



FIRE & EMS NEWS

December 10, 2010

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

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

SPRING 2011 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE

Registration for the Spring 2011 semester at Chabot College has begun!

Presently, the following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Spring:

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization) Note: This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class.	Monday (am)	0800 – 1155 hours
FT 50 (Fire Protection Organization)	Monday (pm)	1800 – 2155 hours
FT 51 (Fire Operations)	Thursday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (am)	0900 – 1150 hours
FT 52 (Firefighter Safety & Survival)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours
FT 53 (Fire Behavior & Combustion)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
FT 55 (Fire Protection Equipment & Systems)	Thursday (pm)	1900 – 2150 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - March 16, 18 and 20 (Wed/Fri/Sun)	Mon & Wed (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 89 (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: - April 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland Firefighter-1 Basic) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: May 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1650 hours
FT 91B (Haz Mat 1 st Responder-Operations) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 26, 28, 30, and May 1	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 91C (I-200; Basic ICS) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 12, 14, 16 and 17	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day) Sunday (all day)	1700 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1750 hours 0800 – 1750 hours
FT 95 (Work Experience) **Must also be registered in FT 96**	TBA	TBA
FT 96 (Work Experience Seminar) **Must also be registered in FT 95** Note: Class only meets on the following dates: January 19, February 23, March 9, April 27 & May 25	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (mid)	1300 – 1650 hours
Health 61 (First Responder)	Tuesday (pm)	1800 – 2150 hours
Health 81 (EMT) **Must also be registered in Health 83**	Wednesday (all day)	0830 – 1845 hours
Health 83 (Extrication and Triage) **Must also be registered in Health 81**	Saturday (one day only – TBA)	0830 – 1620 hours
Health 85 (EMT Refresher) Note: Class only meets on the following dates: April 25 through May 7, 2011	Monday & Wednesday (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0800 – 1550 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Mon & Wed (mid)	1300 – 1415 hours
PHED2FSC (Fire Science Conditioning)	Wednesday (pm)	1800 – 2050 hours

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

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

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

U.S. Fire Administrator's Thanksgiving Message

On behalf of the staff of the United States Fire Administration (USFA), I would like to take this opportunity to wish all firefighters and their families a happy and safe Thanksgiving Day. We are keenly aware of the missed opportunities of all firefighters to be with their immediate and extended families during this time. I am also aware that a Thanksgiving meal at a firehouse is simply not the same as one in your own home with family and friends.

As so many of you know, the next three months will be traditionally our busiest months across the nation for fires. My wife Linda and I will keep you in our thoughts and prayers for the coming week as you continue to protect and serve those families coming together for the Thanksgiving Day observances. As we enter into these most dangerous months of the year, I am pleased to announce our joint efforts for 2010 and 2011 with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to work under the banner ***Put a Freeze on Winter Fires*** – http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/winter.shtm

Given the dangers presented by heating, cooking, smoking, and holiday decorations, it is our sincere desire that all fire departments, local media, and residents of all communities take some time to focus on the dangers of fire during these three months, and take some time to make sure they are protected by smoke alarms, sprinkler systems, and know what to do should a fire occur. I respectfully call upon all firefighters to join with the USFA and NFPA as we work to not only ***Put a Freeze on Winter Fires***, but also ensure ***Everyone Goes Home***. In closing, my wife Linda and I join with the staff of the USFA to extend from our families the very best to yours this Thanksgiving. We members of the USFA have much to be thankful for, and will continue to do whatever it takes to support the demonstrated services of this nation's firefighters. As we come together with our families, let us all come together this year to ***Put a Freeze on Winter Fires***.

Glenn Gaines - Acting U.S. Fire Administrator

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.

To view more information about Seasonal Firefighter Hiring process and positions, go to: http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about_careers_fireprotection_seasonal.php

There 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.

Because 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.

There 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:

After 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.

Typically 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.

The 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?

CAL 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

For more information about CAL FIRE and their extensive operations throughout the State of California, visit their website at: 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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Everyone is busy this time of year! We just want to remind you to submit your application for that National Fire Academy class that you want to attend next year!

There is only one week left!

The application period for the second semester of National Fire Academy resident classes closes December 15. Second semester includes those classes scheduled from April 1 – September 30, 2011.

All information about courses, applications and suggestions for successful completion of the application can be found at the following sites:

Course Catalog and schedules: www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/catalog/index.shtm

Download Application:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/ff_119_25_1_75_5.pdf (PDF, 629 Kb) Use this application if your course code begins with the following letters: R, N, O, P, or T.

Tips to completing your application:

Eight Tips for Completing a Successful NFA Application -

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/nfa/8tips.pdf> (PDF, 332 Kb)

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

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

For more information, please call the Admissions Office at (800) 238-3358, ext. 1035 or (301) 447-1035.

Don't forget! Submit your application today so you can check this one off your To-Do List! Please share this with your organizations, friends and colleagues.

FIRE SERVICE WEBSITE RESOURCE:

Visit www.californiafirefighter.com for your statewide source for media, training and networking. California Firefighters is a **free** site dedicated to you for discussion and information sharing!

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

USFA and NFPA Join Forces to “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires”

Washington, DC – Citing recent fires in Pennsylvania and Florida which claimed the lives of nine children and one adult and may have been caused by space heaters, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) announced a jointly sponsored special initiative, “Put a Freeze on Winter Fires.” USFA and NFPA want to remind everyone that fire safety and prevention are especially important in the coming months. “These fires are a painful reminder of what we see every year – the temperatures drop and fires increase,” said NFPA President Jim Shannon. According to NFPA statistics space heaters account for about one third of the home heating fires yet more than 80 percent of the home heating fire deaths.

The “Winter Residential Building Fires” report released by USFA in 2010, reports an estimated 108,400 winter residential building fires occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1.7 billion in property loss. Cooking is the leading cause of winter residential building fires at 36 percent followed by heating at 23 percent, and winter residential building fires occur mainly in the early evening hours, peaking from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

“The winter season brings the highest number of home fires than any other time of year,” said USFA’s Acting Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. “Each winter season, home fires increase in

part due to cooking and heating fires. In addition, winter storms can interrupt electrical service and cause people to turn to alternative heating sources which contribute to the increased risk of fire during the winter months.” USFA and NFPA have compiled a great deal of information about the various causes of fire during the winter months, winter storm fire safety, holiday fire safety and tips that will help reduce or prevent the incidence of fire in the home on their websites.

This information can be found at www.usfa.dhs.gov/winter or www.nfpa.org/winter.

Gaines emphasized, “Winter fires are preventable. Everyone should find out what they need to know to have a safe winter season. There are simple steps each of us can take to prevent a tragedy this winter. In many cases it is just the simple matter of checking for information available at most fire departments.”

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

The **Seattle (WA) Fire Department** is accepting application for **Firefighter** from November 15, 2010 through January 7, 2011

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION:

- Graduation from high school or completion of General Education Certificate (GED).
- A valid Driver’s License and positive record (Driving records will be checked in all 50 states).
- Must be at least 18 years of age at time of appointment
- Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in English, both verbally and in writing.
- Washington State EMT certification required upon final hire – not required to apply.
- Must be eligible to work in the United States.

To view the job announcement and for more specific details about the position including how to apply, go to: http://www.seattle.gov/fire/employment/ffjob_apply.htm

For more information about the **City of Seattle**, visit their website at: www.seattle.gov

For more information about the **City of Seattle Fire Department**, visit their website at www.seattle.gov/fire/default.htm

For more information about the **Seattle Fire Department Firefighters Association, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 27**, visit their website at: www.iaff27.org

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

FEMA: Prevent Fires This Thanksgiving

WASHINGTON - As our nation comes together to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its United States Fire Administration (USFA) would like to remind all residents to **Put a Freeze on all Fires**.

According to data from the USFA, an estimated 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of five deaths, 25 injuries, and \$21 million in property loss each year. The leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings is cooking. In addition, these fires occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from noon to 4 p.m. And unfortunately, smoke alarms were not present in 20 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires that occurred in occupied residential buildings.

"Disasters can happen any time, any where, but some emergencies at home can be avoided by taking a few simple steps for safety," said FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "And don't forget this holiday season, while gathered around the table with family and friends, is a great time to talk about your family emergency plan, and what you would do in the case of a disaster." FEMA and USFA have issued a special report examining the characteristics of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings. The report, ***Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings***, was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with fire departments and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe during this holiday.

Read the report - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/statistics/v11i5.pdf> (PDF, 738 Kb) for more information.

The USFA also suggests these safety cooking tips:

- Make sure you have smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in every bedroom. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace them if they are 10 years old or older.
- Keep a close watch on your cooking. You should never leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep oven food packaging and other combustibles away from burners and heat sources.
- Heat cooking oil slowly and watch it closely; it can ignite quickly.
- Don't wear loose sleeves while working over hot stove burners - they can melt, ignite or catch on handles of pots and pans spilling hot oil and other liquids.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least three-feet around the stove and areas where hot foods or drinks are prepared or carried.

- Keep a lid nearby to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.

"Thanksgiving marks the start of a very busy time for all firefighters," said Acting Fire Administrator Glenn Gaines. "Holiday decorations, heating, and increased indoor cooking all present just some of the causes of residential fires. Your place of residence should be the safest place of all. Protect it with working smoke alarms and know what to do if a fire should occur."

Deep-fried turkey has quickly grown in popularity but safety experts are concerned that backyard chefs may be sacrificing fire safety for good taste. If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, please use the following tips:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other flammable materials.
- Never use turkey fryers in a garage or on a wooden deck.
- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you do not watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer even if it is not in use. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. If possible, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water do not mix, and water causes oil to spill over causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.
- The National Turkey Federation (NTF) recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds in weight.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. If the fire is manageable, use your all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, immediately call the fire department for help.

Read more **fire safety tips** - http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/cooking.shtm for cooking this holiday season.

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

U.S. Fire Administration Releases 2009 Fire Estimate Summary Series

Contact: USFA Press Office: (301) 447-1853
December 8, 2010

EMMITSBURG, MD - The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) issued the *2009 Fire Estimate Summary Series* today which presents basic information on the size and status of the fire problem in the United States as depicted through data collected in USFA's National Fire Incident Reporting System. The data summary series was developed by USFA's National Fire Data Center and is further evidence of FEMA's commitment to sharing information with the American public, fire departments, and first responders around the country to help them keep their communities safe.

"Each fire estimate summary is a great resource for communities to quickly get basic data on fire issues that are currently impacting our nation's communities," said Glenn Gaines, Acting U.S. Fire Administrator. "Please join with USFA in using the information presented in this series to help prevent further loss of life and property."

Individual summaries are issued as part of the *Fire Estimate Summary Series* and address the size of a specific fire or fire-related issue as well as highlight important data trends. As part of this series, seventeen summaries have been issued presenting basic information on the leading causes of residential building and nonresidential building fires, deaths, injuries, and dollar losses for 2009 and highlighting overall trends in these leading causes for the 5-year period of 2005 to 2009. Additional new and updated fire estimate summaries will be periodically released under this series as future year data become available. The complete *Fire Estimate Summary Series* is available at www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/estimates/.

For further information regarding other statistical reports or any programs and training available at USFA, visit www.usfa.dhs.gov.

FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Here is an opportunity to take one firefighter examination and be eligible to be hired by one of over 10 fire departments in the **Denver, Colorado** area!

The following information was found on their website, which also includes an online application: <http://www.drcog.org/index.cfm?page=FIRE>

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

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

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

Fire Departments Participating

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

Online Application Process

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

Deferrals

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

What Happens Next

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

Written Exam Used

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

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

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION FROM THE L.A.F.D.:

Dear Friend of the LAFD,

Periodically, we share a digest of *non-incident* articles from the Los Angeles Fire Department blog. But FIRST... it's essential we offer five quick home- and possibly life-saving reminders:

- Thanksgiving Fires are Preventable!
<http://bit.ly/thanksgiving-fires-are-preventable>
- Firefighters Ask: Your Turkey or Your Life? - <http://bit.ly/fried-turkey>
- 12 Point Checklist for Portable Heater Safety
<http://bit.ly/12-point-checklist-for-portable-heater-safety>
- Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer - <http://bit.ly/carbon-monoxide-the-silent-killer>
- LAFD Toy Safety Widget Arrives For the Holidays - <http://bit.ly/i9D0z1>

Here are two recent articles of interest from the LAFD blog:

- Video: LAFD Helicopter Crew Rescues Man From Rain Swollen River
<http://vimeo.com/17057302>
- Ruben Terrazas Named Eagle Rock Paramedic of the Year (w/video) - <http://bit.ly/dMHwRh>

...and from our archive, two November incidents we'll never forget:

- Nine Days of Hell in November: The Old Topanga Wildfire of 1993 - <http://bit.ly/hbjelw>
- The 1955 La Tuna Canyon Fire: None More Wicked - <http://bit.ly/eXDKi1>

Are You on Twitter? Follow our official accounts via <http://twitter.com>
@LAFD, @LAFDtalk @LAFDFireChief @SmokeAlarm

...and find us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/LosAngelesFireDepartment>

###

Respectfully Yours in Safety and Service,

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

"Serving with Courage, Integrity and Pride"

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

December 10, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

Since you've been kind enough to read this far, the LAFD Smartphone Application will debut November 30. As a long-time friend of the LAFD, you can play with the pre-release version today (will upgrade automatically at release). Go to the following link on your iPhone or Android Smartphone [not on your computer, but rather by typing the URL below into your smartphone browser]. Please note the URL is case sensitive. Please type in all lower case...
<http://bit.ly/lafd-mobile>

More later. Happy Holidays! -Brian

FIRE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.:

TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET - REGISTER FOR SPRING 2011 CLASSES, NOW!

State Budget Cuts = Less Fire Classes

LIMITED REGISTRATION STARTS NOVEMBER 29th

Register Early, Classes are Expected to Fill Fast.

CFSTES Fire Officer classes are scheduled in a Hybrid (Internet"Classroom) format at Allan Hancock College. Fire Technology classes are scheduled exclusively online, at either Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA and Imperial Valley College in El Centro, CA. The following courses will be available in the Spring 2011 Semester starting January 24th at Allan Hancock College and February 14th at Imperial Valley College.

CFSTES Fire Officer Classes (Hybrid (Internet"Classroom) format)

- Fire Management 1: Management" Supervision for Company Officers - Hybrid
- Fire Command 1A: Command Principles for Company Officers - Hybrid
- Fire Command 1B: Incident Management for Company Officers - Hybrid
- Fire Command 1C: I-Zone Fire Fighting for Company Officers - Hybrid
- **Fire Prevention 1A: Introduction to the California Fire Code - Entirely On-line**
- **Fire Prevention 1B: Introduction to the California Fire Code - Entirely On-line**
- Training Instructor 1A: Cognitive Lesson Delivery - Hybrid
- Training Instructor 1B: Psychomotor Lesson Delivery - Hybrid

The CFSTES classes are fully accredited by the State Fire Marshal and the fire technology classes are transferable to any community college.

Fire Technology Classes (Entirely on-line)

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

- Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival
- Fire Hydraulics
- Apparatus & Equipment
- Fire Company Organization & Procedure (Not a CFSTES Class) - Late Start

Wildland, EMS, Emergency Management & Haz Mat classes, as well as General Education classes are also offered on-line.

For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes, or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu

FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

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

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

- www.firerecruit.com

- www.firecareers.com

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Interested in Becoming an
Emergency Medical Technician?

About the Course

Mission Valley ROP and the San Francisco Paramedic Association have teamed up to provide an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Program! This program will prepare you to provide emergency medical care to victims of accidents and sudden illness. You will develop skills in symptom recognition, patient assessment and emergency care procedures. Emergency Medical Technicians provide routine and emergency medical care with an ambulance service or fire department, as well as in hospitals and clinics. Becoming an EMT is the first step towards becoming a paramedic and/or firefighter. Information sessions being conducted at MVROP on the following dates: 12/7, 12/16, 1/11 or 1/20

It is highly recommended that all students attend an info session!

Prerequisites:

- Must pass entrance exam
- Must be 18 years old by end of class
- Must possess a current Health Care Provider CPR card*
*Students may obtain CPR training by contacting the SFPA

Additional Information:

- Cost: \$1750.00
- Class meets on Tues/Wed/Thurs from 3:30-7:30 PM
- 2 Saturday dates, March 26 in San Francisco & May 14 in Fremont
- Last day of class is May 19
- Students must provide uniform pants, boots, watch, and a belt
- We provide: Textbook, Workbook, 2 uniform shirts, stethoscope, penlight, and shears
- Must provide evidence of appropriate vaccinations prior to clinical observations
- Register in person at MVROP or online at www.mvrop.org

Email education@sparamedics.org for more information!

