



FIRE & EMS NEWS

November 13, 2010

Welcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News!

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 is as follows:

- **November 10th -11th:** EOPS, DSPS, Aspire, Veterans
- **Beginning November 15th:** Continuing students by priority number
- **Beginning December 1st:** New and Former students

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

COURSE	DAY	TIMES
FT 90A (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90B and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90B (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90C**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1700 – 2050 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 90C (Firefighter 1 Academy) **Must also be registered in FT 90A and 90B**	Tue & Thurs (pm) Saturday (all day)	1800 – 2150 hours 0830 – 1650 hours
FT 91A (Wildland 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.org

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

When you register for classes on the Chabot College website, you can see both schedules – Chabot and Las Positas.

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

NIST Study on Charleston Furniture Store Fire Calls for National Safety Improvements - For Immediate Release: October 28, 2010

Contact: [Michael E. Newman](mailto:Michael.E.Newman@nist.gov) - 301-975-3025

Draft Study Released for Public Comment Includes 11 Recommendations for Changes to Codes and Procedure

The complete draft report is available online at - http://www.nist.gov/el/fire_research/charleston_102810.cfm

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Major factors contributing to a rapid spread of fire at the Sofa Super Store in Charleston, S.C., on June 18, 2007, included large open spaces with furniture providing high fuel loads, the inward rush of air following the breaking of windows and a lack of sprinklers, according to a draft report released for public comment today by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The fire trapped and killed nine firefighters, the highest number of firefighter fatalities in a single event since 9/11.

Based on its findings, the NIST technical study team made 11 recommendations for enhancing building, occupant and firefighter safety nationwide. In particular, the team urged state and local communities to adopt and strictly adhere to current national model building and fire safety codes.¹ If today's model codes had been in place and rigorously followed in Charleston in 2007, the study authors said, the conditions that led to the rapid fire spread in the Sofa Super Store probably would have been prevented.

"Furniture stores typically have large amounts of combustible material and represent a significant fire hazard," said NIST study leader Nelson Bryner. "Model building codes should require both new and existing furniture stores to have automatic sprinklers, especially if those stores include large, open display areas."

Specifically, the NIST report calls for national model building and fire codes to require sprinklers for all new commercial retail furniture stores regardless of size, and for existing retail furniture stores with any single display area of greater than 190 square meters (2,000 square feet). Other recommendations include adopting model codes that cover high fuel load situations (such as a furniture store), ensuring proper fire inspections and building plan examinations, and encouraging research for a better understanding of fire situations such as venting of smoke from burning buildings and the spread of fire on furniture.

Using a state-of-the-art computer model to simulate the fire, the study team found that the addition of automatic sprinklers inside the loading dock could have significantly slowed the

fire (which began just outside the dock area), prevented it from spreading beyond the dock, and eventually, extinguished it completely. The model also showed that sprinklers on the loading dock likely would have maintained what firefighters call tenability conditions, the ability for individuals in a fire event to escape unassisted.

Factors identified as contributing to the fire's progress include:

1. the high fuel loads—especially furniture—present throughout the building;
2. the lack of sprinklers throughout the Sofa Super Store;
3. the open floor plan of the facility;
4. the hidden build-up of combustible smoke and gases in the area between the drop ceiling and the roof of the main showroom;
5. the non-fire-activated roll-up door that was open between the loading dock and the holding area;
6. the four fire-activated roll-up doors (out of seven) that activated but did not close during the fire;
7. the metal walls in the warehouse and west showroom that allowed heat from the fire to ignite items next to the walls; and
8. the breaking of windows at the front of the store that supplied air to the fire.

NIST's team of experts traveled to Charleston to gather data within 36 hours of the Sofa Super Store fire. Using these data and other information collected in the following months (such as building design documents, records, plans, video and photographic data, radio transmissions, interviews with emergency responders, and informal discussions with store employees), the NIST study team developed its computer model to simulate and analyze the characteristics of the fire, including fire spread, smoke movement, tenability, and the operation of active and passive fire protection systems.

Based on their model and the data collected, the NIST researchers determined the following sequence of events on June 18, 2007, at the Sofa Super Store:

- The fire began in trash outside the loading dock and spread into the enclosed loading dock. The fire spread from the exterior to the interior of the loading dock, which was used for staging furniture for delivery and repair. The fire spread quickly within the loading dock and moved into both the retail showroom and warehouse spaces.
- During the early stages of this fire, the fire was unable to access enough air, a state that slowed its growth. However, the lack of sufficient air for complete combustion did result in large volumes of smoke and combustible gases flowing into the space below the roof and above the drop ceiling of the main retail showroom.
- The fire spread to the rear of the main showroom through the holding area and ignited additional fuel in the rear of the main showroom, at which time it became more visible to firefighters in the main showroom.
- The growth of the fire at the back of the main showroom was still slowed by the lack of air. As the fire burned in the rear of the main showroom, the fire pumped more hot unburned fuel into the smoke layer below the drop ceiling. The lack of air prevented the unburned fuel in the smoke layer from igniting.
- When the front windows were broken (approximately 24 minutes after firefighters arrived at the store), additional air flowed in the front windows, along the floor and to the rear of the showroom, and became available to the fire. The additional air allowed

the burning rate of the fire to increase rapidly and ignite the layer of unburned fuel below the drop ceiling.

- The fire swept from the rear to the front of the main showroom extremely quickly, then into the west and east showrooms, trapping six firefighters in the main showroom and three firefighters in the west showroom.
- Furniture and merchandise in the showrooms and warehouse continued to burn for an additional 140 minutes before the fire was extinguished.

The complete draft report is available online at <http://www.nist.gov/el>.

NIST welcomes comments on the draft report and its recommendations. To be considered for the final report, comments must be received by noon EST on Dec. 2, 2010. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to firesafety@nist.gov; fax to (301) 975-4052; or mail to the attention of NIST Technical Study: Sofa Super Store, NIST, 100 Bureau Dr., Stop 8660, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8660.

Once the final report is published, NIST will work with the appropriate committees of the International Code Council (ICC) on using the study's recommendations to improve provisions in model building and fire codes. NIST also will work with the major organizations representing state and local governments—including building and fire officials—and firefighters to encourage them to seriously consider its recommendations.

NIST has more than 40 years of experience conducting building and fire safety studies and researching the aftermath of disasters and failures. By understanding the technical causes for such incidents and making the information available to the public, NIST scientists and engineers strive to improve the safety of buildings, their occupants and emergency responders. NIST's technical building failure and fire studies do not address fault.

As a non-regulatory agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NIST promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

¹The International Code Council (ICC) I-Codes are used as models for building and fire regulations promulgated and enforced by U.S. state and local jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions have the option of incorporating some or all of the code's provisions but generally adopt most provisions.

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The 2010 Fresno Training Officers Symposium is scheduled to begin in two days!!!

- The Fresno Symposium is being co-sponsored by the Northern California Training Officers Association and the Southern California Training Officers Associations.

- This year's Fresno Training Officers Symposium will be held **Monday November 15, 2010** through **Friday November 19, 2010** in Fresno, California!

For more information, go to the registration website at <http://register.calchiefs.org> - where you can download the class descriptions and complete online registration.

Classes being offered this year include, but are not limited to:

- Auto Extrication - (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Low Angle Rope Rescue - (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Trench Rescue – PILOT COURSE (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Fire Command 2E - (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Driver/Operator 1A - (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Chief Officer Leadership Symposium
- Company Officer Development Academy
- Firefighter Survival
- S-270 (Basic Air Operations)
- S-330 (Strike Team Leader)
- Training Officer Development
- Truck Academy – Commercial Ventilation Practices
- Truck Academy – RIC Operations
- Truck Academy – Forcible Entry Operations
- Tower Rescue
- Bringing Leadership to the Forefront; it's not all about firefighting
- Reading Smoke the Art of First Due
- Regional Instructor Orientation - (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Ethical Leadership in the Classroom - (*CSFM certificate class*)
- Line of Duty Death
- Thermal Imaging Camera Awareness
- Real Leadership is not for Wimps!
- Mission Focused Command Operations
- SIZE-Up Matters
- Mastering the Fire Service Assessment Center
- The Lost Art of Hose Operations
- Maximize the Use of Your Strike Team
- Conflict Resolution
- Prevention Command Dysfunction
- Fitness for Firefighters
- CSFM Alternate Fuel Vehicles
- Building Construction for Today's Fire Service.
- Mental Management of Emergency/50 ways to kill your firefighter
- Training Mandates
- CSFM RIC Command & Control
- Read and React Calling the Mayday
- Calm the Chaos! Secrets to Mastering Fireground Command

- Keep the Change
- Self Leadership Taking Control
- Fireground Search Operations for Big Box, Multi-Story Occupancies
- How to Train & Motivate the Adult Learner
- Fire Officer Survival
- Functional Training
- The Fire line Mind
- Fire Ground Operations for Buildings Equipped with Photovoltaic Operations
- Elevator Rescue
- Training Officers Forum
- Mountain Meteorology & the Effect on Wildland Fires: Why the Weather Portion of S290 Matters
- Measuring Fire Department Operations
- And many more - see the website for more details.

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



Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an estimated 250 home fires involving Christmas trees, and another 170 home fires involving holiday lights, and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires resulted in 20 deaths and 45 injuries. Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy. Learn how to prevent a fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home. Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by decorations or trees. Help ensure that you have a fire safe holiday season - <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus/holiday.shtm>

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 TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

Fire Nuggets.com

PRESENTS

Battalion Chief Ted Corporandy
San Francisco Fire Department (ret)

***“Ventilation, Ladder Company Operations,
and Other Considerations”***

Whether or not your department has a dedicated truck company, the job of supporting suppression efforts must be accomplished. This class, while emphasizing ventilation, one of the most critical of ladder company operations, will also delve into other aspects of truck functions and firefighting. The important relationship between building construction and understanding fire behavior will also be explored. Video clips and photos will be used to reinforce basic tenets of firefighting while also serving to encourage thoughtful discussion.

- the leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings is, by far, cooking
- Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from noon to 4 p.m.
- smaller, confined fires account for 71 percent and larger, nonconfined fires account for 29 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings
- smoke alarms were not present in 20 percent of nonconfined Thanksgiving Day fires that occurred in occupied residential buildings

The complete Thanksgiving Day Fires in Residential Buildings topical report is available at www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics

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

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

National Fire Academy Second Semester Application Period Opens October 15!

The application period for the second semester of National Fire Academy resident classes opens October 15. The application period 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

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

Office of Admissions, Building I, Room 216
National Emergency Training Center
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727-8998

Applications may also be faxed to **(301) 447-1441**.

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

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY:

The Cutting Edge Command Officer

2-Day Workshop

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

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

Day 1 - Leadership & Team Building

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

Day 2 - Strategy & Tactics

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

Your Instructors:

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

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

December 9 and 10 - \$149.00

- Golden State Theatre - 417 Alvarado St., Monterey, Ca. 93940
- For registration information contact Division Chief Stewart Roth:
roth@ci.monterey.ca.us

ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTING COACHING:

The entry level oral interview is the single most important portion of the hiring process. Many departments weigh this as 100% of your final score. As you can imagine proper preparation in this area is critical. Private Entry Level Coaching can provide you with the confidence you need to be obtain the highest score possible. Captain Atlas and Battalion Chief Helmick have spent many years assisting candidates in their search for a career as a professional firefighter. The entry level private coaching session will prepare you for your interview by identifying areas for improvement, assisting you in implementing your changes and fine tuning your presentation.

