices need to be thought (re-thought) about and coordinated. The output is an online training program geared towards Fire Officers and Firefighters at all levels. **Participants and contributors to the study included seasoned Fire Officers from FDNY, Chicago and other departments.** **CLICK HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/6e7u9nn> but if that link fails, go to [www.ul.com/fireservice](http://www.ul.com/fireservice) and click on the link on the left for the ventilation project. **This study will definitely force some re-thinking on fireground operations, specifically on venting.**

**==AND SPEAKING OF FIREFIGHTING SMOKE:**

In preparation for the launch of two new DHS firefighter training programs - Out of Air and Aftermath, the **Fire Smoke Coalition** is asking you to assist in research relative to air management and treatment for hydrogen cyanide exposure in the face of smoke inhalation. This research will be an invaluable tool for all fire departments throughout the United States.

**PLEASE TAKE IT HERE:**

<https://app.icontact.com/icp/sub/survey/start?sid=2555&cid=459797>

**Final Note:** Last week, Battalion Chief Carey Nelson of the Mokelumne (Cal) FD passed away after a long battle with cancer. He gave 30 plus years to the MFD and was a leader in both the USAR and fire investigation fields. Chief Nelson leaves behind a wife and a 15 year old son. As always, our condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-23-11 / 1623 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

**REMEMBER BLACK SUNDAY:** January 23, 2005 was "black Sunday" in New York when FDNY Lt. Curtis W. Meyran (covering Ladder 27 that day) and FF John G. Bellew (Ladder 27) died in the Line of Duty at an apartment fire in the Bronx. Four other FF's were injured: Jeffrey Cool (Rescue 3) Joseph DiBernardo (Rescue 3), Brendan Cawley (Ladder 27) and Eugene Stolowski (Ladder 27). All 6 FF's were forced to jump from the 4th floor of an apartment building as they were trapped by the fire. And, as you'll remember, at a separate incident in Brooklyn that day, just 3 hours after the Bronx fire, FF Richard T. Sciafani (Ladder 103) was killed in the Line of Duty after getting trapped in the basement while operating at a residential fire. **HERE** are links to reports and articles as we remember those who were injured and killed that day.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200503.html> (NIOSH Report-BRONX)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200504.html> (NIOSH Report-BROOKLYN)

<http://nymag.com/news/features/26574/index3.html> (NY Magazine Article Bronx Fire Double LODD)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-23-11 / 1017 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

In Nassau County on Long Island (NY) this morning, James Allen, Chief of the North Merrick Fire Department, was issued a citation by a New York State Trooper. The Chief was making an attempt to close the southbound right-hand lane because of a crash in the center lane on the Meadowbrook State Parkway around 0900 today. The Chief was leaving one lane open for traffic to keep moving, but wanted the accident lane and one other lane closed for safety. It wasn't safe. The weather this January 29, 2011

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morning was not good (wet, snowy, icy) and cars were slipping and sliding all over the place. We had a crash victim and I was just trying to make it as safe as possible. I have to keep my personnel safe too, Allen said. It should be noted that NY State just passed the Ambrose-Searles Move Over Act. It's named after a NY State Trooper and an Onondaga County Sheriff's deputy, who were both killed in the Line of Duty while their patrol cars were stopped along the side of the road. New York is one of the last states to enact a Move Over Law.

**HERE IS THE STATE POLICE PSA VIDEO ON WHY THE ROADS MUST BE MADE SAFE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AT ANY SCENE:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVb8epuNV2E>

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-with responders operating in the middle. When Chief Allen disagreed, (because of his concern about personnel operating in an "island" without any side protection), the officer threatened to have him arrested. Instead, the incident ended with the State Trooper issuing the Chief a citation. According to the Chief, the incident involved a car that had spun around and was northbound in the south bound center lane. The Trooper pulled up first and put his truck (SUV) behind the accident in the center lane. The Chief, arriving moments later, put his SUV in the right lane, so now the right and center lane was blocked and they kept the left lane for traffic to keep moving. The Trooper sternly wanted the Chief to open up the right lane and let traffic go in both the left and right lane and have the Firefighters, EMT's (and the police) work in the center lane. Chief Allen told the Trooper he was not moving his Chiefs truck for the safety of his department members, the patient and for the police. The Trooper didn't like that idea and told the chief that if he don't move the vehicle, he was going to arrest him. The chief responded "I guess that's what you are going to do because I am not moving my truck".

Chief Allen has been a firefighter for 23 years and a chief officer for 5 years and there has never been a problem previously. The parkways are shut down or partially shut down regularly-as a matter of safety for all operating. Chief Allen called the Nassau County Fire Communications Center (Firecom) for a state police supervisor to respond, who never showed up. The end result was that the trooper gave the chief a ticket for failing to comply with a lawful order. The chief has a call into the area state police supervisor to ask him if this is the way they are going to work with us? If so, the chief has stated that the North Merrick FD, as long as he is Chief of Department, will not respond to a call on the parkway because the safety of his members is first. As of January 1, (as noted above, with video) there is a new NY State law in effect that says that all cars have to move over a lane when they see an emergency vehicle. 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, Chief Allen stated. Chief Allen clearly "gets it"- we just don't understand why the Trooper doesn't, or at least didn't. This, especially after his own agency (NY State Police) worked to pass the new law. NYS Police are also on the forefront nationally on scene/traffic management, warning light use and color and related safety initiatives. We'll keep you advised.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-26-11 / 1758 Hours

**AND:**

**FIRE RECRUIT LINE OF DUTY DEATH-CARDIAC-ARKANSAS**

We regret to advise you that a West Memphis (Arkansas) Firefighting recruit died during a training exercise today in Camden, Ark. David Eason, 38, suffered a heart attack during the exercise at the Arkansas Fire Academy just before 4 p.m. According to West Memphis Fire Department Battalion Chief Tim McNeely, Eason was doing an exercise designed to teach firefighters how to follow a hose out of a burning building if they get disoriented. He was in a darkened basement wearing his

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firefighting gear, but there was no actual smoke or fire involved. "He got quiet. They immediately turned the lights on. At that point, he had stopped breathing. They had a paramedic on scene, and he started working with them," Chief McNeely said. Eason was flown to a nearby hospital, but pronounced dead less than an hour later. McNeely said Eason was in good shape and passed a physical to become a recruit. Eason leaves a wife and two young sons. As always, our sincere condolences.

### **SAVING FF JOBS-The Role Of Union Leaders**

The following is a commentary from a long time Secret List member, Eric Lamar. It is also available at the below link, thanks to Bill at FireGeezer is the first of an irregular series of commentaries on this topic. The issue, once again is the economy-specifically related to Firefighter jobs. In this case, Eric offers some serious food for thought related to the loss of jobs and related challenges for Firefighters. Particularly in urban, metro and "inner" cities, things are beyond tough, beyond belief in many cases. Here is a link to our most recent evaluation related to fire service cuts in the USA:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/site/firefighterclosecalls/pdf/Firefighterclosecalls%2012-10.pdf>

In Gary Indiana, for example, at full force the city staffs 13 engines and 3 trucks. The department is down to six engines and two trucks with the recent 30+ FF layoffs. And then there is the situation in Camden, NJ:

### **Here are Eric's thoughts.**

The Great Recession is far from over. Mayors across the country are preparing for another grueling round of budget cuts as free-falling property values continue to destroy tax revenues. A recent article in the New York Times cites a study from IHS Global Insight, which projects "that 105 metropolitan areas would not return to their prerecession peaks for jobs until 2015; for 32 areas, including Toledo, Ohio, and Detroit, it would not happen until 2025." That is sobering news. One of the worst hit cities is Camden, New Jersey, but Camden is hardly alone in her fiscal plight or dismal future. Dozens of cities and counties across the US are in long term financial jeopardy. Camden is a study of what happens when events conspire with inertia to create a downward spiral. As of last Wednesday evening, 68 firefighters were laid off there, after the local union and the City failed to reach a deal.