CANDIDATE PHYSICAL ABILITY TEST (CPAT)
INFORMATION:

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

Successfully passing the CPAT means that you should be able to enter a firefighter academy at a reasonable level of fitness appropriate to the job. I encourage you to learn more about the CPAT, and also look into having this certificate on your resume. Trust me, this may be an eye-opener for some – many of you will not pass it the first time. Make sure you take advantage of the orientation and practice sessions and learn where your weak spots

are so you can focus on those areas. To see the available dates to take the CPAT at any of the below three locations, visit their website at www.cpatonline.org

- 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

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 for more information.

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

Go to www.fireserviceleadership.org for more information.

Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) – Indianapolis, IN – March 21 through 26, 2011 - Go to www.fdic.com for more information.

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

Go to www.firehouseexpo.com for more information.

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

Go to www.iafc.org/fri for more information.

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

Go to 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

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

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

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

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 ICS issues head on and will streamline the components of strategy & tactics, SOP's and ICS. We synthesize these three key ingredients to help you drastically improve the way you command your next incident or handle your upcoming assessment center! Don't believe the lie that you cannot prepare for the test AND the job at the same time. The military, airlines, and NASA do it, and it's about time the Fire Service did! We will conduct extensive incident reviews, including actual video and audio of commercial structure, apartment, residential, wildland, fatal fires and saves. Participate in simulations for house fires, garden/center hall apartments, and commercial fire incidents to get answers to the following questions...

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

For details on this seminar, go to:

http://www.firenuggets.com/seminarbaypro11_kastros.pdf

Seminar #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

ALL FOUR 2009 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

EMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE BAY AREA:

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

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

Dates / Locations / Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- December 12, 2010 from 1200 to 1600 hours (<u>Mountain View, CA</u>)- January 12, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- January 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- February 10, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- February 11, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- May 12, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- May 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- July 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- July 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- August 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- August 16, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- October 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>)- October 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (<u>Sausalito, CA</u>) <p>**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.</p>
You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.
To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php

FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Chance Zobel
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 23
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 3
Date of Incident: 11/13/2010
Time of Incident: 1415hrs
Date of Death: 11/13/2010
Fire Department: Columbia Fire Department
Address: 1800 Laurel ST, Columbia, SC 29201-2627
Fire Department Chief: Aubrey Jenkins
Fire Department Website: <http://www.columbiasc.net/fire>

Incident Description: Firefighter Zobel was killed and another firefighter was seriously injured when they were struck by a motor vehicle while working a median fire on Interstate 20. Initial reports indicate that two vehicles were approaching the scene from behind. One vehicle slammed into the rear of the other, which had slowed or stopped, pushing it into a small gap between the fire apparatus and the guardrail, striking both, and also striking the two firefighters.

Incident Location: I-20 near Clemson Road (near mile marker 81)

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 76 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 74 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 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

AND:

Name: Worne T. Hall
Rank: Fire Police Captain
Age: 86
Gender: Male

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 33
Date of Incident: 11/19/2010
Time of Incident: 1421hrs
Date of Death: 11/19/2010
Fire Department: Hitchins Volunteer Fire Department
Address: PO Box 17, Hitchins, KY 41146
Fire Department Chief: Greg Shaffer

Incident Description: Captain Hall responded to a reported ATV rollover and was coordinating the landing zone for a medical helicopter when he began experiencing chest pain. Treatment was initiated on-scene and he was transported to King's Daughters' Medical Center in Ashland where he passed away of an apparent heart attack.

Incident Location: Near the Old Willard School, State Rd 1496/State Hwy 1.

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation 11/22/2010 from 1800-2100hrs at the Malone Funeral Home, 325 Malone Lane, Grayson, KY. Funeral services will be held at the Malone Funeral Home, 11/23/2010, at 1130hrs.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: In honor of Fire Police Captain Worne T. Hall, c/o Hitchins Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 17, Hitchins, KY 41146.

Tribute is being paid to Fire Police Captain Worne T. Hall at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 77 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 75 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 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

AND:

Name: Fernando Sanchez
Rank: Inmate Firefighter
Age: 25
Gender: Male
Status: Wildland Part-Time
Years of Service: Pending
Date of Incident: 11/23/2010
Time of Incident: 1420hrs
Date of Death: 11/23/2010
Fire Department: California Department of Corrections
Address: 1515 S Street, Suite 502, South Sacramento, CA 95814
Fire Department Chief: Secretary Matthew Cate

Incident Description: Inmate Firefighter Sanchez was killed when the crew carrying vehicle (CCV) he was riding in was struck head-on by a car that, according to press reports, had

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

crossed over the center of the roadway into oncoming traffic. Sanchez, along with other inmate firefighters, was reported to have been ejected from the heavily damaged CCV as it rolled at least one time along the shoulder of the roadway coming to a final resting position on its right side. Four of the other inmates were critically injured. Eight additional people, including a Los Angeles County Fire Department firefighter who drove the CCV and served as the crew's leader, received minor-to-moderate injuries. The driver of the car that struck the CCV was also killed and pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

Incident Location: Highway 138 near Interstate 5 south of Gorman.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 78 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 76 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 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

AND:

Name:	Kenneth Marshall, Jr.
Rank:	Firefighter
Age:	33
Gender:	Male
Status:	Paid-on-Call
Years of Service:	15
Date of Incident:	11/25/2010
Time of Incident:	2130hrs
Date of Death:	11/25/2010
Fire Department:	Rehoboth Fire Department
Address:	334 Anawan ST, Rehoboth, MA 02769
Fire Department Chief:	Robert F. Pray
Fire Department POC:	Deputy Chief John Parker, Jr.

Incident Description: Firefighter Kenneth Marshall Jr., was driving Engine Company 2 en route to a residential fire when members of his department in the apparatus noticed that he was in distress. The members immediately stopped Engine 2 and performed CPR. Firefighter Marshall was rushed by Rehoboth Ambulance to the hospital where he was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Tribute is being paid to Firefighter Kenneth Marshall, Jr. at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 80 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 78 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 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

AND:

Name: Gary M. Valentino
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 41
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 13
Date of Incident: 11/26/2010
Time of Incident: 0021hrs
Date of Death: 11/26/2010
Fire Department: New York City Fire Department
Address: 9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Fire Department Chief: Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano
Fire Department Website: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

Incident Description: Firefighter Valentino was found unconscious in the firehouse bunkroom where, according to initial reports, he went to rest after stating that he was not feeling well. The cause of Firefighter Valentino's passing is still to be determined.

Incident Location: 3929 E Tremont Ave, Bronx, NY 10465

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 79 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 77 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 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

AND:

Name: Dillon C. Denton
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 64
Gender: Male

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 30+
Date of Incident: 12/06/2010
Time of Incident: 2000hrs
Date of Death: 12/07/2010
Fire Department: Charlotte Road/ Van Wyck Fire Department
Address: 4455 Old Hickory RD, Lancaster, SC 29720
Fire Department Chief: Craig Roff

Incident Description: Lieutenant Denton was participating in a training activity when he informed other members that he wasn't feeling well. He was assisted by fellow firefighters and Lancaster County EMS then airlifted to the Carolina Medical Center where he passed away early in the morning of December 7th from a reported brain aneurysm.
Incident Location: Next door to the fire department in the parking lot of the Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Dillon C. Denton at
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 81 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 79 from incidents that occurred in 2010 and 2 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

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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) for names added each subsequent year to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

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

COLUMBIA (South Carolina) FIREFIGHTER STRUCK & KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, 2nd FIREFIGHTER CRITICAL

It is with deep regret that we advise you that 2 Columbia FF's were struck this afternoon on I-20 while operating at a grass fire. The incident has left 1 Firefighter dead and a second fighting for his life. Details to follow from us as well as from: www.SConFire.com As always our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 11-13-10 / 1710 hours

AND:

The visitation for Firefighter Chance Zobel of the Columbia, SC Fire Department who died in the Line of Duty on Saturday after being struck along I-20 while operating at a grass fire is Tuesday evening, November 16th at Dunbar Funeral Home located at 7600 Woodrow Street in Irmo SC, 29063. Visitation is from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. The funeral will be held on Wednesday November 17th at Shandon Baptist Church located at 5250 Forest Drive in Columbia SC, 29206. The Funeral will start at 1:00pm. The internment will follow immediately after the funeral service at Shady Grove United Methodist Church located at 1918 Shady Grove Road in Irmo, SC 29063. For information contact the Department assistance number 803-545-3749

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 11-15-10 / 2110 hours

AND:

Hey,

The driver that was responsible for the Line of Duty death of Columbia-Richmond (SC) Firefighter Chance Hyatt Zobel has been charged. Cops charged 34-year-old Neida Ortega with driving too fast for conditions-and additionally, she only had a Mexican driver's license but no other license, and they are also looking to see if she is here illegally. FF Zobel, 23, was killed Saturday as he operated at that brush fire on Interstate 20. Firefighter Larry Irvin, was also injured in the crash, and remains stable but in critical condition at the hospital. Fire apparatus were properly parked on the inside lane on the eastbound side of I-20 with lights activated. 2 other two vehicles were approaching the scene from behind, when a van driven by Ms. Ortega collided with another vehicle. The van Ms. Ortega was driving rear-ended a Chevy Impala and the impact of the crash sent the Impala between 2 Columbia-Richland fire apparatus on the inside eastbound lane. Chance Zobel became a firefighter in 2007 and was a three-year veteran of Engine Company 4. **FUNERAL DETAILS HERE:**

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

RELATED-ANOTHER DRUNK KILLS A HIGHWAY RESPONDER:

www.ResponderSafety.com is reporting another non fire LODD. This is related because, as shown above, it can be any fire/EMS/police officer personnel operating on the roadways.

A veteran Caltrans employee was killed over the weekend after a drunk driver struck and killed him near the scene of another fatal accident in Chico, California. Gary Smith, 57, helped set up a traffic block for the CHP on the northbound lanes of Highway 99 after a

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

fatal DUI crash. Russell Hodge, 45, drove his Ford F250 truck through the closure and slammed into Smith, fatally injuring him. The drunk Hodge continued driving down Highway 99, but was stopped by a CHP officer a short distance down the road. CHP determined Hodge was under the influence and arrested him-and it should be noted that Hodge has been convicted three times of driving under the influence in the past 10 years. Hodge is facing charges of second-degree murder.

UPDATE: TEXAS APPARATUS ROLLOVER-

A San Antonio Firefighter remains hospitalized after he was trapped inside his apparatus when the Firefighter driving lost control while responding to a building fire Sunday night. FF Robert Arranaga, 30, is in stable condition, he was in the back seat of Ladder 35 which rolled while taking a turn. It took officials about an hour to free Arranaga from the wreck. Firefighter Brandon Wheeler, 29, who was driving, failed to control his speed, a San Antonio Police Department incident report states. Wheeler, along with Larry Schultz, 58, and Brao Phipps, 31, were uninjured. SAFD, SAPD and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health will investigate the crash.

Take care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-16-10 / 1442 Hours

AND:

Hey,

There was a nitrogen explosion at the NFA this afternoon. Initial reports are that the instructor was operating at the simulation lab, pressurizing the dry pipe training system and there was a release. The instructor, Jim Munger, a well known veteran of the NFA was seriously injured, immediately treated, stabilized and transported. NFA staff have shut the lab down pending a full investigation. Updates to follow. We wish Jim a successful recovery and have him in our prayers.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 11-17-10 / 1535 hours

AND:

KENTUCKY FIRE CAPTAIN LODD - MEDICAL EMERGENCY ON A RUN

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Captain Worne Hall, 86, of the Hitchins, Kentucky VFD. Hitchins is located in Carter County southwest of Ashland. Captain Hall and Firefighters from Hitchins VFD responded to a reported ATV rollover around 1400 hours today. While coordinating the landing zone for an EMS helicopter, Captain Hall started experiencing chest pain. Treatment was initiated and he was transported to the hospital in Ashland where he died of a reported heart attack. Captain Hall is 86 years old and survived by his wife and 2 grown children. He was a member of the Hitchins VFD for approximately 35 years. As always our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-19-10 / 2033 hours

AND:

December 10, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

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Hey,

A Philadelphia (PA) firefighter was struck by apparatus at the scene of a working fire last night. For yet undisclosed reasons, the Firefighter was struck by Ladder 25 while operating at the scene of a 3rd alarm fire, with occupants trapped. The Firefighter as of now is critical but stable, with significant head injuries. We'll post more later but go to www.Phillyfirenews.com for excellent photos of the fire and details on the injured firefighter.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-20-10 / 1308 hours

AND:

Hey,

The Philadelphia Firefighter who was taken to the hospital in critical condition after being struck last night is reported to now be conscious and talking, but remains critical. Initial reports are that he was struck by a ladder company as they were getting positioned and setting up for rescue. We'll post updates on our home page.

MGM GRAND HOTEL FIRE 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Tomorrow (Sunday) is the 30th Anniversary of the MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas/Clark County, Nevada. On that morning, November 21, 1980, 85 people were killed and more than 700 were injured as a result of the fire. It was the second largest life-loss hotel fire in United States history. HERE are more details:

[http://fire.co.clark.nv.us/\(S\(m520db55dxes02afnhrqdaza\)\)/MGM.aspx](http://fire.co.clark.nv.us/(S(m520db55dxes02afnhrqdaza))/MGM.aspx)

www.nfpa.org/assets/files/Press%20Room/LasVegasMGMGrand.pdf

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/mgmfire/>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-20-10 / 2041 hours

AND

GRANVILLE, FRANCE: FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN APPARATUS CRASH

We regret to advise you that a Granville, France Firefighter was killed in a motor vehicle crash Friday. Sgt. Sylvain Desmarest died when the firetruck he was driving was involved in a collision with a car. The Granville fire engine was responding to a traffic accident at 7:00 pm and it was dark and raining when they merged onto a bypass where they collided with a sedan driven by a 38-yr.old man. The collision caused both vehicles to run off the road into an embankment where Sgt. Desmarest and Corporal Julian Hinard, 30, were both ejected. A third firefighter, Corporal Julian Hinard, 30, emerged unhurt, but in shock. The two firefighters who were ejected were both seriously injured and flown by helicopter to the hospital. Sadly, Sgt. Desmarest died just as they arrived at the hospital. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-21-10 / 2051 hours

AND

BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA: FIREFIGHTER KILLED WHILE RESPONDING

We regret to advise you that a Lone Butte Volunteer Fire Department member was killed in a motor vehicle crash today. Initial reports are that the member was responding to the firehouse, for a structural/ chimney fire, and was fatally injured in a two vehicle crash as he was nearing the firehouse. The Lone Butte Firefighters responded to the incident discovering it was involving their own member. We'll post more details and updates later. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-20-10 / 2151 hours

AND:

Hey,

I'll make this quick. The IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section operates off of 2 funding sources:

- 1-Dues you pay to join the section in addition to your IAFC dues.
- 2-The \$1.50 fire service pocket planner annual fund raiser. **A Buck Fifty!**

Last year when we kicked off the pocket planners, they were a huge hit and they raised some needed funds to keep the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section funded. These are being offered again for the same price, and they can be custom imprinted with your FD name or whatever you wish. For \$1.50 it allows you and/or your organization to "thank" each member with something they will really use.

The 2011 planner provides firefighters with safety tips that can make a difference. The 12 months cover topics such as Emergency Driver Safety, the 8 Functions of Command, Firefighter Training Safety, Annual Medical Exam Info, Rehab Details, Firefighter PPE info, MAYDAY checklist, Situational Awareness, SCBA, Technical Rescue Safety, Avoiding CLOSE CALLS and "Know Your Job and Do It With Attitude" as several examples of what is in it. It puts simple, quick and easy to understand **REMINDERS TO SURVIVE** each and every day.

Each month also has highlights of Near-Miss and NIOSH reports. Additional information is included on Fatality Facts, Safety Culture & Leadership, Firefighter Cancer info, Near-Miss Reporting, Rules of Engagement, Roadway Operations Safety, Heart Healthy, 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, and Significant Firefighter Fatalities. This planner offers the firefighter tips that can make a difference at a very low cost. It focuses hard on helping firefighters and officers understand what may be necessary risks and what may definitely not be.

CHIEFS, COMMISSIONERS, OFFICERS & PRESIDENTS: Please consider ordering enough so that EACH of your firefighters, EMTs and related members are given one as a unique and low cost holiday appreciation.

