



# ***FIRE & EMS NEWS***

**August 19, 2010**

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**W**elcome to the latest issue of the Chabot College Fire & EMS News!

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

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## ***FALL 2010 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHEDULE***

**R**egistration for the Fall 2010 semester has begun, as well as many of the classes; some classes may be still available and some may be late start classes (please check the Chabot College website and the online registration section – CLASS WEB for more details).

**T**he following fire-technology related courses are going to be offered this Fall and have not yet started (as of the time this went to print – it doesn't mean the classes have any vacancies, you will have to determine that on your own):

| <b>COURSE</b>  | <b>DAY</b>  | <b>TIMES</b>   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)<br><b>Note:</b> This section (Monday morning) will be a Hybrid course with on-campus meetings and 20 lecture hours conducted over the internet. Online lecture schedule will be available on the first day of class. | Monday (am)   | 0800 – 1150 hours  |
| <b>FT 50</b> (Fire Protection Organization)  | Monday (pm)   | 1800 – 2150 hours  |
| <b>FT 54</b> (Fire Prevention Technology)  | Thursday (pm)   | 1900 – 2150 hours  |
| <b>FT 89</b> (Firefighter 1 Academy evaluation)<br><b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b><br>- October 12, 14 and 16 (Tue/Thu/Sat)<br>- November 17, 19 and 21 (Wed/Fri/Sun)  | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br><b>or</b><br>Mon & Wed (pm)<br>Sunday (all day) | 1700 – 2050 hours<br>0830 – 1650 hours<br>1700 – 2050 hours<br>0830 – 1650 hours |
| <b>FT 91A</b> (Wildland Firefighting-1 Basic: Cal Fire 69 hour wildland course)<br><b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b><br>November 30, December 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 19   | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day)                                | 1700 – 2150 hours<br>0800 – 1750 hours<br>0800 – 1650 hours                      |
| <b>FT 91B</b> (Haz Mat 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder-Operations)   | Tue (pm)  | 1800 – 2215 hours  |

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|--|--|---|
| <b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b><br>November 16, 18, 20 and 21  | Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day)       | 1700 – 2115 hours<br>0800 – 1730 hours<br>0800 – 1730 hours |
| <b>FT 91C</b> (I-200; Basic ICS)<br><b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b><br>November 19, 11, 13 and 14              | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)<br>Sunday (all day) | 1700 – 2115 hours<br>0800 – 1730 hours<br>0800 – 1730 hours |
| <b>Health 61</b> (First Responder)   | Friday (am)  | 0830 – 1250 hours   |
| <b>Health 85</b> (EMT Refresher)<br><b>Note: Class only meets on the following dates:</b><br>November 30, December 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11 | Tue & Thurs (pm)<br>Saturday (all day)                     | 1800 – 2150 hours<br>0800 – 1550 hours                      |

**NOTE:** The above information is to the best of my knowledge as of the time this went to print. For the most up-to-date information (including room numbers & registration numbers) regarding Fall 2010 scheduling, check the Chabot College web site at <http://banner-web.clpccd.cc.ca.us:700/>

**M**y suggestion to everyone is to register as soon as you are eligible to. Classes fill up very quickly, and with more people wanting to become firefighters, we don't see our numbers of students decreasing, only increasing.

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**FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE:**

**H**ere is the link to the California State Fire Training & Fire Marshal's reports for July 2010: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fromthechief/pdf/sfmreportjuly10.pdf>

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**FIRE SERVICE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:**

**TAKE CFSTES FIRE OFFICER & FIRE TECH CLASSES ON THE INTERNET - REGISTER FOR FALL 2010 CLASSES, NOW!**

*State Budget Cuts = Less Fire Classes  
LIMITED REGISTRATION STARTS JUNE 28th  
Register Early, Classes are Expected to Fill Fast.*

CFSTES Fire Officer classes are scheduled in a Hybrid (Internet"Classroom) format at Allan Hancock College and the Fire Tech classes are scheduled exclusively online, at either Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA and Imperial Valley College in El Centro, CA. The following courses will be available in the Fall 2010 Semester starting August 23rd.

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

- Fire Management 1: Management" Supervision for Company Officers - Hybrid

### Chabot College Fire & EMS News

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

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

#### Fire Technology Classes (Entirely on-line)

- Fire Protection Organization
- Fire Prevention Technology
- Fire Protection Equipment & Systems
- Building Construction for Fire Protection
- Fire Behavior & Combustion
- Principles of Fire and Emergency Services Safety and Survival
- Fire Hydraulics
- Apparatus & Equipment
- Fire Company Organization & Procedure (Not a CFSTES Class) - Late Start
- Fire Behavior & Combustion - Late Start

Wildland, EMS, Emergency Management & Haz Mat classes, as well as General Education classes are also offered on-line. For information on how to enroll as a student and register for classes, or if you want additional information on the Fire Technology Program, contact Dan Coffman at [dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:dcoffman@hancockcollege.edu)

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

### **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program**

#### ***Application Period Opens August 17***

This serves as notification that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is releasing grant guidance and application materials under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (SAFER). **The application period for the FY 2010 SAFER Program will open on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. EDT and will close on Friday, September 17, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.** The FY 2010 SAFER Guidance and application materials will be available at [www.firegrantsupport.com](http://www.firegrantsupport.com).

## **FIREHIRE.COM NEWSLETTER:**



FIREHIRE® Inc. Newsletter

*Where Your Fire Service Career Begins!*

**August 9, 2010**

### **LATEST NEWS**

**The October 12, 2010 examination will be administered as noted in the last newsletter. You have until October 1, 2010 to get your application packet and payment submitted. You must also have a valid CPAT card or certificate submitted by the October 12, 2010 examination date.**

We have signed on a couple of new agencies since the last newsletter. We would like to welcome Rodeo-Hercules and Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Districts to our consortium examination. If you wish to re-test to improve your scores or you are renewing your annual test, you **DO NOT** have to submit another application packet. We keep everyone's application packet on file for at least 4 years. If you want to fill out an updated application packet, please feel free to do so. If you are new to the process, applications are available to download from [www.firehire.com/downloads.htm](http://www.firehire.com/downloads.htm) - You can also receive an application via USPS mail by contacting our office at (800) 755-5891.

### **CPAT INFORMATION**

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

### **RECENT FIREHIRE CANDIDATE HIRINGS**

Between January 15th, 2010 and August 9th, 2010 the following agencies have conducted interviews with FIREHIRE candidates:

- Piedmont FD
- Rodeo-Hercules FD
- San Mateo FD hired 2 lateral Firefighter/Paramedic candidates

**COULD YOU BE NEXT?**

**FIREHIRE Written Examination Study Guide**

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

**WRITTEN EXAMINATION DATES/TIMES**

The written examinations will be held at the Barbara Morse Wackford Community Center. The address is 9014 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove, California. The next written examination is going to be administered on October 12th, 2010, and is weighed at 100%.

**FIREHIRE now on facebook**

FIREHIRE® Inc. is now on facebook. Please take the time to join our group on facebook. You can look for future chat sessions within the FIREHIRE group. You can join by going to the following link:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=home#/group.php?gid=62991536851>

<http://www.firehire.com>

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

**National Public Service Announcement Urging Motorists to “Slow Down and Move Over” Premieres**

August 18, 2010

A national Public Service Announcement (PSA) urging motorists to “[slow down and move over](#)” premiered yesterday at the Delaware City (DE) Fire Company. The PSA is a joint venture between the Delaware City Fire Company and the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association (CVVFA) to educate the public about dangers associated with passing responders working on the roadways.

The project was launched at the request of the Delaware City Fire Company following the tragic death of Firefighter/EMT Michelle Smith, who was struck while rendering aid at an accident in December of 2008. The CVVFA produced the PSA under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), with funding from the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. USFA Acting Deputy Fire Administrator Denis Onieal and Bill Troup from the USFA’s National Fire Programs Division attended the ceremony.

Delaware Senate Bill 205 increases the penalty for a violation of the Move Over Law if a driver violates the statute and strikes a roadway responder. The change places the Delaware law closer to the model Move Over legislation adopted in most other states. Move Over laws require motorists, if possible, to move at least a lane away from firefighters, law enforcement, ambulances, tow trucks, and transportation workers. If that is not possible, drivers must slow down and proceed with caution.

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# **FIRE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:**



**Northern California Training Officers**  
Presents  
**“Research to Improve Firefighting Tactics”**  
And  
**“Metamorphosis of FDNY High Rise Operations and Ventilation Practices”**

**Where:**

The State Theater  
417 Alvarado Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

**When / Time:**

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 0900 to 1700 hours

**Cost:**

Members of Northern California Training Officers Association Members - **\$25.00**  
Non-Members - **\$50.00**

**Instructors:**

**Steve Kerber:** is a fire research engineer at Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in Northbrook, IL. His areas of research include improving firefighter safety, fire service ventilation, lightweight construction, and wind driven fires. Prior to joining UL, he was a fire protection engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology where he conducted numerous studies to examine and improve firefighter tactics. Steve is a 13-year veteran of the fire service with most of his time served in the College Park Volunteer Fire Department in Prince Georges County, MD. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in fire protection engineering from the University of Maryland and is also a registered professional engineer.

**Chief Jerry Tracy:** is a retired Battalion Commander, served 31 years with the FDNY. He developed numerous training programs for the FDNY for all ranks including Chief Officers. He has articles published with Fire FDNY's training publication WNYF and Engineering. Chief Tracy in collaboration with NIST and NYU Polytechnic Institute conducted live fire research of Smoke management of HR buildings and Wind Driven Fires funded by DHS. He is a member of the NFPA Project Technical Panel reviewing “Firefighting Tactics under Wind Driven Conditions”.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail form and payment to:***

NorCal TO's  
Attn: Mark Romer  
1700 North Dowd Rd.  
Lincoln CA. 95648

Registration Questions contact Chief Romer:  
Email: [chiefromer@yahoo.com](mailto:chiefromer@yahoo.com)  
Cell: 1-916-316-6415

**FIRE TRAINING & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY:**



**REGISTER NOW FOR TAK-RESPONSE!**

**Public Safety Training Group Members  
Receive \$25 Off Full Conference Registration**  
Register with association source code 30003

**REGISTER HERE**



**THE CONFERENCE**

Within this post-9/11 era, the message is clear, no single discipline can properly deal with forthcoming threats by themselves! We need to unite, train together, and operate as a single entity.

**Educational Credit & Grant Reimbursement**

TAK-Response is approved for the

**The TAK-Response Conference & Exhibition September 14 - 16, 2010**, is a first of its kind multidisciplinary training event focused on equipping emergency responders with the tools and insights to navigate tomorrow's first response environments.

**Why Attend TAK-Response?**

- Participate in the dedicated Tactical Fire, Tactical Law Enforcement, Tactical Disaster & Homeland Security, or Tactical EMS sessions
- Cultivate interagency relationships
- Make new connections
- Learn new life preserving tactics from agency leaders

Need more reasons to attend?

[Click here to learn more about the conference](#)

**Featured Tactical Firefighting session:**

Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Vent for Life**

*Captain Rick Hudson, Sacramento City (CA) Fire Department*

A review of concepts for prioritizing the first-due arriving companies' tactical needs for ventilation, specifically for life-saving searches, will be targeted around arrival assignments and crew riding positions. Brief case studies are presented along with a group discussion forum.

[Click here to review all session descriptions](#)

delivery of up-to 16-hours continuing education within the following classifications: **POST, EMS & BRN** (including the pre-conference).

TAK-Response qualifies for reimbursement from **State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)** grant funds. Contact your training department to see if these reimbursements are available to you.

**PCS is your official TAK-Response Housing Company**

Call today to book your room at a show discounted rate.  
888-472-7462 or [click here](#)

**THE EXHIBITION**

Join hundreds of attendees to see the latest products and services from industry-leading companies. The exhibition will feature cutting edge products and technology vital to combating 21st century threats.

[Click here to view the exhibitor list](#)

Interested in exhibiting? There's still space left! [Click here for information on exhibiting and sponsorships](#)



**THE PRE-CONFERENCE SUMMIT**

3-C Summit: Managing Catastrophe

**This pre-conference summit focuses on:**

- Successes in interagency coordination during disasters
- Preparing for using unfamiliar resources
- Networking with colleagues and first responders of all disciplines





[Click here to learn more about the pre-conference summit](#)

**REGISTER NOW!**

**Public Safety Training Group Members  
Receive \$25 Off Full Conference Registration**  
Register with association source code 30003

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)



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## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

The [Burbank \(CA\) Fire Department](#) is accepting application for **Firefighter Recruit** until August 27, 2010.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION:**

- **EDUCATION/TRAINING:** Graduation from high school or equivalent.
- **LICENSE & CERTIFICATES:** A valid California Class "C" Driver's License or equivalent and State of California Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certificate at time of appointment. Note: Must be able to obtain a valid California Class "B" Driver's License within three years of appointment to Fire Fighter.
- **AGE:** Must be at least 21 years of age at time of appointment
- **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:** A valid State of California Paramedic License

To view the job announcement and for more specific details about the position including how to apply, go to: <http://www.ci.burbank.ca.us/index.aspx?page=219>

**F**or more information about the **City of Burbank** and the **Burbank Fire Department**, visit their website at: [www.ci.burbank.ca.us](http://www.ci.burbank.ca.us)


**F**or more information about the **Burbank Fire Department Firefighters Association**, *International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 778*, visit their website at: [www.burbankfirefighters.org](http://www.burbankfirefighters.org)

## **FIRE SERVICE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:**

**FIREFIGHTER LIFE SAFETY****Media CENTER**

# LEARNING

Everyone Goes Home® Learning Media Center E-Alert - August 10, 2010




The screenshot shows a slide from a PowerPoint presentation titled "NIOSH Bi-Weekly Firefighter Safety Quizzes". It includes the NIOSH logo and a list of instructions: "Download the stand-alone PowerPoint Presentation (.zip file)", "Extract to folder of your choice.", "Print out NIOSH reports and assign roles and responsibilities.", and "Begin Session." A "No Smoking" sign is visible in the top left corner of the slide.

This Month's Feature  
[Bi-Weekly Firefighter Safety Quizzes](#)



These Bi-Weekly Firefighter Safety Quizzes are based on NIOSH Bi-Weekly Quizzes. You will need to download the stand alone PowerPoint presentation and print copies of the related NIOSH reports. You can then assign your crew roles and responsibilities.

» [Click Here to View This Media Clip](#)

» Archive: [More Firefighter Life Safety Learning Media](#)



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



[www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.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:

**Fire Rescue International** – *Chicago, IL* - August 24 through 28, 2010  
Go to [www.iafc.org/fri](http://www.iafc.org/fri) for more information.

**TAK – RESPONSE** – *San Jose, CA* - September 14 through 16, 2010  
Go to [www.takresponse.com](http://www.takresponse.com) for more information.

**Firehouse Central** – *Dallas, TX* - September 27 through October 1, 2010  
Go to [www.firehousecentral.com](http://www.firehousecentral.com) for more information.

**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](http://www.firehouseworld.com) for more information.

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

**Firehouse Expo** – *Baltimore, MD* - July 19 through 23, 2011  
Go to [www.firehouseexpo.com](http://www.firehouseexpo.com) for more information.

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

### **New NFIRS Web-Based Data Entry Tool Now Available**

*USFA Media Contact:*  
(301) 447-1853

Washington, DC — The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) United States Fire Administration (USFA) has recently made available a new National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) web-based data entry tool known as the Data Entry Browser Interface (DEBI). The new DEBI enables total web-based data entry into NFIRS, eliminating the need to download and install client software on the NFIRS user's computer. DEBI will run using standard web browsers that will provide access to the application from any computer that has an Internet connection.

"Because DEBI does not need to be downloaded, installed, and configured, it requires much less time and technical knowledge from the NFIRS user," said Glenn Gaines, Acting U.S. Fire Administrator. "We hope this new tool will enhance the NFIRS user experience, increase fire department participation, and lead to improved timeliness of reporting and data quality."

Enhancements for NFIRS were provided under the USFA Reauthorization Act of 2008 and have led to an opportunity for the USFA to make upgrades to NFIRS. These upgrades,

which began in October of 2008 with the development of DEBI, went into beta testing on July 10, 2010. DEBI is now available to the nation's fire service for their NFIRS reporting.

In order to use DEBI, which is free of cost to all users, a fire department must have completed the user registration at [www.nfirs.fema.gov/users/](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/users/) and its NFIRS State Program Manager must have assigned it the necessary permissions to use the new tool and activated its account. If a department does not already have an active NFIRS user account, it should contact its NFIRS State Program Manager. Using DEBI requires Internet connectivity, an Internet browser version compatible with the application, and a computer that meets necessary system requirements as outlined at [www.nfirs.fema.gov/webtools/](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/webtools/). Use of approved third party commercial software as an alternative is still permitted. In addition, departments may continue to use the USFA client Data Entry Tool (DET) if desired.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (PL 93-498) authorizes USFA's National Fire Data Center to gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the nation's fire problem as well as its detailed characteristics and trends. In order to carry out the intentions of the Act, NFIRS was established. NFIRS has two objectives: to help state and local governments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own uses and to obtain data which can be used to more accurately assess and subsequently combat the fire problem at a national level. For more information on NFIRS, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/nfirs/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/nfirs/). For technical assistance or questions regarding NFIRS or DEBI, please contact the NFIRS Support Center at (888) 382-3827.

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## **FIRE SERVICE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**



### Help Us Honor and Remember

The annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, [first held in Denver, Colorado](#) in 2005, is a commemorative event for firefighters to let the world know that "we will never forget." There are two types of events: one is for firefighters only and the other is open to both firefighters and members of the general public. Proceeds from both types of events will go to support the programs of the [National Fallen Firefighters Foundation](#), which leads the nationwide effort to remember America's fallen firefighters and support their families.

Firefighter Stair Climb Events  
Firefighter Stair Climb events will serve not only as a memorial, but they will also promote fitness and be treated as a high-rise fire incident.

**Denver 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb  
Registration Closed: [Sign Up for the Wait List](#)  
Website: [www.denverstairclimb.com](http://www.denverstairclimb.com)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>There will be an incident command system in place which will allow firefighters, officers, and command staff to practice high-rise firefighting operation skills.</p>  | <p><b>Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb</b><br/><b>Register: <a href="#">Space is Limited - Register Today!</a></b><br/><b>Website: <a href="http://www.nashvillestairclimb.com">www.nashvillestairclimb.com</a></b></p>  |
| <p>General Public Stair Climb Events<br/>These events are open to both firefighters and civilians alike! Both groups come together to help us honor and remember the brave firefighters who died in the line of duty on September 11, 2001.</p> | <p>Colorado 9/11 Stair Climb<br/><b>Register: <a href="#">Space is Limited - Register Today!</a></b><br/><b>Website: <a href="http://www.911stairclimb.com">www.911stairclimb.com</a></b></p> <p>Firefighter 14er Challenge<br/>(Mountain Climb - 14,265')<br/><b>Register: <a href="#">Space is Limited - Register Today!</a></b><br/><b>Website: <a href="http://www.firefighter14er.com">www.firefighter14er.com</a></b></p> |
| <p>Find Out More Information at: <a href="http://www.firehero.org/stairclimb">www.firehero.org/stairclimb</a></p>   |   |

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

### **USFA Releases One- and Two-Family and Multifamily Residential Fires Topical Reports**

*USFA Media Contact:*  
(301) 447-1853

Emmitsburg, MD – The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) announces the release of two special reports focusing on the causes and characteristics of fires in one- and two-family and multifamily residential buildings. The reports, [One- and Two-Family Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 813 Kb) and [Multifamily Residential Building Fires](#) (PDF, 861 Kb), were developed by the USFA's National Fire Data Center. One- and two-family residential buildings include detached dwellings, manufactured homes, mobile homes not in transit, and duplexes. Multifamily residential buildings consist of structures such as apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, condominiums, and other tenement properties.