The 2 hour session will include:

- A complete review of your resume
- An Oral Interview similar to a Fire Department interview
- Tips on how to make the most of your interview with the panel
- A videotaped copy of your interview and a Post Interview Analysis

Captain Atlas and Chief Helmick believe that if you understand the career you are embarking on and the process you are going through, you **WILL** be a better candidate and a better Firefighter. Remember, the panel will hire someone they can see themselves working with for the next 25 - 30 years. Are you that person?

Please come prepared to interview. Proper interview attire and a resume are required.

Cost: \$150.00 - Payment in cash or check only

For more information and to register, go to: www.pstgonline.com

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:**

California Training Officers Fresno Training Symposium – *Fresno, CA* - November 15 through 19, 2010 - Go to <http://register.calchiefs.org/> for more information.

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.

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:

Emergency Medical Technician I

Citrus Heights ~ January 4 - March 5, 2011

\$495.00

Enrollment is limited to 40 students. Registration includes certificate of completion from CFRTA, 5 units college credit through American River College, student materials, and one uniform polo shirt.

Further Course Information and Online registration is available at www.fireandrescuetraining.ca.gov

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:

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 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:	- December 2, 2010 from 1200 to 1700 hours (San Jose, CA)
	- December 3, 2010 from 1200 to 1700 hours (San Jose, CA)
	- December 12, 2010 from 1200 to 1600 hours (Mountain View, CA)
	- January 12, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- January 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- February 10, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- February 11, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- May 12, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- May 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- July 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- July 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- August 15, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- August 16, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
	- October 13, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)
- October 14, 2011 from 1200 to 1700 hours (Sausalito, CA)	

**Go to their website at www.sfparamedics.org and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer.

You will receive:	Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.
Your role:	As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.

To register / More information:	Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php
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FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:

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

Name: Daniel C. Wilson
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 58
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 32
Date of Incident: 10/19/2010
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 10/23/2010
Fire Department: Jerusalem Township Fire Department
Address: 9501 Jerusalem Rd, Curtice, OH 43412
Fire Department Chief: Harold Stanton
Fire Department Website:
<http://www.twp.jerusalem.oh.us/Departments/FireDepartment/tabid/57/Default.aspx>

Incident Description: On October 19, 2010 at approximately 1515 hours, Firefighter Wilson responded for an EMS call. At the conclusion of the call, he returned home. It was noted that he appeared to be feeling poorly when he left. On October 20, 2010 at approximately 1000 hours, he requested EMS to his residence due to feeling ill. He was transported to the hospital where he underwent emergency heart surgery and remained hospitalized until his death on 10/23/2010.

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 69 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 67 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: Randall Scott Davenport
November 13, 2010 www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Rank: Firefighter
Age: 37
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 4
Date of Incident: 10/24/2010
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 10/24/2010
Fire Department: Marshall Fire Department
Address: 471 W Arrow ST, Marshall, MO 65340-1904
Fire Department Chief: John Rieves
Fire Department Website: <http://www.marshallfire.com>

Incident Description: Firefighter Davenport was found deceased on Sunday morning at the Marshall Firehouse within hours of fighting two structure fires. The cause of Firefighter Davenport death is still to be determined.

Incident Location: 471 W Arrow ST, Marshall, MO 65340-1904

Funeral Arrangements: Pending, updates will be posted @ <http://www.mofirefuneral.org/>.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 68 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 66 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: Bruce Bachinsky
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 47
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 12
Date of Incident: 10/26/2010
Time of Incident: 1630hrs
Date of Death: 10/26/2010
Fire Department: Waterbury Fire Department
Address: 236 Grand Street, 4th floor, Waterbury, CT 06702
Fire Department Chief: Michael A. Maglione
Fire Department Website: <http://www.waterburyct.org/content/458/4000/567/default.aspx>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Incident Description: Lieutenant Bachinsky passed away from an apparent heart attack several hours after completing his duty shift during which he responded to several emergencies.

Incident Location: Pending

Funeral Arrangements: Pending. Updates will be posted at: <http://www.waterburyfire.org/>

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending. Updates will be posted at: <http://www.waterburyfire.org/>

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Bruce Bachinsky at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 70 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 68 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: Kevin Quinn
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 52
Gender: Male
Status: Career
Years of Service: 25
Date of Incident: 10/30/2010
Time of Incident: Pending
Date of Death: 10/30/2010
Fire Department: Dayton Fire Department
Address: 300 N Main ST, Dayton, OH 45402-1208
Fire Department Chief: Herbert C. Redden II
Fire Department Website: <http://www.cityofdayton.org/departments/fire/pages/default.aspx>

Incident Description: Lieutenant Quinn passed away from a cause still to be determined while on duty at the Montgomery County (OH) Regional Dispatch Center.
Incident Location: 345 West Second Street, Dayton, Ohio 45422

Funeral Arrangements: A viewing will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd from 3:00pm - 8:00pm at the Tobias Funeral Home located at 5471 Far Hills Avenue in Kettering. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Wednesday, November 3rd at 10:00am at Holy Angels Church located at 1322 Brown Street in Dayton.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Kevin Quinn at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

To date, 71 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 69 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 L. Cummins
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 62
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 41
Date of Incident: 10/31/2010
Time of Incident: 2110hrs
Date of Death: 10/31/2010
Fire Department: Brocton Fire Protection District
Address: 113 East 3rd St., Brocton, IL 61917
Fire Department Chief: Virgil Haynes

Incident Description: Firefighter Cummins died from an apparent heart attack while responding to structure fire. Cummins was driving a piece of apparatus when he suddenly collapsed, causing the apparatus to leave the roadway and come to rest in a ditch.

Incident Location: 1705 East Fourteen Hundred Road, Brocton, IL

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 72 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 70 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: Rick Drake
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 39
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 3
Date of Incident: 11/01/2010
Time of Incident: 1445hrs

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Date of Death: 11/01/2010
Fire Department: German Township Fire Department
Address: PO Box 221, 9428 Main ST, Taylorsville, IN 47280
Fire Department Chief: Christopher West
Fire Department Website: <http://home.comcast.net/~germantwpvold/index.htm>

Incident Description: Lieutenant Drake suffered a massive heart attack while on station. He and other members of German Township Fire Department had responded earlier to a report of a person having difficulty breathing. After clearing the run and returning to the fire station, Lieutenant Drake began conducting equipment checks. Shortly thereafter, his wife, who was visiting him at the firehouse, called 911 to report he was having severe chest pain. Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department, Columbus Regional Hospital EMS, and German Township Fire Department personnel responded. As he was being transported to the hospital, Lieutenant Drake suffered cardiac arrest. Resuscitation efforts were initiated, but he was pronounced dead at Columbus Regional Hospital.

Incident Location: 9428 Main ST, Taylorsville, IN 47280

Funeral Arrangements: Viewing: 11/04/2010 from 1500-2000hrs and on 11/05/2010 from 0900-1000hrs, with funeral services to follow on the 5th, at the Garden City Church of Christ, 3245 Jonesville Road, Columbus, IN. Burial will take place at the New Hope Christian Church, 1404 West 400 North, Columbus, IN.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org) in honor of Lieutenant Drake's U.S. Marine Corps service.

Tribute is being paid to Lieutenant Rick Drake at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 73 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 71 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: Leonard Arthur Murray
Rank: Captain
Age: 53
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 5
Date of Incident: 11/05/2010
Time of Incident: 1830hrs
Date of Death: 11/05/2010

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Fire Department: Jackson Township Fire Department
Address: 4831 Helmsburg Road, Nashville, IN 47448-8896
Mailing Address: PO Box 610, Nashville, IN 47448-0610
Fire Department Chief: Glen Elmore

Incident Description: Captain Leonard Arthur Murray was working at the fire station when he was killed. The incident is under investigation.

Incident Location: 4831 Helmsburg Road, Nashville, IN 47448-8896

Funeral Arrangements: Visitation will be held Thursday, November 11, 2010, 1600hrs-2000hrs at the Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle, Martinsville, IN. The funeral will take place on Friday, November 12, 2010 at 1100hrs also at the Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle, Martinsville, IN.

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Memorial contributions may be made to the Jackson Township Fire Department, PO Box 610, Nashville, IN 47448-0610 or the Martinsville Baptist Tabernacle, Intersection of Burton RD and Highway 37, Martinsville, IN.

Tribute is being paid to Captain Leonard Arthur Murray at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 74 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 72 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: James Gumbert
Rank: Firefighter
Age: 63
Gender: Male
Status: Volunteer
Years of Service: 2
Date of Incident: 11/10/2010
Time of Incident: 0245hrs
Date of Death: 11/10/2010
Fire Department: North Irwin Volunteer Fire Department
Address: Second and Broadway AVE, North Irwin, PA 15642
Fire Department Chief: Thomas Harrison

Incident Description: While responding to a residential structure fire, Firefighter Gumbert began experiencing chest pains and was rendered unconscious at the fire station. Some firefighters started CPR to revive him, while the rest responded to the fire scene. Paramedics transported Firefighter Gumbert to Forbes Regional Medical Center in Monroeville where he passed away.

Incident Location: 49 Webster Avenue

Funeral Arrangements: Pending

Memorial Fund Contact and Address: Pending

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

To date, 75 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 73 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

Hey,

That fire department rescue truck stolen in Vermont was found tonight, but it was kind of a long way from home. As you know, the Firefighters of Vermont's small southern town of East Dover, upon returning from a fire call, discovered their medium-duty 2005 Ford (East Dover Rescue 4) was missing from the firehouse earlier this week. Well, this evening it was found in a parking lot near the Albany (N.Y.) bus station at around 1900 hours - and the keys were still in the ignition. The rescue was not damaged and none of its equipment seemed to be messed with. The Vermont State Police will be heading there tomorrow to get it and continue this unusual investigation. Stay tuned.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-21-10 / 2345 hours

AND:

MISSOURI FIREFIGHTER LODD-FOUND DECEASED IN THE FIREHOUSE

We regret to advise you that a Firefighter in Marshall, Missouri was found deceased this morning, Sunday 10-24-2010. Firefighter Randall Scott Davenport, age 36, was found deceased this morning at the Marshall Firehouse. FF Davenport was a veteran with four years of experience with the Marshall FD. Yesterday, on Saturday, 10-23-2010, he worked two structure fires, one in Marshall, MO and one in Saline County, MO. FF Davenport is survived by his wife and two young children. Information available to show support for the Davenport family as well as services information may be viewed online at www.mofirefuneral.org. Inquiries about fire apparatus and honor guards for funeral services should contact Jesse Coslet at 660-815-0508.