### **A few facts about Camden:**

- 80% of the city budget comes from the state. (It's 2010 budget was \$185M, \$121M came from Trenton.)
- They are expecting to collect only \$21 million in local tax revenue for the current \$138 million budget.
- It is America's poorest city with a median household income of \$18,000.
- More than 50% of the 80,000 residents live in poverty.

If the measure of what a city should provide to its citizens is what it can afford, then Camden should be providing next to nothing. The City has little or no funds or tax base and Governor Christie has long since made clear his disdain for the program that has consistently provided state funds to cities that are deemed to be stressed. He also signed legislation capping property tax increases at 2% removing a key revenue producer for local governments. The outlook, especially as the Great Recession lumbers on, is extremely bleak. Camden is a desperate and destitute enclave teetering towards implosion where the accepted norms no longer apply. Yet leaders, labor and management alike, seem to cling to the past for fear of a bitter future. How many other American cities are drifting toward a Camden Scenario?

In this crisis environment, is the role of a union leader to act to protect jobs or to protect a level of wages and benefits that will automatically (and often immediately) result in union members being laid off? Are union leaders charged with looking ahead to make tough decisions or is it just the here and now that matters? In Camden and similar cities those are the fundamental questions if unions are to be relevant in this post-prosperity economy. The "play-it-safe/ no-risk" strategy in the short term

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means putting the weakest into the lifeboats and lowering them away. The ship is still taking on water but the load has been lightened and the list is gone, if only for awhile. This strategy implies that no other actions (changing course, reassigning crew, and adjusting rations) will do. Sounds fine if land is just over the horizon or you aren't in the life boat. But what if land is nowhere in sight?

Camden and cities like her are firmly and forlornly adrift. Hewing to old rules and the play-it-safe strategy in these places means a lot of things, one of which is that newer firefighters who put their faith in the union and its members have been abandoned without a (real) fight. Regarding "everyone goes home" -in Camden they went home and may not come back and it doesn't make unions stronger or more effective, quite the opposite-it makes them irrelevant as they stoically protect "gains" destined to be enjoyed by a select few and only for a while. The "disappeared" will tell you that the most important thing about a job is having one, in no small part because of health benefits for your family. According to IHS Global, the once familiar world of pay and benefits is dead, perhaps for a generation or more. We need to move from denial to acceptance and be willing to adopt strategies that maintain the reasonable minimum for the maximum before we cast them over the side, most especially in places like Camden where the current cost of essential services will never be covered by local revenues. In this environment, lay-offs should be the last resort, rather than the first, for unions.

If in cities like Camden people refuse to take furloughs or even more drastic measures as a means of closing a real budget gap they are indicating to elected officials and the citizens that firefighters and paramedics won't be part of a solution. (Though it must be said that furloughs in Camden are the equivalent of bailing the Titanic with a teacup.) But the real reason to take a furlough or a pay cut is not to show anyone anything, it is to keep brothers and sisters employed, especially when you know that the fiscal situation is dire and long-term. Otherwise, the outcome is the lifeboat strategy which is the beginning of a divide and conquer mentality that can take years for unions to overcome, as those with the least resources are given five minutes to grab their possessions and head for the boat deck. It's a riveting and emotional scenario to behold-but was it really necessary? The lifeboat strategy (which works till you run out of lifeboats or the ship glides beneath the waves) actually makes unions irrelevant. It takes neither intellect nor leadership to stubbornly adhere to the status quo in cities like Camden. Has the real conversation even occurred there? The booming Camden of the 20th century died in 1969. Investors and employers pulled out 40 years ago. What is left is the moldering detritus of a once prosperous city propped up by the largesse of the state. That all ended with the Great Recession and the exit of former governor John Corzine. An entire city has become a de facto welfare recipient on a massive scale.

Here's just one an idea; I am sure there are many better ones. Start with some questions. Three years from now what is the likely budget of the fire department given a clear-eyed, rational assessment of what has happened to the city? Is it 50-60% of what it was three years ago? (Given tax revenue that is a rosy prediction.) What changes have to be made to fit that budget model? Everybody knows that the major costs of running a fire department are personnel related. Work together to create a fair and voluntary buy-out for current vested members so that they leave with dignity and a decent pension. (Christie might even agree to that.) Adjust the salaries and benefits to meet the expected revenues and effectively re-launch a new fire department based on what the city and citizens can afford; keeping in mind that it has not been able to afford the current fire department in years. Sound drastic? It is. But, so is the situation in Camden (and other places.) Their "trimmed down" current budget, (\$121M) is 25% less than last year but local revenues will cover only 15% of that. Where is the rest coming from this year-and next?

Holding the current course with recurring rounds of layoffs denies reality and weakens the department and the union. Those who support that strategy are effectively enabling a fatal habit. It has the advantage of being safe for now even if it makes leaders largely irrelevant in charting their fate. Being irrelevant isn't necessarily bad until you feel the water lapping on your shoes. (Commentary by Eric Lamar link to original piece HERE:) <http://firegeezzer.com/2011/01/24/saving-firefighter-jobs/>

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 1-27-11 / 0005 Hours

**AND:**

**SPECIAL: A VERY COOL VIDEO.** Nearly a year ago, February 1, 2010, Mt. Horeb WI lost its long time and very unique Fire Chief who was also a good friend of ours, Chief Chuck Himself. Chief Aaron Harris from the nearby Middleton FD, another close friend of Chucks, produced an incredible tribute video about the "very unique" Chuck and the equally "unique" FDMH, called "Never Alone" )

**We want to share this very well done video with all Secret List Members, feel free to pass it on:**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSX9eFP8Xis>

Hey,

Here is a new twist that certainly can be related to FF safety and survival. Hiring FF's by the "luck of the draw". Due to the current job market, the Virginia Beach FD has been absolutely flooded with potential Firefighters. They have so many applicants that they need help from a computer to choose Firefighters by a lottery. Not everyone likes that idea. "I want the guy who is top notch, top of the class, and has the most qualifications," said Newport News Firefighter Mike Peterson. Peterson saw an e-mail from the Virginia Beach FD about the upcoming Recruit Academy that confirms 'random selection' to reduce the high number of applicants to a more manageable number. "It's purely luck of the lottery. Firefighter by lottery, and that's wrong. It's definitely wrong. It's crazy to do something like that," said Peterson. Virginia Beach fire officials said it's not crazy, because they have so many applicants they can't possibly interview them all. Here is **MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/4sr9por>

**CLOSE CALL FOR PA. CHIEF:**

The chief of the Slippery Rock (PA) Township FD was able to escape after a roof of a burning home collapsed on him in Slippery Rock Township yesterday. "The roof collapsed on one of our firefighters. It's just a horrible feeling when you hear 'mayday,'" said Slippery Rock Township Fire Department Assistant Chief Mark Strobel. The chief of the department, Bill Lunn, said he used his hose to help himself out of the burning home. "I got trapped for a little bit," Lunn said. "All I did was got the hose, shooting it down the back of my neck and started wiggling around and got myself out." Chief Lunn said he doesn't think he did anything special and is glad no one was hurt. "I'm not trying to sound like a macho man, but this stuff happens. Fortunately, no one got hurt. I just feel bad that I go that many people worked up over it, over something out of my control," Lunn said.