An estimated 253,500 fires in one- and two-family residential buildings occur each year in the United States. Annually, these fires are responsible for 2,150 civilian fire deaths, 8,775 civilian fire injuries, and 5.3 billion dollars in property loss. Additionally, there are an estimated 108,400 fires that occur in multifamily buildings each year resulting in 450 deaths, 3,800 injuries, and 1.1 billion dollars in property loss.

The reports are part of the Topical Fire Report Series and are based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) for 2005 to 2007. According to the reports, cooking is, by far, the leading cause of both one- and two-family and multifamily residential building fires, followed by heating. Fire incidence in both types of residential properties peaks during winter months partially as a result of increases in heating and holiday-related fires. In addition, fires peak over the evening dinner hours in one- and two-family and multifamily residences when cooking fires are prevalent. 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.

The complete reports are available at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/statistics/reports/). For further information regarding other topical reports or any programs and training available at USFA, visit [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov).

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## **FIRE SERVICE PROMOTIONAL PREPARATION CLASSES BY ANDONI KASTROS:**



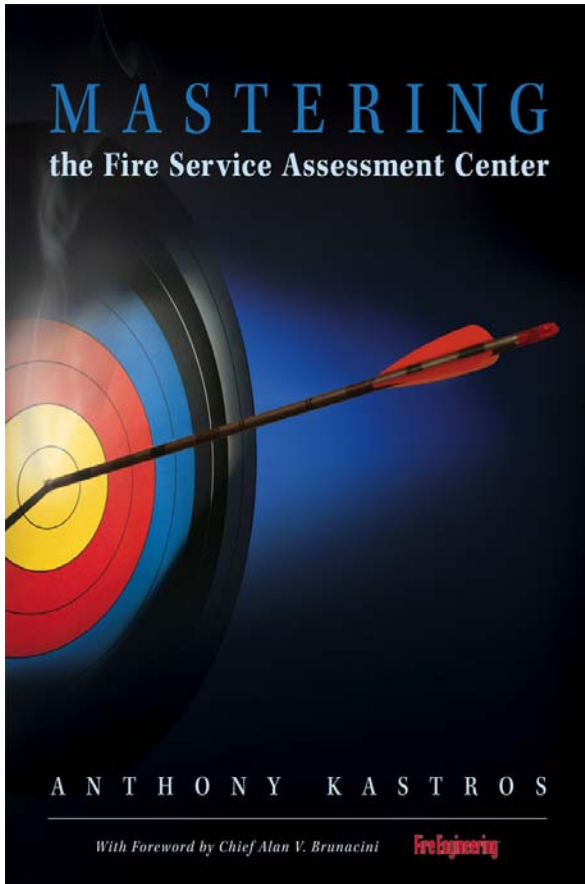
### **MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**

4-DAY WORKSHOP

INSTRUCTOR: ANTHONY KASTROS, AUTHOR OF

**MASTERING THE FIRE SERVICE ASSESSMENT CENTER**  
**BY FIRE ENGINEERING**

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



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

*CHUCK - LA CITY FD*

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

*BRIAN - ROSEVILLE FD*

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

*REGGIE - SAN JOSE FD*

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

**SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 1, 2010 – MONTEREY, CA**

**\$495.00\***

**GO TO [WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM](http://WWW.TRAINFIREFIGHTERS.COM) FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION**

**CLASS SIZE LIMITED TO DUE TO DEPTH OF INSTRUCTION**

# EVERYONE GOES HOME NEWSLETTER – July 2010:



## [Year 5 Wrap-Up](#)

July 2010  
E-Newsletter

Year 5 of the Everyone Goes Home(R) program has ended. While there is no time to rest to continue the fine work of many, it is appropriate to look back on the previous year and acknowledge the successes that have occurred. Statistically, there was a reduction in line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) comparing 2009 with 2008.

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

## [What Are The Odds?](#)

I read the report entitled, "Families of 'Charleston 9' Reach Partial Settlement," posted on Firehouse.com and the memory of that tragedy got my blood boiling again. What a shame! Nine firefighters died in that disaster and now three years later in these tough economic times, their families are settling for mere "chump change" - less than one million dollars a piece!

» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)


## [Oklahoma Firefighter Seat Belt Study and Survey](#)

The purpose of this study is to capture an academically based, empirically grounded product that develops the picture of seat belt use among Oklahoma firefighters. Many national statistics will be utilized to show a need for this study and explain the findings. The United States Fire Administration has tracked firefighter fatalities in the United States since 1977. The leading cause of firefighter fatalities involves heart related injuries caused by stress and/or overexertion. While cardiac studies are incredibly important, I feel the second leading cause is often overlooked.


» [Click Here to Read the Full Article](#)

» **More:** [View the Complete July 2010 Newsletter](#)


» **Archives:** [Everyone Goes Home® Newsletters](#)



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



**Homeland Security**



**Fireman's Fund**  
Insurance Company  
A company of **Allianz**

» For More Information Visit: [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com)



## **FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION FROM THE EVERYONE GOES HOME FOUNDATION:**



### **National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Announces National Roll Out of New Behavioral Health Initiative**

July 20, 2010  
News Alert

The way to help firefighters who have dealt with potentially traumatic events is changing. Much has been learned from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's work in New York after September 11th and following the loss of 9 firefighters at a furniture store fire in Charleston, South Carolina in 2007. A briefing on this new model at Firehouse Expo in Baltimore later this week will answer all your questions as to how-as a chief officer, family member or colleague-you can help firefighters deal with the stress, grief and trauma that often go along with this profession.

As part of the *Everyone Goes Home®* program, a briefing on Initiative 13 - Behavioral Health (Consensus Protocol on Firefighter Behavioral Health) will be presented at Firehouse Expo on Friday, July 23, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. This new initiative is based on over three years of interdisciplinary consultation and national consensus building exercises.

Dr. Richard Gist and Vickie H. Taylor, LCSW, who lead the research and development team, will present the briefing to fire chiefs, state officials and other individuals with the potential to influence change within the firefighting community. The briefing will begin at 2:00 pm at the Hilton Hotel in the Johnson Room A&B, adjacent to the Expo Center. Following the briefing, Chief Ronald J. Siarnicki, Executive Director of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, will host a reception that will include a participatory discussion seeking input on the implementation process for this new initiative. Pre-registration for this special event may be completed by E-mailing [jkelly@everyonegoeshome.com](mailto:jkelly@everyonegoeshome.com) or at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's booth #2808 during the trade show. Pre-registration is not mandatory, but seating will be limited to seventy-five.

» **Read: The Full Article on [EveryoneGoesHome.com](http://EveryoneGoesHome.com)**

» For More Information Visit: [www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com)



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



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

### **Focus on Fire Safety: Residential Sprinklers and Student Housing Fire Safety**

Residential fire loss in the United States is alarming. Limiting fire growth where it occurs in dwellings through fire prevention and the use of residential fire sprinklers is one way to combat the problem. As students return to universities and colleges across the country this month, it is important to ensure that those living in off-campus housing are protected by working smoke alarms and residential sprinklers. **Fire sprinklers, in combination with smoke alarms, can reduce the risk of dying in a fire by 82%!** According to the U.S. Department of Education, there are approximately 18,000,000 students enrolled in 4,100 colleges and universities across the country. Approximately two-thirds of students live in off-campus housing, where 85 percent of university housing fire fatalities occurred from January 2000—July 2010. [Learn the facts about residential sprinklers and campus fire safety](#) - fires kill no matter the age!

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

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

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

### **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 INFO FROM THE NATIONAL FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION:**



### **Golf Opportunities Are Still Available - Reserve Your Spot at One of Our 2010 Golf Tournaments Today!**



The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Golf Tournaments have become an important source of revenue for supporting NFFF programs. Since the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation receives no direct government funding, it must rely upon grants; individual and corporate contributions; and fundraising events to support its programs. Proceeds from these events enable surviving families and co-workers of fallen firefighters to attend the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend held each October. These funds also help to endow scholarships for family members of fallen firefighters, and to provide logistical and emotional support to departments coping with a line-of-duty death. Supporting the Foundation...18 Holes at a Time - Come Golf With Us at One of Our Regional Tournaments

#### September 2010

- » **Anchorage, AK** - September 10, 2010
- » **Geneva, IL** - September 10, 2010
- » **North Texas** - September 10, 2010
- » **Rockford, IL** - September 10, 2010
- » **St. John's, SC** - September 10, 2010

#### September 2010

- » **Prescott Valley, AZ** - September 11, 2010
- » **Butler, PA** - September 20, 2010

#### October 2010

- » **Orange Co./Jefferson Co., TX** - October 16, 2010

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## **FIREFIGHTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b> | - Thursday <b>September 9, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Mountain View, CA</a> )<br>- Friday <b>September 10, 2010</b> from 1200 to 1700 hours ( <a href="#">Mountain View, CA</a> )<br><br>**Go to their website at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> and click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates and times and to register as a volunteer. |
| <b>You will receive:</b>          | Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Your role:</b>                      | As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a trauma emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.   |
| <b>To register / More information:</b> | Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a> |

**- Advanced Medical Life Support Classes: Volunteers Needed**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Dates / Locations / Times:</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wednesday <b>September 15, 2010</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>)</li> <li>- Thursday <b>September 16, 2010</b> from 1030 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>)</li> <li>- Thursday <b>November 11, 2010</b> from 1230 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>)</li> <li>- Friday <b>November 12, 2010</b> from 1030 to 1700 hours (<u>San Francisco, CA</u>)</li> </ul> <p align="center">**Go to their website: <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org">www.sfparamedics.org</a> &amp; click on Volunteer Info (under About) to confirm the above dates &amp; times and to register as a volunteer.</p> |
| <b>You will receive:</b>               | Valuable experience watching paramedic level (or higher) students perform patient assessments. Learn from their plusses and minuses. You will also receive a free San Francisco Paramedic Association t-shirt.   |
| <b>Your role:</b>                      | As a volunteer, you will be moulaged and designated to role-play a victim of a medical emergency scenario. Please wear loose, old, comfortable clothing, as you may be on the floor for some scenarios.  |
| <b>To register / More information:</b> | Call the San Francisco Paramedic Association for more information at (415) 543-1161 (tell them Steve at Chabot sent you) or visit their website section on volunteer opportunities at <a href="http://www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php">www.sfparamedics.org/pages/about/volunteer.php</a>   |

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**FIREFIGHTER FATALITY INFORMATION:**

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

Name: Steven Velasquez  
 Rank: Lieutenant  
 Age: 40  
 Gender: Male  
 Status: Career  
 Years of Service: 16+  
 Date of Incident: 07/24/2010  
 Time of Incident: 1553hrs  
 Date of Death: 07/24/2010

Name: Michel Baik  
 Rank: Firefighter  
 Age: 49

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Gender: Male  
Status: Career  
Years of Service: 2  
Date of Incident: 07/24/2010  
Time of Incident: 1553hrs  
Date of Death: 07/24/2010

Fire Department: Bridgeport Fire Department  
Address: 30 Congress ST, Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Fire Department Chief: Brian Rooney

**Incident Description:** Lieutenant Velasquez and Firefighter Baik were operating on the third floor of a burning residential structure performing search and rescue and ventilating the house when they became caught and trapped. After "mayday" calls were made, the two firefighters were recovered within a matter of minutes by the fire department's rapid intervention team and CPR was administered at the scene. Both firefighters died from injuries sustained in the incident. Lieutenant Velasquez was pronounced dead at St. Vincent's Medical Center and Firefighter Baik was pronounced dead at Bridgeport Hospital.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the State Fire Marshal's office. Officials suspect the fire broke out in a second floor apartment. Three other firefighters were taken to the hospital. One had a broken ankle and the other two were treated for heat exhaustion.

**Incident Location:** 41 Elmwood Avenue

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Lieutenant Steven Velasquez and Firefighter Michel Baik at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 46 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 44 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: David Sullivan  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 70  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 20+  
Date of Incident: 07/24/2010  
Time of Incident: 1500hrs  
Date of Death: 07/25/2010

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Fire Department: Otis Fire Department  
Address: PO Box 157, 15 South Main Road, Otis, MA 01253  
Fire Department Chief: Sandy Pinkham

**Incident Description:** Firefighter Sullivan worked at the scene of a structure fire on July 24<sup>th</sup> at approximately 1500hrs, clearing the scene and returning home several hours later. The following day near his home, Sullivan complained to others that he was not feeling well and retired to his residence where he was later discovered having passed away from a cause still to be determined.

**Incident Location:** 1304 New Boston Road, Tolland, MA

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 47 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 45 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

Name: Posey Dillon  
Rank: Fire Chief  
Age: 59  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 20+  
Date of Incident: 07/26/2010  
Time of Incident: 1630hrs  
Date of Death: 07/26/2010

Name: William Daniel "Danny" Altice  
Rank: Firefighter  
Age: 67  
Gender: Male  
Status: Volunteer  
Years of Service: 47  
Date of Incident: 07/26/2010  
Time of Incident: 1630hrs  
Date of Death: 07/26/2010

Fire Department: Rocky Mount Fire Department #1  
Address: 1250 N. Main ST, Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
Fire Department Chief: Pending

**Incident Description:** While responding to a residential structure fire, Fire Chief Dillon and Firefighter Altice were both killed when their fire department apparatus was struck by an SUV at an intersection. The fire truck rolled several times and came to a final resting position on top of another car. The cab of the apparatus was heavily damaged; neither occupant was reported to be wearing seat belts. One of the civilian motor vehicle operators suffered non life-threatening injuries and the other was uninjured in the incident. Investigation into the accident continues by local and State authorities.

**Incident Location:** Apparatus collision: Old Franklin Turnpike and Market PI DR, Rocky Mount, VA. House fire: Lakeview Dr, Penhook, VA

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

**Tribute** is being paid to Fire Chief Posey Dillon and Firefighter and past Fire Chief William Daniel "Danny" Altice at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/>

To date, 49 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010; 47 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](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/ff_stats.shtm)

**AND:**

**Name:** Steven N. Costello  
**Rank:** Fire Lieutenant  
**Age:** 46  
**Gender:** Male  
**Classification:** Career  
**Years of Service:** 23  
**Date of Incident:** 07/23/2010  
**Time of Incident:** 1830hrs  
**Date of Death:** 7/30/2010

**Fire Department:** Burlington Fire Department  
**Department Address:** 136 S Winooski AVE, Burlington, VT 05401-8313  
**Fire Department Chief:** Michael O'Neil  
**Fire Department Website:** <http://www.fire.ci.burlington.vt.us/>

**Incident Description:** On July 23rd, Fire Lieutenant Costello was found by the members of his fire crew in cardiac arrest at Fire Station #2. Members of Engine 2 and Rescue 2 performed CPR, Advanced Life Support interventions, and transported Costello to Fletcher Allen Health Care Emergency Department. In the Emergency Department, Lieutenant Costello regained his pulse and after further medical interventions, was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit where his condition was listed as critical. On Friday morning July 30



**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

2010, Lieutenant Costello succumbed to complications from the cardiac arrest.

**Incident Location:** Fire Station 2, 132 North Avenue.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Visiting hours will be on 8/02/2010 from 1500-1900hrs at the Ready Funeral Home South Chapel, 261 Shelburne Rd., Burlington. To send online condolences, please visit [www.readyfuneral.com](http://www.readyfuneral.com). Funeral, 8/03/2010 at 1100hrs in the Ira Allen Chapel on the University of Vermont Campus. Parking with shuttle provided will be at the Gutterson Field Parking Lot. If lot is full, you will be redirected to another University lot. Private committal services will follow.

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Steven Costello Family Fund, c/o the Merchants Bank, 164 College St., Burlington, VT 05401.

**AND:**

Name: Chris Adams  
Rank: Firefighter/Ranger  
Age: 25  
Gender: Male  
Classification: Wildland (Full-Time)  
Years of Service: 2  
Date of Incident: 08/02/2010  
Time of Incident: 1755hrs  
Date of Death: 08/02/2010

Fire Department: Arkansas Forestry Commission  
Department Address: 3821 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204  
Fire Department Chief: State Forester John T. Shannon  
Fire Department Website: <http://www.forestry.state.ar.us/>

**Incident Description:** Firefighter/Ranger Adams was operating an Arkansas Forestry Commission apparatus, a 2002 International tractor-trailer, and was en route to check on the status of an earlier fire. For a cause still under investigation, the rig reportedly crossed the roadway center line, went into a ditch and overturned. Firefighter/Ranger Adams did not survive the accident.

**Incident Location:** Westbound on Highway 360, approximately one-half mile east of Highway 29 in Lafayette County).

**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending. Arrangements are being made with the Smith Funeral Home in Stamps, AR (<http://aosmithfuneralhome.com/default.aspx>).

**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** In honor of Firefighter/Ranger Chris Adams, c/o Arkansas Forestry Commission, Attn: Human Resources Department, 3821 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204.

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

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

To date, 51 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010: 49 from incidents occurring in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted at <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/index.shtm> .

**AND:**

**Name:** Christopher Wheatley  
**Rank:** Firefighter/Paramedic  
**Age:** 31  
**Gender:** Male  
**Classification:** Career  
**Years of Service:** 10  
**Date of Incident:** 08/09/2010  
**Time of Incident:** 0030hrs  
**Date of Death:** 08/09/2010

**Fire Department:** Chicago Fire Department  
**Department Address:** 10 W 35TH ST, Floor 14, Chicago, IL 60616-3717  
**Fire Department Chief:** Fire Commissioner Robert Hoff  
**Fire Department Website:** <http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cfd.html>

**Incident Description:** *Firefighter Wheatley was working a grease-chute fire at a restaurant when he fell approximately 35 feet from a ladder suffering fatal injuries while he was making his way up to the roof of the burning building with his equipment.*

**Incident Location:** 615 W. Randolph, Chicago, IL  
**Funeral Arrangements:** Pending  
**Memorial Fund Contact and Address:** Pending

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

To date, 52 firefighter fatalities have been reported to USFA in 2010: 50 from incidents occurring in 2010 and 2 from previous year incidents. Year-to-date monthly and annual USFA firefighter fatality reports are posted [online](#).

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

MD, they are the beginning of a research process for each firefighter fatality reported so that such determinations can be made.

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

Hey,

Some of you may have heard that several Firefighters in North Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey had been struck by lightning this evening, while operating at a working house fire. Initial reports were that several Firefighters were reported down at the scene of that working house fire. Reports are now that apparently the Firefighters are fine (1 Chief took a fall and 1 EMS member has minor injuries) and that no Firefighters were struck by lightning. Unfortunately, reports are that others including 1 civilian were struck at the scene and at least was a working code. We'll post relevant details tomorrow but the latest we have is that no Firefighters were struck and all are fine. If that changes, we'll advise.

**VIRGINIA APPARATUS CRASH**

There was a crash today in Tazewell County (VA) involving fire apparatus just before 1730 hours. An Abb's Valley Volunteer FD apparatus appeared to have lost brake power on a hill as they returned from a call. The engine rolled over on it's side, trapping the driver and another firefighter inside the truck. The passenger was transported to a local hospital in Tazewell County, Va. but the driver was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Johnson City Tennessee. There's no word on the extent of injuries.