As always, our most sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-24-10 / 1715 Hours

AND:

Ohio Firefighter Dies In The Line of Duty - Following A Run

In Jerusalem Twp (Curtice, Ohio, Toledo area) Firefighter Daniel Wilson 58 years old (a 32 year veteran) had responded to the firehouse on the 19th of Oct. at approximately 1515 Hours for an EMS run. It was noted that he didn't feel well after the run. On the 20th of Oct. at approximately 1000 hours he requested as was transported by Life Squad to a Toledo hospital from a business where he called for the squad. Firefighter Wilson was taken to surgery for a severe heart attack, after which he never recovered and passed away at the hospital Saturday Oct. 23rd. As always, our most sincere condolences. **HERE is the FD Website:** <http://www.twp.jerusalem.oh.us/Departments/FireDepartment/tabid/57/Default.aspx>

RELATED: Sudden/Cardiac Arrest Biggest Risk For Firefighters:

<http://tinyurl.com/272z8yv>

ANOTHER FIREFIGHTER ELECTRICAL SHOCK AT A WORKING FIRE:

Yesterday, a Boston firefighter was hospitalized after suffering an electrical shock while operating at a 4 alarm fire. A power line came loose and hit the Firefighter who was immediately treated and transported.

FROM WORCESTER TO ALBANY, A SHARP FIRE CHIEF "GETS IT"

Remembering and Learning From The Past. Not that he needs us to tell anyone that, but kudos to Albany NY Fire Chief Bob Foruzzi for recognizing the dangers to his members operating in that 83 year old, 11 story, steel and cement, lined with 18" cork cold storage warehouse a few days ago. In this case, Chief Foruzzi ordered no members to enter that building. *Sound familiar? It should.*

What they had in Albany a few days ago was very eerily similar to what the Worcester MA Firefighters dealt with back on December 3, 1999, when the 6 WFD Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty. And Kudos to the WFD for aggressively sharing their loss with the rest of us so that we will never forget, both the loss of their men, and that building that took their lives. The AFD could have tragically repeated history, but the Chief and Members were not

going to have that happen. Their training prevented it. One might just think that the W6 were looking over Albany on Friday.

HERE is more including ALBANY FIRE VIDEO: <http://tinyurl.com/3xv5e5b>

WORCESTER FIRE INFO:

Esquire Magazine: The "Perfect" Fire: <http://www.esquire.com/features/perfect-fire-0700>

USFA Report: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-134.pdf>

Firehouse.com: <http://www.firehouse.com/worcester-anniversary>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-25-10 / 1733 Hours

AND:

CT FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty death of Fire Lt. Bruce Bachinsky of Waterbury (CT) Engine 8 "C" shift. Lieutenant Bachinsky passed away today of a massive heart attack a few hours after his shift ended. At this time there is no arrangement information available. Any updates will be posted on www.waterburyfire.org - As always, our sincere condolences.

DO YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO RESPOND TO A HOSPITAL FIRE IN YOUR AREA?

FREE FDNY Hospital Fire Safety Conference 2010

*****NOTE-THIS IS A FREE SEMINAR BUT YOU MUST REGISTER ASAP*****

The leaders of the FDNY and the Hospital Industry will share their extensive experience and discuss best practices with regard to commanding and mitigating fires & emergencies in hospitals. The conference is open to the full spectrum of hospital safety stakeholders from around the country including Fire Officers, hospital leadership, safety and security experts, engineers, architects and building managers. Representatives from the FDNY, the London Fire Brigade, the National Health Service, London, and the Joint Commission, along with other fire and hospital industry safety experts will be in attendance. The conference is entitled "Partnering to Prevent Tragedy" and will take place on Monday December 13, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

FREE REGISTRATION INFORMATION: <http://www.fdnymfoundation.org/events/hospital/>

ALBANY NY COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSE FIRE UPDATE:

"FIRST DUE CHIEF SIZES IT UP"

In addition to the Chief of Dept in Albany leading the scene and insuring his members safety, as is quite often the case, the "first due" company officers and chiefs "set the tone" for how an incident may/may not go-and Albany was no exception last week. When "first due" AFD Battalion Chief Dan Coleman arrived, he gave the order that NO ONE is to enter the fire building FOR ANY REASON. And his members obeyed his orders. Battalion Chief Daniel Coleman was the first on the scene and after his size-up and reporting a smoke condition, his next transmission was the order to keep out. Outstanding.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-26-10 / 2159 Hours

AND:

November 13, 2010

www.chabotfire.com

Hey,

Kudos to Chicago Fire Commissioner Bob Hoff for his honest and clear explanation to his elected officials related to the importance of adequate staffing on the fireground. And additional kudos to his Mayor and Aldermen for understanding, getting it and supporting the Commissioner and his members.

HERE is more:

<http://tinyurl.com/3249685>

<http://tinyurl.com/379n9a8>

ANOTHER DEATH DUE TO THE FAILURE OF CLOSEST UNIT RESPONSE

In case you were unaware, we feel very strongly that FD's need to generally send the closest, most applicable units, irregardless of borderlines, dispatch centers or jurisdictions. We (all of us) often use the term "we had a fire" which actually is wrong. "We" didn't have anything. The folks who called 9-1-1 are having "their" emergency and are inviting us to please solve the problem. Quickly. 5 Minutes ago. A good template we like to use is to ask the question "What would be best for your family, your kids or your spouse if THEY had a fire or medical emergency?" Exactly. When the house catches fire, when grandma is bleeding or when someone is choking, they need qualified help now. They don't care about some of our egos and/or politically driven debates on what FD or EMS unit should respond.

Palm Beach County (FL) has spent several years developing a centralized dispatch network designed to be efficient and save lives, but the system doesn't always send the closest firefighters to an emergency. And that's a problem to those who are having "their" emergency. That was the case last fall, when fire-medics from a Palm Beach County firehouse more than 5 miles away were sent to help Mr. Bill Dunn, who ultimately choked to death on a piece of meat. The City of Boynton Beach Fire Station 4 was 1.4 miles away, but Boynton Beach, like the Cities of Boca Raton and Delray Beach, are not part of the county dispatch system. Mr. Dunn died in an unincorporated area in the county's jurisdiction, help arrived in 12 minutes and 10 seconds after friends dialed 911 on Nov. 6. Qualified fire-rescue help was much closer, but they just weren't called.

Boynton Beach paramedics had no way to know that Mr Dunn was choking to death nearby, without Palm Beach County calling for them to help. But they did not call them. A top Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue official says everything was done by their book, and that today, a similar case would be handled the same way. WTF!?! When Dunn's 911 call came in, it automatically was routed to a county dispatcher, who notified County Station 41. **It was the closest option because Boynton Beach fire stations aren't "in" the county FD network.** The county does have a mutual-aid agreement with the City of Boynton Beach FD and used it 35 times last year, but not in Mr. Dunn's case. "We would not have requested Boynton Beach assistance," a county Deputy Chief said. "Our unit was available and we were responding. "Certainly, the outcome of this individual is unfortunate," he said.

A THOUGHT-Where there is a will, there is a way.

We understand that annexations, pocket jurisdictional boundaries and other political bs interferes with the best service to the public. But that's how it is. Sort of like non-sprinklered buildings interfering with the best firefighting outcome to the public, so we work around it to get water on the fire to the folks who are having "their" emergency. We work around it. If the

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

dispatch centers are different, a quick ego-less phone call from one to the other could have gotten the closest "first responder" on the scene. It may not be "convenient" that some FD's have different dispatch centers (right or wrong), but for example, in the Washington DC area (amongst so many around North America), dispatchers from DCFD and all the surrounding County FD's pick up phones or call each other on a mutual aid radio channel dozens of times everyday to see if "closest units are available" and they send them everyday---because that's what's best for those who are having "their" emergency. There is a lot to this Palm Beach issue, with significant "turf" battles and "control" battles between some of the cities and the county, with once again, the citizens ending up paying the bills and being the losers. And it will continue as long as the attitude is that "we would do the same thing again". There really oughta be a law. **HERE IS MORE:** <http://tinyurl.com/35aw9km>

THE NEW NFPA AMBULANCE STANDARD. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS?

The proposed new NFPA standard for ambulances has just been released for public review. It should be positively noted that FIRE SERVICE EMS providers are very much involved with this, as are 3rd Service and Private EMS providers. The following links are provided to access and download the document: The pre-ROP Draft has been posted on the NFPA 1917 doc info page under the Next Edition tab:

<http://www.nfpa.org/aboutthecodes/AboutTheCodes.asp?DocNum=1917>

A shortcut link will be generated shortly which will be the following: www.nfpa.org/1917

Also, it has been posted on the Proposed documents page:

<http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=163&itemID=19006&URL=Codes%20&%20Standards/Code%20development%20process/Proposed%20documents>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-27-10 / 1117 Hours

AND:

DAYTON (Ohio) FIRE LT LODD-MEDICAL EMERGENCY

It is with deep regret that we advise you that DFD Lieutenant Kevin Quinn died while on duty at the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center this morning. The DFD has a 24-hour uniformed Fire Lieutenant position at the Center to coordinate and supervise DFD calls, and he was working yesterday's shift. He was found unresponsive in his office/ bunkroom at shift change this morning and had passed away. More details will be posted at www.IAFF136.org

As always, our sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful

BillyG

The Secret List 10-30-10 / 1030 hours

AND:

Hey,

Bradley County Fire Rescue (TN) responded mutual aid to Bowater Newsprint Company located in Southern McMinn County, the call was for an explosion and fire with multiple patients, and when they arrived, they found the Bowater fire brigade working to stabilize one of their own: a Bradley County FD member. Station Fire Commander Phillip Shelton, a 30 year member of Bradley County and of the Bowater Fire Emergency Team, was burned

severely when the coal bunker exploded that was involved in fire. Captain Shelton has 35% burns 2nd & 3rd degree to his hands, face, arms chest, back and head. Shelton as well as other Mill Firefighters from the facility were fighting fire when the explosion occurred, others were hurt but were minor in nature. Captain Shelton was transported Friday evening by Air Evac to Erlanger Trauma Center stabilized then sent to the Joseph M Still Burn Unit at Augusta, Ga. Currently the Captain is stable and scheduled for surgery to begin some skin graft work. He is still and has been unconscious since the RSI procedure prior to his initial transport. Reports indicated an explosion in a coal bunker which is a storage unit for coal which fuels the paper manufacturer's boiler system. Coal dust was believed to be the cause for the explosion. Our prayers for a rapid recovery-we will keep you updated via TSL or our home page.

UPDATE BOSTON FIREFIGHTER SHOCK

Our sincere thanks to the BFD Safety Division Chief and the members of BFD Ladder 26 for this UPDATE. Details are that Ladder Co. 26 placed it's aerial to the roof of a three decker. The aerial was placed across and in contact with a primary electrical line. The voltage of this line was 2,800 volts. The chauffeur and officer climbed this aerial to the roof and ventilated without noticing the aerial in contact with the high voltage wire. This hazard was eventually noticed and the IC was just about to call the roof sector and notify them not to use Ladder co. 26's aerial. Before this radio message could be transmitted the following occurred: The chauffeur was descending the aerial and was just above the wire when it started to arc. In the meantime the officer was on the roof and had placed his hand on the aerial and was just about to climb onto the aerial to descend when the arcing began. The member on the aerial did not receive a shock. The officer on the roof felt a small charge pass through his arm. He was able to descend on a different aerial and was convinced to be checked at a local hospital. He was treated and released and is doing fine. He spent Sunday at his daughter's soccer game! The aluminum aerial melted in two spots, where it came into contact with the primary wire and where it came in contact with the roof flashing. Ladder 26 is now out of service.