ORDERING DETAILS HERE:

<http://www.positivepromotions.com/product.aspx?p=ITP10cf>

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Your support is appreciated by the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section:

www.IAFCSafety.org

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. PLEASE CONSIDER AN ORDER FOR YOUR ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-22-10 / 1641 Hours

AND:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT WILDLAND TRANSPORT UNIT INVOLVED IN CRASH-1 FIREFIGHTER LODD & 1 CIVILIAN DOA, NUMEROUS OTHER CRITICAL INJURIES

It is with deep regret that we advise you that this afternoon, one inmate Firefighter died in the Line of Duty, one other unidentified person have been killed and eight others were injured when an LA County FD unit carrying a state prison firefighting crew crashed with a passenger vehicle in northern Los Angeles County. The truck and the other vehicle crashed this afternoon on a road near Interstate 5 south of Gorman. At least 3 of the injured are critical but not yet clear whether the injured are from one vehicle or both. The Firefighters are inmates from an area state prison. We will post photos and more details on our home page. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

UTICA NY FIREFIGHTER CARDIAC AT HI RISE FIRE

Utica (NY) Fire Chief Russell Brooks says that Firefighter injured in yesterday's fire at the Kennedy Plaza apartments is improving and doing "quite well." Earlier today, the firefighter was on a ventilator and in intensive care. According to Chief Brooks, the firefighter suffered from a very serious "cardiac incident" at the scene of the fire. He wore roughly 80 pounds of gear and traveled up 17 flights of stairs to get to the fire, said Brooks. We wish the FF a rapid recovery.

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY INCIDENT UPDATE:

Here is an update direct from Jim Munger, who thankfully, is doing real well. First, I want to thank everyone for their emails, calls, thoughts and most importantly their prayers over the past week. Last Wednesday, Nov 17th I was doing routine work in the NFA fire protection lab as I have done for many years. Specifically I was installing new smoke detectors in the burn room and restoring the water mist system. After getting the new detectors and their control panel installed, I turned my attention to the water mist system. The particular system was initially installed in the early 90s and is an intermediate pressure system used to extinguish demo fires in the burn room. This system incorporates a water storage tank of 70 gallons, which is pressurized to 320 psi with a dry nitrogen cylinder. The nitrogen cylinder is pressurized to approx 1800 psi.

About once a year the system is completely blown down and the water tank and nitrogen cylinder refilled. The nitrogen cylinder is removed from the system and recharged by a local compressed gas supplier. The nitrogen cylinder has a special control head/valve simulator to CO2 or Halon bottle. Because of this, a special fill valve must be attached to the cylinder. For some reason (unknown why at this time) the supplier brought the cylinder back with the fill valve still attached. Because the cylinder was neither in storage nor in use, it had not yet been secured to its mounting brackets. The last thing that I remember before the incident

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was standing behind the bottle with my arm curved around manually removing the fill valve assembly from a check valve type fitting which is intended to stay in place. I remember a loud hiss and bang and then finding my arm at the elbow embedded into the wall. I then remember seeing a large puncture wound in the inside of my elbow bleeding profusely. I wrapped a towel around my elbow and attempted to control the bleeding with direct pressure. About the time I remember first seeing my elbow embedded in the wall a USFA staff member (Betty Riffle) came to the lab door and asked if I was okay. Needless to say I wasn't and told her to call 911 and that I would need a medic.

Very quickly several other staff members arrived including Bill Troupe who immediately took effective steps to control the bleeding. Very soon after NETC security officers and members of Emmitsburg Fire Company 6 and Ambulance Co. 26 of Frederick County Fire Rescue arrived. Because of the very loud sound associated with the cylinder discharge and the displacement of a considerable portion of the acoustical ceiling tiles the incident was initially reported as an "explosion". Given the amount of bleeding, the location of the injury and the violence of the event there initial concerns that I had received a through and through puncture wound. There was also concern about crushing injuries to vessels and nerves. Because of these issues, the original call put life flight on standby. After consultation, it was decided that life flight was not necessary and I was transported to Washington County Hospital the nearest trauma in Hagerstown, MD. After evaluation in the ER, I was taken to surgery to remove debris from the wounds on both sides of my right elbow. The wounds were closed without difficulty. Received a deep puncture wound on the inside of the elbow. Wound on outside of elbow were due to blunt force trauma as a result of impact with the wall. It was also found that I also have a fractured wrist. I was hospitalized until Friday night primarily due to the need for IV antibiotics because of debris in the wounds.

Today I had my first follow-up with the ortho surgeon. The wounds are healing very nicely and no complications are expected. Stitches should come out in two weeks and then will be in small wrist cast. I realize how lucky I am for the impact could have easily resulted in loss of use of my hand. Had the wall not given, my arm could have been severed. Had the impact been into my chest or head it would have been fatal. As of right now I have no clue as to what failed. I do know that the cylinder itself appears to be intact and the control valve/head did not separate from the cylinder. I fully expect to be back in the NFA classroom on December 6th. Lets us all be thankful for everything this holiday season.

James G. Munger, Ph.D, MIFireE, CFPS

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-23-10 / 1900 hours

AND:

Hey,

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE:

The 2011 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED.

Traditionally held the first weekend each October, it has been changed for 2011 to be held on October 14th through 16th. This is different from what was previously announced. The 2011 weekend is especially poignant as it marks the 30th anniversary of the National

Fallen Firefighters Memorial and follows the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Weekend events will again be held in Emmitsburg, Maryland on the campus of the National Emergency Training Center.

IF YOU OR YOUR FD HAVE NEVER ATTENDED, WHY NOT PLAN ON IT FOR 2011?

MORE DETAILS HERE: www.FireHero.org

FIRE APPARATUS CONFERENCE:

DO NOT MISS the 23rd FDSOA Annual Apparatus Symposium: Best Practices in Emergency Vehicle Design and Maintenance, which will be held January 23-26, 2011. The 2011 Apparatus Symposium will focus on apparatus specification and maintenance in a tough economy, technology updates and increasing issues of liability. With increasing EMS response, the 2011 Symposium introduces a new Ambulance Track that will focus on specifying and maintaining ambulances. Presented by FDSOA in cooperation with FAMA

MORE DETAILS HERE: www.fdsoa.org

SEVERAL LINE OF DUTY DEATH UPDATES:

==BUFFALO, NEW YORK: (Chip McCarthy & Jonathan Croom)

<http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/More-Insight-on-What-Led-to-Deaths-of-Two-Buffalo-Firefighters-110242459.html>

==HOMEWOOD, ILLINOIS: (Brian Carey)

<http://www.southtownstar.com/neighborhoodstar/homewood-flossmoor/2919542,112410homewoodhonor.article>

==PHOENIX, ARIZONA: (Bret Tarver)

<http://www.kpho.com/valleynews/25898283/detail.html>

INMATE FIREFIGHTERS:

Several of you wrote in asking about Inmate Firefighters, such as the Firefighter who lost his life yesterday, in the Line of Duty, in that apparatus crash. Inmates serve as Firefighters in many prison systems across the United States in both FD's that operate within the confines of their facility, as well as responding outside. **HERE** is a video explaining one such system:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VD6HFHTFzw>

OTHER INTERESTING RELATED VIDEOS FEATURING INMATE FIREFIGHTERS:

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

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJmwqCYHqXg&feature=related>

FINAL THOUGHT:

Tomorrow, while the day of thanks, is also a day to remember those who cannot sit down for a Thanksgiving meal with those they love. Take time to remember those Firefighters who have died in the Line of Duty, those who we lost on September 11, 2001 and the many brave men and women who have died while serving our country. We pay special thanks tomorrow as well to the men and women who continue to help keep us out of harms way, serving in our military forces, both uniformed and civilian.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. God Bless.

BillyG, GordonG, BrianK, ForestR, ChrisS, RudyH, BarryF, IggyK, PatK - from our families to yours.

The Secret List 11-24-10 / 1007 Hours

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, WHY NOT GIVE THE GIFT THAT SHOWS YOU REALLY CARE? GIVE A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE SECRET LIST"

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

AND:

2 FIREFIGHTER MEDICALLY RELATED DEATHS:

1-MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTER CARDIAC IN THE FIREHOUSE

1-FDNY FIREFIGHTER FOUND UNCONCIOUS-SUCCUMBS

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the following Firefighter deaths:

FDNY FIREFIGHTER FOUND UNCONCIOUS IN THE FIREHOUSE-SUCCUMBS

While not yet declared an FDNY "5-5-5-5" (LODD) per FDNY, it is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighter Gerry Valantino, a Firefighter with Engine Co 43, who was detailed as the aide to the 7th Division Chief, was found unconscious in the firehouse (Engine 72's quarters, where the 7th Div is temporarily located) bunkroom. Initial reports are that he stated he was not feeling well and went to rest, later being found by the Firefighters and emergency care was initiated.

NOTE: To be clear, our determination of posting an official LODD is based upon the statement or procedures of the reporting FD. As of right now, according to the FDNY, this tragic loss is an on duty death but not yet technically declared as an FDNY LODD, that's why we are posting it this way. As always, our sincere condolences.

Official Details And Updates Will Be Posted On Our Home Page As Well As HERE:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

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

MASSACHUSETTS FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH WHILE RESPONDING

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a 3rd generation Rehoboth (MA) Firefighter died last night after suffering a heart attack while responding on a fire call. FF Kenneth Marshall Jr., was riding on Engine Company 2 enroute to a report of a kitchen fire, when his Firefighters noticed that Marshall was in sudden cardiac arrest, around 2130. The members immediately stopped Engine 2 and started providing emergency care, including CPR and then FF Marshall was rushed by Rehoboth Ambulance to the hospital. FF Marshall was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival. FF Marshall was married and the father of two children, ages 6 and 3. He had been a member of the department for 15 years. FF Marshall was the son of Kenneth Marshall Sr., a retired Rehoboth Firefighter, and the grandson of George "Rab" Wetherall, who served 30 years on the department before retiring as a Deputy Chief. Marshall's brother, John, has been a Rehoboth Firefighter for a decade. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-26-10 / 1204 Hours

AND:

Hey,

We just received word that a segment on Firefighting will be on CBS Sunday **TOMORROW**

December 10, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

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Morning. A while back we told you that CBS Sunday Morning TV Show was doing a story on Firefighting and it is now scheduled to air tomorrow morning (Sunday, November 28, 2010) at 0900 hours ET. Included is material shot at the 2010 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend. Kelly Welsh and her daughter Lexus, the survivors of Steven J. 'Peanut' Koeser of Wisconsin (Killed in the Line of Duty when a burning dumpster exploded), were interviewed and are expected to be featured in the segment. **Check it out tomorrow morning.**

INDIANA FIREFIGHTER MEDIVAC AFTER CHIMNEY COLLAPSE

University Hospital Aircare of Cincinnati was called to the scene of a fire in Ohio County (Indiana, west of Cincinnati, Ohio) when a Firefighter was injured this evening. Aircare was called to the scene of a fire on Milton Bear Branch Rd. in Ohio County. While fighting this fire, a chimney collapsed on a Firefighter. We'll post updates on our HOME page in the morning.

**PA GOVERNOR VETOES FIREFIGHTER CANCER SUPPORT--
-- EVEN THOUGH PA LAWMAKERS VOTED 100% FOR IT!**

In a really shameful act, which probably follows the lead last year by the National League of Cities/Tri-Data Report, (**See Link Below**) PA's Gov. Ed Rendell today vetoed a bill that would have expanded workers compensation claims for Firefighters, who have long fought for the legislation. The Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association urged lawmakers to support the bill-AND THEY DID! Keep reading. In a letter attempting to explain his veto, Rendell wrote that the bill would pass potentially huge costs to municipalities. Rendell wrote that the total cost of the legislation is unknown, "which is a problem in itself." Can you think of any other Gov't legislation where the total cost is unknown? Actually, while the cost of most Gov't programs are not predictable and seem endless, multiplying regularly, this cost is relatively predictable based upon past history and the number of Firefighters. It is very predictable, if the Gov wanted it to be. Continuing his excuses, the governor said the bill could actually "hinder public safety" because it could force municipalities to cut essential services at a time when many are struggling financially in the economic downturn. WTF!? Firefighters had argued that the bill would provide essential relief to the families of firefighters suffering from cancer, relief that the communities of those firefighters should cover the cost of!

NOTE: Interestingly, the bill enjoyed very strong support from lawmakers and it passed the House earlier this month with a 196-0 vote! 196-0 !! The Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association hailed the House vote earlier this month, saying, "This is as close as we have ever been in 25 years of efforts." But thanks to the PA Gov, support to PA Firefighters with cancer is now dead. Incredible.

REMEMBER THIS?

(Tri-Data Study For The Nat'l League Of Cities Fails to Establish Link between Cancer and Firefighting)

<http://www.nlc.org/PRESSROOM/PRESSRELEASEITEMS/PresumptionReport2009.aspx>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-27-10 / 2214 Hours

AND:

Hey,

68 years ago today was the infamous Coconut Grove fire in Boston. On November 28, 1942, the upscale nightclub burned in what remains the deadliest nightclub fire in United States history, killing 492 people and injuring hundreds more. It is also the second-worst single-building fire in American history; only the Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago in 1903 killed more (602). The tragedy shocked the nation and briefly replaced World War II news headlines. The fire led to a reform of fire codes and safety standards across the country and prompted a seminal study of grief. The club's crooked owner, Barney Welansky, who had boasted of his ties to the Mafia and to Boston Mayor Maurice Tobin, was eventually found guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

HERE is more on the fire:

-Official BFD FIRE Report:

<http://www.archive.org/stream/reportconcerning00bost#page/n1/mode/2up>

-Archives: http://www.boston.com/news/daily/21/archives_cocoanut_112292.htm

-Historical Perspective: <http://www.withthecommand.com/2003-Aug/MD-tom-public1.html>

VIDEOS:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_jXfuEAJ9c (Documentary)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SLnznxCZY&feature=related> (From a Survivor of the Fire)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csgEMiy0lwM> (The site of the fire, today)

LAST NIGHT YOU READ ABOUT PA'S GOV NOT SUPPORTING THEIR FIREFIGHTERS WITH CANCER. AND NOW, HERE IS A RELATED STORY SHOWING HOW ONTARIO CANADA SUPPORTS THEIR FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM "FIREFIGHTING" CANCERS.

For 20 years, the Canadian firefighter's IAFF union fought for compensation for Firefighters stricken with cancer. That struggle was eased in 2007 when the Province passed legislation that makes it easier for Firefighters to qualify for compensation for some occupational-related cancers. The amendment to Ontario's Workplace Safety Act identifies 8 types of cancer presumed to be work-related and covers the province's 13,000 full-time and 36,000 volunteer firefighters. Below is a recent story of one such Firefighter who is very sick, who is being helped by his Province (State).

HERE: <http://news.therecord.com/News/Local/article/821279>

ALSO CHECK OUT: Firefighter Cancer TALKING POINTS To FIGHT Propaganda:

<http://msvfa.org/publications/cancer-NLCResponseTalkingPoints.pdf>

Final Word:

Our Condolences to the family and friends of Anne Arundel County (MD) Fire Lt. Elizabeth Nahory, who was tragically killed in a off duty vehicle crash on Thanksgiving Day. More Details HERE: <http://www.iafflocal1563.org/> Additionally, our Condolences to the family and friends of our old friend retired Fire Chief John H. Albritton of Sarasota County, FL. RIP.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-28-10 / 2019 Hours

AND:

PENNSYLVANIA EMT DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CARDIAC ARREST WAS ALSO AN ACTIVE FIREFIGHTER

It is with deep regret that we advise you that EMT John R. Demkosky, 35, died in the Line of Duty today after suffering a medical emergency. John was a full-time EMT with Lackawanna (PA) Ambulance, and at the time was working his shift in the City of Scranton, PA. Initial details are that John and his partner were parked in the ambulance, in a geographically pre-assigned area, awaiting emergencies. During that time, John experienced what has been described as seizure-like activity. His partner, a PHRN, immediately radioed dispatch for assistance and initiated patient care. After being met on scene by several other units, John was transported to Mercy Hospital, during which time he went into cardiac arrest. Lackawanna Ambulance crews and emergency room staff at Mercy Hospital continued lifesaving measures for nearly 40 minutes. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful and John was pronounced dead. In addition to his employment at Lackawanna Ambulance, John was a volunteer Firefighter and EMT with Chinchilla Hose Co. in S. Abington Twp., PA. John's past service with other departments, and previous employment as a 911 Dispatcher for the Lackawanna County Dept. of Emergency Services, resulted in him being well known and well liked by his colleagues. Funeral arrangements and other services are still being finalized. Details will be provided as they become available. As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-29-10 / 1933 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The issue of firefighters and fatigue has been raised once again. And with the economic times we are in, and overtime being "alive and well" in many areas, the issue of "how many hours should a firefighter work" is a hot one at this FD in Kentucky. Back in October the Winchester FD responded to 5 fires in four days. Firefighter Paramedic Raymond Patrick thought one of those fires would be the end of 48 hours on duty, but as he prepared to head home at the end of his shift, his boss ordered him to start all over again. But Patrick says he told his superiors he wouldn't last 72 hours straight. The 8-year veteran of the WFD and newly elected union president says because Winchester is understaffed, many firefighters have had to work back to back 24-hour shifts even though the standard schedule is 24-hours on, 48-hours off. So he refused to work the 3rd 24 hours shift in a row. Patrick's refusal led to a hearing before the Winchester City Commission. **HERE** is more: <http://tinyurl.com/3aholx8>

SEE RELATED: IAFC Sleep Deprivation Study & Information:

<http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=559>

FIREFIGHTERS SHOCKED AT FIRE:

An equipment electrical fire yesterday morning sent 2 Salt Lake City (UT) Firefighters to the hospital. The equipment, used to make x-ray tubes, was being tested when it came in contact with oil used in the testing process. The damage of the fire was contained to the equipment being tested and the equipment used to perform the testing. 1 Firefighter was treated for exposure to an electrical shock. He was taken to Intermountain Medical Center and is listed in good condition and a 2nd was evaluated for possible exposure to the electrical shock. Just another reminder of potential electrical hazards on every fire call.