**FF DOWN CPR/AED SAVE IN TENN.**

Last evening at approximately 19:00 hrs, a Dallas Bay FF (Hamilton County, TN) went down, in cardiac arrest. Companies were operating at the structure fire when he went down in sudden cardiac arrest, FF's immediately started CPR, and AED was used and he was converted. He was transported to local trauma center and the latest word (this evening) is that he was communicating with family and is listed as stable. Good stuff.

**SEX CONTROVERSY IN RECENT TEXAS LODD:**

The family of a Firefighter who died in the Line of Duty is battling in court to keep the woman he married away from his assets. According to court records the Firefighter's wife is a man. Wharton (Texas) Fire Captain Thomas Araguz died in the Line of Duty July 4 of this year while operating at a working egg farm fire. His mother is now finishing what she says her son started, having the marriage between Thomas and Nikki declared legally void. "A certified copy of her birth certificate indicates she's a male and in Texas two men can't be married" says Frank Mann III. Mr. Mann is the attorney representing Thomas Araguz's 7 and 9-year-old sons from a previous marriage. In late April it was Mann who says he broke the news to Thomas Araguz that his wife was born a boy. Mann presented the birth certificate and the request for a name change. The request was filed with the Harris County District Clerk's

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

office in 1996. In the document Justin Graham Purdue asks to have his named changed to Nikki Paige Purdue and says he had been living as Nikki for some time. "(Nikki) admitted in an affidavit she was working toward getting a sex change operation and that she'd been living as a woman for over a year" says Mann. Friends say Thomas felt scammed, was devastated and immediately moved out. Two months later on July 4th, the Captain tragically died in the Line of Duty. It also appears that the fallen Firefighter's wife has quite a criminal record as both Justin and Nikki. Charges include everything from felony theft to DUI.

Details **HERE:** <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7114026.html>

May he rest in peace.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-19-10 / 2308 Hours

**AND:**

**DOUBLE EMS LODD-OAKLAHOMA EMS AIRCRAFT CRASH**

2 people were killed and one injured this evening when a medical helicopter crashed four miles south of Kingfisher, Oklahoma. It was an EagleMed flight and three people were aboard the helicopter. Kingfisher County Emergency Management Director Steve Loftis said the helicopter that went down was an EagleMed helicopter and had left Oklahoma City's Integris Baptist Medical Center and was on its way to a hospital in Okeene when it crashed about 1930 hours four miles southeast of Kingfisher. The injured person was being airlifted to Oklahoma City on another medical helicopter. The downed helicopter was an American Eurocopter AS350. More **HERE:** [www.NewsOK.com](http://www.NewsOK.com) - As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-Be Careful,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-23-10/0640hrs

**AND:**

**BRIDGEPORT (CT) 2 FF's DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY-DWELLING FIRE**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that a Bridgeport Firefighter and Bridgeport Fire Officer both have died in the Line of Duty while operating at a dwelling fire early this evening. Initial reports are that there may have been a collapse followed by a mayday transmission. We will update with the facts as soon as we have them. **MORE HERE:** <http://www.wtnh.com> - As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-24-10 / 1859 hours

**AND:**

**UPDATE: BRIDGEPORT CT DOUBLE LODD**

Lt. Steven Velazquez and Firefighter Michel Baik were found unconscious on the top floor of the house, following Mayday calls. They were found by the department's rapid intervention team, and were given immediate treatment at the scene. However, the Mayor said they were unable to revive the men and they were pronounced dead at the hospital. At a press conference Saturday night, a somber and distraught Mayor Finch talked about the two, both

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family men with young children. Velazquez was Finch's neighbor, and the mayor recalled pinning his badge on him when he was promoted to lieutenant in February. Baik, he said, was a rookie with 2 years on the job.

The last time the department lost a member was in 1999, when FF Walter Flyntz died in the Line of Duty at a fire on Fairfield Avenue. The initial report of the fire at the multi-family wood structure was called in to officials at 1553 hours. Deputy Fire Chief Bob Petrucelli said he arrived on the scene 15 minutes into the job and found heavy smoke coming from the second and third floors. "Firefighters were making progress on the fire," Finch said, "knocking down the flames." He said Velazquez and Baik were the furthest inside the house, doing search and rescue and ventilating the house. There's no immediate word on what caused the fire and Finch said the State Fire Marshal's office will be investigating not only the cause of the blaze, but are also looking at the equipment used by the deceased firefighters. Details from various sources. More to follow. Our sincere condolences to the families of Lt. Velazquez and FF Baik.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL

BillyG

The Secret List 7-24-10 / 2214 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As we all mourn the Line of Duty Deaths of Bridgeport (CT), Lt. Steven Velasquez and FF Michel Baik, some additional details are starting to emerge. It is known that Lt. Velasquez, a 16-year veteran of the BFD (who was married just 2 weeks ago) and previously a Firefighter in Prince Georges County (MD), and FF Baik, a rookie of 2 years, were sent to the 3rd floor of the building to pull the ceiling and look for extension, additional hot spots and for anyone still in the building. It is reported that another Firefighter saw that Lt. Velasquez and FF Baik were in trouble and called a "mayday," which brought an immediate response from the rapid intervention team waiting outside the building. The RIT team removed the members quickly but they did not make it.

**HERE are some LINKS related to yesterdays double LODD in Bridgeport:**

[http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/fairfield\\_cty/2-ct-firefighters-perish%2C-probe-begins](http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/fairfield_cty/2-ct-firefighters-perish%2C-probe-begins)

<http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/Did-firefighters-oxygen-tanks-run-out-590130.php>

**Funeral arraignments for Lt. Velasquez and FF Baik are still pending.**

**OHIO FIREFIGHTER INJURED-RESCUED FROM DWELLING FIRE COLLAPSE**

A Dayton Firefighter was injured while operating at a fire on S. Conover St. this afternoon, July 25. The unoccupied structure collapsed on the Firefighter and he had to be pulled out of the building. The Firefighter was taken to Miami Valley Hospital. The call came in just before 1515 hours and smoke was coming from the structure when firefighters arrived. Firefighters suspect the fire was set by an arsonist, or accidentally by a homeless person.

**VERMONT FIREFIGHTER DOWN IN CARDIAC ARREST IN FIREHOUSE-REVIVED-CRITICAL**

Lt. Victor Costello of the Burlington FD suffered a heart attack last night while on duty and went into cardiac arrest. He was revived by the other Firefighters and currently in ICU at

Fletcher Allen Health Center in Burlington. It is also reported he had suffered additional setbacks in the hospital but is still hanging in there. We wish him a rapid and successful recovery.

**DRUNK KILLS OFF DUTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER/CORRECTIONS OFFICER IN TEXAS:**

A Harris County Corrections Officer who was also a Volunteer Firefighter is dead after he was hit in a drunk driving crash. He was headed home from working the night shift when his motorcycle was hit. In addition to working as a jailer, Greg Hundl worked as an Atascocita Firefighter. Hundl worked as a jailer at the Harris County Jail and he'd just gotten off his shift and was nearly home. He was stopped at a red light on his motorcycle when from behind a 19-year-old drunk driver plowed right into him. He never saw it coming and the was great enough to throw the motorcycle approximately 200 feet from the intersection. **While not an LODD, we posted this to remind all of the dangers of the roadway and how prevalent DUI is. RIP.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-25-10 / 2336 Hours

**AND:**

**2 VIRGINIA FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN RESPONDING CRASH**

We regret to advise you that a responding Rocky Mount (Franklin County, VA) fire apparatus crashed late this afternoon resulting in 2 Firefighters being killed in the Line of Duty. It occurred around 1630 Hours today on Old Franklin Turnpike. A Mustang, a small SUV and the fire apparatus were reportedly involved. Some witnesses claim that one of the vehicles pulled out in front of the responding fire apparatus, the apparatus swerved to miss it, may have been hit in the rear but then the rig rolled several times. There are other injuries. The Rocky Mount Firefighters were responding to a house fire when the crash occurred. More details to follow-here are some area LINKS with details:

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

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

[www.wdbj7.com](http://www.wdbj7.com)

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

**BRIDGEPORT DOUBLE LODD FIREFIGHTERS SERVICES:**

Tentative plans for the funerals of Bridgeport (CT) FF Michel Baik and Fire Lt Steven Velasquez are to be held separately, on Friday with 1 in the morning and the other in the afternoon. This should be of help those planning to travel. And while this is tentative, BFD folks advise it appears this will be the plan. More details will be HERE:

[www.bridgeportct.gov](http://www.bridgeportct.gov)

**MASS FIREFIGHTER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

We regret to advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Firefighter David Sullivan, 70, (Otis MA FD) FF Sullivan worked at the scene of a structure fire on July 24th at approximately 1500 hrs, clearing the scene and returning home several hours later. The following day near his home, Sullivan complained to others that he was not feeling well and retired to his residence

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where he was later discovered having passed away from a cause still to be determined. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL. SLOW DOWN. BELT IN.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-26-10 / 1945 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Private funerals for the Bridgeport FF's will be held separately on Friday afternoon but calling hours for the public will be held on Thursday, July 29th for both Firefighters: Lt. Steven Velazquez: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. at Klein Memorial Auditorium at 910 Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport. FF Michel Baik: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Abriola Funeral Home at 419 White Plains Road in Trumbull.

**FIREFIGHTER SERVICES:**

**The Congregation of Firefighters, a service open to all firefighters, will be held Friday, July 30th at the Arena at Harbor Yard, 600 Main Street in Bridgeport following the second funeral service.**

**NOTE:** The Bridgeport Fallen Firefighters Fund is established to help support the Baik and Velasquez families. Those wishing to make a donation are asked to send it to the: Bridgeport Fire Department Employees Federal Credit Union, 3115 Madison Avenue, Bridgeport CT 06606, Attn: Bridgeport Fallen Firefighters Fund. The credit union can be reached by phone at 1.800.242.8120.

**UPDATE: VIRGINIA FIRE CHIEF & FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY APPARATUS ROLLS OVER IN RESPONDING CRASH NO SEAT BELTS-BOTH VETERAN FIRE OFFICERS TRAGICALLY EJECTED**

Rocky Mount Fire Chief (who was also Vice Mayor) Posey Dillon and veteran Firefighter / Ex-Chief Danny Altice were killed in the Line of Duty yesterday while responding on a fire call. The RMVFD was dispatched and responding to a working dwelling fire in nearby Union Hall when a car pulled out into the intersection. The car struck the rear of the fire apparatus, which then hit the curb on the other side of the road and flipped, landing on top of another car. The 2 Firefighters were the only ones on the apparatus.

The engine rolled over several times before landing upside down on a Mustang, which was stopped at the intersection traffic light. Both civilians were treated and released. The traffic light was red for the apparatus and the fire apparatus did a rolling stop as it was going through with lights flashing and sirens sounding. Witnesses are being interviewed and surveillance cameras from nearby businesses are also being examined to piece together exactly what happened. Neither were seat belted according to the police. Dillon had served on town council for 24 years, including 10 years as vice mayor, and was re-elected vice mayor by council earlier this month. He had been fire chief for 20 years. Altice joined the RMVFD in 1963 and served as Chief from 1977 to 1984. He was presented a lifetime achievement award by town council in 2008.

**CRASH SCENE VIDEO HERE:** [www.wdbj7.com](http://www.wdbj7.com)

**UPDATE: CHARGES FOLLOWING MONTANA FIREFIGHTER LINE OF DUTY DEATH:**

A New Jersey truck driver has been charged with 2 felonies from a tractor trailer crash that killed a Volunteer Firefighter who was responding to a crash on Interstate 90 near Haugan in 2008. NYNJ PA Police arrested 56-year-old Sergey Byslayev, of Emmerson, N.J., on warrants for negligent homicide and criminal endangerment last Saturday. He was negligent when he crashed into 59-year-old FF Jerry Parrick's pickup truck on Dec. 17, 2008. FF Parrick was warning drivers of a crash, and the documents say he was parked "nearly a foot" off the interstate's driving lane. Parrick, a Firefighter for the West End Volunteer Fire Department in Mineral County, was in his truck with his emergency lights on when the semi slid and jackknifed on the snow-covered road. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The wreck crushed the bed of FF Parrick's pickup, folding it into the passenger compartment and pushing the truck nearly 200 feet along the highway. Bail is set at \$200,000 and Byslayev remains in custody in New Jersey. The county attorney does not know if Byslayev will resist extradition to Montana. "We will get him back whatever it takes," the County Attorney said. "These charges were not filed lightly and this man needs to appear and answer them." An initial court appearance will take place as soon as Byslayev arrives in Mineral County. The County Attorney expressed thanks to the Port Authority of NY & NJ, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Montana Highway Patrol and the Mineral County Sheriff's Office for their help in locating and arresting Byslayev.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-27-10 / 0120 Hours

**AND**

Hey,

For the many of you traveling to Bridgeport (CT) for the funerals of Lieutenant Steven J. Velasquez, 40, and Fire Fighter Michel Baik, 49, who were killed in the line of Duty last Saturday, July 24, 2010, **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATE AND CHANGES SENT AT THE REQUEST OF CHIEF BRIAN ROONEY, IAFF LOCAL 834 & THE IAFF:**

-Unfortunately there will not be room for an apparatus procession. At the request of the BFD, do not bring apparatus.

-The viewing's and funerals ARE OPEN to all Firefighters in addition to the Collation listed below. The previous information related to "private" services is no longer applicable.

-We will provide all staging, housing and related logistical details later.

**-The viewing for Lieutenant Velasquez** will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2010 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Klein Auditorium, 910 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06605; (203) 337-6195.

**-The viewing for Firefighter Baik** will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2010 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Abriola Parkview Funeral Home, 419 White Plains Road, Trumbull, Connecticut 06611; (203) 373-1013.

**-The funeral service for Lieutenant Velasquez** will be held on Friday, July 30 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Augustine Cathedral, 359 Washington Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604, (203) 368-6777.



**-The funeral service for Firefighter Baik** will be held on Friday, July 30 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, 5458 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604, (203) 372-9767.

**A Collation honoring both of our Brothers will be held on Friday, July 30, 2010 at the conclusion of the services at the Arena at Harbor Yard, 600 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.**

More to follow,

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-27-10 / 1600 Hours

**AND**

Hey,

Funeral arrangements have been set for the two Rocky Mount Firefighters killed in the Line of Duty in that rollover crash.

**=Chief Posey Dillon's** Family will receive visitors at the Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. Dillon's funeral will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at Franklin Heights Baptist Church. The church is located on Hilltop Road in Rocky Mount.

**=Firefighter (Ex-Chief) Altice's** viewing is also Thursday evening Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department on Main Street from 5 to 9 p.m. The funeral will be on Friday at 3 p.m. at Rocky Mount United Methodist Church.

The family asks that donations be made to the Posey W. Dillon and Danny Altice Memorial Fund, in care of the Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department.

**DIRECTIONS: Rocky Mount is located SE of Roanoke off I-81.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-10 / 0856 Hours

**AND**

Hey,

A medical helicopter carrying 3 people crashed this afternoon in midtown Tucson, AZ, 1 person died in the crash and 2 are injured. There were no patients on board. The pilot of the chopper was in contact with air traffic control, but gave no indication of any problem as the chopper was on the way from Marana to Douglas. One witness says they saw a black helicopter flying over his house, heard the engines just shut off and then it crashed and was on fire. MORE details/photos HERE:

[http://www.kold.com/global/story.asp?s=12886097&sms\\_ss=facebook](http://www.kold.com/global/story.asp?s=12886097&sms_ss=facebook)

**UPDATE: KENTUCKY FF TRAPPED, BURNED IN DWELLING FIRE (VIDEO)**

A Camp Taylor (KY) Fire Captain, who fell thru a floor into a burning basement is recovering at an area hospital burn unit. Captain Michael Long says when he went in the house and the floor collapsed, he was sitting in the fire and says he thought his life was definitely over. Firefighters, including his brother-in-law, who was right behind him, were yelling and

screaming at Long to hang on. They managed to get a ladder to the basement and Long to found the strength to get out. He says "I started to try to climb up. I got two, I lost my grip, fell flat into the fire. I was so exhausted." On his third attempt, he did find the strength and pulled himself up the ladder and out of the fire. **VIDEO HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2bxau8l>

**FLORIDA FIREFIGHTER: ELECTRIC SHOCKED AT HOUSE FIRE**

A Jacksonville firefighter is recovering after getting shocked by 120-volts. He was operating at a house fire last night when it happened. Firefighters were operating and trying to get thru some wood to get to the fire, but what they could not see was this metal conduit, which 12 year Veteran Firefighter David Glidewell hit with his chainsaw. FF Glidewell did experience a shock, was treated, transported and has since been released. Another CLOSE CALL reminder related to electrical hazards at fires.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-28-10 / 1840 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Plainfield Township (PA) police report that the Firefighter who crashed a North Bangor FD apparatus earlier this month was driving drunk. FF Zachary Romano, 20, registered a 0.16 percent blood alcohol content after he crashed their 1984 Mack fire tanker the evening of July 10. A passenger riding with FF Romano before and during the crash said they had bought a 30-pack of Coors Light from a beer distributor earlier in the day before heading back to the firehouse with that beer. FF Romano is charged with DUI-highest rate, DUI-commercial vehicle, DUI by a minor, purchase of alcohol by a minor, reckless driving, careless driving and driving on the wrong side of the road.

**KANSAS FIREFIGHTER LODD UPDATE:**

**SCBA MASK REMOVED INSIDE THE STRUCTURE AFTER BECOMING SICK AND VOMITING:**

The State/Regional investigation into the May 22 fire that led to the Line of duty death of Firefighter John Glaser has been completed. FF Glaser accidentally died while searching a resident reported to be inside a burning house. The SFD today released a report done by the Eastern Kansas Multi-County Fire Investigation Task Force, which investigated the origin and cause, as well as investigating the LODD. The report determined both the fire's cause and Glaser's death to be accidental but unusual in the circumstances. FF Glaser died from toxic gases and a lack of oxygen, resulting in his death. Firefighters arrived about 2058 Hours on May 22 to find fire coming from a rear garage from the dwelling's basement. They were told the occupants and pets were in the house. When FF's went in the front door, FF Glaser was in the front of the search line. The search crew took a dry hose line and moved down the hallway on the main level, locating a dog in a utility room and bringing it outside. They then re-entered the home, following the hose to continue their search. At some point, FF Glaser became separated from his search partner, who then heard him ask for help. A mayday call went out, and Firefighters soon located FF Glaser in the master bathroom, which is located just above the entrance to the basement garage.

**FF Glaser had vomited in his face piece, causing him to try to fix the issue.** He removed

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his gloves, helmet and face mask, trying to clear the vomit from the nose cup. While doing that, FF Glaser tragically but understandably became disoriented and overcome by the smoke and gases before he could get his mask back in place, and he collapsed due to the levels of toxin filled smoke and gas, rapidly entering in his system. FF Glaser was located, removed and EMS began resuscitation efforts, but he was pronounced dead at the hospital.

FF Glaser's SCBA appeared to be in working order and still had two-thirds of its air remaining, though the report noted that the system and air is being sent for further testing. The cause of Glaser's illness was attributed to a number of factors. His crew had responded to Overland Park earlier in the day and had 3 calls there before returning to their quarters in Shawnee. The crew also had several calls in Shawnee that day, including a drowning, and FF Glaser may have been additionally fatigued from the exertion of the search crew's first entry into the burning home.