**FIRE SPRINKLERS "DON'T" SAVE FIREFIGHTERS LIVES-(Pa Rep Dan Moul)**  
**FIRE SPRINKLERS "DO" SAVE FIREFIGHTERS LIVES-(40 year veteran FF Ron Siarnicki)**

**THE NASTY BATTLE CONTINUES IN PA:**

The battle continues in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Apparently the Homebuilders Association is not happy that the Sprinkler requirements for new homes passed in their state senate (ya think?!) so they are "courting" the state house of representatives to overturn the regulation.

**WHAT DO SOME ELECTED OFFICIALS THINK OR KNOW?**  
**ARE THEY THAT CLUELESS-OR ARE THEY THAT EASILY INFLUENCED?**  
**HERE IS A LETTER FROM DAN MOUL, PA STATE REP:**

E-mail: [dmoul@pahousegop.com](mailto:dmoul@pahousegop.com) (717) 334-3010 (Phone)

"As you know effective January 1, 2011, sprinkler systems are now required in all new residential home construction. **Keep in mind that this is truly government intrusion into someone's personal abode. There is no evidence that installing sprinklers in brand new homes will lower the number of firefighters who are injured each year.** New homes generally are not the problem.

January 29, 2011

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

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### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Although occasionally one does go up in flames, but the integrated smoke alarm system throughout the home goes off long before any sprinkler system would. Couple this with the fact that with the new energy portfolio and the sprinkler system we have just increased the cost for every new home in PA to the tune of \$12,000-\$20,000. After spending 25 years in the construction industry I think I am qualified to say that we need to concentrate more on how to make homes affordable for new home buyers which will include our future generations. This includes your children and grandchildren as well. Every time we add something to the cost of building a home it just pushes the possibility of our children's dream that much further away. Please don't take this the wrong way, but it really should be the choice of the person who owns the home as to whether or not to install sprinklers. Thank You, Dan"

The PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute has a form letter set up that could be completed and submitted to local representatives. <http://www.pfesi.org/>

**RELATED:** Here is an OpEd by Chief Ron Siarnicki, Exec Director of the NFFF:

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20110127/OPINION01/101270378>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-27-11 / 0955 Hours

### **AND:**

#### **FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN COLLAPSE-EGYPT**

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter died in the Line of Duty after he was buried under a 12-story building which collapsed in Egypt early Thursday. FF Hussein Abdallah's body was found under the building in Herafien area, east of Cairo, after a fire broke out in its chemical storage area, burying a group of firemen under debris. Our condolences to all affected.

#### **FIREFIGHTERS DOWN IN CONNECTICUT**

Companies are currently operating on the scene of a propane explosion in Portland, CT. There have been 2 medevac helicopters requested so far. Initially, reports are that the FD was dispatched for a gas leak and started evacuations-then an explosion occurred. We'll post confirmed updates later.

#### **FLORIDA EMS MEDIC SHOT**

Cops are trying to find the person responsible for shooting an Escambia County, Florida EMS medic. It happened at around 2100 hours last night at an EMS staging post just blocks from Baptist Hospital. The medic was getting something from the back of an ambulance when someone tapped him on the shoulder and as he turned to look at the person, he was shot in the shoulder. The medic is stable and the shooter got away-more to follow.

#### **YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED-PLEASE VOTE FOR "FINAL ORDER"**

We are asking for your support in the 2011 FDIC Battle of the Bands to help the "FINAL ORDER" band win a chance at \$20,000. Please go to the below link and vote for "FINAL ORDER"

<http://www.fdic.com/index/battle-of-the-bands-2010.html> - FDIC 2011 is hosting the first-ever Battle of the Bands competition on Friday, March 25th. Voting is open for the month of January. Ultimately, 3 bands will perform a three-song set in front of thousands on stage for the chance to win \$20,000. The drummer for "FINAL ORDER" is a veteran Fire Captain that just happens to be on my FD. So your assistance and support by VOTING for "FINAL ORDER" is greatly appreciated. **CLICK THE ABOVE OR BELOW LINK** and scroll down to vote for "FINAL ORDER" Thanks so much.

<http://www.fdic.com/index/battle-of-the-bands-2010.html>

#### **FINAL WORD: Ohio Firefighter Son Dies In Fire**

The 27-year-old son of a Toledo (Ohio) Firefighter was killed in an early morning fire today. The victim was identified as Curtis Johnson, Jr., the son of Curtis W. Johnson, a TFD Firefighter for 27 years. The cause of the fire, at about 4:30 a.m. was still under investigation. TFD Fire Chief Mike Wolever  
January 29, 2011

said it appears to have started in a wall in the back of the house. The victim was found on the floor of the living in the front of the house. **There were smoke detectors present and functioning, the chief said.** The victim was home alone at the time of the fire. **His father was on duty at the time of the fire but was not dispatched to the scene.** Our condolences to all affected, especially FF Johnson and his family.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 1-29-11 / 1524 Hours

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

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

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### **Budget Related Items:**

One of Vista's (CA)four ambulances is expected to be taken out of service next week in an effort to save more than half a million dollars a year, but some firefighters and other officials say they're concerned the move will mean slower response and transport times. Fire Chief Gary Fisher said he expects the ambulance to be taken out of service Tuesday or as late as Saturday. He said officials must hammer out the details with surrounding fire departments that have a "border drop" agreement with the city and the Vista Fire Protection District, which contracts with Vista for fire and medical services. City officials have said they're evaluating all of the services Vista provides in an attempt to close a \$9 million budget gap. Cutting the ambulance could save \$636,477 a year, officials have said:

[http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/vista/article\\_cbd29aab-6f86-5e01-9a7a-6130b6762852.html](http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/vista/article_cbd29aab-6f86-5e01-9a7a-6130b6762852.html)

20 tough questions City Managers and County Administrators should ask their Fire Chief when they're cutting budgets (and on the flip side, 20 tough questions fire departments should be prepared to objectively answer without emotion):

[http://icma.org/en/Article/100895/20 Tough Questions to Ask Your Fire Chief When Youre Cutting Budgets?pub=104&issue=](http://icma.org/en/Article/100895/20_Tough_Questions_to_Ask_Your_Fire_Chief_When_Youre_Cutting_Budgets?pub=104&issue=)

From closing state parks to reducing the number of state firefighters, Jerry Brown's proposed budget contains significant changes to California's environment. Brown's budget also proposes major changes to the way California battles wildfires. It calls for reducing the number of firefighters on CalFire engine crews from four to three -- putting them back to staffing levels that existed before massive wildfires charred the state in 2003. It also would shift a significant amount of fire fighting responsibility that CalFire now oversees to cities and counties: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci\\_17060255](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_17060255)

Albany and Corvallis have opened discussions to see if their fire departments could save money by consolidating some administrative work:

[http://democratherald.com/news/local/article\\_c65f2122-1e19-11e0-8a85-001cc4c002e0.html](http://democratherald.com/news/local/article_c65f2122-1e19-11e0-8a85-001cc4c002e0.html)

A judge has ruled layoffs of police officers and firefighters in Orange, N.J., can proceed. State Superior Court Judge Patricia Costello had delayed ruling last week. She ruled Tuesday the

layoffs of about 50 workers can go ahead in the city of about 33,000 residents just northwest of Newark:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/judge-nj-city-can-lay-firefighters-police>

The North Las Vegas (NV) firefighters' union has entered a tentative agreement of concessions with the city to help close a projected \$35.1 million budget gap during the next two years. The agreement, originally presented by the union Dec. 8 and signed by city officials Tuesday, includes giving up sick-leave sellback and holiday pay sellback. It also includes forgoing any raises for the next year, union president Jeff Hurley said. The city should save about \$4 million because of the concessions, Hurley said. "It's reoccurring savings. These aren't deferred raises," he said. In addition to agreeing not to lay off any firefighters during the next fiscal year, the city also agrees it won't seek contracts from private companies to perform firefighters' duties:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jan/11/north-las-vegas-firefighters-union-reaches-agreeme/>