As an additional learning point for the TSL members, I'll will relate what occurred after the CLOSE CALL. The arcing wire broke in half and fell to the street with one wire landing 20' from the command post and the other landing 20' feet from rear entrance of the building. When the wire fell to the street it narrowly missed hitting approximately half a dozen BFD members. Fortunately the wire arced three times before it broke. This gave members below the wire some warning and time to run out of the way. The area of the live wires were barricaded and an announcement was made over the radio to all members concerning the electrical hazard. The electrical utility responded approximately 30 minutes later to kill the power. The utility worker was on scene for approximately 20 minutes when he notified command that the wire close to the command post was dead and that he was about to kill the power to the line at the rear of the building.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The utility worker was questioned twice by members of command concerning confirmation that the wire was in fact dead. He responded to both inquiries that in fact the power was off to that wire. It was pointed out to the electrical worker that the wire he was talking about was sitting in a large puddle and that the water around the wire was smoking, and the wire was smoking. He then changed his opinion about the status of the dead line and informed command that the line at the rear of the building was the dead one

and that the line at the front of the building was in fact still charged! This incident reinforces the basic that all lines should be treated as alive until they are cut free -and we can completely confirm that they are cut free from the overhead. It also reminds us that sometimes the utility company can make big mistakes on the fireground and that someone from the FD should be responsible for checking the accuracy of their statements and verify information to be fact.

UPDATE: MAINE FIRE OFFICER CHARGED IN CRASH-BUT CREDITED WITH SAVING LIVES

A Captain with the Shapleigh FD (Maine) has been charged with driving to endanger for an August 8 crash that destroyed the apparatus. Captain Natasha Kinney, 30, of Lebanon was issued a citation Wednesday by the Maine State Police. Captain Kinney, who had been with the SFD for five years prior to the crash, was driving a 2005 tanker-pumper carrying about 1,800 gallons. She had left the scene of a dryer fire and was returning to quarters. Kinney was rounding a bend when she lost control of the vehicle. The truck rolled and came to rest upside down. Captain Kinney suffered minor injuries because she was belted in. The truck narrowly missed four motorcyclists who were riding in formation. One of the riders ditched his motorcycle in the soft shoulder in order to avoid the apparatus. The riders credited their own safety training, and Captain Kinney's attempts to maintain control of the apparatus, with saving their lives.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-10 / 2114 Hours

AND

Hey,

A tragic non-emergency related crash this evening has left an adult and child dead. A Harrington FD utility unit was reportedly on a special detail around 2030 hours this evening in the area of Felton. Initial reports are that the FD unit was struck by a civilian vehicle, and then that vehicle lost control and struck another vehicle-causing the fatal crash. We'll post more details and updates on our home page.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 10-31-10 / 2241 hours

AND

ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WHILE DRIVING APPARATUS-MEDICAL

It is with deep regret that we advise you of a Line of Duty death from the Brockton Fire Protection District in Illinois. Firefighter Gary Cummins, 62, with 41 years of service, died yesterday while operating on a fire run. Firefighter Cummins was driving a piece of apparatus on a structural fire call when he suddenly collapsed and apparently died of a cardiac event. The apparatus was in a ditch when they found him in it. FF Cummins had just filled the rig up, after loading a tankful of water. There were no other injuries. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

FAMILY OF LODD FIRE OFFICER FILES WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT

The family of a Boston Fire Lieutenant who was killed when his ladder truck rolled down a steep hill and crashed into a building has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against 6 businesses who worked on or inspected brakes on the truck. Lt. Kevin Kelley was killed in the Line of Duty on Jan. 9, 2009, when the brakes failed on the truck. 52-year-old Lt. Kelley was the Officer in the truck when it went down a hill, struck two parked cars, crashed through a brick wall and slammed into the side of a brick building before stopping. The lawsuit filed today alleges that because of negligence and faulty work by private vendors who serviced the ladder truck, the rear brakes had severely reduced braking power. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages

DAYTON (OH) LODD FUNERAL DETAILS:

As you know, Lt. Kevin D. Quinn, 25 year veteran of the Dayton Fire Department passed away on Saturday, October 30th while on duty at the Regional Dispatch Center. He was 52 years old and leaves his wife Jody, 3 children, 1 grandchild and a host of friends and family. R.I.P. FUNERAL DETAILS HERE: <http://www.iaff136.org/>

NEW JERSEY EMS CHIEF DUI AT SCENE

The Chief of Gloucester Township EMS Alliance was charged with driving while intoxicated after responding to a call Thursday night in a marked EMS command vehicle. Companies were responding to reports of a suicidal man who later barricaded himself in his Erial Road home, then set fire to the house. Chief Thomas Eden Sr., 48, arrived at the scene in a marked staff vehicle. Cops determined that the Chief appeared to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance and administered a field sobriety test that Chief Eden failed. He was charged with DWI and the use or being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance and was released own his own recognizance to a family member.

AN EXCELLENT AND FREE FIRE PREVENTION TRAINING OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRE DEPTS:

Vision 20/20 will be hosting a webinar focusing on what constitutes model fire prevention programs. It is based on the presentations given at their national symposium in June of this year. The webinar will provide different examples of model programs from around the nation that received very high ratings from participants of the symposium. **DETAILS HERE:** <http://www.strategicfire.org/>

FINAL NOTE, OUR CONDOLENCES to City of Riverside (CA) Firefighter Nick Barrios, 41, who was off duty when he was gunned down on a Riverside street in an apparent murder-suicide yesterday. FF Barrios was walking a woman to her car about 0330 hours when they were confronted by a man named Rene Trejo, 36, Mr Trejo fired several rounds at Barrios in front of a dwelling. Trejo then followed the woman back into the house where he shot himself to death in front of her. Barrios, a 12-year veteran of the department, was rushed to a hospital where he later died. Trejo is believed to have had a relationship with the woman several months ago. Our condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE TOMORROW.**

BillyG

The Secret List 11-1-10 / 2000 Hours

AND

INDIANA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-HEART ATTACK

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Fire Lieutenant Richard Drake, 39, of the German Township (IN) FD, Taylorsville (IN) in Bartholomew County, died in the Line of Duty yesterday following a run. Reports to us are that Lieutenant Drake and other members of the GTVFD responded on an EMS run to someone having difficulty breathing. They assisted with treating and loading the patient for transport and returned in service at 1224 hours. Lieutenant Drake returned to the firehouse and began conducting equipment checks. Around 1445 hours Lieutenant Drake's wife called 911 to report he was having severe chest pain, she was visiting him at the firehouse. Shortly afterward, Lieutenant Drake advised his medical condition via radio. While being transported via ambulance, Lieutenant Drake went into cardiac arrest. He was pronounced dead at Columbus Regional Hospital. He had 3+ years of service and leaves his wife Christy and four children: Andy-18, Elizabeth-17, Eric-10, and Abby-8 behind. He also worked full time as a corrections corporal with the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Office. As always, our sincere condolences.

THE CHIEF RAY DOWNEY COURAGE AND VALOR AWARD

It is time once again this year, for all of us to consider applicants for the CHIEF RAY DOWNEY COURAGE AND VALOR AWARD sponsored by FIRE ENGINEERING/FDIC.

HERE are all the details and the HISTORY of this highly respected award:

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

HERE IS THE APPLICATION:

http://downloads.pennnet.com/fe/downloads/cv_form_nomination_2011.pdf

Please take time to carefully review the above links and consider qualified applicants for this award.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. GO VOTE.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-2-10 / 0933 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A 67-year-old Long Beach (Nassau Co, Long Island, NY) man was killed late yesterday when he walked into a moving fire apparatus as the rig responded to a fire call at a nursing home. City of Long Beach FD members were responding at about 2245 Hours when a career firefighter, driving the apparatus, noticed a man standing on a median. As the truck passed the pedestrian, the man apparently ran into the side of the truck with his head lowered. The victim worked as a custodian for the city of Long Beach and was taken to a nearby hospital where he died of multiple head injuries and internal injuries. Strangely, the victim was at a different hospital about an hour before the accident where was treated for cuts to his head and face.

FIREFIGHTER "PERSONAL SURVIVAL" / FIREFIGHTERS, SUICIDE & RELATED ISSUES

When we started The Secret List in 1998 and specifically, FireFighterCloseCalls just after that, the intent was to focus on "passing it on" - passing on details about incidents and lessons learned so that we (any of us) don't repeat history. Over time, we have very conservatively expanded, but always with careful focus on our mission. And while we focus

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

primarily on the traumatic as well as medical ways we get ourselves hurt or killed along with other issues that impact outcomes such as training, staffing and issues related to command and control, ----we have not looked very hard at the issues of "PERSONAL SURVIVAL". Those issues related to the emotional and mental aspects of this job: and how they affect us, our members and just as equally important, the members of our families.

Within the next week or so, and under the direction of (Illinois) Fire Chief Pat Kenny, we will be unveiling a new "section" of FireFighterCloseCalls.com, focused specifically on "personal survival" issues. We'll have resources, links, articles, access and submissions from those who know (or who have been there) that may be of value to you, your members and your families. Just like what we do with the balance of the FireFighterCloseCalls.com, we will simply try to "pass it on", pass on the details of what happened and what can be done to minimize history from being repeated. However, in this new section, the very personal issues related to mental health, related stress issues and suggested resources will be the primary focus. Our intent is simple, to help by providing factual information, coordinated / edited by qualified and experienced firefighters/fire officers (and in this case, mental health professionals with fire/EMS service expertise) - - as we do with the rest of FireFighterCloseCalls.com.

Make no mistake about it, the issue of Firefighter "personal survival" is a very real one and this article will help you better understand just how real it is: <http://tinyurl.com/2aqjbj8> Click it and read about how 4 Phoenix (AZ) Firefighters have committed suicide in 7 months.

We'll send a Secret List out when the new section is up.

FINAL NOTE: If you are interested in contributing and have related qualified training/education, experiences or suggestions, please drop us a line at info@firefighterclosecalls.com . Thanks.

FREE WEBINAR RE: THE GULF OIL SPILL & THE FIRE SERVICE - WED NOV 10, 2010

When the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded on April 20, it killed 11 platform workers, injured 17 others, and sent oil slicks toward the Gulf Coast shores and wetlands. The leak equaled about 205.8 million gallons, exceeding the all past spills. AND, it was up to BP, not the fire service, to run recovery and clean-up efforts. Because the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was an industrial incident, response efforts fell under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. **This left many local fire service leaders in the dark, and some of them "taking matters" into their own hands, so to speak.**

In this new Fire Chief Magazine webinar, Gulf Coast chiefs will debate the lessons learned from operating under this response paradigm, including the struggle to communicate with the corporation in a unified way. They also will discuss ways chiefs can partner with area corporations, those that produce potentially dangerous products - to prevent and/or prepare for the next environmental clean-up effort.

REGISTER HERE FOR THIS FREE PROGRAM: <http://tinyurl.com/23huz3c>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-5-10 / 0228 Hours

AND:

Hey,

A Denver (CO) FF was hurt this morning when he was pinned between his fire apparatus and another vehicle while trying to help the truck back out of a cul-de-sac. The Firefighter was behind the ladder truck, helping to guide it while it reversed, when the truck pinned him into another car that was on the street. He was extricated, treated and transported and we are awaiting his medical status/condition.