FF Glaser also had eaten 2 big meals during the day, a BBQ lunch in Overland Park, and then a meal of burgers and hot dogs around 1700 hours at Shawnee firehouse 71. The autopsy showed FF Glaser still had a large amount of food in his stomach. According to the SFD, an upcoming report from the NIOSH may have additional including suggestions for operational changes.

R.I.P. FF Glaser.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-29-10 / 1745 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

As you may know, the 9/11 health bill was shot down by Congress last night after failing to attain the 2/3 majority necessary for passage in the House. INCREDIBLE, but not surprising as the grotesque politics (read below) were alive and well, which, ironically, cannot be said for so many the responded on 9/11. They are far from being alive and well. The Zadroga Act (named in honor of fallen 9/11 first responder P.O. James Zadroga\*) would guarantee the long term operations of health care programs set up years ago for Firefighters, EMT's, Police Officers and residents who were hurt or are sick in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Republican opponents of the bill have argued that the measure, which would pay up to \$7.4 billion in compensation to victims, is not tenable at a time of ballooning federal deficits. Some politicians described it as a "slush fund". Sadly, the 255-to-159 vote fell short of the two-thirds margin that's needed to bring the measure to the floor.

**"This legislation as written creates a huge \$8.4 billion slush fund paid by taxpayers that is open to abuse, fraud and waste," said Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), arguing that it would be raided by undeserving scammers with tenuous links to 9/11. Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.) cast it as a "money grab for New York because the bill would pay for care at higher rates than Medicare". "What this is, is politics," Shimkus said. "What this is, is enfranchising a bunch of New York City hospitals." "This fund is bloated," said Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.). The vote went mostly down party lines with 243 Democrats and 12 Republicans in favor of the bill and 155 Republicans and 4**

**Democrats opposed. More game playing in congress.** Do yourself a favor and find out how your member of congress voted.

**HERE are links to various articles related to the vote:**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/30/nyregion/30zadroga.html?src=mv>

<http://tinyurl.com/23e88zt>

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

What a shame that our elected officials refused to figure it out.

Take Care,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-10 / 1043 Hours

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

\*James Zadroga (1971 - January 5, 2006) was an NYPD officer who died of a respiratory disease due to his participation in rescue and recovery operations in the rubble of the World Trade Center following the September 11 attacks. Zadroga was the first NYPD officer whose line of duty death was attributed to exposure to his contact with toxic chemicals at the attack site. Zadroga had joined the NYPD in 1992 and attained the rank of Detective. He was a healthy non-smoker and had no known history of asthma or other respiratory conditions before spending 450 hours participating in the recovery efforts at the 9/11 attack site. Weeks after his time at the World Trade Center site, Zadroga developed a persistent cough, and, as the months progressed, he developed shortness of breath and became unable to walk distances more than 100 feet without gasping for air. He died in 2006.

**AND:**

Hey,

Here is an update about a Firefighter that was seriously burned in Grass Valley, Oregon, at the South Sherman Fire & Rescue. Firefighter Josh Higgins was burned while working on a department vehicle on Tuesday July 27, 2010 at approximately 1630 Hours. According to the SSF&R, several firefighters were transferring an antique fire engine from the Kent sub-station to the main station in Grass Valley for a restoration project. The vehicle had broken down approximately three miles outside of Grass Valley, Firefighter Higgins was working in the engine compartment attempting to get the vehicle started again when a fire erupted engulfing him in flames. Captain Hendrix, as well as Firefighters Atkins and Liddicoat came immediately to his aid and helped extinguish the fire and administer first aid. Sherman County Ambulance responded and transported Firefighter Higgins to Mid-Columbia Medical Center where he was later air lifted to the Oregon Burn Center in Portland with severe but non-life threatening burns. Captain Hendrix and FF Atkins also suffered minor burns while extinguishing the fire. FF Higgins has been with the department for seven months and had moved from New Hampshire to start a new life in Sherman County. We wish him a rapid recovery.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-10 / 1528 Hours

**AND:**

**VERMONT FIRE LIEUTENANT - LINE OF DUTY DEATH-HEART ATTACK**

It is with deep regret that we advise you of the Line of Duty Death of Burlington (VT) Fire Lt. Steven N. Costello. Lt. Costello was 46 yrs old and 23 year veteran of the department. He tragically suffered a heart attack while on duty last Friday, 7-23-2010, was treated, transported to the hospital and died today. Lt. Costello leaves behind his wife and 2 children. As always our sincere condolences.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 7-30-10 / 1645 Hours

**AND:**

**4 WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-CANADA**

**3 WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-RUSSIA**

It is with deep regret that we advise you that Firefighters Nathan Jackson and Francis Cardinal were killed in the Line of Duty when their vehicle rolled over returning from a fire near Conklin, Alberta, CN.

Additionally, 2 yet un-named pilots aboard an air tanker battling the many forest fires raging across British Columbia were killed in a fiery crash that itself sparked a wildfire. The Buffalo airplane, owned by Abottsford-based Conair Ltd. and contracted by the provincial Forests Ministry, crashed Saturday evening about 160 kilometers northeast of Vancouver, in the B.C. Interior. The search-and-rescue mission, which was complicated by steep terrain and wildfire, has now been labeled a recovery. Hundreds of forest fires have been ravaging the interior of BC in the past week with up to 1,000 Firefighters battling the blazes. Last Thursday a helicopter dumping buckets of water on the fires crashed but the pilot and co-pilot survived.

And in **RUSSIA**, the death toll from forest fires has grown to 25, some reports indicate the total as high as 35, with possibly as many as 3 FIREFIGHTERS killed in the Line of Duty. Reports of more than 1000 houses have been destroyed in the Russian regions. Numerous areas of Russia have been placed under a state of emergency as Firefighters fight to save villages and forests. As always, our most sincere condolences to all affected.

**UPDATE: CHARLESTON SC FIRE**

As you may have read, hundreds of emails have been released related to the CHARLESTON FIRE investigation. From our perspective, it shows that those involved in the investigation were clearly focused on providing the facts and doing the right thing to honor the CFD-9 who gave their lives, their families/survivors and to do whatever it takes to not allow a tragic loss like that to happen again, anywhere. HERE is the piece:

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2010/aug/01/01routley/>

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROOKLYN, FDNY WALDBAUMS FIRE:**

August 2, 1978: In all 6 Firefighters were killed in the Line of Duty, and more than 35 injured, some seriously. Killed were covering Lt. James Cutillo 39, 33rd Battalion, Fr Charles Bouton 38, Ladder co 156, Fr William O'Conner 29, Ladder co 156, Fr James P McManus, 48, Ladder co 153, Fr George Rice, 38, Ladder co 153, Fr Harold F. Hastings, 40, Ladder co 153. Just prior to the collapse, Louise O'Oconner, Wife of FF William O'Conner was at the scene of the fire with her 3 small children. While FF O'Conner was operating on the roof, He waved

to his family, and then they waved back, then shortly thereafter the roof collapsed, taking her husbands, and the father of her children's life. **HERE** is a story with photos from STEVE SPAK: <http://stevespak.com/waldbaums.html>

HERE is a related video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTzBg1YIZml>

### **REST IN PEACE ILLINOIS FIREFIGHTER TONY VOLPE:**

Last winter, we received an email from an old pal, Tony Volpe. He would write every now and then just to catch up in between FDIC's. Tony was a very gung ho and "ate up" firefighter, fire officer and instructor. He, without question LOVED the job and within 10 seconds around him, anyone would know how much he absolutely LOVED being a Firefighter. Tony wrote with 2 bits of news. One was that he was getting married and the other was that he had cancer, and as he thought, it was treatable at the time. We stayed in touch over the last several months including getting him hooked up with the FF Cancer Support Network.

[www.firefightercancersupport.org](http://www.firefightercancersupport.org) - So sadly, Tony passed away yesterday morning after a brave but very tough battle. Tony was with both the Addison and Hometown (IL) Fire Departments. Rest in Peace Brother. HERE are details on the funeral:

<http://www.ilfirechaplains.org/2010/08/funeral-arrangements-for-tony-volpe-addison-fpd-il.html> - RIP Tony V.

### **9/11 RESPONDER BENEFITS AND CONGRESS, Continued:**

Well, we got some "love" letters from a few of you thinking we were a political party marketing group after we wrote about the NY First Responders being ill, and Congress failing them. Some of the letters accused us of being in bed with the republicans and some, writing almost the same exact thing, accused us of being in bed with the democrats. If either were the case, we would be suffering from bedbugs, a sore back and requiring penicillin shots. Clearly, it is not the case although it may not have been that clear in the way we wrote it. A few wrote us saying we should "stick to our mission" - the safety, health and survival of Firefighters. That is our mission and has been since we started The Secret List in 1998 and this issue clearly is of importance to ALL Firefighters. From time to time, we will (and have since the start) share our opinions related to the politics of the FIRE service when it affects us in such a serious manner.

As far as we are concerned, the ONLY issue related to THE ZADROGA BILL is the fact that due to political playing on both sides, the sick, suffering and soon to be dying 9/11 Firefighters, Police Officers, EMT's and others are left holding the bag. For a variety of political reasons, of which you can derive your own opinion, the bill is not moving forward. Ladies and gentlemen: right now it is the NYC First Responders who are sick and need help, but it will be others when the murderers decide to strike elsewhere. It easily could be you, us, we. and that's what we remain very concerned about. One letter we got was from Al Hagan, President of the FDNY Uniformed Fire Officers Association. Now, to be clear, Al and I are old friends, but Al has asked that we share some of his e-mail with you, directly from those who this most affects. From Al:

"There appears to be a few different opinions as to what actually happened concerning the failure of the congress to pass the Zadroga Bill. Our take is that the bill became collateral damage in the **long war** between the Donkeys and the Elephants. **Both sides of the aisle** were willing to sacrifice the sick and dying first responders who stepped up early in the battle against those intent on destroying the USA." "As with any piece of legislation, and the

**Chabot College Fire & EMS News**

Zadroga bill is no exception, the money to pay for it must be found from somewhere. In the case of Zadroga, the 7.7 billion dollar cost was to be paid for by closing a tax loophole used by **foreign corporations** doing business in the U.S. and not paying taxes! The **Republicans** have called this a tax increase, the **Democrats** call it amending the tax code.

"From our vantage point the leadership and members of **BOTH parties** have been disappointing to us. We don't care about amendments **or** foreign corporations when we have sick and dying Americans. The people that responded when the country needed them are all that matters and both sides must come together to close the deal." "We are still optimistic for the passage of this bill based on the number of votes that were cast for passage (255)." "We have **not** given up! What all this means is a little more work is required. We will continue to lobby with the UFA, IAFF, NYS AFL-CIO and City Hall through the summer. The bill will then be taken up for a vote again in the House after the summer recess in mid September. From there it will then be taken up by the Senate and hopefully to the President for signing **before January 2011**"

Many Firefighters have offered to travel to Washington to help lobby the congress. We have asked certain members, who were suffering the effects of working at Ground Zero to come down because of the impact they **should** have. We may change tactics in the fall and ask for more members to travel to the Capitol to lobby. ALL Firefighting brothers and sisters are asked to please contact their own representatives (House and Senate) to ask for support. If the congress hears the people, they will help. We'll keep you updated-Thank You, Al H.

**BOTTOM LINE:**

**Almost everyone who wrote us is definitely concerned about the sick First Responders, but have different ideas related to the political logistics. Of course that's everyone's right, ours too. We ask that all TSL members please reach out to your Federally elected officials, explain your own opinion and concerns, and urge their rapid SUPPORT for the ailing 9/11 responders.**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-2-10 / 0700 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

At least two people are dead after a crash involving a semi and ambulance near Delaware and Union counties this afternoon. UNCONFIRMED reports are that the 2 fatal are EMS personnel. The crash occurred on state Route in Richwood around 1700 hours. The crash involved a Stofcheck ambulance and a tractor-trailer. Updates and confirmation will follow.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-3-10 / 1803 hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A Shapleigh (Maine) Firefighter is in the hospital with serious injuries this evening after their fire apparatus rolled over and crashed in Shapleigh. The crash happened at about 1700 hours

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this evening. The engine was returning from a call when the driver lost control and the engine rolled over, coming to rest on its roof. The Firefighter driving was the only one in the fire apparatus at the time. She had to be cut from the wreckage and was flown to Maine Medical Center in Portland with serious injuries. More details to follow or be posted.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 8-8-10 / 2042 hours

**AND:**

Hey,  
A Chicago Firefighter was very critically injured after he fell 3-4 stories while operating at a fire in the Loop area restaurant this morning. The FF is at Stroger hospital and according to CFD's Larry Langford ""We don't know yet, but it's not good,". **A police source has said the Firefighter died this morning but the CFD has not confirmed it. Another source, from the M.E's office stated the firefighter had died and said he was 31-years-old. Again-this is unconfirmed by the CFD as of 0700 eastern.** Fire Commissioner Bob Hoff will issue a statement from the hospital this morning. The fire was brought under control quickly. We will update.

**FIREFIGHTER KILLED AT WAR**

We regret to advise you that Kristopher Daniel Greer was killed from injuries sustained while fighting for our country in Afganistan. He was wounded earlier this week, transferred to Germany for care, and passed away there either earlier yesterday. Daniel was a career firefighter with the Ashland City Fire Department in Cheatham County, Tennessee. He leaves behind a young wife and child. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected. **KEEP OUR TROOPS in your thoughts and prayers.**

**SERIOUS APPARATUS CRASH IN AUSTRALIA:**

Police are seeking witnesses to a crash involving a Country Fire Authority (CFA) truck in the Latrobe Valley. Firefighters from the Traralgon brigade were responding to an emergency call out on Saturday, when the truck collided with a car. The 87-year-old driver of the car suffered life-threatening injuries and was taken to the hospital in a critical condition. His passenger, and 84-year-old woman, suffered minor injuries. At the time of the crash, the CFA truck had its emergency lights and sirens activated.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,  
BillyG  
The Secret List 8-9-10 / 0711 Hours

**AND:**

**CHICAGO FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY-FALL OPERATING AT A FIRE**

We regret to advise you that Chicago Firefighter Christopher Wheatley, 31, has died in the Line of Duty after he fell 3-4 stories while operating at a fire in the Loop area restaurant this morning, according to CFD's Commissioner Bob Hoff. He said Firefighters were operating at the Avec Restaurant on Randolph Street around 0130 Hours to handle a reported small fire when FF Wheatly slipped and fell from the ladder that extended to the roof of the structure.



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According to Commissioner Hoff: "They had to go up to the roof to open the area where the grease chute extended through. FF Christopher Wheatley was making his way up to the roof on a ladder that was attached to the building carrying his equipment. Apparently he slipped and fell to the ground causing the now fatal injuries." "Firefighter Christopher Wheatley was carrying his equipment when he was making his way up . He slipped and fell to the ground. They worked to save his life, but it was too late. Firefighter Chris Wheatley was assigned to Truck 2...left a mother, father, a sister, and a fiancé. He was one of our finest, and that's all I can say for right now."

FF Wheatley came on the CFD in 2000 as a paramedic and became a firefighter in 2008. Wheatley is the first firefighter to die in the line of duty since 2008. As you'll remember, Firefighter William Grant was killed in the Line of Duty when a school bus struck the fire truck he was on. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-9-10 / 0730 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Funeral details for the Line of Duty Death of FF/PM Christopher Wheatley of Chicago FD Truck 2 are as follows. FF Wheatley died while operating at a fire on W. Randolph in the West Loop early Monday morning. The arrangements:

**Visitation:** Thursday, August 12th from 3:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Blake-Lamb Funeral Home located at 4727 W. 103rd St in Oak Lawn.

**FD Assembly** at 1830 hours - Walk thru at 1900 hours

**Funeral Service** at Blake-Lamb Funeral Home on Friday August 13th

**FD Assembly** at 0800 hours

**Prayer Service** at 0915 hours

Walk-thru immediately following prayer service

Funeral mass will be held on Friday, August 13th at St. John Fisher Church located at 10234 S. Washtenaw in Chicago at 1030 hours. Interment: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery - 3001 W. 111th St - Worth. IL

**MORE DETAILS HERE:** [www.iaff-local2.org](http://www.iaff-local2.org)

**2 FIREFIGHTERS DIE IN THE LINE OF DUTY IN PORTUGAL**

Another Firefighter died today in the Line of Duty in northern Portugal after being surrounded by the fire she was fighting. A 2nd Firefighter was seriously injured in the fire in the Gondomar region. The woman was the second firefighter to die in Portugal within two days, after a Firefighter was killed on Monday when a truck transporting him rolled over. Portugal has been hit by a wave of forest fires since the end of July that have burned some 18,000 hectares (44,500 acres) of forests, mostly in the north and the center of the country.

**ANOTHER FIRE SERVICE CANCER DEATH: A POPULAR AND WELL KNOWN CHIEF PASSES.**

It is with regret that we advise you that Chief Tom Healy has lost his battle with cancer. Tom was a retired Phoenix Deputy Chief and current Fire Chief in the Daisy Mountain Fire District. Throughout his career he was a devoted advocate for firefighter safety and health.

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He served many years on NFPA 1500 and was instrumental in its development and its ongoing value to the fire service. He was also responsible for the development of the PFD Health Center and fitness programs. Through his efforts more firefighters lives have been saved here in Phoenix and all around the United States than by any of their "operational firefighting" programs. Rest in Peace Tom.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND STAFFING CUTS:**

A reminder to please submit any and all media pieces related to budget cuts, layoffs, brownouts etc,

**PLEASE SEND THEM HERE:** [staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com](mailto:staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

**YOU** can also review and compare some of the latest related actions **HERE:**

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

**HERE is the JULY UPDATE** file for your review:

<http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/site/firefighterclosecalls/Firefighterclosecalls-staffing-7-10.pdf>

Please contribute to this collection of data as it has led to many comparable FD's communicating with one another with mutual benefit. Simply send any details, articles, stories and related facts to:

[staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com](mailto:staffing@FireFighterCloseCalls.com)

**MISSISSIPPI VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ROLLOVER CRASH WHILE RESPONDING**

Details & Photos **HERE:** <http://www.firefighterclosecalls.com/news/fullstory/newsid/113833>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-10-10 / 2145 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Yesterday in Fairfax County VA, there was another example of a close call involving electricity. The details are below, situational awareness, like in most of what we do, continues to be critical. Thankfully, the Firefighters involved are OK. They were doing a weekly check of the aerial ladder at their firehouse around 0840, and as the Firefighters were extending the ladder, it struck two lines and shot a bolt of high-voltage electricity through the truck, along the concrete driveway and into the station, sparking a short fire at the electrical box. 1 Firefighter was hurt when he leapt from the truck to avoid electrocution, a 2nd Firefighter was hit by debris from concrete that was launched into the air by the electricity and the 3rd Firefighter was being checked for injury to his hearing by the noise from the loud explosion. None of the injuries was life-threatening, and the fire inside the station extinguished itself.