If California lawmakers approve Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal, local firefighters would assume responsibility for wildlands now under state jurisdiction. San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Fire Chief Richard Price met Wednesday with a group of area fire chiefs to talk about the potential effects of Brown's plan to shift about a third of CalFire's financing to municipal agencies:

<http://sanramon.patch.com/articles/browns-budget-would-increase-workload-for-local-firefighters>

Because the cities of Belmont (CA) and San Carlos will no longer share fire services come October, cities along the Peninsula, including Redwood City, are seizing the opportunity to consolidate services to provide a more cost effective model in tough economic times. The Redwood City Fire Department, with full support from the city and the Redwood City Firefighters Association, has proposed providing services to San Carlos for \$5.9 million a year with a five percent annual increase. The new proposal, however, "does not include the cost of Fire Station Upgrades or Repairs, Replacement of Fire Apparatus, Emergency Preparedness Training, Hazardous Materials Unit, and Transition Costs," said San Carlos officials in a statement. So estimated cost savings could vary. But Redwood City Fire Chief Jim Skinner said this was a way to save costs for cities all along the Peninsula:

<http://sancarlos.patch.com/articles/redwood-city-proposes-sharing-fire-services-around-peninsula>

Reno (NV) officials are preparing to lay off 20 to 30 city employees in March to cut up to \$3 million in expenses to balance its budget. Last year, the city laid off 126 full-time positions and left another 56 positions empty. In all, 381 positions have been eliminated in the past two years, reducing city staff to about 1,240:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20110119/NEWS/101190419/1321>

Camden County (NJ) municipalities could share countywide police and fire coverage under a plan announced Thursday. Camden County would establish a police and fire department that would provide coverage at a fee to municipalities who opt into the shared service agreement, said county and local officials. It is believed the county departments could cut costs for municipalities as well as increase police and fire coverage:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20110114/NEWS01/101140349/Countywide-police-fire-coverage-proposed-for-Camco>

Some firefighters turned in their helmets and police officers their badges Tuesday as part of deep municipal layoffs destined to further erode the quality of life in Camden (NJ), already one of the nation's most impoverished and crime-ridden cities. About 335 workers, representing one-sixth of the local government work force, lost their jobs, according to Mayor Dana Redd. It was worst in the public safety departments, where nearly half the police force and close to

one-third of the city's firefighters were laid off. Redd blamed the public safety employee cuts on their unions, saying they have not been willing to make job-saving concessions or accept the reality that the state government will no longer bail out the city as it has for the past two generations. "Instead of protecting and serving the city, the residents of Camden, they're choosing to protect their high salaries," she said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/layoffs-take-effect-struggling-new-jersey-city>

As police officers turned in their badges and firefighters hung up their hoses Tuesday, city and union leaders argued over who is responsible for more than 300 Camden layoffs Tuesday. All told, 168 police officers and 67 firefighters were laid off in an attempt to close a \$26.5 million budget gap. Civilian layoffs numbered about 115. During a press conference Tuesday, Camden Mayor Dana Redd criticized leaders of both unions for not ordering from a menu of concessions she said could have saved jobs. Positions could still be restored, Redd said, if four bargaining units agree to \$2 million each in concessions. That \$8 million would save 100 police department jobs and those of all the city's dismissed firefighters. On the table are health plan reforms, elimination of longevity bonuses and furloughs. The mayor said even if she were to lay off every employee aside from police officers and firefighters, the city still would have a \$6.5 million deficit:

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/BZ/20110119/NEWS01/101190343/1067/STATE>

Clark County (NV) firefighters will see a 5.5 percent reduction in total wages and benefits after an independent arbitrator selected the county's contract offer, a move the county estimates will save taxpayers about \$7.4 million. The firefighters' final offer, which wasn't selected by the arbitrator, would have saved \$6.1 million, the county said Wednesday. The contract award marks a final step in negotiations that started in February 2010:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jan/19/arbitrator-backs-county-over-firefighters-union-co/>

New figures show Belmont (CA) can't afford to launch its own fire department later this year without bringing in a crew from another city to control the service. A sobering report issued Friday by consultants and top city executives details the options Belmont leaders have in deciding how to continue fire and medical services when the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department breaks up in October. The options range in expense from \$300,000 to \$3.2 million more per year than what Belmont currently pays for its fire services. The study lays out a huge policy decision that Belmont leaders must make soon: Ask taxpayers to pay more for a fire department the city has complete control over, or save money by allowing neighboring cities to put its managers in charge. The City Council's preferred option, to start a stand-alone Belmont fire department, would cost \$7.3 million to \$8.9 million annually -- or between \$1.6 million and \$3.2 million more than what the city pays now, the report states:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county/ci\\_17162968?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county/ci_17162968?nclick_check=1)

Declining assessed property values have caused a funding shortfall for emergency medical services as expenditures for EMS services in Camas (WA), Washougal and East County Fire & Rescue district are estimated to total about \$2.9 million this year. The expected revenue is just \$2.6 million, Camas City Administrator Lloyd Halverson said. That \$300,000 shortfall will mean changes, Camas Mayor Paul Dennis said. "We know that we can't continue to provide the same service that we're providing now throughout the year," he said. "We're not willing to run the service through the ground." Declining assessed property values coupled with declining Medicare / Medicaid reimbursements have created a funding predicament, Dennis said. In Camas, assessed values dropped by 7.6 percent; in the ECFR district by 7.9 percent; and in Washougal by 12.25 percent. The decline in assessed values put the cities of Camas and Washougal at their levy lids and means the cities are collecting less in property taxes than last year: <http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/jan/20/east-county-ems-services-face-shortfall/>

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

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

The top two fire officials in Detroit (MI) were fired after the city's mayor learned proper channels were not followed during an investigation into the alleged theft of a wallet by firefighters responding to a carbon monoxide run. Fire Commissioner James Mack Jr. and Deputy Commissioner Seth Doyle were asked for their resignations and officially removed Friday from their posts. Both firings came after months of discontent in City Hall and across Detroit over fire and emergency medical service operations, including complaints of slow response times on calls. Failure to let the mayor's office know of a resident's complaint that a wallet containing \$110 was stolen from her home last month and later returned apparently was Bing's breaking point: <http://www.firefighternation.com/forum/topics/detroit-mayor-fires> & <http://statter911.com/category/detroit-fire-department/> & Internal Detroit F.D. investigation reports based on the wallet found at Engine 40: <http://statter911.com/files/2011/01/detroit-fire-wallet-case-documents.pdf>

A Daytona Beach (FL) firefighter has been offered a deal that would give her more than \$500,000 over the next three years, and she would never once have to show up for work. At their meeting Wednesday night, city commissioners agreed to the deal that would put the firefighter on paid leave until she retires: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/local/east-volusia/2011/01/06/daytona-offers-deal-to-female-firefighter.html>

Police take control of Sea Isle City (NJ) Volunteer Fire Department amid infighting and rumors of threats to ignore fire calls: [http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cape\\_may/article\\_6bcddb2a-1a9c-11e0-a28f-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cape_may/article_6bcddb2a-1a9c-11e0-a28f-001cc4c002e0.html)

The heads of two Connecticut volunteer fire companies are seeking an apology from Fire Chief Peter Sicienski for publicly referring to them as "thugs" in front of dozens of firefighters -- a derogatory remark that drew a swift rebuke from First Selectman Peter Tesei: <http://www.ctpost.com/default/article/Fire-chief-s-thugs-remark-ignites-944518.php>