TENN. FIREFIGHTER STABBED ON A RUN

A bad guy is in custody after he stabbed a Firefighter this afternoon. The stabbing happened when a fire crew arrived at a fire that was reported in East Knox County. The fire in a garage building on Midway Road was reported by a passerby. The Firefighter who was stabbed was transported to UT Medical Center with injuries that are not considered life threatening. After the stabbing, the suspect ran off and Firefighters backed off the scene. The bad guy was taken into custody around 1400 hours this afternoon by Knox County cops.

17 Year Old NEW YORK FIREFIGHTER SERIOUS AFTER RESPONDING CRASH

A Spring Valley (Rockland Co, NY) Volunteer Firefighter responding to a fire call was seriously injured last night when he lost control of his car and collided with another vehicle. Brandon Daniello-Jacobs, 17, was headed north on Route 45 toward the Rockland Hook and Ladder Company firehouse around 2300 hours when his Honda crossed the double yellow line, and hit an oncoming minivan broadside. Both vehicles were badly damaged. The driver of the minivan was able to crawl out of the car and was treated and released. FF Jacobs was pinned inside his car and the South Spring Valley FF FF's extricated him. It was raining at the time of the crash.

JUST Say NO To "Mutual" Aid? - "MUTUAL" would be the key word.

In what we are seeing more and more of, communities who drastically cut their levels of fire service should not expect neighboring FD's to "simply" or automatically bail them out. In many areas, the "neighboring" FD's are asking why they should bail out a community that won't fairly support their own fire department or one that accepts lower levels of service? **It certainly is more complicated than that, and while many of the issues are unique and diverse**, generally, when a community cuts their fire service, they should not assume that another FD from another community is just going to automatically help fill that gap without lots of questions being asked. In an area I recently visited, the neighboring/surrounding suburban volunteer FD's advised the city career FD (whose budget & staffing was being seriously cut) that they will respond only if the IC at a scene calls for them (specifically to help and support the career FF's), but they (the volunteers) would not automatically supplement the cuts in service that city made. The volunteer FD's did so because their automatic response would provide an inappropriate and false sense of the cuts being "no big deal". When a community cuts their FD to a level where service (staffing, response etc) is measurably reduced, it's a big deal - and the city hall dwellers who make the cuts have an obligation to factually let the public know what will, and what will not respond when they have a fire. **Mutual aid needs to be mutual, and fair.**

HERE is an interesting example: <http://tinyurl.com/296alx5>

GET WELL SOON TO HARVEY EISNER, Editor in Chief of FIREHOUSE Magazine & Firehouse Expo.

Chabot College Fire & EMS News

Harvey is recovering from a kidney transplant and things are going well. The donor was his younger Brother, and he too is also doing fine. Please take a moment to reach out to Harvey. You may contact him at:

Chief Harvey Eisner

P.O. BOX 122

Tenaflly NJ 07670

or drop him an E-MAIL at: harvey.eisner@cygnuspub.com

We wish Harvey the best to a very successful recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-5-10 / 1930 Hours

AND:

INDIANA FIRE CAPTAIN LODD-PINNED IN FIREHOUSE BY APPARATUS

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Jackson Township Fire Captain Leonard Murray. Jackson Township is near Nashville, in Brown County, Indiana. Tragically, Captain Murray suffered fatal head injuries after the fire department vehicle he was doing work maintenance on rolled and pinned him against a wall at the firehouse. According to local reports Capt. Murray and one other person were standing in front of the fire truck as work was being done on its steering mechanism. At one point in order to turn the steering wheel so that work could continue on the mechanism, a person inside the vehicle turned the key in the ignition, expecting it to go from the locked position to the first position and release the steering. Instead, the key and ignition were already in the first position and turning it caused the engine to turn and the truck to lunge forward, trapping Capt. Murray and the other person between it and the wall. The driver backed away and jumped out of the truck to go assist the two men, but when he did, the truck lunged forward again, trapping only Capt. Murray and killing him instantly. The incident occurred around 1830 last night, Friday evening. Captain Murray was 53 years old and survived by his wife, two sons and other family. As always our most sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-6-10 / 1626 hours

AND:

Hey,

We wanted to pass these video clips on to you as it is very impressive as it shows the force of the fire and eventual explosion caused by that head on crash involving two freight trains carrying oil and gasoline. Reports are that 17 out of 32 tanks traveling in convoy through the Polish city of Bialystock caught fire last week but, amazingly, only two people were hurt. The below footage shows the burning crash wreckage suddenly erupt, sending massive fire and smoke into the air. More than 30 fire companies were sent to the scene and extra firefighters came in from other jurisdictions. Firefighter Jan Gradkowski said: "When we arrived at the site we found a lot of burning tanks. "The last tank derailed and collided with a locomotive moving in the opposite direction. Two train drivers were hurt in the blast, however neither suffered life-threatening injuries. This is a pretty "classic" example of what can happen after the arrival of Firefighters, on any kind of incident.

VIDEO LINKS HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/345href>

AND HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/24kc2pk>

AND HERE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkiCoTkz_G4

OR HERE: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vB3g3i0zU_k

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 11-8-10 / 1644 Hours

AND:

PA FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY-WHILE TURNING OUT FOR A HOUSE FIRE

It is with deep regret that we advise you that around 0200 hours this morning, a Firefighter from North Irwin (Westmoreland County, PA) has died in the Line of Duty. Reports are that the 63 year old Firefighter turned out for the run but was found "down" by other Firefighters in the station. He was treated, transported to Westmoreland Hospital where he succumbed. We will post more on our home page later. As always, our most sincere condolences. Additionally, related to the same fire, another Firefighter broke his ankle while getting out of the apparatus at the scene.

INDY FIRE OFFICER SUFFERS SERIOUS INJURY WHILE TRAINING

An Indianapolis Fire Officer was seriously injured yesterday when a hose line exploded while he was setting up a training detail. IFD Captain Willie Thompson, 46, is in stable condition at St. Vincent Hospital after the 1335 Hours accident at the IFD training facility. Captain Thompson was preparing for a training detail by filling a hoseline with air instead of water when the system exploded in his right hand. The training evolution he was preparing for is a survival skills maneuver taught to IFD Firefighters. The preparation for this requires that the 1 3/4" hoseline be charged with air instead of water, through the use of a high pressure (4500 lbs) SCBA air tank. Captain Thompson, with 11 years on the job, has reportedly conducted the specific maneuver hundreds of times, but the connection at either the metal hose coupling or the gated "wye" ("Y" connection) exploded, causing serious injury to his hand. IFD is conducting an internal investigation. We'll advise more as it becomes available from IFD.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 11-10-10 / 0723 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.***

Flint (MI) Mayor Dayne Walling was frank yesterday, saying layoffs are a last resort, but necessary if unions don't agree to double-digit concessions. He said the majority of layoffs could come from police and fire. It's still not clear if cuts can actually be made at the fire department because of the federal SAFER grant received earlier this year. Walling believes the city can get around that with a waiver. "When you look at our financials and you see what this city has gone through in the last 10, and especially last two years, there's not going to be a federal official that's going to hold us hostage to that grant:" <http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=7736160>

Residents in Washoe Valley (NV), Galena and Verdi served by the Sierra Fire Protection District should brace themselves for change as the District must split or shrink to stay afloat due to budgetary reasons:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20101026/NEWS/10260348>

A year after committing to better fire service in Bonny Doon (CA), state fire officials say expenses are forcing them to reconsider keeping a year-round engine in the Santa Cruz Mountains community. Pulling the wildland fire engine from the Empire Grade Road station and repositioning it in neighboring Felton for half of the year, officials say, will not compromise fire protection in the area, while saving taxpayers money:

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16430339?nclick_check=1

The city of North Las Vegas (NV) and its largest employee union have reached a tentative agreement on contract concessions that are expected to save \$17.7 million and about 150 jobs. The police and firefighters unions still are in talks with the city, and both unions have said they feel confident agreements soon will be reached. If they don't, 33 firefighters and 11 police officers could lose their jobs:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/tentative-accord-could-save-150-jobs-in-north-las-vegas-106236708.html>

Three El Mirage (AZ) firefighters who were laid off this summer have been rehired by the city and began work Monday:

http://www.yourwestvalley.com/elmirage/article_8d9db56c-e1ea-11df-adca-001cc4c002e0.html

Albuquerque's (NM) bravest are apparently also the sickest: Firefighters are calling in sick so often on weekends, the department's overtime budget is over almost \$300,000. In just the past weekend, the Albuquerque Fire Department said 40 people called in sick, which well above average. Officials said they sent out a memo last week about the excessive use of sick leave that has created overtime and what needs to be done to prevent this from getting out of control. "I can't explain why there has been a surge or an increase of sick leave on the weekends," AFD Chief James Breen said. In an internal memo sent out late last week, Breen broke down the numbers. Since August, more than 20 percent of the staff is using excessive amounts of sick leave, mostly on the weekends causing the department to over spend its overtime budget. "The worst case scenario would of course be brown outs. Brown outs are where selected units are placed out of service in order to balance the budget," Breen said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/overtime-issues-may-force-albuquerque-brownouts>

As the city of San Carlos (CA) asks for bids on outsourcing its fire service, lingering bitterness and debate over the dissolution of its joint department with Belmont continues to smolder. City officials, faced with a decade of budget deficits, began looking at outsourcing public safety, parks maintenance and payroll as a way to prevent across-the-board cuts. Some estimate handing over the fire department could save more than \$1 million. On Monday night, the council agreed to seek proposals for a range of options including a stand-alone department, a shared department and a cafeteria-style outsourcing of services. There may also be opportunities to share a station with another agency for added cost savings:

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=144418&title=Future%20cloudy%20for%20firefighters

A neighboring city, Monterey Park (CA) wants to stop picking up the slack when Montebello's budget problems force fire station closures. Montebello has been periodically closing or "browning out" a fire station since May because of ongoing financial problems. Between April and September, neighboring Monterey Park Fire responded 135 times to emergency calls in Montebello, according to statistics from the Verdugo dispatching system. "Are we supposed to pick up all of their brownouts because they can't pay their fire bill?" asked Monterey Park Councilman Frank Venti. "I was totally shocked when I found out that Montebello's budget crisis started impacting our firefighters." http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_16501567

Cornelius (OR) residents are not willing to pay for a new fire truck, according to partial returns. Fifty-five percent of voters said no to Measure 34-183. Money from the local option levy would have bought a new fire engine as well as rehabilitate a donated support vehicle:

http://www.oregonlive.com/washingtoncounty/index.ssf/2010/11/election_results_cornelius_mea.html

Measure H, the controversial city of Stockton (CA) bid to control its fire department's staffing and cut costs, passed by more than four percentage points in Tuesday's election. The firefighter union Local 456 now fears a firestorm of firings throughout its ranks: <http://www.news10.net/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=104208&catid=2>

It happened quickly and quietly. The North Las Vegas (NV) City Council after a 12-minute meeting Monday approved a budget reduction plan for the cash-strapped city that includes the elimination of 251 jobs starting as soon as January. The city's police and firefighters unions, meanwhile, continue talks with the city and have said they expect to come to cost-saving agreements soon. If those agreements add up to enough toward the city's estimated \$35.1 million shortfall through fiscal year 2011, 71 public safety jobs could be saved. "I want to stress the city is and will continue to work with all other bargaining units" to save jobs, Maryann Ustick, acting city manager, said. And some of the 251 positions are already vacant, meaning that closer to 200 people -- including 33 firefighters and 11 police officers -- would be in danger of losing their jobs next year if the city and its employee unions do not agree on cost-saving measures: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/north-las-vegas-oks-plan-to-cut-budget-106505478.html>