**DETAILS & UPDATED PHOTOS HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/2fg8ssp>

**AND HERE** From Dave Statter: <http://tinyurl.com/2barg8g>

**FIRE CHIEF & TRAINING OFFICER CHARGED IN FIREFIGHTER TRAINING DEATH:**

The Fire Chief, the Training Officer and the Village of Point Edward, (Ontario, Canada) have been charged in the Line of Duty death of Firefighter Gary Kendall, who was trapped under ice during a rescue training exercise on Lake Huron in January. The Ontario Ministry of Labor laid a total of 11 charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Fire Chief Doug MacKenzie, the village, and Terry Harrison, of Georgetown, Ont., face numerous charges,

see below, but all are related to failing to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for protection of a worker. Firefighter Kendall, 51, died in the Line of Duty following a water training exercise conducted at the shoreline of Lake Huron, where the lake enters the St. Clair River. Members of the Point Edward FD were conducting ice water rescue training in the water on Jan. 30, when a large ice flow came down the river, trapping FF Kendall under it. The 17-year veteran Firefighter was pulled from the water but died the following day in the hospital. No other firefighters were injured in the incident.

The 3 defendants are charged with failing to ensure that an adequate number of rescuers were on shore at the time of the incident, along with failing to provide adequate equipment, and failure to appoint a safety officer. The village and Chief MacKenzie have also been charged with failing to ensure that adequate prerequisite training had been completed and/or confirmed. Chief MacKenzie faces an additional charge of failing to ensure an adequate safety plan was present, and/or failing to review an adequate training plan. Harrison, listed as a supervisor, is also charged with failing to ensure an adequate pre-training hazard assessment was conducted, and failing to have an adequate training plan and/or adequate pre-training briefing. A court date has been set for Sept. 10.

MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/2com7vo>

**EXCELLENT FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL VIDEO:**

Watch this clip from the California Professional Firefighters Association, especially at the 1:00 minute mark: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymEjFB5LdRQ>

**TAXPAYERS TO VOTE ON PUBLIC SAFETY PENSIONS:**

A referendum question will appear on the ballot for City of DeKalb (Illinois) voters in the November election asking them if they would like to see pension reform for public safety employees. In doing so, DeKalb joined the ranks of at least 20 other municipalities across the state, many in the Chicago region, that will place the pension-reform question before voters.

MORE HERE: <http://tinyurl.com/24wzcac>

**ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR F.R.I. YET, IN CHICAGO? GO HERE: [www.IAFC.org/FRI](http://www.IAFC.org/FRI)**

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-12-10 / 1225 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

At least 6 Detroit Firefighters have been injured this morning in a roof collapse in which a wall fell on several firefighters during a commercial fire. News reports confirm that at least 4 of the 6 are in critical condition. We will continue to follow this story. Please visit our home page for updates and photos of the incident.

**2 FIREFIGHTERS KILLED IN SPAIN:**

We regret to inform you of two firefighters have been killed in a forest fire in the north-west of Spain, officials said. The blaze broke out on Thursday night near Fornelos de Montes in Pontevedra province, according to the regional government of Galicia. Reports said the fire

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continues to burn and the regional president has cancelled all his appointments in order to focus on the blaze. Our sincere condolences to all involved.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-13-10 / 1000 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

Detroit Area news stations are reporting one of the six firefighters injured in this mornings wall collapse at the building fire is in very critical condition, three others are in stable condition, and two others are being treated for minor injuries. This injured include:

**Gerald Rutkowski, Age 45**, 23 years of service, **Shane Raxter, Age 32**, 9 years of service, **Jeron Whitehorn, Age 31**, 8 years of service, **Brian Baulch, Age 31**, 9 years of service, **Eric Jurmo, Age 31**, 11 years of service and **Brendan Milewski, Age 31**, 11 years of service.

Reports are there was a fire in this same building last evening around 5PM and this may have been a rekindle. Mayor Dave Bing issued the following statement regarding the fire on E. Jefferson Ave. & Dickerson, and the firefighters injured as a result: "I am saddened and disappointed anytime our public safety officers are injured, especially in the line of duty. We offer our support to their families and our prayers for a full and speedy recovery to the firefighters, and are reminded of the dangers they face daily in the name of public safety. For that, we all owe our thanks. It is also our responsibility as a community to help put an end to the dangerous and irresponsible behaviors that puts all of at risk."

**EMT LODD IN TX - OVERCOME BY CO:**

One emergency medical technician died and three co-workers are hospitalized after being overcome by carbon monoxide while on duty in east Texas. A spokeswoman at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview, which operates Champion EMS in White Oak, says the victims were discovered around 7 a.m. Friday by other workers during shift change. Victoria Ashworth told The Associated Press that the carbon monoxide apparently was from a generator left running on an ambulance. Ashworth says a 33-year-old female EMT, who was in training, was pronounced dead after being transported to the hospital. Ashworth says a paramedic and two emergency medical technicians, all male, are in good condition.

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-13-10 / 1300 Hours

**AND:**

**FORESTRY FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN CRASH**

An Arkansas Forestry Commission ranger was killed in the Line of Duty yesterday in a crash of the tractor-trailer rig he was driving in Lafayette County in southeastern Arkansas. 25-year-old Chris Adams of Bradley died in the accident Monday afternoon on Arkansas 360 east of Bradley. Adams was going to check on the status of an earlier fire when he crashed. The

Arkansas State Police say Adams was westbound just before 4 p.m. when the rig crossed the center line then went into a ditch and overturned. As always, our sincere condolences to all affected.

**UPDATE: EMT AND PATIENT KILLED IN OHIO TRANSPORT VEHICLE CRASH**

A private ambulance van's driver and patient were killed in a head-on crash with a tractor-trailer in Delaware County yesterday afternoon. Eddie Petersheim, 28, of Kenton, Ohio, was driving a van north on Rt. 4 that was owned by Stofcheck Ambulance Service. He was transporting a 56 year old man. Shortly after 1600 hours Petersheim drove left-of-center and struck a southbound tractor-trailer. Both vehicles ended up in a field near the Union County line. Our sincere condolences to all affected.

**FIREFIGHTER LOCATING DEVICES MAKING GOOD PROGRESS**

Progress in the development of an indoor personal locator and tracking device for firefighters has accelerated so much in the last year that researchers are hopeful of commercialization within the next two years, and of its technology being used by military and other emergency responders. This weeks presentations, demonstrations and workshops were part of the second and final day of the WPI conference and workshop. "Precision Indoor Personnel Location and Tracking for Emergency Responders," had about 140 participants from public, private and academic research organizations including the IAFF, IAFC Safety, Health and Survival and others. Research began at WPI after the December 1999 fire at the former Worcester Cold Storage and Warehouse Co. building that claimed the lives of six Worcester firefighters who became lost in the windowless structure.

"I was more than pleased," said WPI engineering professor David Cyganski, who has overseen development of a component that would warn firefighters of a fire flashover inside a building. "In the 12 months since the last conference, we've seen more progress than in the previous three or four years that preceded it. It's all beginning to add up now. We all get together and share this information with one another, and we have the companies and universities that were brave enough to step up and actually show everybody how it's working. IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section Board member, Worcester Deputy Fire Chief John F. Sullivan said the technology demonstrated yesterday showed marked improvement from previous years. They were successful in a controlled situation in tracking the location of a firefighter, then using the same devices to guide rescuers to his location. The rescuers, wearing full fire turnout gear, wore breathing masks with the face shields blacked out so they could not see. They were guided by radio by an incident commander monitoring the computer screen displaying the locations of the stranded firefighter and the rescuers. The rescue teams walked and crawled up four flights, then crawled along hallways, using their hands and ax handles to feel their way along the floor and under desks until they found the lost comrade. "If we tried this same thing a few years ago, none of you would have made it," Chief Sullivan said to the research teams who demonstrated their technology. "Every year we make it more challenging. ... When we're searching for someone ... if you can get us there a few minutes faster, that's what we're looking for."

**DID MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTE TO THE FATALITY OF A SOUTH CAROLINA COUPLE?**

That's the question (amongst others) being asked following the tragic event in South Carolina. The Greenwood County Fire Coordinator concedes a different mutual aid

agreement between the county and the city of Greenwood may have made a difference in a fire that killed an elderly couple. HERE is more from SConFire: <http://tinyurl.com/2fq4h28>

Take Care-BE CAREFUL,

BillyG

The Secret List 8-4-10 / 0900 Hours

**AND:**

Hey,

A few emails have come to us about the issue of the proposed Mosque in NYC near the WTC Ground Zero site. Of course, some of you may get annoyed that we have an opinion and will claim it has nothing to do with our "mission" on TSL and/or The Secret List. That's ok, once in a while we will give editorial opinion on "related" items to Firefighter well being **as we have since we started TSL** in 1998. Some newer members of The Secret List may not be aware of that, as we don't do it very often. However, every once in a while, our opinion comes to you, at no cost, as a part of The Secret List benefits package. How lucky you are.

In this case, sure, we have an opinion on the Mosque issue. In our opinion, it is not an issue of religious freedom as the great majority of Muslims (like most people of all religions) are peace loving and are absolutely entitled to religious freedom as citizens of the United States of America. And, they, like all Americans, enjoy and demonstrate that freedom each and every day, as they absolutely should. However, **it is** an issue of respect for those murdered on 9/11, specifically at the WTC. That is the issue. If the proposed location upsets those directly affected, the survivors and relatives of those murdered on 9/11, simply respect **their** wishes and work with them on a better solution. It's not a religious freedom issue, but one of deep respect. **Our opinion.**

Now-since we have opened that can of worms, we will offer another opinion directly related to 9/11/01. **DYING FIREFIGHTERS (EMT's, POLICE OFFICERS AND RELATED WORKERS)** - Instead of the many politicians who are all worked up and grandstanding this issue, including The President, how about spending **HALF** that energy and **HALF** that press/media time focused on cleaning up and **PASSING** the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Firefighters, EMT's, Police Officers and Civilians who are in the process of dying with less than adequate protection desperately need that support, and it is shameful what has happened to it so far.

**Everyone and their brother, including political big shots, from Pres. Obama to Ex-Gov. Palin, have an opinion on the Mosque issue, but where are they on the ZADROGA BILL clean up and passage?**

To the Federally elected officials, including some who subscribe to The Secret List, the best use of energy related to 9/11 at this point would be to **clean out all the bi-partisan junk** that's been added to pollute that bill and then support it, across both parties. The folks who worked at Ground Zero need your help, urgently.

Many are literally dying.

**CLEAN UP THE BILL:**

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the "9/11 bill" is being used to gain political advantage by some members of both parties. Firefighters, Police Officers, EMT's and others who worked

on the pile are being used as pawns. If those who responded to 9/11 and those who participated in the cleanup continue to suffer, the Washington politicians appear to just consider that unfortunate collateral damage in their own political war. Incredible. If you feel strongly about what we are writing, **don't tell us**. HOWEVER, every member of Congress should hear how you feel and, as far as we are concerned, they must put politics aside, **clean up** and PASS the "Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act". Get rid of all the added unrelated political crap that's in there and pass it with 100% of the bill focused on helping those who are sick from simply trying to help at Ground Zero. Ya thinking they can't do that, and do it quickly? BS. If they want to, they can. If they want to.

**THIS AFFECTS YOU:**

Today it's the Firefighters, Police Officers, EMT's and civilians in NYC, tomorrow it may be somewhere else. Perhaps you and your FD will be directly affected when the next attacks come. Every Firefighter in the USA has the potential to be the next victim of terrorism. As FDNY, NYPD and others were on 9/11, you may be the "soldiers" who do the domestic fighting next time. This definitely does impact FF survival. Religious freedom? FAILURE to provide compensation to our ailing Firefighters, Police Officers, EMT's and civilians could be an issue of religious freedom, a failure to hear and answer their prayers, by those who COULD answer them (Congress), if they wanted to. Please take action TODAY as you have a chance to help those who are "praying" for the passage of this bill-so they may have a chance at a better quality of life. **Perhaps we can answer their prayers, no matter what their religion.**

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS:**

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

**READ MORE HERE:** <http://tinyurl.com/27m3ffq>

**++++IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER 11th 2010 REMINDER++++**

September 11th is less than two months away.

What are the plans at your FD for your September 11th Remembrance Ceremony?

What are the plans in your community for the September 11th Remembrance Ceremony?

**HERE IS SOME OUTSTANDING PLANNING HELP:**

[http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/\\$9-11.shtml](http://www.fire-police-ems.com/misc/$9-11.shtml)

Take Care-BE CAREFUL.

BillyG

The Secret List 8-18-10 / 2046 Hours

**To subscribe to the Secret List and get these emails for yourself, go to**

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

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

**NOTE:**

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

**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.**

In the quest to reduce labor costs, Clark County (NV) officials are looking at whether they should replace McCarran International Airport's firefighting team. The new crew would be trained to handle emergencies such as plane crashes, but it would be part of the airport instead of the county Fire Department. Aviation Director Randy Walker would oversee the operation. The system would be similar to those at the Seattle-Tacoma and Portland international airports, where port authorities run their own fire teams independent of local governments: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/clark-county-officials-to-look-at-replacing-airport-s-firefighting-team--98797779.html>

The human upheaval behind Chandler's (AZ) budget cuts is playing out in city offices this summer as some workers prepare to take buyouts, others whose jobs have been eliminated jockey for one of the vacant posts and everyone braces for increased workloads. A police sketch artist and information specialist moved to a job at the city library but will continue many of her old duties. A Fire Department executive assistant is working with the city's vehicle fleet service. And the downtown real-estate manager is preparing for expanded tasks in public works. So far, more than 100 positions have been cut without layoffs but that possibility isn't off the table yet. And the municipal version of musical chairs is creating a challenging environment where dozens of employees are meeting new co-workers and learning different jobs: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2010/07/27/20100727chandler-employees-budget-cuts-buyouts0728.html>

San Diego (CA) Firefighters have to adjust to stations being browned out to save money: [www.fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-firefighter-ride-along%2C0%2C7449412.story](http://www.fox5sandiego.com/news/kswb-firefighter-ride-along%2C0%2C7449412.story)

Though area agencies are willing to come when Vallejo (CA) calls, they say their primary safety concerns will be their own cities. The comments come in response to Vallejo's recent police and fire staffing and operational cutbacks that began July 1. "We'll respond whenever we can," Benicia Police Lt. Bob Oettinger said. "Obviously, our first priority is our city here. We'll help (the Vallejo Police Department) whenever we can ... based on staffing and the circumstances involved." The Vallejo Fire



Department was reorganized last week to leave open only four of eight engine companies and one ladder truck company:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\\_15604868?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_15604868?nclick_check=1)

The Lathrop-Manteca (CA) Fire District may close one or two of its remaining three (there were four – one was recently closed) fire stations that are still open, lay off 10 firefighters, and demote some of its personnel as the District struggles to grapple with a budget deficit of \$336,244.78 right at the start of the 2010-11 fiscal year on September 1: <http://www.mantecabulletin.com/news/article/16033/>

To close a \$3.8 million budget hole, the Philadelphia (PA) Fire Department will implement "rolling brownouts" that will see three fire companies closed each shift around the city. The rotating closures will allow the city to avoid shuttering firehouses or laying off firefighters, Everett Gillison, the deputy mayor for public safety, said at a news conference Monday evening:

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20100727\\_Philadelphia\\_Fire\\_Department\\_to\\_begin\\_rolling\\_brownouts\\_.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20100727_Philadelphia_Fire_Department_to_begin_rolling_brownouts_.html)

Clark County (NV) Firefighter Karl Kendrick and fire captains Mike Hutcherson and Mario Romo trudged door to door in southwest Las Vegas under a blazing, late-morning sun to make a case for putting two high-level units of the Clark County Fire Department back into service. The three men were among about 50 union firefighters knocking on doors and hanging fliers, despite triple-digit temperatures, in an effort to turn up the political heat on Rory Reid, the chairman of the Clark County Commission and Democratic candidate for governor of Nevada. "The firefighters seem to be oblivious to the current budget situation," said Eric Herzik, a professor of political science at University of Nevada, Reno. "And they've turned a good public image that they had into really the poster boys for, in a sense, public outrage about government."

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters-hit-streets-99607269.html>

Throughout the day Friday and continuing over the weekend, 51 San Jose (CA) firefighters will turn in their badges and gear as they lose their jobs due to budget cuts and stalled negotiations with the city. The layoffs went into effect at 8 a.m. As the firefighters from stations throughout San Jose end their shifts, they will turn in their uniforms, badges and safety equipment at the San Jose Fire Department Training Center on Montgomery Street. The city of San Jose asked all employees to take a 10 percent pay cut to close a \$118 million budget gap. The firefighters union, San Jose Firefighters Local 230, offered to take a 5.25 percent wage reduction, increased health care co-pays and premiums and other health care coverage reductions in lieu of any layoffs, said union spokesman Tom Saggau:

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/24446633/detail.html>

A Vallejo (CA) fire station was downgraded to a paramedic service location Monday morning due to budget concerns, and two other stations are scheduled to move, a fire spokesman said: <http://cbs5.com/local/vallejo.fire.station.2.1813694.html>

The State of Nevada and its cities can no longer afford public employee contracts, including fire department contracts - Transparentnevada.com shows one reason Nevada's governments are going broke: Seven of Reno's highest paid employees are fire battalion chiefs who cost more than \$244,000 per year each. In Las Vegas, the top 10 also are fire personnel at around \$300,000:

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20100804/OPED/8040346>

The Clark County (NV) firefighters union chief declared impasse in contract negotiations Tuesday, extending by a half year or longer the county's search for concessions during hard economic times. Ryan Beaman, president of the Clark County Firefighters Local 1908, issued what he called the union's last offer of about \$10 million in concessions, and criticized county bargainers. "Clark County officials have stonewalled the firefighters," said Beaman. "We have made our negotiations as flexible as possible. However, we have lost all faith in the county negotiators' ability to get things done as responsibly as possible." County Manager Virginia Valentine fired back with a strongly worded memo. She called the union's statements "disingenuous and blatantly misleading." The union hasn't offered anything that would reduce firefighters' compensation or cut labor costs, Valentine said. Aside from two small concessions, the union mainly offers one-time deferrals of wages and benefits that add up to only a fraction of the \$10 million in savings that the union is claiming, she said:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/labor-negotiations-between-firefighters--county-reach-impasse-99891249.html>

For Key Peninsula (WA) Fire Chief Tom Lique, a 50-cent tax has never been so important. With the primary election looming on Aug. 17, the department hopes voters re-authorize a 10-year EMS levy of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value to keep its medic service afloat. Last year's levy lid lift failure forced the department to leave open a firefighter position and make cuts to how it staffs stations and overtime pay. A failure this time around would be much worse, Lique said. A levy failure in August and November would strip the department of more than \$1 million in taxes and trigger layoffs of 14 staff members, including nine paramedics. That's 50 percent of the department's career staffers, a reduction that could spell the end of the department's paramedic service:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/08/04/1288166/ems-levy-failure-would-cut-14.html>

More than 120 Spokane (WA) city employees could face pink slips at the end of the year unless city unions agree to concessions or the City Council increases taxes, officials warned Tuesday. Two months after proposing a budget with more than 40 layoffs, Spokane Mayor Mary Verner told the Spokane City Council in budgeting strategy session that faltering sales taxes and other factors could result in a 9 percent across-the-board cut to fill a possible \$12 million hole. "You can't make \$12 million in cuts without cutting something that's very popular, that's very loved by our citizens," Verner told the council. "We are taking our tasks very, very seriously."