MAYOR TO FIRE CHIEF: "STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT YOUR STAFFING ISSUES" A SIGN OF THE TIMES, THE TIMES THAT ARE HERE TO STAY? PREDICTABLE WINS OR LOSSES?

Lawrence (MA) Mayor William Lantigua is tired of hearing about a lack of firefighters and "irresponsible comments" by acting fire Chief Brian Murphy about the dangers. But with 93 working fires and nearly \$5 million in property losses so far this year, the Chief said he's going to keep pushing the issue to save lives. "We are severely undermanned. It's only a matter of time before there's a tragedy," Murphy said yesterday. "So far we have been very fortunate." Again yesterday morning, the LFD had to rely on heavy mutual aid for a fire that left 10 people homeless. 37 Firefighters fought the fire, 16 from Lawrence and 21 from mutual aid. City firefighters had to respond from the central station on Lowell Street, not a closer firehouse on Tower Hill because it was shut down due to budget cuts since August 2009. Murphy also said Lawrence's costs on fire damage has doubled in the past year. In 2009, there were 72 building fires that resulted in \$2.4 million in property damage. Not counting 2 Fires yesterday, there have been 93 structure fires in Lawrence so far this year, resulting in \$4.7 million in property damage. Last year, LFD relied on mutual aid from other towns for five multi-alarm fires. But this year, mutual aid has been called in 22 times so far, Murphy said. In July, 23 firefighters were laid off to balance the \$72 million municipal budget.

PREDICTABLE WIN OR PREDICTABLE LOSS? Is the above a sign of the times that are here to stay? Looks like it according to some predictions. Even if/when the economy turns around, will those cities that have cut, go back to what they once had? At some point, when a FD budget "is what it is" the FD is simply not longer matched to the job expected previously. **Insurance rates WILL go up. Stuff will burn down at a greater rate. And lives may be lost.**

The question facing many Fire Chiefs is: At what point do we alter being an interior FD when we are being forced to be pretty much an exterior FD? Sort of like ALS vs BLS EMS, if the community wants it, it costs more money or you simply get BLS. While we don't rate them that way, perhaps communities will need to understand "before the fire" if THEIR FD is a BFD or an AFD? (BASIC FD=Exterior fire protection at the basic level or an ADVANCED FD with adequate staffing to perform some ADVANCED interior operations). It all sounds so damn ridiculous to us but at what point do the city hall budget issues and their (city hall, local government) responsibility to protect their citizens (in various forms) fall ridiculously onto the BACKS of Fire Chiefs and Firefighters to go above and beyond, above and beyond? While clearly there are few amongst us that would NOT be willing to do "whatever it takes" to do the search, make the grab and attempt to save a life, some communities are expecting their FD to "win" - although the "win" is generally predictable as a loss. When your "hometown football team" only has 6 players, don't expect many, or any, wins. Don't take that bet.

No one is suggesting that we should ever give up the fight to provide expertise to our communities in helping them genuinely understand what "their" FD should look like in order to derive a generally predictable outcome. However, the community and the elected city hall dwellers need to decide what they want while the Chiefs, like LFD Chief Murphy, have an obligation to make clear what we generally can and cannot do, based upon what the community wants and is willing to fund, career or volunteer. And like Chief Murphy, the city hall dwellers may not like what they hear.

Additionally, other options such as mergers, collaborations and consolidations have to be looked at and very strongly considered. And while the public (and elected city hall dwellers) may not like the idea of no longer having "control" over their own "local" FD, they can't have it both ways. When they reduce staffing to the "losing team" levels, from a FF survival standpoint, the issue of not having adequate staffing to perform that occasional but critical rescue provides us with a much more predictable outcome.

HERE IS MORE ABOUT LAWRENCE (MA): <http://tinyurl.com/22nhszp>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-1-10 / 0855 Hours

AND:

WEST VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEF LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY AT THE FIRE STATION

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Roger Bell, Fire Chief of the Coal City (W. VA) VFD died in the Line of Duty on Tuesday, Nov. 23. Chief Bell collapsed at the fire station at around 2:45 p.m. of an apparent heart attack. Members attempted CPR and he was taken to Raleigh General Hospital where he was later pronounced dead. Chief Bell temporarily resigned along with the rest of the Coal City FD in May. They cited low membership and internal operational influences for the closure. State Fire Marshall Sterling Lewis intervened to help iron out those issues and placed Bell back in charge of the department less than a week later. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

REMEMBERING BUFFALO, WORCESTER, KEOKUK & MORE

Each December, there are some very significant dates for the fire service, worthy of note and well worth discussion with Firefighters-especially your younger ones. For example, every Firefighter should well familiar with the multi LODD loss in Buffalo (NY) when 5 BFD Ladder 5 Firefighters (and 2 civilians) were killed in a propane explosion in December 1983. And that's just one example. As we now approach December 2009, we remember that 11 YEARS AGO (December of 1999), there were also 2 very significant multi-LODD fires that we must remember. The first is the Worcester Cold Storage fire that occurred on December 3, 1999. The second, discussed below, is the loss of 3 Firefighters in Keokuk, Iowa.

===WORCESTER (MA) WAREHOUSE FIRE TAKES THE LIVES OF SIX FIREFIGHTERS

We all remember wonderful but also (and sadly), tragic events that have occurred in our lives as well. As a kid, I remember when President Kennedy was assassinated (Nov 22, 1963), as well as Dr. Martin Luther King's murder (April 4, 1968). When the Challenger shuttle blew up (January 28, 1986) and the "23rd Street Fire" in NYC (October 17, 1966) - we remember what we were doing when events like that happened-they get, as some say, "etched" in our mind. On December 3rd of 1999, I was attending a community Christmas celebration in our town when beepers started to beep providing initial details about missing Firefighters in Worcester (MA)-and then more details-and then even more info and the final incredible details came out. The Worcester Fire Department responded at 1813 hours that night to Box Alarm 1438 for a fire at 266 Franklin Street.(NOTE: 266 Franklin Street is now the the address and location of WFD's E-6, E-12, L-1, R-1 and Scuba-1 quarters)

2 members of rescue 1, Firefighter Paul Brotherton and Firefighter Jerry Lucey, entered the building searching for occupants. Fire conditions worsened in the building at a rapid and

unexpected rate. FF's Brotherton and Lucey, on the fifth floor, became disoriented in the smoke-filled building. Lost, and running low on air, they called for help. Several crews began searching for the lost Firefighters. Two crews reaching the fifth floor also found themselves disoriented in the smoke and trapped by the maze of interior walls: Lieutenant Tom Spencer and Firefighter Tim Jackson from Ladder 2, and Firefighter Jay Lyons and Firefighter Joe McGuirk from Engine 3 were now trapped. **Though many more highly heroic Worcester Firefighters attempted to locate their missing brothers, their efforts proved futile.**

Be sure to read the link below, entitled "A Chiefs Perspective" about WFD District (Ret) Chief Mike McNamee, who made the beyond difficult decision to end search operations for the missing members-and saved more lives by doing so.

The Line of Duty Deaths of Worcester Firefighters Paul A. Brotherton, Timothy P. Jackson, Jeremiah M. Lucey, James F. "Jay" Lyons III, Joseph T. McGuirk, and Lt. Thomas E. Spencer devastated Worcester, the Fire service, the nation and the world. Their Line of Duty deaths marked the worst loss of Firefighters' lives in more than 20 years in a building fire in America, and the third worst fire in Massachusetts' history. R.I.P.

WORCESTER REPORTS & LINKS:

HERE is the USFA report as well as the "must read" Esquire Magazine/Sean Flynn article:
http://www.esquire.com/features/perfect-fire-0700?click=main_sr (Esquire Magazine)
<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-134.pdf> (USFA Report on the fire)

HERE are links that we hope will be of value and interest to you and YOUR members:

Excellent Collection of Stories, Photos, Audio: <http://www.telegram.com/static/fire/>

A Chiefs Perspective: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20091129/NEWS/911290432/1052>

X Marks The Spot: <http://www.telegram.com/article/20091130/NEWS/911300384/0/news06>

Photos: <http://www.pbase.com/tomcarmody/wor>

Photos: <http://www.capecodfd.com/PAGES%20Special/Worc1.htm>

WFD Sites: <http://www.iaff1009.org/index.cfm> <http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us/fire>

===KEOKUK, IOWA-THE LOSS OF 3 FIREFIGHTERS-AND 3 CHILDREN IN A DUPLEX FIRE

At 0824 Hours on Wednesday, December 22, 1999, a fire was reported in a multifamily dwelling in Keokuk, Iowa. Several neighbors phoned the Keokuk 911 center to report smoke coming from a residence, and that a woman was outside screaming that there were children trapped inside. Assistant Fire Chief Dave McNally, 48, Firefighter Jason Biting, 29, and Firefighter Nate Tuck, 39 were killed while attempting the rescue of 3 trapped kids in that fire-who also perished. The 3 Firefighters left 8 kids of their own behind. The Firefighters died when a flashover occurred while the 3 were doing their search. The fire started in the kitchen of an old wooden two-story b/f home that had been converted into apartments. Staffing is a major issue in Keokuk, and that morning, 4 of the 5 total (+ the Chief) on duty firefighters arrived on scene with heavy smoke showing, and upon hearing the mother screaming that her children were trapped inside, they immediately and understandably went in after them. When "Mom" screams that her kids are inside-we go in.

The 3 were inside, (the Asst Chief and 2 FF/pump operators) a Lt. was on the hydrant-couldn't see the building and one Firefighter was on side "A"... starting to pack up, to back the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

interior members up. The Chief made the terribly difficult decision to leave the scene for 3 minutes to personally transport a non-breathing rescued child--there were no other resources available... none. The hospital was a minute away. When he returned, the flashover had already occurred with only the Lt. and the one Firefighter left outside. A/C Dave McNally, FF Jason Bitting, and FF Nate Tuck perished in that duplex. R.I.P.

There are several excellent reports out on the fire:

HERE is the NIOSH report: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200004.html>

HERE is the NFPA report: <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Keokuk.PDF>

KFD Link: <http://www.cityofkeokuk.org/kfd.html>

One of the best quotes I have ever heard came from KFD's Chief Mark Wessell. Mark is a good friend who has shown true leadership in taking the KFD forward-I don't know anyone who doesn't agree with that. Since that fire, Mark and I have become pretty close and I am continually in awe over how he has made it clear that his FD will (and has) change. Mark makes it clear that as horrible as this was-he will do whatever he has to, to make sure it never happens again. To all of us, he made a statement that sums it up... **"Always remember that we as firefighters are there to help people with a problem, while also doing ALL that we can to never become PART of that problem"**

The above information-and plenty from many other resources and websites as well-provides each of us with an opportunity to share:

-so younger Firefighters understand our history.

-so we all are reminded of the losses.

-so we learn from the lessons learned.

-and so we can honor the WFD and KFD members who gave their lives in the Line of Duty.

WINTER ROAD CONDITIONS BLAMED FOR APPARATUS CRASH

2 Tyendinaga Township (Ontario, CN) Firefighters have been released from hospital and are recovering from injuries suffered when their fire apparatus crashed. The men were responding to a car crash on Hwy. 401 around 9:15 a.m. Saturday when their vehicle lost control and collided with a tree. One of the men suffered a broken arm and the other suffered lacerations. A winter storm slicked roads and there was a flurry of calls to crashes and the police are blaming road conditions. The truck, a three-quarter ton specially outfitted pickup, was totaled. The truck slid off the road and the driver's side door was wedged against the tree. Winter roads? Slow down.

PENSION CHANGES FOR FIREFIGHTERS

In what is being looked at in many other areas, Illinois politicians approved legislation yesterday that reduces pension benefits for future local Firefighters and Police Officers. The measure also requires greater contributions from municipalities over the next 30 years to catch up with underfunded retirement programs. The Senate voted 46-4 on the bill, sending it to Gov. Pat Quinn. A spokeswoman would not say whether Quinn would sign it. Police and fire officials hired after Jan. 1 would have to work to age 55, instead of 50, to earn full benefits. **MORE HERE:** <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9JS1H200.htm>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-3-10 / 0747 Hours

AND:

Hey,

The Pittsburgh Firefighters Union President (IAFF Local 1) wants an inspection of one of their firehouses because of a significant number of cancer-related deaths among the members stationed there. President Joe King requested the inspection in a letter Monday to Fire Chief Darryl Jones. It is reported that at least 9 firefighters from Engine and Truck Co. 24 have died of cancer. He did not say whether all had the same cancer or cite a time period for the deaths. "Something is seriously wrong, take my word that they all died of cancer, many of them at a relatively young age," Mr. King said in the letter. Mr. King sent the letter two days after PA's Gov. Ed Rendell vetoed a bill that would have made it easier for firefighters with cancer to receive workers compensation benefits. Be it the building, the exhaust from the apparatus or the ground in the area, something is wrong.

MORE HERE: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10336/1107599-53.stm#ixzz16xzmz11t>

ONE FINAL EFFORT, CAN YOU HELP BY CONTACTING YOUR SENATOR?

SADLY, it appears that political support to 9/11 Responders who are ill, is just about lost.

NY Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand again pushed for bipartisan support of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act on Tuesday of this week. The bill would guarantee health care and financial compensation to all the first responders, iron workers and volunteers involved in the Ground Zero clean up. It would give up to \$7.4 billion to those workers sickened during the cleanup. The bill seeks to create a more than \$7 billion fund for volunteers who worked at Ground Zero and are now suffering health problems as a result. In January, the newly elected House takes over, and is unlikely to support the bill. Gillibrand is leading the charge to convince all Senators to support the bill, but the Senate only has a couple weeks left to sway opinions. Convincing Republicans has been "very hard" Gillibrand said. **IF YOU SUPPORT THE ZADROGA BILL, PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR**

SENATOR TODAY: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

PAY THE TOLL OR GET A TICKET

An ambulance crew transporting a critically ill patient to the hospital was ticketed for failing to stop at the Tacoma N(WA) arrows Bridge and pay the toll. State Department of Transportation officials say the automated toll system doesn't determine whether an ambulance is in an emergency situation and that the crew should have called immediately to have the infraction waived. "We're not out to charge anybody for going through in an emergency situation," said WSDOT spokeswoman Patty Michaud. "We just need to know." Read more from the Fire Chiefs perspective:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/12/02/1448239/ambulance-crew-issued-ticket-for.html#ixzz16xzeqE3b>

"OLD TIMERS"

REST IN PEACE CHIEF JOE TIMONEY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA

One of my favorite types of conversations are with fire service "old timers". I am talking about the very senior veteran firefighters who were going to fires before every seat had an SCBA, before rigs had a radio or even a roof. And while I was around during that end of that period, I

was a kid who started as a FF in the early 70's. That was when those old timers were in their prime, they were the "older" chiefs or at that time, were thinking of slowing down. I absolutely love talking to the old time veteran Firefighters (especially when I'm traveling) and always take advantage of the chance to do it. One of my favorite ways to get them talking (which is rarely a problem!) is to ask the following question: **"So, has much changed around this fire department since you joined up" ?** Then grab a seat, sit down, watch out and listen because that "question" always gets the flood gates of local fire service history wide open. While many younger Firefighters may be quick to "blow off" the old timers, there is a whole lot there to learn from, you just have to listen. They've "been there/done that" and probably more than most FF's do today. Or at least they'll make it sound that way.