Clark County (NV) and its firefighters union will not publicize their final contract offers in arbitration, despite proclaiming months ago that they would. It's the latest stalemate in the dispute over a one-year renewal of the firefighters contract, which expired in July. Monday was the deadline for the county and union to present their final offers to the arbitrator, who by law must choose one or the other within 10 days. Wrangling between the two sides has intensified as the county seeks contract concessions amid a budget crunch and the union tries to give up as little as possible: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/county-firefighters-union-continue-wrangling-113261179.html>

Tom Hurley, the Portland (OR) firefighter-turned chef who collected thousands of dollars of disability payments after the city sent him to culinary school for retraining, has been rehired by the Portland Fire Bureau. Fire Commissioner Randy Leonard worked out a deal that allowed Hurley to return to the Fire Bureau as a low-hazard fire building inspector, earning an annual salary of \$67,454. He reported to duty Dec. 23. Hurley, 52, has not worked as a firefighter in 17 years after reporting injuries to his knee and back in 1993. He's collected thousands of dollars in disability benefits, received vocational rehabilitation training, and the public safety disability fund paid to send him to the French Culinary Institute of New York in 2000. He ran an upscale French restaurant in Northwest Portland called Hurley's, before selling it and opening a restaurant and bar in Seattle. The restaurants failed and as of March 2010, he was unemployed, his attorney Montgomery Cobb said. He briefly worked for a hotel chain outside Seattle and then for a restaurant chain in California that downsized, costing Hurley his job, his lawyer said last year:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2011/01/firefighter-turned-chef\\_tom\\_hu.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2011/01/firefighter-turned-chef_tom_hu.html)

The fire chief of Mt. San Antonio (CA) College's Fire Academy was arrested last week for allegedly embezzling \$500,000 from the school, police said. Jerry Dewayne Austin, 56, of Norco, was arrested on Jan. 5 and charged with felony grand theft for allegedly embezzling \$500,000, said Sgt. Mario Estrada of the Walnut/Diamond Bar Sheriff's Station:

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci\\_17078811](http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_17078811)

Recently, a Detroit (MI) Fire Department ambulance suddenly started burning in the engine compartment. Between the slow response of the first unit and the even longer wait for the replacement ambulance to complete the transfer, it was more than an hour before the patient arrived at the hospital after calling for help. WJBK-TV's bulldog reporter Charlie LeDuff was right on the story, as always, and shows why the city has a long way to go before things get better in the Fire Department and the EMS Division. While the city is "conducting a nationwide search" for a new fire commissioner, the mayor has laughingly appointed the head of the Apparatus Division Fred Wheeler to act as interim Deputy Commissioner. According to the DFD website, the Apparatus Division is charged with: The primary objective of this division is to provide a supply of safe, fully operational fire apparatus, functional tools, equipment, and supplies. Chief Wheeler has openly expressed a desire to be appointed to the Commissioner's job. When LeDuff attempted to ask the acting commissioner about the ambulance fire and related maintenance problems, Wheeler ran off saying that he "ain't got time for this." View the entire video report on the ambulance fire and the subsequent self-destruction of Wheeler's dream to be a chief here:

<http://firegeezzer.com/2011/01/15/detroit-ambulance-bursts-into-fire-with-patient-inside/>

A lawsuit filed by a former Argentine Township (MI) firefighter has been settled out of court for \$400,000. The lawsuit was filed against former fire chief William Harvey. Blythe Amenson, a former lieutenant, filed the lawsuit in February 2010, against Harvey for alleged sexual harassment, and against Argentine Township for alleged discriminatory discharge. Amenson sought damages exceeding \$25,000 for each of the six counts listed in the complaint. According to the complaint, Amenson claimed Harvey made unwelcome comments that were sexual in nature. The complaint stated that the unwelcome conduct and communications created an intimidating and hostile work environment for Amenson. The complaint also claimed that Amenson was discharged from her position as lieutenant of the fire department by the fire chief and Argentine Township on July 6, 2009. It stated that she was discharged from the fire department for not reaching the fire run count, yet a male firefighter who had a lower run count, remained employed:

<http://www.tctimes.com/articles/2011/01/16/news/doc4d30fbb3558e7878065318.txt>

Four DeKalb County (GA) firefighters are under investigation for allegedly showing up to work drunk, the county's chief operating officer told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Two of those firefighters are on unpaid administrative leave. "They were drinking when they were called in early," Chief Operating Officer Richard Stogner said. "They never got on county equipment and never drove. They came in early because of the snow." On Tuesday night, a group of firefighters went to a Decatur bar after work. They were supposed to report to work at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning, but were called into work early because of the storm, Stogner said. That's when one employee called officials to report that several firefighters were inebriated, Stogner said. "We had an officer who alerted us," O'Brien said. "He did his job and we will look into the situation:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/957458-4-firefighters-reportedly-arrive-to-work-drunk/>

The Houston (TX) Fire Department's failure to properly address discrimination complaints by a female firefighter and subsequent retaliation subjected her to a "hostile work environment" based on her gender, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has determined. The decision, or "determination," may clear the way for a negotiated settlement between Draycott and the fire department or a possible lawsuit — filed by Draycott or the federal government. Draycott and another firefighter, Paula Keyes, found racist and sexist graffiti scrawled on the walls of their dormitory at Station 54 on July 7, 2009. The incident occurred after Draycott had complained to HFD officials of harassment. "There is reasonable cause to believe that Charging Party (Draycott) was personally and individually subjected to a hostile work environment based on her gender and that she was retaliated against," the letter stated. The EEOC's ruling said that "... management was well aware of the fact that Charging Party was being subjected to a hostile work environment because of her gender but failed to take corrective action." <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7385130.html>

After New Year's Eve came and went, police and fire crews in Lynnwood (WA) felt relief, and some worry. In the midst of the fall budget debate, they were told the city by Dec. 31 could lay off up to a third of its police officers and firefighters. That didn't quite happen. City Council action prevented any firefighter layoffs, but five firefighter vacancies and two civil staff vacancies were frozen, he said:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20110117/ETP03/110119850/-1/NEWS01>

Former Kern County (CA) firefighter is sentenced to nine years in jail for his role in fatal drunken driving crash:

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x1937969557/Former-firefighter-sentenced-to-nine-years-in-fatal-drunken-driving-crash>

Investigators are interviewing dozens of Orlando (FL) firefighters to find out if any of them cheated on a promotional exam. The investigation was sparked last week by an Orlando firefighter who told administrators that some firefighters received details of the lieutenant's exam via text message before taking the test:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orange/os-fire-department-cheating-20110119,0,1936322.story>

A volunteer assistant fire chief in Kingman (ME) who gave a tenant a firefighting device rather than report the flames he saw unintentionally contributed to a chimney fire's eventually destroying a house on Tuesday, Fire Chief John Moody said Wednesday:

<http://www.bangordailynews.com/story/Penobscot/Chief-Assistants-error-leads-to-loss-of-house,164399>

Village police are conducting a criminal investigation into the reported sabotage of air packs used by senior officers in the Johnson City (NY) Fire Department. Mayor Dennis Hannon said that between March and June three supervisory officers within the Johnson City Fire Department reported that their air packs -- breathing apparatus used when fighting a fire -- had been tampered with "in a matter that would cause them to leak."