169 Cincinnati (OH) firefighters face layoffs - \$11 million in proposed cuts, shutting down more than a dozen fire companies likely to double or triple emergency response times: www.firerescue1.com/fire-jobs/articles/901382-169-cincinnati-firefighters-face-layoffs/

"A difficult budget for difficult times" was the topic as a revised version of the 2011 document was presented during a Camas (WA) City Council workshop. "Difficult" may be an understatement as city leaders scrambled after learning in late September that the city's assessed value — and in turn its property tax revenues — would very likely take a nosedive next year, The unexpected hole is an estimated \$1.6 million. \$111,300 from the fire department. Reductions include eliminating two currently existing Camas firefighter/IV technician positions that up until the end of 2010 have been funded by monies from East County Fire & Rescue through a cooperative agreement. Earlier this year, ECFR gave the city notice that as of Dec. 3 it was opting out of the agreement that paid for a total of five CFD positions. Camas is able to fund the three remaining firefighter/paramedic positions:

<http://www.camaspostrecord.com/news/2010/nov/02/city-reveals-first-round-budget-reductions/>

Since 1973 Emergency call volume in Pocatello (ID) has increased 273 percent. But that wasn't enough to get voters to pass an ambulance levy in the Gate City Tuesday night. The \$400,000 levy was going to be used to get another ambulance and hire more employees. It would have raised property taxes \$16 for every \$100,000 of property. Tuesday night only 58 percent of the voters went in favor instead of the 65 percent needed: <http://www.localnews8.com/news/25628576/detail.html>

Voters overwhelmingly defeated the city of Tucson's (AZ) request for a temporary half-cent sales tax to support core services like police and fire. Because 400 failed, city officials say they must cut \$40 million out of Tucson's budget. And they say that's virtually impossible without cutting police and fire. Ultimately the mayor and council will decide what gets cut. But already police and fire are preparing for 10 percent cuts and every other department for 15 percent. It's a lot of positions. Letcher says, "I think 150 for police and I think it's about around 100 for fire. It's still 161 for parks and recreation." <http://www.kvoa.com/news/city-plans-cuts-after-prop-400-fails/>

Alsip (IL) Mayor Patrick Kitching said he was "blown away" when voters on Tuesday soundly defeated a referendum question asking residents to approve a 911 surcharge that would have added an extra 50 cents per month to each landline phone bill. "Fifty cents. Wow. You can't buy a Coke for 50 cents," Kitching said. Unofficial vote totals from the Cook County clerk's office had 2,705 votes against the hike and 1,552 for it. The nearly 2-to-1 ratio left Kitching "stunned."

<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/2864890,110410alsipsurcharge.article>

Riverside County (CA) Fire Department is looking at closing 3 of 45 fire stations to help close a \$46 million dollar budget gap:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20101105/NEWS01/11050318/Strapped+county+may+close+three+out+of+45+fire+stations>

Chillicothe (OH) Mayor Joseph Sulzer didn't need to read any lips after Tuesday's election. He well understood the no-new-taxes message. The black-and-white of the results — 56 percent of city voters rejected an income-tax increase to avoid public-safety layoffs — will translate into fewer black-and-white patrol cars on the street. There also will be fewer firefighters and paramedics to respond to calls for help. Tinkering won't do anymore to fill a projected \$2.4 million budget deficit, the mayor said. Police officers and firefighters must be laid off:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/904891-Ohio-responders-face-layoffs-after-voters-nix-tax-hike/>

The Phoenix (AZ) City Manager's Office says that with about 15,090 city positions, Phoenix now has the smallest government per 1,000 residents recorded in 40 years. The city has announced the elimination of 546 vacant positions, including 166 sworn-officer and 78 firefighter openings:

http://azstarnet.com/news/state-and-regional/article_81b1f9e7-7c9b-5f00-b653-c2aec07c2feb.html

Redding's (CA) upper-west side could lose its fire station to budget cuts in January. The City Council on Tuesday will consider closing Station 2 to help fill a \$1.34 million hole in the fire department's bottom line. "No one relishes the idea of closing a fire station, since public safety is the city's top priority," City Manager Kurt Starman said. "But in this instance the city has very few options. Unlike the federal government, we are not able to print money. We must balance the budget and live within our means."

<http://www.redding.com/news/2010/nov/11/fire-station-2-recommended-closure/>

Not-So-Positive Public Relations Items:

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

and maintaining positive working relationships with the public, not to mention the elected/appointed officials, since all of them are the ones that ensure we still have jobs and that we get what the community we work for feels is appropriate, reasonable, cost-effective and efficient, in regards to staffing and the number of fire stations and resoures.

A Shapleigh (ME) firefighter is facing a charge of driving to endanger stemming from a crash last summer involving a fire engine: www.wmtw.com/news/25566533/detail.html
Logan's (UT) former fire chief has pleaded not guilty to a handful of felony charges accusing him of burglary and falsely obtaining or possessing prescription drugs: <http://www.standard.net/topics/courts/2010/10/22/former-logan-fire-chief-pleads-not-guilty>

A volunteer firefighter in New Mexico came to KFOX saying there's close to a dozen felons working throughout the county's fire department thanks to the fact the fire department has not been performing background checks. He asked KFOX not reveal his identity in fear of retaliation, but he said there are several volunteers who have a history of DWIs and some of them are driving fire trucks without a license. He also said he knows of another volunteer who's been charged with identity theft. As a co-worker, he said he doesn't trust some of the firefighters who have a criminal history and said they need to go: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/25469484/detail.html>

A Buffalo (NY) firefighter has been suspended without pay while police officers determine whether he left the scene of a crash involving a fire truck earlier this week. Firefighter Charles Pitz allegedly backed the fire truck into a brick building and then drove off, according to city officials: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/west-side/article226392.ece>

A Spokane (WA) firefighter who was caught skipping work in 2007 to teach high school will get a second "last chance" and has served a 60-day suspension after violating sick leave policy earlier this year. In 2007, Frederick was given his first "Last Chance Agreement" after he was found to be skipping work. According to a city investigation, James Frederick was caught after calling in sick on Oct. 10, 2007; that same day, he called a fire station, and the caller ID said Frederick was at Rogers High School. City officials checked with Spokane Public Schools and discovered that Frederick was substitute teaching that day. They later found that Frederick had taught school as many as 14 times from 2005 through 2007 after calling in sick at the Fire Department. The city responded by suspending Frederick for 60 days without pay, demoting him from fire equipment operator to firefighter and creating a Last Chance Agreement, which was signed by Frederick and city and union leaders in March 2008. The deal was labeled as "Mr. Frederick's last opportunity to retain his employment."
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/oct/22/spokane-firefighter-gets-another-last-chance/>

The Pocatello (ID) fire department finds itself under fire after a female firefighter resigns amidst allegations of sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. In 2001 Jerralyn Wasylyshen was hired as the first female firefighter in the history of the Pocatello Fire Department, just over a month ago she resigned that position. In a lawsuit filed in Federal Court, Wasylyshen claims she was sexually harassed by several co-workers: <http://www.kpvi.com/story.php?id=30278&n=15206>

The department's only female firefighter was terminated by the Oswego (IL) Fire Protection District Friday for having sex with a lieutenant on site at the fire station off Wooley Road. Firefighter and paramedic Shannon Hillgoth, of Montgomery, admitted to sexual activity with a lieutenant between March and mid-August of this year, according to attorney Shawn Flaherty, the hearing officer and lawyer for the fire district: <http://beaconnews.suntimes.com/news/2078751-418/fire-hillgoth-district-lieutenant-firefighter.html>

A captain with the Los Alamos (NM) Fire Department is on paid leave after being charged with placing a video camera in the bathroom of a White Rock fire station to capture images of a female firefighter. Aaron Adair, 36, has been with the department for 11 years. A criminal complaint was filed Monday in Los Alamos Magistrate Court charging the husband and father of five with a misdemeanor count of voyeurism and one of tampering with evidence for allegedly destroying the memory card containing what was recorded on the camera:

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Los-Alamos-Police--Captain-spied-on-female--firefighter>

The allegations of misconduct were exaggerated compared to the conduct itself, the fire chief said. Even still, three Spring Hill (FL) Fire Rescue employees were each docked eight hours of pay for taking an ambulance to a nearby house party and fraternizing with the guests, according to a report. Capt. Raymond Elliot, along with firefighters Chris Rodeo and Zac Lyons were guilty of misusing Spring Hill Fire Rescue District property. They were not guilty of conduct unbecoming, the report showed:

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/oct/22/221834/3-spring-hill-firefighters-suspended-for-visiting-/news-breaking/>

A 12-year veteran of Dallas (TX) Fire Rescue remains in custody in Collin County facing seven felony counts after police say he sold steroids to an undercover Allen police officer. Gregory Whiteley, 46, an amateur bodybuilder who lives in Allen, is being held on \$350,000 bail on seven counts of manufacturing or delivery of a controlled substance under 200 grams, jail records show. Whiteley will be placed on administrative leave if he is released from jail, said Jason Evans, a Dallas Fire Rescue spokesman. "Once he's released, we can begin an investigation," he said:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-news/898661-dallas-firefighter-faces-steroid-charges/>

Palm Beach County (FL) has spent more than five years developing a centralized dispatch network designed to be efficient and save lives, but the system doesn't always send the closest firefighters to an emergency. That was the case last fall, when paramedics from a county fire station more than five miles away were sent to help Bill Dunn, who ultimately choked to death on a piece of meat. Boynton Beach Fire Station 4 was 1.4 miles away, but Boynton Beach, like Boca Raton and Delray Beach, is not part of the county dispatch system – which is not much different than much of the United States unfortunately. Before blaming Palm Beach County, the question that comes into play is whether the other closer cities have even expressed consolidating or outsourcing their dispatch services, which most agencies do not want to do for a variety of reasons (loss of local control, costs, political reasons, etc.):

http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/palm-beach/fl-fire-rescue-20101025_0,7673510.story

The medical episode that caused Spring Hill (FL) Fire District Firefighter Christopher J. Bozek to lose consciousness and roll a fire engine into a house two months ago wasn't his first, according to the accident report. As he became more alert during the ambulance ride to the local hospital, he told a paramedic treating him he had suffered a similar "seizure-like episode" one year earlier, the report shows:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/florida-ff-who-crashed-engine-had-seizure-history>

The chief of the Frederick County (MD) Fire and Rescue Department remains on administrative leave following his arrest Monday for driving while intoxicated. County Administrator John Riley Jr. said Tuesday morning that Tim Welsh is on leave with pay pending an internal investigation. Fire Marshal Denny Linaburg has been named acting chief during the investigation, Riley said. A deputy using radar stopped Welsh who was driving in his personal vehicle on U.S. 50 west in the Round Hill area, according to Maj. Robert "Robbie" Eckman, of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. The radar recorded the vehicle as traveling 53 mph in a 35 mph zone, Eckman said, citing the deputy's report: <http://www.nvdaily.com/news/2010/10/frederick-fire-chief-on-administrative-leave-after-dwi-arrest.php>