One of those "oldtimer" Firefighters, a friend of mine, died 2 weeks ago. I knew he was going to die as he reached out to me and others a few months ago to tell us. As usual, we talked about a lot of stuff but the one thing I remember is that he told me very proudly, that "I had a great life, heck, I was a fireman"! Chief Joseph Timoney, a lifelong Wyndmoor (PA) resident and former Fire Chief of the Wyndmoor Hose Fire Company No. 1, died of cancer Nov. 22. Chief Joe was 85 years old. The Chief joined his fire company in 1948 and served as the chief during the 1970s and '80s, and as again as a chief officer from the 1960s on. He was active in various roles within his "fire comp'ny" right up until the end. As is said, Joe was a firefighter who was always a firefighter, 24/7-365. We would catchup to Chief Joe in the recent past summers when my family & friends traditionally vacation together in Ocean City, New Jersey. Joe would go "down the shore" each summer as well and without any formalities, he would go for his morning walks and catchup to us on the beach, where the annual "fire chat" conversations began. It started a few years ago when he saw a few of us (along with our kids and most recently grandkids) wearing our "colors", our fire t-shirts and the "beach visits" continued each year.

About 8 weeks ago Joe called and told us that he didn't have much time left. But again, we had time then to have "fire chat" and we did several times after that call. **Rest in peace Chief Joe Timoney.** Read more about Joe here: <http://tinyurl.com/36cbwb8>
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-2-10 / 1048 Hours

AND:

PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE "SUPPORTING SOLDIERS" DETAILS BELOW)

TEEN VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER & POLICE COMMANDER KILLED IN ISRAELI WILDLAND FIRE

The remains of a 16 year-old teenage volunteer Firefighter who was killed in the Carmel forest fire in Israel were identified this morning (Saturday). Elad Riven, from Haifa, killed on Thursday, was a volunteer with a scout group made of students who work with the regions firefighting service. Riven was in the northern city of Afula when his mother received a phone call to alert Riven to respond to the wildfire. He left and arrived on the scene to assist the Firefighters who were working to evacuate residents of the area. Most of the 42 victims whose lives have been claimed in the devastating wildfire perished on Thursday when a bus

brought in to evacuate people got caught in the fire. The bus was carrying members of a Prison Service guards' course who were heading to the Damon jail in order to help evacuate inmates. On Friday, the remains of a Police Commander who was killed while on his way to rescue residents were identified. Lior Boker, age 57, was head of police operations for Israel's northern region. Police had gathered a search party for Boker, who was thought to be missing, on Thursday. He apparently was caught in the fire while trying to identify the location of the bus of prison service guard students. As always, our condolences to all affected.

===UPDATE: ISRAELI FIRE: "Inadequate Staffing, Inadequate Equipment"

As you are aware, a massive fire continues to burn in Israel that has, so far killed 42 people and injured many more including a local Police Chief who was seriously burned. Mutual aid from dozens of Countries from the USA to Russia and almost everywhere in between, continue to respond to the fire that is expected to take a week to get under control. In an interesting Op-Ed piece, a local newspaper writes that while the Israeli military and police are in great shape, the Israeli fire services are reportedly woefully understaffed and their equipment is lacking. Sounds like a prediction for what some cities in our Country are currently doing. **HERE** is more: <http://tinyurl.com/35e89ue>

FLORIDA CITY LAYS OFF SENIOR FIREFIGHTERS WHO WERE IN THE "DROP" PROGRAM

In an unusual and shocking twist to the budget cuts affecting the American public's fire service in so many areas, here is a new twist as 17 senior Hialeah (FL) Firefighters and Fire Officers, who were in the "drop" were laid off due to budget cuts that are expected to save the city \$2.5 million. The Mayor claims the layoffs will not affect response times and that things will continue to run smoothly. He added that the budget cuts will save the city more than \$2 million. "No services will be affected," the Mayor said. "These are individuals who have served the city for over 25 years, have their pensions completely, have their insurance, have all the benefits that they have earned, and we thank them for their years of service." Mario Pico, president of the Hialeah Association of Firefighters, said the decision actually will cost the city money because some firefighters will have to work overtime to fill the gap created by the layoffs. "He actually dismissed our senior firefighters: 3 Chiefs, 3 Captains and 8 Lieutenants," Pico said. "You can't replace that on the streets. There is no school for experience."

IMPORTANT! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORTING FIREFIGHTER SOLDIERS:

In cooperation with Fire Chief Magazine, this is our annual request for names, addresses or emails of Firefighters and emergency responders also serving in the military this coming holiday season. Every year the list of dedicated men and women who serve in their communities and in the military is posted. The letters received in response back from those serving overseas clearly show it's a very big deal! We encourage Secret List readers to send a card or email (see below) to let these 'double-duty' personnel that we appreciate what they do for us. Starting next week, FIRE CHIEF will post the names, mailing addresses and e-mail addresses of double-duty firefighters and EMTs on their Web site. **If you know someone serving who should receive holiday thanks, please send their information ASAP to:**

janet@firechief.com

Whether we have family serving overseas or not, we have a responsibility to support U.S.

and Canadian troops overseas and even more so if we have firefighters who are serving in the military overseas.

MORE HERE: http://blog.firechief.com/mutual_aid/2010/11/20/do-your-duty-for-the-double-duty/

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-4-10 / 1006 Hours

AND

ISRAELI POLICE CHIEF LODD FROM BURNS AT WILDLAND FIRE, 2nd LODD FROM THAT FIRE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that the Police Chief in Haifa (Israel) Ahuva Tomer, has died in the Line of Duty from her burn injuries after 4 day hospitalization. Tomer, who was the first ever woman police chief there, was gravely injured in the now under control Carmel forest fire, while driving along with that bus full of Prison Service cadets that burned and killed the cadets as well. She has been fighting for her life since, and doctors even reported a change for the better, but on this morning her condition became dire and she succumbed to her wounds. She oversaw a command of 500 police officers. As always, our sincere condolences.

GEORGIA FIREFIGHTERS BURNED AT HOUSE FIRE

3 Cherokee County Firefighters were hospitalized with burns after operating at a house fire last night. All 3 were transported to Grady Burn Unit in Atlanta with second degree burns. 2 were released last night, while another is expected to get out of the hospital later today. The burns were arms and upper extremities. The fire started in a faulty chimney and spread throughout.

HARRISBURG PA / LONG BEACH CA. - REALITY CHECK: CHILDS LIFE SAVED BY CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTER, FF WHO FELL THRU FLOOR!

Perhaps folks like the Mayor of Harrisburg (State Capitol of PA) should be quickly flown out to California to understand reality. Actually, she probably doesn't have to because Harrisburg itself is not a stranger to working fires, with people trapped. Harrisburg at one time had 16 fire companies, they now have 4 and the Mayor wants to reduce that to 3 firehouses, with layoffs. That's 3 firehouses for a daytime population of 150,000 people. Numerous problems (such as their infamous incinerator project) at the local Government leadership level have lead to Harrisburg's mess and while we do understand there are limits, her plan is far beyond what should be considered reasonable fire services, especially in that city. At some point if her plan goes forward, she needs to aggressively inform the public about what "her" FD can, and simply cannot do. **What people expect from their fire department and what can actually be delivered are often two very different realities, and not just in Harrisburg.**

While that battle is going on in Harrisburg, this morning in Long Beach (CA) a Firefighter pulled a trapped, unconscious 2-year-old little boy to safety. The fire began in a 2nd floor bedroom at about 0130 Hours, everyone in the house was able to get out except the toddler. A Firefighter searching the apartment for the boy fell through the floor up to his elbows, and then pulled himself up and continued looking until he found the boy hiding in a closet.

Paramedics got him breathing again on the way to a hospital. The boy is in stable but critical condition. The firefighter had bumps and bruises, but he did not need to be hospitalized.

OUTSTANDING! MORE ON HARRISBURG'S SITUATION HERE:

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

<http://www.iaff428.org/>

22 KILLED FIGHTING FIRE IN CHINA-POSSIBLE LODDS

At least 22 people, some possibly government Firefighters, have died after a wildland fire they were fighting in south-western China turned and trapped them. The 22 were among more than 2,000 people fighting the fire yesterday in Sichuan province. Several others were badly injured. Initial reports are that 15 soldiers and two government workers died. The other five who died were civilians. The fire is now under control. Our condolences.

FIRE STATION CLOSE CALL IN UTAH

A Salt Lake City (UT) FD Captain was saved by his crew Saturday night after having a severe allergic reaction to "dried wasabi peas". Captain Steve Hoffman had the reaction after eating dinner at Fire Station #2. He advised his crew about the event, they immediately gave him an IV and benadryl and transported him to the hospital where he was later released. Captain Hoffman was back on the job Sunday. Final word: Our condolences to the friends and family of our old pal Chief Ray Rush, Ex-Chief and Life Member of the Elmsford (NY) FD, Live Oak Engine Company and former Westchester County Fire Coordinator. RIP.

Take Care-Be Careful.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-6-10 / 0935 Hours

AND

CANADIAN MEDIC KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CRASH

An Alberta Health Services EMS medic was killed in the Line of Duty this morning in a highway crash involving an ambulance and a truck near McLennan. A tractor trailer hauling empty propane tanks became unhitched from the truck and slammed into an ambulance coming from the other direction on Highway 2. The medic driving of the ambulance died at the scene. Another EMS medic, a patient and a family member in the ambulance were taken to hospital in stable condition. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

INDIANA FIREFIGHTER FALLS THRU ICE ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE DOG

A Firefighter trying to rescue a dog from a northern Indiana lake, needed rescuing himself. The Firefighter fell through the ice while trying to reach the dog after the dog walked out onto Lake Pleasant and fell through the half-inch thick ice. Arriving on the scene, Firefighters inched to towards him, wearing rescue gear but he too, fell through the ice when it gave way. Other firefighters on the scene were able to grab the dog and their fellow Firefighters, pulling both to safety

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-16-10 / 2114 Hours

AND:

Hey,

If you are or know a FIREFIGHTER WHO HAS SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT BURN INJURIES, READ ON:

The Phoenix Society for Burn Survivors is working with the NFFF and the IAFF Burn Foundation to explore the needs of fire fighters who have sustained burn injuries and their families as it pertains to peer support after a burn injury. The first step in this project is to complete a series of focus groups to identify the needs. Several focus groups were held at the Phoenix Society's World Burn Congress in October, and it was determined that they would like to conduct additional focus groups in early January 2011. The goal of these focus groups will be to identify any specific or unique needs of fire fighters who have sustained burn injuries and their families as well as have a discussion about potential challenges for them to access peer support.

The Phoenix Society would greatly appreciate the assistance firefighters who have sustained burn injuries, and their families, who are interested in participating in this focus group. There is a limited amount of space for firefighters and their families to attend these focus groups. Selection of those who will be part of these focus groups will be dependent on many variables.

If you are interested in attending, you should contact Pam Peterson at the Phoenix Society via email ASAP at pam@phoenix-society.org for more information.

UPDATE: FIREFIGHTER CRITICALLY INJURED IN TRUSS COLLAPSE AT FIRE

On May 21, 2009, a 36-year-old FF was seriously injured while operating in a non-designated collapse zone of a commercial structure when an overhang of a bowstring truss roof system collapsed and struck him. The first arriving company officer reported a working fire in a single story warehouse. The officer looked under a steel roll-up door that was raised approximately three feet off of the ground and saw heavy fire towards the rear of the structure from floor to ceiling. Per department procedures, the first arriving companies went into a "Fast Attack" mode. Crews attempted but were unable to enter the structure because the steel roll-up door wasn't functioning and the man door was heavily secured. The Deputy Fire Chief arrived on the scene 9 minutes after the initial crew and determined that the fire should be fought defensively, however, this command was not relayed over the radio or verified with all crews. A crew was operating a 2 ½-inch handline just outside the structure approximately 20 minutes after the first apparatus arrived when the overhang collapsed and trapped the nozzleman. **NIOSH REPORT HERE:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200921.html>

OUTSTANDING FDNY TRAINING SEMINAR OPEN TO ALL FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

The FDNY invites you to join us at their world-renowned FDNY Training Academy for the High-Rise Fires & Emergencies Symposium being held on **March 15 and 16, 2011**. The leaders of the FDNY will share their extensive experience to provide information on how our command structure supervises personnel at multiple-alarm fires and emergencies. The Symposium also will cover: high-angle rescue operations, tactics and equipment; new technologies to provide better accountability of Firefighters; potential terrorist threats in high-rise buildings; and EMS procedures in high-rise structures. The Symposium will provide a complete high-rise firefighting training program. For more information, please call 718-999-0779 or visit www.fdnymfoundation.org .

REST IN PEACE: WASHINGTON DC BATTALION FIRE CHIEF "BIG" AL DUTTON

It is with deep sadness that we advise you of the death of DCFD Battalion Fire Chief Alan Dutton. "Big" Al died around 1250 hours this morning, surrounded by his wife Jeanne, son's Jason and Chris as well as some close friends. In addition to DCFD, Al was also Life Member of the Sterling Volunteer Fire Company, as well as a past member of the Aldie Volunteer Fire Company and a Fire Instructor in Loudoun County, VA. As is typical in the fire service, his nick name "Big" Al meant that he wasn't particularly tall. Actually, tall would never be used to describe Al. However, this small guy (usually with a hand tool in one hand and a mountain dew in the other) was one hell of a FF, Fire Officer and Man who was well known, loved and deeply respected in the metro DC fire service area. While not tall, "BIG" described Al in so many positive ways.

We had a chance to speak with Al not long ago, and clearly, he was still fighting as hard as he could. As he said in an interview during a Firefighter fundraiser for him, his "Plan A" was to beat the cancer and he wouldn't even consider a "Plan B". While putting up a long, tough and brave battle, Al died from a rare form cancer and retired early due to his illness. Al's passing is such a sad and huge loss of an outstanding Husband, Father, Firefighter and fine man, taken by cancer. (For those who may have questions related to the services for Chief Dutton, or wish to participate, please contact **DCFD FF Geoff Davis** at: bigalfuneral@gmail.com) RIP "Big" Al.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-7-10 / 1845 Hours

AND:

It is with regret we announce the death of Charlotte Road/Van Wyck (SC) Fire Department Lieutenant Dillon C. Denton at age 64. At approximately 8:00 PM last night, Lt. Denton was participating in fire hose loading activities when he informed other members that he wasn't feeling well. Shortly thereafter, his condition worsened. He was immediately assisted by fellow firefighters who notified Lancaster County EMS. Upon accessing his condition, EMS Paramedics decided he should be airlifted by Med-Center Air to Carolina Medical Center. Lt. Denton was diagnosed with a brain aneurysm and passed away at approximately 1:30 AM on December 7, 2010. At this time the exact funeral arrangements have not been set. Further information will be posted on our home page. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-7-10 / 1448 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Federal judge has dismissed a suit in federal court filed by the family of a fire cadet who died in a "live burn" exercise in Baltimore in 2007. The Judge ruled Friday that 29-year-old cadet Racheal Wilson could have refused to take part in the exercise. He said the exercise does not create grounds for a federal civil rights suit. The family's \$15 million lawsuit was filed in Baltimore City Circuit Court in February, but it was moved to federal court at the defendants' request. The Judge noted Wilson's family and estate still have rights under workers' compensation law and other areas, but he declined to keep those claims in federal

court. **NIOSH FIRE REPORT HERE:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face200709.html>

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR - AND 9/11

For those younger readers of The Secret List, today, "Pearl Harbor Day" remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor, which was a surprise military strike conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941. 188 U.S. aircraft were destroyed, 2,402 personnel were killed and 1,282 were wounded.

FIREFIGHTERS KILLED & INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AT PEARL HARBOR:

As the Hickam Field firefighting apparatus was knocked out, Honolulu Fire companies responded to assist with the fires. At 0826 a Japanese aerial bomb was dropped on crews from HFD Engine Co.1, 4, and 6. 3 Firefighters, Captain John Carreira, Captain Thomas S. Macy, and Hoseman Harry T.L. Pang were killed in the Line of Duty. An additional 6 were wounded from shrapnel. They were Honolulu Fire Lieutenant Fred Kealoha, Hoseman Moses Kalilikane, Hoseman John A. Gilman, Hoseman Solomon H. Naauao, Hoseman Patrick J. McCabe, and Hoseman George Correa. In 1944 they all were awarded the Order of the Purple Heart. They are the only non-military personnel to have received this award.