<http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20110118/NEWS01/101180384/1112/Johnson-City-police-investigate-possible-tampering-of-air-packs-used-by-fire-officers>

A day after losing his job, McAllen (TX) firefighter Robert Vargas sat at his dining room table, wondering how everything had gone so wrong. He'd received an official "Order of Indefinite Suspension and Notice of Appeal Rights" on Tuesday afternoon, an eight-page document explaining his "indefinite suspension." In plain English, he'd been fired. The order described how on Halloween night, Vargas had been assigned to Engine 5 when it backed into a mailbox. Instead of reporting the collision, Vargas and two other crew members tried to hide the damage. "You did not admit to the truth of your involvement in the accident incident until after there was substantial other separate evidence generated about your involvement," reads the order, signed by Fire Chief Rogelio Rubio. "In other words, you chose to be truthful only after you had been caught lying."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/texas-firefighter-fired-accident-cover>

A Clark County (NV) commissioner has called for a criminal investigation into allegations of firefighters abusing sick leave. Bolstered by critical comments from an arbitrator, Commissioner Steve Sisolak is sending letters to the FBI, the Metropolitan Police Department, the district attorney's office and the state attorney general's office asking that they look into whether some firefighters conspired to use sick leave to pad each other's paychecks and pensions:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/probe-of-allegations-of-firefighter-sick-leave-abuse-urged-114340844.html>

This is an example of what not to do when the press comes knocking at your door with a story impacting your department's reputation. Leaders and members of the Elmont Fire Department made it clear they do not believe they have to answer questions about the department's logo and allegations that there is a Confederate flag on display inside the firehouse. My guess is that's not going to make this story go away. If you have a defensible position then come out clearly with your message defending your actions. If it is indefensible change your policy, handle the problem and move on. Ignoring, running from and hiding from reporters and cameras will fail to serve you almost every time. It makes a bad situation worse and a one day story into a multi-part series:

<http://statter911.com/2011/01/21/how-not-to-respond-to-the-press-a-long-island-fire-department-deals-with-a-reporter-asking-questions-about-the-confederate-flag/>

The Pennsylvania state Supreme Court yesterday affirmed a \$5 million verdict awarded in the case of a flailing fire hose that killed a Coraopolis (PA) girl and critically injured her friend. An Allegheny County jury in 2006 found Oklahoma-based Sinor Manufacturing and the Coraopolis Volunteer Fire Department liable for the death of Erin Schmidt, 10, and injuries to her friend:

[http://pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s\\_719695.html](http://pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_719695.html)

Last Friday afternoon was a bad time to need an ambulance if you live in Las Vegas (NV). Local firefighters say there were at least three instances when ambulance service was requested but the private ambulance companies said they were unable to respond. Firefighter unions have taken their lumps recently because of overtime and sick pay, but they insist, keeping ambulance service public is much safer than turning it over to for-profit companies who -- they claim -- staff at minimum levels. The shrill wail of a siren usually means something serious. Emergency personnel inside an ambulance are normally focused on saving lives. But

a parody video created to amuse employees of Medic West at their Christmas party shows a half-dozen people crammed into an ambulance stomping a boot on the chest of a cardiac patient. The video was approved by company bosses:

<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/13897479/i-team>

Last year, one Houston (TX) Fire Department deputy chief retired and walked away with a generous check for \$211,808 — and that was just for his unused sick days, vacation and holiday pay. An executive HFD chief with 39 years on the job also retired in 2010 and left with a payout of \$186,409 for his leftover sick time, vacation and holiday pay. Those hefty termination checks helped account for nearly \$17 million paid in the last two years to Houston firefighters who retired or quit and collected on their unused sick days, vacation and holiday pay, according to a Houston Chronicle analysis of benefits. In 2010 alone, the 128 firefighters who left HFD were paid \$8.7 million, a 6 percent increase over the \$8.2 million departing firefighters received in termination pay during 2009. The top 10 severance payments to retired firefighters for the last two years were all above \$142,000, and while most firefighters received more than \$10,000 there were several payments of less than \$1,000. The city's long-standing policy allowing firefighters to cash in on their unused sick, vacation and holiday time has emerged as a critical factor in the Fire Department budget during the current fiscal crisis, as Fire Chief Terry Garrison seeks ways to trim operating expenses and avoid laying off firefighters or closing fire stations: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7394534.html>

Bradley Curtis Allen, a fired Camas (WA) Fire Department captain and paramedic, has been sentenced to more than two years in prison for stealing the narcotic painkiller fentanyl citrate from the department for his own use, and endangering heart-attack victims over a period of three years. Allen, 60, had been working for the department for 22 years when, last May 7, paramedics who were taking inventory on an ambulance found that an injectable vial containing the drug had been tampered with, according to a bulletin from Emily Langlie, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle: <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/959656-Former-Wash-fire-captain-sentenced-for-stealing-using-painkiller/>

A year after a Dunwoody woman died in a fire, her family has reached a settlement with DeKalb County (GA). Last January, Ann Bartlett called 911. The firefighters who responded never got out of their trucks to get a closer look at the home. Hours later, firefighters were called back to the home. By that time, flames had engulfed the house and Bartlett was dead. DeKalb County and five firefighters were named in a lawsuit in April. CBS Atlanta News obtained documents detailing the settlement. It awards the Bartlett family \$200,000 and releases the county and firefighters from any further legal action. Ruth Bartlett said she and her sisters are hopeful DeKalb County is making the appropriate changes. As a result of the Bartlett case, interim DeKalb County Fire Chief Eddie O'Brien said the department has made changes to several operational procedures: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/26614381/detail.html>

Two South Carolina volunteer firefighters and another person have been charged with using firefighting tools to steal copper:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/volunteer/articles/959904-Police-SC-firefighters-used-fire-tools-to-steal-copper/>

Detroit's (MI) troubled ambulance service had more than half of its vehicles out of service Monday for repairs, fire officials told city leaders. City Council members grilled fire officials about broken equipment, slow EMS response times and mismanagement and demanded action to fix the department. Only 19 of the city's 46 ambulances were in service Monday — just over 40 percent. "We need to do something so we have sufficient vehicles to service our citizens," Councilwoman Brenda Jones said. "We cannot lose lives because we don't have enough vehicles." Council members also criticized the department for failing to fill dozens of

vacant paramedic jobs. Interim Fire Chief Fred Wheeler said the EMS unit is budgeted for 221 paramedics, but 57 jobs are unfilled because not enough people applied:

<http://detnews.com/article/20110125/METRO01/101250376/1409/rss36>

More than 5 years after a 22-year-old pedestrian was killed in a hit-and-run, a Big Island (HI) fire captain pleaded no contest earlier this month to leaving the scene of a fatal accident. Konrad K. Mossman, 44, now faces wrongful death lawsuits filed by Dale Tim Sing's girlfriend, who was pregnant with his child, and other family members. They allege Mossman delayed reporting the 2005 accident to cover up the fact he was driving under the influence of alcohol and lied to police, saying his wife was the driver. Mossman, a 20-year veteran with the Hawaii County F.D., was promoted in 2009 to captain and is currently at the Pahala station, despite being charged in 2008. "Presently we haven't changed his status," Hawaii County Fire Chief Darryl Oliveira said. The department chose to wait for the results of the criminal case before acting, he said. "We have been working with corporation counsel (county attorney) on reviewing the conditions of his plea, which could affect his employment with us," Oliveira said. The judge has committed to following the plea agreement, which calls for 90 days in jail, 10 years of supervised release and \$125,000 in restitution:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/hawaii-firefighter-pleads-no-contest-fatal-crash>

The Atlanta (GA) Fire Department is under investigation after a former assistant chief accused the department of age discrimination. Former Assistant Chief Michael Williams served Atlanta's Station 1 for 41 years. After he was demoted to battalion chief, he decided to fight back. "It was an insult. That was the greatest thing, the insult," Williams told Channel 2's John Bachman. "I've never had a negative performance evaluation since the city's been doing evaluations." According to records, Williams is right. He was scored effective, highly effective or outstanding on every evaluation he was given. Williams worked up through the ranks and eventually became assistant chief and the oldest firefighter with Atlanta Fire. He was in charge of more than 200 firefighters daily, until Interim Chief Joel Baker demoted Williams and two other senior officers last May:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/atlanta-fd-investigated-age-discrimination-case>