It was the worst mass shooting in Washington DC history, but FOX 5 has learned not everyone rushed to the scene. Sources say an internal DC Fire and EMS investigation shows some first responders actually did all they could to avoid the call for help. DC Fire and EMS confirm the actions of one ambulance crew are under investigation:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/dpp/news/local/dc-fire-investigates-hiding-ambulance-during-mass-shooting-102810>

The accounting and record keeping in the Omaha (NE) Fire Department has been so bad for so long, the Nebraska state auditor said he is unable to even do an audit. The state of the department's finances was made public at a news conference Thursday morning, called by Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle. "The core question we are trying to address, was whether or not fire personnel are actually showing up for their required hours of duty," said State Auditor, Mike Foley:

http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/State_Auditor_Lack_of_Records_Makes_OFD_Audit_Impossible_106093044.html

Is it time for firefighter social media ethics courses? Texas firefighter's nude pictures are the latest online trouble: <http://statter911.com/2010/10/28/is-it-time-for-firefighter-social-media-ethics-courses-texas-firefighters-nude-pictures-are-the-latest-online-trouble/>

Two High Springs (FL) firefighters have resigned, another had to be restrained and nearly Tasered after an investigation showed two firefighters were playing a game of exposing themselves. Local police were alerted to the situation when a firefighter reported on Oct. 1 that after he awoke from a nap at the fire station, he found a photo on his laptop computer, showing another firefighter exposing himself as he stood over and close to the sleeping man. According to a High Springs police investigation, firefighter Michael Steele, 28, admitted to standing over the sleeping man and exposing himself while firefighter Kyle Lewis, 26, took a photo with a camera phone:

http://northfloridaherald.com/news/article_7cda88ba-e314-11df-b54d-001cc4c03286.html

Bloomington (IN) firefighter Jeff Musselman was suspended Wednesday for his arrest more than five months ago after a Cincinnati Reds game. In a public meeting this morning at City Hall, the Board of Public Safety suspended Musselman for 30 calendar days without pay. That's roughly 10 work shifts at the fire department, said Chief Roger Kerr, who recommended the discipline. Musselman was arrested May 8 after he became belligerent at a bar in Cincinnati. He was booked on preliminary charges of aggravated robbery, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest, but those charges were reduced later to obstructing official business and resisting arrest, both misdemeanors. Musselman, a Cubs fan, said he strayed from his group and became mouthy with police at a bar, then tried to pull an officer's gun from its holster while he was being arrested, resulting in the aggravated robbery charge, which was later dropped. "It's been a rough five and a half months," Musselman said Wednesday, holding back tears. "If I leave here with a 30-day suspension, that's not bad."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ind-firefighter-suspended-bar-room-arrest>

An Alpine Township (MI) volunteer firefighter who allegedly used his emergency lights during a dispute on the roadway was suspended Monday:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/vehicle-safety/articles/900441-Mich-firefighter-suspended-for-using-emergency-lights-in-road-dispute/>

Thirteen white firefighters were treated unfairly when the City of Buffalo (NY) voided the promotional tests they passed because minorities did poorly on the exams, State Supreme Court Justice John A. Michalek ruled Friday. His decision sets the stage for a future decision on financial damages and promotions for the firefighters, should an appeal be rejected: <http://www.buffalonews.com/city/police-courts/courts/article235333.ece>

A councilwoman has called for tough consequences for the Omaha (NE) fire department's chief in the wake of a scathing review on how the department managed -- or didn't manage -- its finances. The state auditor on Thursday announced the mangled state of the department's finances. Record keeping was found to be bad or nonexistent, and time roll records were inadequate, the auditor said, leaving questions of whether firefighters worked their scheduled hours:

<http://www.ketv.com/r/25598196/detail.html>

Firefighters were campaigning so aggressively in Volusia County (FL) that someone called deputies on them. They didn't learn their lesson and deputies had to come out again, but they weren't ticketed: <http://www.wftv.com/news/25597405/detail.html>

A former Virginia firefighter accused of using a patient's painkiller on himself during an ambulance transfer pleaded guilty Monday to felony fifth-degree possession of drugs. John Ditzler, 41, was charged Sept. 14 in St. Louis County District Court after being a member of the Virginia Fire Department since 2006. He since has been fired from the job. Judge James Florey ordered an Arrowhead Regional Corrections probation officer to conduct an investigation of Ditzler's background before sentencing on Dec. 6:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/former-va-firefighter-admits-drug-possession>

A Portage Fire District volunteer firefighter was indicted in a fatal crash that occurred this summer when he was responding to a call. Firefighter Timothy Johnson was traveling 96 mph around 11 p.m. on July 16 just before he crashed into another vehicle, killing its passenger. He was indicted by an Ottawa County grand jury on one count each of aggravated vehicular homicide and aggravated vehicular assault:
<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ohio-firefighter-indicted-fatal-crash>

Support for police officers and firefighters once seemed boundless to a nation wounded by 9/11. But on Tuesday, voters throughout California declared there is a limit to their loyalty. In a stinging revolt against six-figure public safety paychecks and pensions, voters in nine out of 10 communities, including San Jose, solidly supported measures to limit public employee costs, especially the more generous benefits afforded to police officers and firefighters. Only San Francisco's Measure B, calling for city workers to pay more toward their health and retirement benefits, failed. "The luster is definitely off of public safety," said Marcia Fritz, president of the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, a Sacramento-area group pushing for public employee pension reform. "It started with the \$100,000 pension club. When you really look what they are getting at such young ages, that gets people's attention and they start to see where their tax money really is going. Voters are rising up and standing up in a big way." http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_16516730

A Long Beach (NY) fire truck struck and kill a pedestrian last night while responding to a call: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/pedestrian-killed-new-york-fire-truck>

A Clarksville (IN) fire captain's job now rests in the hands of two men. A hearing Thursday morning was held for Gary Crowe Jr. to decide his fate with the town's fire department after he was arrested twice this year. Crowe could face more suspension, be demoted or dismissed. No decision was made, but for two hours, two men from the town safety board listened to the testimony of fellow firefighters and even Crowe himself, speaking about why the firefighter shouldn't lose his job. "I'm a good field officer. I don't like to brag about myself, but I'm a good field officer. I've just got an alcohol problem," Crowe said. Crowe was arrested in January for burglary after he climbed a fence and attempted to kick in a door of his ex-girlfriend's home. Then in July, Crowe was arrested again on charges he drove his motorcycle under the influence of alcohol. He's been on administrative leave without pay for 146 days so far: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/troubled-ind-capt-fate-safety-boards-hands>

Firefighters from Charles County, Maryland are telling a different story about their actions at a September 20 house fire across the Potomac River in King George County, Virginia. On Thursday there was a town hall meeting covered by Fredericksburg.com where citizens complained and fire officials agreed that the fire was mismanaged and the conduct of the firefighters was "atrocious". In her original article reporter Cathy Dyson wrote, "some firefighters danced around and played on a rescue stretcher, gave each other high-fives and rode a pink scooter across the lawn."
<http://statter911.com/2010/11/06/image-issues-king-george-virginia-residents-complain-about-actions-of-charles-county-maryland-firefighters-officials-say-there-is-plenty-of-blame-to-go-around-at-september-fire/>

A Clarksville (IN) fire captain will keep his job with the department but will be demoted. Gary Crowe was arrested in January for a burglary charge and then again in July for a DUI charge. He pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of public intoxication, and felony charges were all dismissed:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ind-capt-demoted-after-public-intoxication-plea>

Bachelorette parties turn up the heat at Fire Hall 332 in Toronto, Canada:

<http://www.thestar.com/article/887142--bachelorette-parties-turn-up-the-heat-at-fire-hall-332>

More than 80 firefighters assigned to the Chicago (IL) Fire Department's scandal-scarred Fire Prevention Bureau are under internal investigation for allegedly falsifying mileage used to reimburse them for use of their personal vehicles to conduct inspections. The alarming allegations affecting nearly 80 percent of the bureau's 108 employees follow an exhaustive audit by Inspector General Joe Ferguson that identified alleged abuses that might have cost Chicago taxpayers "hundreds of thousands of dollars" in 2009 alone:

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/cityhall/2877728,CST-NWS-smoke09.article>

A Hazleton (PA) firefighter who pleaded guilty to killing a wild turkey outside the city fire department's Southside Station was suspended without pay pending a mandatory hearing, Acting City Administrator Mary Ellen Lieb said Tuesday. Kevin Ruby, 39, was fined \$1,000 last week on a non-traffic citation filed by the state Game Commission related to the Oct. 10 incident. Ruby allegedly shot a turkey while on duty, cooked the bird and served it at the fire station -- a scenario Lieb confirmed she heard from several people:

www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/pa-firefighter-suspended-shooting-turkey

Positive Public Relations Items:

In exchange for a two-year extension of their contract, members of the Santa Cruz (CA) Firefighters Association and a union representing fire department managers ratified an agreement Tuesday to take a 10 percent cut in their salary and benefits for the next two years and implement a two-tiered pension plan. The Police Officers Association also ratified a deal Tuesday to increase the contribution they make to their pensions by 5 percent, thereby lowering the amount the city has to contribute. Public safety spending makes up roughly two-thirds of the city budget, which is facing an estimated \$8.5 million deficit starting July 1: http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_16441003

South King (WA) Fire & Rescue firefighters have added a new color to their uniform this week, all in an attempt to raise awareness and support a worthy cause. It's voluntary, but the majority of the department's personnel are wearing pink shirts instead of their usual navy ones beginning today through October 31. South King serves Des Moines and Federal Way. The t-shirts were purchased by the South King Firefighters Foundation; however, some members have chosen to pay out of pocket for their own t-shirt:

<http://www.federalwaynews.net/2010/10/25/news/des-moines-federal-way-firefighters-wear-pink>

Manhattan Beach (CA) Fire Department Battalion Chief John Weber (and current Southern California Training Officers President) has created the Manhattan Beach Burn Foundation nonprofit, and is hoping the foundation will one day be able to provide coaching and therapy for the burn victims and their family members, treating the psychological trauma many endure. The foundation is meant to cover items that insurance doesn't. The foundation will provide a cart with a TV, a Wii, DVD player, toys, etc., for the patients. They also provide cots for the family members of patients to sleep on while they're at the hospital. Though the foundation is still in its beginnings, the firefighters have already provided support to a child burn victim in Hermosa Beach and victims of the Catalina Island plane crash earlier this month:

http://www.tbrnews.com/articles/2010/10/22/manhattan_beach_news/news06.txt

Many organizations are thinking pink this month in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Firefighters with the City of Sierra Vista (AZ) have gone a step further to shed more than light, a few locks, to support those undergoing cancer treatments. "Around here we take care of our family, and sometimes it's time to circle the wagons and do just that," commented Fire Chief Randy Redmond. For one city employee, the support is surreal. "No one expects to hear that their child has been diagnosed with cancer. To stand here in front of 45 men with shaved heads and not feel the genuine care and encouragement is impossible," said Assistant City Manager Mary Jacobs. Jacobs' 12 year-old daughter, Rachel, was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a once fatal disease that now has a remarkable 95% cure rate. Over the weekend, twenty-five firefighters made a decision to support Rachel's journey through chemotherapy by shaving their heads. By Tuesday, 84 percent of the City's Fire Department was sporting freshly shaved heads:

<http://www.sierravistaaz.gov/egov/docs/1287170711363.htm>

In 2004, a racist transmission over fire radio got a white firefighter transferred out of Chicago's (IL) predominantly black Austin community for fear the racist attitude might translate into lax fire protection. What a difference six years makes. On Tuesday, black aldermen whose complaints about racial tensions and lack of diversity hastened the appointment of the city's first African-American fire commissioner sang the praises of the Chicago Fire Department for its extraordinary community outreach. "There has been a systematic and seismic change in the receptiveness of the department to go out into the community and open the doors to the community," said Ald. Freddrenna Lyle (6th). In the past, "Children would bypass fire stations. They'd peek in and run. Now, they have relationships with firemen. They go in. Firemen come out. They fix bikes for 'em and all sorts of wonderful things."