MORE on Pearl Harbor as we remember those lost on December 7, 1941:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/pearlharbor/>

PLEASE MAKE THAT CALL TODAY TO REMEMBER THOSE INJURED ON 9/11:

As we remember those killed in the attacks on our Country in 1941 today. that long-embattled bill to provide \$7.4 billion in medical treatment and lost wages for sickened Ground Zero workers may finally get a chance at becoming law this week. Word is that majority leader Harry Reid plans to set in motion tomorrow a process that could clear the way for passage of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

Ground Zero demolition worker and advocate John Feal plans to bring a busload of 9/11 responders to Washington today - Pearl Harbor Day - to remind senators that the US passed a similar bill in 1942 to aid shipyard workers injured or sickened in that attack. "This is our last chance to show the US Senate that they have to man up on their patriotism," Feal said. "They have a moral obligation to the heroes of 9/11 to pass this bill." President Obama has said he would sign it. The bill would provide health care and economic compensation for 10 years to 9/11 workers and the families of those who died of illnesses blamed on toxic Ground Zero dust, as well as some sickened Lower Manhattan residents.

While e-mail to us indicates that some Firefighters DO NOT support this bill, we urge those who DO to please call or email your senators TODAY and tell them to please vote FOR for the James Zadroga 9/11 Victims' Health and Compensation Act (H.R. 847). Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has scheduled votes on the legislation for tomorrow, Wednesday, December 8. The Zadroga Act would establish health treatment and monitoring programs for World Trade Center responders. In September, the House approved the Zadroga Act by a vote of 268-160. All Senate offices can be reached by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225- 3121. As many say, there will be another terrorist attack, it's just a matter of when. And when WHEN happens, what Firefighters and other First Responders will lose their lives, and how many will also need long term support, like the responders of 9/11 do now? It may be any of us in the future.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-7-10 / 0638 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Columbia (SC) fire apparatus, responding on a haz-mat call late last evening struck 2 civilians, tragically killing one of them. The incident occurred around 2330 hours when one of the pedestrians was killed and a second one was injured. While the apparatus was responding with lights and sirens on, it is not clear how or why the pedestrians were struck. We'll post updates as details of the investigation are released.

VIRGINIA FATAL RESCUE SQUAD CRASH

A 56-year-old female was killed, and a 13 year old boy was injured late night when their car was hit by a rescue squad vehicle responding to another emergency. The crash happened around 2200 Hours when a Waynesboro First Aid Crew (EMS) SUV was driving on Broad Street when it struck the car coming through the intersection. The 13 year old has since been treated and released.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-10 / 1118 Hours

AND:

INDIANA EMT KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-AMBULANCE CRASH

It is with deep regret we advise you of the line of duty death of EMT David Gundle of Clark County, Indiana EMS. EMT Gundle, riding in the passenger seat, and his partner EMT Erica Stoffregen, driving, were responding to a non-emergency service call when their ambulance left the roadway and struck a tree at approximately 1500 hours. The EMS driver, 26-year-old Stoffregen, reportedly failed to take a curve, leaving the road and hitting a tree. This is the second deadly accident Stoffregen has been involved in. In the first one, within the past year, he said, she was a passenger. Today's crash occurred approximately two miles east of Henryville. Bad weather and poor road conditions are also factors believed to have contributed to the crash. EMT Gundle is 50 years old and survived by his wife and six children. He served with Clark County EMS for approximately three years. The Clark County EMS ambulance is based out of the Henryville-Monroe Township Volunteer Fire Department. As always, our sincere condolences.

PA FIREFIGHTERS HURT IN APPARENT FLASHOVER

2 Bethlehem Township (Lehigh County) Firefighters were admitted to Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest with burn injuries after, what appears to have been a "flashover" at a fire they were working this evening. A family of 4 also was also displaced by the fire. The Firefighters reportedly suffered non-life threatening burn injuries in the close call.

THE "FIREFIGHTER" PROBLEM: HARRISBURG PA FIREFIGHTER JOBS SAVED? FOR NOW.

It's a screw up that could have cost the city a 4 million dollar addition in the already stressed budget, but today Mayor Linda Thompson says she has a solution. **Harrisburg Firefighters**

December 10, 2010

jobs are saved. For now. Try to follow this, because, keeping score in the Harrisburg fiscal situation is near impossible. But now, thanks to an idea to sell parcels of land that several parking garages sit on, they may be able to delay the cuts to the HFD. The mayor says the money from the sale will solve, what she calls "**the firefighter problem**" and the clerical mistake." Fortunately our mistake was discovered early in the process and it gives a chance to put in corrective action," the mayor said. The "mistake" discovered yesterday left a 4.5 million dollar hole in the 2011 city budget. But, it sparked (fire term) the mayor to come up with ideas. In the end selling off those six parcels could make enough to kill two birds with one stone. "We're proposing, since we have three parcels of land, the pay covers debt bonds and puts 1.1 million into the fireman's jobs for now, just for now," Thompson said. "This is a one-time fix, so it is inevitable that we'll be back here again, proposing to lay off firemen." **We think that's actually become her obsession for all the wrong reasons.** HERE is more:

<http://www.abc27.com/Global/story.asp?S=13640512>

OUR CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Central Falls (R.I.) Fire Chief Rene Coutu, who died of cancer yesterday at age 60. Any group interested in attending services on Saturday should e-mail riafo@cox.net , or call (401) 692-0795 for details. Chief Coutu served in the CFFD for 39 years, 25 as chief. His father, Robert Coutu, also served as Chief. The Chief left work in September and entered the hospital last week. On Dec. 2, he celebrated his 25th year as Fire Chief, and his family and Firefighters were planning a testimonial dinner for him on Jan. 8. R.I.P.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 12-9-10 / 0136 Hours

AND:

Hey,

While it is highly unusual for us to pass on information unrelated to active firefighters or firefighting, this one is special. We regret to advise you that Maurine E. Brannigan, 89, who worked as a teaching assistant for her husband Frank Brannigan (the Father of Building Construction for Firefighters, a fire-fighter safety expert who developed world renowned best-practices), died Oct. 29 at her daughter's home in Fort Collins, Colo. Mrs. Brannigan had dementia. "Mrs B" was born Maurine Ellen Romket in New York City, earned her degree and she served with the Navy, stationed in Norfolk, during World War II. A longtime Bethesda (Maryland) resident, she had most recently lived in Port Republic. She was a member of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Rockville. Of course, her husband of 62 years, Chief Francis L. Brannigan, died in 2006.

The reason we pass this on is because, simply put, it was rare to see Frank, without "Mrs B". Be it at our own FD in the 90's or the many departments around the United States, Canada and the world, odd's are if Frank was teaching, she was right along there with him. And it was clear that, while both would be classified as "characters", Mrs B got to meet as many Firefighters as her husband did. So we wanted to pass this along to those of you that had met "Mrs B". Survivors include six children, Anne V. Brannigan-Kelly of Fort Collins, Christopher J. Brannigan of Arlington County, Vincent M. Brannigan of Bethesda, Eileen B. Longsworth of Corrales, N.M., Mary Ellen Schattman of Philadelphia and John F. Brannigan of Rockville; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Rest in Peace "Mrs. B"
Take Care-BE CAREFUL.
BillyG
The Secret List 12-10-10 / 1058 Hours

To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to
www.firefighterclosecalls.com

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

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

Budget Related Items:

- *To really get a pulse on how some of our taxpayers (the ones we work for) feel about the fire service, please take the time to not only read the articles below, but also the reader comments that follow many of the news stories. Some of those comments are very negative, and if we are not careful, we really run the risk of losing credibility and respect with the public (not to mention funding), which could have serious long-term effects on the stability and perception of our American Fire Service. While it is true everyone (including taxpayers) are allowed to have their opinion, we would be naïve to turn away, get emotional, not acknowledge, or even discount the comments made. Knowledge can be power, and if used properly, can attempt to turn negative attitudes into positive attitudes, which can and will pay dividends in the long run.*

The Los Angeles Fire Department never implemented a staffing plan ordered by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa six weeks ago to boost the department's front-line firefighting ranks and is now threatening to again reduce service citywide in an effort to influence an upcoming union vote. Fire Chief Millage Peaks is planning to return the department to a reduced "brownout" fire coverage schedule beginning Nov. 21 - unless the firefighters union approves a new city contract later this month. Under the brownout plan, 15 fire companies at a time throughout the city would be shut down to save staffing costs: http://www.dailynews.com/politics/ci_16598796

The Big Bear Lake (CA) firefighters union is concerned some members could lose their job, have it changed or be forced to work in another area if the city goes forward with the idea of outsourcing or merging with another fire agency, a union representative says. Fire Chief Rod Ballard has said the San Bernardino County Fire Department and Cal Fire would be the most viable options if the City Council decided to outsource: http://www.sbsun.com/ci_16597245?source=most_email

The four-year contract that arbitrators awarded to the Philadelphia (PA) firefighters union last month ignored Philadelphia's financial plight and imposed more than \$167 million in costs the city can't afford, attorneys argued in an appeal the city filed Friday. As Mayor Nutter promised when a three-member arbitration panel issued the award Oct. 15, the city challenged almost every facet of the contract, which calls for 3 percent raises over each of the next three years and no furloughs. "The firefighters award would impose upon taxpayers exorbitant costs . . . with no fiscal tools to manage them," Nutter said through a spokesman:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/city/20101113_Philadelphia_appeals_contract_awarded_to_firefighters.html

South King (WA) Fire and Rescue will consider layoffs, early retirement incentives and shrinking its footprint as solutions to cut spending and preserve tax revenue:

http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/south_king/fwm/news/108271469.html

Cutbacks and layoffs will impact the Tucson (AZ) Fire Department and their subsequent ability to respond to emergencies. Mike Graham, spokesperson for the city of Tucson, said the city is still working through the budget process and has not yet finalized any **plans for police** or fire, putting TFD in the position of drawing up a number of potential plans while bracing for the worst:

<http://www.kqun9.com/Global/story.asp?S=13507752>

Houston (TX) Fire Chief Terry Garrison plans to save \$12.9 million by reassigning 40 firefighters from office to firehouse duties, limiting overtime for training, managing vacation time and outsourcing the department's uniform shop:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7300173.html>

New York City (NY) Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposes cutting more than 10,000 city workers, closing 20 fire companies overnight, slashing spending for senior and youth services, fixing fewer potholes and raising parking rates to help bridge a projected \$3.3 billion budget gap over the next year and a half:

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/mayor_bloomberg_whets_the_budg.html

Bremerton (WA) Fire Department must agree to more than \$400,000 in cuts in two weeks. Budget presentations this month have mentioned the possibility of a station closure, but union officers said it is one among several options being discussed between the union and the city:

<http://www.pnwlocalnews.com/kitsap/pat/news/109330309.html>

The union representing Los Angeles' (CA) rank-and-file firefighters balked at voting today to ratify a new labor contract that would have put 15 idled fire trucks back into service. United Firefighters of Los Angeles City's 3,400 members were originally scheduled to vote today and tomorrow, but the union's executive board decided to postpone the vote "until further notice" because of a dispute over retiree healthcare. If ratified, the deal would require firefighters to contribute -- for the first time ever -- 2 percent of their salary to help pay for their healthcare after retirement:

<http://www.myfoxla.com/dpp/news/local/firefighters-labor-contract-in-limbo-20101129>

The Fort Mojave Mesa (AZ) Fire District board said Thursday night that it was choosing to save firefighter jobs as it voted to reduce contributions to firefighter retirement and eliminate the uniform allowance. Board chairman Robert Elliott said the two moves could save the department more than \$200,000 a year, as the district looks for ways to live with a shortfall that could approach \$1 million next fiscal year. Union representative John Kish said the retirement benefit cut was the best of a number of bad options. "It's pretty well understood that we're in a budgetary crisis," Kish said. "And savings need to be enacted to save firemen's jobs."

<http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2010/11/19/news/local/doc4ce60b4a0305c994699157.txt>

Cincinnati's (OH) fire budget has grown 87 percent in 20 years while its staffing increased 5 percent - statistics that prompted some of the toughest questioning yet by City Council members struggling to fill a \$60 million budget hole. Acting Chief Mike Kroeger sat before council's budget committee for almost two hours Monday. He brought a 38-page PowerPoint presentation and tried to stay focused on the department's history, response times and significant events. When he said he couldn't release the number of layoffs for next year that his department proposed to City Manager Milton Dohoney, Councilwoman Leslie Ghiz said: "That's just unacceptable." The Enquirer requested the same information Nov. 5 after police officials revealed they proposed 144 layoffs and 160 demotions:

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20101122/NEWS01/311220041/1058/NEWS0102/Council-grills-fire-chief-on-budget>

As many as eight fire stations throughout Contra Costa (CA) County could close if voters reject a parcel tax next year, the fire chief announced Tuesday. The Contra Costa Fire Protection District already plans to shutter half a Walnut Creek station by Jan. 1 to cope with a \$12 million deficit this fiscal year. On Tuesday, at a fire service reduction workshop during the Board of Supervisors meeting, Chief Darryl Louder backed off closing a Pittsburg station in this round of cuts, but he rang a revenue alarm: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_16695043

Broward County's (FL) top law enforcement officer said on Monday that a proposal to merge Marion's primary crime-fighting and firefighting agencies could work and would save taxpayers' money — but the effort would be meaningless if citizens were left more vulnerable by undercutting each department's core mission. Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti visited Ocala to appear before the special blue-ribbon panel appointed by the County Commission to study the possibility of placing Marion Fire Rescue under the control of Sheriff Ed Dean. The sheriff floated the idea in September as a cost-cutting measure: <http://www.ocala.com/article/20101122/articles/101129944?p=1&tc=pq>

The City of St. Petersburg (FL) city could bring in millions of extra dollars if it pulled out of the countywide emergency services system and let firefighters take patients to the hospital, concludes a St. Petersburg-sponsored study. "We aren't saying that we think the best option is for us to go our own way," St. Petersburg city administrator Tish Elston said. "Our last option would be for us to separate ourselves from the system. I hope that's not necessary." It's unclear what the effect would be if St.

Petersburg did pull out of the EMS system. At least one fire chief says it could bring the system to its knees. Paramedics Plus, the private company that provides ambulance service for the county under the name Sunstar, might not stay if its profit margin drops. And some smaller departments do not have the capability to provide transport. "I've always said if St. Pete pulls out, the deck of cards crumbles," Largo fire Chief Mike Wallace said. "What's left would not be financially viable."

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/localgovernment/study-says-st-petersburg-will-save-big-if-it-leaves-county-ems-system/1136495>

Camden (NJ) will lay off nearly half of its police officers and a third of its firefighters, while eliminating positions in every other city office, according to a layoff plan approved Tuesday by the state. The 383 layoffs represent about a quarter of the city's workforce and touch all corners of city government - from 15 courtroom positions to 20 police dispatchers to all four animal control officers. The elimination of 180 positions from a 373-member force means more bad news for a poor, violent city that has seen 37 homicides this year. A national survey recently named Camden the second-most dangerous in the United States, although police officials have pointed to some recent reductions in crime. Camden appears to be in a worse predicament than Newark, which laid off 167 of its 1,034 police officers this week after negotiations broke down between their union and the city. Cities and towns around New Jersey are struggling this year following cuts in state aid, with layoffs in public safety increasingly common:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/nj/20101201_Camden_layoff_plan_targets_a_quarter_of_city_s_workforce.html

Struggling with the impending loss of a utility users tax that generated about 16 percent of the city of Colton (CA) operating income, officials are asking employee labor groups to agree to salary and benefits cuts in an effort to minimize layoffs. However, layoffs will be needed, top administrators say, to close a shortfall between \$5 million and \$6 million that will come at the July 1 start of the 2010-11 fiscal year. But exactly how many is still uncertain. Doug Blinkinsop, a city fire engineer who represents the fire union, said its members were the only employees to agree to concessions during last year's budget crunch and they're willing to step up to the plate again. "We're not against (concessions) again as long as everyone else is doing it likewise and that includes the city manager and the department heads," Blinkinsop said: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_16754870

Tucson (AZ) Fire Department Chief Patrick Kelly made public early Thursday evening his plan to cut \$5 million from his operation in 2011. Kelly said he will take some personnel out of service "as of" June 1, 2011 to "reduce the impact on overtime costs due to employee shortages." Kelly added that if additional cutbacks became necessary, it could translate into laying off 33 firefighters and shutting down two fire stations: <http://www.kgun9.com/Global/story.asp?S=13607030>

Hialeah (FL) laid off 17 members of its fire department Thursday, a move expected to save \$2.5 million:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/12/02/1954239/hialeah-lays-off-17-firefighters.html>

To help save more than \$4.3 million a year, Riverside County's (CA) fire chief is proposing closing stations in El Cerrito, Blythe and Oasis and converting three more to volunteer staffing only. The recommendations -- including reducing staff at six other stations -- go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday and are aimed at helping overcome a \$6 million shortfall in the department's budget. "We must make the best choice of bad alternatives," Chief John Hawkins said by telephone Thursday. "We are at that point now."