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/aug/03/city-contemplates-pink-slips-120/>

A brand new Reno (NV) Fire Station will remain dormant due to the tough economic times that are making staffing the new station difficult:

<http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/99697949.html>

Idaho Voters told the North Ada County Fire District Tuesday night they didn't want to raise their taxes for a new fire station and fire engines. The levy, which required a super-majority to pass, failed 345-195. The district had asked for a \$4.6 million bond levy to buy land and replace its leased Glenwood Street fire station:

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2010/08/03/1290869/north-ada-fire-levy-fails.html>

The city of San Jose (CA) and the firefighters' union have agreed to return to the bargaining table Wednesday to try to find a way to bring back at least some of the 49 firefighters who lost their jobs over the weekend. A meeting has been scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday to discuss the union's latest proposal, which the city has not outright rejected, but has not accepted either, officials on both sides said:

<http://cbs5.com/local/san.jose.firefighters.2.1840147.html>

The New York City Fire Department is set to reduce staffing in 60 engine companies from five firefighters to four. With a summer marked by several intense heat waves, sources tell NY1 that medical leave levels have risen above 7.5 percent in the last 30-day period. That is the threshold which contractually allows the city to reduce staffing to help control overtime:

[http://www.ny1.com/content/top\\_stories/123023/fdny-to-reduce-staff-at-60-engine-companies?ap=1&MP4](http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/123023/fdny-to-reduce-staff-at-60-engine-companies?ap=1&MP4)

Clinton Township's (MI) newest fire station is slated to be closed by Aug. 31, after officials there voted to lay off nearly 9% of active firefighters to balance the budget:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/mich-township-shutter-newest-station>

The Yakima (WA) city council will consider a resolution Tuesday to freeze firefighters' pay for 2010 as measure to cope with the tough economy:

<http://www.kndu.com/Global/story.asp?S=12912195>

Construction is just about complete on the city of Fremont's (CA) newest fire station, but don't expect to see Fremont's bravest inside the \$3.9 million structure anytime soon. Rather than rotate fire station closures to balance its budget, the Fire Department has decided not to staff the new Fire Station 11 in Fremont's industrial area, west of Interstate 880. The station, at 4720 Lakeview Blvd., is surrounded largely by commercial buildings with sprinkler systems, which generate fewer service calls than other areas of the city. "From a risk perspective, browning out Fire Station 11 makes the most sense," Deputy Fire Chief Geoff LaTendresse said. The Fire Department has been keeping at least one station closed for most of the past seven years to help cut down on firefighter overtime and balance its budget. This month, the department will decrease service further by closing a second station on weekends, LaTendresse said. Station closures have reduced the number of engine and truck companies serving the city from the recommended 14 to 12 on weekdays and now 11 on weekends: [http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_15688416](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_15688416)

The Alameda (CA) Fire Department will hire six firefighters, using the funds from a \$1.7 million federal grant. The fire department received the funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program. The money will allow the hiring of six firefighters for two years:

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci\\_15632545?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com](http://www.contracostatimes.com/ci_15632545?IADID=Search-www.contracostatimes.com-www.contracostatimes.com)

San Jose (CA) city officials on Wednesday formally rejected the latest contract proposal from San Jose Fire Fighters Local 230, which claims its offer would save the city at least \$5.3 million. But in a six-page letter to union President Randy Sekany issued the same day, the City Council asked the union to allow its membership to vote on an 8.91 percent reduction in total compensation that the city says would restore one firetruck and four fire engines, and allow the city to hire back the 49 firefighters who were laid off last week: [http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci\\_15679937](http://www.sgvtribune.com/california/ci_15679937)

El Mirage (AZ) laid off a quarter of its fire department Thursday in the midst of \$1.3 million deficit. In total, six firefighters got the ax. While that doesn't sound like a lot, for the small city of El Mirage that makes up twenty five (25) percent of the department: [http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region\\_west\\_valley/el\\_mirage/el-mirage-lays-off-25%25-of-fire-deparment](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_west_valley/el_mirage/el-mirage-lays-off-25%25-of-fire-deparment)

For the first time in years, the Dallas (TX) City Council is planning to hire fewer police and dip into the pocketbooks of officers and firefighters to help balance the budget. City staff briefed the council Wednesday on proposals that would cut the public safety budget by at least \$22.4 million to address the city's budget gap, which was initially projected at \$130 million. The city will hire only 88 officers next year. Not replacing every officer who leaves is expected to save \$1.5 million. Police and firefighters would take five furlough days, saving the city \$7.5 million. That would be nearly a 2 percent pay reduction for sworn personnel. And for 18 months, they would receive compensatory time instead of overtime, except in certain limited circumstances, shaving another \$8.66 million off the city's budget in the next fiscal year. "Do we like everything in it? No," said D.D. Pierce, president of the Dallas Fire Fighters Association. But he added, this is "our contribution to the problems of the budget." <http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/863904-Dallas-firefighter-police-furloughs-proposed/>

The closure of a Vallejo (CA) fire station within walking distance of American Canyon's border may result in longer response times to structure fires in American Canyon, according to officials for the Vallejo Fire Department and the American Canyon Fire Department. American Canyon Fire Department, like the Napa Fire Department, faces tightening budgets because of the economic downturn. For that reason, Weeks and Borman have discussed a possible agreement to share resources and expertise, include fire inspection duties. The agreement may come before the American Canyon Fire Protection District's board of directors on Aug. 31. The city of Napa may review the agreement on Sept. 7. "It's a win-win," Borman said: [http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/article\\_bd836456-a433-11df-a691-001cc4c03286.html](http://napavalleyregister.com/news/local/article_bd836456-a433-11df-a691-001cc4c03286.html)

The Lawrence (MA) Fire Department in this financially battered city has closed half its fire stations over the last five weeks, seen response times more than double, and relied increasingly on neighboring communities to douse fires. There are now just 13 to 15 firefighters per shift in a city of about 80,000 people, less than half the number of firefighters per shift in 2009. The cuts, which took effect July 1, are drawing complaints

from fire chiefs in surrounding towns, where departments have been forced to pay overtime and risked leaving their communities without enough coverage to respond to mutual aid calls from Lawrence. The cuts have also become a political issue in the gubernatorial campaign:

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/08/12/worry\\_grows\\_over\\_thin\\_lawrence\\_fire\\_dept/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/08/12/worry_grows_over_thin_lawrence_fire_dept/)

London's (England) entire firefighting force have been told they'll be sacked if they refuse to go along with cuts to night cover. The capital's 5,000 firefighters were given 90 days' notice on Wednesday night by the London Fire Authority. It wants to impose drastically altered shifts with longer days and shorter nights which unions warn will leave fewer fire engines and staff protecting the capital:

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/index.php/news/content/view/full/94004>

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

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

That crunch you just heard was the sound of a heavy rescue fire engine backing over the gubernatorial candidacy of Rory Reid. Clark County firefighters, traditionally loyal to all Nevada Democrats named Reid, have produced a devastating attack ad questioning the Clark County commissioner's judgment for the decision to mothball the department's highly trained heavy rescue engine unit as a cost-cutting measure. Firefighters and county officials continue protracted negotiations, and the word is both sides are at an impasse. One number being thrown around is that the firefighters have agreed to nearly \$10 million in concessions, but county officials are saying that figure doesn't go far enough: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/firefighters--ad-attacks-rory-reid-for-mothballing-rescue-unit-98905784.html?ref=784>

Former Haverhill (MA) firefighter Kevin Thompson walked out of a retirement board meeting this week with \$3,474.04 in monthly benefits and lifetime health insurance. Thompson, 52, quit his job and filed for retirement benefits rather than answer questions about his secret four-month incarceration in a New Hampshire jail and whether he ever drove a city firetruck without a license. City Solicitor William Cox said

the city would have had a case to fight Thompson's pension had officials fired him, which the mayor said he would have likely done if given the chance:

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1269543>

A woman who was turned down three times by the Crisfield (MD) Fire Department to serve as a volunteer firefighter has filed a gender discrimination suit, claiming members voted against her because if a woman was in the department "it will never be the same." <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20100721/SH01/7210305>

A teen volunteer firefighter in Maine is charged with arson in connection with a Mechanic Falls fire Monday posted bail Tuesday morning:

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/fire-prevention-and-investigation/maine-firefighter-charged-arson>

It seems a warning more appropriately aimed at fifth-graders than firefighters attending a national conference in Baltimore (MD): If there's no fire, don't pull the fire alarms. Don't activate the sprinklers and don't empty the water pipes. The warning was given Thursday morning by Baltimore Fire Chief James S. Clack, who said that last year visiting firefighters pulled numerous false alarms and flooded the top floors of the city-owned Hilton Baltimore Convention Center Hotel, causing "hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage" and earning him a scolding from the mayor. "I got in trouble," Clack told hundreds of attendees who are visiting from across the country. More than 16,000 firefighters are expected to pass through the 27th annual safety and training expo, which began Wednesday and ends Saturday with a parade of fire trucks. His admonishment, which took up most of his three-minute welcome address, came a day too late. On Wednesday night, a firefighter pulled the fire alarm, the chief said, prompting four engines, two trucks and a battalion chief to speed to the hotel across from Camden Yards for what amounted to a prank call. The cost to taxpayers: roughly \$1,000:

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-07-22/news/bs-md-fire-hotel-damage-20100722\\_1\\_fire-officials-fire-alarms-fire-commander](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-07-22/news/bs-md-fire-hotel-damage-20100722_1_fire-officials-fire-alarms-fire-commander)

The city of Union City (CA) has been slapped with a \$500,000 lawsuit by a former employee claiming gender discrimination, unlawful retaliation and wrongful termination. Laura Mapes, who worked for the fire department for nine years, filed a suit this month in which she stated she was passed up for a promotion because of her gender and, subsequently, was targeted when she became the only person from the fire department to be laid off because of budget cuts. The complaint accuses former Fire Chief Carlos Rodriguez — who will retire from the department on Aug. 13 — of discrimination and retaliation. The suit also identified Rich Digre, administrative services director, and Tony Acosta, the deputy city manager, of failing to investigate complaints that Mapes had lodged against the fire chief, among other claims:

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci\\_15589801](http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_15589801)

Haverhill (MA) Police have issued former firefighter Kevin Thompson a citation through Haverhill District Court for driving a firetruck without a license, Mayor James Fiorentini said. If the city wins a criminal conviction against Thompson on the driving charge, Fiorentini said yesterday he will ask the Haverhill Retirement Board to revoke Thompson's pension. The board earlier this week awarded Thompson, 52, a \$3,474

monthly pension, plus lifetime health insurance. Thompson spent four months in a New Hampshire jail this year on automobile charges, but continued to get paid during his incarceration by keeping it secret from city officials. He kept his paychecks coming by using vacation time and getting other firefighters to cover his shifts. When Thompson was released from jail and returned to work, the city discovered he hadn't had a valid driver's license in 18 years. When officials asked the firefighter to report to the police station to answer questions about his incarceration and whether he had ever driven a firetruck without a license, Thompson quit his job and filed for retirement benefits: <http://www.eagletribune.com/haverhill/x2105965415/Police-Firefighter-drove-firetruck-without-license>

Leaders of the Monarch (MO) Fire Protection District fostered a hostile work environment for two female firefighters over the last decade, a St. Louis County jury found Monday and ordered the district to pay \$400,000 in damages. Firefighters Dana Buckley and Donna Kessler had testified that they were given the worst assignments, broken equipment, unnecessary restrictions and fewer training opportunities. Each was awarded \$200,000 in compensatory damages late Monday night. Both still work for the district:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/mo-fire-district-was-hostile-women>

Questions exist over a grant application and the credibility thereof. When he applied for federal stimulus money to build a new fire station, the city of University (MO) Fire Chief described the existing building as one that posed health problems and was at risk of "collapse." Steve Olshwanger wrote in his 35-page application that the station was dangerously unstable, with damage to support columns, and rife with black, toxic mold. He also said the station's roof was deteriorating and the supports underlying it were damaged. Olshwanger submitted the application last summer to replace Station No. 1, at 6801 Delmar Boulevard. FEMA accepted Olshwanger's pitch and in October gave the city \$2.6 million in stimulus money for the new station. But a tour last week of the 107-year-old station by the Post-Dispatch showed that while it may be a dreary place for firefighters to bunk, no structural problems were visible. And an examination of city documents showed that some of the problems cited by Olshwanger have already been fixed: [www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20087260318](http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20087260318)

A Greenfield (IN) firefighter is accused of using thousands in union money to pay off personal expenses. Casey Kellams, 39, the president of the local Professional Firefighters Union, spent \$4,000 with his union debit card, police said. He's accused of buying a TV, settling bar tabs, having his truck repaired and paying off his utility bills with the money, police said:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ind-ffs-spent-thousands-union-money>

The Strawberry (CA) Fire Protection District Board of Directors voted Tuesday to suspend all firefighting activities until certain county training and administrative requirements are met. The vote carried unanimously among the five directors, and Strawberry Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tom Brick was instructed to lock the doors of the firehouse and inform the volunteers of the change:

<http://www.uniondemocrat.com/20100728100648/News/Local-News/Doors-locked-at-Strawberry-Fire-Department>

A North Bangor (PA) volunteer firefighter who crashed a fire truck on his way back from the Tatamy Fire Parade was drunk, according to Plainfield Township police. Zachary R. Romano, 20, of Upper Mount Bethel Township, was charged Wednesday with DUI. Police said his BAC was 0.16: [http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/slate-belt/index.ssf/2010/07/north\\_bangor\\_firefighter\\_was\\_d.html](http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/slate-belt/index.ssf/2010/07/north_bangor_firefighter_was_d.html)

The Rohnert Park (CA) Public Safety Department is in disarray, its fire division commander said Monday. The division lacks support from managers and the City Council, it is hampered by senior officers resistant to change, and it is beset by low morale, Fire Commander Jack Rosevear said. "The department's in crisis," said Rosevear, who took over the fire division in June 2008 and plans to run for City Council this year. "I'm not exaggerating. It's not a matter of perspective, it's the truth." Rosevear, who has said he will retire in August partly to save the jobs of younger firefighters facing potential layoffs, made his concerns known in an unusually public manner, delivering a statement to The Press Democrat and the weekly Community Voice newspaper. He said his motive is to shed light on problems within the department — which provides both police and fire services — and lay the groundwork for necessary improvements:

<http://www.winetravel.com/article/20100726/ARTICLES/100729616/1033/news?Title=Official-Rohnert-Park-fire-division-in-crisis->

Elko County's battalion chief for the Nevada Division of Forestry filed a civil complaint last week in U.S. District Court against seven coworkers for allegedly creating a hostile work environment. "The hostile environment the Defendants have created is so hostile and abusive that no reasonable person would be expected to tolerate it in order to keep their job and economic livelihood at the agency," stated the complaint:

[http://elkodaily.com/news/local/article\\_3254c824-9b97-11df-962f-001cc4c03286.html](http://elkodaily.com/news/local/article_3254c824-9b97-11df-962f-001cc4c03286.html)

Woodbridge (NJ) Township officials say Avenel-Colonia First Aid Squad put their emergency blue lights on hold while their headquarters became a temporary party house suitable for a red-light district. Allegations of misconduct by members of the private nonprofit squad - including allegedly hosting parties with prostitutes - are the latest charges by township officials looking to remove squad leaders and volunteers from their positions or shut down the squad in the interest of public safety:

<http://www.app.com/article/CN/20100728/NEWS/100728054/Woodbridge-officials-allege-first-aid-squad-members-partied-with-prostitutes>

It is against policy to pull out the camera on the job but a St. Lucie County, Florida firefighter's cell phone video is being used as evidence to support a cop's decision to shoot a pit bull. Fort Pierce Police released the video yesterday to WPBF-TV. The TV station edited out the actual shooting but left in the laughter and some comments of the firefighters who watched the drama unfold while trapped in their rig. Some of the words used by the firefighters were bleeped:

<http://statter911.com/2010/07/28/firefighters-cell-phone-video-of-pit-bull-shooting-helps-cop-doesnt-do-much-for-firefighter/>

Smithfield (NC) Police have arrested a 24 year old Raleigh firefighter trainee and charged him with abducting two women in Smithfield for the purpose of sexually



assaulting them. Raleigh Fire Chief John McGrath said Muller was hired May 26 as a recruit. He was still in the department's training academy at the time of his arrest. He's in the process of being dismissed because he has missed training sessions since his arrest, McGrath said. The chief said Muller cleared a background check when he was hired: [www.newsobserver.com/2010/07/28/600743/firefighter-recruit-held-in-assault.html](http://www.newsobserver.com/2010/07/28/600743/firefighter-recruit-held-in-assault.html)

An Albuquerque (NM) deputy fire chief finds himself under investigation after what his own colleagues call a threatening outburst. In a letter to the fire chief, serious allegations are made about the deputy chief behaving badly during a safety committee meeting: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nm-deputys-outburst-prompts-probe>

Daytona Beach (FL) City Manager Jim Chisholm has called for an investigation into a conduct of a city firefighter after two police officers complained about him. It stems from an incident about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in which two officers said in memos to police Chief Mike Chitwood that a firefighters acted unprofessionally instead of tending to a woman found on the floor of her residence: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-daytona-firefighter-complaint-20100803%2C0%2C5661293.story>

Cost-of-living raises for most local government workers outpaced inflation in the past decade, some by a wide margin, according to a wage report that Clark County (NV) released Monday. The 15-page report compares the county's wages and pay raises with the cities of Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and six regional entities. One of the clearest trends to emerge from the collection of tables, charts and salary comparisons is the upward spiral of cost-of-living raises. Among 29 employee groups, the Southern Nevada Health District and county firefighters enjoyed the highest cost-of-living bumps in a 10-year stretch. These raises elevated health district employees' wages by more than 50 percent and county firefighters by 46 percent since 2001: <http://www.lvrj.com/news/county-study--most-raises-beat-inflation-99822504.html>

The Bonney Lake (WA) Police Department arrested an East Pierce Fire and Rescue firefighter for allegedly stealing money from the department's helmet and lifejacket fund. Shane McBane, 28, was arrested July 21 and charged with four counts of theft following a two-week investigation that involved video surveillance, a stakeout and the placement of marked bills. According to a police report, McBane admitted during questioning to taking money from the fund: <http://blog.seattlepi.com/bonneylake-pi/archives/216512.asp>

Baltimore City (MD) police and fire unions are complaining directly to the public with a new weapon -- advertising -- in what union leaders said is only the beginning of an assault on City Hall. The message on the billboard blasts the mayor and City Council over pension reform, furloughs and cutbacks in health care coverage: <http://www.wbaltv.com/news/24480309/detail.html>

Cleveland (OH) firefighters extinguishing a burning SUV on July 31 overlooked the body of a man, according to The Plain Dealer. The body inside the 1997 Ford Blazer wasn't discovered until about four hours after the fire was out when police arrived to tow the vehicle:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/ohio-firefighters-miss-body-suv>

**Two volunteer firefighters at the Pilot (NC) Fire Department were charged with setting a fire at a building on Lower Lake Road early Monday morning:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nc-firefighters-charged-arson-0>

**The results were mixed for four women who claimed they were discriminated against at a west St. Louis (MO) County fire department. Two women who work for The Monarch Fire Protection District won a total of \$400,000, but a St. Louis County Circuit Court jury rejected the claims of two women who are no longer with the department. Employees Donna Kessler and Dana Buckley were each awarded \$200,000 in actual damages for their claims of gender discrimination and hostility in the workplace:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/topics/careers/mo-female-ffs-win-discrimination-case>

**A New York City (FDNY) firefighter awaiting trial for growing marijuana plants is a reputed member of a notorious Queens-based gang called "The Master Race," the Daily News has learned. The feds identified Patrick Murray as a member of the group, which is responsible for maintaining "grow houses" throughout Queens for more than a decade, according to court papers unsealed in Brooklyn Federal Court. Murray, a six-year-veteran of the FDNY, was busted in February 2009 after cops received an anonymous tip about someone loading marijuana grow lights into a van outside a house in Queens Village:**