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/2837410,fire-department-black-leaders-102610.article>

Training & Safety Related Items:

Tennessee and Georgia Fire Departments question 24 hour shifts: A Walker County, Ga., ambulance driver who was charged with reckless driving after he crashed into an oncoming car was in the 11th hour of a 24-hour shift, records show. Georgia State Patrol officials said Gerald Zigner was charged because he fell asleep at the wheel.

While most counties in Tennessee and Georgia operate on 24-hour shifts for firefighters and paramedics with 48 hours off in between, some area officials are beginning to question the safety of those shifts. "As call volume increases ... you'll see more and more departments looking to make adjustments," said Dwayne Jamison, president of the Northwest Georgia Fire Chiefs Association. Fatigued fire and emergency management drivers on roads is a growing concern among state fire chiefs and was brought up at this year's Georgia Fire Chief Association meeting, Jamison said. The 24-hour shift is a contributing factor in the number of wrecks that occur, Jamison said. In Rockingham County, N.C., EMS stations are making the switch from 24- to 12-hour shifts, County Manager Tom Robinson said. But the process takes time because shorter shifts are costlier, he said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/tenn-ga-departments-question-24-hour-shifts>

A time bomb ticked above the heads of nine doomed Charleston (SC) firefighters as they fought to extinguish a fire inside the Sofa Super Store in June 2007. Their fate was sealed when firefighters outside broke out the front windows in a desperate effort to save them, a federal report released today says:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/oct/28/feds-release-study-sofa-super-store-fire-today/>

NIST Releases their Report on the Sofa Super Store Fire in Charleston (SC) where 9 firefighters died in the line-of-duty - Had automatic sprinklers been in place, the fire at the Sofa Super Store would have been confined to the loading dock area where the fire started, NIST investigators said Thursday. Also, the smashing of the front windows 24 minutes into the incident provided oxygen to the slow-moving fire, which then rapidly spread, explained Nelson Bryner, who led the investigation:

<http://www.firehouse.com/stateprovince/south-carolina/nist-cites-no-sprinklers-smashing-windows-charleston-report>

A must read for ALL fire service personnel of all ranks: "It's not your grandfather's fire." That phrase was used by Bob Backstrom of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to describe the kind of fire produced by modern contents, construction techniques and materials. I rarely run across such a succinct way of describing an issue. The key is understanding how it will impact our operations in the future. By now, many in the fire service have heard of the dangers to firefighters from engineered wood products used in modern construction. Lightweight, less expensive and structurally sound construction materials that are "engineered" (meaning designed structural elements, not dimensional lumber) are receiving strong support and use in the construction industry. And for good reason: They're less expensive and work well—in normal conditions. But recent field experiences and some studies have also pointed out that such materials fail more quickly in a fire than the old-style wood-frame construction. That creates a hazard for firefighters, who risk falling through a roof or even a floor made with lightweight construction more quickly than they anticipate:

<http://www.firefighternation.com/profiles/blogs/its-not-your-grandfathers-fire>

Two Palm Beach County (FL) Fire Rescue captains were disciplined this month for their performance on the scene of the Feb. 12 car crash in rural Wellington that cost the life of 23-year-old Scott Wilson and could send polo mogul John Goodman to

prison. Captains Anthony Cinilia and Scott Bielecky supervised the emergency response to the middle-of-the-night accident. None of the nine Fire Rescue employees found the victim's body in the car, which was upside down and partly submerged in a canal: <http://www.firerescue1.com/search-rescue/articles/904839-2-fire-captains-disciplined-in-Fla-victim-search/>

Las Vegas (NV) firefighters show how sprinklers make a difference. Fire demonstration shows how home systems can douse flames quickly, minimize damage, and most importantly – reduce injuries and fatalities to firefighters and civilians: <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/nov/05/las-vegas-firefighters-show-how-sprinklers-make-di/>

General Fire Service Related Items:

Hundreds of candidates lined up at the doors to the city of Tulsa's (OK) Safety Training Center on Thursday morning - and some had been there since noon Wednesday - for a chance to become a Tulsa firefighter. The candidates had to sign up in person to take a written exam just to begin the process, said Erica Felix-Warwick, personnel director for the city of Tulsa. Of the roughly 260 people who began the application process Thursday, only as many as 48 will get to join the academy, Felix-Warwick said: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20101022_11_A1_CUT_LIN390928

Salaries for some Las Vegas (NV) city employees are as much as 50 percent to 75 percent higher than similar jobs elsewhere, according to reports commissioned by the city that found one position paid nearly twice as much as comparable jobs: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/salaries-for-las-vegas-city-workers-off-the-chart-106431453.html>

The Carmel Valley (CA) Fire Protection District will no longer stand on its own. A consolidation of the district with the neighboring Monterey County Regional Fire Protection District was approved this week, Michael Urquides, chief of both districts, said Friday. The proposal to merge, which was under negotiations for nearly two years, was finalized with the unanimous approval of the Local Agencies Formation Commission of Monterey County, Urquides said: http://www.montereyherald.com/news/ci_16476821?source=rss&nclick_check=1

San Diego (CA) firefighters are hanging huge signs on fire engines in support of a half-cent sales tax measure known as Proposition D. On Monday, a truck sat on an overpass over Interstate 8, where thousands of potential voters could see firefighters' support. With firefighters and most fire trucks being funded by public money, some would find it odd and possibly illegal for firefighters to make a political statement using public equipment however it is actually owned by the firefighters' union: <http://www.10news.com/news/25600757/detail.html>

Jim McCluskey loved to ride his bike to St. Joseph's Hill with his fellow Los Gatos firefighters and paramedics. Tragically, McCluskey's dedication to biking cost him his life in August 2008--he was biking around his hometown of Patterson when he was hit by two motorcyclists who were racing. About 60 of McCluskey's friends and family

gathered on Oct. 17 at the top of St. Joseph's Hill to dedicate a bench in his memory, a rarity since the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District doesn't often allow structures on its property. A plaque on the bench reads in part, "With dedication to Santa Clara County (CA) firefighters and the memory of firefighter/paramedic James McCluskey. May they continue to enjoy this open space and ride together in spirit."

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_16495258

Responding to anxious homeowners, the East Contra Costa (CA) Fire District board on Monday night reversed its decision to close its contract fire station in the Marsh Creek-Morgan Territory area. Directors voted 8-1 to renew the agency's \$366,000 contract with CalFire, which had been providing fire protection during the offseason from a station that the state agency owns in that region. How the district will come up with the money will be determined. Director Bob Brockman voted no, saying the action was inconsistent with the decision to close two of its own stations in mid-July to balance its budget. Hard-hit by plummeting property tax revenue, the agency expects to end the current fiscal year with a \$1.8 million deficit and to exhaust its reserves before the end of 2012-13: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/california/ci_16497553

In a year marked by tight budgets and tough votes in Montgomery County (MD), voters on Tuesday were enlisted to sort through a sticky series of claims and counterclaims on a question that might not previously have been at the forefront of their busy lives: Should there be a fee for ambulance service? Their answer: an emphatic no. Hundreds of career firefighters and paramedics have been stumping for the fee, door to door, at malls - and on Tuesday, at polling places. Meanwhile, volunteer fire and rescue personnel worked phones, neighborhoods and polls seeking to block it:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/02/AR2010110206783.html>

By a narrow margin, Sheboygan (WI) voters have decided to keep the city's emergency medical service in control of the Fire Department. In unofficial results Tuesday night, a referendum that would have forced the city to abandon its Fire Department ambulance service in favor of a privately run company failed, 8,248 to 7,709, or 51.7 to 48.3 percent: <http://www.sheboyganpress.com/article/20101103/SHE0101/11030476/Voters-Keep-ambulance-service>

It's a little late, but compensation data on city of Long Beach (CA) employees is now online at the state controller's website. The information, which is available at www.sco.ca.gov, lists the pay ranges for each city position, how much each worker actually earned in 2009, pension details and the cost of other benefits. Among the Long Beach managers who are unsurprisingly at the top of the pay list, several firefighters also were top earners, the data show. "It's no big secret that firefighters in general make overtime," Fire Chief Alan Patalano said Monday:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_16493524?nclick_check=1

Roswell's (GA) fire department depends on "two hatters" like Brian Wolfe. Wolfe, 38, works full time as a Gwinnett County firefighter and part-time in Roswell. With a 24-hours-on-and-48-hours-off schedule, he usually finishes a Gwinnett shift and goes straight to a Roswell firehouse. Most metro departments don't use part-timers at all,

but Roswell hires them by the truckload. One hundred twenty-two of Roswell's 140 fire employees are part-timers -- by far the most in the area:

<http://www.ajc.com/news/north-fulton/part-timers-dominate-roswell-720337.html>

When Tualatin Valley (OR) Fire & Rescue asked for millions of dollars to rebuild aging fire stations in 2006, voters overwhelmingly answered yes. Now that those projects are moving from the drawing board toward construction, however, residents in two affected neighborhoods are saying not so fast. The criticism carries an important disclaimer: Residents say they love firefighters in general and Tualatin Valley crews in particular. But concerns about traffic, noise, safety and property values have them saying the locations in question should be ruled out and the search for new facilities started over:

http://www.oregonlive.com/north-of-26/index.ssf/2010/11/some_bethany_residents_arent_happy_about_having_new_tualatin_valley_fire_stations_nearby.html

Jimmy Ghi left a stable job in Virginia and uprooted his family two years ago to help the Charleston (SC) Fire Department fix a host of training problems that came to light in the aftermath of a deadly blaze. A 30-year fire service veteran with a fistful of credentials, Ghi thought he had a lot to offer a fire department reeling from the loss of nine men. He said he didn't suspect that he too might become a casualty of the department's "deep-seated culture" and "destructive pride." On Wednesday, the 50-year-old battalion chief submitted his resignation as training director, citing a pattern of harassment and ill-treatment from the fire chief on down. Ghi hand-delivered a 10-page letter to Fire Chief Thomas Carr's office, outlining a host of grievances. Friday will be his last day with the department. Ghi said he is departing under duress and without a backup plan. He said he is unable to cope any longer with being undercut by superiors, bad-mouthed by the rank-and-file and thwarted in his mission to train firefighters in modern tactics and standards:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/nov/11/fire-dept-training-chief-quits/>

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

Bob Buell

Fire Technology Coordinator –
Chabot College
(510) 786-7565 - cellular phone
bbuell@chabotcollege.edu

Steve Prziborowski

Fire Technology Instructor - Chabot College
Editor / Publisher - Chabot College Fire & EMS News
(408) 205-9006 - cellular phone
sprziborowski@chabotcollege.edu

Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:

www.chabotfire.com

Chabot College web site:

www.chabotcollege.edu

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