http://www.pe.com/localnews/corona/stories/PE_News_Local_D_stations03.4933459.html

Ann Arbor (MI) officials say they're open to considering implementation of a new paid on-call firefighting system as an option for cutting costs at the Ann Arbor Fire Department. City Administrator Roger Fraser said there's evidence that paid on-call systems are working well in other communities, and "it's certainly something that will be talked about" for Ann Arbor. "I can tell you when I was in Minnesota, in the entire state of Minnesota, there were only five, maybe only four, full-time paid fire services. Everything was paid on-call or volunteer," he noted:

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/paid-on-call-fire-department-proposal-draws-interest-from-ann-arbor-officials-at-budget-retreat/>

After two major fires in Baltimore (MD) within 24 hours, the firefighters union is again calling on the city to stop closing several fire companies each day. The union said the rotating closures reduce response times and could endanger lives, but it's a practice the mayor said she believes is still necessary because of the city's lingering budget issues. The union constantly questions the city's budgetary constraints, saying the Fire Department is understaffed and underfunded. It claims the practice of rotating closures -- shutting down three fire companies a day -- affects safety and puts lives at risk. But city Fire Chief James Clack called the union's claims unfortunate and inaccurate, saying when three city fire companies are shut down, 51 others remain open. "I think what you're hearing from the union is a little overblown. This is a tough budgetary time. We're doing the best we can. I think our best is pretty good," Clack said: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/26051091/detail.html>

East Contra Costa (CA) Fire District officials are wondering how they can afford to propose a parcel tax. Directors on Monday winced at what it would cost the cash-strapped agency to put the question to voters in an election. "These numbers are huge," director Chris Finetti said while surveying several estimates. Placing a parcel tax measure on the June ballot would run \$4.50 for every registered voter in the fire district or about \$240,000, according to the county clerk's office. Holding a mail-in election in May would cost about \$205,000, and hiring private consultants to do everything would cost roughly \$85,000 to \$95,000, according to a staff report. "I was astounded at the prices and I'll tell you right now, I don't think we have it," said director Bob Taylor. The district closed two of its eight fire stations in July to balance the current fiscal year's budget, and officials are predicting that it still will run out of money before the end of 2012-13 unless something changes:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_16794998?source=most_email

With 144 Cincinnati (OH) firefighters possibly laid off next month, city officials recommend mothballing a quarter of the department's equipment out of stations from Lower Price Hill to Lunken Airport:

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20101207/NEWS0108/12080324/City-Idle-fire-equipment>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

Five people, including a Boston (MA) firefighter, were indicted yesterday in the far-reaching scandal in which hundreds of emergency medical workers allegedly faked their recertification with the help of two instructors who rarely held training courses:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/11/16/5_indicted_in_alleged_scheme_to_fake_emt_recertification/

The mayor of a Long Island (NY) village has suspended its fire chief for 30 days -- because he refused to remove a crude set of plastic testicles from a fire truck. The item is a novelty \$24.95 pair of "Bumpernuts" -- colored bright blue -- that had been affixed to the rear end of the rig. Acting on public complaints two months ago, Freeport Mayor Andrew Hardwick told volunteer Chief Daniel Fee to castrate the truck. But last week, Hardwick took a tour of the firehouse and noticed that while the *cojones* had been removed from the outside of the vehicle -- they were relocated inside the cab, still clearly visible. "The gesture was offensive, insensitive and unprofessional," said Hardwick, who added that Freeport residents "expect better" from their volunteers:

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/ballsy_li_fire_chief_is_clipped_e1cSt5PkZLE18Rvzlf1hVM

The Lexington (KY) fire department is conducting an internal investigation after photos of scantily clad women in a fire station were posted on the Internet. The photos featured three women wearing tank tops and hot pants, displaying the logo of Sling Point Firearms Inc., a gun store on East New Circle Road across from Fire Station 2. Some of the photos showed the women partly dressed in Lexington fire department pants, suspenders and helmets and posing on a fire truck:

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/11/17/1527843/lexington-fire-officials-investigate.html>

The former Logan fire chief will spend 10 days in jail in a plea deal ending his burglary and drug cases. Kyle Lindsay pleaded guilty in state court in Logan to a misdemeanor count of trespassing. He also entered a plea in abeyance to two misdemeanor counts related to illegally possessing prescription drugs:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50691529-76/lindsay-logan-plea-chief.html.csp>

For the first time in 35 years, the New York (NY) Fire Department (FDNY) pension board is recalling two retired firefighters to determine whether the medical disabilities that allowed them to leave at a comfortable three-quarters pay still exist, The Post has learned. Sources said letters went out last month instructing the two to report for new medical evaluations under the threat of losing their tax-free disability pension checks if they don't show. One of the ex-firefighters is John Giuffrida, 42, who was spotlighted by The Post for competing in martial-arts kickboxing matches while pulling down \$74,624 a year in disability pay after coming down with asthma and other lung ailments in 2003. The second is James Kadnar, also 42, who started collecting \$65,000 in 2006 based on a chronic sinus condition -- but who this year applied to become a cop in North Carolina and underwent what was described as a "vigorous four-month training program."

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/recall_for_ickly_fdnysers_8t6Oa1n5KilhRrOUabQePL

A former South San Francisco (CA) fire official has pleaded no contest in connection with an alleged high-stakes sports betting operation run from a city firehouse. Former battalion chief James Selvitella Jr. has been terminated from the department and entered the plea this week to a misdemeanor sports betting charge. The 52-year-old was sentenced to 18 months of probation. Prosecutors say Selvitella handled hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of transactions a day while running the betting ring using city phones from 2006 to 2009. He allegedly solicited bets from firefighters:

<http://www.kcra.com/news/25868545/detail.html>

A Marion County (OR) fire district emergency medical technician hit a 76-year-old Salem woman with his pickup Friday morning at Chemeketa Community College:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20101120/NEWS/11210323/1001>

San Jose (CA) firefighter Eric Diaz does not want to talk about the video he shot five years ago when he worked for a private ambulance company under contract to Santa Clara County. In it, he and his partner can be seen cruising for dates when they should be working. Even though it was recorded years ago, the DVD is now a major issue in a child custody case. It is also raising new questions for those who oversee emergency services in Santa Clara County. At the time the video was made, Diaz was on the job as an EMT for American Medical Response. But on a busy Saturday night, he was also on the prowl. If the DVD is an accurate depiction of their shift, Diaz and his partner spend the vast majority of their time trying to pick up women. Diaz used a video camera to document his finds. Diaz and his partner stop women on the street, shout at them from the ambulance and try to get them to take off their clothes. Even though the ambulance crew is on the clock, there appears to be plenty of time for socializing:

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgq/story?section=news/iteam&id=7804860>

The Las Vegas (NV) firefighters union sued the city on Wednesday in hopes of blocking changes in the life and disability insurance plans for city employees. Las Vegas Firefighters Local 1285 charges in the suit, filed in Clark County District Court, that employee benefits and payroll deductions had been negotiated by the parties and are part of the current union contract -- but that the city unilaterally moved last month to change the plans: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/nov/18/firefighters-union-files-lawsuit-block-insurance-p/>

With public safety involved, North Las Vegas (NV) grudge match not so funny - In North Las Vegas, where the wrestlers have left their respective corners and have begun what has the makings of a genuine steel-cage-match donnybrook. The North Las Vegas Fire Department and its paramedics are metaphorically bumping chests with the paramedics dispatched by MedicWest ambulance service, which has a mutual aid contract with the city. Also in the ring are city officials who are trying to watch the foundering budget without diminishing public safety: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/with-public-safety-involved-nlv-grudge-match-not-so-funny-110339794.html>

The leaders of the city of Stockton (CA) police and firefighter unions, both involved in labor disputes with the city, are under investigation by their respective departments for alleged misconduct. The investigations of Officer Steve Leonesio, president of the Stockton Police Officers Association, and Capt. Dave Macedo, president of Stockton Professional Firefighters Local 456, are still under way. Neither the police nor fire departments, nor the city, would comment on the investigations, calling them internal personnel matters. Macedo confirmed that he is the subject of an investigation by the Fire Department's internal affairs division:

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20101128/A_NEWS/11280319/1/a_news

Months after Peoria (AZ) City Council voted to make Professional Medical Transport its ambulance provider, the union representing employees with a competing provider, Southwest Ambulance, accused the Peoria firefighters union of wrongfully interfering with the process. PMT was awarded the contract in late April following years of service by Southwest Ambulance. The allegations by the Southwest Ambulance union led to a Nov. 3 arbitration hearing where a Peoria councilwoman was ordered to testify. Tensions continue to mount between Peoria firefighters and Southwest Ambulance unions that are part of the same umbrella group, the International Association of Fire Fighters: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/peoria/articles/2010/11/30/20101130peoria-fire-southwest-ambulance-unions-battle.html>

A 21-year-old firefighter was charged Wednesday with stealing a woman's wallet from a car during a Fire Department training exercise. James Packard, a new member of the Dixfield Fire Co., was charged by Dixfield (ME) police Sgt. Jeff Howe with burglary of a motor vehicle, theft by deception and falsifying physical evidence. The charges are in connection with the theft of a woman's wallet from her impounded vehicle at MT Pockets Towing on Route 2 during firefighter training Nov. 2:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/maine-firefighter-charged-theft-during-training>

A California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection captain is under investigation on allegations of falsifying time sheets and saying she worked when she didn't, according to a source within Cal Fire. At least one other firefighter is also being investigated, according to that source. Fire captain Karrie Paletta, who worked at a fire station adjacent to Thunder Valley Casino, is being investigated for claiming more than \$10,000 in pay that was not worked over the past year, according to a Cal Fire source:
<http://www.kcra.com/news/25953007/detail.html>

Clint Carroll, fired from his firefighter's post by the city of Gloucester (MA) more than a year ago for "conduct unbecoming" of a municipal employee after allegations he had an improper relationship with a teenage girl, has lost his legal battle for reinstatement. After a full evidentiary hearing, an independent arbitrator decided the city was justified in dismissing Carroll, who had been president of the firefighters' union at the time:
<http://www.gloucestertimes.com/local/x278364240/Carroll-loses-appeal-to-get-back-GFD-job>

San Jose (CA) police and firefighter pension trustees lost a dramatic bid Thursday to distribute bonus checks to retirees in defiance of a City Council move to suspend the extra payments amid a \$2 billion retirement fund shortfall. The council in October voted to suspend the bonus checks -- which are paid out in years the funds exceed their targeted returns -- for eight months while the city seeks to reform its pension system. Council members cited a recent audit that found the two pension funds are on track to run out of money unless the cash-strapped city pumps in millions of new tax dollars, which would further erode public services:
http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16764006?source=rss&nclick_check=1

It was along the tranquil waters of Penrose State Park, that four members of the Key Peninsula (WA) Fire Department were said to be enjoying a summer night of skinny dipping after a department banquet. A salacious allegation, but is it true? "Is it an attack on our credibility or is this something else that's going on here," said Chief Tom Lique with the Key Peninsula Fire Department:
<http://www.king5.com/home/Skinny-Dipping-Firefighters-111298029.html>

Fixing Idaho's emergency medical services mess - Idaho's first responders come from a jumble of private companies, cities and counties, ambulance and fire districts — and 2,700 volunteers. These agencies and personalities often don't cooperate, leading to duplication and gaps in service:
http://www.magicvalley.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_b1677837-d5ac-5c5e-925a-f5e4086ebd20.html

Have fire coat, will travel: Details how a probationary firefighter with a piece of gear scammed people in four Indiana counties:
<http://statter911.com/2010/12/04/have-fire-coat-will-travel-details-how-a-probationary-firefighter-with-a-piece-of-gear-scammed-people-in-four-indiana-counties/>

A former Virginia (MN) firefighter who pleaded guilty to using a patient's painkiller during an ambulance transfer was sentenced to three years of supervised probation Monday:
<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/former-minn-firefighter-sentenced-drug-use>

Five Carmel (IN) firefighters face disciplinary sanctions, but the city is releasing few details concerning the incidents in question. In a news release, city spokeswoman Nancy Heck said the firefighters were issued "disciplinary sanctions of varying degrees for conduct unbecoming a Carmel firefighter."

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/26012053/detail.html>

Mayor Rick Gray from Lancaster, Pennsylvania says he is having the city prepare a lawsuit against IAFF Local 319 over what he says is harassment by union members against volunteer firefighters with companies that respond mutual aid into the city. Gray is also threatening disciplinary action. The mayor believes undermining mutual aid agreements impacts the safety of the citizens:

<http://statter911.com/2010/12/08/lancaster-mayor-threatens-suit-over-claim-of-two-hatter-harassment-says-iaff-is-disrupting-mutual-aid-union-denies-charge-believes-city-is-violating-ruling-both-city-trucks-broken/>

The Pullman (WA) City Council on Tuesday night acknowledged claims against the city totalling \$2.5 million from seven firefighters. Eric Reiber, Rudy Fisher, Christopher Volk, John Gollnick, Blake Richards, Jason Wilkins and Christopher Wehrung each filed claims. Reiber asked for the most, \$1 million. Fisher's claim seeks \$500,000, while the others asked for \$200,000 apiece. The claims, all filed on Nov. 17, will be dealt with by the city's insurance pool, the Washington Cities Insurance Authority. A WCIA representative on such claims could not be reached for comment. City officials provided this timeline of events: The firefighters' claims can be tracked back to a complaint of a hostile work environment a coworker filed against former Fire Capt. Eric Reiber in 2009. Reiber was consequently demoted, which resulted in the reduction of his salary: <http://www.firefightingnews.com/article.cfm?articleID=87724>

Palo Alto's (CA) Fire Department suffers from years of shoddy planning, insufficient training, a "leadership malaise" and a rigid staffing system that makes it nearly impossible for the department to deploy firefighters efficiently, according to consultants who have spent the past several months analyzing its operations. The final report is expected to offer a range of bold recommendations, including merging the administration of the city's police and fire departments, devoting more resources to public education and prevention activities and possibly merging operations of Station 2 on Page Mill Road and Station 5 on Arastradero Road:

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/show_story.php?id=19261

A suspended Kern County (CA) firefighter pleaded no contest Monday to charges of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence while driving drunk, as well as two counts of felony drunken driving, in a Feb. 2 crash that killed a 41-year-old woman who was active in her church and was studying to be a medical assistant. Mitchell Edward Green, 31, a three-year veteran of the department, entered the plea on the condition his sentence could be up to 14 years in prison. But that plea came after he twice rejected a plea that would have guaranteed him 10 years in prison, prosecutor Kim Marshall said:

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x1263267467/Firefighter-pleads-no-contest-to-charges-in-drunken-driving-crash-that-killed-woman>

Lancaster (PA) Mayor may sue the city's firefighters union - Mayor Rick Gray may take legal action against Local 319 because of harassment allegations:

<http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-firefighter-lawsuit,0,876321.story>

A Jackson County (FL) Fire Rescue captain has been demoted after admitting that he drag-raced his Mustang with another firefighter at or near the Marianna Airport while he was on duty. Jackson County Fire Rescue Chief Tony Wesley said former captain Dennis Robinson and the other firefighter, Angel Guzman, admitted to the race when confronted. Guzman also has a Mustang, and the two raced once to settle an ongoing friendly dispute about which car was faster, Wesley said. According to one firefighter who watched the race, Guzman won:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/fla-fire-captain-demoted-drag-racing-duty>

An investigation by the Pinal County (AZ) Attorney's Office was prompted following the disappearance of roughly \$200,000 from a Glendale fire union's political fund. The depleted fund, designated to finance campaign contributions and other political activities, was run by the Glendale chapter of the United Phoenix Firefighters Association. Concerns arose after a recent union audit revealed only \$40 remaining in an account that was supposed to have \$190,000, Pete Gorraiz said. Gorraiz is president of the United Phoenix Firefighter's Association and captain with the Phoenix Fire Department; the union has chapters throughout Phoenix. Gorraiz said the audit uncovered about \$133,000 in checks written to Glendale fire captain and the chapter's vice president, John Holland. Another \$29,000 had been taken out as withdrawals, under Holland's supervision:

http://www.glendalestar.com/news/headlines/article_9218f53e-0233-11e0-8df5-001cc4c002e0.html

The city of Flagstaff (AZ) has asked a national retailer to stop airing a television ad featuring several local firefighters sitting in leather recliners. Flagstaff Fire Chief Mike Iacona said Ashley Furniture, which has a store at the Flagstaff Mall, never had permission to film his staff and misled the on-duty firefighters into cooperating with the film crew. The ad, which had run for several weeks on basic cable channels, featured an aerial video of several firefighters sitting in the "gunsmoke"-colored leather recliners set up in front of a Flagstaff Fire Department engine. Iacona said he was made aware of the ads late last week and asked the company to stop using the television ad after receiving several citizen complaints:

http://www.azdailysun.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/article_d5fcbe21-d6d2-5550-9bf7-9bdeae4bf5de.html

A Washington D.C. firefighter has been paid for not showing up at work for more than two years, WTOP has learned. The reason for the payments can be traced back to a 2008 corruption investigation:

<http://statter911.com/2010/12/09/dc-firefighter-paid-for-not-showing-up-to-work-for-more-than-two-years-part-of-a-2008-corruption-probe/>

North Naples (FL) firefighters commit an error by playing softball on duty:

<http://www.marconews.com/news/2010/dec/08/brent-batten-north-naples-firefighters-softball/>

The Weld County (CO) District Attorney's office has opened an investigation into the Windsor-Severance Fire Protection District. Windsor Interim Fire Manager Herb Brady and other eyewitnesses confirmed that investigators visited the fire district's offices at Fire Station No. 1, 100 7th Street, on Nov. 17. They said investigators left with a number of computer files. "They seized lots and lots of computer files," Brady said. "We even had to call in our computer tech guy to help out. They took all our financial records."