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\\_crime/2010/08/03/2010-08-03\\_pot\\_firefighter\\_tied\\_to\\_qns\\_gang.html#ixzz0vdWbfeBp](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny_crime/2010/08/03/2010-08-03_pot_firefighter_tied_to_qns_gang.html#ixzz0vdWbfeBp)

**A group of former Palo Alto (CA) mayors and city council members is mounting a campaign against a firefighters union ballot measure that would set minimum staffing levels for the fire department. Calling itself "Safe Palo Alto," the group intends to duel against the firefighters union over the controversial measure, which if passed by voters in November would prevent the council from reducing the fire department's staff below 2009-10 levels or closing stations without first holding public hearings and an election:** [http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci\\_15671186](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/nationalbreaking/ci_15671186)

**The city of Seattle (WA) is seeking to overturn a \$12.8 million judgment awarded to a former firefighter, who claimed he was permanently disabled by an on-duty fall, after investigators secretly shot video of the man chopping wood, playing horseshoes and bocce ball, and even breaking into a victory dance. A King County jury last October found that former Seattle firefighter Mark Jones was left permanently disabled after he fell 15 feet through a fire-station pole hole nearly three years earlier:**

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2012547801\\_firefighterfall06m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2012547801_firefighterfall06m.html)

**A former Albuquerque (NM) fire captain who was demoted after a DWI arrest failed an alcohol test while at work last month, according to a city spokesman. Joshua Ortega-Scheiner took and failed the test just three days after the firefighters union had sought to have him promoted back to captain, said Public Safety spokesman T.J. Wilham. Ortega-Scheiner has since retired, and the city has dropped its internal investigation. He had been on the job more than 16 years:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nm-ff-fails-alcohol-test-retires>

**Logan (UT) city's new fire chief, Kyle B. Lindsay, voluntarily resigned Wednesday amid what a Smithfield police official says is an ongoing criminal police investigation involving Lindsay in that city:**

[http://news.hjnews.com/news/crime\\_and\\_courts/article\\_0e40e384-a004-11df-b644-001cc4c002e0.html](http://news.hjnews.com/news/crime_and_courts/article_0e40e384-a004-11df-b644-001cc4c002e0.html)

**Brooklyn (NY) judge on Wednesday blocked the city's plan to hire 300 firefighters - saying the FDNYs latest written exam still discriminates against minority-group applicants. Federal Judge Nicholas Garaufis ruled that test No. 6019 is not a true measure of the abilities required for entry-level firefighters:**

[http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/08/04/2010-08-04\\_fdny\\_plan\\_to\\_hire\\_300\\_firefighters\\_blocked\\_by\\_judge\\_who\\_claims\\_exam\\_discriminate.html](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/08/04/2010-08-04_fdny_plan_to_hire_300_firefighters_blocked_by_judge_who_claims_exam_discriminate.html)

**Channel 2 Action News (Atlanta, GA) has learned promotions for 40 Atlanta firefighters are on hold while the department investigates allegations of cheating. Three firefighters filed a lawsuit accusing some of their colleagues of cheating on a promotion test, according to Channel 2's John Bachman. A judge issued a temporary restraining order on Wednesday, halting the promotion of 40 lieutenants:**

<http://dailydispatch.com/DDR.asp?st=UT&lk=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ewsbtv%2Ecom%2Fn%2Eews%2F24522071%2Fdetail%2Ehtml>

**Imagine if you worked 24-hour shifts and couldn't smoke indoors or outdoors. Since July 5, smoking firefighters of the West Allis (WI) Fire Department have been working under that double-ban. On Friday, they'll ask a judge for an order allowing them to smoke outside of the city's three fire stations:**

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/99910509.html>

**Bakersfield (CA) City Fire Chief Ron Frazee is retiring soon, but how he plans to retire has stirred up controversy. A column in The Bakersfield Californian by Lois Henry said the chief was considering a disability retirement, despite working for years after his work-related injury. The chief calls that a lie. Frazee said he never intended to file for a disability retirement, and the article was full of inaccuracies. Henry sticks by what she wrote:**

[http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Fire-Chief-denies-disability-report/CKtsgKI44U2QI5hWuf\\_2Jw.csp](http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/Fire-Chief-denies-disability-report/CKtsgKI44U2QI5hWuf_2Jw.csp)

**In between putting out fires and saving lives, prosecutors say, a former South San Francisco (CA) fire battalion chief took sports bets and collected debts while on duty at the firehouse. James Selvitella, 52, was arraigned Friday along with four alleged accomplices on charges they ran an illegal sports wagering operation out of a San Francisco apartment and a South San Francisco fire station that handled hundreds of thousands of dollars in bets daily, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. "What we have is a public facility being used to house an illicit conspiracy," Wagstaffe said. "This isn't just a gambling case, it's a corruption case." The alleged racket unraveled after the city's fire chief discovered one firefighter was on the hook for \$30,000 in gambling debts. Selvitella, who also owns Petaluma-based sports bar**

Beyond the Glory, solicited wagers from his fellow firefighters and would collect the cash from and drop off the winnings to gamblers, Wagstaffe said. He would use his battalion chief's phone -- on average nearly three times a shift -- to call in the bets, according to court records. He also used city computers to research bets and follow games, and to track wagers:

[http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci\\_15697723?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/top-stories/ci_15697723?nclick_check=1)

Gilmanton's (NH) fire chief has been placed on administrative leave after two reports of department vehicles running motorists off the road. The first driving incident came to light after a motorcyclist wrote a letter to the Laconia Daily Sun describing how he had nearly been struck by a fire command vehicle as it responded to a barn fire June 4. As the command vehicle rounded a curve on two-lane Province Road, it crossed into the motorcyclist's oncoming lane to pass a fire truck and ambulance, according to the letter. The letter to the editor prompted an investigation by the Belknap County sheriff's department, which sent a letter to the town on July 20 explaining the results of an inquiry into the incident. Sheriff Craig Wiggin's letter also references a second near-accident, now under investigation by the state police, that involved a Gilmanton fire engine. On July 7, the engine forced an oncoming vehicle off the road and left several hundred feet of "weight transfer marks" on the roadway due to excessive speed, Wiggin wrote. "These incidents suggest there may be a need for a review of the current policies and training for the members of the Gilmanton Fire Department," Wiggin said, later adding "there is no question that these incidents have placed the town at tremendous risk of significant civil liability."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-department-management/articles/864204-NH-chief-on-leave-after-fire-department-driving-complaints/>

A veteran Houston (TX) Fire Department officer may face discipline after traffic tickets were dismissed following a stranger's request on Facebook. It all started on a web page devoted to firefighter issues on Facebook when a 21-year-old Houston woman posted, "Can anyone of you help me.[sic] I am hoping one of you fireman out there may know a HPD Office that can help get some tickets fixed." She wrote that she was pulled over and given four citations: speeding, no insurance, obstructed license plate and a cracked windshield. The woman then wrote her father was a Houston firefighter. Eight hours after her posting, arson squad employee Alison Stein replied, "Hi....I am a Chief Investigator for the Fire Department and I know (the officer who wrote the tickets) well ... I will give him a call to see what I can do to help you out." Five minutes later, Stein posted that she had called the officer who wrote the tickets. She inquired about getting the pink copies of the tickets and said, "It will be taken care of." Four hours after that, Stein posted that the officer just called her back and, "Told me that all four tickets were ripped up." Houston Municipal Court records show all 4 tickets do not exist, meaning the officer never submitted them for processing despite a strict HPD policy on how tickets must be submitted after they are written. "The concerns are both legal questions and ethical questions that need to be answered."

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/houston-ff-accused-aiding-ticket-fix>

The former Logan (UT) fire chief who resigned last week amid a police investigation was formally charged today in 1st District Court with three felony counts, including burglary and falsely obtaining prescription drugs. Kyle B. Lindsay, 41, voluntarily left

the Logan Fire Department last Thursday - the same day Smithfield police officials said they had an open investigation involving Lindsay, who lives in Smithfield. The Blackfoot, Idaho, native stands accused of burglary, possession or use of a controlled substance - both second degree felonies - and obtaining prescription drugs under false pretenses, a third degree felony, according to court documents:

[http://news.hjnews.com/news/article\\_06d3b6ae-a4b3-11df-b801-001cc4c002e0.html](http://news.hjnews.com/news/article_06d3b6ae-a4b3-11df-b801-001cc4c002e0.html)

A Houston (TX) firefighter who alleged she was discriminated against at her firehouse was accused Tuesday of shoplifting at a Wal-Mart in the Spring area while still wearing her Houston Fire Department uniform. Jane Draycott, 41, is charged with theft, a misdemeanor, according to the Harris County judicial records. Draycott is accused of taking a DVD player and two DVD movies, said Assistant Chief Mark Herman of the constable's office. At one point, she got in the checkout line as if to pay for the items, but then she suddenly walked past the other customers, grabbed a bag of ice from the ice machine and headed out the door, Herman said. One of the store's security guards stopped her and called authorities. Draycott was one of two female firefighters who reported finding racist and sexist graffiti on their dormitory walls inside Fire Station 54 in July 2009. She later filed a law suit against the city of Houston:

<http://www.chron.com disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/7146963.html>

Former Weare (NH) fire senior lieutenant Harry Lamb announced his immediate resignation and read from a letter that called Weare fire Capt. Scott Dinsmore a "hypocrite" and the department an "embarrassment" at a tense Board of Fire Wards meeting last night. Lamb alleged the Weare Fire Department does not follow standard operating guidelines and "thrives on favoritism, nepotism, false records or no records at all." <http://www.concordmonitor.com/article/firefighter-blasts-department>

A Syracuse (NY) firefighter accused of making a threat to commit violence at the fire department credit union office last week also made what was perceived as a death threat against the deputy fire chief, according to court papers. Douglas Martin, 47, was charged Saturday with making a terrorist threat, a felony punishable by up to seven years in state prison. Martin is accused of intimidating and alarming employees of the credit union about 11 a.m. Friday when he made a reference to a disgruntled black worker who killed six co-workers and then himself in a shooting in Connecticut last week: [http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/details\\_of\\_firefighters\\_allege.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/08/details_of_firefighters_allege.html)

A call firefighter with the town of Gilmanston (NH) fire department faces a speeding charge in connection with a July 7 incident in which he is alleged to have nearly hit a vehicle with a fire engine while responding to a fire. Troop E State Police have issued a summons to Matthew Cole, 32, of Chichester for driving at an unreasonable speed for road conditions. He is scheduled to be arraigned in Laconia District Court on Sept. 23: <http://www.firerescue1.com/vehicle-safety/articles/865468-NH-firefighter-charged-with-speeding-in-fire-truck/>

Unions representing first responders in Hermosa Beach (CA) have filed a lawsuit against the city, claiming a recent decision approving reductions to retirement benefits is a violation of state law: [http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci\\_15747480](http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_15747480)

A Navajo Nation Fire Department ex-volunteer faces federal charges of setting fire to a station while firefighters were on a call last week. The U.S. Attorney's Office says the suspect, Jamie Billy of Tuba City, is charged with one count of willfully and maliciously setting fire to the station:

[http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region\\_northern\\_az/other/ex-firefighter-charged-with-tuba-city-station-fire](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_northern_az/other/ex-firefighter-charged-with-tuba-city-station-fire)

A former Bridgeport (WA) volunteer firefighter pleaded guilty to swiping the city's gas card in 2006 and 2007 and racking up a \$1,431 bill. Cergio Santiago Britt, 24, pleaded guilty Aug. 2 in Douglas County Superior Court to first-degree criminal trespass and second- and third-degree theft, and was sentenced to 365 days in jail with 185 days suspended. The remaining 180 days will be served with an electronic home-monitoring device. A probable cause affidavit, filed in court, said Britt used the gas card at least 33 times to gas up his and several friends' vehicles. He would take the card late at night from the city's fire and ambulance building and return it before city employees returned in the morning, the document said:

<http://www.wenatcheeworld.com/news/2010/aug/12/former-bridgeport-firefighter-pleads-guilty-to/>

Lawrence (MA) Mayor William Lantigua has enlisted a volunteer corps of film crews to chase firefighters and record their actions at the scenes of accidents, fires and other calls they respond to. Lantigua says he has received several complaints from citizens concerned about "slow response" times by firefighters and questioning whether the jakes' actions are driven by last month's layoff of 23 from the department. The mayor said some of those callers have volunteered to follow firefighters, video them on the job, and turn over the tapes to City Hall:

<http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x960348430/Mayor-recruits-volunteers-to-spy-on-firefighters>

Houston (TX) firefighter Jane Draycott has checked into a treatment center for clinical depression and alcohol problems following her arrest Monday when authorities said she tried to steal a DVD player, some movies and bag of ice from a Wal-Mart, her husband and lawyers said today:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/texas-ff-accused-shoplifting-has-checked-facility-alcohol-problems-depression>

Daniel Clouse, a firefighter for Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical in Kansas has been ordered to appear in court after getting into a confrontation with a man during a performance of the Free State High School marching band. Clouse was upset Bob Mandell wore his hat, so he approached him from behind and grabbed Mandell by the neck, Sarna said. . "He grabbed me by the neck and shook me," Mandell said. "He put his hand around the back of my neck and pressed on the left hand side with his right thumb. The spot still hurts." "What I said was, 'Excuse me, sir, around here when the national anthem plays, you remove your hat. Show some respect,'" Clouse said. "I'm disappointed that he's a firefighter," Mandell said. "He should know better. I have the utmost respect for firefighters and for police and for the military. Those guys really do put it on the line for the rest of us." <http://statter911.com/2010/08/12/oh-say-can-you-see->

[that-hat-on-your-head-national-anthem-confrontation-brings-charges-against-lawrence-kansas-firefighter/](#)

Public officials' (including fire service personnel) six-figure salaries won't go unnoticed much longer, as California cities and counties will be required this fall to report employees' compensation to the State Controller's Office -- which will post the numbers online. While specific details on reporting requirements are still being developed, State Controller's Office Spokesman Jacob Roper said the salaries of all elected officials and employees -- from city managers, county supervisors, firefighters, police officers, to janitors, secretaries and lifeguards -- will fall under this mandate. "This is a way to give locals a better idea of how their tax dollars are being spent on city and county administration," Roper said, noting that every salary for each employment classification must be reported: <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/767984>

First of all, if you do not know what HIPAA stands for, and you are an aspiring (hopefully not current as that means your agency has not offered any training on the issue) firefighter, please do some research as it is something all of us in the fire service need to be intimately familiar with. From Statter 911 comes a story on a HIPAA related violation/ issue: Firefighters & hospital workers are accused of photographing dying stabbing victim. In Long Beach, California firefighters and hospital personnel are accused of photographing a dying 60-year-old man who had been stabbed 16 times in the neck at a convalescent home. Charged with murder is Gilbert Baca, the 82-year-old roommate of William Wells. The first story by the Los Angeles Times reported that staffers at St. Mary Medical Center had taken pictures of Wells on April 9 and posted a photo on Facebook. Now the paper has confirmed Long Beach firefighters were also involved in picture taking:

<http://statter911.com/2010/08/14/hipaa-issue-firefighters-hospital-workers-are-accused-of-photographing-dying-stabbing-victim/>

More than 70 Cincinnati (OH) firefighters faced criminal charges in the last five years, a fifth of them more than once, with drunken driving and domestic violence their most common offenses. A dozen of them were fired or quit, according to a department discipline database obtained by The Enquirer. Another four dozen were suspended, demoted or lost vacation time for criminal offenses and administrative issues including failing drug tests, not having driver's licenses and being AWOL:

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20100816/NEWS0108/8150389/1060/NEWS0104/Taming-firefighters-gone-wild>

An incident involving underage drinking by one of its members at a conference in June is coming back to haunt a Washington State fire department at what may be the worst possible time. Word that 20-year-old volunteer firefighter Tim Nelson was terminated, along with other disciplinary actions, including demotions for a battalion chief, a lieutenant and an office employee, comes just before next Tuesday's election where there will be a decision on a tax levy that funds EMS for the fire district.

If the levy fails half the paid workforce of the department could be laid off. This all stems from a June 11 incident during an annual training conference at a Wenatchee hotel. It is clear from a reputation management standpoint that the best way to have handled this one is for the top officials to have known about it immediately and acted

quickly to get the information out and behind them. Even without the election looming, delay in dealing with this in a public and straightforward way erodes trust:

<http://statter911.com/2010/08/15/timing-is-everything-fire-district-worried-word-of-underage-drinking-coverup-will-impact-funding/>

Thirty-two-year-old Matt Cole wears a number of hats in the fire service in New Hampshire. Cole is a career firefighter in Concord, a newly appointed volunteer deputy chief at the Chichester Fire Department and until recently an on-call firefighter in Gilmanton. It's his resignation from the Gilmanton Fire Department that has Cole making news in the Concord Monitor. Cole's resignation comes at a time when he is facing up to a \$1000 fine after being charged with speeding while responding to a garage fire in a Gilmanton fire engine on July 7:

<http://statter911.com/2010/08/16/firefighter-charged-with-speeding-in-fire-engine-leaves-department-chief-was-suspended-following-another-driving-incident/>

Muskogee (OK) firefighter Jeff Carlton Weldon has been terminated from his job after being charged with the theft of another firefighter's wallet. "He doesn't work for the Muskogee Fire Department any longer -- that's all I can say about it," Muskogee Fire Chief Derek Tatum said Monday. Weldon, 35, pleaded not guilty to taking firefighter Jeff Gullet's wallet. Bond was set at \$2,500:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/okla-ff-accused-stealing-ffs-wallet>

The wife of Hardy's (VA) late, longtime fire chief had no idea her husband was such a big-time embezzler, according to her attorney, but she nonetheless took responsibility Tuesday for helping him siphon off at least \$250,000 from the fire department he led. In Bedford County Circuit Court, Deborah Lynne Shifflett pleaded no contest to 10 counts of embezzlement, agreed to give the fire department several vehicles her husband had bought with embezzled money, and promised to pay back up to \$10,000 that she had spent using department credit cards. Shifflett, 39, is to be formally convicted and sentenced at a later date -- after prosecutors and her defense attorney figure out exactly how big a role she played in her husband's misuse of money from the Hardy Volunteer Fire Department. Jeffrey Shifflett, 51, was chief of the department for 22 years and an assistant fire marshal for the county. A day after he was indicted on 13 counts of embezzlement last year, he shot himself dead. His son, Cory Mitchell Shifflett, pleaded guilty to seven charges of embezzlement in November. He has not yet been sentenced:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/widow-va-chief-pleads-embezzlement>

Budget cuts in Alameda have shuttered a fire station and resulted in the layoffs of firefighters, but the town's \$195,702-a-year fire chief is getting unlimited free fill-ups for both his BMW convertible sports car and his Honda pickup truck at the city pump. Disgruntled firefighters caught Fire Chief David Kapler on camera over the weekend taking advantage of the perk and forwarded the photos to Mayor Beverly Johnson - who promptly called the vacationing city manager for an explanation. "In my opinion, it was a very inappropriate thing to do," the mayor said of Kapler's habit of filling his cars with gratis gasoline. Kapler, however, says it's no secret that he regularly gasses up his personal cars at the city pump. He says the free gas is part of the deal he cut with then-City Manager Debra Kurita when he signed on as chief in 2007. "Since I don't



drive a city vehicle," Kapler said, "I was given the option to drive my own vehicle and to have access to city gas for all my vehicles for my personal use."