Pinole (CA) cannot muster enough firefighters to safely extinguish a common house fire, without help from its neighbors. The West Contra Costa city can no longer afford the protection it has -- but merging with one of the cash-strapped departments nearby would only cost the city more. That bleak news came out of a City Council workshop about the problem Tuesday night, during which a team of consultants described both the finances and working condition of Pinole Fire Department and its partners, a pair of fire departments that already share the chore of regional emergency response:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci\\_17207600?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/bay-area-news/ci_17207600?nclick_check=1)

Palm Beach (FL) Fire Chief William Amador was fired Wednesday for his alleged involvement with an anonymous website that voices opposition to proposed cuts to town public safety employees' pensions. Amador, chief since 2007, said he was "taken aback" by his sudden termination and that he has done nothing wrong. Town Manager Peter Elwell confirmed that he fired Amador, but steered questions for this story to a memo he addressed to Amador. Elwell said Amador was dishonest about his involvement in the construction and maintenance of the website, PalmBeachPensions.com. Some of Amador's participation involved the use of town resources on town time, Elwell wrote: <http://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/news/fire-chief-william-amador-fired-pension-website-participation-1211327.html>

Jane Draycott, a Houston (TX) firefighter in the middle of a legal maelstrom after complaining of racist and sexist graffiti at work, accepted responsibility Thursday for shoplifting in August, prosecutors said. Draycott, 41, will be supervised on pretrial diversion — a form of probation

in which prosecutors agree to not pursue a case. If Draycott successfully completes the terms, her case will be dismissed after a year, said Donna Hawkins, a spokeswoman for the Harris County District Attorney's office. Draycott was arrested about 9:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Spring Walmart Super Center. Her attorney, Rusty Hardin, has said Draycott had been drinking and was emotionally unbalanced after a phone call from a prosecutor in Arizona. Draycott was told the defendant accused of killing her daughter in a 2006 drunken driving crash would not be going to jail. Investigators said Draycott got in the checkout line with a DVD player and some movies, then tried to walk out, grabbing a bag of ice as she went. Hardin said Draycott admitted herself to a treatment center for clinical depression and alcohol after her arrest: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7401108.html>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

South King (WA) Fire and Rescue firefighters will forgo a cost of living wage increase for 2011, which is expected to save the department nearly \$247,000 this year. The concession comes amid grim budget times for the department. The department faced a \$1 million budget deficit going into this fiscal year, which was mostly covered by tapping cash reserves. The concession was approved unanimously by the fire commissioners at a meeting last Thursday and had previously been approved by the firefighters' union. The commissioners and Chief Al Church heaped praise on the rank and file employees for giving up the increase. "I think we all feel a debt of thanks for your sacrifice," Vice Chairman James Fossos said: [http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south\\_king/fwm/news/113103634.html](http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/fwm/news/113103634.html)

Fremont (CA) firefighters have agreed to give up pay and accept furloughs during the next six months to help Fremont balance its budget and stop weekend fire station closures. "It was important for us to help in the community," Firefighter union President Jim Martin said, noting that the department faced additional station closures if they did not accept a pay cut. With the firefighter concessions, only the police officers union has not agreed to a pay reduction this fiscal year. Civilian employee unions agreed to take five furlough days at the end of December, amounting to a 2 percent cut in salary. All city unions agreed to two-year contracts in 2009 that provided for no cost-of-living raises, but no pay cuts. However, as the city's financial outlook remained dim, city leaders sought givebacks from all employee unions this fiscal year, which ends June 30 -- the same day that union contracts expire: [http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci\\_17038473](http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_17038473)

There is a Lake County (FL) fire station in a most unusual place. It's inside a couple of hotel rooms in the Value Place Hotel on State Road 50 and, believe it or not, it's saving taxpayers thousands: <http://www.wftv.com/news/26471564/detail.html>

The San Diego (CA) Fire Department received an equipment donation Thursday worth \$74,000, providing a lift to a unit that has been hit especially hard by the downturn economy. The department will upgrade its communication capacity with 72 new VHF radios, courtesy of the San Diego Fire Foundation. It also received an Interstate Paratech Shoring Kit, which stabilizes cars after traffic accidents to foster passenger extrication and treatment. The effect of the radio donations will be most greatly felt when working alongside outside agencies, be it inside or outside San Diego County. The kit improves firefighter safety and accelerates the time it takes to free trapped and injured passengers from vehicles: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/SD-Fire-Department-Receives-Big-Donation-113475724.html>

If firefighters want to succeed, they have to know their tools. But for the Monroe (WA) Fire Department, one important tool is language. For one year, two hours a day and five days a January 29, 2011 [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com) 72

week, firefighters and EMTs in the department are learning Spanish. It's all thanks to a federal grant provided by the Department of Homeland Security. Teacher Nora Wolford teaches them keywords to help with their job. Lesson number one -- the Spanish word for firefighter, "bombero." But that's just the beginning. In addition, she's teaching the Hispanic community about fire safety. "It's going to be important for me to teach the Hispanic population that it's OK to trust the bomberos," says Wolford. "I'm so excited because I have the opportunity to be that bridge - to bring the two cultures together." <http://www.king5.com/news/Firefighters-learning-Spanish-to-bridge-language-gap-114249134.html>

A proposal to create a two-tiered pension system for Riverside (CA) firefighters is expected to save the city at least \$60 million over 20 years and set the tone for discussions with other city employee groups, officials said Thursday. The City Council will vote Tuesday on the three-year agreement, which guarantees current staffing levels at fire stations but does not give firefighters raises. Current employees would give up a monthly \$100 payment the city now makes to a retirement health care fund the union manages, but the city would continue to pay both the employer share and the employee share of firefighters' pension contributions, City Manager Brad Hudson said. Firefighters hired after the agreement takes effect would have to pay the employee share of the pension, equal to 9 percent of salary; the city still would pay the employer share of about 21 percent. "It allows us to meet the obligations that we've made to our current employees ... and it allows us to promise our future employees their pensions are something we can afford," Hudson said. Firefighters agreed to the deal because they're aware of the economic climate, and they wanted to keep staffing at levels that will ensure safety for the community and fire employees, said firefighters association President Tim Strack: [http://www.pe.com/localnews/riverside/stories/PE\\_News\\_Local\\_D\\_wpension21.11c627a.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/riverside/stories/PE_News_Local_D_wpension21.11c627a.html)

There are iPhone apps for games, to help look up Spanish phrases and for bird watching. Now there's an app that could help users save someone's life. The San Ramon Valley (CA) Fire Department unveiled Tuesday morning a groundbreaking iPhone application that allows users to be notified if someone nearby is suffering from sudden cardiac arrest in public places, restaurants, stores and parks. It brings up a map to show where the user is and where the victim is and the location of the nearest automated external defibrillator: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_17196088](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_17196088)

Lincoln City (OR) Police Officer Dodds, shot in Sunday night's chase in Waldport, remains in critical condition in a Portland hospital. Now fire fighters in Lincoln City are raising money to help their friend pay his medical bills. They used a "fill the boot style" fundraiser and have raised more than \$10,000 at this point: <http://kdrv.com/news/local/202729>

The United Goodyear (AZ) Firefighters Association is gearing up for a year of fundraising events to help relaunch its charity organization. The group kicked off the year with two donations of more than \$2,000 to the Foundation for Burns and Trauma and a Southwest Valley preschool. Firefighters presented a check for \$2,000 to the foundation Jan. 4 to help send child burn victims to Arizona Children's Burn Camp, Capt. Nick Lyons said. The foundation is one of the main charities the firefighter union supports: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/swvalley/articles/2011/01/26/20110126goodyear-firefighters-association-charity.html>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