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20101209/WINDSORBEACON01/12090326/-1/WINDSORBEACON/District+Attorney+investigating+fire+district>

Positive Public Relations Items:

Spokane (WA) firefighters avoid layoffs under a tentative agreement accepted this week by Mayor Mary Verner. If the deal is approved by union members and City Council, Local 29 of the International Association of Fire Fighters would become the first of the city's bargaining groups to strike a deal this year to save jobs. The mayor has asked all unions to give up their 2011 cost-of-living raises and to agree to pick up any increased costs of employee medical benefits above 4 percent a year. She has said those departments with unions that make concessions would face 3 percent cuts instead of 9 percent, thus preventing layoffs. The 13 firefighters who got layoff notices would remain employed, and of the 15 vacant firefighting jobs, only seven would be eliminated. Approval of the deal would end talk of closing a fire station. Fire Chief Bobby Williams has said closing the station at 1722 S. Bernard St., was one way to deal with the layoffs:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/nov/19/deal-with-firefighters-would-preserve-jobs/>

About 30 firefighters, gathered at Mary's Mercy Center in San Bernardino (CA) on Wednesday morning to unload a truck full of donations for the nonprofit organization that serves the poor. Firefighter Paramedic Steve Brown, a spokesperson for the San Bernardino City Professional Firefighters Local 891, said this is the fifth year the union has made the annual donation and they have partnered again with Stater Bros. Supermarkets to increase the size of their donation to Mary's Mercy Center's food pantry. Brown said the donation was made possible because of a \$10,000 donation from the hearts and pocketbooks of the 150 plus force of San Bernardino Firefighters. Stater Bros. Supermarkets, in addition to transporting the product, also donated \$500 to support this cause:

<http://www.highlandnews.net/articles/2010/11/18/business/doc4ce58464c433b661896779.txt>

For the 27th year, Bullhead City (AZ) firefighters are out to spread Christmas joy to area children who might otherwise go without presents. The Salvation Army has asked firefighters to try to assist 1,100 children with its holiday toy program this year, said program coordinator Justin Flummer. That would be 300 more than in 2009, he said. "We have done our best to provide three toys and a game to every child on our list," Flummer said. "But this year with the economy in the shape that it is in, we will have more children and possibly fewer toys."

<http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2010/11/21/news/local/doc4ce9ff586bd01423179106.txt>

Long Beach (CA) Firefighters lauded after boy's rescue:

http://www.pressetelegram.com/news/ci_16799423

Elk Grove (CA) firefighters rescued a red-suited man and his wife Saturday after their hooky-playing reindeer left them stranded at a pancake breakfast during the Dickens Street Faire. "He needed a lift," said Rob Henkens, an engineer with the Cosumnes Fire Department. "The reindeer ran off, so we were called in to help."

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/11/28/3215986/firefighters-save-the-day-for.html>

The city of Spokane (WA) says it's reached a tentative agreement with the firefighters union, which could save some local firefighter jobs. Last week, the IAFF Local 29, agreed to give up cost of living increases for 2011, a four percent cap for the city for medical increases, and changes in holiday pay. In exchange, 19 firefighters will get to keep their jobs: <http://www.kxly.com/news/25956039/detail.html>

Orange County (CA) firefighters will forgo pay raises, begin contributing to their retirement and pay more toward their health benefits as a result of long negotiations meant to curb a budget deficit. Members of the of the Orange County Fire Authority board of directors praised the new contract and the concessions agreed upon by the firefighters' unions, which are expected to save the department \$27 million in labor costs in the next four years. "(It's) a very powerful statement," said director Bill Campbell. "I'm extremely impressed by that." The contract between the Orange County Fire Authority and the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, local 3631, was not due to expire until 2012, but a possible \$14 million deficit coming in 2012 prompted union officials and administrators to the bargaining table early this year:

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/union-278618-firefighters-ocfa.html>

The Richland (WA) Fire Department is selling Christmas trees to raise money for community members in need:

<http://www.kvewtv.com/article/2010/dec/06/richland-firefighters-selling-christmas-trees-help/>

Training & Safety Related Items:

How to go to school while working a firefighter shift schedule - A firefighter's schedule can be very demanding, but here are some ways you can get an education while juggling your responsibilities:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/education/articles/918551-How-to-go-to-school-while-working-a-firefighter-shift-schedule/>

Firefighters were again attacked in the Paris suburb of Seine-Saint-Denis on Sunday night. The attack took place in their own fire station in Clichy-sous-Bois. About two o'clock in the morning, three men wearing masks climbed over the gate of the emergency center, then broke into the watch room and ransacked the premises. One of the on-duty firefighters heard the noise and interceded. He was outnumbered and received two blows in the ribs and a rifle butt in the cheekbones. The firefighter still managed to raise the alarm by activating the general alarm throughout the building. The men then fled: <http://firegeezzer.com/2010/12/06/firefighter-assaulted-in-paris-firehouse/>

It started with one curious Snohomish County (WA) firefighter, but what he learned may end up exposing a dangerous threat to firefighters everywhere. A study by the University of Washington, the first of its kind on a large scale, revealed MRSA, the drug resistant strain of staph infection, living in fires trucks, aid cars, station houses and in firefighters themselves. Snohomish County Fire District One firefighter and paramedic Kevin Fetter suspected his crews were exposed to MRSA by sick patients, at accident scenes and in hospitals. But he didn't expect it would be transmitted right into the fire station living quarters. "We found a little over four percent of the surfaces we tested were positive for MRSA," said UW Professor Marilyn Roberts, an expert in MRSA research:

<http://www.king5.com/home/Local-Firefigher-MRSA-Study-108808709.html>

Back in October there was a stretch when the Winchester (KY) Fire Department responded to five fires in four days. Firefighter and paramedic Raymond Patrick thought one of those fires would be the end of 48 hours on duty, but as he prepared to go home at the end of his shift, his boss ordered him to start all over again. "If you're not rested and feel that you're up to the job, and you're in there in a structure fire fighting fire, your crew members depend on you," Patrick said, "and if you fail, then they fail." That's why Patrick says he told his superiors he wouldn't last 72 hours straight. The 8-year veteran of the department and newly elected union president says because Winchester is understaffed, many firefighters have had to work back to back 24-hour shifts even though the standard schedule is 24-hours on, 48-hours off. "The 24-48-hour schedule was developed to give you two days away from it, so those toxins have time to clean out of your system," Patrick said:

<http://www.wkyt.com/home/headlines/111094454.html>

Layers of Failure' Cited in Fatal Wildfire Chopper Crash - A firefighting helicopter crash that killed nine people two years ago was caused by deceptions on the part of the company that leased the aircraft to the U.S. Forest Service and a lack of federal safety oversight, the National Transportation Safety Board determined Tuesday:

<http://www.katu.com/news/local/111460234.html>

NIOSH investigators cited a number of issues occurred that led to the injury of a San Francisco (CA) firefighter last year. Although senior officers discussed among themselves that a defensive operation should be undertaken, no one told firefighters who were already inside the structure, NIOSH officials noted in a report released Monday. Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Estrada, 36, suffered compound fracture to his right leg, broken bones in his left foot, burns and a fractured clavicle. He was hurt at a fire on May 21, 2009, when the overhang of a bowstring truss roof system collapsed, the report stated. Among the contributing factors in the incident included scene management and risk analysis and firefighters operating in a potential collapse area. NIOSH officials added: "Heavy fire showing from the roof upon arrival, inability to obtain entry to hit the seat of the fire, bowstring truss construction, and no known occupants/entrapments, were all indicators that could have prompted consideration of initially deploying defensive tactics:"

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/niosh-issues-collapse-hurting-calif-firefighter>

After about an hour of discussion Tuesday, the Henderson (NV) City Council unanimously passed a provision in its residential code that will require all new homes to be built with fire sprinkler systems. "If there's a notion that we don't have a problem with fire in Henderson, that's simply not the case," said Fire Chief Douglas Stevens during a presentation to the council. Within the last five years, he said, three Henderson residents have died in home fires, and in the past year, 81 people have been hospitalized at UMC for burns. By installing sprinkler systems in new homes, Stevens said, "we can prevent people from being burned alive or burned to death." The sprinkler systems put water onto a fire 15 to 90 seconds after a fire starts, Stevens said. Firefighters usually get water onto a fire within 10 minutes. "We will never beat 15 to 90 seconds, no matter what we do," Stevens said:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/dec/07/henderson-require-fire-sprinklers-new-houses/>

Santa needed a new ride for the city of Pompano Beach's (FL) annual holiday parade on Thursday night after city firefighters refused to drive him around on a city fire truck because of safety and liability concerns. The firefighters union, which is at impasse in its contract negotiations with the city, said standard operating procedures require all passengers to be seated and restrained by a seat belt when riding on a fire apparatus. "It places all liability on the driver-engineer and the person that supervises the driver," said Rich Sandell, president of the Pompano Beach Professional Firefighters union. He denied that the refusal had anything to do with the negotiations. Santa's new lift may be a little niftier. The Broward Sheriff's Office came to the rescue, agreeing to drive Santa in its SWAT truck in the 6:30 p.m. parade along Atlantic Boulevard:

<http://southflorida.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-pompano-santa-needs-a-lift-20101209,0,4618545.story>

General Fire Service Related Items:

In the two months since the San Bruno (CA) pipeline explosion, emergency officials have been working on after-action reports, trying to learn lessons for the next big disaster. The I-Team has been interviewing authorities involved and going over radio and cell phone traffic, and uncovered new questions about the response by the San Francisco Fire Department. In the initial minutes following the explosion, early word was that a plane had crashed in San Bruno. Now, through dispatch recordings, the I-Team figured out how command staff at the San Francisco Fire Department helped spread that false report: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/iteam&id=7784625>

Manitoba is about to become the first province in Canada to recognize breast cancer as an occupational risk to female firefighters. That means it will be added to the list of recognized job hazards, opening the door to provincial compensation, with the expectation that the coverage will be introduced in the Manitoba legislature on Tuesday, said Alex Forrest, president of the Winnipeg firefighters union. He said three other cancers will also be recognized in the legislation: prostate cancer, melanoma, and multiple myeloma. About 40 Winnipeg firefighters currently suffering from those cancers will now be able to seek compensation under the new legislation, Forrest said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/canadian-firefighters-get-breast-cancer-coverage>

80 percent of the fire department calls have nothing to do with fire (which is common across the United States). They are rescues and medical emergencies. Firefighters generally arrive at the scene within four to six minutes of getting the call. They decide whether to transport the person to a hospital or turn them over to the private ambulance service that usually arrives minutes later. In the field, there is no rivalry. The public and private crews work together to save lives. At a higher level, however, it's us versus them. If firefighters sound a bit paranoid, it's not without reason. Across the country, struggling governments have privatized rescue and transport duties as a way to cut costs. Firefighters think that's exactly what is happening in southern Nevada. They say American Medical Response and MedicWest, southern Nevada's two ambulance companies, are quietly lobbying to squeeze them out:

<http://www.8newsnow.com/story/13534284/i-team-ambulance-companies-and-firefighters-battle-over-emergency-services>

The Menlo Park (CA) Fire Protection District board is expected next week to decide whether to impose a labor agreement on its 90-plus firefighters, after union leaders formally rejected a "last, best and final offer" Wednesday. The Firefighters Association called the offer "unacceptable" because it does not bring health benefits up to levels provided to other firefighters working in the area or allow the union to jointly work on a planned salary survey of similar public agencies. The offer also provided less than what was originally put on the table more than two years ago, a violation of collective bargaining laws for public employees, according to the letter. District officials maintain any early compensation proposals discussed more than two years ago became unfeasible because of the economic downturn. The district said it couldn't agree to a multi-year contract for similar reasons. In June 2009, after the district proposed an eight-month agreement with no raises, the firefighters union walked away from the bargaining table and filed an unfair labor practice charge with the state's Public Employment Relations Board: http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16813120?ncllick_check=1

Based on "scary" cost projections, the Riverside County (CA) Board of supervisors decided today against pursuing the idea of dropping a firefighting contract with the California Department of Forestry and creating an independent county fire department. Board members reviewed a 33-page study by the county Executive Office comparing the costs of contracting with Cal Fire -- which the county has done since 1946 -- and the costs of operating a county-run fire department, a la the Orange County Fire Authority. According to the report, the first-year expense of converting would be \$58.6 million more than what the county currently allocates in discretionary revenue to pay Cal Fire -- about \$40 million: <http://www.kesq.com/news/25962558/detail.html>

Riverside County would face \$46.6 million in increased operational costs if it broke from the state's fire services and created its own department, a new study contends. The analysis, by county staff, found most of the increased costs stemmed from salaries, benefits and pension liabilities. Riverside County also would see nearly \$12 million in one-time costs for facility replacement. County officials have praised the current fire services. But they requested the cost analysis earlier this year while eyeing new ways to trim costs in all of their departments:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20101128/NEWS0803/11280309/County-s-own-fire-services-58-6M>

If there's a major disaster, officials at the Orange County (CA) Fire Authority might have trouble getting all their firefighters to quickly return to their stations. That's because some active members of the department live in Colorado, Utah, Texas, and Washington state. OCFA Engineer Lloyd Pinel, for example, would have to wait for the next available flight from Third Lake, Ill., The 21-year veteran's home is a 30-minute drive from Lake Michigan, but more than a three-hour flight from his station in Buena Park. With more than 2,000 miles between his home and his place of work, Pinel has the longest commute of any OCFA firefighter:

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/says-277756-firefighters-live.html>

A "stupid idea." That's what members of the Sissonville Volunteer (WV) Fire Department called a proposal from a national animal rights group to place an ad featuring bikini-clad women on the firefighters' helmets. "The volunteer fire department is not a billboard, we are not a place for advertisements, and I think they know that," said Tom Miller, secretary of the Sissonville VFD Board of Directors. Members of the board rejected the proposal Tuesday evening from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to donate money to the VFD, if firefighters place ads on their helmets with one of PETA's "Chili Chicks" and the message "Vegans are Hot! Free Smokin' recipes: PETA.org." <http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201012090850>

A tale of two cities - Northwest Fire (AZ) grows – adding a fire station while it's neighbor to the South, Tucson Fire struggles to the point of potential layoffs and station closures: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=13627976>

Lawrence (MA) Mayor William Lantigua is tired of hearing about a lack of firefighters and what he described as "irresponsible comments" by acting fire Chief Brian Murphy about the danger posed to the city. Lantigua said the bottom line is money, which the city does not have to hire more firefighters. "I would love to have a firehouse next to everyone's home. I would love to have the biggest fire department in the United States. Unfortunately, our resources don't allow us to do any better than we are doing," Lantigua said yesterday. As he has before, Lantigua called on Murphy to stop complaining and instead help him find cost-savings so he can hire more firefighters: <http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x713539026/Mayor-Lantigua-weary-of-fire-chiefs-manpower-complaints>

The Riverside County (CA) Board of Supervisors today approved two ordinances that will phase out the county's volunteer firefighting brigade and fold it into a reserve force with stricter standards. "This fits into the picture of where the fire department is today," said county fire Chief John Hawkins. "We want to have a combination of career and volunteer reserve firefighters to handle the depth of catastrophic emergency this county's going to face." The California Department of Forestry -- Cal Fire -- sought the ordinances out of concern that volunteer units were too often operating independently of full-time crews, creating confusion and potentially exposing the county to liability: <http://www.kesq.com/news/26064879/detail.html>

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

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

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

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