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/08/17/BASK1EVC85.DTL>

The Walker Township (PA) fire chief and a freelance photographer are both being cited for harassment following an incident that occurred at the scene of a single vehicle crash on Aug. 13, according to the Republican Herald. Chief David J. Duffy said photographer Lawrence Neff was overly aggressive, while Neff claims it was the other way around:

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/pennsylvania-fire-chief-potographer-scuffle-crash-scene>

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**Positive Public Relations Items:**

**West Covina (CA) firefighters lose hair for a woman's cancer fight:**

[http://www.sgvtribune.com/highlanders/ci\\_15568275](http://www.sgvtribune.com/highlanders/ci_15568275)

Less than a week after Orlando (FL) police officers agreed to give up pay raises for the next two years, the firefighters in the cash-strapped city are close to doing the same thing. If City Hall ultimately reaches a deal with its 500 firefighters, it would save taxpayers another \$1.2 million — on top of the \$1.3 million saved under the agreement with the cops — and whittle away at the city's deficit. Under their current labor contract, firefighters are due a 3 percent raise in October. But the fire union has agreed to throw out its contract and negotiate a new one that would largely mirror a deal reached with the police union Friday:

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/breakingnews/os-orlando-unions-bend-20100721%2C0%2C1116454.story>

Physician Robert Litman lost his son in a fire last month that would have killed him if firefighters hadn't arrived in time. Though June 22, the night when a fire destroyed the family's Blackhawk home, is forever in Litman's memory as a tragedy, he said he's grateful to the firefighters who saved him from the smoke which killed 19-year-old Benjamin Litman. "How do you thank someone who saved my life?" he asked Wednesday night at a San Ramon Valley (CA) Fire Protection District meeting where eight fire fighters were awarded medals for their work that early June morning. "Thank you." <http://www.8newsnow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12887332>

When the new Las Vegas (NV) Fire and Rescue Station No. 6 opens in late August, it will be the first of its kind in the entire country: a teaching fire station. "I think the idea came about because we have the need for the fire station and because basically I'm an educator and I said why not put the two together?," says Las Vegas City Councilwoman and former teacher, Lois Tarkanian. The city was searching for land for a new station and there was none they could afford in the area. College of Southern Nevada needed new classrooms but with ongoing budget cuts, had no money. So they worked out a deal. "We put in the money to build the structure and add the classrooms for them, and they let us use the land," says Councilwoman Tarkanian. The \$7 million facility has three classrooms inside, which CSN will use for fire science courses, as

well as other general curriculum. "During this financial crisis, space and capital projects are at a premium so this project is a real boon to taxpayers," says CSN President Michael Richards. Giant windows have been installed overlooking the garage so students will be able to watch firefighters at work:

<http://www.ktnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12922559>

The Redlands (CA) City Council accepted an unsolicited suspension of benefits Tuesday from the firefighters union that will save the city a chunk of money. The council voted 2-1 to accept the suspension of a provision in its contract that allows its members to buy sick leave shifts. The suspension would only concede the provision during the 2010/2011 fiscal year, but it could save the city more than \$104,000:

[http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci\\_15672379](http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/news/ci_15672379)

No doubt firefighters save lives, but in Red Bluff (CA) they're trying to save jobs as well. In an effort to prevent further job loss and service reduction from the fire department and other city departments, the Red Bluff Firefighters Association has presented the City Council with an offer to work for less pay. The association has agreed to a 12 percent reduction in salary and to delay payout of leave time over 1,400 hours. For each of the nine individuals in the fire association, the cut represents about \$6,000 to \$10,000 less than what they are currently making, said Captain Dom Catona, president of the association. The proposal states the contract will be terminated and employees must receive retroactive pay from July 1 should any layoffs occur between when the contract goes into effect and June 30, 2011. Our goal has always been to protect the jobs of the nine guys in our department and other jobs in other departments, Catona said: [http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/news/ci\\_15682666](http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/news/ci_15682666)

It seems pretty clear that Tara Daniels can cook. She's a Woodland (CA) firefighter who has been cooking for her station house colleagues since 2006, and that, right there, means a lot. Those people work hard and eat hard. But that's just a piece of it. A couple of weeks back, Daniels and her friend and cooking partner, Walter Scruggs won the State Fair's Firehouse Chef championship – an "Iron Chef"- like battle among firefighters. They won the same title in 2009. Then last week, her recipe for Smokin' Pear Salad was chosen by viewers of "Live With Regis and Kelly" as a crowd favorite, so she got to cook it on the show as part of a summerlong firefighter cooking contest. The hosts and audience gave her food a 9.2 (out of 10) rating, the highest all summer on the show. Which means Daniels is a shoo-in to be one of the top 5 firefighter chefs in "Regis and Kelly's Coast-to-Coast Firehouse Cook Off."

[www.sacbee.com/2010/08/11/2949798/woodland-firefighter-is-shoo-in.html](http://www.sacbee.com/2010/08/11/2949798/woodland-firefighter-is-shoo-in.html)

A Santa Barbara (CA) County Firefighter returns after battling cancer - The alarm bells ring at Santa Barbara County Fire Station 11 in Goleta signaling a call for help. For firefighter Tyler Gilliam it's the sweet sound of victory. The 34 year old Gilliam has fought his way back to work after 18 months of battling testicular cancer:

<http://www.kcoy.com/Global/story.asp?S=12896559>

His hands on his knees and still catching his breath, 11-year-old David Zachry peered down at the clipboard listing individual performance times to see how he did. "I was just ten seconds away from you!" he said smiling to the boy who bested him, Anthony

Saavedra, 13. They were two of 26 kids enjoying the last days of the Newport Beach (CA) Fire Department's Junior Firefighter Camp at Mariners Park. The camp's popularity seems to have grown in its five years, with this week-long camp and the next one scheduled for later this month already full:

<http://www.dailypilot.com/news/tn-dpt-0813-camp-20100812%2C0%2C1103460.story>

A Tucson (AZ) Fire Captain is being honored for making life a little easier for critically ill children and their families. Tonight is the second of three stories we will be airing over the course of the summer. The finale is a Heroes Tribute in September. There's a special place for children in the heart of Captain Tony Gonzales. Much of the Captain's routine is devoted to visiting sick kids at University Medical Center. He chats with them and cheers them up. Family members also look forward to seeing him. They say he lifts children's spirit when he comes to visit. Gonzales knows how stressful it can be when a loved one is sick. So he's dedicated to making their hospital stay a little more comfortable. He says, "we want to alleviate some of the pain, some of the discomfort they might be experiencing and knowing that we've got it covered." His passion for kids inspired him to create the Adopt-A-Family program at UMC. For 14 years, he and other firefighters from Station 20 makes sure every child at UMC receives presents during Christmas morning:

<http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=12972994>

Responding to the district's ongoing financial problems, Spring Hill (FL) Fire Rescue firefighters and paramedics once again have chosen to forgo pay raises and have surrendered additional benefits to avoid layoffs in the coming fiscal year. The firefighter contract, which the fire commission approved in a 4-1 vote Wednesday, will save the cash-strapped district about \$300,000, said Scott Edmisten, president of the Professional Firefighters of Spring Hill Local 2794, which represents roughly 100 district firefighters. "It's an answer to the tough times we're all facing," Edmisten said. "We wanted to do our part to help the district save firefighter jobs."

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/866154-Fla-firefighters-forgo-raises-benefits-to-avoid-layoffs/>

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**Training & Safety Related Items:**

One amazing older flashover video that you must see from Stater 911:

<http://statter911.com/2010/08/01/must-see-videoflashover-bailout/>

Don't trust anyone but a fire service professional when it comes to whether or not there is any smoke or fire in a building, especially when you are responding to a report of a fire or an automatic fire alarm. In this case, the Utica (NY) Fire Department found out the hard way and learned a valuable lesson we all can learn from. The fire was first reported as an automatic alarm at 11:03 p.m. Saturday. Firefighters were waved off by security guards who believed the alarm system had malfunctioned, Beck said. There had been several false alarms at the building in the last week, he said. As fire crews returned to a station, they were called back to the State Office Building when the fire was spotted, Beck said:

<http://www.uticaod.com/features/x1953793268/Utica-firefighters-responding-to-Higby-Road-blaze>

**An injured firefighter controversy in Seattle (WA) uncovers a pole hole danger that is not just limited to the Seattle Fire Department, but all fire departments across the nation with sliding poles:**

<http://www.king5.com/news/Injured-firefighter-pole-hole-100586224.html>

**Being fit to respond to emergencies involves more than eating healthy, exercising and keeping an eye on cholesterol and blood pressure. Responders also must be mentally prepared to do their jobs. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation announced Friday more resources on that issue will be available for personnel:**

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/nfff-turns-focus-mental-health>

**Do as we say – not as we do? Good luck reinforces bad habits? This Buffalo (NY) Firefighter is extremely lucky to be alive after picking up a live power line – something most departments do not advocate doing and instead, waiting for the utility company to secure:**

<http://statter911.com/2010/07/27/fireground-audio-video-from-house-fire-in-buffalo-rescue-made-wires-down/>

**Another do as we say – not as we do, this time from Newark (NJ) – and a great reminder that seat belts are there for a reason and are not an inconvenience, but a necessity if we want to stay alive and safe, long enough to enjoy our retirement and our grand children. A Newark firefighter suffered serious injuries after he fell from a city fire truck while responding to an incident Monday night, authorities said:**

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/07/newark\\_firefighter\\_hurt\\_in\\_fal.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/07/newark_firefighter_hurt_in_fal.html)

**Progress in the development of an indoor personal locator and tracking device for firefighters has accelerated so much in the last year that researchers are hopeful of commercialization within the next two years, and of its technology being used by military and other emergency responders. During a talk with researchers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute yesterday, Stephanie Tompkins, program manager for the Strategic Technology Office of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, said her federal agency wants to take advantage of advances being made in the locator and tracking technology for military applications:**

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20100804/NEWS/8040369/1003/NEWS03>

**Using water and foam to fight a combustible metal fire caused an explosion that killed a Wisconsin firefighter last year, NIOSH investigators concluded; instead they should have used a bulk dry extinguishing agent:**

<http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/863005-nisoh-fire-attack-caused-blast-in-wis-lodd/>

**Hauser Rural Fire Protection District officials are retraining volunteer firefighters and taking other corrective actions after the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited them on six violations. The district also must pay a \$2,090 fine for the violations, which include improperly testing self-contained breathing apparatus**

used by firefighters who enter burning buildings, lack of SCBA training and poor record keeping. The investigation began in June after volunteers filed a complaint with the health administration. "I would say that they have some serious violations," said Melanie Mesaros, Oregon OSHA spokeswoman:

[http://www.theworldlink.com/news/local/article\\_1fbe8d14-067b-530b-94cd-b05983db8a61.html](http://www.theworldlink.com/news/local/article_1fbe8d14-067b-530b-94cd-b05983db8a61.html)

While this is not a fire department story, it does have a strong connection in that if it can happen to a law enforcement official, it can happen to a fire service official - The Florida Highway Patrol has cited an Orange County deputy for a crash that injured five people. The Orange County Sheriff's Office reported that 27-year-old Eric R. Wheeler was on regular patrol Wednesday evening when failed to stop at an intersection and drove into traffic. He was not responding to an emergency and he was ticketed for failing to stop at a stop sign (yes, you can get ticketed on duty if you do something inappropriate or illegal): <http://www.firerescue1.com/extrication/articles/864624-Fla-deputy-extricated-cited-in-crash-that-injured-5/>

A 26-year-old Houston (TX) firefighter trainee who collapsed and later died of heat stroke after a 4.4-mile run in April 2009 probably would have survived if department trainers had provided water during the run or an ice water immersion facility to lower his body temperature, a federal safety investigation concluded. Cohnway M. Johnson, a former member of the Oak Hill Fire Department near Austin, died May 4, 2009, when he was taken off life support at a Houston hospital. He had collapsed at the end of a morning run with 35 other trainees who had applied to join the Houston Fire Department: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/facebook/7146576.html>

The Ministry of Labour has laid 11 charges in connection with the death of a volunteer fire fighter during a training exercise near Sarnia, Ontario (Canada). The Village of Point Edward and two of its employees — including the fire chief — are facing charges under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. "The Point Edward Fire Department was conducting ice water training exercises in the water when a large ice floe came down the river, trapping one firefighter underwater," said spokesman Matt Blajer. Blajer said the charges relate to failing to ensure adequate prerequisite training and failing to ensure enough rescuers or safety equipment were on shore. The village fire department is almost entirely volunteer, made up of 30 residents and a paid fire prevention officer and fire chief:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/windsor/story/2010/08/10/point-edward-fire-department-death-charges-100810.html>

A series of recommendations for fire departments focusing on high-rise fire attack operations and water supply has been released by investigators assigned to the 2007 Deutsche Bank fire that killed two FDNY firefighters. Firefighters Joseph Graffagnino Jr. and Robert Beddia were killed on August 18, 2007, when they became trapped in maze-like conditions of the high-rise building under deconstruction. By the end of the fire, 115 firefighters had suffered a variety of injuries — mostly respiratory and musculoskeletal — including 46 requiring medical leave. "In this incident, water supply was not established for a full hour into the incident, and at the time of the fatal event

the victim's hose line had just been charged." <http://www.firerescue1.com/firefighter-safety/articles/865920-NYC-Deutsche-LODD-report-outlines-high-rise-fire-recommendations/>

**PPE basics: What's your excuse for not wearing it? Are we lazy, complacent, or maybe just stupid when it comes to wearing our personal protective equipment at all times?** <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-products/Personal-protective-equipment-ppe/articles/867370-PPE-basics-Whats-your-excuse-for-not-wearing-it/>

An elderly man fired shots at Chicago (IL) firefighters shortly after midnight today (Aug. 18) when he believed someone was breaking into his home, according to The Chicago Sun-Times. The incident occurred in the Woodlawn neighborhood at 12:45 a.m. after a crew was dispatched to his home because a medical emergency bracelet or necklace had activated, Grand Crossing District Police Capt. Alberta Raymond told the newspaper. After no one answered the door, the crew took out a wall air conditioning unit to gain entry when the 93-year-old man fired two shots at a firefighter: <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/shots-fired-chicago-firefighters>

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**General Fire Service Related Items:**

Los Angeles (CA) City and Fire Department officials face opposition from organized labor and some City Council members over a proposal to contract out billing and collections for the Fire Department's emergency medical services. The proposed outsourcing of collections is bundled with a popular initiative to move to electronic collection of medical data by the Fire Department's EMS unit. The proposal would give paramedics hand-held tablet computers on which they would input patient medical information at the scene of an emergency, eliminating the current system of hand-printed forms that department staff called cumbersome and prone to transcription errors: <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jul/19/local/la-me-paramedic-20100716>

Fewer firetrucks and firefighters will be dispatched to emergency calls after the El Paso (TX) Fire Department changes the way it responds to calls, officials said. Fire Chief Otto Drozd said he plans to institute a new call system, named Priority Dispatch, in six months. The system, which cost about \$500,000, has already been purchased by the El Paso County 911 District. The system will help dispatchers send the appropriate amount of manpower to fire and emergency calls, he said. Fire Inspector John Concha said that 80 percent of the calls made to the call center are medical. Only 1 percent of the calls received at the center are about fires, he said: [http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci\\_15616789](http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_15616789)

A long-awaited study on El Segundo's (CA) proposal to shift its fire services to Los Angeles County indicates a merged department could provide benefits to both agencies. For an annual cost of roughly \$10.1million, the county would operate the city's Main Street fire station and the new facility on Mariposa Avenue as part of a 10-year service agreement. Given the proximity of the latter station to the unincorporated county community of Del Aire, the merger could help improve engine response times in the area, the report states. The county would keep 12 uniformed staff on duty daily in El Segundo, which is lower than the 19 fire positions the city has budgeted for a

typical shift. But the report says 24 units within five miles of the beach town "are constantly staffed" and would be able to assist with major or simultaneous incidents: [http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_15599028](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_15599028)

The Denver (CO) City Council on Monday granted initial approval to merging fire-protection services with the city of Sheridan. "This will be providing government services at its best," said Assistant Denver Fire Chief Eric Tade, who helped work out the details. He said the merger will reduce administrative expenses and boost fire protection for the city of Sheridan: [http://www.denverpost.com/ci\\_15609275](http://www.denverpost.com/ci_15609275)

The short-staffed Reno (NV) Fire Department will be calling firefighters back to work on overtime when wildland fires threaten the Truckee Meadows this summer: <http://www.rgj.com/article/20100728/NEWS/7290302/-1/CARSON/Reno-Fire-Department-to-use-overtime-to-fill-stations-during-high-fire-danger>

The city of Davis (CA) and the UC Davis campus are poised to consolidate management of their fire departments under a two-year pilot program. The Davis City Council on Tuesday authorized staff members to proceed with a plan for the two departments to share one fire chief, a move that could save \$250,000 a year. The pilot project also calls for a shared dispatch center, restructuring of administrative support functions, and standardized training policies and procedures: <http://www.sacbee.com/2010/07/29/2922247/ucd-city-look-to-merge-fire-agency.html>

37 years after a court decree forced minority hiring in Boston (MA), many units and firehouses are starkly and increasingly segregated. Old rules and city inaction have put hard-won diversity gains in peril. Thirty-seven years after a federal court forced the virtually all-white Boston Fire Department to hire one black or Hispanic firefighter for every new white employee, the department — overall — more closely resembles the multiracial city it serves: One third of Boston's firefighters are nonwhite. But on-the-job diversity eludes the department. Many of its individual units have become increasingly segregated by race, as both white and minority firefighters choose to work alongside their own as part of a seniority system that gives veterans great leeway to decide where they serve. Almost half of Boston's firehouses are now either more than 85 percent white or more than 50 percent nonwhite, according to a months-long Globe review of fire department personnel and assignment records: [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/08/01/city\\_firehouses\\_still\\_stuck\\_in\\_a\\_racial\\_divide/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2010/08/01/city_firehouses_still_stuck_in_a_racial_divide/)

Riverside County (CA) supervisors postponed action today on a Cal Fire proposal to fold the county's 500-member volunteer firefighter force into a new reserve firefighter program with stricter standards. "There are more steps that need to be taken before we (proceed with) this," said Supervisor John Benoit, a volunteer fireman. "There have been concerns raised by a number of people." Cal Fire, which contracts with the county to provide fire protection services, is seeking to fold the volunteer cadre into a new "Reserve Volunteer Firefighter Program," mandating more stringent standards, including routine medical assessments, background checks, standardized training and control over the type of equipment deployed in the field. "Given the increased level of service provided by the fire department, the need for volunteer fire companies has

been substantially diminished," according to Cal Fire's proposal to the board. "In addition, it has become highly problematic that over 60 volunteer fire companies are operating outside the organizational structure of the fire department."

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100810/NEWS0803/100810006/Supervisors+to+consider+disbanding+volunteer+firefighter+force>

Last, but definitely not least – a very, very hot topic in today's world of technology. **DON'T GET FIRED FOR FACEBOOK**: 10 ways to use social media safely - How to make sure your online activities do not interfere with your job as a firefighter or EMS provider:

<http://www.firerescue1.com/labor-issues/articles/859991-Dont-get-fired-for-Facebook-10-ways-to-use-social-media-safely/>

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

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

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



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**Chabot College Fire Technology & EMS web site:** [www.chabotfire.com](http://www.chabotfire.com)  
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