This was the first line-of-duty death since the West Memphis (AK) Fire Department was established in 1930 and also the first death in the history of the Arkansas Fire Training

Academy in Camden. 38-year-old David Eason was in the middle of a hose-tracing routine when he suddenly collapsed: <http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-fire-recruit,0,6533845.story>

No one was injured Tuesday when the concussion force of an exploding oxygen tank knocked two Newport (ME) firefighters onto their backs and demolished part of a home. "We're very lucky," said Newport Fire Chief Jeff Chretien: <http://new.bangordailynews.com/2011/01/25/news/fire-destroys-newport-home/>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

As a matter of political gospel -- and survival -- firefighters are sacrosanct. No matter the depths of a municipality's budget crisis, neither the firefighters' ranks, pay nor benefits are touchable. There are no reductions in force for firefighters. And yet, in cities all across the country, that's exactly what has been happening. The men and women in red are becoming as vulnerable to budget cuts as other municipal employees. The new landscape has clearly been shaped by the brutal fiscal conditions in localities. In an era of such severe economic uncertainty, high-level municipal officials -- elected and otherwise -- have not been shy about portraying firefighters as a group that has vacuumed up more than its fair share of municipal resources -- whether it's for salaries, equipment and firehouses, or for some of the most generous retirement packages offered by local governments today. But other factors have contributed to the new view, and one is a question of efficacy. There's a growing discussion about whether -- in a world with fewer fires and more emergency medical-related incidents and automobile accidents -- firefighters are deploying resources to maximum effect: <http://www.governing.com/topics/public-workforce/firefighters-feel-squeeze-shrinking-budgets.html>

For several years city budget problems have prevented hiring for police and fire in Colorado Springs (CO). Now they have positions to fill and a lot of people want those jobs. The Police Department has 790 applicants for 25 positions. For the Fire Department there 1,763 people want one of just 22 jobs: <http://www.newsfirst5.com/news/choosing-a-few-out-of-1000s-for-police-and-fire-jobs/>

The city of San Carlos (CA), which is disbanding its fire department partnership with Belmont to save money, was offered two possibilities -- one that could lead to a regional approach by several partners, including Belmont, and another connected to the state fire agency which previously declined to participate: [http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article\\_preview.php?id=150143&title=San%20Carlos%20given%20two%20fire%20contract%20proposals](http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=150143&title=San%20Carlos%20given%20two%20fire%20contract%20proposals)

Cal Fire proposes absorbing the Selma (CA) Fire Department. City officials say, based on their understanding, all of the Selma firefighters would transfer over to Cal Fire. But they wouldn't necessarily be their same rank. And they would also be required to go through Cal Fire's fire academy before the transfer: <http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=13866606>

San Mateo (CA) County is in no hurry to offer fire services to San Carlos. According to a county memo prepared for Tuesday's meeting, if San Mateo County extends its fire services contract with the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection to also cover San Carlos, it could save the financially struggling city up to \$2.5 million a year. The savings would be achieved through reduced staffing levels and Cal Fire's lower pay scale for firefighters, according to the memo. By sharing some fire staffing with San Carlos, the county, also could save money -- about \$650,000 a year. On Jan. 7, Redwood City offered to take over fire services for San Carlos and save it roughly \$410,000 a year. San Carlos currently spends \$6.3 million a year on its fire department and hopes to save at least \$1 million by contracting out.

Redwood City's proposal also included a letter signed by San Mateo city officials expressing interest in merging fire services with Redwood City as well as Belmont and Foster City to achieve additional cost savings for all: [http://www.mercurynews.com/ci\\_17132422?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_17132422?nclick_check=1)

Saving lives and tax payer money. Action News discovered two of the area's biggest fire departments could soon become one in the same. Lines shouldn't be drawn when lives are at stake. It's a mantra that that could very well change firefighting as we've come to know it. Fire departments in Yakima (WA) and Union Gap are "out," and a unified fire district is "in." "Looking ahead, it will benefit the fire department if we keep the same service or improve, especially with the trouble we're having with budgets," says Dave Willson, Yakima Fire. It's those money problems that are spurring both departments into action. A study is now underway to see what the impact would be on you. KIMA learned for the average citizen, the benefits are two fold: a faster response when you call 911 and greater manpower during emergencies: <http://www.kimatv.com/news/local/114245614.html>

El Segundo's (CA) firefighters are pushing for a vote as soon as possible on their proposal to merge the town's Fire Department with Los Angeles County's - a plan the City Council vetted last year but ultimately abandoned: [http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci\\_17140671](http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_17140671)

Ambulance, medical billing and medical-supply companies can begin filling out paperwork next week to take over services the city of Orange (CA) now handles. The switch-over is meant to save Orange an estimated \$1.5 million a year. "The City Council directed staff to come up with organizational changes to help reduce the budget," Fire Chief Bart Lewis said. "We put together a task force to meet their challenge." The City Council approved the changes last week. Going to privatized ambulances (instead of using the city's), medical billing and medical-supply will save at least \$350,000 annually. A non-city employee will order the medical supplies instead of a firefighter. Eliminating nine firefighter positions in the Fire Department through attrition and restructuring will save the other \$1.2 million: <http://www.oregister.com/news/city-284816-ambulance-medical.html>

San Diego County (CA) officials voted unanimously Tuesday to merge five rural fire agencies covering more than 90 square miles. The consolidation is the 2nd step in a three-part plan meant to improve fire and emergency medical services. The Board of Supervisors voted to add Mount Laguna, Palomar Mountain, Boulevard, Campo and San Pasqual to the zone covered by the San Diego County Fire Authority. Currently, the eastern county communities are served by volunteers: <http://www.fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-county-votes-to-merge-rural-f-01252011.0.3025038.story>

The on-again, off-again merger between South Kitsap (WA) Fire and Rescue and its sister district in Bremerton could be on again. In fact, the idea could become a reality by 2012. South Kitsap Fire and Rescue and the Bremerton Fire Department plan to nail down the details of the merger between the two departments that would, in turn, come to the voters for approval on the November ballot. "If the voters don't think this is a good idea, nothing changes," said SKFR Chief Wayne Senter. But if voters support it, the two departments could potentially save money and provide better service to the area, according to a fact-finding report prepared by stakeholders from both fire departments last August. Savings could total \$140,000 the first year, \$935,000 in the first three years and \$655,000 each year thereafter, for the station's new \$22 million combined budget, according to the report: <http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/poi/news/114282844.html>

To help get rid of bedbugs at their fire stations, San Diego (CA) firefighters have turned to a familiar firehouse friend—a dog: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2011/jan/24/dog-helps-firefighters-battle-bedbugs/>

Cities and counties don't have to consult with unions before deciding to lay off workers to save money, the state Supreme Court ruled Monday. The court unanimously upheld Richmond's (CA) decision to eliminate 18 of its 90 firefighting jobs in 2003, when the city said it faced potential bankruptcy. Under California law, "a local public entity that is faced with a decline in revenues or other financial adversity may unilaterally decide to lay off some of its employees," Justice Joyce Kennard said in the ruling, which upheld lower-court decisions. However, she said, a government employer must negotiate over the implementation of the decision, including the number of employees to be laid off, the timing, and the effect on "the workload and safety of the remaining employees." Jeffrey Sloan, Richmond's lawyer in the case, said the ruling should strengthen public employers' hand in negotiations. "Unions will realize the employer can lay off personnel unilaterally, and that will help them focus on what concessions need to be made to avoid layoffs or at least minimize the number of layoffs," he said: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/01/25/BAOC1HDNH2.DTL>

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

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

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

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